

URGENT CHODOSH BULLETIN FROM THE GUIDE TO CHODOSH

Yoseph Herman, 1 Feb 17

CHODOSH PROBLEMS WITH WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTS, Update #5

REVISED UPDATED SUMMARY OF THE WINTER WHEAT PROBLEM

(See new information at the end of this note)

AGRICULTURAL FACTS

The US produces 2 wheat crops. Winter wheat is planted before Pesach and harvested after Pesach. After the harvest winter wheat is always Yoshon. Spring wheat is mostly planted after Pesach. It is Chodosh from its harvest in the July-September time frame until the following pesach. Spring wheat is higher in protein, winter wheat is lower in protein. The protein is the “glue” that hold the dough together. Spring wheat is used for chewy products such as breads, rolls, challahs, bagels and pizza. Spring wheat is also used for noodles and pasta. Winter wheat has been used when we do not need a chewy product, such as matzos, crackers, many cakes and cookies. It is also used where protein is not important, since it is cheaper. Until recently we took advantage of the rules of thumb developed over many decades of which products are always made from winter wheat and therefore have no problems of Chodosh. Apparently over the recent years the protein level of winter wheat has been steadily dropping due to agricultural conditions, until foods that used to be produced from pure winter wheat can no longer be produced unless some spring wheat is added to fortify its protein level. The Guide to Chodosh was not aware of this change until a very short time ago. The problem we face is that many old rules in this area are no longer necessarily valid. We have no idea yet of how broad is the problem of spring wheat being added to the winter wheat. Some mashgichim have also not known about this. Therefore we face the formidable and time consuming task of exploring which food categories are at issue and if they are, which brands of packages may be using some spring wheat.

ITEMS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS PROBLEM

All foods that have always used spring wheat are not affected. Therefore, all Yoshon bakeries and pizza shops will continue to produce Yoshon using the arrangements in place from before. This includes breads, rolls, challahs, bagels, pita, pizza, etc. All noodles and pastas also have not changed. For all these items, the Guide to Chodosh should still be valid.

FOODS AFFECTED BY THIS PROBLEM

We still do not have an idea of broad are the categories of products affected by this problem. However, the known scope continues to expand. At this point each item has to be examined individually. This is

such a formidable task that it can take a long time, perhaps beyond pesach, until we start to have handle on what to recommend. Even items with a Yoshon hashgocho need to be checked to make sure that the mashgiach has been aware of this change. Here is a partial initial list which needs to be investigated: matzos, matzo meal, items using matzo meal such as gefilte fish, breaded items, meat loaf and other applications where flour or matzo meal is used as a filling and binding agent. Baking flour, both flour produced for home baking and for baking cakes, cookies, crackers and pretzels professionally. Candies that contain flour.

MEANWHILE:

DO NOT ask or write us for halachic guidance. Do not ask us at this point whether a specific item in your house or store has this problem. Even if your posek is machmir, do not throw out any foods. As mashgichim respond to this appeal for information, we will add to the list of items known to have or not have this problem.

PRELIMINARY LIST OF ITEMS USING ONLY YOSHON WHEAT:

All items made in Israel under any reliable kashrus hashgocho

GEFILTE FISH: A&B, Ungar, Freunds, Dagim, Mrs. Adlers, Manischewitz, Mothers, Rokeach.

MATZOS AND MATZO MEAL: Streits, Manischewitz, Horowitz Margareten, Rokeach, Mishpacha, Kemach.

MATZOS FOR PESACH: Several hand matzo bakeries that we have contacted say that they are adding spring wheat to their winter wheat flour. However they make sure that the spring wheat is Yoshon from last year. We hope to have a list of such bakeries compiled before pesach.

BAKING FLOUR: Gold Medal flour from factory KC (KC next to the date), All Kemach flours, all purpose and high gluten.

BAKING FLOUR WITH ADDED SPRING WHEAT: Bob's Red Mill "100% hard red winter wheat" flour contains some spring wheat.

The following added 1 Feb 17

For the following it has been confirmed that what was assumed before as being only winter wheat has no spring wheat added:

General Mills cereals-all wheat ingredients winter wheat only

General Mills Pureasnow bakery flour

Heckers flour

Heimische Lukshon Matzo Meal

Ardent Mills and Snavely's all purpose bakery flour.

In Long Island establishments: Zomniks, Shloimy's Bakery, Gotta Getta Bagels, Cravings.

Masbia flour with Yoshon label

Shoprite Deli and Fish Dep't in the following New Jersey locations: Aberdeen, Bound Brook, East Brunswick, East Windsor, Lawrenceville, Malboro, Neptune.

Gelbstein Bakery-Lakewood, Tel Aviv Bakery-Chicago.

Mendelsohn all products

Kemach all products with Yoshon label

Pita Express all products

Pita Express New York City-Laffas, pitas

L'Esti Deserts all

Twizzler, Jolly Ranchers candies

Geffen with Yoshon label

Kedem with Yoshon label

Macabee: Mozzarella sticks with Yoshon label, Breaded eggplant cutlets, breaded eggplant sticks
