



Produce Safety NEWSLETTER

October 22, 2021

PROGRAM UPDATE The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) Produce Safety Program is continually working to verify all farms throughout Idaho. If your farm has not been verified, please begin the process of doing so by filling out our verification form on our website by [clicking here](#). The verification form can be mailed, emailed, or faxed to the contact information provided on the form. Once ISDA has been able to verify your farm's information, we will send you a corresponding letter based on your farm's status with regard to the Produce Safety Rule for your records. Even farms that know they are currently not covered should verify their farm's status with ISDA. By doing so, ISDA will be able to issue an official letter for record, issue correspondence to specific farms in the event of a rule change that may impact certain farms, or remove farms from future contact lists.

INSPECTION UPDATE Over the previous three years ISDA has conducted inspections on Large, Small and Very Small farms throughout Idaho. As a result of completing these initial inspections, ISDA has established compliance history and completed a risk assessment of farms throughout Idaho. Future farm inspections will be prioritized in accordance with this information. Farms can expect to be inspected either on a three or five year basis based on compliance history and risk assessment. ISDA will continue to notify farms of inspection prior to arriving for inspection, however, ISDA encourages farms to continue using good agricultural practices at all times in preparation for future inspections.

JOIN OUR PRODUCE SAFETY EDUCATION TEAM— UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO EXTENSION

University of Idaho Extension is seeking applicants for a full-time, benefitted, Commercial Produce Safety Program Education, Outreach and Technical Assistance Coordinator. The position will be located in Boise, Idaho. The position is funded by the United States (US) Food and Drug Administration (FDA) through a cooperative agreement with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) to address statewide outreach, education and technical assistance related to the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule.

The Coordinator will be responsible for planning, organizing, instructing, marketing and evaluating Produce Safety Rule training programs and technical assistance for produce growers, Extension Educators, and regulatory personnel statewide.

Required qualifications will include:

- Bachelor's degree in Food Science, Microbiology, Horticulture, Environmental Science, Agricultural Science, Education, or a closely related discipline with relevant food safety or industry work experience.
- Demonstrated knowledge of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule, Good Agricultural Practices, on-farm food safety and agricultural production of horticulture and specialty crops.

The position has not yet been posted. Please contact Ariel Agenbroad with any inquiries or questions. Email ariel@uidaho.edu or call 208-287-5900.

NEW

EDUCATIONAL VIDEO

Our eighth and final educational video as part of our Idaho Produce Safety Series is now available in Spanish. The latest educational video can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

BIOLOGICAL SOIL AMENDMENTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN (BSAAO) VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

Join the Western Region for a free three-day virtual training where we will cover best practices on treating biological soil amendments, insight from different industry experts, and educational discussions on BSAAO compost regulations. This event will be held on November 16-18, 2021 from 11:00am – 3:00pm each day.

[Click here to register!](#)

PRODUCE SAFETY ALLIANCE (PSA) GROWER TRAINING

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture in collaboration with University of Idaho Extension, will be presenting the Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training Courses remotely via Zoom Online Conference platform. The trainings will be presented over the course of two days, for four and a half hours each day. See below for technological requirements, instructions and accessibility in order to successfully attend the remote trainings. If a participant requires the training and doesn't have capabilities to attend the training remotely (online), participants will need to reach out to University of Idaho Extension to make alternate arrangements to attend the training by emailing Ariel Agenbroad at: ariel@uidaho.edu

[Register for a Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training](#)

Current sessions will be held remotely through Zoom

- November 9th, 2021—November 10, 2021
- November 30, 2021– December 1, 2021
- January 11, 2022– January 12, 2022

**All training courses will be scheduled*

*9:30AM (MST) -2:00PM (MST)**

Who Should Attend PSA Trainings: Fruit and vegetable growers and others interested in learning about produce safety, the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule, Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), and co-management of natural resources and food safety. The PSA Grower Training Course is one way to satisfy the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirement outlined in § 112.22(c) that requires *'At least one supervisor or responsible party for your farm must have successfully completed food safety training at least equivalent to that received under standardized curriculum recognized as adequate by the Food and*

What to Expect at the PSA Grower Training Course: The trainers will spend approximately eight to nine hours of total instruction time over the two days (four and a half hours each day), covering content contained in these seven modules:

1. Introduction to Produce Safety
2. Worker Health, Hygiene, and Training
3. Soil Amendments
4. Wildlife, Domesticated Animals, and Land Use
5. Agricultural Water (Part I: Production Water; Part II: Post-harvest Water)
6. Postharvest Handling and Sanitation
7. How to Develop a Farm Food Safety Plan

In addition to learning about produce safety best practices, key parts of the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirements are outlined within each module. There will be time for questions and discussion, so participants should come prepared to share their experiences and produce safety questions.

Benefits of Attending the Course: The course will provide FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirements, a foundation of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and co-management information, FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirements, and details on how to develop a farm food safety plan. Individuals who participate in this course are expected to gain a basic understanding of:

- ✦ Microorganisms relevant to produce safety and where they may be found on the farm
- ✦ How to identify microbial risks, practices that reduce risks, and how to begin implementing produce safety practices on the farm
- ✦ Parts of a farm food safety plan and how to begin writing one
- ✦ Requirements in the FSMA Produce Safety Rule and how to meet them

After attending the entire course, participants will be eligible to receive a certificate from the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) that verifies they have completed the training course. To receive an AFDO certificate, a participant must be present for the entire training and submit the appropriate paperwork to their trainer at the end of the course.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION Participants must be present for all modules in order to receive credit for participating in the course. In order for participants to be present during the training, participants must be able to engage through video and audio throughout the remote training. Participants engagement will be monitored throughout the duration of the training course to ensure the requirements have been met. Participants will require an active internet connection, access to Zoom, camera, microphone, and the ability to interact throughout the training. ISDA will be mailing out required educational materials approximately two weeks prior to the training date. If attendees do not attend, they will be expected to return the educational materials as soon as possible. There is no cost to attend the training at this time. If participants register for the course, they are expected to attend. Please do not register for the course if you are unsure you will be able to attend the remote trainings. Instead, please wait to register until you are certain you can attend. If you register for the training and are unable to attend the training, please contact University of Idaho Extension so you can be removed from the course.

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