Agriculture Department gives 101 companies 'Cajun' label

Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry Bob Odom said last week 101 Louisiana companies have received permission to use the "Certified Cajun" label on their products.

The label and logo were introduced to counter "bogus" Cajun food products when the Cajun food craze swept the nation in recent years. "Although the Cajun craze...has settled down, our food manufacturers are still reporting steady growth in many market areas around the country, and our market research confirms that growth trend. Cajun has made it a continuing, living cuisine with a continuing, living cuisine with a nation in recent years. "Odom said in a news release.

Odom said the use of the label is still free, although a service charge may be levied in the future. He also said the department will ask the Legislature for money to advertise in food service and retail trade magazines. "There have been a number of food brokers burned by counterfeit Cajun products that didn't live up to their claims. We want the professional food buyers to know that there is a distinctive trademark for the real thing," he said.

When the label was introduced in March, a department official said in order for a product to qualify for the "Certified Cajun" logo, 50 percent of the product must come from Louisiana or 80 percent of its added value must come as a result of manufacturing in Louisiana.

Marketing specialists have made presentations on the label to buyers at the National Restaurant Association food show and Food Marketing Institute's food show.

Companies also may use a second label, "A Product of Louisiana, Certified," for non-Cajun products.

Here is a list of companies with permission to use the Cajun logo:

- Argo Enterprises, Cajun Boy's Louisiana Products, Drusilla Seafood Processing, Kleinpeter Farms Dairy, Louisiana Cajun Foods, Louisiana Fish Fry Products, Manda Fine Meats, Sensible Sweets and the Gift Basket, Baton Rouge;
- Bayou Magic, Gerlach Meat Processors, Jelks, Mama Mia's Foods, PRO, Spice of Louisiana and Warren's Khoury Candy Co., Shreveport;
- Bayou Cajun Country, Pristine Foods, Real Louisiana Seafood and Stubbs Pecanland, Monroe;
- Baudoin Foods, D&T Super Market and Motivatit Seafoods, Houma;
- Creole Delicacies Kitchens, Deep South Blenders and Piazza's International Seafood, Metairie;
- Big Daddy's Food, Old Fashion Meats and Southern Foods, Lake Charles;
- Acadiana Fishermen's Co-op, La Cour de Ferme, Pat's Fisherman's Wharf Restaurant, Breaux Bridge;
- Bonanza Crawfish Farm, Henderson; Burris Mill & Feed, Franklinton; Cajun Delights, Ventress; Cajun Express Products, Basile; Cajun Pecan House, Cut Off; Carlo's Oyster, Amite; Caughlin Farms, Mt. Hermon; Crawfish Processors & Bait Supply, Eunice; De'Marcy Girls Cajun Kitchen, Kaplan; Don's Country Corned, Duson;
- Double D Meat, Bogalusa; Emerald Farms, Lecompte; Estherwood Rice, Elton; Flavor Fest Foods, Many; Four Star Meat Co. of Louisiana, Denham Springs; Hummer & Son Honey Farm, Bossier City; Kary's Roux Co., Ville Platte;
- La Caboose Specialties, Sunset; LeBlanc's Cajun Boudin & Food Co., St. Amant; Liuzza Produce Farm, Independence; Louisiana Premium Seafoods, Palmetto; Lowrey Distributing, Homer; Midway Plantation, Waterproof;
- Natchitoches Association for Retarded Citizens, Natchitoches;
- Natural Fibers of Louisiana, Jeanerette; New Orleans Jelly and Spice Co., Folsom; Fanaroma Foods, Marksville; Panola Pepper Corp., Lake Providence; Pearson's Seafood, Lacombe; Richard's Cajun Country Food Processors; Sekana Pecan, Shelling Plant, Mansura; Zapp's Potato Chips, Gramercy;
- Deuce Supply Co. and Southern Seasonings, Lafayette; Cajun Creole Products and Louisiana Quail Farms, New Iberia; Bruce Foods Corp. and Catahoula Crawfish, St. Martinville; Acadia Dairy and Joseph E. Boudreaux Farms, Thibodaux; Bob's Bar and Restaurant Supply and Chapman-Shipwright, Chalmette; Cajun Fry Co., Errol's Cajun Foods, Pierre Part; Chef Paul Prudhomme's Magic Seasonings and L.H. Hayward & Co., Harahan;
- Louisiana Cajun Entrees and Noel Seafood Co., Abbeville; Hardy's Sauces, Estherwood; Hebert's Quail Farm, Gueydan; Abita Brewing Co., Abita Springs; ADM Milling, Crowley; Bergeron Pecan Shelling Plant, New Roads; Big Belly Cajun Jelly, Winnboro, and Bill's Motor Co., Rayville.