

Food Safety

Smithfield Farms, the largest pork-producing farm in the USA was sold in September 2015 to China with the unanimous support of its stockholders!! The hogs will still be raised here, but processed and packaged for sale there before being sent back here. This includes labels of:

Morrell
Eckrich
Krakus
Cudahy
Premium Hams
Cook's
Gwaltney

The same with many chickens. They can now be shipped there, but when they come back all that needs to be labeled is that they were raised in the USA, not indicating that they were processed in China. If it says packaged in the USA, it could be raised anywhere else. Read carefully. The China slaughter and processing are not nearly equal to the requirements here.

Starkist Tuna is now owned by a Korean company, and is in big conflict with the U.S. Concerning quality, safety, and records, which the Korean company refuses to produce.

Imported food we eat and the junk we buy:
Green Giant frozen vegetables are from China
And most of Europe's Best.
Arctic Gardens is OK
Birdseye is OK

Never buy the grocery store garlic unless it is clearly marked from USA or Canada, the other stuff is often grown in China where standards are terrible.

Also, purchase only local honey. A good deal of honey now comes from China and it is relabeled before being sold in the US. Watch out for packages which state "prepared for", "packed by" or "imported by". We don't understand the lack of mandatory labeling, especially the produce.

The country of origin should be clearly shown on the item in the store.

Go to the local farmers' markets in season and keep an open eye the rest of the year.

How is it possible to ship food from China cheaper than having it produced in the U. S. Or Canada?

For example, "Our Family" brand of Mandarin Oranges says "From China" on the label. For a few more cents, buy "Liberty Brand"

Costco sells canned peaches and pears in a plastic jar that come from China.

All “High Liner” and most other frozen fish products come from China or Indonesia. Packaging may say, “Pacific Salmon” on the front, but look for the fine print. Most of these products come from fish farms in Asia where there are little or no regulations as to what these fish are fed and the conditions they are raised in.

*Recently The Montreal Gazette had an article in which officials from the Canadian Government exposed how some Chinese fish farms feed the fish: They suspend chicken wire crates over the fish ponds, and the fish feed on chicken feces.

If you research what the Chinese fish farmers feed their fish, you'll be alarmed; e.g.: growth hormones, expired anti-biotic from humans. Avoid any type of fish or shellfish that comes from these countries:

Vietnam

China

Philippines

Another example is canned mushrooms. No-Name brand come from Indonesia.

Also check on little fruit cups. They used to be made in Canada in the Niagara region until about 2 years ago. They are now packaged in China. Most sold in Aldi stores.

Resource: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/>