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## **What to Expect During an On-Farm Readiness Review**

### **What is an On-Farm Readiness Review?**

An On-Farm Readiness Review (OFRR) is a non-regulatory, free assessment of a farm's readiness for inspection under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule. This is a chance for you to have a one-on-one conversation and farm walk-around with Produce Safety Rule specialists to evaluate pre-harvest, harvest, and post-harvest conditions and practices, assess what you are doing well, and identify areas for improvement in food safety practices on your farm.

***It is very important that routine farm processes and operations (such as washing, packing, and harvesting activities) are happening during the OFRR so reviewers can make accurate recommendations for produce safety improvements specific to your farm.***

### **Who conducts On-Farm Readiness Reviews?**

On-Farm Readiness Reviews will be conducted jointly by the Delaware Department of Agriculture and the Produce Safety Specialists from University Delaware Cooperative Extension.

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

An On-Farm Readiness Review is not a regulatory visit. The OFRR 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 in utilizing best produce safety practices on your farm. Reviewers are not there to conduct an audit, inspection, or any type of regulatory assessment. 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?**

We strongly recommend that at least one person from your farm complete the Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) Grower Training Course before scheduling an OFRR. 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)).

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. Remember, an On-Farm Readiness Review is for your benefit. 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.

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

In the rare instance that we observe a serious condition that could be considered "egregious" (an imminent public health hazard is posed if a corrective action is not taken immediately), if the product has not entered commerce and the issue can be immediately addressed, reviewers will not notify FDA or any other state/federal agency, nor will a written record will be made. It is our intention to immediately address any serious concerns on-site.

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

To request and schedule an On-Farm Readiness Review, please email the Delaware Produce Safety Team at [DE.ProduceSafety@delaware.gov](mailto:DE.ProduceSafety@delaware.gov). You may also enroll by checking "Yes" on the Farm Registration form.

## **Important Links:**

- **Delaware Department of Agriculture Produce Safety Program** <http://de.gov/producesafety>
- **Produce Safety Alliance** <https://producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu/>

