



Produce Safety NEWSLETTER

November 2022

UPDATES ON SUBPART E:

PRE-HARVEST AGRICULTURAL WATER

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has proposed new standards regarding agricultural water. The proposed rule, if finalized, would replace the pre-harvest microbial quality criteria and testing requirements in the Produce Safety Rule for covered produce (other than sprouts) with requirements for systems-based, pre-harvest agricultural water assessments to be used for hazard identification and risk management decision-making. Under the proposed requirements, covered farms would be required to conduct pre-harvest agricultural water assessments once annually, and whenever a change occurs that increases the likelihood that a known or reasonably foreseeable hazard will be introduced to produce or food contact surfaces. As part of their pre-harvest agricultural water assessments, these farms would be required to evaluate certain factors that could impact produce safety.

FDA ASSESSMENT BUILDER

FDA has launched a new user-friendly online builder to help farms understand the proposed rule requirements for an agriculture water assessment. If finalized, the proposed rule would require farms to conduct a systems-based agricultural water assessment to determine and guide appropriate measures to minimize potential risks associated with pre-harvest agricultural water. The builder prompts users to answer questions and fill in information specific to their farms. Information entered into the tool is not shared with the FDA and will not be saved. Users can save or print the information to their personal computer. To access the tool, [click here!](#)

NEW COMPLIANCE DATES FOR SUBPART E: HARVEST AND POST-HARVEST AGRICULTURAL WATER SECTIONS ONLY

In July 2022, the FDA issued a supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking (SNPRM) to the compliance dates for Subpart E. The proposal is to extend the compliance dates for pre-harvest agricultural water requirements. However, enforcement discretion will be lifted for the harvest and post-harvest agricultural water requirements of the Produce Safety regulation as of the following dates:

- **January 26, 2025, for very small businesses;**
- **January 26, 2024, for small businesses; and**
- **January 26, 2023, for all other businesses.**

Source: [FDA's Website: FSMA's Proposed Rule on Agricultural Water](#)

INSPECTION UPDATE

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) completed initial inspections for all large, small, and very small covered businesses in 2019, 2020 and 2021 respectively. In 2022, the ISDA began conducting produce safety inspections on a new inspection frequency. Newly identified covered farms will have their initial inspection on the year they become covered, and then inspected according to inspection frequency thereafter. If you would like to know when you are scheduled for your next inspection, please contact us at (208) 332-8502.


NEW INTERACTIVE EDUCATIONAL TOOL

[Cleaning and Sanitizing of Farm Tools and Equipment](#) is a new online resource to train produce farmers about the fundamentals of sanitization and how to monitor sanitizers using test strips or titration kits. The interactive resource simulates how to follow proper monitoring procedures, evaluate results, and record findings. All content is available in English and Spanish.

How to Monitor Sanitizers


Test Strip Lab

For produce farms looking for an easy and cost-effective monitoring option.



Titration Lab

For operations curious about a more precise monitoring technique.



PRODUCE SAFETY ALLIANCE (PSA) GROWER TRAINING

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture in collaboration with University of Idaho Extension, will be presenting three Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training Courses this winter, both in-person and remotely via Zoom Online Conference platform.

Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training Dates:

In-Person: Boise, ID	December 8 th , 2022	8 am – 5pm MST
Remote: Zoom – Two Day Training	January 11 th - 12 th , 2023	9:30 am – 2pm MST each day
Remote: Zoom – Two Day Training	February 15 th – 16 th , 2023	9:30 am – 2pm MST each day

[Register Here!](#)

Questions? Contact Ariel Agenbroad
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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 Drug Administration.'*

What to Expect at the PSA Grower Training Course: The trainers will spend approximately eight hours of total instruction time 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: Postharvest 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 For the in-person training, there is a cost of \$25 to attend. Lunch, refreshments, course materials and certificates are included with registration. There is no cost to attend the remote training at this time. If participants register for the remote courses, they are expected to attend. Please do not register for the remote course if you are unsure you will be able to attend the remote trainings. 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.

Contact Information: Idaho State Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Food Safety, Hemp, and Hops

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