

SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS



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Food

OFF *the* SHELF

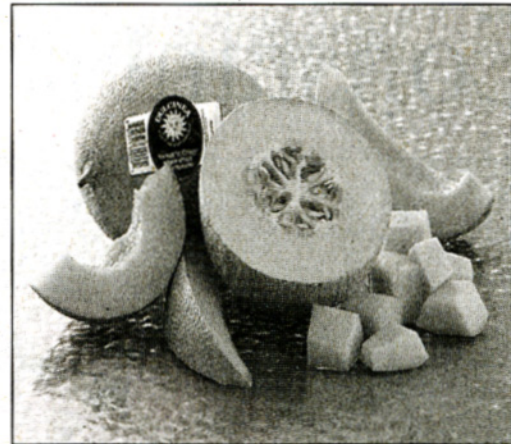
Crispy cantaloupe

Cantaloupe that isn't ripe doesn't exactly taste good. So imagine our reaction when we bit down on Dulcinea Farms' new hybrid version and heard a *crunnch*. We were thrilled!

The Sweet 'N Crisp Asian-Style Cantaloupe, when at its peak, is crisp like an apple but still has a slightly sweet melon flavor. Originally from Asia, it is now being grown in Arizona and California's San Joaquin Valley.

One of our taste testers said it would provide a nice balance to watermelon in a summer fruit salad and, given its oblong shape, is much easier to handle than other cantaloupe. The suggested retail price is \$2.99 to \$3.99. It is available at select Vons and Ralphs stores in California.

Dulcinea Farms is also known for its mini round



watermelons, which are sweet and easy to transport to a picnic or a party.

— Charlotte Boechler

We're hungry! Give us a sample of your local food product for sale and, if we think it's tasty, we'll feature it in the Off the Shelf column. Send to: Food Section, c/o News-Press, 715 Anacapa St., Santa Barbara, 93101.