



North Central Region

Center for FSMA Training, Extension
and Technical Assistance

As a fresh produce grower, you may have heard of and wondered about the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). One component of FSMA is the Produce Safety Rule. The Produce Safety Rule establishes science-based minimum standards for the safe growing, harvesting, packing, and holding of fruits and vegetables grown for human consumption and applies to produce generally consumed in raw form. These Rule is based on Good Agricultural Practices.

There are six key areas covered in the Produce Safety Rule:

- Water
- Soil
- Sprouts
- Animals
- Worker Health, Hygiene, and Training
- Equipment, Tools and Buildings

As part of the North Central Regional Center for FSMA Training, Extension and Technical Assistance (NCR FSMA), which has been charged with assisting growers in our 12 state region, we want to know **your needs** in order to comply with the Produce Safety Rules. **Your opinion is important to our team.**

For fresh produce growers we are asking you to complete two short surveys at different times. This, the first survey, consists of very general information and will be completed by growers before November 30, 2016. It will take about 15 minutes to complete. The second survey, to be open and completed during January 2017, will ask for your input on more focused questions based on the information gathered from the first survey.

Your feedback will help us in developing educational resources on specific content areas *and* determining the most effective approaches in disseminating the information. The study protocol has been approved by the Iowa State University Human Subjects in Research Institutional Review Board (IRB# 16-123). You should not experience any risks or discomfort by participating.

Your inputs are needed to develop useful and relevant materials for producers like you! All information submitted will be pooled and summarized. We will not ask you to identify yourself and no individual data will be reported. Participating in this study is completely voluntary. You may choose not to take part in the study or to stop participating at any time, for any reason, without penalty or negative consequences. You can skip any questions that you do not wish to answer.

We recognize your time is valuable so as a token of appreciation, we will hold a drawing in early December and award to three participants a \$50 gift card. Note that entry in the drawing *will require* that you provide your name and contact information. There will be an optional link at the end of the survey for you to enter your information and register for the drawing. It is NOT tied to your responses.

Please complete the survey linked on the website: <https://ncrfsma.org>. If you have any questions, please contact me directly at the number or email below. Thank you for your assistance with this project.

Sincerely,

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