The U.S. Food and Drug Administration today (November 13, 2015) took major steps to prevent foodborne illness by finalizing rules that establish enforceable safety standards for produce farms, and make importers accountable for verifying that imported food meets U.S. safety standards. The agency also issued a rule establishing a program for the accreditation of third-party certification bodies, also known as auditors, to conduct food safety audits of foreign food facilities.

Today’s final rules, which implement the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), will help produce farmers and food importers take steps to prevent problems before they occur. They build on the preventive controls rules the FDA finalized in September 2015, which mandate modern preventive practices in food processing and storage facilities. These rules work together to systematically strengthen the food safety system and better protect public health.

The new rules released today are the Produce Safety rule, the Foreign Supplier Verification Programs (FSVP) rule, and the Accredited Third-Party Certification rule.

The Produce Safety rule establishes science-based standards for growing, harvesting, packing, and holding produce that are designed to work effectively for food safety across the wide diversity of produce farms.

The FSVP rule requires food importers to verify that foreign suppliers are producing food in a manner that meets U.S. safety standards. In 2013, the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimated that imported food accounted for about 19 percent of the U.S. food supply, including about 52 percent of the fresh fruits and 22 percent of the fresh vegetables consumed by Americans.
The GM of samples is 126 or less CFU of generic E.coli per 100 mL of water and the STV of samples is 410 CFU or less of generic E.coli in 100 mL of water.

- If the water does not meet these criteria, corrective actions are required as soon as is practical, but no later than the following year. Farmers with agricultural water that does not initially meet the microbial criteria have additional flexibility by which they can meet the criteria and then be able to use the water on their crops. These options include, for example:
  - Allowing time for potentially dangerous microbes to die off on the field by using a certain time interval between last irrigation and harvest, but no more than four consecutive days.
  - Allowing time for potentially dangerous microbes to die off between harvest and end of storage, or to be removed during commercial activities such as washing, within appropriate limits.
  - Treating the water.

For More Information

[Federal Register Notice for the Produce Safety Final Rule](https://federalregister.gov/dyngate殷for?pubnum=2016-09043)

[Federal Register Notice for the FSVP Final Rule](https://federalregister.gov/dyngate殷for?pubnum=2016-09043)

[Federal Register Notice for the Accredited Third-Party Certification Final Rule](https://federalregister.gov/dyngate殷for?pubnum=2016-09043)

[FDA Food Safety Modernization Act](https://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/ForIndustry/ucm138153.htm)
Percolation Test Certification Training

Percolation Test Certification Training will be Friday and Saturday, December 11 and 12, 2015, at Johnson County Extension Center, in Warrensburg. This course is for individuals who want to obtain certification to conduct soil percolation tests for determining soil absorption qualities of sites being considered for installation of an on-site sewage system. Instructors for the two-day event will be David Lindell, retired University Extension Agronomy Specialist and John Tharp, retired University Extension Water Quality/Community Development Specialist.

The cost of the two-day course is $160 per person. Each participant who completes the course will also need to provide a payment of $90 to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. This is in addition to the $160 course fee to Johnson County Extension. Registration will be a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 25 participants per class and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Registration is due by Tuesday, December 1, 2015. We must receive the $160 payment by registration deadline.

At the end of the training course an exam will be given by the instructors and mailed for grading by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. DHSS certification cards will be mailed to those successfully completing the exam.

The training site is upstairs at the Johnson County Extension Office, 135 W. Market Street, Warrensburg, MO 64093. For more information, please phone: 660-747-3193.

2015 Regional Corn Meeting

Wednesday, December 9, 2015
Miner Convention Center, Miner, Missouri
Registration: 8:00 a.m.  Program: 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Agenda:
8:00 a.m. – Registration, Coffee, Doughnuts
8:30 a.m. - Trailer Safety – Fred Whitford, Purdue University Extension
9:15 a.m. - Weed Management – Larry Steckel, University of Tennessee – Jackson
9:45 a.m. – Break
10:15 a.m. – High Yield Corn Management – Chad Lee, University of Kentucky
11:00 a.m. - Nitrogen Management – Peter Scharf, MU - Columbia
11:30 a.m. – Market Outlook – David Reinbott, MU Extension
12:00 p.m. - MO Corn Growers Association Policy Update
12:30 p.m. – Lunch

Industry representatives on hand to answer questions about their products.  CEU’s available.

To pre-register or if you have any questions contact Anthony Ohmes (573-243-3581) or David Reinbott (573-545-3516).
Registration for the 2015 Governor's Conference on Agriculture is open

The Missouri Governor’s Conference on Agriculture is the place where those involved in agriculture gather to build the state’s number one industry. We do this by providing an educational and entertaining lineup of sessions and events over a three-day period. Gathering together as an industry each year to discuss current and upcoming opportunities and challenges is critical to our continued success.

Discover the stories shared by Missouri farmers and ranchers: stories of tradition, opportunities and challenges on their farms. See innovative farmers working side-by-side to learn what has worked on the farm and what has not. Feast on great Missouri foods and beverages at the Taste of AgriMissouri Reception and enjoy entertainment by national country recording artist and Perryville, MO. Native, Chris Janson. This is the time we can put our heads together and get ready for another year of greatness.

Wednesday, December 16, 2015
- Taste of AgriMissouri Reception – sponsored by AgriMissouri and its members – Join us for an evening of great Missouri foods, beverages and entertainment as we kick off the 46th Missouri Governor’s Conference on Agriculture.

Thursday, December 17, 2015
- Welcome with Director of Agriculture Richard Fordyce
- State of the Industry Panel Discussion with Missouri’s commodity organization leaders
- Seven Revolutions by Scott Aughenbaugh
- Missouri Urban Agriculture Discussion with the Agribusiness Council of Kansas City and the St. Louis Agribusiness Club
- Future Agricultural Leadership Live & Silent Auction

Friday, December 18, 2015
- Missouri Youth in Agriculture presentation
- Consumer Perceptions Panel facilitated by the Center for Food Integrity
- Agriculture Awards & Recognition Banquet – recognizing the AgriMissouri Member of the Year, Farm Broadcaster of the Year, International Exporter of the Year, as well as the winners of the 2015 Missouri Agriculture Awards: Missouri Farm Innovator, Missouri Environmental Steward, Missouri Agriculture Education Leader, Missouri Agriculture Volunteer, Missouri Food Animal Veterinarian & nine Missouri Agriculture Legacy Awards.
- Missouri’s own Chris Janson country music concert.

Click here to register. agriculture.mo.gov/governor_conference
Ag Expo 2016 - Celebrating 30 Years

Friday, January 15 and Saturday, January 16, 2016
Friday 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.  Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Black River Coliseum in Poplar Bluff, Missouri

- Over 118 Agriculture Exhibits
- 4-H/FFA public Speaking Contest (Friday 4:00pm)
- Milking Contest (Friday 5:30pm)
- Duck Calling Contest (Friday 6:00pm)
- Toy Tractor Pedal Pull Contest (4-5yr Friday 6:00pm; 6-7yr Friday 7:00pm; 8-9yr Saturday 10:30am)
- FFA Tractor Driving Contest (Saturday 9:00am)
- Old Time Auction (Saturday 12 noon)
- Baking Contest
- Ag Photography Contest
- Petting Farm
- Entertainment

Education
- Private Applicator Training (Friday 2:00 –5:00pm)
- Grain Bin Safety (Friday 5:00 –6:00pm)
- Soil Fertility for Forage (Friday 6:15 –7:15pm)
- Kids Garden Adventure (Saturday 9:00am)
- Youth Farm Safety Education (Saturday 12:00 –2:00pm)

Beauty Pageant
Saturday, January 16
Pre register $30 at 573-686-8064

- 9:30am Baby Girl (birth to 12 month)
- 10:00am Toddler Girl (1st birthday to 23 month)
- 10:30am Petite Miss (2 to 4)
- 11:00am Tiny Miss (5 to 7)
- 11:30am Little Miss Ag Expo (8 to 12)
- 12 noon Junior Miss Ag Expo (13 to 15)
- 12:30 Miss Ag Expo (16 to 20)

If you are interested in a booth at Ag Expo please call 573-686-8064 for more information.
Growing Farm Entrepreneurs

*Practical Knowledge For Farmers to Improve Economics of Farming Operations*

Taught by University of Missouri Regional Specialists

**December 10 - Reducing Costs in Cattle Production:** Covering AI vs. natural service in cattle, basic economics and grazing methods.

Each session is from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the Iron County Health Department, 606 West Russel Street in Ironton.

*Please RSVP. Each session will last for approximately 3 hours.*

*Cost: $10 per session (Original cost $35 but $25 discount is made possible through various funding sources.)*

*RSVP by calling the Iron County Extension Center at 573-546-7515.*
RAY ARCHULETA

Ray is a conservation agronomist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Greensboro, NC. He teaches soil health and the principles of agroecology throughout the country. He has 25 years of experience working with NRCS in New Mexico, Missouri, Oregon and North Carolina. He is also a Certified Professional Soil Scientist with Soil Science Society of America. His infectious enthusiasm for soil health has earned him the nickname, “Ray, the Soils Guy”. He has a B.S in Agricultural Biology.

BARRY FISHER

Barry serves as the Central Region Leader for the National Soil Health Division of NRCS. He has 34 years of experience with USDA where he provides leadership and technical exchange for soil health management strategies, training and assistance to employees, farmers and partners throughout the Corn Belt and Northern Plains. He assists with state and regional initiatives which advances the technology of quality no-till, cover crops, adaptive nutrient and pest management, and crop rotations with precision technology. Barry and his wife operate a cash grain and livestock farm in West Central Indiana. He has a B.S. in Agriculture from Western Kentucky University.

Thursday, December 10, 2015
Miner Convention Center
Sikeston, MO

AGENDA

8:00 Registration
9:00 Doug Peterson - Rain Simulator Demo
10:15 Break
10:30 Ray Archuletta
12:00 Lunch provided
1:00 Local Producer Panel
2:15 Break
2:30 Barry Fisher
3:30 Ray Archuletta
Q and A for all speakers

RSVP for lunch by Thursday, December 3 - call (573) 624-5939 x3
Future Meetings & Events -

Watermelon Meeting - December 2, 2015, the American Legion in Kennett, MO from 8 am to Noon. Contact Butler County extension center at 573-686-8064 to register.

Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer Sale - December 5, 2015. Fruitland Livestock Auction at 1:00 p.m. For information or catalog contact Erin Larimore (573) 243-3581, LarimoreE@missouri.edu or visit www.semobeef.com

Missouri Regional Corn Meeting - December 9, 2015, Miner Convention Center in Miner, MO with registration at 8 am. Contact Anthony Ohmes 573-243-3581 or David Reinbott 573-545-3516 to register.

Soil Health Clinic – December 10, 2015. Miner Convention Center – Sikeston, MO. NRCS program sponsored by the Delta Soil Health Alliance. RSVP by December 3, 2015 by calling NRCS (573) 624-5939 ext. 3.

Missouri Regional Soybean Meeting - January 12, 2015, Miner Convention Center in Miner, MO with registration at 8 am. Contact Anthony Ohmes 573-243-3581 or David Reinbott 573-545-3516 to register.

Great Plains Growers Conference and Trade Show - January 7, 8 & 9, 2016, Missouri Western State University, St. Joseph, MO. For information on vegetable, fruit, cut flower and includes an educational program consisting of 5-concurrent sessions featuring conventional and organic production and marketing of horticultural crops.

MO Rice Production Conference - Wednesday, February 17, 2016. Malden Community Center, Business HWY 25 in Malden, MO from 8 am to noon. Lunch is provided.

Commodities and markets - http://extension.missouri.edu/scott/crop-budgets.aspx
Farm Bill - http://extension.missouri.edu/scott/Farm-bill.aspx

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