

If you are looking for guidance on how to best prepare your farm for a Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule (21 CFR § 112) inspection or are interested in growing produce safely on your farm, an On-Farm Readiness Review is right for you!

## What is an On-Farm Readiness Review (OFRR)?

During an On-Farm Readiness Review, staff from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) will visit your farm to review your current farm practices, answer your questions and help you prepare for a future produce safety inspection. This is a non-regulatory, free assessment of a farm's readiness for inspection under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule. OFRRs usually occur during harvest. The visit is voluntary and done at your convenience. Manuals and educational materials are provided.

It is very important that routine farm processes and operations are happening during the OFRR so reviewers can make accurate recommendations for produce safety improvements specific to your farm. This is a chance for you to have a farm walk-around and one-on-one conversation with Produce Safety Rule experts.

## How is an On-Farm Readiness Review different from an audit or inspection?

An On-Farm Readiness Review is not a regulatory visit. It is for your benefit and will consist of on-farm observation to identify areas for produce safety improvements, to help you prepare for a FSMA Produce Safety Rule inspection (if applicable) and to help you increase produce safety practices on your farm. OFRRs will not be used for auditing, inspection or regulatory assessment purposes. All notes taken by the reviewers will be left with the farm at the end of the visit.

## What should I do to prepare for an On-Farm Readiness Review?

NDA suggests that farms wanting an OFRR should complete Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) training. The PSA Grower Training will provide you with essential background knowledge about the FSMA Produce Safety Rule and recommended produce safety practices that will help you to get the most out of the OFRR. In addition, this training satisfies the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirement for covered farms that "at least one supervisor or responsible party" completes "food safety training ... recognized as adequate" by FDA (21 C.F.R. §112.22(c)). The next PSA training in Nebraska will be held November 9, 2018, in Grand Island. Additional PSA trainings are available throughout the country.

Learn more at <https://producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu/training/grower-training-courses>.

## If my farm is not covered under the FSMA Produce Safety Rule, can I still request an On-Farm Readiness Review?

Yes. Any farm that grows and/or sells produce is eligible to request an On-Farm Readiness Review. Reviewers will suggest produce safety improvements so you can make informed decisions about your farm.

## What happens during an On-Farm Readiness Review?

1. Reviewers will begin by asking a series of questions to better understand your farm's produce safety practices and farm procedures.
2. Reviewers will ask to view different areas of the farm to view harvesting, washing, and packing processes as well as storage or holding areas.
3. At the end of the visit, reviewers will provide feedback on observations and identify priority areas for improvement in produce safety practices on your farm.
4. NDA staff can provide additional technical assistance based on the feedback from your On-Farm Readiness Review, which may involve follow-up information sharing or additional farm visits.

## What if a public health hazard is found during my On-Farm Readiness Review?

In the rare instance that we observe a serious condition like an imminent public health hazard, if the product has not entered commerce and the issue can be immediately addressed, reviewers will correct any serious concerns on-site. If this is the case, we do not plan to notify FDA or any other state/federal agency, nor will we make a written report.

## How do I sign-up for an On-Farm Readiness Review?

On-Farm Readiness Reviews will be offered beginning September 1, 2018. For best results, please schedule the review during harvest.

Email or call the Nebraska Department of Agriculture to schedule your On-Farm Readiness Review.

Email: [agr.produce.safety@nebraska.gov](mailto:agr.produce.safety@nebraska.gov)

Phone: 402-471-3422

## Where should I go for more information?

Contact the Nebraska Department of Agriculture with questions or to learn more about On-Farm Readiness Reviews. The resources listed below are great starting points for learning more about produce safety.

### What is the rule?

[bit.ly/FSMA-FinalPSR](http://bit.ly/FSMA-FinalPSR)

### Exemptions to the Produce Safety Rule

[bit.ly/PSR-Exemptions](http://bit.ly/PSR-Exemptions)

### Water Update: FDA considering simplifying agricultural water standards

[bit.ly/FDA-WaterUpdate](http://bit.ly/FDA-WaterUpdate)

### FSMA final law in formal language

[bit.ly/FSMA-FinalLaw](http://bit.ly/FSMA-FinalLaw)

### FSMA compliance dates

[bit.ly/FSMA-ComplianceDates](http://bit.ly/FSMA-ComplianceDates)

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