Produce Safety & FSMA in Vermont

Overview and Highlights of the Vermont Produce Program
Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule

1. One of 7 final FSMA Rules
2. Effective as of January 26, 2016
3. Sets national standards for farms that grow, harvest, pack, or hold produce
4. Tiered compliance dates based on annual sales
5. Several types of exemptions
### Key Requirements

**Covered Farms**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conditions and practices that may contribute to microbial contamination of produce</th>
<th>Worker health, hygiene &amp; training</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Equipment, tools, buildings &amp; sanitation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Domesticated &amp; wild animals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agricultural water</td>
<td>Pre-harvest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biological soil amendments of animal origin (BSAAO)</td>
<td>Handwashing; Food contact</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Raw manure</td>
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<td>Stabilized compost</td>
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What does the Agency of Agriculture (already) do?

1. Conduct USDA Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) audits
2. Work with VVbGA and UVM Extension on CAPS development and conduct CAPS+ audits
3. Offer grants: Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, Local Food Market Development, Working Lands
4. Regulate apples, potatoes & strawberries (retail & farmers market inspections)
5. Regulate on-farm pesticide use and provide applicator training
Produce Program Development

1. Offer technical assistance focused on helping growers understand the FSMA Produce Safety Rule
2. Host Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) Grower Trainings
3. Conduct On-Farm Readiness Reviews
4. Offer Vermont Produce Safety Improvement Grants
5. Conduct inspections beginning in 2019
## Compliance Dates for Covered Farms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business Size</th>
<th>Compliance Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“All Other Businesses” &gt;$500K average annual produce sales</td>
<td>January 26, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small Businesses</td>
<td>January 28, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Very Small Businesses</td>
<td>January 27, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualified Exempt Farms – Retention of Records</td>
<td>January 26, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualified Exempt Farms – Labeling</td>
<td>January 1, 2020</td>
</tr>
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</table>
What should you do now?

• Enroll in the Vermont Produce Portal
  www.agriculture.Vermont/ProduceProgram
  → Receive produce safety and produce safety rule resources
  → Understand if your farm is subject to the Produce Safety Rule through the assistance of a Produce Program staff member
  → Gain eligibility for a Vermont Produce Safety Improvement Grant
  → Request an On-Farm Readiness Review (OFRR)

• Attend a Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training Course:
  https://producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu/training/grower-training-courses/upcoming-grower-trainings
  Grower Training Video
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