



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

November 2020

Dear Farmer:

The Produce Safety Rule (PSR), which falls under the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), is a federal law regulating food safety on produce farms. The PSR establishes a set of practices that farmers must follow, designed to minimize the potential of foodborne illnesses. The FDA also created exemptions and by contacting us, we can assist in determining eligibility. You may also refer to [FDA Provides Flexibility to Farms Regarding Eligibility for the Qualified Exemption Under the Produce Safety Rule](#).

Below is a description of farms that **may be Exempt From or Not Covered by the Produce Safety Rule**:

1. **Not Subject to the Produce Safety Rule:** produce sales are less than \$25,000 averaged during the previous three-year period preceding the calendar.
2. **Qualified Exemption:** more than 50% of the annual value of food sold was to qualified end users and the total value of food sold was less than \$500,000. A qualified end user is a consumer, restaurant, or retail food establishment in the same state or Indian reservation, or not more than 275 miles from farm.
3. **Processing Exemption:** food produced on farm receives commercial processing that adequately reduces presence of microorganisms of public health significance.
4. **Produce Not Covered by the Produce Safety Rule:** farm grows only produce that is rarely consumed raw or farm grows produce for personal consumption. To view the complete list of produce that is exempt from the Produce Safety Rule, please check our website at <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/producesafety/regulate.html>.

It is important that we verify your current information to determine whether your farm is subject to the PSR. If you are a farmer and think you might be exempt from the PSR OR if you are not a farmer and are not involved in produce production, please visit this [questionnaire](#).

We have many resources available to assist farmers in gaining compliance with the PSR, including a website and [mailing list](#), educational handouts, and On-Farm Readiness Reviews (OFRRs), which are voluntary and provide a free, personalized on-farm discussion about your specific farming practices designed to assist you in becoming compliant with the PSR.

You may contact our office at your earliest convenience to discuss this matter further or you may fill out the questionnaire and submit it to our office by email or postal mail. We look forward to hearing from you soon. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me directly or you may contact our Compliance Officer, Bryce Praditkul, at 916-900-5030. If you need an interpreter, one can be provided at no charge.

Sincerely,

Shelley D. Phillips, M.S.
Supervisor, Produce Safety Program
California Department of Food and Agriculture

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