



# FOOD SAFETY INFORMATION AND RESOURCES FOR THE FARM TO SCHOOL COMMUNITY



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The **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)** works with the **U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** to ensure the Nation's food supply is safe. The FDA is the Federal agency responsible for ensuring the security and safety of many foods, including fresh fruits and vegetables. Many farms are required to comply with the [Food Safety Modernization Act \(FSMA\)](#) and [Produce Safety Rule \(PSR\)](#) and many commercial food operations that manufacture, process, pack, or hold human food are required to comply with the [Preventive Controls for Human Food Rule \(PCHF\)](#).<sup>1,2,3</sup>

- The FDA [Technical Assistance Network \(TAN\)](#) is a central source of information for questions related to the FSMA rules, programs, and implementation strategies.<sup>4</sup> Answers have been provided in response to [frequently asked questions on the FSMA](#) and the [FSMA Rules and Guidance for Industry](#) can also be used to find answers to questions.<sup>5,6</sup>
- The FDA has a [Cooperative Agreement Program](#) with many States to implement the PSR. Your [State agency](#) may offer assistance and more information, and if this does not apply to your State or territory, you can visit the FDA [Produce Safety Network](#) for more information.<sup>7,8,9</sup>
- The [Produce Safety Alliance \(PSA\)](#) is a collaboration between Cornell University, the FDA, and the USDA which offers approved trainings to prepare fresh produce growers to meet the regulatory requirements included in the FSMA Produce Safety Rule.<sup>10</sup>
- The [Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance \(FSPCA\)](#) is an alliance consisting of industry, academic and government stakeholders that develops curricula, and training and outreach programs to support compliance with the prevention-oriented standards of the FSMA.<sup>11</sup>
- Many [local Cooperative Extension](#) offices provide information about available resources and training opportunities focused on food safety and produce safety.<sup>12</sup>
- Information and resources about farm to school activities can be found on the [USDA Food and Nutrition Service \(FNS\) Farm to School webpage](#).<sup>13</sup> For information about local foods or school gardens, contact your [USDA FNS Farm to School Regional Specialist](#) or email us at [SM.FN.FarmToSchool@usda.gov](mailto:SM.FN.FarmToSchool@usda.gov).<sup>14</sup>
- For information about food safety in the Child Nutrition Programs, visit the [USDA FNS Food Safety: Food Safety at FNS webpage](#).<sup>15</sup>





## References

- (1) *Full Text of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)*  
[www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-modernization-act-fsma/full-text-food-safety-modernization-act-fsma](http://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-modernization-act-fsma/full-text-food-safety-modernization-act-fsma)
- (2) *FSMA Final Rule on Produce Safety*  
[www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-modernization-act-fsma/fsma-final-rule-produce-safety](http://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-modernization-act-fsma/fsma-final-rule-produce-safety)
- (3) *FSMA Final Rule for Preventive Controls for Human Food*  
[www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-modernization-act-fsma/fsma-final-rule-preventive-controls-human-food](http://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-modernization-act-fsma/fsma-final-rule-preventive-controls-human-food)
- (4) *FSMA Technical Assistance Network (TAN)*  
[www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-modernization-act-fsma/fsma-technical-assistance-network-tan](http://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-modernization-act-fsma/fsma-technical-assistance-network-tan)
- (5) *FSMA Frequently Asked Questions*  
[www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-modernization-act-fsma/frequently-asked-questions-fsma](http://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-modernization-act-fsma/frequently-asked-questions-fsma)
- (6) *FSMA Rules and Guidance for Industry*  
[www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-modernization-act-fsma/fsma-rules-guidance-industry](http://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-modernization-act-fsma/fsma-rules-guidance-industry)
- (7) *FDA-State Produce Safety Implementation Cooperative Agreement Program*  
[www.fda.gov/ForFederalStateandLocalOfficials/FundingOpportunities/GrantsCoopAgrmts/ucm517991.htm](http://www.fda.gov/ForFederalStateandLocalOfficials/FundingOpportunities/GrantsCoopAgrmts/ucm517991.htm)
- (8) *FoodSafety.gov State Agency Information*  
[www.foodsafety.gov/about](http://www.foodsafety.gov/about)
- (9) *FDA Produce Safety Network*  
[www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-modernization-act-fsma/produce-safety-network](http://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-modernization-act-fsma/produce-safety-network)
- (10) *Produce Safety Alliance (PSA)*  
[producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu/](http://producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu/)
- (11) *Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance (FSPCA)*  
[www.ifsh.iit.edu/fspca](http://www.ifsh.iit.edu/fspca)
- (12) *Local Cooperative Extension Offices*  
[www.nifa.usda.gov/land-grant-colleges-and-universities-partner-website-directory](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/land-grant-colleges-and-universities-partner-website-directory)
- (13) *USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Farm to School Webpage*  
[www.fns.usda.gov/f2s/farm-to-school](http://www.fns.usda.gov/f2s/farm-to-school)
- (14) *USDA FNS Farm to School Regional Specialists*  
[www.fns.usda.gov/f2s/usda-farm-school-staff](http://www.fns.usda.gov/f2s/usda-farm-school-staff)
- (15) *USDA FNS Food Safety: Food Safety at FNS webpage*  
[www.fns.usda.gov/fs/food-safety](http://www.fns.usda.gov/fs/food-safety)



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For more information and to sign up for The Dirt, the e-newsletter from the Patrick Leahy Farm to School Program, visit

[www.fns.usda.gov/f2s/e-letter-archive](http://www.fns.usda.gov/f2s/e-letter-archive).

Questions? Email us at [SM.FN.FarmToSchool@usda.gov](mailto:SM.FN.FarmToSchool@usda.gov).

