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This is the fourth in a series of informative articles on the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule and the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (Department) implementation strategy for this federally-mandated rule. So far, this series has discussed covered produce, farm activities, compliance dates, and exemptions. This article will discuss required Food Safety Training.

The Produce Safety Rule includes the following training requirement: *“At least one supervisor or responsible party for your farm must have successfully completed food safety training at least equivalent to that received under standardized curriculum recognized as adequate by the Food and Drug Administration.”*

To help farmers meet this new training requirement, the Produce Safety Alliance (PSA), a collaboration between Cornell University, the FDA, and the USDA, was formed. The PSA provides a FDA-recognized course that delivers science-based food safety training for farms. This course benefits growers, as well as others interested in learning about produce safety, the Produce Safety Rule, Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), and the co-management of natural resources.

PSA trainers will provide approximately seven hours of instruction time covering content contained in the following seven modules:

- Introduction to Produce Safety
- Worker Health, Hygiene, and Training
- Soil Amendments
- Wildlife, Domesticated Animals, and Land Use
- Agricultural Water (Part I: Production Water; Part II: Postharvest Water)
- Postharvest Handling and Sanitation
- How to Develop a Farm Food Safety Plan

In addition to providing valuable information about produce safety best practices, key requirements of the Produce Safety Rule will also be outlined within each module. Time will be allotted for questions and discussion. Participants should come prepared to share their experiences and produce safety questions.

Participants who complete the course will receive a PSA Grower Training manual and a certificate issued by the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO). Although course fees normally range from \$150 to \$200, the Department is assisting with the cost of the PSA Grower Training through its FDA grant-funded cooperative agreement. Fees for New York State attendees are reduced to typically between \$35 and \$75, and costs may vary.

For more information on the PSA or PSA Grower Training, visit the PSA website at: <https://producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu/>. For additional information on the Produce Safety Rule and FSMA, visit the Department website at:

<https://www.agriculture.ny.gov/FS/general/fsma.html>. Questions can also be sent to Aaron.Finley@agriculture.ny.gov and Steve.Schirmer@agriculture.ny.gov.

Additionally, producers are encouraged to complete an informational survey, which will help determine applicability to the rule, commodities that are covered by the rule and compliance dates. The survey can be found at:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9HM3NTP>.