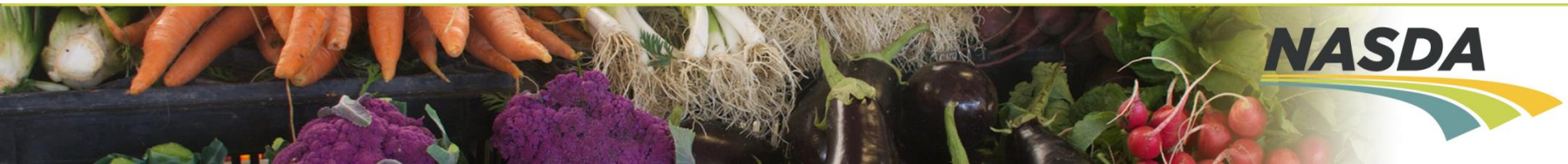


On-Farm Readiness Reviews

- What is the OFRR
- OFRR training update
- OFRR national survey use
- Overall preparedness of farms
- Overall needs assessment of farms
- Use of the survey data



On-Farm Readiness Reviews

Review of survey data collected by Rutgers University and shared with states by NASDA

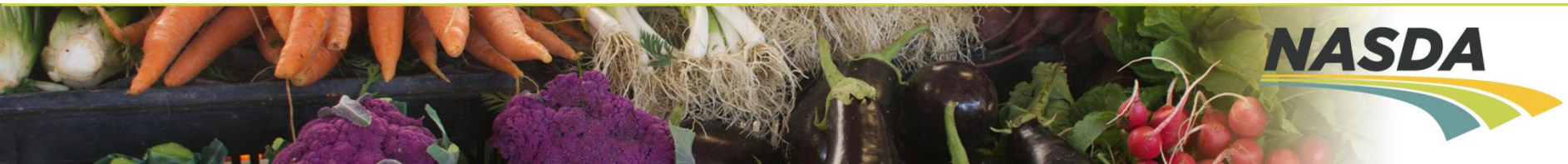
Bob Ehart,

Senior policy & science advisor NASDA

&

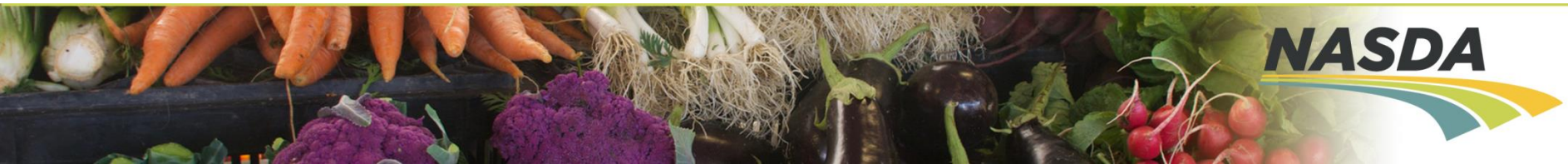
Meredith Melendez,

Agricultural Agent, Rutgers Coop Extension



History of OFRR

- Ensure technical assistance and educational on-farm engagement prior to inspection
- Engagement of expertise amongst Extension, states, and federal partners to develop the OFRR concept, tools, and training materials
- Support the educate before we regulate approach
- Reference to the established framework document which outlined the OFRR concept



On-Farm Readiness Review Partners



Extension



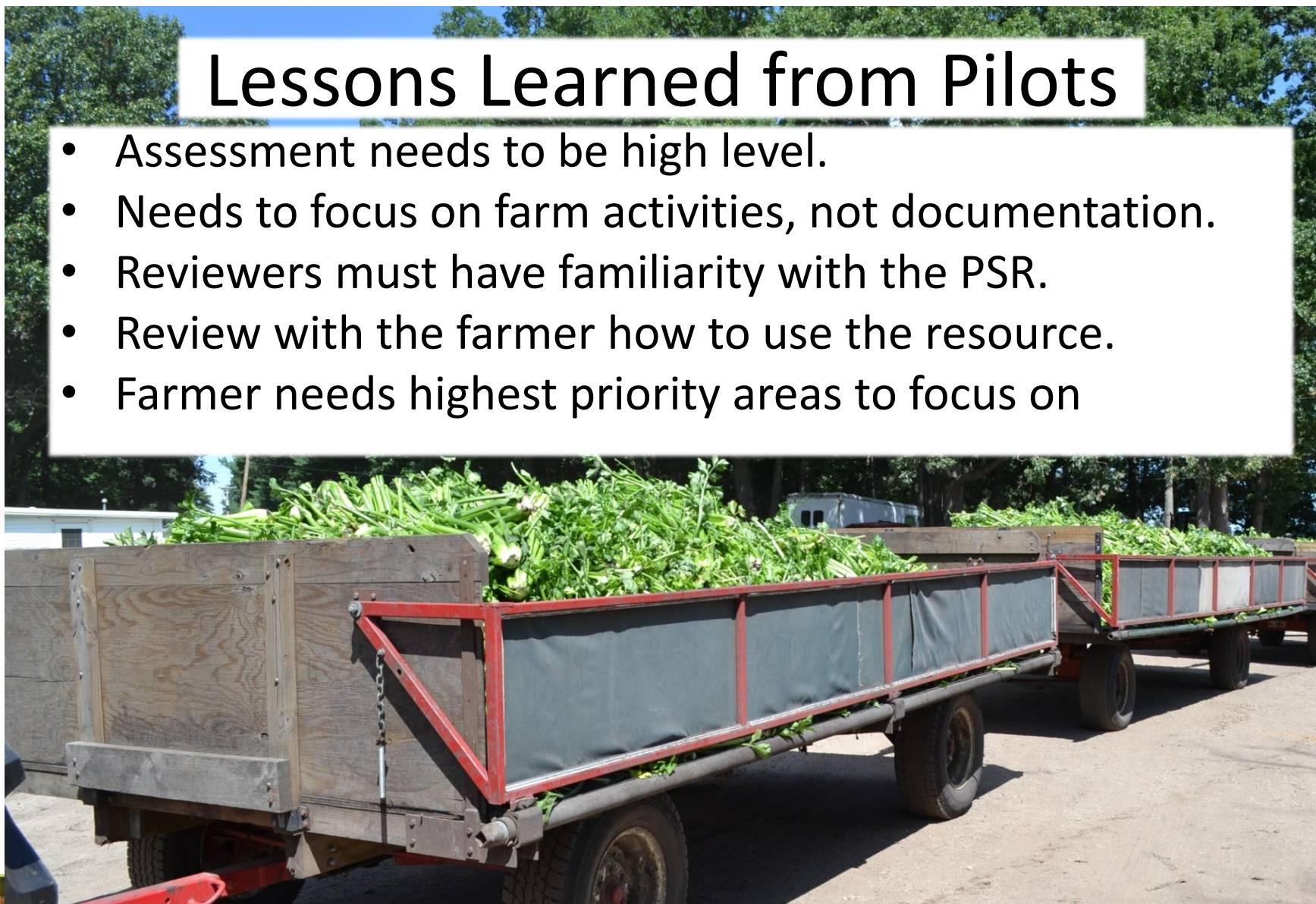
History of OFRR

- Tested with farmers, 2016 - 2017.
- Sought feedback from farmers, inspection staff, extension, and others.



Lessons Learned from Pilots

- Assessment needs to be high level.
- Needs to focus on farm activities, not documentation.
- Reviewers must have familiarity with the PSR.
- Review with the farmer how to use the resource.
- Farmer needs highest priority areas to focus on



Why Might a Farmer Want an OFRR?

- It is voluntary and free.
- It helps align what they're doing to what's required in the rule.
- It helps them figure out what they're missing.
- It provides personalized discussion on their farm food safety activities.
- Notes taken by the farmer remain the property of the farmer.
- It will improve the farmer's readiness for a PSR inspection.



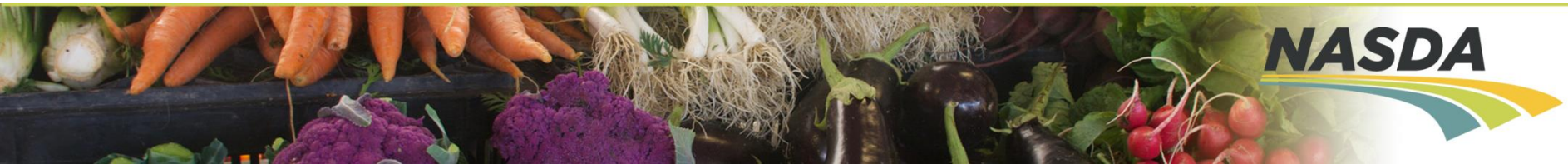
Difference Between Audits and Inspections

Audit

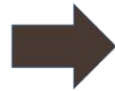
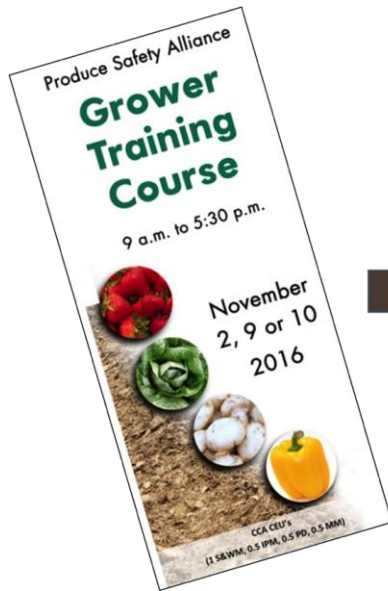
- Market driven
- Usually points based
- Annual
- Farmer defines the scope within the audit scheme
- Consequences of failure could be loss of sales
- Fee based

PSR Inspection

- Regulatory
- NOT points based
- May or may not be annual
- Regulator defines the scope within the PSR
- Consequences of failure may be a fine, recall or closure
- No cost



Potential Steps to Compliance



**Follow-up
Technical
Assistance**



**Inspection
Ready**

PSA Grower Training Course is a prerequisite!



On Farm Readiness Review

- **Not points based**
- **Happens once (in most cases)**
- **Covers whole farm**
- **Covers critical areas of the farm**



OFRR Resource Document Modules

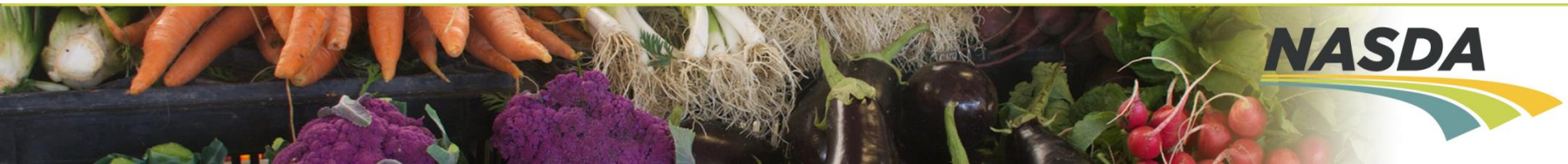
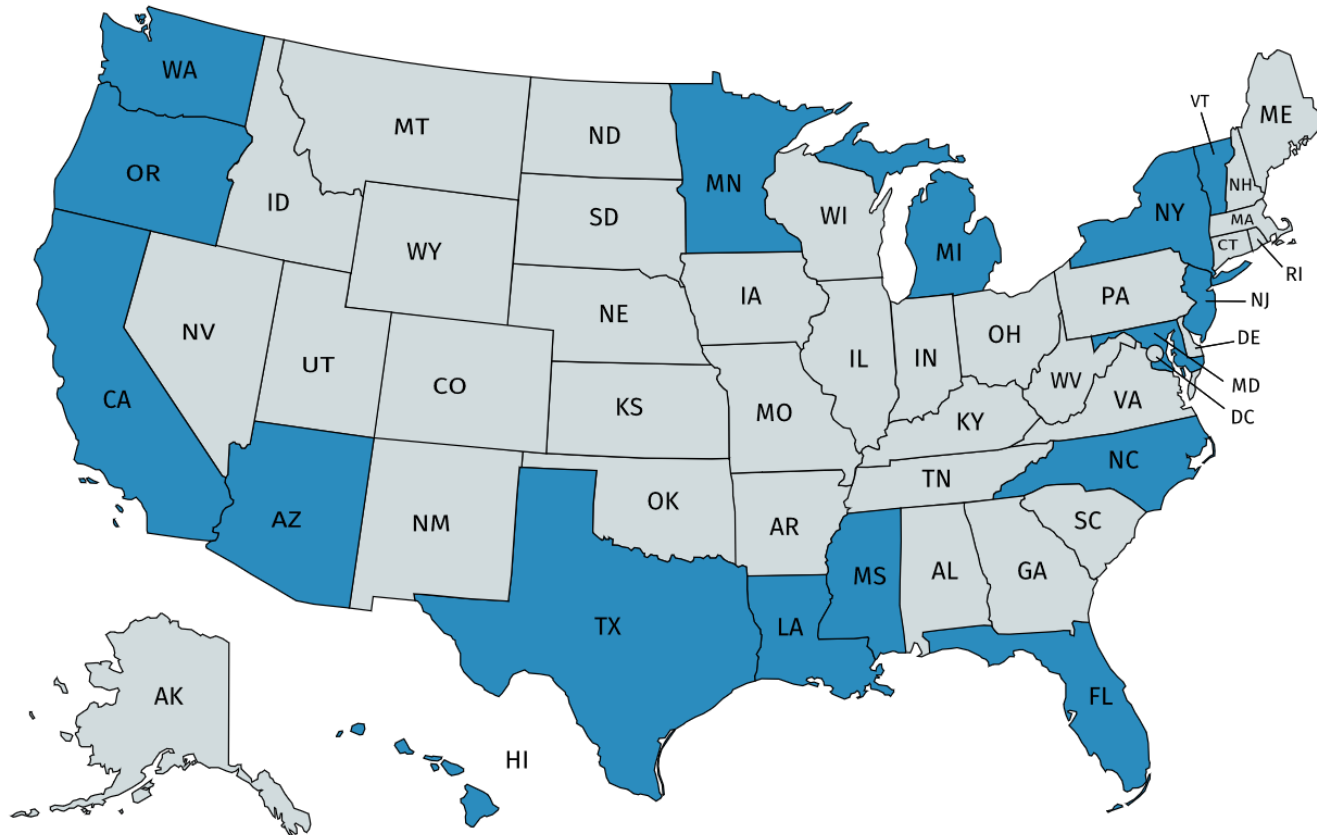
- Health & Hygiene
 - Biological Soil Amendments of Animal Origin
 - Domesticated and Wild Animals
 - Preharvest Worker Training
 - Preharvest Sanitation
 - Preharvest Water
 - Harvest Worker Training
 - Harvest Sanitation
 - Harvest Water



- Postharvest Worker Training
- Postharvest Sanitation
- Postharvest Water

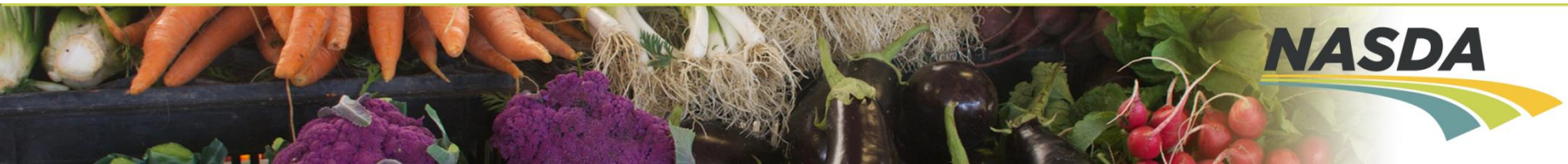
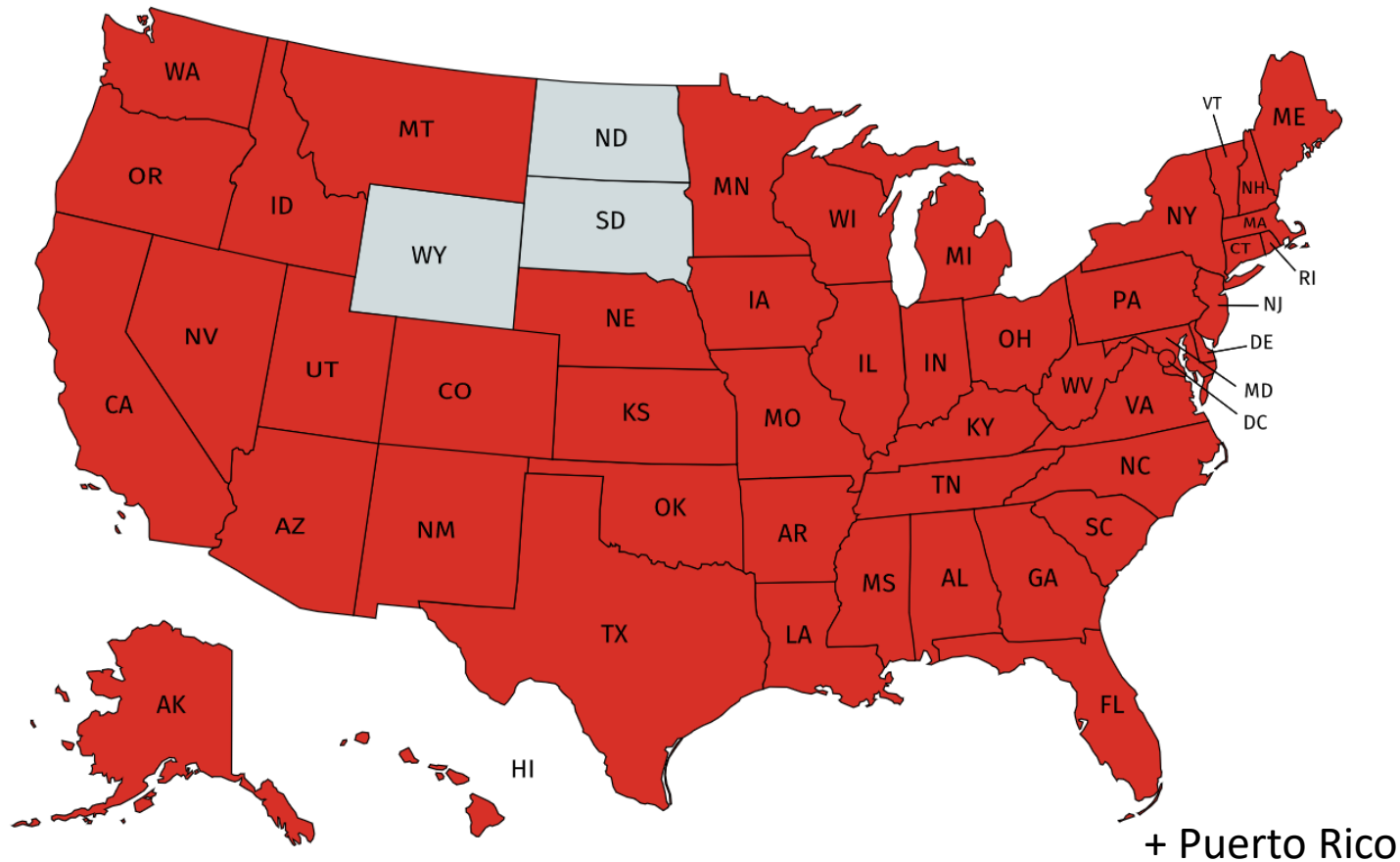


OFRR Trainings Held -26

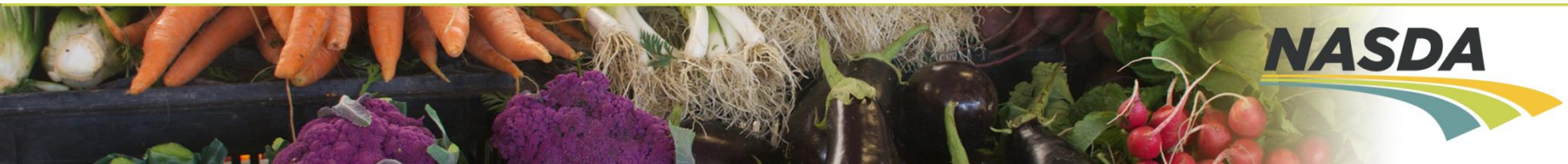


States and Territories Trained in OFRR

Over 400 people trained

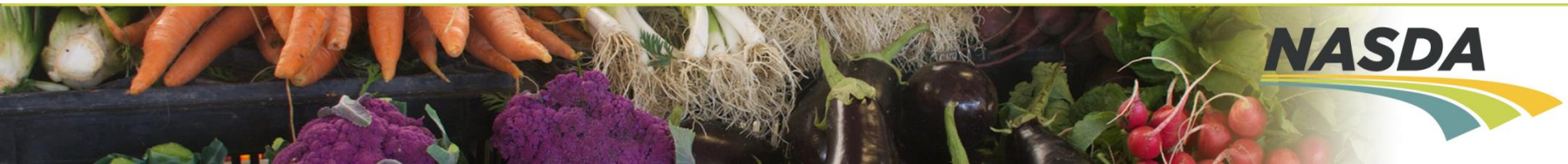


On-Farm Readiness Review Post Farm Visit Survey



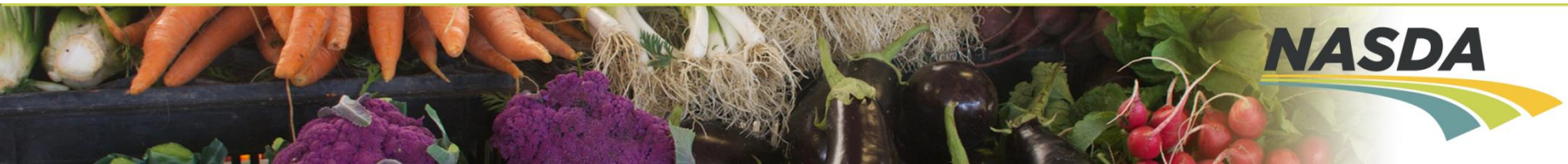
Who takes this survey?

- This survey is to be completed by a person conducting the On-Farm Readiness Review (not the farm being reviewed)
- Only one completed evaluation per OFRR



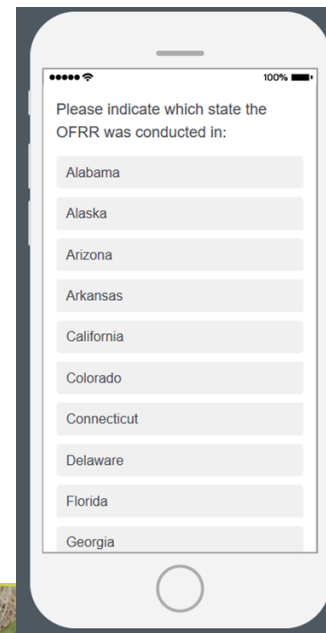
What do we want from this survey?

- What is the level of farm preparedness for FSMA PSR compliance?
- What educational areas do FSMA PSR educators need to focus on?



Why an online survey?

- Anonymous collection of data not attributed to one farm
- Easy and timely access to data from across the nation
- Smartphone friendly



Survey Consent Form

CONSENT FORM FOR ANONYMOUS ON FARM READINESS REVIEW EVALUATION

You are invited to participate in a research study that is being conducted by Meredith Melendez, who is an Agricultural Agent at Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Mercer County. The purpose of this research is to determine the preparedness and educational needs of fresh produce farms for the FSMA Produce Safety Rule. This research is conducted through a 30 question online evaluation given at the end of the OFRR farm walk around. The survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete. Anyone who utilizes the OFRR walk around materials for a farm walk around is eligible to complete the survey.

This research is anonymous. Anonymous means that I will record no information about you that could identify you. There will be no linkage between your identity and your response in the research. This means that I will not record your name, address, phone number, date of birth, etc. There will be no way to link your responses back to you. Therefore, data collection is anonymous. Research results will not be provided to participants.

The On Farm Readiness Review team and the Institutional Review Board at Rutgers University are the only parties that will be allowed to see the data, except as may be required by law. If a report of this study is published, or the results are presented at a professional conference, only group results will be stated. All study data will be kept for three years. This survey will open April 2017 and close on April 2020.

There are no foreseeable risks to participation in this study. In addition, you may receive no direct benefit from taking part in this study.

Participation in this study is voluntary. You may choose not to participate, and you may withdraw at any time during the study procedures without any penalty to you. In addition, you may choose not to answer any questions with which you are not comfortable.

If you have any questions about the study or study procedures, you may contact Meredith Melendez at 930 Spruce Street, Trenton, NJ 08648 or Melendez@njaes.rutgers.edu or [609-669-6830](tel:609-669-6830).

If you have any questions about your rights as a research subject, please contact an IRB Administrator at the Rutgers University, Arts and Sciences IRB:
Institutional Review Board
Rutgers University, the State University of New Jersey
Liberty Plaza/Suite 3200
335 George Street, 3rd Floor
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
Phone: [732-235-2866](tel:732-235-2866)
Email: humansubjects@orsp.rutgers.edu

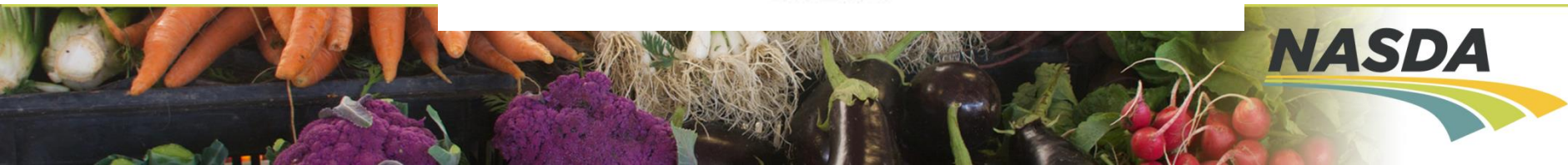
Please consider retaining a copy of this consent form for your records. By participating in the above stated procedures, then you agree to participation in this study.

☐ Yes

☐ No

30

Survey Provided By [Quintilis](#)



Indicate location of farm by state or territory.

Please indicate which state the OFRR was conducted in:

- ☐ Alabama
- ☐ Alaska
- ☐ Arizona
- ☐ Arkansas
- ☐ California
- ☐ Colorado
- ☐ Connecticut
- ☐ Delaware
- ☐ Florida
- ☐ Georgia
- ☐ Hawaii
- ☒ Idaho
- ☐ Illinois
- ☐ Indiana
- ☐ Iowa
- ☐ Kansas
- ☐ Kentucky
- ☐ Louisiana
- ☐ Maine
- ☐ Maryland
- ☐ Massachusetts
- ☐ Michigan
- ☐ Minnesota
- ☐ Mississippi
- ☐ Missouri
- ☐ Montana
- ☐ Nebraska
- ☐ Nevada
- ☐ New Hampshire
- ☐ New Jersey
- ☐ New Mexico
- ☐ New York

- ☐ North Carolina
- ☐ North Dakota
- ☐ Ohio
- ☐ Oklahoma
- ☐ Oregon
- ☐ Pennsylvania
- ☐ Rhode Island
- ☐ South Carolina
- ☐ South Dakota
- ☐ Tennessee
- ☐ Texas
- ☐ Utah
- ☐ Vermont
- ☐ Virginia
- ☐ Washington
- ☐ West Virginia
- ☐ Wisconsin
- ☐ Wyoming
- ☐ Guam
- ☐ Puerto Rico
- ☐ American Samoa
- ☐ Virgin Islands
- ☐ Northern Mariana Islands
- ☐ Other

<< >>

NASDA

Indicate acres of produce grown.

Please indicate the number of acres of covered produce grown on the farm:

- ☐ Less than 1
- ☐ 1-9
- ☐ 10-24
- ☐ 25-49
- ☐ 50-69
- ☐ 70-99
- ☐ 100-139
- ☐ 140-179
- ☐ 180-259
- ☐ 260-499
- ☐ 500-999
- ☐ 1000-1999
- ☐ 2000-2999
- ☐ 3000-4999
- ☐ 5000+

- Less than 1
- 1-9
- 10-24
- 25-49
- 50-69
- 70-99
- 100-139
- 140-179
- 180-259
- 260-499
- 500-999
- 1000-1999
- 2000-2999
- 3000-4999
- 5000+

>>



Indicate produce sales range.

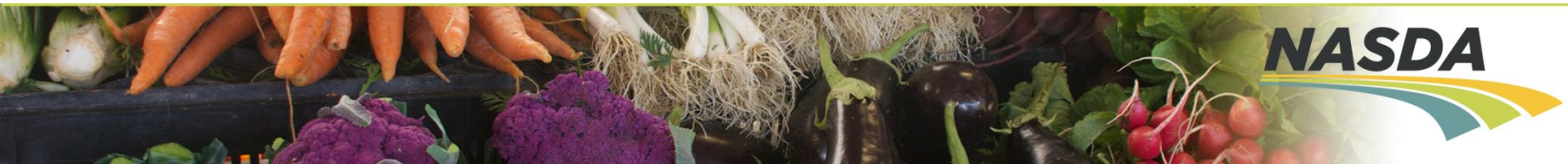
Please indicate the produce sales range of the farm:

* Values are based on Price Deflators for Gross Domestic Product in 2011. Visit the [FSMA Inflation Adjusted Cut Offs](#) webpage for current year values.

- ☐ Under \$25,000
- ☐ \$25,000 to \$250,000
- ☐ \$250,000 to \$500,000
- ☐ \$500,000 +

- Under \$25,000
- \$25,000 to \$250,000
- \$250,000 to \$500,000
- +\$500,000

>>



Indicate total food sales range.

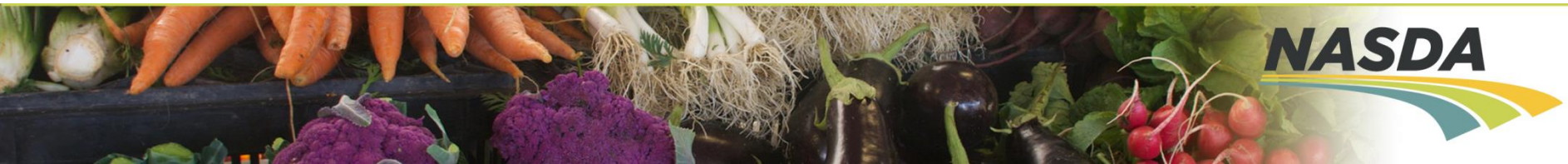
Please indicate the total food sales for the farm:

* Values are based on Price Deflators for Gross Domestic Product in 2011. Visit the [FSMA Inflation Adjusted Cut Offs](#) webpage for current year values.

- ☐ Under \$25,000
- ☐ \$25,000 to \$250,000
- ☐ \$250,000 to \$500,000
- ☐ \$500,000 +

- Under \$25,000
- \$25,000 to \$250,000
- \$250,000 to \$500,000
- +\$500,000

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OFRR WAQ

Survey respondents will need to indicate the WAQs that were used in the OFRR. Check all that apply.

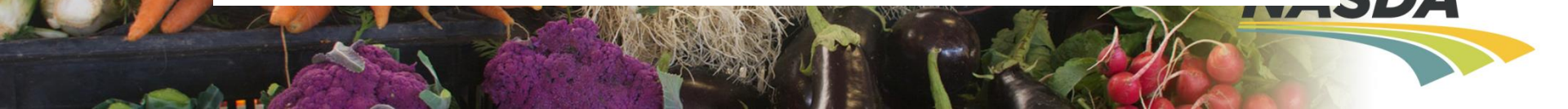
Please indicate the WAQs that were used during the OFRR:

- ☐ Health and hygiene
- ☐ Preharvest biological soil amendments of animal origin
- ☐ Preharvest and Harvest Wild and Domestic Animals
- ☐ Preharvest worker training
- ☐ Presharvest sanitation
- ☐ Preharvest water
- ☐ Harvest worker training
- ☐ Harvest sanitation
- ☐ Harvest water
- ☐ Postharvest worker training
- ☐ Postharvest sanitation
- ☐ Postharvest water

0%  100%



Survey Powered By [Qualtrics](#)

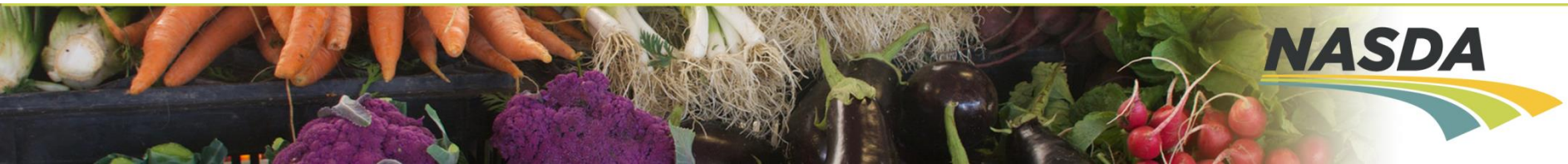


WAQ Priority Areas

Survey respondents will next need to indicate the top three WAQs covered during the OFRR that need improvement.

Only the WAQs previously indicated as used will be displayed.

Respondents are next given the opportunity to identify specific practices within those top three WAQs that need improvement.



Indicate area/s of concern for each WAQ selected

Indicate area/s of concern
Health and Hygiene

- ☐ Lack of annual hygiene training for workers
- ☐ Inadequate worker hygiene training
- ☐ Inadequate or missing records of worker hygiene training
- ☐ Inadequate sick leave policy
- ☐ Inadequate visitor notification of health and hygiene requirements
- ☐ Inadequate toilet and hand washing facility
- ☐ Inadequate jewelry policy
- ☐ Inadequate portable toilet spillage emergency plan
- ☐ Inadequate servicing of toilet and hand washing facilities
- ☐ Other

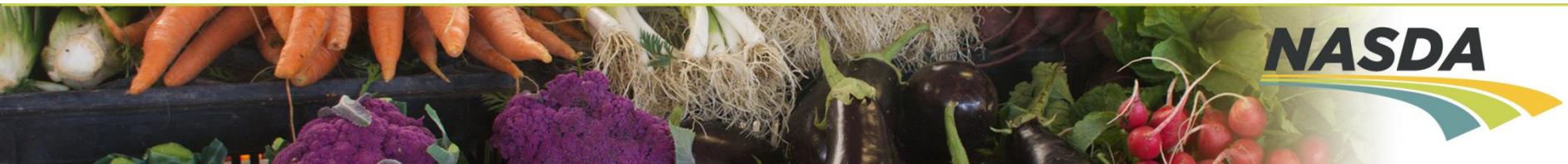
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Farm readiness?

Please indicate the readiness of the farm for FSMA Produce Safety Rule compliance:

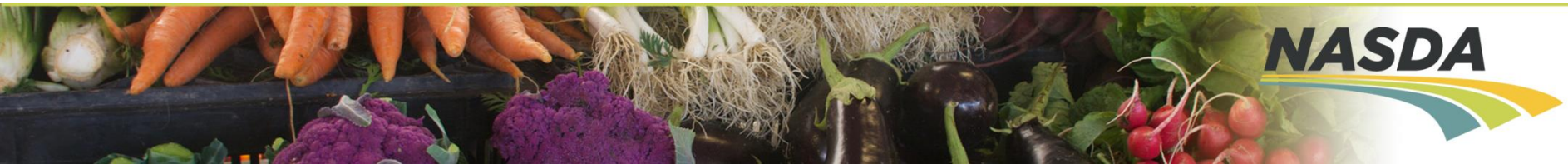
- ☐ Meets minimum FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirements
- ☐ Needs minor improvements to meet minimum FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirements
- ☐ Needs significant improvements to meet minimum FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirements



What assistance is needed?

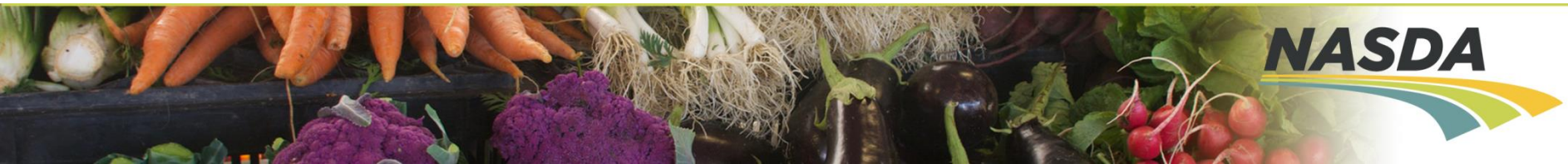
What type of assistance does this farm need to meet the minimum requirements of the FSMA Produce Safety Rule?

- ☐ Technical assistance
- ☐ Facility upgrades
- ☐ Significant monetary investments
- ☐ Time
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other



All survey response data is anonymous.

Individual state reports are distributed to the grant PI in November and April.



OFRR Survey Report



41 States and Territories Using OFRR Survey

814 OFRR Surveys Completed



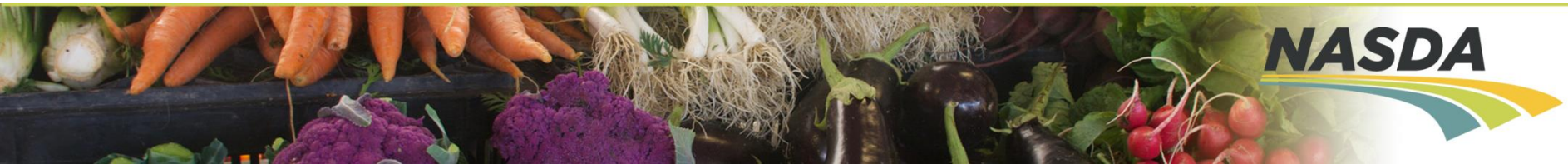
Use of the WAQ documents

Most commonly used

1. Health and hygiene (794)
2. Preharvest worker training (775)
3. Preharvest sanitation (765)
4. Preharvest and harvest wild and domestic animals (762)
5. Harvest worker training (761)
6. Harvest sanitation (759)

Least commonly used

1. Preharvest biological soil amendments of animal origin (377)
2. Harvest water (548)
3. Postharvest water (606)
4. Postharvest worker training (705)
5. Postharvest sanitation (719)

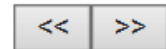


Are Farms Prepared?

Please indicate the readiness of the farm for FSMA Produce Safety Rule compliance:

- ☐ Meets minimum FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirements
- ☐ Needs minor improvements to meet minimum FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirements
- ☐ Needs significant improvements to meet minimum FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirements

0%  100%



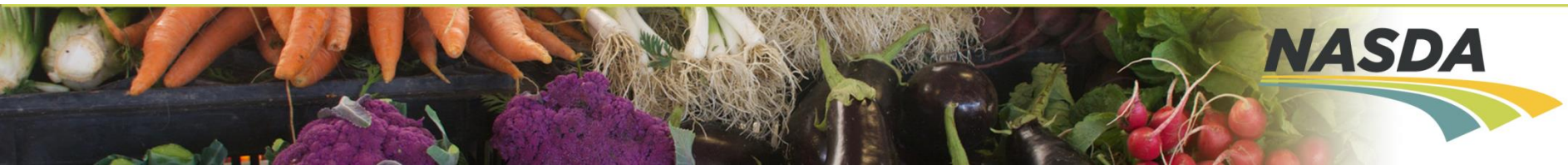
Survey Powered By [Qualtrics](#)



Are Farms Prepared?

N=796

Meets minimum standards	39% (308 farms)
Needs minor improvements	52% (416 farms)
Needs significant improvements	9% (72 farms)

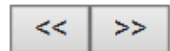


What Do Farms Need?

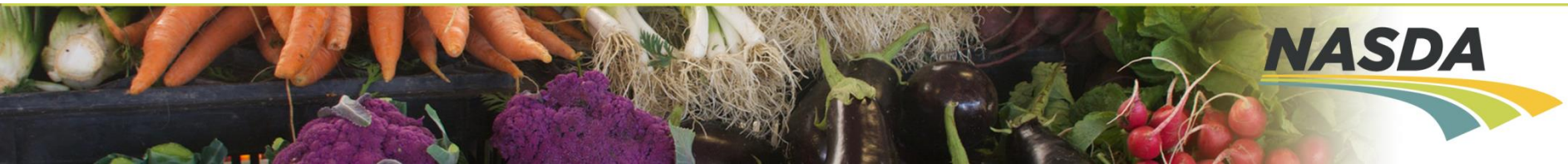
What type of assistance does this farm need to meet the minimum requirements of the FSMA Produce Safety Rule?

- ☐ Technical assistance
- ☐ Facility upgrades
- ☐ Significant monetary investments
- ☐ Time
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other

0%  100%



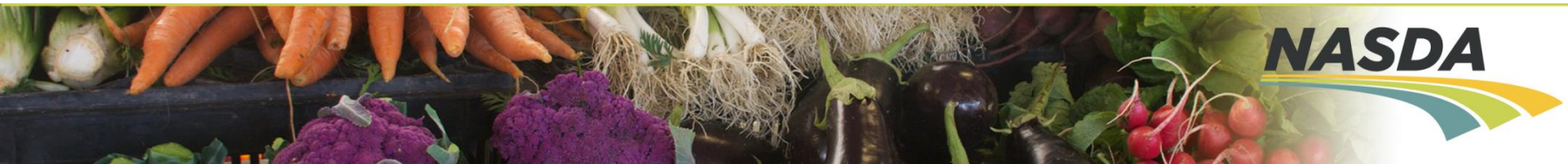
Survey Powered By [Qualtrics](#)



What Do Farms Need?

N=796

	Meets minimum requirements (n=308)	Minor improvements needed (n=416)	Significant improvements needed (n=72)
Technical assistance	9%	27%	29%
Facility upgrades	3%	14%	27%
Significant monetary investments	Less than 1%	2%	11%
Time	23%	43%	29%
None	58%	9%	0%



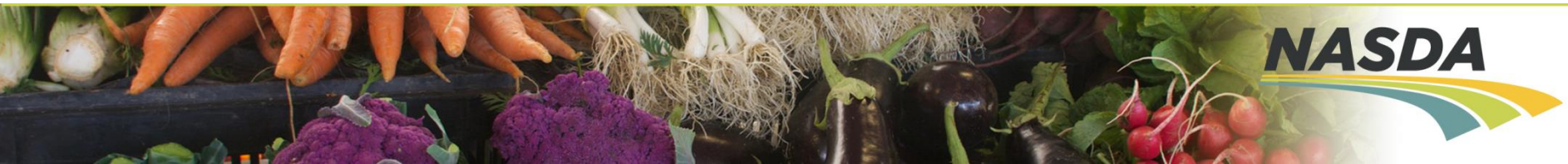
Priorities for Improvement

Please indicate three areas that the farm requires the most improvement to satisfy FSMA Produce Safety Rule minimum requirements.

- ☐ Health and hygiene
- ☐ Preharvest biological soil amendments of animal origin
- ☐ Preharvest and Harvest Wild and Domestic Animals
- ☐ Preharvest worker training
- ☐ Preharvest sanitation
- ☐ Preharvest water
- ☐ Harvest worker training
- ☐ Harvest sanitation
- ☐ Harvest water
- ☐ Postharvest worker training
- ☐ Postharvest sanitation
- ☐ Postharvest water

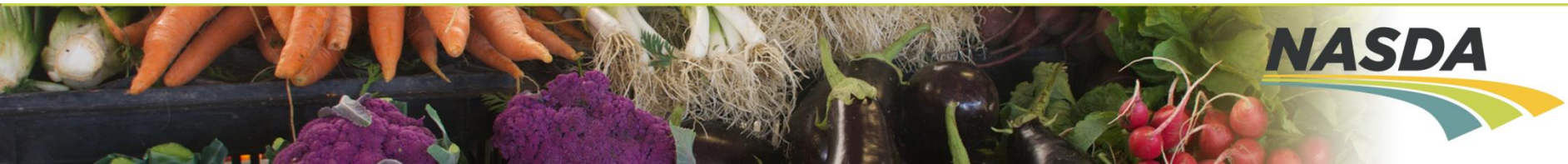
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Priorities for Improvement

1. Postharvest Sanitation WAQ Used on 710 farms, top 3 priority on 285 farms	% of the responses needed improvement
Inadequate recordkeeping of practices	26% (154 farms)
Inadequate construction or maintenance	12% (68 farms)
Inadequate pest control program	9% (55 farms)



Priorities for Improvement

2. Health and Hygiene WAQ Used on 785 farms, top 3 priority on 244 farms	% of the responses needed improvement
Inadequate or missing records of worker hygiene training	16% (105 farms)
Inadequate visitor notification	16% (102 farms)
Inadequate worker hygiene training	12 % (79 farms)
Lack worker hygiene training	11% (73 farms)



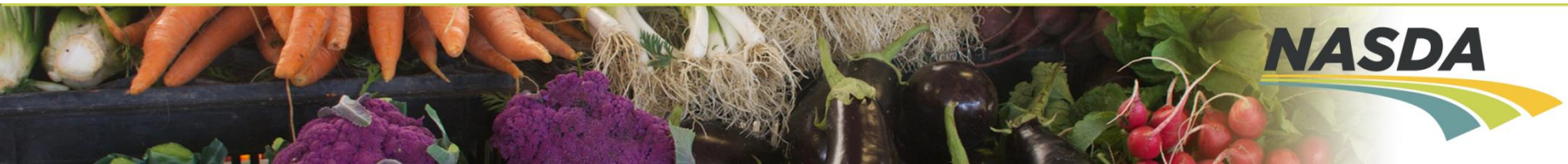
Priorities for Improvement

3. Preharvest Water WAQ Used on 725 farms, top 3 priority on 194 farms	% of the responses needed improvement
Lack of annual water system inspection	39% (111 farms)
Lack of testing results	37% (103 farms)
Lack of a corrective actions for water not meeting farm identified criteria	10% (29 farms)



How is This Data Used?

- Inform stakeholders about PSR compliance needs
 - State level
 - Regional level
 - National level
- Influence educational efforts to reduce risk and achieve PSR compliance
 - Growers
 - Produce safety educators
 - Local, state and Federal agencies



Closing Thoughts

- OFRR survey can be a useful tool to evaluate state, regional, and national preparedness
- The more the survey is used the better we can understand the needs of producers
- The more the survey is used the better we can understand the impact of the rule on farm operations

