



Food Safety Modernization Act

What do FDA's re-proposed food safety rules mean for farmers, on-farm processors, and food businesses?

FSMA Background

In September 2014, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released several re-proposed sections of food safety regulations originally proposed in January 2013:

- Standards for produce production (Produce Rule), and
- Food safety measures for facilities that process food for human consumption (Preventive Controls Rule).

These rules are part of FDA's implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), which was signed into law in 2011.

Last year, tens of thousands of farmers, eaters, and experts weighed in with comments to the FDA to let them know that the originally proposed rules would unfairly burden family farmers, target sustainable and organic farming, and reduce the availability of fresh, local food in our communities.

In late 2013, the FDA announced they would repropose parts of the Produce and Preventive Controls rules; these re-proposed sections are FDA's 'second draft' for public review; the rules are not yet final. Our shared efforts made an impact last year - and we have a second opportunity to shape the rules before they become law this fall!

Issues of Concern in FSMA

The re-proposed FSMA rules are improved from last year's 'first draft' - but they still need work before they are finalized into law. With the right approach, we will be able to help ensure good food safety practices across the nation without placing an unfair burden on family farmers.

- Farms innovate. *Don't let the rules squash local food* by unfairly burdening family farmers who are scaling up, growing their businesses, and improving healthy food access through innovations like working together to wash and pack produce for local schools. The rules need to ensure that local food and farms can grow and thrive.

- Farms work with nature. *Don't let the rules undermine sustainability* by making it harder for farmers to protect wildlife and manage their soil and water using organic and sustainable methods. The rules need to allow farmers to use sustainable farming practices.

- Farms deserve fair treatment. *Don't let the rules raise costs for farmers, food businesses, and consumers* by imposing unclear, inconsistent, and unfair rules designed for industrial facilities, not family farms and food businesses. The rules need to provide options that treat family farms fairly without unnecessary, excessive costs.

<http://sustainableagriculture.net/fsma>





Get Involved TODAY!

FDA Needs to Hear From You!

Before FDA can finalize the proposed rules, the agency must seek input from the public. Comments from farmers and on-farm processors will directly shape the final rules and are critical to ensuring that the final rules work for small and mid-sized farmers, sustainable and organic growers, value-added businesses, and conservation systems!

Are you a farmer or do you operate a food processing business?

These rules are likely to impact your business. Visit NSAC's FSMA page to determine if you may be subject to the rules and learn more about key issues in the rules. It is critical that you submit comments to FDA about how the rules may impact your business!

Are you a consumer or concerned citizen?

These rules could, over the long term, affect the type of food you are able to find in your community and increase the cost of purchasing fresh fruits and vegetables. As a consumer, you have a say in these proposed rules and can and should speak out too!

COMMENT PERIOD DEADLINE: DECEMBER 15, 2014!

GET INFORMED

- **READ UP** on the key issues in FSMA – including what the newly re-proposed rules say and what this means for farmers, consumers, and more on NSAC's FSMA page.
- **SIGN UP** for updates – NSAC is sharing updates this fall with more FSMA information and alerts. The best way to know what's going on is to sign up on NSAC's FSMA page.

TAKE ACTION

- **SUBMIT COMMENTS** – NSAC and our member organizations are sharing talking points, analysis, and guidance to help stakeholders submit comments - look for them on our FSMA website.
- **SHARE YOUR STORY** – Are the new food safety regulations likely to substantially impact your business? We want to hear your story! Check out the FSMA information page for information on how to share your story with FDA and with NSAC for possible media outreach efforts.

SPREAD THE WORD

- **TELL EVERYONE** – It's critical that farmers and consumers know what's going on and have a chance to weigh in. Help us spread the word! Share this call to action with friends, farmers, CSA members, and more! NSAC's FSMA page includes sample materials you can share in newsletters and on Facebook and Twitter, too!

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