OFRR Post Farm Visit Survey Northeast Region Update

February 2020



30 OFRR trainings held FDA- ~25 State regulators – ~230 Extension educators - ~200







44 states and territories using OFRR survey

10 Northeast states participating



Northeast Farm Participation 583 farms had an OFRR in the Northeast

10% of the estimated farms who need to comply with the FSMA PSR

Size of participant operations	% participation
< 1 acres	3%
1-9 acres	20%
10 – 69 acres	23%
70- 99 acres	13%
100- 259 acres	20%
260-499 acres	14%
+500 acres	8%



Northeast Farm Participation

n=584

Produce sales of participant farms	% participation
Less than \$25,000	4%
\$25,000 - \$250,000	36%
\$250,000-\$500,000	15%
\$500,000 +	45%



Northeast Farm Participation

Expected number of North qualifying for inspection (Use fruit and vegetable producers to comply will document)	% farms that have had OFRR	
\$25,000 - \$250,000	4327	5%
\$250,000-\$500,000	453-492	18%
\$500,000 +	915-934	28%



Priorities for Improvement

Please indicate three areas that the farm requires the most improvement to satisfy FSMA Produce Safety Rule minimum requirements.
☐ Health and hygiene
☐ Preharvest biological soil amendments of animal origin
Preharvest and Harvest Wild and Domestic Animals
☐ Preharvest worker training
☐ Preharvest sanitation
☐ Preharvest water
Harvest worker training
☐ Harvest sanitation
☐ Harvest water
☐ Postharvest worker training
☐ Postharvest sanitation
☐ Postharvest water
0%



Priorities for Improvement \$25,000 - \$250,000 (n= 207)

WAQ	% of farms	# of farms
Preharvest worker training	14%	75
Preharvest sanitation	13%	70
Preharvest water	12%	66
Postharvest sanitation	12%	66

Top 5 deficiencies

Lack of preharvest worker training records

Inadequate record keeping of postharvest cleaning and sanitizing

Lack of preharvest water testing results

Lack of water system inspection

Inadequate leaning and sanitizing of preharvest equipment



Priorities for Improvement \$250,000 - \$500,000 (n=90)

WAQ	% of farms	# of farms
Postharvest sanitation	19%	34
Health and hygiene	15%	26
Harvest sanitation	12%	21

Top 5 deficiencies

Inadequate recordkeeping of postharvest cleaning and sanitizing practices

Inadequate or missing records of worker health and hygiene training

Inadequate or missing visitor notifications

Inadequate recordkeeping of postharvest cleaning and sanitation

Inadequate frequency of postharvest cleaning and sanitation



Priorities for Improvement \$500,000+ (n=262)

WAQ	% of farms	# of farms
Postharvest sanitation	22%	119
Health and hygiene	17%	93
Harvest sanitation	10%	53

Top 5 deficiencies

Inadequate recordkeeping of postharvest cleaning and sanitizing practices

Inadequate construction or maintenance of postharvest buildings

Inadequate or missing records of worker training

Inadequate toilet and/or handwashing stations

Inadequate worker health and hygiene training



Are Farms Prepared in the Northeast?

Please indicate the readiness of the farm for FSMA Produce Safety Rule compliance: Meets minimum FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirements Needs minor improvements to meet minimum FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirements Needs significant improvements to meet minimum FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirements

100%

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Are Farms Prepared in the Northeast?

N=578

Meets minimum standards	34%
Needs minor improvements	58%
Needs significant improvements	8%



Northeast Farm Readiness by Size

Produce sales of participant farms	Meets	Minor	Significant
Less than \$25,000	17%	70%	13%
\$25,000 - \$250,000	25%	70%	5%
\$250,000-\$500,000	45%	48%	7%
\$500,000 +	39%	51%	10%



What Do Farms in the Northeast Need?

What type of assistance does this farm need to meet the minimum requirements of the FSMA Produce Safety Rule?
☐ Technical assistance
☐ Facility upgrades
☐ Significant monetary investments
☐ Time
☐ None
Other
0% 100%

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What Do Farms in the Northeast Need? N=578

	All Participant Farms
Technical assistance	18%
Facility upgrades	13%
Significant monetary investments	3%
Time	38%
Other	5%
None	21%



What Do Farms in the Northeast Need? N=578

	Meets	Minor	Significant
Technical assistance	7%	23%	23%
Facility upgrades	2%	14%	28%
Significant monetary investments	< 1%	2%	14%
Time	21%	47%	32%
None	63%	10%	0%



Observations

- Not just large-scale producers are participating
- Recordkeeping is a hurdle for many farms
- A considerable number of farms have not tested their water
- Technical assistance is recommended at a significant number of OFRRs, are the farms asking for it?

