

Food Safety Law and Your Farm

What is the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)?

The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) gives the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authority to regulate food from farm to fork, which enables the FDA to better protect the public by strengthening the food safety system. FSMA was signed into law on January 4, 2011, and represents the nation's largest overhaul of the federal food safety laws since 1938. The goal is to prevent foodborne outbreaks before they occur by taking proactive measures. FSMA has created seven (7) new federal rules that address produce, human food, animal food, transportation, and imported food.



What is the Produce Safety Rule (PSR)?

The Produce Safety Rule is part of FSMA and establishes science-based minimum standards for the safe **growing, harvesting, packing, and holding of fruits and vegetables** grown for human consumption. As of January 26, 2016, this rule is in effect and compliance dates for some parts of the rule are already underway, with full compliance for many farms starting in January 2018.

Many, if not all, farm operations will be impacted by at least part of the FSMA Produce Safety Rule, even farm operations that are very small. The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and University of Idaho (UI) Extension encourage all who may be affected by this rule to educate themselves about FSMA. Compliance dates, exemptions, and more information on the rule can be viewed on the ISDA website at <https://agri.idaho.gov/main/inspections/fsma-main/>.

Do I Need to Comply?

To help determine whether your farm operation is covered under this new rule, please visit <http://bit.ly/psrdecisiontool> and go through an anonymous self-guided decision tool. If you know you are covered by this rule, please contact ISDA for more information.

What is the Idaho State Department of Agriculture's role?

The ISDA, through an FDA grant, has been working to understand the scope of produce grown in Idaho that is covered by the Produce Safety Rule. The goal of this grant is to implement an integrated food-safety program that will prevent or significantly reduce the likelihood of a foodborne illness through standardized and consistent implementation of the Produce Safety Rule (PSR).

Throughout this year and the next several years, ISDA and grant partner, UI Extension, will be working together to provide **outreach, education, and technical assistance** to the produce industry to help them comply with the Produce Safety Rule.

ISDA formed a FSMA advisory committee in 2015 to help provide leadership and guidance to Idaho agencies on the implementation of the FSMA rules. Members include legislators and representatives from each sector of the agriculture industry and businesses that may be affected by FSMA. This committee is essential to the implementation of the Produce Safety Rule in Idaho.

What is the University of Idaho Extension's Role?

UI Extension, in partnership with ISDA, is working to meet the education, outreach and technical assistance needs of the Idaho produce industry. Funding through this collaboration has enabled Extension to hire one full-time Associate Extension Educator and to train and certify faculty members across the state to deliver FDA approved Produce Safety Alliance courses at a significantly reduced cost and conduct voluntary on-farm readiness reviews with farm operations prior to inspection.

We encourage you to access UI Extension's new FSMA Produce Safety website:

<http://www.uidaho.edu/extension/produce-safety>, which features the self-guided, anonymous decision tool for determining likely compliance or exemption status. Work has also begun identifying and developing supplemental instructional materials, videos, and Idaho-specific communications to assist farm operations in implementing practices for the safe growing, harvesting, packing, and holding of produce covered by the rule.

Need Produce Safety Rule Accredited Training?

The FSMA Produce Safety Rule requires that one representative from each farm receive training accredited by the FDA. Below are training dates and curricula that meet FDA requirements.

Training

Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) training is the only standardized national training program approved by FDA to prepare produce operations in meeting the regulatory requirements in FSMA Produce Safety Rule. Trained and certified staff from ISDA and grant partner UI Extension are providing Produce Safety Alliance training courses statewide this fall and winter. This eight (8) hour, one-day Grower Training Course will cover key areas and requirements of the Produce Safety Rule including:

1. Introduction to Produce Safety
2. Worker Health, Hygiene, and Training
3. Soil Amendments
4. Wildlife, Domesticated Animals, and Land Use
5. Agricultural Water
6. Postharvest Handling and Sanitation
7. How to Develop a Farm Food Safety Plan

Please check the ISDA and/or UI Extension websites for future Idaho training dates. Training will begin again in the fall of 2018. Additional training can be found throughout the United States. Please visit the Produce Safety Alliance website at www.producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu/

For more information on training requirements, dates, location, cost, and registration please go to <http://www.uidaho.edu/extension/produce-safety> or contact UI Extension at rmills@uidaho.edu.

Whom do I contact?

ISDA

Please contact ISDA for assistance with regulations, compliance, outreach, and education.

UI Extension

Please contact UI Extension for assistance with education, training, and technical assistance.



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