

# FSMA PRODUCE SAFETY RULE REQUIREMENTS FOR POST-HARVEST AGRICULTURAL WATER

Kentucky Department of Agriculture



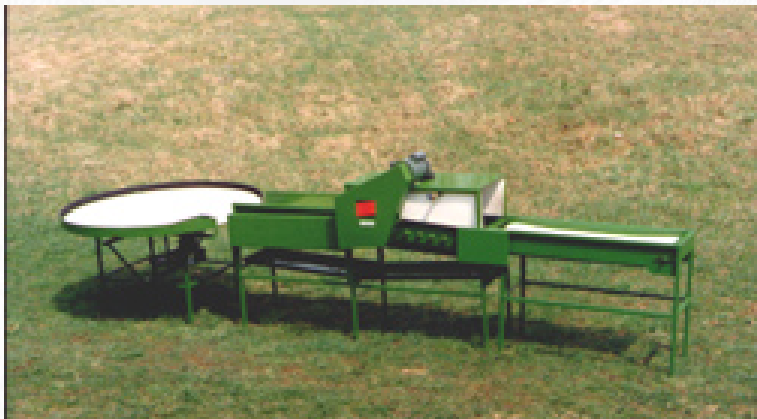
## AGRICULTURAL WATER?

Agricultural water is water used in covered activities on covered produce where water is intended to, or is likely to, contact covered produce or food contact surfaces, including water used in growing activities and in harvesting, packing, and holding activities.

“Harvest and post-harvest agricultural water” refers to water used in harvesting, packing, and holding activities, such as water used to prevent dehydration, for transport, cooling, and washing. This includes water used to make ice that contacts covered produce or food contact surfaces and water used for handwashing.

“Pre-harvest agricultural water” refers to water used during the growing activities, such as irrigation and crop protection sprays.

*Note: FDA intends to continue to exercise enforcement discretion for the pre-harvest water requirements. (for covered produce other than sprouts) in the Produce Safety Rule during rulemaking.*



## POST & HARVEST AGRICULTURAL WATER QUALITY SAMPLING

Who can test the water?

Test must be collected by one of the following

- farm
- a person
- entity acting on farm's behalf
- 3rd party data *\*collected data must represent the farms water\**

How do I collect the water?

- Samples must be aseptically collected / free of contamination
- Run the water to flush the line before collecting
- Avoid touching things other than water
- Collected water sample should represent the ag water sources used and done prior to use

## WELL WATER TESTING RECAP

- Must ensure that there is 0 E. Coli in 100 milliliters of Agricultural Water
- Must initially take four well tests during the grow season or over a period of a year
- The water samples must be representative of your use of water
- The water samples must be taken as close in time as practicable to, but prior to harvest
- After testing your initial year, an annual test is required to ensure there is 0 E. Coli. If any annual test fails to meet the standard, resume testing of water at least four times per growing season
- Keep records of all tests and the results

*Wanting to test your well water? Contact Fairview Produce auction for testing arrangements through their partnership with Kentucky State University.*

§ 112.46(c)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

In July 2022, FDA has issued the proposed dates in regards to the end of the intended enforcement discretion period for the harvest and post-harvest agricultural water requirements for covered produce other than sprouts.

- January 26, 2025, for very small businesses;
- January 26, 2024, for small businesses; and
- January 26, 2023, for all other businesses.



**KENTUCKY  
DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE**

<https://www.kyagr.com/marketing/produce-safety.html>

## QUESTIONS?

Contact the Produce Safety Program at 502-782-7817 from 8am-4pm ET or the Fairview Auction or Kentucky State University's Lindsay Heyvaert at 270-282-0982 EXT: 1003