



Produce Safety NEWSLETTER

March 2023

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

As of January 26, 2023, all large covered farms are currently required to comply with the harvest and post-harvest agricultural water requirements of Subpart E. FDA has released a new [fact sheet](#) that provides a reminder to farmers of the requirements for harvest and post-harvest agricultural water requirements. Harvest and post-harvest agricultural water requirements for small and very small farms covered under the Produce Safety regulation are expected to comply as of the following dates:

- January 26, 2025, for very small farms;
- January 26, 2024, for small farms; and

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

ATTENTION NORTHERN IDAHO FARMS!

University of Idaho and the Idaho State of Department will be conducting On-Farm Readiness Reviews (OFRRs) this year in Northern Idaho for farms that have covered produce. OFRRs are voluntary, confidential, free, and non-regulatory visits to your farm to provide a personalized discussion around your food safety practices and the Produce Safety Rule. OFRRs can help prepare a covered farm for an inspection, but you do not need to be a covered farm to receive an OFRR! Qualified exempt or non-covered farms can also request an OFRR. These visits help ensure that you are providing safe produce to your community. Complimentary tools are provided on the visit including a resource manual, recordkeeping guide, and educational posters and stickers for your employees.

[Click here to watch a quick video on OFRRs](#)
Interested? Please call us today! 208-332-8502

FREE WEBINAR SERIES IN APRIL REGISTER TODAY!

FSMA PRODUCE SAFETY WEBINAR SERIES 2023

3 Tuesdays in April @ 10 am PST | 11 am MST

Our annual webinar series assists growers in implementing food safety practices and preparing for successful inspection. Topics were selected based on direct feedback from Idaho producers and feature speakers chosen for their expertise in addressing these issues.

Each webinar is one-hour in length and offered free of charge.

Live Q&A will follow all sessions.

April 4: Research Update on Food Safety in Onion Production: Pre-harvest Water Quality, Post-Harvest Cleaning and Sanitation with Dr. Joy Waite-Cusic of Oregon State University.

April 18: Post-Harvest Water Use in Produce Production – Understanding the Requirements and Best Practices to Avoid Contamination.

April 25: Back to Basics Post-Harvest Cleaning and Sanitation with Chris Callahan, of the University of Vermont's Sanitizing and Cleaning Resources for Your Business (SCRUB) Project.

ISDA Pesticide Credits may be available for some or all sessions.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Webinars are free, but pre-registration is required to receive a link to the live webinar and access to recorded webinars.

Questions? Contact Ariel Agenbroad at
ariel@uidaho.edu

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.



DID YOU KNOW?

Farms are required to notify ISDA any time there is a significant change with their operation such as average produce and/or food sales or a change in produce grown. You can just give us a call, send an email, or submit a new [verification form](#). By providing this information, we can reverify your operation as necessary to ensure that your status under the rule is the most up to date.

Note: Qualified Exempt farms are already required to submit a new verification form annually. If your operation holds a qualified exemption and you have not submitted a new verification form for 2023, please contact Ag. Investigator, Greg Blahato at greg.blahato@isda.idaho.gov

Contact Information

Idaho State Department of Agriculture,
Bureau of Food Safety, Hemp, and Hops
P.O. Box 7249, Boise, ID 83707
fsma@isda.idaho.gov
208-332-8502

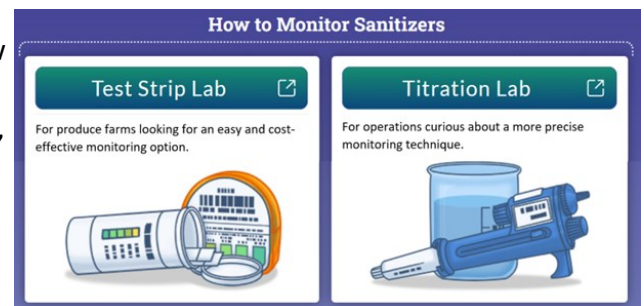
Lacy Phelps, Ag. Program Manager
208-332-8679
Lacy.Phelps@isda.idaho.gov

Greg Blahato, Ag. Investigator, Sr.
208-332-8603
Greg.Blahato@isda.idaho.gov

Caily Woods, Ag. Investigator, Sr.
208-332-8636
Caily.Woods@isda.idaho.gov

TRY ME! - 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.



NEW DIRECTOR OF THE ISDA

ISDA has recently seen some changes in leadership! In January of 2023, Chanel Tewalt was appointed by Governor Brad Little to serve as Director of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA). Director Tewalt first joined the ISDA while in college at Boise State University and has 15 years of experience at the department, including serving as the deputy director and chief operations officer. In her work at the agency, Tewalt has focused on collaboration with industry partners and on the implementation of agency programs with a clear understanding of statutory requirements and stakeholder needs. For more information on Director Tewalt and the Director's office, please visit our [website](#).