

Produce Safety & FSMA in Vermont

Overview and Highlights of the Vermont Produce Program

**Vermont Tree Fruit Growers Association
Annual Meeting | February 15, 2018**



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

Conditions and practices that may contribute to microbial contamination of produce

Worker health, hygiene & training

Equipment, tools, buildings & sanitation

Domesticated & wild animals

Agricultural water

Pre-harvest

Handwashing; Food contact

Biological soil amendments of animal origin (BSAAO)

Raw manure

Stabilized compost

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

Business Size	Compliance Dates
“All Other Businesses” >\$500K average annual produce sales	January 26, 2018
Small Businesses	January 28, 2019
Very Small Businesses	January 27, 2020
Qualified Exempt Farms – Retention of Records	January 26, 2016
Qualified Exempt Farms – Labeling	January 1, 2020

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](#)

Contact Us

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<http://agriculture.vermont.gov/produceprogram>