



August 12, 2013

Hello Produce Safety Alliance Members:

While many of you have been busy in the fields during peak season, there has been a lot happening in the world of produce safety. Read on for the latest in FSMA progress including the release of two new proposed rules, new educational resources, and current produce-associated outbreaks and recalls.

Two New FSMA Rules Released & Comment periods for Produce Safety and Preventive Controls Rules Extended to November 15th, 2013

On August 8th, the FDA issued Federal Register notices to extend the comment periods on the proposed rules for Current Good Manufacturing Practice and Hazard Analysis and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Human Food and Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption 60 days until **November 15, 2013**.

FDA is taking this action to allow interested persons the opportunity to consider the interrelationships between these two proposals, which were published on January 16, 2013, and the **two new proposed rules** that published on July 29, 2013, [Foreign Supplier Verification Programs for Importers of Food for Humans and Animals](#) and the [Accreditation of Third-Party Auditors/Certification Bodies to Conduct Food Safety Audits and to Issue Certifications](#). The Foreign Supplier Verification Programs (FSVP) and the Accreditation of Third Party Auditors will work together with the standards proposed in January 2013 for produce safety and preventive controls. Comments on the two new proposed rules on the safety of imported food and accreditation of third party auditors are due by November 26, 2013. Please take time to review all of these rules, talk with other growers, and submit your comments!

How to submit your comments for the proposed Produce Safety Rule:

- 1.) Comment electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=FDA-2011-N-0921>
- 2.) Written comments may be faxed to the FDA at 301-827-6870 or you may mail them to:
Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

New FDA Fact Sheets Available

In effort to expand its outreach to small and medium size growers, the FDA has released a series of new publications to address questions that have arisen since the proposed Produce Safety rule was issued in January 2013. The new publications focus on key issues such as agricultural water and alternatives and variances to certain provisions in the proposed rule. In addition, a new section entitled "Resources for Farmers" has been created on the [FSMA Proposed Rule for Produce Safety page](#). The FDA Produce Safety Staff plan to release several other fact sheets and resources in the coming months, so stay tuned for more information!

Produce Safety

A L L I A N C E

New educational materials available:

- [Interview with Michael Taylor, Deputy Commissioner for Foods and Veterinary Medicine](#)
- [Fact sheet on Agricultural Water and Diagram: Subpart E](#)
- [Fact sheet on Alternatives and Variances](#)
- [Commodities Related to Outbreaks Change Frequently](#)

Outbreaks & Recalls

- Approximately 5,400 cantaloupes have been recalled because of a possible health risk to consumers. The produce, which was distributed to small, independent grocers in Michigan July 23-26, has the potential to be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes* and should be discarded and not consumed. For more information, visit the [FDA recall notice](#) issued on August 6, 2013.
- The investigation of the June Cyclosporiasis outbreak continues with new updates from the [CDC on August 9th](#) and [FDA on August 6th](#). As of August 9, 2013, the CDC has been notified of 535 cases of Cyclospora infection from the following 18 states: Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York (including New York City), Ohio, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin. Nebraska and Iowa have performed investigations and based on their analysis, the Cyclospora infections in their states are linked to a salad mix.

Join Us!

Our general listserve is still the best way to stay in touch with the PSA! To sign up, please visit our website at <http://producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu/psa.html>. Already signed up? Please share this newsletter with friends and colleagues who might also be interested in produce safety.

'Like' the Produce Safety Alliance on Facebook!

In addition to our general listserve, we've finally moved into the 21st century and now have an active Facebook page to get out the latest news related to produce safety and the proposed FSMA regulations! For those of you that prefer to get your bytes of information via social media, check out our newly launched page at <https://www.facebook.com/ProduceSafetyAlliance>.



As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, comments, or ideas.

Take care,

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