

FSMA Produce Safety Rule Updates & Program Updates

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This session will be an update on the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule and resources available to fruit and vegetable growers in the state from staff from UMN Extension and the MDA Produce Safety Program. Join the discussion to hear about what is new relating to the FSMA Produce Safety Rule, Good Agricultural Practices, what inspectors are seeing on farms, and new resources and projects to help farmers comply with and understand agricultural water testing requirements of the FSMA Produce Safety Rule.



Annalisa Hultberg is a statewide Extension Educator in Food Safety at the University of Minnesota, where she co-coordinates the On-Farm GAPs Education Program and has worked since 2011 providing practical, science-based farm food safety education to farmers around Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and the FSMA Produce Safety Rule. She works with small to large scale fruit and vegetable farmers, farm to school programs, food hubs, agricultural professionals, and others to provide outreach and technical assistance to ensure a safe, healthy supply of local food for all through the use of GAPs. She is the state lead for the North Central Region FSMA Training center and leads the UMN Extension's outreach efforts around the FSMA Produce Safety Rule.



Alexandra Cortes is an outreach analyst for the Produce Safety Program at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. She assists growers who have questions about what the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule means for them, along with doing other communications and outreach work for the program. Alex joined MDA in 2018 after running several farmers markets in Minneapolis, where she gained a deep appreciation for the work of Minnesota's produce growers.



Lillian Otieno, MPH, is an outreach coordinator for the Produce Safety Program at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Her work involves building relationships with produce farmers and stakeholders that reflect the diversity of Minnesota's produce farming community. Lillian has experience in food safety with corporate retail and manufacturing environments. She joined MDA in 2016 and looks forward to continuing to engage with produce farmers throughout the state.