

NH DAMF PRODUCE SAFETY PROGRAM

Dear NH Produce Grower:

March 1, 2023

Seven years have passed since the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) became the Produce Safety Rule (PSR), on January 26, 2016. It defines the minimum standards for the safe growing, harvesting, packing, and holding of produce on farms to minimize microbial contamination and reduce foodborne illness associated with fresh produce.

We believe it is important that farmers have the information necessary to navigate these regulations and prepare for meeting those requirements that relate to your farm. The New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food has delegated responsibility to Victoria Smith, Produce Safety Specialist, assisted by Debra Bunn, Produce Safety Inspector, and Katherine Dunn-Law, Program Assistant, for the implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule (PSR).

It is important that all fresh produce growers understand the risks to food safety that exist on the farm and take steps to manage these risks. To determine the extent your farm may be subject to the PSR, it is necessary to verify your current information. We have prepared a Questionnaire and a Qualified Exemption Worksheet to complete and confirm your farm information. Use the checklist to note the various commodities you grow on your farm and general sales figures to assist with defining the size of your farm and eligibility for Qualified Exempt status.

New Hampshire has a rich agricultural heritage, and we want to be sure that its agriculture remains to be an integral part of all that is the Granite State. To promote and support locally grown foods, we are ready to provide you with assistance in determining how your farm may be affected by the PSR.

Please choose one of the following methods to complete the questionnaire:

- 1) Use our online survey from your phone, tablet, or PC: <https://forms.office.com/g/utFmHnx2hG>
- 2) Download the attached PDF, fill out, attach, and email to: Katherine.Dunn-Law@agr.nh.gov
- 3) Print the attached PDF, fill out, and mail in to: State of NH- DAMF, Attn: FSMA, PO Box 2042, Concord, NH, 03302-2042

Another form you may find helpful and will need to complete and retain for your records is the Qualified Exemption Worksheet. See the attached QE worksheet PDF. All forms and additional resources are available on our website: [NH DAMF-FSMA](#) or www.agriculture.nh.gov/divisions/commissioner/food-safety.htm

Thank you for your time in reading this letter and completing the questionnaire. It is very important that you complete the questionnaire as completely and accurately as possible.

Sincerely,

Shawn N. Jasper, Commissioner
Victoria M. Smith, Produce Safety Specialist/Program Planner
Debra E. Bunn, Produce Safety Specialist/Inspector
Katherine Dunn-Law, Program Assistant

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