ON-FARM FOOD SAFETY FOR FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE FARMERS

**Inspection VS Audit**

**PRODUCE SAFETY RULE INSPECTION**

Federal regulation mandated under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) in 2015.

**OVERVIEW**

Third-party certification that verifies farm practices for buyers.

**KEY TOPICS**

- Health and hygiene
- Animal management
- Soil amendments
- Water quality
- Post-harvest handling
- Equipment sanitation

**ADMINISTERED IN WASHINGTON BY**

WSDA Produce Safety Program

More information at agr.wa.gov/producesafety.

**MANDATORY?**

Yes, but some small, direct marketing farms and products are exempt.

No, but some buyers require it.

**DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED?**

Certain records are required. A food safety plan is recommended.

A food safety plan with policies, procedures, and records.

**EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Inspectors record violations and corrective actions. Enforcement protocol is under development.

Typically a point-based checklist.

**VISIT FREQUENCY**

Every couple of years, depending on corrective actions needed.

Most certification programs require annual renewal.

**COST**

No Cost - inspections are federally funded.

$100 – $200 per hour depending on the program.