Food Safety Modernization Act
Produce Operational Plan
Overview

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Samir Assar, Ph.D.
Director, Produce Safety Staff
CFSAN/FDA
Background

• Farm community:
  – Diverse by size, commodities, practices and agroecological conditions
  – Numerous and concentrated/ unevenly distributed across the US and abroad
  – Subject to multiple marketing agreements/orders and supplier audits
  – Limited interaction with FDA in the past
Regulator Capacity

• Increase produce knowledge, skills and credibility of the food safety staff of FDA and regulatory partners
  
  Build a workforce with specialized skill set focused on produce.
Regulator Capacity

• Increase knowledge, skills and credibility of produce food safety staff of FDA and regulatory partners.
  – Build a workforce with specialized skill set focused on produce.

  • Comprehensive, Hands-On Regulator Training including
    – PSA core curriculum
    – Regulator course including on-farm assessment
    – Continuing education (PSA curricula, as developed)
Regulator Capacity

- Increase knowledge, skills and credibility of produce food safety staff of FDA and regulatory partners.
  - Build a workforce with specialized skill set focused on produce.

  • Comprehensive and Hands-On Model for Regulator Training
    - On-farm learning in training program
      » University and other federal agency farm sites
      » Volunteer farms
    - Farm protocol and etiquette component
    - New tools and forms component
Regulator Capacity

• Increase knowledge, skills and credibility of produce food safety staff of FDA and regulatory partners.
  – Build a workforce with specialized skill set focused on produce.

• Regulator Technical Assistance Call Center
  – Allows for inquiries and responses while at the inspection sites
  – Access to SMEs & additional resources
Regulatory Approach

- Establish and utilize “new” regulatory strategy focused on education, training and voluntary compliance
  - Joint FDA and State regulatory inspections: fosters trust with farming community
  - Emphasize and encourage preventive measures and practices: less focus on violative citations
Regulatory Approach

• Establish and utilize “new” regulatory strategy focused on education, training, and voluntary compliance.
  – Encourage corrections in field
  – Routinely share guidance and other resources
  – Share findings, trends, and observations with farms
    • local meetings with commodity groups
    • Webinars
    • On-line information access
Regulatory Approach

• Better Execution of an Expanded Set of Farm Related Activities by Regulators to Facilitate Compliance
  – Data sharing among regulators and other stakeholders
  – Data Analysis
    • Trends
    • Identification of risks
    • Focus on risks
  – Targeted Sampling Programs
Questions