Training Guide for Workers: Pre-Harvest On-Farm Food Safety

This material was developed by the North Central Regional Center under a grant from the Food and Drug Administration. FDA has provided technical assistance in developing this material; however, this information has not been formally approved by FDA. It does not represent any agency determination or policy.

Funding provided through the Department of Health and Human Services Food and Drug Administration (Grant Number 1R01FD005685-01) titled "Strategies for Successful Implementation of FSMA (Food Safety Modernization Act) in the North Central Region through Adoption of a Systems Approach and Stakeholder Engagement Framework."

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, and reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, and American Sign Language) should contact the responsible State or local Agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online at https://www.ocio.usda.gov/document/ad-3027, from any USDA office, by calling 866-632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or (2) Fax: 833-256-1665 or 202-690-7442; or (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

For the full non-discrimination statement or accommodation inquiries, go to <u>www.extension.iastate.edu/diversity/ext</u>. (This page is included to make sure the document will print correctly as a flipchart.)

201



Personal Cleanliness and Clothing

You must maintain personal cleanliness before and during work [Section 112.32]

- Our farm's policies are (INSERT POLICIES).
- Ask your supervisor if you have questions

Suggestions:

- Bathing and wearing clean clothes and shoes should be daily tasks.
- Clean clothes and shoes/boots should be worn everyday.
- Changing clothing and/or shoes should be done if you work with animal manure, chemicals, or animals.

Notes:

- Clothing can become a source of contamination on the farm, particularly when working with pesticides, animal based composts, or animals.
- Aprons or other food safety equipment should be properly stored when not in use, cleaned on a regular basis, and removed prior to using toilet facilities
- Shoes can become a source of contamination on the farm as they can track contaminants throughout the field.



Photo credit on previous page: Shutterstock

Work with Farm Animals or Domesticated Animals





North Central Region Center for FSMA Training, Extension and Technical Assistance

Farm Animals and Domesticated Animals

While We Are Working with Farm Animals or Domesticated Animals

- Our farm's policies are: (INSERT POLICIES).
- You **must** wash your hands as soon as possible after working with or touching animals or contact with waste of animal origin [Section 112.32(b)(5)]

Suggestions:

- We will try to schedule your work so you do not have animal chores directly before handling produce or food contact surfaces.
- Those of us who do handle animals should inspect clothing for manure or soiled spots, before handling produce or entering a produce area. If clothing is soiled, we should change clothing before working in produce areas.
- We should always wear different footwear or wear disposable foot booties when working in animal areas and change footwear before moving into areas where covered produce is handled. Wash your hands after replacing footwear.
- Do not wear dirty boots (especially those covered in manure or other contaminants) in areas where covered produce is present (i.e. fields or packing areas).

Notes:

Prevention of cross-contamination from the animal manure is a **must** in Produce Safety Rule [Section 112.134 (a)]



Photo credit on previous page: Shutterstock

Glove Use



Glove Use

- Our farm's policy is (INSERT POLICY).
- You **must** wash your hands before placing gloves on hands [Section 112.32(3)(ii)]
- You must wash your hands and change gloves if the gloves are soiled, or if gloves have holes, tears, or cracks [Section 112.32(b)(4)]
- Gloves should be intact and in a sanitary condition

Suggestions:

- Gloves **must** be clean prior to use [Section 112.32(b)(4)]
- Disposable gloves are intended for a single use or purpose
- You should change gloves when (INSERT POLICIES).

Notes:

- When used properly, gloves can help keep food safe by creating a barrier between hands and food
- Gloves should never be used in place of hand washing



Photo credit on previous page: Shutterstock

Jewelry Policies





Jewelry

- Our farm's policy is (INSERT POLICY)
- Personnel who handle covered produce or food contact surfaces **must** remove or cover hand jewelry that cannot be adequately cleaned and sanitized during periods in which covered produce is manipulated by hand [Section 112.32(b)(5)]

Suggestions:

- No hand jewelry is allowed
- If you have hand jewelry that cannot be removed, you must wear a glove. Gloves can be found (INSERT LOCATION)
- When working, dangling jewelry can fall into produce bins
- Make sure all jewelry is secure

Note:

Hand jewelry can cause cross-contamination between produce items and surfaces



Handwashing Stations



North Central Region Center for FSMA Training, Extension and Technical Assistance

Handwashing Stations

- Our hand washing stations are located: (INSERT LOCATIONS)
- Our handwashing station must be located in close proximity to all toilet facilities during growing activities that take place in a fully-enclosed building, and during covered harvesting, packing, or holding activities, per Section 112.129 (c)
- Handwashing stations must be accessible to all workers and visitors [Section 112.33]

What **must** be at the handwashing station? [Section 112.130 (b)]

- A source of running water that meets microbial standards [Section 112.44(a)]
- Soap
- Adequate drying devices (such as single service towels, sanitary towel service, or electric hand dryers)
- Container to catch wastewater
- Waste container

Notes:

- Handwashing is one of the most important steps we can take to reduce the risk of contaminating our fresh produce with foodborne pathogens
- OSHA recommends no more than 1/4 miles or a 5-minute drive with transportation between the field and toilet facilities
- Must monitor and service all handwashing stations [Section 112.129(b)(2)]



Photo credit on previous page: Shutterstock

Hand washing



North Central Region Center for FSMA Training, Extension and Technical Assistance

Handwashing

Antiseptic hand sanitizer is NOT a replacement for handwashing [Section 112.130 (d)]

When to wash your hands?

Before:

- we start work [Section 112.32(b)(3)(i)]
- we put on gloves [Section 112.32(b)(3)(ii)]

After:

- breaks [Section 112.32(b)(3)(iv)]
- we eat or smoke
- we touch our faces
- we cough or sneeze
- we use the toilet [Section 112.32(b)(3)(iii)]

Other Times:

- Any time our hands are excessively dirty or after we have touched things that may be contaminated [Section 112.32(b)(3)(vi)] like rotten vegetables, compost, chemicals, or animals
- Touching animals, handling manure or animal waste, or touching anything that could be contaminated [Section 112.32(b)(3)(v)]



Photo credit on previous page: Iowa State University



5. Dry

6. turn off water with paper towel



North Central Region Center for FSMA Training, Extension and Technical Assistance

4. Rinse

Handwashing

What is the recommended method for washing hands?

- Wet hands with water that meets microbial standards [Section 112.44(a)] (it does not have to be hot)
- Apply soap and lather for 20 seconds
- Clean under fingernails and between fingers
- Make sure to wash thumbs, wrists, and tops of hands
- Rinse hands with water
- Dry hands with a clean, single use towel or drying device
- Dispose of towels in properly covered receptacle

Antiseptic hand rubs and wipes are **NOT** a substitute for handwashing [Section 112.130(d)]

Notes:

Do not reuse hand towels unless you have a sanitary towel service



Photo credit on previous page: Shutterstock