



Nebraska Produce Safety

LABEL CAMPAIGN

FOR GROWERS

In 2011, Congress passed the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) to better protect public health by helping to ensure food safety at each step of production. FDA's Produce Safety Rule (PSR) is part of FSMA and focuses on science-based minimum standards for safe production and harvesting of fruits and vegetables grown for human consumption. As of Jan. 26, 2016, the Produce Safety Rule is in effect, and farms covered under the PSR must be compliant within a few years of this date.

Since 2016, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) has worked to develop a Nebraska produce grower inventory, provide education on the PSR, and offer On-Farm Readiness Reviews (OFRR). To date, more than 200 Nebraska produce growers are registered, over 35 farms have received training, and On-Farm Readiness Reviews have begun.

Why labels?

NDA wants to encourage growers to participate in the state's Produce Safety Program – no matter the size of the farm. These labels are a great way to show customers and potential retailers your commitment to produce safety. These labels can be placed on a business placard on your farm stand or on a sign in a store. Proudly show your commitment to produce safety!

Why do I need these labels?

It's up to you whether or not you place these labels on your produce signs. However, Nebraska retailers may require labels if you plan to sell your produce to them. Although the Produce Safety Rule is vast and covers a variety of produce safety practices and record keeping processes, it does not have a specific way for farms to provide compliance paperwork to retailers. These labels will show retailers that you are doing your part to learn about and keep current on the federal laws.

Will my farm size and status matter for the label I receive?

Only partially. Farms that are exempt and qualified exempt are not required to be inspected or participate in training. Although anyone can participate in training, not everyone can be inspected and therefore, not everyone can receive an "inspected" label. The labels are designed to look similar however, because some farms are too small to be inspected. Nebraska retailers are actively being trained in farm sizes and what they mean for the Produce Safety Rule. The labels are meant to bring all Nebraska growers together on an equal playing field.



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What does the date on the label mean?

That's the expiration date. Although farms are never removed from registration, the expiration date will encourage you to check in periodically, update any information, and verify that all of the entered data is correct. It also gives NDA a chance to provide the most up-to-date info and training, if rules change. Inspections are not yet set up on a specific schedule, but NDA plans to conduct them at least every three years. The expiration date will verify that your farm has the most current education and resources available to you.

How do I get labels?

All farms MUST be registered in our inventory to be eligible for a label. The label you receive will depend on which category you have completed. If you are not registered in our inventory, would like to receive training, or have questions, please contact Caitlyn Andrews: 402-471-2537 or caitlyn.andrews@nebraska.gov. You can also find a form on our website: nda.nebraska.gov/producesafety/produce-grower-inventory.pdf.



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