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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2009**

CONTACT: Joe Reardon, director
NCDA&CS Food & Drug Protection Division
(919) 733-7366

**Bird food recalled due to *Salmonella* contamination
Dead birds found in N.C. initiates testing of bird food**

RALEIGH — Kentucky -based Burkmann Feeds announced today that it is voluntarily recalling Wild Birds Unlimited Wildlife Blend bird food after tests conducted by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Food and Drug Protection Division revealed the presence of *Salmonella* bacteria.

Burkmann is recalling 20-pound packages of Wild Birds Unlimited Wildlife Blend bird food with the specific manufacturing date code of 81132200 2916 08124, sold exclusively at Wild Birds Unlimited Stores.

The department initiated an investigation following reports of salmonellosis in dead wild birds found in various locations throughout the state. NCDA&CS is working with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to identify the source of contamination at the manufacturer.

"We are pleased that the testing has enabled us to remove contaminated feed from the market," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "Food safety is a number one priority for this department, for both humans and animals."

Salmonella can affect animals, and there is risk to humans from handling contaminated bird seed or pet food products. People handling contaminated wild bird food can become infected with *Salmonella*, especially if they have not thoroughly washed their hands after having contact with the product or any surfaces exposed to these products. Symptoms include: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or bloody diarrhea, abdominal cramping and fever. Rarely, *Salmonella* can result in more serious ailments, including arterial infections, endocarditis, arthritis, muscle pain, eye irritation and urinary tract symptoms. Consumers exhibiting these signs after having contact with this product should contact their healthcare providers.

Wild Birds Unlimited Inc. and Burkmann Feeds are cooperating to remove all affected product from Wild Birds Unlimited franchisees. NCDA&CS is advising consumers to discard the product, avoid touching unsealed product with bare hands and wash their hands thoroughly after touching unsealed product.

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Product Description	Recalled Lot/Manufacturing Date Code
Wild Birds Unlimited Wildlife Blend (20 lb. packages)	81132200 2916 08124

NCDA&CS Public Affairs Division, Brian Long, Director
Mailing Address: 1001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-1001
Physical Address: 2 West Edenton Street, Raleigh NC 27601
Phone: (919) 733-4216; **FAX:** (919) 733-5047

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 Steve Troxler, Commissioner of Agriculture