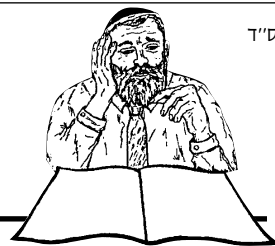


THE Daf HaKASHRUS



A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE  RABBINIC FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

PURCHASE ISRAELI PRODUCE

BY RABBI YAAKOV LUBAN
Executive Rabbinic Coordinator

Halacha requires the tithing (separation of *teruma* and *ma'aser*) of produce grown in Israel, and untithed produce may not be consumed. In the State of Israel, various Kashrus organizations arrange for this tithing to occur. However, until recently there were no arrangements made for the tithing of produce that was exported to the United States.

A few months ago, the OU initiated discussions with Agrexco, the primary exporter of Israeli produce, to establish a system of separating *teruma* and *ma'aser* for the American marketplace. The Arab terrorists have attempted to weaken Israel by destroying its economy. The European market, Israel's main trade partner, is not as reliable as it was in the past, and thus opening the American market to Israeli products is especially crucial. It is of the utmost importance that the Jews of the Diaspora support the Israeli economy and purchase Israeli grown produce whenever available. It was recognized that some people might be hesitant to purchase these products because they are unfamiliar with the laws and procedures of tithing. It was agreed that over the course of the next few months, the OU would work with Agrexco to establish a system to tithe all exported produce.

In spite of these efforts, the OU has been unsuccessful in arranging for the tithing of Israeli peppers which are now on the market. There are 30 warehouses where peppers are stored, and the logistics of coordinating a system of separation in these multiple locations proved too difficult for Agrexco. It is hoped that once Agrexco tests the market with respect to other produce, they will consent to a program for peppers as well.

Since mid-December, Israeli grown tomatoes imported by Agrexco have been arriving in the United States. The OU has arranged for the tithing (separation of *teruma* and *ma'aser*) of Tomatoes on the Vine (not cherry tomatoes). Each tomato must bear a sticker with the Carmel logo. (Carmel is the brand name of Agrexco. Arrangements were not made to cover other importers.)

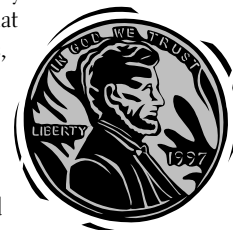
Given the importance of supporting the Israeli economy, we encourage the public to purchase peppers and tithe the product

at home. There is some concern about how this should be done, for the following reason. Some peppers may be grown in areas where tithing is not required. Such produce does not require tithing, nor can such produce be designated as the tithed portion for Israeli fruits and vegetables. The question arises, can one purchase a number of peppers in a supermarket and designate a portion of one pepper as *teruma* and *ma'aser* for the entire batch, when the possibility exists that the designated pepper may come from an area where tithing is not required, while the remaining

peppers may require tithing? This is a matter of halachic dispute. Some Rabbis require that each pepper be tithed separately. On the other hand, Horav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach, z"tl, and others, are of the opinion that the possibility of a mixture in the same batch is unlikely, and therefore one can tithe the entire batch without a separation from each individual pepper. In any event, when tithing peppers, one should not recite a *brocha*, since the possibility exists that the produce was grown outside of Israel.

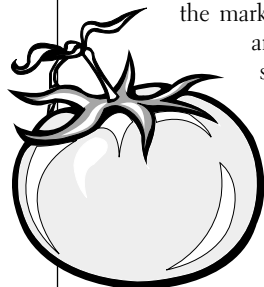
The following is a brief outline of the method to be followed when tithing produce:

1. Place all of the produce in front of you.
2. Remove slightly more than 1% of the produce. For example, if there are 100 peppers, separate one whole pepper and a small part of a second pepper.
3. A coin, which is valid currency in the country in which the redemption is performed, is designated for redemption. At the time of this writing, one American penny is sufficient. (Note: in the unusual event that the produce is worth less than 17 cents, there are special requirements for the redemption coin, known as *perutah chamurah*, which are beyond the scope of this article.)
4. *Teruma* and *ma'aser* may not be separated on *Shabbos* and *Yom Tov*.
5. It should be noted that while reciting the formula below (#6), neither the produce nor the separated portion should be moved, since the formula refers to designated locations.
6. The following text is recited:
 - The amount in the northernmost part of the separated portion, which is greater than 1% of the total amount of the produce, shall be *Terumah Gedolah*.



If one has difficulty with the full text or it is not available, this simplified text may be recited:

"All separations of Terumah and Ma'aser and redemptions of Ma'aser Sheni and Neta Revai shall be effected in accordance with the text of the Chazon Ish."



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ISRAELI PRODUCTS

continued from previous page

- The remaining part of the separated portion, plus an additional 9% on the northernmost side of the produce shall be *Ma'aser Rishon*.
- The part of the separated portion that was previously designated *Ma'aser Rishon* shall be *Terumas Ma'aser*.
- 10% of the remaining produce in the southern side shall be either *Ma'aser Sheni* or *Ma'aser Oni*, in accordance with the year of the *shmittah* cycle during which the produce was grown.
- If the 10% on the southern side is *Ma'aser Sheni*, it should be redeemed by transferring its *kedushah*, calculated at its value plus 25%, to the coin.
- If the produce is *Neta Revai*, it should be redeemed by transferring its *kedusha*, calculated at its value plus 25%, to the coin.

Alternatively, if one has difficulty with the full text or it is not available, this simplified text may be recited:

"All separations of *Terumah* and *Ma'aser* and redemptions of *Ma'aser Sheni* and *Neta Revai* shall be effected in accordance with the text of the *Chazon Ish*."

7. The separated produce (the part which was more than 1%), and the designated coin are wrapped and discarded.

We are pleased to advise the public that the following fresh herbs and vegetables are available from Alei-Katif in Israel. All items are under reliable Kosher supervision. They are insect free and *terumah* and *maaser* have been properly separated.

FRESH HERBS:

Parsley • Dill • Basil • Mint • Rosemary • Scallion • Baby Leaves • Cilantro

PEPPERS

ROMAINE / ROMAINE HEARTS

These items are available in the five boroughs of New York City through J. R. Produce. You may reach the general manager, Josef Raz, at the following numbers:

Home: (718) 370-8782

Beeper: (917) 874-8765

Cell: (917) 560-3734

KASHRUTH *alert!*

FULL CIRCLE, SAFEWAY SELECT, STOP & SHOP SOYMILK with date code 2280 due to an error, was produced on dairy equipment that had been cleaned but not kashered. The affected product has been recalled and should not be used with meat or by those with extreme milk allergies. The product is normally pareve.

FOOD LION BAKED CHEESE PUFFS produced by Food Lion, Salisbury, N.C. bears an unauthorized © symbol and is being withdrawn from the marketplace.

CODE CRACKED PEPPERCORN & PARMESAN DRESSING (1 gal. Institutional size) produced by Code, Atlanta, GA mistakenly bears an unauthorized © on some bottles of this product which is not Kosher. Corrective action is being taken.

CAINS LIGHT CAESAR DRESSING & LIGHT ITALIAN DRESSING produced by Cains Food, L.P. Ayer, MA mistakenly bears an unauthorized © and is not Kosher. The product is being recalled.

YARDEN MARSHMALLOWS produced by Comercializadora Yarden Iztacalco D.F. Mexico bears an unauthorized © symbol and is not certified by the Orthodox Union. If this product is seen in the market, please contact the © at (212) 613-8169, via fax at (212) 613-0679, or e-mail howardk@ou.org.

SMART & FINAL TROPICAL PUNCH AND LEMONADE DRINK MIX, and Lemon Flavored Iced Tea Mix produced by Smart & Final Stores Corp, Commerce, CA and distributed in Smart & Final stores, bear an unauthorized © symbol. The products are being withdrawn from the marketplace.

The store **SWEETS & TREATS** (9834 Glades Road, Boca Raton, FL), advertised in the Jewish Journal as © certified, is not certified by the Orthodox Union. Products in bins or repackaged products found in this store as well, which bear the © symbol, are not certified kosher by the Orthodox Union.

MAZAL TOV TO ...

our devoted RFR in Pittsburgh, PA **RABBI SHIMON WEISS AND HIS WIFE** on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Yossie.

our devoted RFR in Baltimore, MD **RABBI RICHARD LEVINE AND HIS WIFE** on the engagement of their daughter Shira Leah to Asher Wildman from Silver Spring, MD.

CONDOLENCES TO...

The **DWORKEN FAMILY** on the sudden loss of their beloved and esteemed husband, father and grandfather Rabbi Steven M. Dworken z'l. Rabbi Dworken was the Executive Vice President of the Rabbinical Council of America (RCA) and was a member of the OU's Rabbinic Kashruth Committee (RKC). His friendship, dedication and sage advice will be sorely missing. We offer sincere condolences to his wife Dr. Susan Dworken and the entire family.

◆ המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים ◆

KASHRUTH *advisory*

Plans were made to change **STELLA D'ORO COOKIES & BAKED PRODUCTS** to Dairy. Some packaging had been switched to © in advance of the ingredient change. The change to dairy has been cancelled and all Stella D'oro products, even those labeled ©, are actually Pareve.


CAINS RANCH DRESSING produced by Cains Foods L.P., Ayer, MA is certified as © but is missing the Dairy designation. Future labels will be revised.

RELEASE FORMS

BY RABBI LEONARD STEINBERG

Whenever a RFR is sent to *kasher*, the company must sign a release form to protect the OU from liability for any damages that might occur during *kashering*. The following is a copy of the Release Form available from OU Headquarters. Please make sure to use it as necessary.

Established 1898



Orthodox Union

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Eleven Broadway • New York, NY 10004-1303 • Tel: 212-563-4000 • Fax: 212-564-9058 • www.ou.org

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Rabbinic Administrator (1950-1972)
Rabbi Alexander S. Rosenberg

An authorized representative of the Orthodox Union has been requested to Kasherize the equipment in your plant located at _____

Kosherization (purging) requires raising the temperature of equipment to higher than normal level. The vast majority of times, this is done with no damage to any equipment. The representative will conduct the Kosherization in a responsible manner. However, the Orthodox Union cannot guarantee that damage will not occur. The Kosherization is done at the client/customer risk.

The (Company) hereby releases the Orthodox Union and its representatives from any liability for damages arising out of the Kosherization and/or resulting in consequential damages or loss from the Kosherization.

Accepted:

Co. Name: _____

Co. Rep.(print): _____

Sign: _____ Date __/__/__

Title: _____

Plant signature required if plant is not owned by company

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Plant rep.(print): _____

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