**Shmitta Alert**

**Carrots & Peppers from Israel** - Please be aware that carrots (e.g., Dorot Farms brand), peppers, and other vegetables from Israel are consistently being sold in the Baltimore area at produce markets in our neighborhoods. The labels on the packages state “Product of Israel”. From the numerous inquiries we have received, it is apparent that many consumers are unaware of this when shopping. These vegetables were grown during the shmittah year and may not be eaten. Furthermore, they may not be thrown out and require special handling. If you bought these products, please contact your local Orthodox rabbi for further guidance. Seven Mile Market in Baltimore is monitored by STAR-K, and produce sold there does not have this issue.

**All citrus fruits from Israel** are still from the 6th year, which means that terumos and ma'asros need to be taken. Some fruits (e.g., peaches, nectarines, cherries, lichi, grapes, figs, apples and apricots) from Israel are from the shmitta crop, which means that they need to be eaten with special care (see our articles).

**Consumer Information**

Please note our updated strawberry washing instructions. We have added a pre-rinse to more completely facilitate the removal of the insects.

**Strawberries (Fresh only: frozen cannot be washed and are required to have a reliable hashgocha; dried strawberries do not require checking.)**

1. Pre-rinse all the strawberries in water.
2. Prepare a basin of detergent solution, using at least two tablespoons of detergent per gallon of water.
3. Agitate the strawberries in the solution for 10-15 seconds.
4. Let the strawberries soak for at least one minute in the solution.
5. Rinse off each strawberry.
6. It is advisable to remove the tops. Otherwise, pay careful attention to rinsing off the top area well.
7. No further checking is required.

**Dunkin Donuts** stores, located at 1508 & 7000 Reisterstown Rd, Baltimore, are under the certification of Rabbi Sholom Salfer as cholov stam. For those who keep Cholov Yisroel, yet eat non-Cholov Yisroel powdered milk, it is important to note that the although doughnuts are made from powdered milk the fillings and toppings may contain real milk, which is non-Cholov Yisroel. The milk (i.e., whole, 2% and skim) used in the coffee served at these two eateries is Cholov Yisroel.

The STAR-K’s widely acclaimed Kashrus Training Program, limited to 25 students -- rabbonim, certifying agency administrators, kollel members, and others serving in klei kodesh – will be held at the STAR-K offices in Baltimore, MD from July 13-16, 2015.

The STAR-K will be offering a Kashrus Foodservice Seminar for people already involved or interested in becoming mashgichim in the foodservice industry (e.g., restaurants and catering). This course will be held at the STAR-K offices in Baltimore, MD from July 20-22, 2015.

For more information regarding these summer programs, please call the STAR-K office at 410-484-4110 or email info@star-k.org.

**The STAR-K medicine list** has been updated and is available on the STAR-K website at http://www.star-k.org/cons-appr-medicine.htm.