



USApple Media Statement

Regarding New EWG Report: Apples top 2011 Dirty Dozen List (released on 6/13/11)

Consumers can be Confident about U.S. Apples

American consumers can be confident when eating or serving apples—whether organic or conventional—that they are enjoying a safe, nutritious, healthy and delicious home-grown food produced with pride by the U.S. apple growers and the apple industry.

Apples are Healthy and an American Favorite:

We are in the midst of an obesity epidemic and economic times are tough. Given the times and the fact that Americans – children especially – consume nowhere near the recommended daily amounts of fruits and vegetables, consumers need more reasons to eat healthful foods like apples, not less. Numerous health organizations, including the Surgeon General, agree that there is far greater health risk from *not* eating fruits and vegetables than from any theoretical risk that might be posed by consuming trace amounts of pesticide residues – well within EPA’s safe levels - that might be found on those foods.

USApple supports responsible, research-based reporting so that consumers can get the best health and wellness advice that they deserve. Reporting on lists that encourage consumers to unfairly stay away from their healthy favorites, makes the process of getting Americans to eat better, that much more difficult. Here are [‘12 Healthy Reasons to Eat an Apple a Day’](#).

Environmental Protection Agency’s Health Standards:

USApple supports the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) safety levels governing pesticide use, as required under federal law. These health standards are based on state-of-the art science and extensive tests required by EPA.

Of the over 700 apple-samples that were tested by the USDA, the vast majority fell well below EPA approved safety levels. The nation’s apple industry urges strict enforcement of the law to prevent any possible over-tolerances residues.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Pesticide Data Program Annual Summary:

According to the USDA, *“the reporting of residues present at levels below the established tolerance serves to ensure and verify the safety of the Nation’s food supply.”* In addition, the USDA report that is the basis for new “Dirty Dozen list,” shows that *“overall pesticide residues found on foods tested are at levels well below the tolerances set by the EPA.”* The ‘list’ does not pay attention to the actual levels of residues in the various foods which are within those tolerance (safe) levels, but simply states that residues were detected.

Growing High-Quality Apples:

Apples are threatened by hundreds of different insects, diseases, fungi and other conditions that attack the tree or the fruit that it produces. To ensure that you will always have access to high-quality, pest-free apples, apple growers must take steps to protect their trees and fruit from injury or destruction by these apple pests. When pesticides are used, growers are required by law to follow EPA’s strict instructions for their use.

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The U.S. Apple Association (USApple) is the national trade association representing all segments of the apple industry. Members include state and regional apple associations and individual firms involved in the apple business. USApple's mission is to advocate for American apple growers and their industry partners on national issues in order to promote the profitable production and marketing of apples and apple products.

Phone 800- 781-4443

Fax 703-790-0845

8233 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 200 ★ Vienna, VA 22182-3816 USA