

## **FDA, State Agriculture Agencies, and Food Production Stakeholders Meet to Discuss Proposed FSMA Rules**

The FDA is meeting with a 10-state consortium of agriculture agency representatives on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the state office complex at 165 Capitol Avenue in Hartford, CT from 10:00am to 5:00pm. Departments of health, extension agents, and producer and processor association representatives will also attend to offer informal comment. People interested in food safety who would like to share thoughts on the proposed rules are invited to participate from 3:45pm-4:45pm.

The Northeast Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NEASDA) organized the meeting in response to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration publishing two new proposed food safety rules as part of the implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). FDA is seeking nationwide comment on both proposed rules from all stakeholders, including state agencies, producer groups and the public until May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

The *Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce* rule proposes enforceable safety standards for the production and harvesting of produce on farms. The *Current Good Manufacturing Practices and Hazard Analysis and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Human Food* rule would require makers of food to be sold in the United States, whether produced at a foreign- or domestic-based facility, to develop a formal plan for preventing food products from causing foodborne illness.

All growers, manufacturers, and anyone interested in fresh produce safety and manufacturing of human food is encouraged to comment on the proposed rules. The comment period will remain open until May 16, 2013. A full copy of the proposed rules is available for viewing through the following links:

Produce - <http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodSafety/FSMA/ucm334114.htm>

Current Good Manufacturing Practices - <http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodSafety/FSMA/ucm334114.htm>

This meeting is not a formal listening session and comments will not be officially recorded. Instead, all interested parties are encouraged to submit official comments to FDA prior to May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013. There are two ways to submit comments to FDA:

- 1) Comment electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=FDA-2011-N-0921>
- 2) Written comments may be faxed to the FDA at 301-827-6870 or you may mail them to:  
Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

If you have questions about the meeting in Hartford on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, please contact the Department of Agriculture.