

## **FDA Announces a New Cooperative Agreement Program for States and Territories to Continue Implementation of a National Produce Safety Program**

**July 27, 2021**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is pleased to announce that awards have been issued to support forty-seven (47) grantees in a total of \$30.9 million for the FDA's Cooperative Agreement Program for States and Territories to Implement a National Produce Safety Program ([PAR-21-174](#)); to be referred to as FDA's Produce Safety CAP.

The purpose of this funding is to advance efforts for a national integrated food safety system (IFSS) by supporting state and territorial Produce Safety Programs to enhance produce safety and achieve high rates of compliance with the FDA's Produce Safety Rule. This new cooperative agreement continues the successful partnership that began in 2016 with state and territorial agencies to develop quality produce programs and achieve national consistency.

"The FDA has continued its funding of state produce safety programs for a second 5-year period. This investment is very important. Food safety is the cornerstone of a healthy food supply," said Bob Ehart, Senior Policy and Science Advisor with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA). "The efforts to assist produce farmers to prevent foodborne illnesses through education are also a sound contribution to the goal of safe food. Because of the original funding from the FDA, the state programs are well-positioned to partner with the FDA to carry out produce farm inspections. NASDA applauds the FDA's continued investment in state produce safety programs."

FDA's Deputy Commissioner for Food Policy and Response Frank Yiannis commented, "Five years ago, the FDA, in collaboration with our state and territory regulatory partners, took a novel approach to improve safety of produce in the United States. Working together, we've developed and enhanced produce regulatory program infrastructure, conducted education and outreach to the grower community, developed an inventory of farms, and launched inspections. With these new awards, the FDA is excited to build upon the work that has been accomplished in the initial cooperative agreement to advance produce safety."

The Produce Safety Rule established, for the first time, science-based minimum standards for the safe growing, harvesting, packing, and holding of fruits and vegetables grown for human consumption. The rule is part of the agency's ongoing efforts to implement the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). The final rule went into effect January 26, 2016. The Produce Safety Rule, along with other FSMA-mandated rules to regulate food production, importation, and transportation, will better protect consumers from foodborne illness.

**Awardees**

Alaska State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Alabama State Department of Agriculture and Industries  
Arkansas Department of Agriculture  
Arizona State Department of Agriculture  
California State Department of Food and Agriculture  
Colorado State Department of Agriculture  
Connecticut Department of Agriculture  
Delaware Department of Agriculture  
Florida State Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
Georgia State Department of Agriculture  
Hawaii Department of Agriculture  
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship  
Idaho State Department of Agriculture  
Indiana State Department of Health  
Kansas State Department Agriculture  
Kentucky State Department Agriculture  
Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry  
Massachusetts Department of Agriculture  
Maryland Department of Agriculture  
Maine Department of Agriculture Conservation and Forestry  
Michigan State Department of Agriculture  
Minnesota State Department of Agriculture  
Missouri State Department Agriculture  
Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce  
Montana State Department of Agriculture  
North Carolina State Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
North Dakota Department of Agriculture  
Nebraska Department of Agriculture  
New Hampshire Department of Agriculture and Markets  
New Jersey State Department of Agriculture  
Regents of New Mexico State University  
Nevada State Department of Agriculture  
New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets  
Ohio State Department of Agriculture  
Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry  
Oregon State Department of Agriculture  
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management  
South Carolina State Department of Agriculture  
Tennessee State Department of Agriculture  
Texas State Department of Agriculture

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food  
Virginia State Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
Vermont State Agency Agriculture Food and Markets  
Washington State Department of Agriculture  
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection  
West Virginia State Department of Agriculture

For additional information, please visit our [State Produce Implementation Cooperative Agreement Program \(CAP\)](#) webpage or email the Office of Partnerships at [OP.Feedback@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:OP.Feedback@fda.hhs.gov).