



# Vermont Produce Program Updates

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VERMONT VEGETABLE & BERRY GROWERS ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL MEETING

JANUARY 25, 2022

# Specialty Crop Producer Association Grants

Grants to strengthen producer associations and cooperatives that serve Vermont specialty crop businesses for

- Producer associations, cooperatives, and groups of 3 or more producers/businesses
- Service providers that serve the above

Specialty crops include fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, honey, hops, maple syrup, mushrooms, herbs and spices, medicinal plants, nursery crops, Christmas trees, and floriculture

Applicant webinar **Thursday, January 27** 2:00–3:30 PM

Apply by **Sunday, February 27** 11:59 PM

Learn more at

[agriculture.vermont.gov/grants/specialtycrop/producer](https://agriculture.vermont.gov/grants/specialtycrop/producer)



# Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Proposed Rule on Agricultural Water

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## Revised water requirements for the FSMA Produce Safety Rule

- Replace pre-harvest microbial quality criteria and testing ...
- ... with requirements for systems-based pre-harvest agricultural water assessments
- Pre-harvest water testing is optional under the Proposed Rule

Opportunity to [submit formal comments](#) via the docket

## Public Meetings on the Proposed Changes

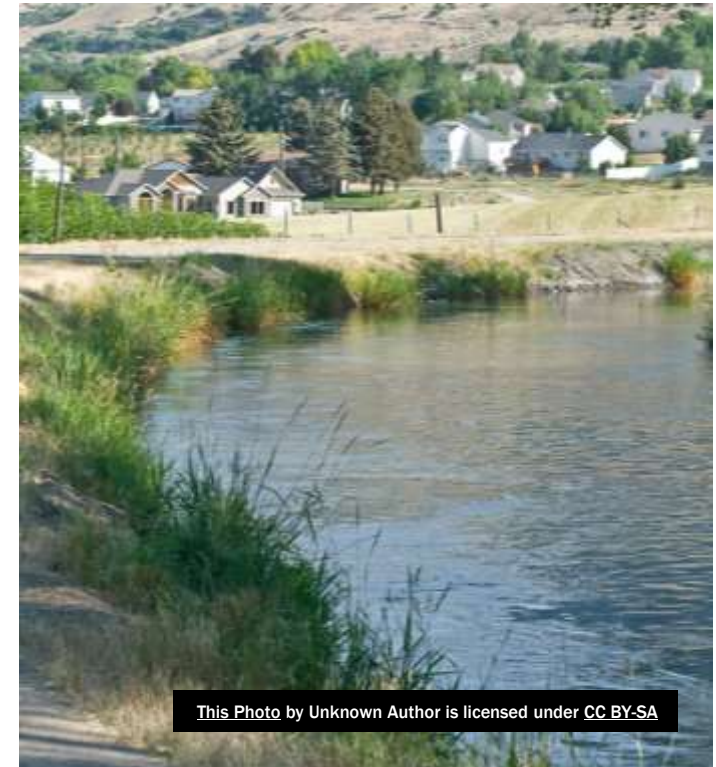
First Virtual Public Meeting

**Monday, February 14** 11:45 AM–7:45 PM

Second Virtual Public Meeting

**Friday, February 25** 8:45 AM–4:45 PM

Please share your comments or questions with us!



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# Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training



Training for fruit and vegetable growers and others interested in

- Produce safety
- FSMA Produce Safety Rule
- Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs)
- Co-management of natural resources and food safety

Led by University of Vermont Extension & Agency of Agriculture

Delivered remotely via Zoom

**Tuesday, March 8 & Wednesday, March 9 1:00–5:00 PM**

**\$20 – includes course materials and certificate**

The PSA Grower Training is one way to satisfy the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirement that “at least one supervisor or responsible party” completes food safety training recognized as adequate by FDA. (§ 112.22(c)).

# Contact Us



[agriculture.vermont.gov/produceprogram](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/produceprogram)



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