

May 13th, 2024



# PRODUCE SAFETY RULE UPDATE




## FDA Releases Final Rule for Pre-Harvest Agricultural Water

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published new standards regarding agricultural water on May 2nd, 2024. The now finalized rule revises the pre-harvest microbial quality criteria and testing requirements for non-sprout covered produce.

Continue reading to learn how this revision could affect your farm.

*\*Final Rule does not change harvest/post-harvest water requirements.*

**UPDATE ON SUBPART E  
PRE-HARVEST AGRICULTURAL WATER**



The final rule requires farms to implement systems-based water assessments at least once annually for hazard identification and risk management decision-making purposes.

## Agricultural Water Assessment

Covered farms using pre-harvest agricultural water for non-sprout covered produce are required to conduct this assessment once annually, and when a significant change occurs that could increase risk with known or reasonably foreseeable hazards.

## Outcomes

Based on assessment findings, covered farms must evaluate and determine if mitigation or corrective actions need to be implemented to reduce potential contamination of covered produce or food contact surfaces.

## Management Review

Finally, covered farms are required to conduct a supervisory review of both the assessment and outcome determinations.

## Compliance Dates

The rule is effective 60 days after publication of the final rule, and establishes compliance dates for pre-harvest agricultural water provisions for non-sprout covered produce as follows:

**Large Farms**  
April 7th, 2025

**Small Farms**  
April 6th, 2026

**Very Small Farms**  
April 5th, 2027

**FDA TO HOST FREE WEBINAR**



**FSMA FINAL RULE ON**

**PRE-HARVEST AGRICULTURAL WATER**



Register below to attend the Pre-Harvest Agricultural Water webinar on **Monday, May 20, 2024 1-3 ET (11-12 MT)** where FDA will provide an overview of the final rule and answer questions. Submit questions while registering, or ask your questions live.

[REGISTER HERE.](#)

## FDA RESOURCES FOR PRE-HARVEST WATER

Below are a few links to some of the most important and relevant information regarding the final rule.

### [FDA's Final Rule on Pre-Harvest Agricultural Water](#)

#### [Agricultural Water Assessment Builder](#)

Use this assessment tool for help understanding the requirements for an agricultural water assessment. Results are not saved when using the Agricultural Water Assessment Builder. Covered farms should print copies of their agricultural water assessments for review during inspections. Information entered will not be shared with FDA.

#### [Annual Agricultural Water Assessments and Outcomes Flowchart](#)

Quick and easy guide to determining actions following an assessment.

#### [FSMA News and Updates](#)

Includes updates from FDA, ISDA, and any general program updates.

**ISDA Produce Safety 2025 Rulemaking  
Notification**

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture's 02.05.01, Rules Governing Produce Safety is up for review for the 2025 legislative session. ISDA will be hosting two public comment meetings for the rule. ISDA will disseminate information once the calendar dates are finalized.

If you are interested in providing comments on the rule, you may do so by submitting your comments in writing to: [rulesinfo@isda.idaho.gov](mailto:rulesinfo@isda.idaho.gov).

You may view the current rule [here](#).

[For more information on ISDA's Rulemaking Process, please visit our website.](#)

## CONTACT US

LET US KNOW HOW WE CAN HELP!

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