



Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule

Biological Soil Amendments of Animal Origin

Do you produce and sell soil amendments that contain animal manure, animal by-products and/or food waste to fruit and vegetable farms? This factsheet provides information on what soil amendment producers should know about the FSMA Produce Safety Rule and its requirements for produce farms pertaining to Biological Soil Amendments of Animal Origin (BSAAO).

What is the FSMA Produce Safety Rule?

The FSMA Produce Safety Rule (PSR) is a U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) rule that establishes minimum food safety standards for **farms that grow, harvest, pack, or hold fruits and vegetables** in order to reduce foodborne illness.

Who implements the Rule in Vermont?

The **Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets** (VAAFMM) Produce Program conducts routine inspections of produce farms subject to the PSR. The inspection team is responsible for ensuring that farms meet produce safety standards to minimize the risk of contaminated produce entering the marketplace.

Does the FSMA Produce Safety Rule apply to companies who produce and sell soil amendments?

No. The FSMA Produce Safety Rule only applies to farms. This factsheet is intended to provide general information about the PSR to companies who produce and sell soil amendments to produce farms. Specifically, there are requirements for farms pertaining to soil amendments that contain materials of animal origin and related treatment processes and records that soil amendment producers should be aware of.

What is a Biological Soil Amendment of Animal Origin (BSAAO)?

The FDA defines biological soil amendment of animal origin (BSAAO) as “a biological soil amendment which consists, in whole or part, of materials of animal origin, such as manure, or non-fecal animal byproducts including animal mortalities, or table waste, alone or in combination.”



What products are considered a BSAAO?

Examples of BSAAO include:

- Animal bedding material (e.g. straw) that contains animal excreta
- Blood meal
- Bone meal
- Fish emulsion
- Manure
- Table waste (e.g. post-consumer food waste)
- Treated, stabilized compost (i.e. finished compost)
- Worm castings

What documentation will farms ask for from soil amendment producers?

Produce farms that are subject to the PSR and who receive treated BSAAO from a supplier, are required to keep documentation demonstrating that the process used to treat the BSAAO is a scientifically valid process. This documentation is referred to as a **Certificate of Conformance**. Companies who produce and sell treated BSAAO's to fruit and vegetable farms may receive inquiries from farms to provide this documentation.

To learn more about a Certificate of Conformance see the Produce Safety Alliance factsheet which includes an example template available online at: <https://bit.ly/36LLGlx> (URL is case sensitive).