

FOOD SAFETY

State departments of agriculture are the frontline in protecting consumers against foodborne illness and food contamination. To support the FDA's statutory authority, state agencies are primarily responsible for the actual inspections, enforcement, training and implementation of various other food safety regulatory activities. In fact, approximately 80 percent of all food safety inspections in the United States are completed at the state and local levels. Cooperation between federal and state entities is crucial for the effective implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act.



BACKGROUND

FOOD SAFETY MODERNIZATION ACT IMPLEMENTATION

In 2011, the Food Safety and Modernization Act (FSMA) was signed into law, marking a pivotal moment in our nation's commitment to fundamentally enhance and transform our food safety system from reactive (recalls and trace back) to preventive (education and evaluation). State departments of agriculture and other state agencies are charged with implementing significant portions of FSMA, notably:

- [Produce Safety Rule](#) (including special provisions for sprout production)
- [Preventive Controls for Human Food](#)
- [Preventive Controls for Animal Food](#)

Currently, 46 states and one territory have entered into cooperative agreements with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to educate and/or regulate farms subject to the Produce Safety Rule. NASDA's Foundation supports all these states and works jointly with the FDA to guide states in the implementation of best practices. A similar framework for animal food safety is available. Through proactive measures, education, and collaborative partnerships, the FSMA implementation is instrumental in ensuring the well-being of consumers and the integrity of the U.S. food system and supply chain.

As part of NASDA's guiding principle towards farms' FSMA compliance, "educate before and while you regulate," a team of NASDA Foundation, state, FDA and cooperative extension food safety leaders developed the On Farm Readiness Review program. Designed to move farmers away from the audit checklist scheme, the review program is meant to foster a dialogue between the farmer and the regulator and/or educator about the requirements of the Produce Safety Rule. Learn more and find out how to sign-up for an On Farm Readiness Review at the NASDA Foundation's [website](#).



Contact: Becky Garrison Warfel | Becky.Garrison@nasda.org
4350 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 810, Arlington, VA 22203 | www.nasda.org



FOOD SAFETY

(CONTINUED)

NEW ERA FOR FOOD SAFETY

In 2020, the FDA introduced an updated food safety blueprint, titled the “New Era for Food Safety,” which outlines ambitious new goals, including enhancing traceability, improving rapid response to outbreaks, and reducing food contamination. This initiative leverages the strategic utilization of technology and other tools to establish a safer and traceable food system.



NASDA POLICY

As a co-regulator, NASDA remains dedicated to four core priorities to meet consumer expectations for a safe, nutritious, and affordable food supply, while simultaneously promoting competition and increasing production.

1. Ensure fair and equitable implementation across states of FSMA for American farmers.
2. Promote the implementation of regulations in a manner that emphasizes education and outreach, with a focus on prevention.
3. Ensure the consistent application of prevention rules in both domestic and foreign production.
4. Maintain consistent regulation standards by fostering collaboration between NASDA and NASDA affiliate organizations.

NASDA'S ASKS

NASDA supports increased funding for the following FSMA programs:

- Produce Safety Rule Implementation, State Cooperative Agreement Program
- Animal Food Preventive Controls Rule Implementation, State Cooperative Agreement Program
- Food Safety Outreach Program
- Produce Safety Alliance

NASDA recommends that FDA implement the following measures as it works towards utilizing technology for enhancing traceability:

- Create consistent data collection metrics that can be implemented from farms to store shelves.
- Work across government agencies (federal and state) to understand how to enhance the effectiveness of data collection.
- Utilize digital technologies to streamline outbreak-related communications.
- Increase the frequency of communication with stakeholders.
- Develop a centralized database for consolidating all food safety inspection data.

January 2024



Contact: Becky Garrison Warfel | Becky.Garrison@nasda.org
4350 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 810, Arlington, VA 22203 | www.nasda.org

