



Produce Safety Rule

On Farm Readiness Reviews

Produce Safety Rule

- 1 of 7 rules included in the Food Safety Modernization Act
- First Science-Based minimum standards for the safe:
 - Growing
 - Harvesting
 - Packing &
 - Holdingof fresh fruits and vegetables for human consumption



Produce Safety Rule

- Who does the rule apply to?
 - The Rule could potentially apply to any fresh fruit or vegetable producer
- Certain exclusions apply

Produce Safety Rule

- The Produce Safety Rule exemptions:
 - Produce that is not a raw Agricultural Commodity
 - Produce that FDA has classified as “rarely consumed raw”
 - Farms that have an average annual value of produce sold during the previous three-year period of \$25,000 or less (gross profit)
 - Food grains
 - Produce that is used for personal or on-farm consumption

Produce Safety Rule

- Produce FDA has identified as rarely consumed raw:
- asparagus; black beans, great Northern beans, kidney beans, lima beans, navy beans, and pinto beans; chickpeas; collards; sweet corn; eggplants; figs; lentils; okra; peanuts; pecans; potatoes; pumpkins; winter squash; sweet potatoes

Produce Safety Rule

- Food Grains:

including barley, dent- or flint-corn, sorghum, oats, rice, rye, wheat, amaranth, quinoa, buckwheat, and oilseeds (e.g. cotton seed, flax seed, rapeseed, soybean, and sunflower seed)

Compliance Dates

- “All other Businesses”
 - Over \$500,000 in produce sales

January , 2018

- Small Businesses
 - \$250,000-\$499,999 in produce sales

January, 2019

- Very Small Businesses
 - \$25,001-\$249,999 in produce sales

January, 2020



Georgia Department of Agriculture

- Farm Safety Team
 - 11 members
 - 6 inspectors
 - 2 Education/Outreach
 - Program Manager, Grant Coordinator, and Administrative Assistant
- Dedicated to implementing Produce Safety Rule in Georgia

What have we been doing?



Inspections have not started, but our team has been busy.

- Meeting farmers, visiting farms
- Hosting PSA Grower Trainings
- Attending trainings
- Attending trade shows, educational conferences, etc.
- On Farm Readiness Reviews

Meeting farmers, visiting farms

- Inspectors visiting with produce farmers
“boots on the ground”
 - Introducing themselves, making connections, building relationships with growers
- Collecting data through our Farm Data Collection forms
- Helping farmers decide if they are required to comply with rule



Farm Data Collection

- A form created by our GDA team
- Goal- to collect necessary data needed for Farm Inventory
- Collection forms are given out at PSA Grower Trainings, during farm visits, at appropriate trade shows, etc.

PSA Grower Training

- Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training
- Meets requirement §112.22(c)
- PSA Grower Trainings in Georgia
 - 24 trainings
 - Over 700 producers trained
- Looking for additional locations for trainings

PSA Grower Training

- **If you are a Georgia producer and would like to discuss hosting a PSA Grower Training in your area, please contact me.
 - Maggie Brown
 - Maggie.brown@agr.Georgia.gov



On Farm Readiness Reviews

- FREE
- Non-Regulatory
- Voluntary

On Farm Readiness Reviews

- Pre-Inspectional walk-through
- During production season
Harvesting, packing, etc.
- Chance to ask inspector questions

On Farm Readiness Reviews

- 2-3 GDA Farm Safety Team members
- Walk through operation
- Point out areas of concern
- Go over things that will be included in inspection

On Farm Readiness Reviews

- Perfect opportunity to ask inspector questions about your specific operation!
- GDA team takes no notes
- Nothing to become public record

On Farm Readiness Reviews

- Steps:
 - Sign up online www.georgiafarmsafety.com
 - We contact you to schedule OFRR
 - At a time convenient to you
 - Our team comes
 - Conducts OFRR
 - Offers suggestions/answers questions
 - Leaves contact information



On Farm Readiness Reviews

- We have conducted 7 OFRR
- Several more scheduled

On Farm Readiness Review

- Entire team will be trained to conduct On Farm Readiness Reviews
- Marketing OFRR's at PSA Grower Training, during farm visits, at meetings and events
- Conducted 7 to date
- Several more scheduled



Inspections

- Plan to begin inspections early Spring 2019
- All employees except Grant Coordinator and Administrative Assistant will be trained to conduct inspections
- Inspection staff have territories



What's to come

- Continue PSA Grower Trainings
- Continue On Farm Readiness Reviews
- Continue “boots on the ground” approach
- Begin inspections soon
- Continue to attend trainings, update meetings, and continuing education opportunities

Education and Outreach Team

- Maggie Brown
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www.georgiafarmsafety.com