



Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training Course Announcement

The Ohio Department of Agriculture, Division of Food Safety is announcing a Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) Grower Training to be held on January 30, 2020 at the OSU Extension Butler County Office, 1802 Princeton Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45011. The training will be one day, 9AM-5PM with an hour for lunch(not provided). There is no cost for in state residents, \$85 for out of state. Regulation excluded and exempt growers are also welcome to register for the training.

The PSA Grower Training Course is one way to satisfy the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirement outlined in § 112.22(c) which states *'At least one supervisor or responsible party for your farm must have successfully completed food safety training at least equivalent to that received under standardized curriculum recognized as adequate by the Food and Drug Administration.'*

The course will cover basic produce safety; worker health, hygiene, and training; soil amendments; wildlife, domesticated animals, and land use; agricultural water (both production and postharvest); postharvest handling and sanitation; and developing a farm food safety plan. As a participant you can expected to gain a basic understanding of: microorganisms relevant to produce safety and where they may be found on the farm; how to identify microbial risks, practices that reduce risks; how to begin implementing produce safety practices on the farm; parts of a farm food safety plan and how to begin writing one; and requirements in the FSMA Produce Safety Rule and how to meet them. There will be time for questions and discussion, so participants should come prepared to share their experiences and produce safety questions.

To receive a completion certificate, a participant must be present for the entire training and submit the appropriate paperwork to their trainer at the end of the course.

Registrations to be submitted by January 22, 2020 to:

Email: Jordyn.Brown@agri.ohio.gov

Fax: (614) 644-0720

Phone: (614) 728-6250

Mail: Ohio Department of Agriculture

Division of Food Safety – ATTN: Jordyn Brown

8995 E Main St

Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (614)600-4272 or mfout@agri.ohio.gov.

Regards,

Matt Fout

Produce Safety Manager, Division of Food Safety

Ohio Department of Agriculture





Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) Grower Training Course
January 30, 2020
9:00AM–5:00PM

Location:
OSU Extension Butler County Office,
1802 Princeton Road
Hamilton, Ohio 45011

Registrations to be submitted by January 22, 2020
Applicants will receive notification of registration a week before the course offering.

Registration Information:

Name:	
Email Address:	
Phone:	
Farm Name:	
Farm Address:	

Please indicate farm size below:

- ☐ **Exempt Farm – Under \$25,000**
☐ **Qualified Exempt Farm – \$25,001 - \$500,000**
☐ **Covered Very Small Farm - \$25,000 - \$250,000**
☐ **Covered Small Farm - \$250,000 - \$500,000**
☐ **Covered Large Farm - Over \$500,000**
☐ **Voluntary Inspection Under FSMA Produce Safety Rule**

No fee required for in state residents. \$85 for out of state applicants. Manuals are provided along with a certificate of completion.

MAIL FORM TO:

Ohio Department of Agriculture
Division of Food Safety
8995 E. Main Street
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

For questions contact

Matt Fout at (614)600-4272 or
mfout@agri.ohio.gov

OR Call: Jordyn at (614)728-6250

OR EMAIL: Jordyn.Brown@agri.ohio.gov

OR FAX to: (614)644-0720

FDA Food Safety Modernization Act - Produce Safety Rule

What is the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Role?

The Ohio Department of Agriculture, Division of Food Safety, through a cooperative agreement with the FDA, is responsible for enforcing the Produce Safety Rule in Ohio. We have been working to identify and address the needs of produce growers in Ohio who are covered by the Produce Safety Rule.

We will begin farm inspections according to the compliance dates outlined below, but prior to inspections, we'll be providing free farm consultations. These voluntary consultation visits will help growers identify what steps they may need to take to comply with the Produce Safety rule before a regulatory inspection. We are also providing Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training courses across the state free of charge to Ohio farms.

Is my farm covered?

Under the Produce Safety Rule, farms will fall into one of three categories:

- 1) Farms that are exempt from the rule
- 2) Farms that are eligible for a qualified exemption
- 3) Farms that are covered by the rule

If a farm does not qualify for any of the exemptions listed in the coverage and exemption/exclusions flow chart, then it is considered a farm covered under the rule and must comply with the full requirements of the Produce Safety Rule.

Voluntary Inspection

A farm may request a voluntary inspection under the FSMA Produce Safety Rule. A voluntary inspection under the FSMA Produce Safety Rule will help farms that are excluded or exempt from the rule show they are following a set of produce safety standards that help reduce the risk of microbial contamination during the growing, harvesting, packing, and holding of fresh fruits and vegetables on their farm. There is no charge for a voluntary inspection under the FSMA Produce Safety Rule. A produce farm that requests a voluntary inspection would be provided a yearly inspection and documentation from the ODA to show they are inspected under the FSMA Produce Safety Rule.

Contact us to discuss requirements and schedule a consultation visit if you are interested in a voluntary inspection under the FMSA Produce Safety Rule.

Compliance Dates

The Produce Safety Rule came into effect on January 26, 2016, and compliance dates for some parts of the rule have already taken effect. For covered farms, there is a staggered schedule of compliance dates. The chart on the next page shows the current compliance dates for the Produce Safety Rule.



Business Size	 Compliance Dates for Sprouts	 Compliance Dates For Most Produce	 Water Related Compliance Dates ¹	Compliance Date for Qualified Exemption Labeling Requirement ²	Compliance Date for Retention of Records Supporting a Qualified Exemption
All other businesses (>\$500K)	1/26/17	1/26/18	1/26/22	1/1/2020	1/26/16
Small businesses (>\$250K-500K) ³	1/26/18	1/28/19	1/26/23		
Very small businesses (>\$25K-250K) ⁴	1/28/19	1/27/20	1/26/24		

*Chart provided by the Cornell Produce Safety Alliance

What should produce growers do to prepare?

Farms can request a farm consultation visit to determine specific requirements to their farm. This service is offered as a one-on-one training in which ODA staff will visit farms and walk growers through what will be expected with new federal regulations on their farm. Farms will also receive resource materials that will help aid in compliance. Farms that are exempt from the rule are also welcome to schedule consultation visits.

Produce Safety Alliance Grower Trainings

The Produce Safety Rule requires at least one supervisor or responsible party from every farm covered under the rule to receive training under an FDA recognized curriculum. The Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training is the only standardized national training program currently approved by FDA to satisfy this requirement.

Trained and certified staff from the Ohio Department of Agriculture are providing Grower Training courses across the state free of charge to Ohio farms. This one-day course will cover the key areas and requirements of the Produce Safety Rule. More information on the Produce Safety Alliance and Grower Training courses being held can be found by calling (614) 600-4272, email mfout@agri.ohio.gov or visit <https://agri.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/oda/divisions/food-safety/resources/Produce-Safety>.

Who do I contact for more info?

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Website: <https://agri.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/oda/divisions/food-safety/resources/Produce-Safety>

