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MISC. NEWS : CONSUMER AFFAIR

Last Updated: **Feb 19th,
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McDonald's French fries flavored with beef, wheat, dairy

By Ben Wasserman
Feb 19, 2006, 22:49

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lawsuits filed last week in the United States over its use of food allergens and animal products.

According to [the nutrition information of McDonald's fries](#), the fries of concern are

treated with natural flavor made from beef, wheat and dairy sources, which would trouble vegetarians and those who are allergic to dairy and or gluten, a protein found in wheat.

The lawsuits came days after McDonald's announced its use of milk and wheat in fries. Earlier, McDonald's also announced that the content of trans fat in a large serving of fries is higher than previously estimated.

In Illinois, Debra Moffatt of Lombard on Friday filed a suit in Chicago claiming eating fries with gluten, a wheat protein, triggered gastrointestinal symptoms.

In Florida, Mark and Theresa Chimiak of Jupiter also sued McDonald's Friday claiming their 5 year old daughter has intolerance to gluten and became ill after eating McDonald's fries.

In California, Nadia Sugich of Los Angeles, a vegan eating no animal foods, sued McDonald's Wednesday saying the company concealed the dairy ingredient in fries.

McDonald's said wheat and dairy ingredients are used to flavor its fries.

U.S. food makers are required by law to label the major food allergens such as gluten.

Food allergy is common in the U.S. Two percent of adults and five percent of children are allergic to one food or another. About 30,000 consumers need emergency room treatments and 150 Americans die each year because of allergic reactions to food.

McDonald's is testing its fries for gluten at the University of Nebraska, Washington Post reported.

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