



Connecticut Department of Agriculture  
 Dannel P. Malloy, Governor  
 Steven K. Revczky, Commissioner



Linda Piotrowicz, Editor  
 Wednesday, April 3, 2013

## FSMA: PROPOSED PRODUCE SAFETY STANDARDS AND EXEMPTIONS

*By Mark Zotti, Bureau of Regulation and Inspection*

On February 28, 2013, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a letter to the cantaloupe industry notifying them of an increase in inspections and sampling in the upcoming year to enhance the safety of cantaloupes (see <http://tinyurl.com/FDACantaloupeLetter>). The FDA notification is in response to major foodborne illness outbreaks in 2011 and 2012 traced to microbial contamination of cantaloupes.

This comes less than two months after FDA released its proposed Produce Safety Rule, which encompasses a much broader spectrum of products and will affect all produce growers and handlers.

The proposed Produce Safety Rule, released on January 4, 2013, is only one part of the Food Safety and Modernization Act (FSMA) and is currently open for public comment. Farmers are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to provide input.

When finalized, the rule will implement science-based standards for the growing, harvesting, packing, and holding of produce for human consumption. These standards specifically address

- Equipment, tools, and buildings
- Biological soil amendments
- Domesticated and wild animals
- Worker training, health, and hygiene
- Agricultural water
- Sprouts

This proposed rule will affect all operations that grow for sale designated crops—fruits, vegetables, nuts, mushrooms, herbs, or sprouts—that are not used for personal or on-farm consumption, or are not a raw agricultural commodity (identified below).

The level of compliance and applicable exemptions are based on the products, the end user, and the producer's annual average income over the past three years.

According to Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, FSMA is "a common sense law that shifts the food safety focus from reactive to preventive." These required preventative measures take into account the size and diversity of produce growers and provide a specific timeline for implementation.

When the rule is finalized, it will extend labeling requirements for all fruits, vegetables, nuts, mushrooms, herbs, and sprouts that are not currently required by the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

The proposal identifies minimum requirements that include the complete name and address of the farm/business that grew the item. This information will need to be prominently displayed on a label or at the point of sale with a sign, poster, etc.

It appears that this requirement also will apply to produce sold at retail outlets such as farmers' markets, farm stands, and CSAs. The proposed rule does not indicate any exemptions from this requirement. This proposal does exempt the following:

1. Produce that is rarely eaten raw.  
*FDA has identified arrowhead, arrowroot, artichokes, asparagus, beets, black-eyed peas, bok choy, brussels sprouts, chickpeas, collard greens, crabapples, cranberries, eggplant, figs, ginger root, kale, kidney beans, lentils, lima beans, okra, parsnips, peanuts, pinto beans, plantains, potatoes, pumpkin, rhubarb, rutabaga, sugar beet, sweet corn, sweet potatoes, taro, turnips, water chestnuts, winter squash (acorn and butter-nut squash), and yams among this category of produce.*
2. Produce that will be commercially processed with a documented "kill step" that reduces microorganisms in that product.
3. Farms/businesses whose annual food sales average for the past three years is less than \$25,000.
4. Farms/businesses that sell more than 50 percent of their crop to "qualified end users".

*Qualified end users are identified as the consumer of the food or a restaurant or retail food establishment located in the same state or not more than 275 miles away from the farm.*

Operations that do not meet any of the exemptions will be required to comply with the final rule in a specified amount of time that depends on the size of the operation. Business sizes are divided up into three categories, quantified by the average annual food sales over the past three years:

*(continued on Page 3)*

**WHOLESALE PEPPERS  
U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL**

	Low	High
ANAHEIM, 1/2bu, MX	18.00	20.00
BELL, Grn, 1-1/9, FL	19.00	20.00
BELL, Rd, 1-1/9, MX	16.00	19.00
BELL, Yllw, 1-1/9, DR	28.00	30.00
CHERRY, Ht, 1/2bu, NC	39.00	39.00
CUBANELLE, 1-1/9, FL	22.00	22.00
JALAPENO, 1-1/9, FL	44.00	44.00

**NEW HOLLAND, PA, HOG AUCTION**

April 1, 2013

Sold by actual weights; prices quoted by hundred wt.

49-54	200-270 lbs	n/a
	200-400 lbs	53.00-55.00
45-49	220-300 lbs	53.00-53.50
	300-400 lbs	54.00-57.50
Sows: US 1-3	300-450 lbs	48.00-58.00
	450-700 lbs	62.00-64.00
Boars:	300-700lbs	17.00-17.50

**MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION**

Middlefield, April 1, 2013

Live animals brought the following ave. prices per cwt.

	Low	High
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	45.00	48.00
61-75 lbs.	50.00	62.00
76-90 lbs.	130.00	135.00
91-105 lbs.	140.00	147.50
106 lbs. & up	150.00	157.00
Farm Calves	160.00	180.00
Starter Calves	50.00	56.00
Veal Calves	85.00	150.50
Open Heifers	75.00	115.00
Beef Steers	75.00	105.00
Beef Heifers	85.00	104.00
Feeder Steers	69.00	100.00
Stock Bulls	85.00	112.50
Beef Bulls	n/a	n/a
Boars	1 at	850.00
Sows	3 at	45.00
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Goats each	45.00	210.00
Kid Goats	20.00	50.00
Canners	Up to	78.50
Cutters	79.25	81.00
Utility Grade Cows	82.00	86.25
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Rabbits each	6.00	50.00
Chickens each	5.00	18.00
Ducks each	5.00	17.00
Feeder Pigs	35.00	90.00
Lambs	55.00	230.00
Sheep	65.00	85.00

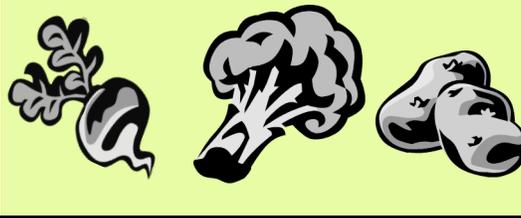
**WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES  
NEW ENGLAND GROWN**

(Boston Terminal and wholesale grower prices)

	Low	High
APPLE, Gld del, 125ct, fcy	21.00	21.00
APPLE, Mac, 96ct, fcy	27.00	27.00
APPLE, Rd del, 100ct, fcy	24.00	24.00
BEAN SPRT, 10lb	6.00	6.00
LETTUCE, Bibb, 12/4oz	13.00	16.00
POTATOES, Chef, 50lb	10.00	10.00
POTATOES, Rd, 10/5lb, A	14.00	14.00
POTATOES, Rsst, 90ct	10.50	11.00
RUTABAGAS, 50lb	13.00	14.00
TOMATOES, 11lb, on vine	22.00	23.00
TOMATOES, loose, 25lb	17.00	17.00

**SHIPPED IN**

ASPARAGUS, 28lb, CA	48.00	50.00
BLUEBERRY, 12/6oz, FL	36.00	39.00
CORN, 5dz, FL	20.00	22.00
DANDELION GRN, bu, NJ	18.00	20.00
LEEKS, 5kg, grnhs, NT	24.00	30.00
LEMONS, 140ct, CA	22.00	24.00
PEANUTS, 25lb, VA	28.00	28.00
RHUBARB, grnhs, 6kg, NT	44.00	44.00



**HARTFORD REGIONAL MARKET**

March 30, 2013

Wholesale, sold by market's resident companies and/or farmers' market vendors

	Low	High
AZALEA, Hrdy, 8" pot	5.00	10.00
DAFFODIL, 4" pot	2.00	2.00
DAFFODIL, 6" pot	3.00	4.00
EASTER LILY, 6" pot	5.00	5.00
HYACINTH, 4" pot	2.00	2.50
HYACINTH, 6" pot	4.00	5.00
HYDRANGEA, 8" pot	10.00	10.00
PANSY, 48/flat	7.00	8.00

**NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS**

March 26, 2013

Per doz., wholesale Grade A brown in cartons (delivered)

XTRA LARGE	1.69-1.81
LARGE	1.56-1.68
MEDIUM	1.14-1.24

**NEW HOLLAND LIVESTOCK AUCTION**

April 1, 2013

Bulk/ High/ Low Dressing

<b>SLAUGHTER COWS:</b>		
Breakers	75-80% lean	
	75.00-79.00	80.00-83.00 71.00-74.540
Boners	80-85% lean	
	73.00-78.00	79.00-82.00 68.00-71.00
Lean	88-90% lean	
	72.50-76.50	77.50-80.00 62.00-70.00
<b>CALVES: All prices per cwt.</b>		
<b>Graded Bull Calves</b>		
No.1	95-125lbs	175.00-190.00
No.2	95-130lbs	150.00-170.00
No.3	95-125lbs	125.00-145.00
<b>SLAUGHTER BULLS Yield Grade 1</b>		
	960-1770lbs	92.00-98.00
<b>HOLSTEIN HEIFERS</b>		
No.1	95-115lbs	100.00-120.00
<b>SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Non-Trad. Markets</b>		
<b>Wooled &amp; Shorn Choice and Prime 2-3</b>		
	40-50lbs	160.00-180.00
	50-70lbs	142.00-165.00
	80-110lbs	n/a
	110-130lbs	n/a
<b>Wooled &amp; Shorn Good &amp; Choice 3-4</b>		
	40-50lbs	200.00-235.00
	50-60lbs	170.00-174.00
	80-100lbs	n/a
<b>SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3: Med. Flesh</b>		
	90-120lbs	70.00-90.00
	120-160lbs	76.00-85.00
	160-200lbs	n/a
<b>Utility 1-2: Thin Flesh</b>		
	110-120lb	n/a
	120-160lbs	42.00-65.00
<b>Bucks</b>		
	120-160lbs	50.00-70.00
	215-240lbs	40.00-60.00
<b>SLAUGHTER GOATS: Sel. 1, by the head, est. wt.</b>		
	40-60lbs	70.00-110.00
	60-70lbs	97.00-122.00
	70-90lbs	114.00-165.00
	90-130lbs	120.00-180.00
Nannies/Does:	110-125lbs	110.00-140.00
	130-160lbs	130.00-172.00
Bucks/Billies:	130-150lbs	180.00-200.00
	150-180lbs	200.00-227.00
Sel. 2	125-150lbs	132.00-180.00

**PENNSYLVANIA GRAIN SUMMARY**

April 1, 2013

Eastern/Central Pennsylvania

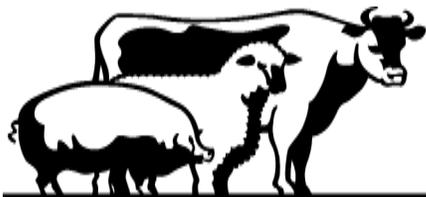
Corn No 2 (per bu)	7.11
Wheat No 2 (per bu)	7.34
Oats No 2 (per bu)	4.60
Soybeans No 2 (per bu)	13.87
Ear Corn (per ton)	n/a

**NORTHEAST EGG PRICES USDA**

April 1, 2013

Per doz., USDA Grade A and Grade A white in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	1.43-1.47
LARGE	1.41-1.45
MEDIUM	1.11-1.15



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30-R. Krone, Krone, Krone Haying Equipment. Why settle for anything less? Mowers, Tedders, Rakes, Balers and more. 0% for 24 months or 2.25% for 60 months financing on all new Krone equipment. Come see us at scenic Route 169, Pomfret Center, CT. Also at [www.bigboystoysllc.net](http://www.bigboystoysllc.net) 860-928-9778.

31-R. Round Bales WRAPPED HAYLAGE, 4x4, \$25 and up. 860-234-1605.

34-R. 8 Frame Beehive, complete wood. 2' X 3' Aluminum storm windows, approx. 100, would make a perfect cold frame, \$1.00 each. 860-423-1347 cell 617-308-3015.

35-R. Moldboard plow, 2 bottom, 3 P.H. International, Auto Reset. Extra points. \$975.00. Rotovator, 6 Ft-8 adjustable rotors, extra tines, 3 P.H., \$675.00. Tolland. 715-572-0951 or [pumpkinpaul1@aol.com](mailto:pumpkinpaul1@aol.com)

38 1986 16' Bumper Stock Trailer, 2 axle, Wt. Gross 7,000, Light 2,200. \$1,000, Bob 860-583-4352.

39-R Round Hay Bales, stored inside. Net wrapped 1<sup>st</sup> cut, few 2<sup>nd</sup>. Call 203-530-4953.

40-R IH 986 \$8,500. JD 4520 \$8,500. 6310 4X4 with 640 self leveling loader, 6,000 hours \$24,000. 02 New Holland 575 baler with thrower \$12,000. New Holland 315 Baler with thrower \$5,000. New Holland 311 Baler \$4,500. XBX 520 Case IH like new \$8,000. 256, 258 Rakes, JD 660 Rake, Kuhn 4 Star tetter, 2 IH 4 bottom semi-mount reset plows, 15,000 pto generator \$2,100, IH and JD front and rear weights. 10 ft brillion seeder, IH 450 3 bottom reset plow.

### MISCELLANEOUS

6-R. Farm/Land Specializing in land, farms, and all types of Real Estate. Established Broker with a lifetime of agricultural experience and 40 years of finance. Representing both Buyers and Sellers. Call Clint Charter of Wallace-Tustin Realty (860) 644-5667.

37-R. Hebron: 53.9 acres, Ideal for winery, horse farm etc. Two frontages on Burnt Hill Road, one with driveway. Pond and two streams. Asking \$325,000. 860-872-6637.

41 Pasture for rent. Pasture with pond for 1-2 cattle for grazing season. 860-345-4302, leave message.

### FSMA: PROPOSED PRODUCE SAFETY STANDARDS AND EXEMPTIONS

*(continued from Page 1)*

1. Operations with average annual food sales for the past three years that exceed \$500,000 will have to comply with the final produce safety standards within two years of the effective date, and may have up to four years to comply with some of the water requirements.
2. Operations with average annual food sales for the past three years between \$250,000 and \$500,000 are considered small businesses. These businesses will have three years from the effective date to comply, and up to five years to comply with some of the water requirements.
3. Operations with average annual food sales for the past three years less than \$250,000 are considered very small businesses. These businesses will have four years to comply from the effective date and may have up to six years to comply with some of the water requirements.

This proposed Produce Safety Rule does not mandate on-farm food safety audits (commonly referred to as GAP audits) or replace them. On-farm food safety audits may still be required by customers, and operations exempt from FSMA rules may still be required by customers to undergo third-party audits.

Many of the requirements found in on-farm food safety audits align with the requirements in FSMA, which may benefit producers and auditors by offering science-based standards for on-farm food safety measures.

Operations that have participated in on-farm food safety audits should continue to work with their customers to satisfy audit requests. The auditing firms and types of audits required will still be dependent on the customers.

FDA, in conjunction with USDA Agriculture Marketing Service and Cornell University, has developed the Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) ([www.producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu](http://www.producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu)). This group is charged with educating and training the produce industry with best practices, guidance, and regulatory requirements.

PSA has set up information sessions including webinars and conference calls, and created summaries of the proposal. These tools have made the task of reviewing the 500+ page proposal much easier, and can be used to better understand FDA's proposal and—more importantly—to assess how it may affect your operation.

Many questions still need to be answered and will be, in time. All affected operations will have years to comply with FSMA requirements. It is anticipated that the largest challenges for the FDA will be enforcement of these proposed rules.

Many producers are concerned about the water requirements, worker training, record keeping, and overall cost of implementation. As dynamics of on-farm food safety continue to evolve, the full impact of this proposal will not be felt for years to come.

The FSMA's proposed safety standards are NOT final. FDA is requesting public comment on this proposal and, based on those comments, will create a final rule. The importance of submitting comments cannot be stressed enough.

*(continued on Page 4)*

## FSMA: PROPOSED PRODUCE SAFETY STANDARDS AND EXEMPTIONS

(continued from Page 1)

Comments are due by May 16, 2013. They can be made on a specific part or whole of the proposed rule. Be sure to include the docket number, [FDA-2011-N-0921](http://www.fda.gov/oc/ohrt/FDA-2011-N-0921), and submit via any of the following methods:

- Electronically at <http://tinyurl.com/FSMASubmitComments>
- By fax to 301-827-6870
- By mail to the Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061, Rockville, MD 20852

Additional information about FSMA can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/FSMAInformation>.

## DOAG SEEKS JOINT VENTURE GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is now accepting Connecticut Grown Joint Venture Grant applications for 2013 growing season projects. Applications are due by May 13, 2013.

This popular program, newly revised, offers matching funds of up to \$2995 to commodity associations, agricultural nonprofits, municipalities (including agricultural commissions), and farmers' markets for marketing projects that use the Connecticut Grown logo or slogan. Eligible projects include signage, advertisements, billboards, brochures, radio commercials, and more.

The revised guidelines, application, and required forms can be downloaded from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture's website, [www.ctgrown.gov](http://www.ctgrown.gov) (look under Featured Links).

Applicants also can request an electronic copy of the paperwork by calling 860-713-2503. Additional questions can be directed to Jaime Smith at [jaime.smith@ct.gov](mailto:jaime.smith@ct.gov) or 860-713-2559.

## REPORT ASSESSES VALUE OF CT MARITIME INDUSTRY

A new report published by Connecticut Sea Grant at the University of Connecticut, Avery Point, indicates that Connecticut's maritime economy is valued at nearly \$7 billion.

"Valuing the Coast: Economic Impacts of Connecticut's Maritime Industry" was written Robert S. Pomeroy, Nataliya Plesha, and Umi Musawanah and is available online at <http://seagrant.uconn.edu/publications/value.pdf>.

The analysis used seven study sectors classified by the United States Department of Commerce (DOC) as directly related to the maritime industry in Connecticut:

- Seafood product preparation and packaging
- Ship building and repairing
- Boat building
- Transport by water
- Scenic and sightseeing transportation and support activities for transportation
- Amusement and recreation activities

The report also shows that Connecticut's maritime economy contributes nearly 40,000 jobs to the state and the total value added impact (defined as salaries, wages, and other income added by economic activity) is \$4 billion. By comparison, the gross domestic product for the State of Connecticut in 2010 was \$233 billion.

*From March 26, 2013, Sea Grant news release*



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### CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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