

IDAHO STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



PRODUCE SAFETY NEWS AND UPDATES

June 17, 2020

INSPECTIONS DURING COVID-19

Effective June 5th, 2020, FDA lifted the temporary work order for all 50 states in regard to face-to-face activities for the produce safety rule. This means that the Idaho State Department of Agriculture Produce Safety Division (ISDA) will be performing produce safety inspections and other activities as normal. ISDA will be in communication with farms subject to an inspection in 2020 to schedule an inspection.

ON-FARM READINESS— REVIEWS (OFRR'S)

We are still offering On-Farm Readiness—Reviews, and we are offering the free service remotely, which will consist of working through the OFRR manual, answering any questions you may have and providing valuable feedback. The walk around portion of the OFRR will be scheduled at the completion of the remote portion. We are available to do both portions of the OFRR on-site if requested. ISDA conducts this free service in collaboration with the University of Idaho to better acquaint growers to the produce safety rule. This service is confidential, non-regulatory, strictly educational and voluntary. Please contact us to schedule your On-Farm Readiness Review today!

fsm@idsa.idaho.gov or (208)332-8502

COMPLIANCE DATES (FARMS ELIGIBLE FOR INSPECTION)

WHERE DOES YOUR OPERATION FIT?

- ◆ Large Farms \$500,000+ - 2019
- ◆ Small Farms \$250,000—\$500,000 January 2020
- ◆ Very Small Farms \$25,000—\$250,000 January 2021

Monetary Value based off average annual produce sales over three year period

COMPLIANCE DATES FOR AGRICULTURE WATER

WHEN IS MY FARM SUBJECT TO AGRICULTURE WATER REQUIREMENTS?

- ◆ Large Farms \$500,000+ - January 26th, 2022
- ◆ Small Farms \$250,000—\$500,000 - January 26th, 2023
- ◆ Very Small Farms \$25,000—\$250,000 - January 26th, 2024

Agriculture Water – Subpart E is still currently under review by FDA

QUALIFIED EXEMPTION GUIDANCE

In light of COVID-19, FDA recently issued guidance for farms previously determined to be qualified exempt from the Produce Safety Rule. FDA recognizes the need for qualified exempt farms to shift food sales from not just qualified end users, but to all available buyers during the COVID-19 public health emergency. This shift in sales has the potential to help reduce food shortages, food waste and help support both farms involved and the U.S. economy. In order to support affected qualified exempt farms for the duration of the public health emergency, under the circumstances described in the guidance, FDA does not intend to enforce the criteria for sales to qualified end users when determining eligibility for qualified exemption. Instead, sales from 2017, 2018 and 2019 will be viewed for 2021. This specific guidance and all related documents and updates issued from FDA can be viewed in their entirety on our website. <https://agri.idaho.gov/main/inspections/fsma-main/newsfsma-updates/>

If you are uncertain about your farms status in regard to the produce safety rule, please contact us fsma@isda.idaho.gov or (208)332-8502. In addition, all farms that are qualified exempt should be renewing their exemption with ISDA annually by filling out a verification form or by calling the Idaho State Department of Agriculture's Produce Safety Division. All Produce Safety forms can be found on ISDA's website. <https://agri.idaho.gov/main/forms/>

As of January 1st, 2020, all qualified exempt farms must follow Qualified Exemption Labeling Requirements. Labeling requirements can be found in the Produce Safety Rule under §112.6.

PRODUCE SAFETY ALLIANCE (PSA) GROWER TRAINING

The produce safety rule requires at least one person from the operation to attend the training. ISDA will be conducting PSA Grower Training courses again in the fall and winter. However, if your operation needs the training now, there are remote and online courses taking place. Please visit the PSA website for more details. <https://producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu/training/grower-training-courses/>

CONTACT INFORMATION

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

University of Idaho in collaboration with ISDA's Produce Safety Program recently completed a webinar series based on the first year of inspections in Idaho. The webinar series, additional information and resources regarding the produce safety rule can be viewed on the University of Idaho's website. <https://www.uidaho.edu/extension/food-safety-for-produce-growers>

Educational videos are available in both English and Spanish on our website along with read along scripts. <https://agri.idaho.gov/main/inspections/fsma-main/produce-safety-rule-training-videos/>

CDC has published COVID-19 guidance for agricultural workers and employers. The document can be viewed in depth here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-agricultural-workers.html>.