



Southern Region Integrated Produce Safety Conference

**February 11-13, 2025
Embassy Suites by Hilton
Montgomery Hotel and
Conference Center
Montgomery, AL**

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Sponsors



for Training, Education, Extension, Outreach, and
Technical Assistance to Enhance Produce Safety



Southern Region Integrated Produce Safety Conference

February 11-13, 2025

Welcome to Montgomery, Alabama and the fifth annual Southern Region Integrated Produce Safety Conference. We are excited to host you here in the Yellowhammer State (also known as the Cotton State and the Heart of Dixie). Over the next few days, we will learn about different topics related to produce safety including preharvest water, Biological Soil Amendments of Animal Origin (BSAAO), Agritourism and U-pick, Sampling assignments, CEA/ Indoor Ag, training resources and more. We will get to hear from growers and industry representatives to learn about their experiences with produce safety rule inspections, what has and has not been beneficial and challenges they have faced. We'll get to hear fellow state programs share their challenges and successes with the enforcement of the Produce Safety Rule. We also get to hear from researchers and extension educators who will provide updates and insights to the work being done. We hope you will join us Thursday for a tour of Tuskegee University's Black Belt Marketing and Innovation Center (BBMIC) to see their award-winning produce processing facility. This booklet contains our agenda for the week along with state updates from the 13 states in the southern region. This conference is such a wonderful opportunity to learn about the awesome work being done around the region and to strengthen our connections with colleagues.

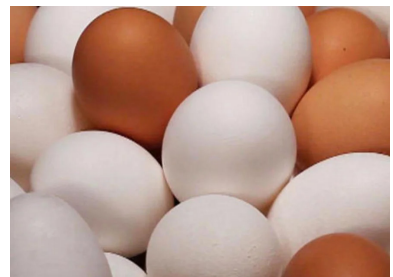
To get to know Alabama a little better, I've included a few agricultural facts about our wonderful state:

Alabama has over 37,000 farms and 8.6 million acres of farmland. Agriculture, forestry and related industry account for the second largest number of jobs in the state. Agriculture, forestry and other related industries have a significant impact on Alabama's economy in output (\$70.4 billion), value added (\$30.8 billion), and jobs created (580,295). Fruit, nut and vegetable production amounts to around \$57 million annually in cash receipts.



Alabama's Top Agricultural Commodities:

1. Broilers
2. Cattle/Calves
3. Chicken Egg
4. Misc. Crops
(Fruits/Vegetables)
5. Cotton Lint & Seed
6. Corn
7. Soybeans
8. Peanuts
9. Catfish



Thanks for joining us!

Christy

Christy Smith

Produce Safety Program Administrator
Alabama

Program Tours



Tuskegee University Urban Agriculture &
Innovation Center



BBMIC

Black Belt Marketing and
Innovation Center

The Tuskegee University Black Belt Marketing and Innovation Center (BBMIC)

Southern Region Integrated Produce Safety Conference

February 11-13, 2025

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

Time	Session	Presenter(s)
<i>Morning Moderator: Tommy Saunders, PSA</i>		
8:00 AM	Welcome and Introduction	
	Ice Breaker	Michelle Danyluk, UF
	Welcome from the Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries	Rick Pate, Commissioner ADAI
8:15 AM	Preharvest Water	
	Review of PSA Module 5.1 How water testing plays a role in the decision-making	Michelle Danyluk, UF Laura Strawn, VT
	Water Assessment Scenarios - Small Group Activity	Camila Rodrigues, AU Laurel Dunn, UGA Chip Simmons, NCS Tommy Saunders, PSA Amanda Perez, UARK Justin McConaghy, ODAFF Armitra Jackson-Davis, AAMU Taylor O'Bannon, UF
10:30 AM	Break	
10:45 AM	GAP Audits	Moderators - Taylor O'Bannon, Tommy Saunders
	An overview of GAPs audit: How they align and how they differ from the Produce Safety Rule	Jill Dunlop, USDA AMS
11:45 AM	Lunch	
<i>Afternoon Moderator – Stephanie Brown, UF</i>		

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

Time	Session	Presenter(s)
12:45 PM	BSAAO	Moderator - Billy Mitchell
	National Organic Program (NOP) and the PSR	Sarah Bakker, UARK J.C. Rodriguez, FOG
	Vermicomposting 101	Billy Mitchell, UF
1:45 PM	Food Safety Considerations for U-Pick and Agritourism Farms	Moderator - Tommy Saunders
	This interactive presentation will review what agritourism is and how the regulations within the Produce Safety Rule apply to agritourism and u-pick farms.	Kelly H Thompson, LDAF Christy Smith, ADAI Kristina Banks, VDACS Riley Boland, MDA Sarah Cope, NCDACS
2:45 PM	Break	
3:00 PM	Industry Panel	Moderator - Christy Smith
	Lee Harrison, Gardens on Air Hydroponic Farm Destiny Allman, Allman Farms & Orchards Chris Hallmark, Kontos Farms Mike Prather, Alex Kontos Fruit Co., Inc. Andrew Williams, Deep South Food Alliance	
4:00 PM	FDA Sampling Assignment on Leafy Green Harvesters	
	Overview of Assignment	Michelle Danyluk, UF
	State Involvement	Chelsea Peebles, FDACS Kirby Quam, FDACS
	Extension Activities	Clara Diekman, UF Michelle Danyluk, UF
5:00 PM	Adjourn	

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Time	Session	Presenter(s)
<i>Morning Moderator: Armitra Jackson-Davis, AAMU</i>		
8:00 AM	Welcome and Review	
8:15 AM	CEA/Indoor Ag	
	Overview of systems, terminology and resources when working with Protected Agriculture/ CEA Industry	Elena Rogers, NCSU Chris Callahan, UVM
	Small group activity- Identifying food safety risks at CEA operations.	Justin McConaghy, OKDAFF Kristina Banks, VDACS Elena Rogers, NCSU
	Conclusions	Elena Rogers, NCSU
9:45 AM	Break	
10:00 AM	Training Resources	
	Introduction	Rebecca Catalena, Auburn
	Success factors for developing and implementing effective food safety training programs	Sergio Nieto-Montenegro, Food Safety Consulting & Training Solutions, LLC
	Shared Ground: Building Authentic Relationships with Latino Farmworkers	Angie Oliva, Central Carolina Community College
	Improv for educators, trainers, and team members Wrap-Up	Billy Michell, UF
12:00 PM	Lunch	
<i>Afternoon Moderator – Billy Mitchell, UF</i>		

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Time	Session	Presenter(s)
1:00 PM	Breakouts	
	Regulators	
	State Regulatory Breakout Activity- Inspection Scenarios	Christy Smith, ADAI Kelly H Thompson, LDAF Sarah Cope, NCDACS Riley Boland, MDA
	Non-Regulators	
	Tuskegee University Urban Agriculture Innovation Center - Tour and activity	Kristin Woods, Tuskegee
3:00 PM	Break	
3:15 PM	Beyond the PSR	
	Introduction	Lynette Johnston, NCSU
	Emerging Issues with Local Food and Food Safety	Amanda Perez, UARK
	Exploring the Gray Areas and Challenges of Farm versus Processing Activities	Sarah Bakker, UARK Stephanie Brown, UF Kate Nicholas, NCSU Lynette Johnston, NCSU
	Resources and Opportunities to Collaborate	Extension Network: Stephanie Brown/Amanda Perez Food Safety School: Kate Nicholas/Lynette Johnston
4:00 PM	Adjacent Land Use	
	Unknowns and complexities surrounding adjacent animal operations	Faith Critzer, UGA

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Time	Session	Presenter(s)
4:30 PM	NASDA Standards Produce Regulatory Program Standards Update	Erik Bungo, VDACS
4:50 PM	Discussions, Emerging Trends, Future Topics	Michelle Danyluk, UF
5:00 PM	Adjourn	

STATE UPDATE REPORTS

State Update Report Alabama

Department of Agriculture

Program Area	Responsible Party
1.) CAP Project Designation	Department of Agriculture & Industries
<u>Status Update</u>	Alabama is Path C state. We have subaward with Alabama cooperative Extension Service to assist with education and outreach.
2.) PSA Grower Training	Alabama Cooperative Extension Service & Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries
<u>Status Update</u>	We have hosted 42 grower trainings and have additional ones planned for 2025. We conduct a one day, 8-hour course with our Extension people leading the courses.
3.) OFRR	Department of Agriculture & Industries
<u>Status Update</u>	UADA Extension Service faculty/staff conduct On-Farm Readiness Reviews including outreach to offer an OFRR visit, coordination/scheduling of visits, conducting the visit to provide consultation and technical assistance, and post-visit survey and technical assistance. UADA has conducted 30 OFRRs to date. Faculty/ staff call farms to set up an OFRR prior to inspections. All information gathered during OFRRs is confidential, and all notes are left with the farm. Visits range from 2-4 hours on average.
4.) Inspection	Department of Agriculture & Industries
<u>Status Update</u>	We have completed 96 inspections with more scheduled in March.
5.) State Rule Making	Department of Agriculture & Industries
<u>Status Update</u>	Alabama has state authority to do inspection on farms. ADAI adopted the entire produce safety rule by reference.

State Update Report Alabama

Department of Agriculture

6.) Farm Visits

Department of Agriculture & Industries

Status Update

ADAI inspectors plan farm visits to meet farmers, verify inventory information, and go over requirements of PSR. ADAI Inspectors also provide technical assistance to farmers if they request it.

A. Metrics of quantitative success:

Number of trainings provided?

6 PSA Trainings provided

Number of growers reached?

18 individual growers reached; 43 total attended the trainings

Number of packers reached?

4 packers attended the trainings.

Development of materials

Record Keeping Guide for Growers and Grower Resource Guide

Presentations given at educational event

Presentations given at educational events included Farmers Market Manager meetings, PSA Grower trainings. Cleaning/Sanitizing workshops and Commodity meetings.

State Update Report Arkansas

Department of Agriculture

Program Area	Responsible Party
1.) CAP Project Designation <u>Status Update</u>	Arkansas Department of Agriculture (ADA) Arkansas is a path C. ADA has a subaward in place with University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture (UADA) Extension Service to help with Education and Outreach.
2.) PSA Grower Training <u>Status Update</u>	University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture (UADA) UADA faculty/staff work closely with producers to identify PSA Grower Training needs including dates and locations to host both in-person and remote trainings. Faculty/staff coordinate, conduct, and evaluate training including all training marketing, teaching, follow-up paperwork, reporting, and rewarding of training certificates.
3.) OFRR <u>Status Update</u>	University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture (UADA) Under a subaward agreement, UADA Extension Service faculty/staff conduct On-Farm Readiness Reviews at the request of Arkansas Department of Agriculture. This includes outreach to offer an OFRR visit, coordination/scheduling of visits. Visits range from 2-4 hours on average.
4.) Inspection <u>Status Update</u>	Arkansas Department of Agriculture (ADA) ADA has completed 26 inspections in 2024. ADA anticipates 30 inspections in 2025. Inspectors also conduct Exemption Verification Visits in conjunction to Farm Visits.
5.) State Rule Making <u>Status Update</u>	Arkansas Department of Agriculture (ADA) Arkansas/ADA has state authority to conduct inspections.

State Update Report Arkansas

Department of Agriculture

6.) Farm Visits

Arkansas Department of Agriculture (ADA)

Status Update

ADA conducted 56 farm visits in 2024. ADA reviewed Covered Farm States on 234 active farms in 2024. ADA inspectional staff conduct farm visits in multiple capacities: educational, inventory verification, new farm inventory, etc-these are typically pre growing season. If the farm hasn't met their inspector, a face-to-face introductory visit between the inspector and the farm is usually scheduled prior to inspection.

A. Metrics of quantitative success:

Number of trainings provided?

35

Number of growers reached?

374

Number of packers reached?

60

Development of materials

Posters, presentations, workshops + training activities, newsletters, social/digital media, factsheets as needed.

Content available at uaex.uada.edu/localfoods and uaex.uada.edu/producesafety.

Publications

Re-print of bilingual Produce Safety Worker, Training Flipcharts, Produce Safety Program Brochure, OFRR resource manual.

Presentations given at educational event

Presentations given at educational events: Annual Arkansas Grown Conference and Expo, Arkansas Blackberry Growers Association, County Agent workshop/meetings, Farmer + School Personnel workshop, Statewide Agriculture + Local Foods conference, NASDA Produce Safety Consortium annual meeting.

State Update Report Florida

Department of Agriculture

Program Area	Responsible Party
1.) CAP Project Designation <u>Status Update</u>	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) Florida is a Path B state. FDACS conducts all regulatory activities in the state under FDA credentialing. FDACS has a subaward in place with University of Florida - Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) to conduct produce safety education. Outreach and Technical Assistance activities are conducted by both FDACS and UF/IFAS.
2.) PSA Grower Training <u>Status Update</u>	University of Florida - Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) UF/IFAS faculty and staff work closely with FDACS, producers, and industry partners to identify PSA Grower Training needs including dates and locations to host both in-person and remote trainings. UF/IFAS faculty/staff coordinate, conduct, and evaluate training including registration, teaching, reporting, and issuing of training certificates. FDACS provides additional support for these trainings through marketing, outreach, training materials, and delivering training modules as requested. Florida has conducted 112 grower trainings to date.
3.) OFRR	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) and University of Florida - Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/ IFAS)

State Update Report Florida

Department of Agriculture

Status Update

FDACS conducts On-Farm Readiness Reviews in partnership with UF/IFAS. A representative from both agencies is present during the OFRR. FDACS receives OFRR requests from farms and coordinates the scheduling of visits. There is a high level of cooperation between FDACS and UF/IFAS for these farm visits. Florida has conducted 116 OFRRs to date. OFRRs are scheduled as they are requested by farms. Demand for OFRRs has declined in recent years.

4.) Inspection

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS)

Status Update

FDACS has conducted 883 inspections to date. Florida conducts routine inspections of covered farms at a frequency of once every 1-5 years. Frequency of inspections may vary depending on the nature of the inspection (initial-routine, routine, for cause, etc.).

5.) State Rule Making

Florida Legislature

Status Update

Florida is a Path B state, conducting inspections under FDA credentialing per the Produce Safety Rule (Title 21 CFR, Part 112). Other than the Florida Tomato Good Agricultural Practices (T-GAPs), no state law or regulation establishes authority for produce safety inspections in Florida.

6.) Farm Visits

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS)

Status Update

Florida rarely conducts farm visits outside of inspections or OFRRs. Occasionally, FDACS staff may conduct farm visits for the purposes of technical assistance or to verify unresponsive farms in our inventory.

State Update Report Florida

Department of Agriculture

A. Metrics of quantitative success:

Number of trainings provided? 112

Number of packers reached? 1886

Development of materials In support of our produce safety program, Florida has developed posters, flyers, and rack cards of information. We have delivered presentations, trainings, and workshops at events across the state. Information has been disseminated in newsletters, articles, and email blasts, and we have advertised produce safety programming through publications in print, digital, radio and billboard announcements.

Presentations given at educational event We attend more than 30 educational outreach events annually and deliver presentations about our program or produce safety related topics at many of them. These events include but are not limited to commodity association meetings, commodity-specific research field days, grower meetings, agricultural education conferences, food safety educational events, university programs, and other industry events.

State Update Report Georgia

Department of Agriculture

Program Area	Responsible Party
1.) CAP Project Designation <u>Status Update</u>	Georgia Department of Agriculture GDA is path C. Subaward with the University of Georgia to help with education-PSA trainings and workshops.
2.) PSA Grower Training <u>Status Update</u>	Georgia Department of Agriculture and University of Georgia Subaward with the University of Georgia to help with PSA trainings and workshops. Provided 16 grower trainings this grant cycle.
3.) OFRR <u>Status Update</u>	Georgia Department of Agriculture Conducted 19 OFRRs this grant cycle.
4.) Inspection <u>Status Update</u>	Georgia Department of Agriculture Conducted 311 inspections this grant cycle. Conducted 41 qualified exemption verifications this grant cycle.
5.) State Rule Making <u>Status Update</u>	Georgia General Assembly and Georgia Department of Agriculture Georgia adopted the rule by reference in 2019, called the Georgia 40-7-20 Produce Safety Rule.
6.) Farm Visits <u>Status Update</u>	Georgia Department of Agriculture Verified 4,482 farms to date.

State Update Report Georgia

Department of Agriculture

A. Metrics of quantitative success:

Number of trainings provided?	2 workshops and 52 grower trainings to date
Number of growers reached?	462 primary production farms
Number of packers reached?	28 secondary production farms
Development of materials	Online registration portal
Presentations given at educational event	Presented at 2 commodity events this year.

State Update Report Kentucky

Department of Agriculture

Program Area	Responsible Party
1.) CAP Project Designation <u>Status Update</u>	KDA Produce Safety Team We continue to operate under state authority as a path C state program.
2.) PSA Grower Training <u>Status Update</u>	KDA Produce Safety Team, University of Kentucky. We continue to collaborate with the University of Kentucky to offer PSA grower trainings. This year, our primary delivery method has been virtual, enhancing convenience and maximizing attendance.
3.) OFRR <u>Status Update</u>	KDA Produce Safety Team Since the beginning of our program, we have conducted 74 On Farm Readiness Reviews, with 7 of those being conducted in FY '24.
4.) Inspection <u>Status Update</u>	KDA Produce Safety Team In Year 3, our team conducted 48 inspections. Our primary focus is initial inspections for covered farms, while also performing routine inspections for farms that met the scheduled inspection frequency. Additionally, we carried out three for-cause compliance inspections.
5.) State Rule Making <u>Status Update</u>	KDA Produce Safety Team Kentucky Department of Agriculture's produce Safety Statute, KRS 260.765-772 became effective July 15th, 2020, giving KDA full state authority. KDA also filed a Produce Safety Regulation (302 KAR 60.010), effective beginning January 2021. These two rules provide the KDA Produce Safety Program with a sound regulatory foundation for continuing to conduct regulatory inspections under full state authority.

State Update Report Kentucky

Department of Agriculture

6.) Farm Visits

KDA Produce Safety Team

Status Update

Other than inspections and OFRR's, our team has not visited farms other than to verify information and/or coverage status.

A. Metrics of quantitative success:

Number of trainings provided?

60

Number of growers reached?

1,016

Development of materials

We have developed a variety of educational materials to support growers in understanding key aspects of the Produce Safety Rule. These resources include a farmers' market fact sheet on FSMA, qualified exemption applications, educational brochures, and a comparison of GAP and FSMA requirements. Additionally, we have implemented several methods for collecting farm inventory data, including survey cards, an online portal for survey submissions, and handouts that outline how the Produce Safety Rule applies to and impacts Kentucky farmers.

Publications

We have collaborated with the University of Kentucky Extension to publish a series of educational materials related to produce safety, which are readily accessible on the University of Kentucky Center for Crop Diversification website. Additionally, we have partnered with the University of Kentucky Agricultural Communications to develop informative posters for farmers, covering topics such as proper toilet use, handwashing practices, and U-Pick guidelines.

State Update Report Kentucky Department of Agriculture

Presentations given at educational event

Our team has delivered presentations at a diverse range of educational events, including the Kentucky Fruit & Vegetable Conference, the Organic Association of Kentucky Conference, regional and local farmers' market meetings, the UK Ag Water Quality Field Day, the Kentucky Women in Agriculture Conference, Farm Bureau meetings, produce auctions, and many others. Since the inception of our program, we estimate that we have conducted approximately 60 presentations at such events.

State Update Report Louisiana

Department of Agriculture

Program Area	Responsible Party
1.) CAP Project Designation	The Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry (LDAF)
<u>Status Update</u>	The Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry (LDAF) is the grantee for our state. Louisiana State University Agricultural Extension & Research Center and Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center are our subawards.
2.) PSA Grower Training	Extension/LDAF
<u>Status Update</u>	Louisiana has two lead trainers. One is associated with the CAP grant (LSU) and the other is associated with one of the NGOs in the state. Dr. Achyut Adhikari with LSU takes the lead on hosting most of our trainings in the state. LDAF provides support and serves as trainers for these PSA trainings. We aim to host at least one a year, with the addition of more specialized trainings such as composting, cleaning & sanitizing, etc.
3.) OFRR	The Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry (LDAF)
<u>Status Update</u>	LDAF takes the lead on coordination of OFRRs. OFRRs are conducted by a combination of staff from LDAF and the two subawards depending on availability. LDAF has completed 7 OFRRs since 2020. We continue to promote them and educational farm visits.
4.) Inspection	The Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry (LDAF)

State Update Report Louisiana

Department of Agriculture

Status Update

LDAF has one Inspector and Program Manager that both conduct inspections in the state. Currently our Program Specialist is working towards completing training to become an inspector and attends inspections/educational visits with the PM and other inspector. All inspectors and PM have taken mandatory training through FDA and any other trainings that adds benefit to the program. Louisiana continues to complete the minimum requirements for inspections each year.

5.) State Rule Making

The Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry (LDAF)

Status Update

The Louisiana legislature passed legislation in 2017 giving LDAF authority to conduct produce safety inspections in the state. We are working with our legal team to make updates as needed.

6.) Farm Visits

Extension/LDAF

Status Update

Louisiana State University takes the lead pertaining to on farm educational visits with LDAF as secondary. These visits educate the growers on Good Agricultural Practices and the FSMA Produce Safety Rule helping farmers to understand the difference and what meets their farm's needs.



State Update Report Louisiana

Department of Agriculture

A. Metrics of quantitative success:

Number of trainings provided?

PSA Grower trainings: 13
Composting Workshops: 2
OFRR: 7
Farmers Market Food Safety workshop: 10
LFVGS Field Day: 5

Number of growers reached?

An estimated over 800 growers have been reached in person with over 110,000 individuals reached through social media pages. Outreach events include field days, vendor meetings at farmers markets, civic association meetings, Louisiana Ag Expo, Louisiana Farm Bureau Conference, Louisiana Women in Ag conference, Homesteaders Conference, Vegetable Growers Association meeting, and the Farm to School Conference.

Number of packers reached?

With most of the Louisiana farms being family owned and either micro exempt or qualified exempt they pack their own produce.

Development of materials

LSU and SU have developed several fact sheets over the years for stakeholders on various topics related to the Produce Safety Rule. Topics include wash water and produce safety, service animals and produce farms, a guide to food grade sanitizers, comparison document on the PSR vs. GAP, post harvest sanitation and handling and storage of produce. LDAF created a new brochure to hand out to farmers that complies multiple forms into one. They also completed an ENA on new handouts regarding produce after a hurricane or flooding event.

State Update Report Louisiana

Department of Agriculture

Publication

Over 30 magazine or extension publications have resulted from the work done by the team in Louisiana. These publications have been on various topics related to produce safety and the work being done as a result of this grant program.

Presentations given at educational events

Louisiana Farm to School: Meet the Buyer, Meet the Grower, Warner Hall Field Day, Louisiana Women in Ag conference, AFDOSS conference.



State Update Report Mississippi

Department of Agriculture

Program Area	Responsible Party
1.) CAP Project Designation <u>Status Update</u>	Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce Under the cooperative agreement, the Mississippi Department of Agriculture & Commerce (MDAC) is a Path C State. Through a subaward, the MDAC has a MOU with MSU Extension to assist with education and outreach efforts across the state.
2.) PSA Grower Training <u>Status Update</u>	Outreach Coordinator / MSU Since the program began the MDAC Produce Safety Division (PSD) has conducted 49 PSA Grower Trainings. In 2024 the Division conducted 6 PSA Grower Trainings.
3.) OFRR <u>Status Update</u>	Outreach Coordinator / MSU The MDAC PSD has conducted a total of 18 OFRRs, 15 in 2021, 2 in 2022, none in 2023, and 1 in 2024. OFRRs will continue to be offered to any new farms prior to starting their inspections.
4.) Inspection <u>Status Update</u>	Inspection Supervisor / Inspector The MDAC PSD has conducted 130 inspections across the state. Our goal is to conduct 28 inspections in 2025.
5.) State Rule Making <u>Status Update</u>	State Legislature The MDAC has adopted the rule by reference into state law.
6.) Farm Visits <u>Status Update</u>	PSR Team The PSD team has conducted approximately 175 farm visits in the past two years. These visits do not include inspections or OFRRS.

State Update Report Mississippi

Department of Agriculture

A. Metrics of quantitative success:

Number of trainings provided?	52 total trainings/workshops
Number of growers reached?	Mississippi has reached 716 growers through PSA Grower Trainings/workshops
Publication	11
Presentations given at educational event	42 various presentations since 2021

State Update Report North Carolina

Department of Agriculture

Program Area	Responsible Party
1.) CAP Project Designation <u>Status Update</u>	North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Produce Safety Program Path C, regulatory band 7, education and inventory band 3. NCDA&CS Produce Safety Program has a Produce Safety Outreach, Educational, and Technical Assistance Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with NC State Extension.
2.) PSA Grower Training <u>Status Update</u>	NC State Extension and NCDA&CS Produce Safety Program NC State Extension works to schedule and train at PSA Grower Training Courses, while NCDA&CS Produce Safety Program provides the manuals and also trains at the PSA courses. 75 PSA courses have been held through the end of 2024.
3.) OFRR <u>Status Update</u>	NCDA&CS Produce Safety Program and NC State Extension NCDA&CS Produce Safety Program and NC State Extension promote OFRRs to all produce farms. NCDA&CS Produce Safety Program schedules the OFRRs and provides the manuals. Both agencies participate in the OFRRs. 56 OFRRs have been conducted through the end of 2024.
4.) Inspection <u>Status Update</u>	NCDA&CS Produce Safety Program 161 regulatory produce farm inspections have been conducted through the end of 2024 in North Carolina.
5.) State Rule Making <u>Status Update</u>	NCDA&CS Produce Safety Program NCDA&CS Produce Safety Program adopted the Produce Safety Rule as written in 2018.

State Update Report North Carolina

Department of Agriculture

6.) Farm Visits

NCDA&CS Produce Safety Program and NC State Extension

Status Update

Technical assistance and outreach can be conducted individually by NCDA&CS Produce Safety Program, individually by NC State Extension, or jointly with both agencies. 514 farms have received on farm technical assistance and 278 farms have received remote/virtual technical assistance through the end of 2024.

7.) Verified Farms

NCDA&CS Produce Safety Program and NC State Extension

Status Update

Through the end of 2024, NCDA&CS Produce Safety Program has verified 113 Large, 58 Small, 57 Very Small, 247 Not Covered Due to Size, and 124 Qualified Exempt produce farms.

A. Metrics of quantitative success:

Number of trainings provided?

Between July 1, 2023 – December 31, 2024 NCDA&CS Produce Safety Program hosted 7 trainings. One FDA/State Joint Cleaning and Sanitation Workshop, two FDA/State Joint Water Systems Workshops, two Harvest and Post-Harvest Water Workshops, the 2nd Annual Produce Safety Field Day in 2023, and the 3rd Annual Produce Safety Field Day in 2024.

Number of growers reached?

2,150 outreach attempts have been made through the end of 2024.

Development of Materials

Educational Needs Assessments (ENAs) have been developed and approved for the development of: a farmers market and packing produce presentation geared toward qualified exempt farms, a u-pick presentation and with accompanying resources, a microgreens factsheet, and a mushroom factsheet. The microgreen factsheet and mushroom factsheet have been developed and are with FDA for review. We will be submitting an ENA for a flooded fields factsheet/presentation this year.

State Update Report North Carolina Department of Agriculture

Publication

NCDA&CS Produce Safety Program:
<https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/food-drug-protection-division/food-program/fdpd-food-program-produce>
NC State Extension:
<https://ncfreshproducesafety.ces.ncsu.edu/>

Presentations given at educational event

Between July 1, 2023 – December 31, 2024, the NCDA&CS Produce Safety Program conducted 11 exhibit booths and 9 presentations. Also during this time period, through the Produce Safety Outreach, Educational, and Technical Assistance Memorandum of Agreement with NC State Extension, they conducted 27 presentations.

B. Do you have any specific anecdotes/stories that you'd like to share? Please include quotes, if possible, from growers/producers since this is helpful in engaging others with your work.

In response to a training event that a grower attended, their feedback comment stated: "Overall, this was an excellent educational workshop. Instructors were very knowledgeable and I felt very comfortable to ask questions. The information presented was practical and gave me insights into food safety risks to look out for on my own farm."



State Update Report North Carolina Department of Agriculture

C. Other information you would like to share?

The NCDA&CS Produce Safety Program analyzed the inspection summary and observation form data from all of the Produce Farm Inspections conducted in North Carolina through June 30, 2024 to determine the top 5 discussion points with North Carolina produce growers and what citation of the Produce Safety Rule the discussion surrounded. This data has proven to be helpful when planning for future educational initiatives and has been and will continue to be directly shared with growers through presentations so they can have further understanding of where to make improvements/prepare for their inspection. The top 5 discussions points with North Carolina produce growers include: 1) Subpart L, 112.123: What general requirements apply regarding equipment and tools subject to this subpart?; 2) Subpart K, 112.113: How must I handle harvested covered produce during covered activities?; 3) Subpart L, 112.140: Under this subpart, what requirements apply regarding records?; 4) Subpart L, 112.130: What requirements apply for hand-washing facilities?; and 5) Subpart O, 112.161: What general requirements apply to records required under this part?.



State Update Report North Carolina

Department of Agriculture

C. Other information you would like to share?

The top 5 discussions points with North Carolina produce growers were about citation: 1) Subpart L, 112.123: What general requirements apply regarding equipment and tools subject to this subpart?; 2) Subpart K, 112.113: How must I handle harvested covered produce during covered activities?; 3) Subpart L, 112.140: Under this subpart, what requirements apply regarding records?; 4) Subpart L, 112.130: What requirements apply for hand-washing facilities?; and 5) Subpart C, 112.30: Under this subpart, what requirements apply regarding records?.

Also, during the past year, NCDA&CS Produce Safety Program has seen immense success with easily scheduling inspections due to the positive relationships the Program has built with influential produce farmers in the state. We are happy to report that we are building our name as a reputable resource for produce farmers to utilize to learn more about the Produce Safety Rule and farms are seeking produce farm inspections. With ample educational opportunities, farms feel prepared for inspections, and we are hearing positive feedback from the produce community here in North Carolina about Produce Safety Rule implementation. Additionally, through our continued commitment to hosting exhibit booths, conducting outreach attempts, and providing presentations at a variety of grower events and gatherings in NC we have seen terrific benefits in building connections with the produce growing community in NC. We have made connections with growers and learned about farms being sold, changing ownership, and siblings/children expanding the business to start their own farm which has helped us stay up to date with our inventory.

State Update Report Oklahoma

Department of Agriculture

Program Area	Responsible Party
1.) CAP Project Designation	Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry
<u>Status Update</u>	Oklahoma is a Path C state with our own authority. We have 14 covered farms.
2.) PSA Grower Training	Oklahoma State University
<u>Status Update</u>	Since 2018 we have hosted 55 PSA classes training 769 people. IFAI has also hosted several classes in our state.
3.) OFRR	ODAFF and OSU
<u>Status Update</u>	Majority of farm visits are on-site technical assistance.
4.) Inspection	Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry
<u>Status Update</u>	We inspect 50% of covered inventory annually.
5.) State Rule Making	Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry
<u>Status Update</u>	Adopted the rule by reference and wrote a definition for Adulterated.
6.) Farm Visits	ODAFF and OSU
<u>Status Update</u>	A local consultant is working with a large group of exempt farms to get a Group GAP program going. This could result in some of the farms no longer being exempt/qualified exempt and therefore we are doing farm visits with this consultant to educate/prepare the farms for potential inspection. Many farm visits in the next couple years may be due to this group of farms.

State Update Report Oklahoma

Department of Agriculture

A. Metrics of quantitative success:

Number of trainings provided?	55
Number of growers reached?	769
Development of materials	We are currently working on learning the water rule to be able to teach on it.
Publications	We have our outreach brochure, booklet, and postcard that we keep up to date to educate on the PSR and collect farm inventory. OSU has worked with other universities to develop example food safety plans for specific commodities.
Presentations given at educational event	We presented on produce safety topics at 9 events in the last fiscal year. Two of those educational talks were on farm tours, four educational presentations at local agriculture conferences hosted by the OU Health Science Center Nutrition Education program and our own agency, and we were also asked to present at a few homesteading events. The estimated attendance at these educational presentations is about 250 people. The local agriculture conferences have begun a focus on soil health, and therefore they have been asking us to talk about the different types of soil amendments and the effect on produce safety.

C. Other information you would like to share?

Last year OSU was able to work with a translator and teach a class for Hmong growers so that they would be able to meet the requirements of our LFPA program to be able to sell to food banks and schools. Our LFPA program requires that they also register with us, so that boosted our inventory from farms that previously were avoiding registering.

State Update Report South Carolina

Department of Agriculture

Program Area	Responsible Party
1.) CAP Project Designation	South Carolina Department of Agriculture (SCDA)
<u>Status Update</u>	South Carolina is a Path C State.
2.) PSA Grower Training	SCDA, Clemson Extension
<u>Status Update</u>	To date, we have hosted 40 PSA grower trainings. We have trained a total of 579 individuals. SCDA has a lead trainer on staff and hosts the trainings with assistance from our partners at Clemson University Extension and Carolina Farm Stewardship Association. We host a mixture of both in-person and remote trainings.
3.) OFRR	SCDA
<u>Status Update</u>	We have completed a total of 21 OFRRs. All farms are given an opportunity to have an OFRR completed prior to their initial inspection. The OFRRs are completed by our Outreach staff.



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4.) Inspection	SCDA
<u>Status Update</u>	We conduct inspections at a rate of 20% covered farms annually. Our program is on track to complete all initial inspections by 2026.
5.) State Rule	SCDA
<u>Making Status Update</u>	We have state authority for the enforcement of the Produce Safety Rule through the South Carolina Produce Safety Act which was passed in May 2017.
6.) Other	SCDA
<u>Status Update</u>	During the off-season, we conduct farm visits to verify farms that have been unresponsive. These visits are to inform the farms of the Produce Safety Rule, to determine their coverage under the Produce Safety Rule, and to gather the necessary verification data points.

A. Metrics of quantitative success:

Number of trainings provided?	40
Number of growers reached?	579 Individuals Trained
Development of materials	Coverage Brochure Compliance Dates Flyer Grower Training Flyer Produce Safety Resource Guide Water Labs in SC Worker Training Resources for Farmers Produce Safety Resource Flash Drive
Presentations given at educational event	141 events attended including: SE Regional F&V Conference, SC Farm Bureau, Commodity Field Days, Commodity board meetings, Certified SC Grown Showcase, Pre-Season Clemson Extension meetings, GAP workshops, among many more.

State Update Report South Carolina

Department of Agriculture

C. Other information you would like to share?

Some other work and achievements we have found helpful throughout the implementation of the produce safety rule in our state:

1. Writing and developing a Produce Safety Resource Guide. It is a 68-page booklet that has streamlined our previous resources into one handout. It makes it easier for growers to make sure they get all the information they need when talking with us at outreach events.
2. Developing an exemption application process. We have been using our exemption application process since we developed it in 2017. We continue to improve the process to meet the needs of our program, but also make it easier for our growers. Since implementation we have created an online portal for growers to apply and have recently converted the program to be a 3-year cycle instead of growers having to apply annually.
3. Annual on-farm training for all employees. In early spring each year, we schedule a day for our whole team to go on farm and review best practices, hold mock inspections (for new employees), review stop sale and other enforcement procedures, and plan for the upcoming inspection season.
4. Grower testimony video. This video can be found on our website, www.scproducesafety.com. We interviewed one of our growers and got his testimony on his experience with OFRRs and inspections.
5. Involvement with the AFDO Produce Safety Committee. Being involved with both AFDO and AFDOSS has been a tremendous resource and has greatly helped our team grow, learn, and make connections.
6. Involvement with NASDA workgroups. Being involved with NASDA workgroups throughout the years has given us a chance to help shape the produce safety program implementation and connect with other states.

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State Update Report Tennessee

Department of Agriculture

Program Area	Responsible Party
1.) CAP Project Designation	Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA)
<u>Status Update</u>	Tennessee is classified as a Path B state, conducting Produce Safety (PS) inspections under FDA authority. A subaward is in place with the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (UTIA) to support outreach and education efforts.
2.) PSA Grower Training	TDA and University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (UTIA)
<u>Status Update</u>	Tennessee has conducted a total of 17 Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) grower trainings under the current CAP, including 7 sessions in Year 3 (Y3). At least six trainings are scheduled for Year 4 (Y4). UTIA hosts and organizes these sessions, with Produce Safety Team members teaching several modules. Two team members are PSA Trainer-certified, while UTIA has at least five staff, including extension agents, who can provide training—two of whom are Lead Trainer-certified. Training options include: In-person training: One full day (8 hours). Virtual training: Two half-day sessions (4 hours each). Some virtual sessions are conducted jointly with Virginia Tech.

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Department of Agriculture

3.) OFRR

Status Update

TDA/UTIA

TDA has completed 12 OFRR. Majority of OFRRs are conducted with both a PS Inspector and UTIA Personnel or an Extension Agent. Farmers are able to request for OFRR through calling or emailing TDA. We also offer OFRR for farms who are scheduled to have their initial inspection.

4.) Inspection

Status Update

TDA

Tennessee has completed 32 inspections under the current CAP, including 12 conducted in Y3. The state is on track to meet its inspection goals by June 2025.

As a Path B state, all inspections are conducted under FDA authority. Tennessee currently has three FDA-credentialed inspectors authorized to conduct these inspections.

5.) State Rule Making

Status Update

TDA Legal Staff

TDA has not pursued any changes to the adoption of the PSR since program started.

6.) Farm Visits

Status Update

TDA

Tennessee has conducted a total of 26 for the current CAP, of which 13 were conducted in Y3. These farm visits are distinct from OFRR or Farm Verifications.

State Update Report Tennessee

Department of Agriculture

A. Metrics of quantitative success:

Number of trainings provided?

In addition to PSA Grower Trainings, Tennessee conducted 16 other trainings in Y3 on topics such as Agricultural Water Treatment, Worker Health and Hygiene, Postharvest Cleaning and Sanitation, Recordkeeping, and Produce Safety 101. UTIA led these sessions, which were offered in person or virtually, with a total of 300 participants.

Number of growers reached?

A total of 128 participants completed PSA training in Y3, representing a diverse group of farmers, food safety managers, office employees, extension agents, and regulators. Approximately 34 Tennessee farms were represented in these sessions. Additionally, Tennessee provided 96 technical assistances outside of OFRRs in Y3.

Number of packers reached?

Most of the farms in TN are small or family owned that they do their own packing.

Development of materials

Educational Materials: Posters, trifold brochures ("Tennessee's Produce Safety Program"), and a bilingual booklet titled "Best Basic Practices for Growing, Harvesting, and Handling Produce in the Field and the Packinghouse."

Promotional Materials: Ads in Home & Farm Magazine.

Giveaways: Magnetic boards, measuring cups and spoons, cooling towels, collapsible bowls, vegetable brushes, stress balls, and hot/cold packs.

Presentations given at educational event

Farmers Market Managers Meeting, Farmers Market Vendor Meetings, Fruit and Vegetable Association Conferences, Beginning Farmers School

State Update Report Tennessee

Department of Agriculture

C. Other information you would like to share?

Starting in Year 3 (Y3), UTIA launched social media accounts on Instagram and Facebook dedicated to sharing weekly Produce Safety Tips. Over the course of Y3, they published 161 tips across both platforms, garnering several thousand engagements.

To further encourage farmer participation in training sessions, the Produce Safety Team secured a Specialty Crop Block Grant. This grant enables the procurement of training materials not covered by CAP funding.

State Update Report Texas

Department of Agriculture

Program Area	Responsible Party
1.) PSA Grower Training	Texas Department of Agriculture Office of Produce Safety (TOPS)
<u>Status Update</u>	Path C state
2.) OFRR	TDA Coordinates with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and Texas Tech University to conduct PSA Grower Training
<u>Status Update</u>	The TOPS Outreach Specialist works closely with producers to identify PSA Grower Training needs. At a minimum, TOPS, in coordination with our educational partners, conducts at least one virtual training a quarter. Due to the size of the state and the reduction of CAP funding, the virtual training option has proven to be a more efficient and cost-effective method of delivering the training. TOPS outreach specialists participate by conducting Module 1 of the training and are available throughout the training to answer questions related to the Program or regulatory concerns.
3.) Inspection	Texas Department of Agriculture
<u>Status Update</u>	TOPS conducts on-farm Consultations, which are available for all covered farms. Since the beginning of the program, we have conducted 53 on-farm Consultations. These consultations are documented and recorded, and the farm is expected to address any issues noted and submit a corrective action plan. TOPS on-farm consultation was developed to expand key areas of the PSA grower's training and the expectations of the PSR to the individual needs of a covered farm. Farms participating in on-farm consultation activities have few to no "non-complaint" issues with the PSR.
4.) State Rule Making	Texas Department of Agriculture
<u>Status Update</u>	TDA has conducted 239 inspections to date.

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5.) Verification and Validation

Texas Department of Agriculture

Status Update

TOPS continues to verify and validate the status of all farms growing covered produce.

6.) Farm Visits

Texas Department of Agriculture

Status Update

Since the program's inception, TDA has worked with 5,508 farms and conducted 239 inspections. Farm visits are for verification, education/outreach, inspections, or to address complaints.

C. Other information you would like to share?

TDA is a pilot state for the Produce Regulatory Program Standards. TDA works very closely with the Texas Rapid Response Team. We participate in developing the Response Operating Guide, response to outbreaks in Texas, and response to hurricanes and other natural disasters.



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State Update Report Virginia

Department of Agriculture

Program Area	Responsible Party
1.) CAP Project Designation	VDACS
<u>Status Update</u>	Path C, Regulatory Band 7, Education Band 4
2.) PSA Grower Training	Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE)
<u>Status Update</u>	Trainings are coordinated by Virginia Cooperative Extension through a grant sub-award and MOU. VDACS employees have completed the PSA train-the-trainer course and try to assist with teaching course modules during in-person classes. VCE has moved to a mostly virtual PSA course offering. There are currently: -One PSA Trainer of Trainers (TOT) from Virginia Tech -Two PSA Lead Trainers (includes the TOT) from Virginia Tech -23 PSA Trainers from Virginia Tech/Virginia Cooperative Extension -Two PSA Trainers from VDACS This has been a successful collaboration for everyone involved. A total of 46 PSA Grower Trainings (1139 participants) have been held to date.
3.) OFRR	Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE)
<u>Status Update</u>	A total of 78 OFRRs have been completed. VDACS began regulatory inspections for very-small covered farms on May 1, 2021 and the entire OFRR program was then turned over to VCE. While VDACS conducts regulatory inspections, Virginia Tech extension can conduct OFRRs on farms that have not yet been inspected or new farms that are now growing covered produce or considering growing covered produce. Funding for OFRRs has been added to the grant sub-award and MOU with VCE.

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Department of Agriculture

4.) Inspection

VDACS

Status Update

A total of 95 inspections were completed in YR3. This is broken down into 47 large farms, 16 small farms, and 32 very small farms. We had 2 full-time inspectors in YR3 and a 3rd inspector was hired on in August of 2024. A productivity target of 55 inspections per person has been set for annual evaluation purposes. A total of 66 inspections have already been conducted in YR4. We have exceeded the FDA minimum 20% target set forth in Objective 5 of the FOA. We also partner with FDA and conduct joint sprout inspections.

5.) State Rule Making

VDACS

Status Update

Legislation was introduced in 2017 after a jurisdictional self-assessment revealed that our Program did not have clear regulatory authority on the state level to enforce the Produce Safety Rule through the current Virginia Food Laws. Senate Bill No. 1195 was introduced to the 2017 General Assembly and would amend the Code of Virginia by adding to Title 3.2 a chapter numbered 51.1, consisting of 6 sections numbered 3.2-5146 through 3.2-5156, relating to produce safety. Specifically, SB1195 prohibits certain farms from violating the federal regulations that set minimum standards for the safe growing, harvesting, packing, and holding of fruits and vegetables. The bill authorizes the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services to adopt regulations to carry out the purposes of the law and gives the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services free access at reasonable hours to certain farms to inspect the farms and take samples. The Commissioner or his/her agents are also authorized to seize certain produce if determined to be grown, kept, or exposed for sale or held in violation of federal regulations or state law, and the bill provides a court process by which the seizure may be contested. The Bill was signed by the Governor on March 16, 2017 and became law effective July 1, 2017. Please see Code of Virginia, Title 3.2, Chapter 51.1 Produce Safety §3.2-5146 through §3.2-5156.

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6.) Farm Visits

VDACS

Status Update

A total of 245 visits were completed in YR3 and 102 visits have already been conducted in YR4. These visits were to determine coverage or exemption under the PSR and to verify farm inventory numbers.

7.) Covered Farms

VDACS

Status Update

174 total covered (66 large, 28 small, 80 very small)
190 QE
759 micro excluded
197 RCR
47 CPEX

8.) Staff

VDACS

Status Update

1 Program Supervisor/PI and 3 Inspectors
It should be noted that each inspector is responsible for education/outreach, farm inventory, visits and inspections in his/her assigned geographic region.

State Update Report Virginia

Department of Agriculture

A. Metrics of quantitative success:

In FY 2024 (YR3), the VDACS Produce Safety Program (PSP) also:

Continued to build and focus on the internal produce farm inventory database and verification of existing farm data. FDA announced in June 2021 that farm data would be used to justify future federal funding grant amounts. Farm inventory is the core of the PSP and used to determine the required number of inspections, the frequency of these inspections, staffing levels, and inspector territory assignments. This has also been the most difficult aspect of implementing the PSP since its inception in September 2016 as the farming industry is very dynamic and based on fluid market conditions, commodity demand in the marketplace, drought, crop rotation and soil conditions, and other economic and political factors. Thus, farm inventories are expected to change on a continual basis. There are currently 174 covered produce farms (down this year from 203) identified that require inspection (which includes large, small, and very small farms), with another 1193 that have been identified as exempt from the Produce Safety Rule or qualified exempt. The exempt farms will be exempt from inspection but still must comply with other components of the federal Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and the Virginia Food and Drink Law, as overseen by VDACS.

The PSP has taken numerous approaches to try and identify all covered farms in Virginia, including working with the VDACS Division of Commodity Services and Division of Marketing and Development (VA Grown Program) and VCE agents throughout the state. In FY 2024 staff contacted and met with farmers' market managers, visited farmers' markets in operation, reviewed the VA Grown shipper's directory and USDA GAP audit database, and performed territory surveillance/visits and Google searches by county and industry. The PSP has a voluntary farm registration and exemption application online portal. Farms currently in the database are able to update their farm registration information and farm demographics and print a newly implemented certificate of registration. This certificate also features the newly designed VA Grown logo, and farm registration information is shared with the VA Grown Program to mutually benefit both the regulatory and marketing/promotions functions of the agency. The certificates can be used by produce farmers to enter new retail marketplaces, farmers' markets, and food service establishments. VDACS anticipates that this partnership will have a positive impact on sales of local produce as well as

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promote the regulatory partnership and future information sharing capabilities between farmers and government. Additionally, the second aspect of this portal is an exemption application. Produce farms are also able to apply for one of several exemptions that are available under the FSMA Produce Safety Rule. Exemption certificates are issued by the system and are valid for a period of one year before the farmer will have to log back in to reapply for an exemption. A total of 51 online farm registrations and 165 online farm exemption applications were reviewed and approved in FY 2024.

The PSP worked with VCE via an existing Memorandum of Agreement to continue to conduct Produce Safety Alliance grower training courses. Five courses were held virtually in FY 2024, with a total of 123 people in attendance. This has been a successful collaboration for everyone involved. Attendees at the courses have been a mix of farm owners, farm managers, farm food safety supervisors, food safety and produce government regulators, and retail industry food safety personnel. In May 2021, the on-farm readiness review (OFRR) educational program was turned over to VCE as VDACS entered the full regulatory phase for covered farms. In FY 2024, Virginia Tech reported completing a total of 13 OFRRs.

The PSP continued to participate in various produce industry organizations and programs to provide education and outreach. Examples include the VFBF Apple and Specialty Crops Advisory Committee, VA Biological Farming Conference, and National Association of State Departments of Agriculture Produce Safety Program Consortium. Additional outreach has been conducted at multiple local farmer's market meetings and regional grower meetings. The PSP participated in a total of 33 industry-related events in FY2024. On March 26, 2024, the PSP worked with Virginia Tech and FDA to bring a "Cleaning and Sanitizing" workshop to the state and 30 growers attended to learn about best practices in the field and in their packing sheds. Another workshop is currently scheduled for December 16, 2024 in Winchester, VA.

Additionally, the PSP Program Supervisor continued to participate in the national Produce Regulatory Program Standards development committee led by NASDA, the NASDA/FDA inspection frequency workgroup, and the NASDA/FDA information sharing workgroup. In FY2024, the Virginia PSP was also selected by NASDA and FDA as one of the four initial pilot states for program standards implementation and joins Massachusetts, Texas and Colorado. All of the work conducted in

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these workgroups and meetings helps to keep the PSP in Virginia at the forefront of national implementation and programmatic development. Also, in FY2024, the Virginia PSP was selected by NASDA to participate in the national mentorship program and is the mentor state for Tennessee and their Department of Agriculture PSP.



