

EXHIBIT 17
DATE 2-21-13
#B 471

Local Honeycrisp Apples!



Your snack today is from
Moss Farms in Rollins, Montana
That's only about 40 miles away from Ronan!

Apple History

There are 7,500 kinds of apples grown around the world today. Each apple contains at least five seeds and each of those five seeds would grow a different kind, or variety, of apple. The Romans were the first people to select kinds of apples they liked and grow orchards of those apples. Growing apples spread and much later (in the 1600s) the Colonists brought apples to America. Now they are grown all around America (and the world) because different kinds of apples grow well in different places.

The Honeycrisp Apple

Apple farmers create new kinds of apples by taking a piece of wood from one tree and attaching it to the trunk of another. This is called grafting. Researchers at the University of Minnesota created the Honeycrisp apple in 1960 by combining a Macoun and a Honeygold apple to create the crisp, juicy Honeycrisp. **Honeycrisp apples grow well in Montana.** They are winter-hardy which means they stay healthy even when it's cold. They also store well. That's why you can still get fresh, local apples even in the winter!

Honeycrisp apples are very nutritious. They have lots of fiber, vitamin C, and antioxidants which keep your body healthy! **Eating local food is healthier** for you because food is fresher and retains more nutritional value, for your community because it supports local farmers, and for the environment because food doesn't need to travel so far.

Sources: *The Botany of Desire: A Plant's-Eye View of the World* by Michael Pollan, www.honeycrisp.org, Minnesota Secretary of State: State Fruit <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/index.aspx?page=1464>

Prepared by Mission Mountain Food Enterprise Center's Farm to Institution Program.