

Produce Safety Network

PSN Outreach & Regulatory Infrastructure
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Southern Region

FDA FOOD SAFETY
MODERNIZATION ACT

THE FUTURE IS NOW

Formation of the Produce Safety Network



- Implementation of Produce Safety Rule provides unique opportunities and challenges
- FDA created the Produce Safety Network (PSN)
 - Regionally based
 - Collaborate and communicate with regional partners
 - Provide outreach and technical assistance tailored to the unique conditions in the region

The Produce Safety Network: Supporting Regulators and Growers Across the Country

FDA

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<https://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/ucm579382.htm>

- FDA [Produce Safety Network](#) (PSN) built to support the efforts of farmers, state regulators, and other key stakeholders to implement the Produce Safety Rule
- The PSN is comprised of two parts of FDA:
 - Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) Produce Safety Experts
 - Office of Regulatory Affairs (ORA) specialized investigators

Do you have a question/feedback for the Produce Safety Network?

- Stakeholders should identify and contact the *CFSAN Produce Safety Expert* for their assigned state if they have a question. The Produce Safety Experts from CFSAN will field most questions that come to the network from external stakeholders.
- The *Investigators from ORA* will handle questions and communications that occur during inspections and investigations.

Produce Safety Network

Where We Live

ORA

OFFICE OF HUMAN AND
ANIMAL FOOD OPERATIONS

OHAFO - EAST

OHAFO - WEST

DDHAFO

DOMESTIC
HUMAN AND ANIMAL FOOD
OPERATIONS
BRANCH

DOMESTIC
PRODUCE SAFETY BRANCH I

DOMESTIC
PRODUCE SAFETY BRANCH II

PRODUCE SAFETY
NETWORK

CFSAN

OFFICE OF FOOD SAFETY

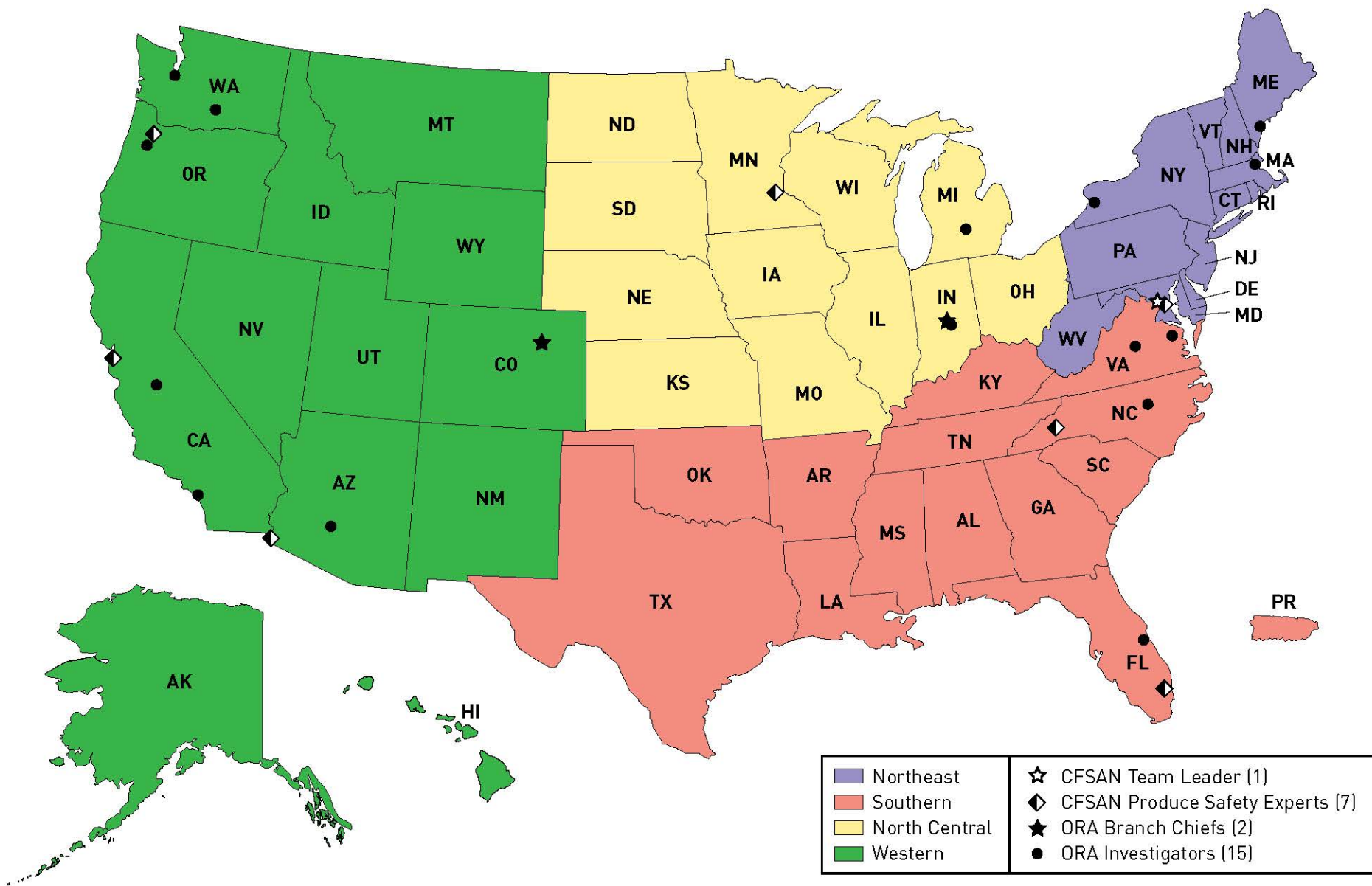
DIVISION OF PRODUCE SAFETY

FRESH PRODUCE BRANCH

PROCESSED
PRODUCE BRANCH

PSN

Produce Safety Network (PSN)



PSN

Roles and Responsibilities



- Technical Assistance
- Outreach, Education, and Training
- Collaboration and communication
- Work-planning
- Outbreak Investigations
- Inspections

Produce Safety State Cooperative Agreement Program



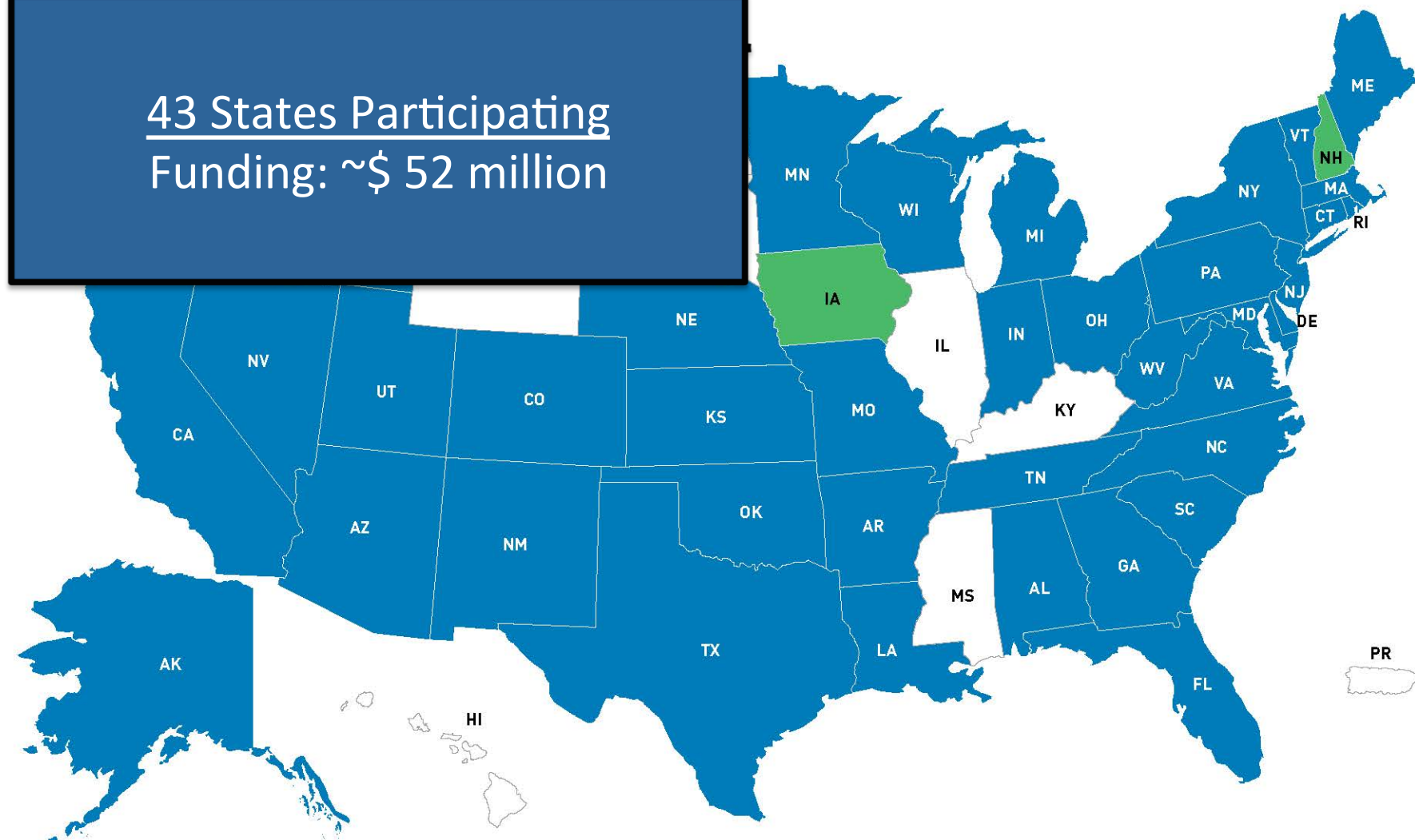
The outcomes of this cooperative agreement program are to:

- Advance efforts for a [nationally integrated food safety system \(IFSS\)](#)
- Plan, establish, and/or enhance state and territorial produce safety programs.
- Encourage the safe production of fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Promote understanding and compliance with the requirements of the Produce Safety Rule.

Applicants are state/territory government food agencies that do or could have jurisdiction for commodities in the Produce Safety Rule

Competition A Only & Competition A / B Map

43 States Participating
Funding: ~\$ 52 million



- **Competition A** includes Infrastructure, Education, Technical Assistance, and Inventory Program.
- **Competition A/B** includes Competition A components AND an Inspection, Compliance and Enforcement Program.

Training

Formal Foundational Training for Regulatory Staff

- PSA Grower Training
- On-line Pre-requisite courses
 - Produce Safety Rule course
 - Horticultural practices course
- *Produce Safety Inspection for Regulators* course (FD226)
- *Produce and Sprout Investigation for Regulators* (FD326)

Outreach

Summits and meetings



Water

- Center for Produce Safety
Agricultural Water Testing
Methods Colloquium
 - April 6-7, 2017 in Irvine, CA
- Collaborative Food Safety Forum :
Agricultural Water Standards and
Testing Protocols
 - October 3, 2017 in
Washington, DC
- Produce Safety Alliance/FDA
Agricultural Water Summit
 - February 27-28, 2018 in
Cincinnati, OH
 - Remote Sites

Soil

- PSA/FDA Soil Summit
 - March 28-29, 2017 in Geneva,
NY
 - December 12-13, 2017 in
Houston, TX
 - January 21-22, 2018 in Atlanta,
GA

What to Expect Now That Larger Farms Must Comply with the FSMA Produce Safety Rule

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Samir Assar -Director of
FDA's Div. Produce Safety in
CFSAN



<https://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/ucm594712.htm>

CFSAN's Senior Science Advisor Aims to Build Bridges to Advance Produce Safety- Jim Gorny



I'll be helping develop strategies to implement the Produce Safety Rule. I'll be working closely with the Division of Produce Safety, which has been on the frontlines of FSMA rulemaking and implementation, and FDA's Produce Safety Network that has stationed experts across the country to support farmers and state regulators

<https://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/ucm595125.htm>

"It's important to note that routine inspections under the Produce Safety Rule will not begin until the spring of 2019 to give both farmers and state regulators more guidance, training, technical assistance, and planning and ensure that they have the tools they need."

"PSN members are actively working with state produce program staff to learn more about the challenges faced in their regions. One way they're doing this is by interacting directly with farmers. In 2017, PSN and state staff participated in educational visits to 117 U.S. farms to listen to the challenges faced by farmers, learn about unique growing conditions and practices, and address questions and concerns about the Produce Safety Rule."

Produce Safety Network Activities

Outreach and Technical Assistance

ORA PSN communications:

- With state partners and industry for OFRRs, inspections or investigations, work planning (state partners only)

CFSAN PSN as a resource for external stakeholders

- Includes policy and rule interpretation, scientific support for state and industry partners

135 PSR interpretation questions answered*

PSN attended ~80 outreach events in fiscal year 2017

Produce Safety Network Activities

Educational Farm Visits

- Response to stakeholder concerns about FDA knowledge of growing conditions/practices
- Help PSN interpret PSR, develop guidance, conduct regulatory work
- PSN has conducted 39 farm tours, involving 117 farms*

On-Farm Readiness Reviews (OFRR)

- FDA is working with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) to develop a voluntary on-farm readiness review program
- Partners:
 - Cooperative Extension (Land grant institutions)
 - University of Florida, Michigan State, NC State, Rutgers (NJ), and Produce Safety Alliance
 - State Agriculture Departments
 - Oregon, North Carolina, Michigan, and Vermont
 - FDA
 - Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
 - Office of Regulatory Affairs
 - Office of Foods and Veterinary Medicine
 - USDA
- “If a farmer chooses to participate, a team that could include state and FDA regulators and educators would visit the farm to offer insights, advice and technical assistance, and to answer any questions that the farmer may have about his/her specific operation.” Samir Assar <https://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/ucm594712.htm>

Moving Forward: Opportunities for Training, Outreach and Technical Assistance



- Building relationships while enhancing stakeholders' integrated knowledge of the Produce Safety Rule
- On-Farm Readiness Reviews (OFRR)
- Environmental Assessment and Research Working Groups
- Resource material development
- Formal and informal training opportunities
- Rule interpretation and training on guidance materials
- Committed to sharing updates, information and supporting stakeholders' efforts to successfully implement the Produce Safety Rule
- Regulator TAN (real-time technical support during inspections and investigations)

PSN Contacts

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For More Information

- Web site: www.fda.gov/fsma
- Subscription feature available
- To submit a question about FSMA, visit www.fda.gov/fsma and go to [Contact Us](#)

