



January 2023

## **Church Brothers LLC- Ready-To-Eat Statement**

For products processed by Church Brothers LLC, if the packaging of fresh-cut or other value-added produce says washed or ready-to-eat then washing is not required\*. For value-added fresh cut leafy greens and vegetable products produced by Church Brothers LLC that are recommended to be best enjoyed by microwaving, the wash supports the product to be at the premium quality.

Our value-added products are processed in compliance with FDA Title 21 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (21 CFR part 110) which establishes regulations for current good manufacturing practice (CGMP) in preparing, packing or holding food. As such, our value-added products are subjected to a multi-stage chlorinated wash system with advanced pH control. Our facilities operate under rigorous Quality Systems and HACCP-based process controls. Temperature, chlorine, and foreign object control points are monitored according to an established and verified program. Our processing plants are under the jurisdiction of the FDA and as such are inspected on a regular, unannounced basis. Furthermore, our facilities have been HACCP certified under the Global Food Safety Standard (GFSI) and they are audited by a number of 3rd party agencies.

Our raw ingredients are sourced from farms we know, trust and verify through our approved supplier program. Whenever possible we use only local farmers and suppliers. We are participatory handlers in the California/Arizona Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement that requires mandatory USDA-backed inspections of our growing operations. As part of our traceability program we code our produce so you always can identify the specific source of the ingredients.

We are often asked about the use of preservatives. The keys to maintaining good shelf-life of our products includes the raw materials condition, cleaning of the product, temperature control, and packaging methods. No preservatives, such as sulfites, are used on our fresh cut leaf and vegetable products.

If you may have additional questions please contact us at [foodsafetyquestions@churchbrothers.com](mailto:foodsafetyquestions@churchbrothers.com)

Sincerely,

Church Brothers LLC