

# Produce Safety Alaska Program Updates

SARE Conference  
February 20, 2020

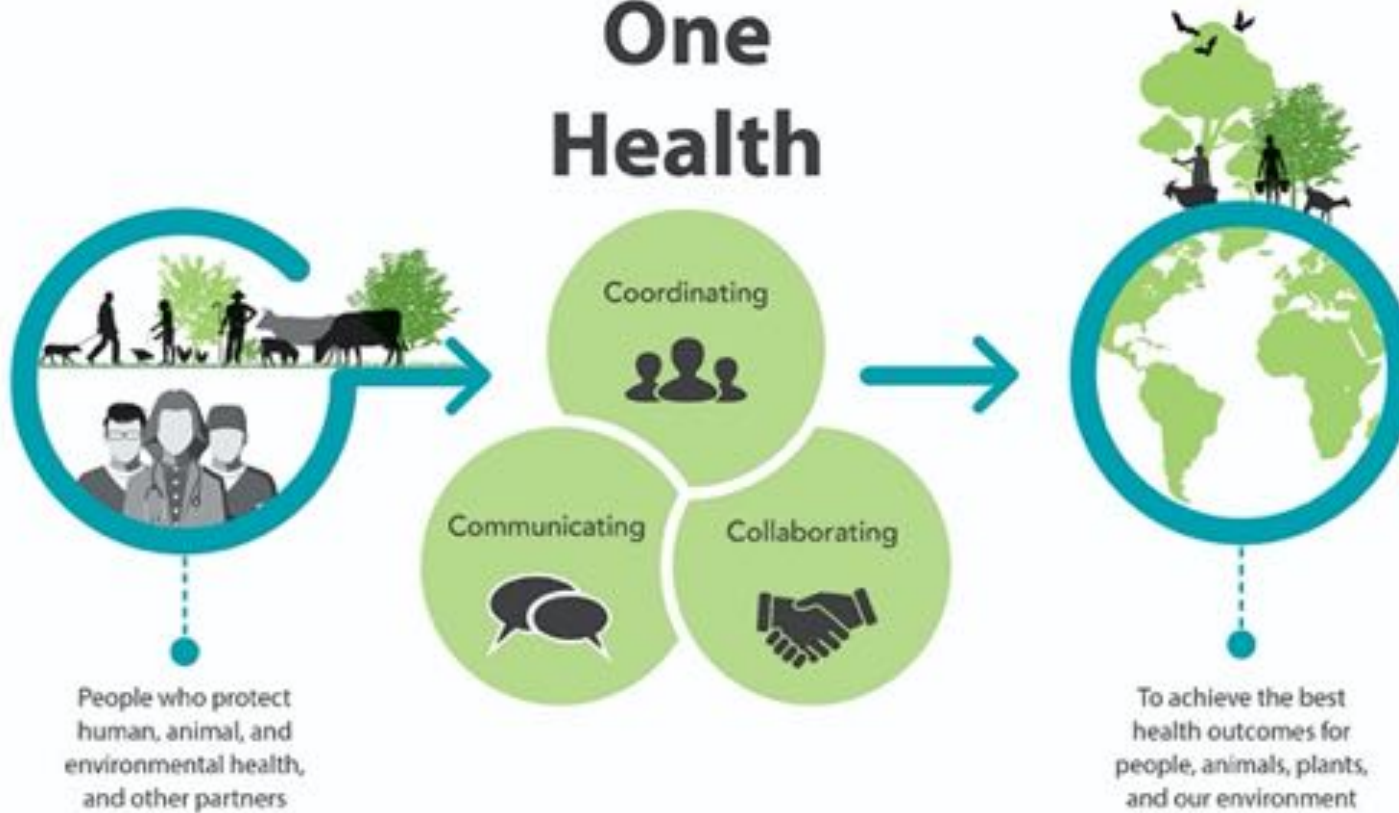
Sarah Coburn, DVM, MS  
Assistant State Veterinarian  
Department of Environmental Conservation



# Overview

- One Health
- FSMA Produce Safety Rule
- Inspection update
- Alaska Produce Safety Program
- Upcoming opportunities

# One Health



CS302345-A



Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention  
National Center for Emerging and  
Zoonotic Infectious Diseases



# In the News



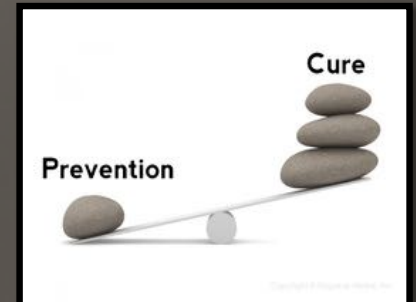
**Don't eat romaine lettuce, CDC cautions after E. coli outbreak**

[NBCNews.com](https://www.nbcnews.com/health/food-drugs/story/nbc-news-cdc-caution-romaine-lettuce-e-coli-outbreak-2018-11-20) - Nov 20, 2018

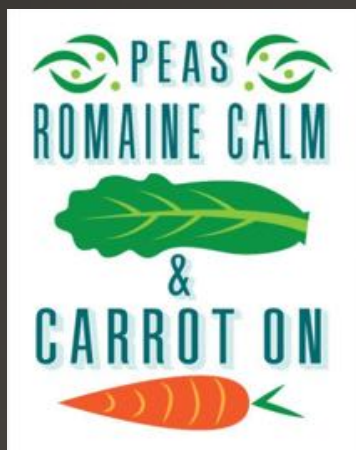
# Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) 2011

## Produce Safety Rule 2015

- Focus on Prevention vs. Response
- First ever mandatory federal standard for the growing, harvesting, packing, and holding of fresh produce



# Who's covered, who's not



## Exempt

- <\$25,00 produce
- No regulations

## Qualified Exempt

- Sales \$25,000 to <\$500,000 and majority sales to end user.
- Requirements:
  - Provide name and address where produce was grown
  - Maintain sales records for 3 years

## Fully Covered

- >\$500,000 food sales or majority of sales to a distributor
- Regulations pertaining to:
  - Worker Health and Training
  - Soil Amendments
  - Wildlife, Animal, and Land Use
  - Water Quality
  - Post-Harvest Handling and Sanitation

# Farms Eligible for a “Qualified Exemption”

- Qualified Exempt Farms Have Two Requirements
  1. **Provide name and address where produce was grown**
    - On the label
    - Point of purchase
    - On the invoice
  2. **Maintain sales records for 3 years**

Form for Qualified Exemption

Enter total food sales over the previous 3 years:

\_\_\_\_\_) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Enter sales to qualified end users (E.g. consumers, grocery stores, and restaurants) within the same state or Indian reservation

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$ _____	+	\$ _____ x 100	=	_____ %
Sales to qualified end users		Average sales		Percent sales to qualified end users

As of January 1, 2020, label requirements are in effect.

Business Size	 Compliance Dates for Sprouts	 Compliance Dates For Most Produce	 Water Related Compliance Dates <sup>1</sup>	Compliance Date for Qualified Exemption Labeling Requirement <sup>2</sup>	Compliance Date for Retention of Records Supporting a Qualified Exemption
All other businesses (>\$500K)	1/26/17	1/26/18	1/26/22	1/1/2020	1/26/16
Small businesses (>\$250K-500K) <sup>3</sup>	1/26/18	1/28/19	1/26/23		
Very small businesses (>\$25K-250K) <sup>4</sup>	1/28/19	1/27/20	1/26/24		

January 1, 2020

Label requirements in effect for Qualified Exempt farms



# Inspections

- Started in 2019 for Large Farms
- Domestic and international
- Educational
- Collaborative
- Standardized approach across the country
- Many compliance issues able to be corrected voluntarily

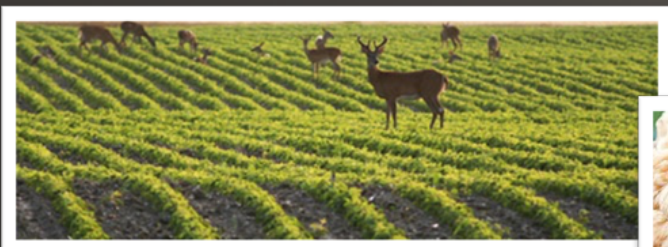


# Alaska Produce Safety Program

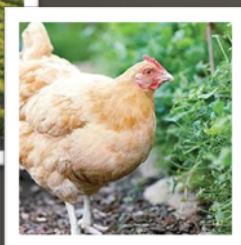
- Department of Environmental Conservation
  - Division of Environmental Health
    - Office of the State Veterinarian
- FDA
- NASDA
- Cooperative Extension
- Produce Safety Alliance
- Food Safety and Sanitation



# Everyone can use Good Practices



Animals and Land Use



Water



Postharvest Handling and Sanitation



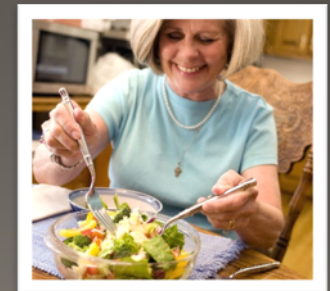
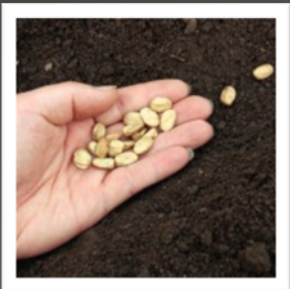
Soil Amendments



Worker Training, Health and Hygiene

# Program Activities

- Education and Outreach
- Grower Trainings
- On-Farm Readiness Reviews
- Inspections of Covered Farms





# On-Farm Readiness Review

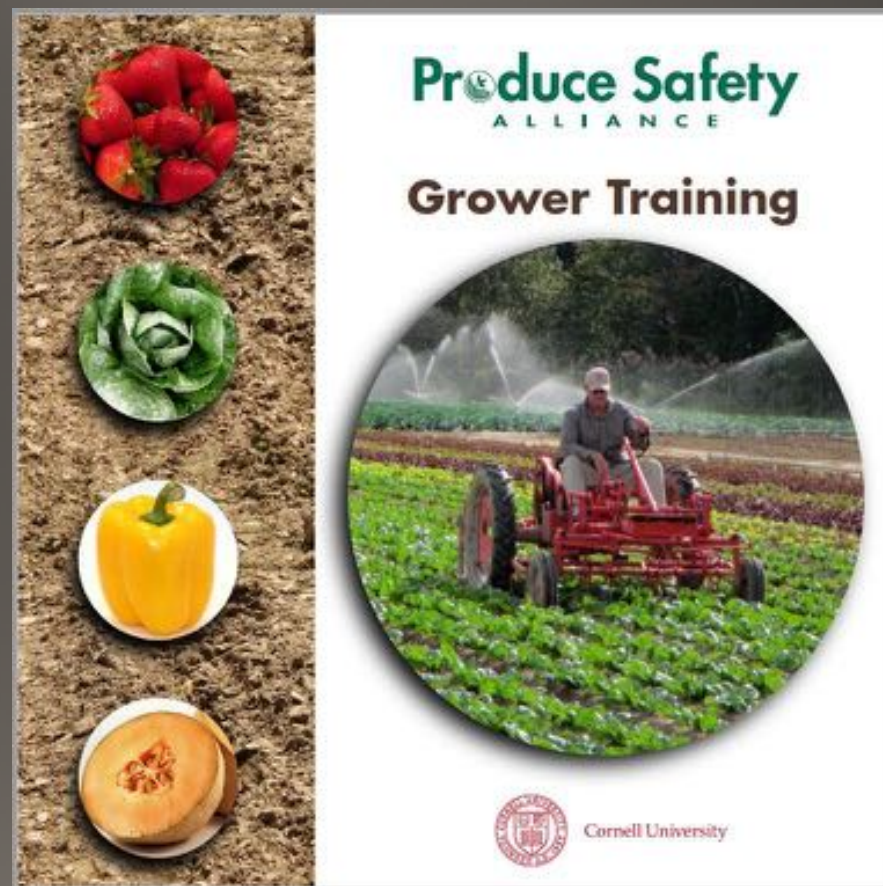
- Pre-inspection farm evaluation
- OSV and Cooperative Extension
- Discuss potential food safety risks
- Voluntary
- Non-regulatory
- Any grower can request
- Call Office of the State Veterinarian





# Grower Trainings 2017-2019

- 225 participants
- 17 trainings
- No charge
- Every grower is welcome



# *Attention Produce Growers!*

The State of Alaska is hosting a *Produce Safety Alliance* Grower Training. This FDA-approved course satisfies the Grower Training curriculum requirements under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule.

## Saturday February 23



Connie Fisk, PhD  
Produce Safety Alliance

**There is still time to sign up!**

**Please contact:**

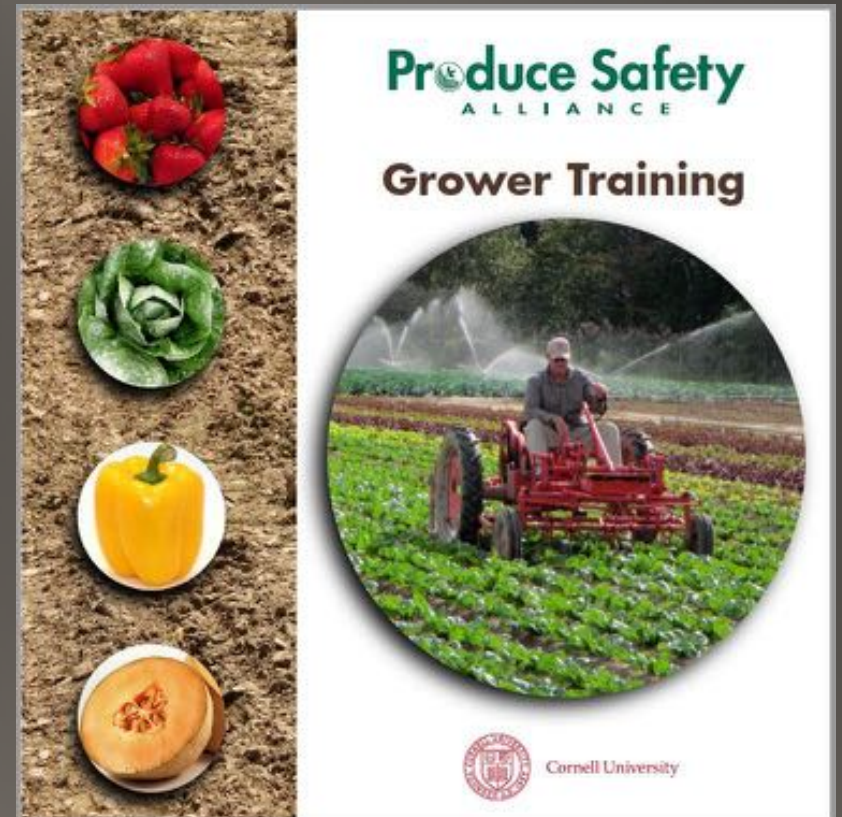
**Sarah Coburn or Dena Cologgi**

**[dena.cologgi@alaska.gov](mailto:dena.cologgi@alaska.gov)**

**[sarah.coburn@alaska.gov](mailto:sarah.coburn@alaska.gov)**

# Upcoming Trainings

- Juneau
  - March 19, 2020
- Haines
  - March 22, 2020
- Soldotna
  - April 18, 200



# In Summary

- One Health
- Food Safety is important for everyone
- Many opportunities to be involved
- Resources and technical assistance is available



<https://dec.alaska.gov/eh/vet/>





**Sarah Coburn, DVM, MS**

*sarah.coburn@alaska.gov*

*(907) 375-8213*

<http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/vet/index.htm>