Exhibit A

May 14 2003

Dear Fleming Retailer:

As you are aware, the company has decided to discontinue operations at the Northeast Division. This decision was done through a very careful and thorough analysis.

This decision is a disappointing one, but necessary. Our Division is one of five divisions scheduled for closure. The decision was based on the performance of the division, current sales, prospects for growth and a number of other factors. We have begun immediately assisting you and our other customers to transfer your business to another supplier of your choice. Our concern is that you get your operation transferred as soon as possible to minimize any disruption. At the same time, FSA's, loans, leases and other obligations will need to be resolved through the bankruptcy court process.

Regretfully from a continued supply standpoint our current inventory is being depleted very quickly. By department here is our best overview:

- **Produce**: The Four Seasons program remains in effect and supply will continue at current acceptable service levels. Billing is going directly to the store.

- **Frozen**: The Burris program remains in effect and supply will continue at current acceptable service levels. Billing will continue to be billed thru Fleming until further notice and could extend beyond May 31st.

- **Meat**: There is no more product coming into Northeast. I would expect to be out of the meat business within 7 days, fresh meat will be out this week. We will cease shipping to retail by Wednesday May 21st.

- **Bakery/Deli**: There is no more product coming into Northeast. Current service level is in the high 70's; however, I am anticipating significant decline as we move forward. We will cease shipping to retail by Wednesday May 21st.

- **Dairy:** There is no more product coming into Northeast. We will cease shipping to retail by Wednesday May 21st.

- **Grocery**: There will be no additional PO's received. I do expect by the end of the week service level to be in the 50-60's range. We will cease shipping and honoring grocery orders the week of May 25th.

I regret having to relate this information to you. However, I feel it is imperative we keep you informed to the best of our ability. Our overriding concern is to support you in this transition, knowing it will be a difficult one. The Northeast Team is committed to assist you in any fashion that we can, in order to reduce the amount of confusion.

On a personal note, I want to express my appreciation for the support and patience that has occurred on behalf of the Northeast operation.

Thank you.

Ray R. Sprinkle
Division President