Washington State On-Farm Readiness Reviews

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) is offering free, educational on-farm assessments to help you comply with the Food Safety Modernization Act’s (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule.

On-Farm Readiness Reviews (OFRR) are non-regulatory and voluntary. Trained WSDA staff will visit your farm and assess whether your produce safety practices meet the requirements of the Produce Safety Rule (PSR) and prepare you for produce safety inspections.

An OFRR is personalized.

Every farm is different which means the produce safety risks will vary. The results of an OFRR are customized to the needs of your farm. An OFRR is an opportunity for reviewers to observe practices in action and make tailored suggestions. Reviews should be conducted as close as possible to harvest time and last approximately 2 hours.

During the visit, you can ask your specific food safety questions.

An OFRR is non-regulatory.

An OFRR is an educational assessment, not an inspection or audit. The goal is to identify areas for produce safety improvement and prepare your farm for an actual inspection.

The OFRR assessment is a high-level overview of the farm operation that focuses on farm activities without a formal record review. WSDA can review records and answer recordkeeping questions if
you request it. The assessment will give you a better sense of what to expect from a routine inspection.

If a reviewer observes a serious, egregious condition that could pose an imminent public health hazard, the reviewer will work with you to take corrective action on-site. As long as the product has not entered commerce and the issue can be immediately addressed, reviewers will not take any regulatory action nor notify FDA or any other regulatory agency.

An OFRR is free.

OFRRs are federally funded through a cooperative agreement with FDA, so there is no cost to farmers. It is recommended that you attend the FDA-approved Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) Grower Training prior to scheduling an OFRR. The PSA Grower Training provides a foundational understanding of the regulation and general Good Agricultural Practices that will aid in the review process.

For more information on the PSA training visit: producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu or foodsafety.wsu.edu

How to request an OFRR

Regardless of your farm type or size, you are welcome to schedule an OFRR. Know that an OFRR does not replace a routine inspection for covered farms as they are required to comply with the regulation, but it's a great option if you are new to the inspection process or hesitant about what inspections are like. WSDA can help you decide if an OFRR is a good option for your farm.

Contact us today
producesafety@agr.wa.gov
or 360-902-1848

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