

Developing Your Food Safety Program

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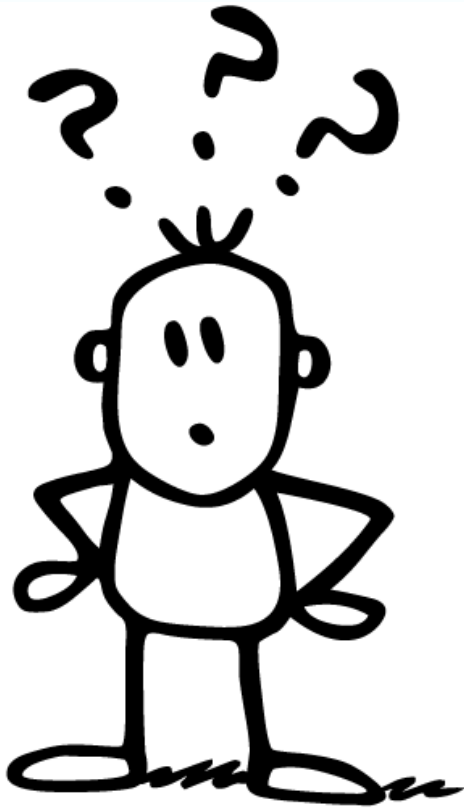
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United States Department of Agriculture

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Where do I start?



Attend a Training! ☒
Learn about GAPS/GHPS

Good Agricultural Practices Good Handling Practices

Methods farmers follow to prevent or
minimize the risk of on-farm
contamination of fruits and vegetables.

Take it one step at a time

1. Talk to your buyer: what do they require?
2. Assess food safety risks on your farm
3. Implement Corrective Actions
4. Develop your Food Safety Plan/Program
 1. Food safety policies
 2. SOPs
 3. GAPs
 4. Worker Training
 5. Record keeping
5. Follow your plan, implement corrective actions

Step 1: Talk to your Buyer(s)

- What kind of food safety program/certificate do they require if any?
 - Self-certification?
 - Third party certification?
 - Any particular 3rd party certifier? (Primus, CDFA)
 - Organic certification sufficient?
 - CDFA Small Farm Food Safety guidelines

Step 2: Assess risks on your farm

What are potential sources of contamination?



WASSH!

Water

Runoff/flooding



Contaminated irrigation
and produce wash water



Contaminated water
source for handwashing



Animal contamination

Domestic



Wild



Animal Feces

Bird Droppings



Deer Droppings



Rodents and Pests



Soil contamination



Soil contamination



Surfaces

Dirty Harvest buckets



Dirty packing tables



Cross-contami-
nation in
transportation





Dirty Boxes

Clean boxes?



Dirty Hose



Health & Hygiene

Handling product with
dirty hands



Not washing hands after
using toilet



Dirty Toilets



Sick
workers



What are 5 sources of food safety risk on the farm?

- Water
- Animals
- Soils
- Surfaces
- Hygiene (WASSH!)



How do I assess risks on *my* farm?

Conduct a Farm Assessment/Self-Audit

On-Farm Food Safety Assessment for California Urban Farms

Prepared by Jennifer Sowerwine, UC Cooperative Extension/UC Berkeley

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This form is designed to help urban farmers assess and record any food safety risks on their farm, and identify and monitor what corrective actions, if necessary, should be taken to ensure the farm is following good agricultural practices, good animal husbandry practices, and good handling practices to minimize the risk of on-farm contamination. The materials herein are adapted from the USDA Good Agricultural Practices and Good Handling Practices Audit Verification Checklist and User's Guide¹ and the CDFA Food Safety Guidelines, which focus on fresh produce safety². For more detailed information on how to assess good husbandry practices for small ruminants and poultry, please refer to section five of this guidebook and the resource section.

Instructions for how to use this form

1. Review the document in advance. Determine when and how to do an on-farm risk assessment. For example, choose a time immediately after the rains to evaluate any risk of water runoff onto your crops. To evaluate whether workers are following good health and hygiene practices and implementing standard operating procedures, be sure to assess the farm during harvest season.
2. For each question – record Yes (it is already being done), No (if it still needs to be done), or N/A if it's not applicable to your farm operation. Record any notes or corrective actions that may be needed, in the notes section.
3. In the column labeled "Doc", this indicates the type of documentation that may be required to show conformance to that question. For example, it might include documented standard operating procedures (SOPs) posted on the wall for workers to follow, or outlined in your food safety manual (FSM). Or it might include a record-keeping sheet (R) showing an action was taken. A "P" indicates that a policy or standard operating procedure is included in the Food Safety Manual to show conformance with the question.
4. As noted above, in some instances, observation of the practice is necessary to assess conformance with the question. This may involve making observations at the farm during harvest season to observe behavior of volunteers, workers and helpers.

GENERAL FARM INFORMATION

¹

https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/GAPGHP_Audit_Program_User%27s_Guide%5B1%5D.pdf

² https://www.cdffa.ca.gov/is/i_&_c/pdfs/SFFSGbooklet-English.pdf

WATER QUALITY

What is the source of irrigation water? (well -capped or uncapped-, municipal) please specify:

How are crops irrigated? (Flood, drip, sprinkler, other) please specify:

Question	Yes	No	N/A	Doc	Notes
11 An annual water quality test was conducted & record is kept on file. (Municipal Water District report OK)				D-water test	
12 Water quality is known to be safe for the crop <u>irrigation</u> method and crop being irrigated.				D-water test	
13 Potable water is used for all <u>chemical applications</u> and <u>produce washing</u> if applicable.				D-water test	
14 If necessary, steps are taken to protect irrigation water from potential direct and non-point source contamination (backflow).				Observe	
15 Water used in <u>washing and packing operation</u> is potable and sufficiently treated to reduce microbial contamination.				D-FSM	
16 Farm sewage treatment system/septic is functioning properly with no evidence of leaking/runoff				Observe	
17 There is no municipal/commercial sewage treatment facility or waste material landfill adjacent to the farm that may cause groundwater contamination or runoff to the farm.				Observe	

If risks are identified, then
what?

Step 3: Implement Corrective Actions

Risks

- Water
- Land & Soils
- Animals (intrusion)
- Surfaces & Equipment
- Worker Health & Hygiene
- Chemicals
- Transportation

Corrective Actions

- Water test & treatment
- Soil test, manure records, land use history
- Fencing, avoid harvest, traps
- Clean & sanitize
- Worker Training, toilets & handwashing facilities
- Proper use & storage
- Covered, traceback

Step 4: Develop your Food Safety Plan

- Food safety policies for your farm
- SOPs - GAPs/GHPs
 - WASSH
- Worker training guidelines
- Record keeping sheets
- Signage, toilet and handwashing facilities.



“Say what you do, do what you say”

Basic components of a food safety plan

- F.S. Contact Person
- Farm Description & Map
- Worker Health & Hygiene
- Worker Training
- Signage
- Toilets & handwashing stations
- Visitor sign in sheet
- Water test results
- Land and soil assessment
- Animal/wildlife monitoring & pest control program.
- SOP for Cleaning/sanitizing all surfaces, packing area, equipment, etc.
- SOP for Storage and Transportation
- Documentation

Resources

Resources

- Food Safety Plan Guide
- Food Safety Plan Template
- Food Safety Record Keeping Sheets
- Basic GAPs checklist – what you should have
- How to develop a SOP
- Daily checklist for on-farm food assessment
- Visitor/Volunteer Food Safety Policy for your farm
- Food Safety Tips for School Gardens

Food Safety Plan Guide

California Small Farm Food Safety Plan Guide: Standard Operating Procedures for Good Agricultural Practices*

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*This Food Safety Plan Guide provides a comprehensive yet concise description of Standard Operating Procedures for Good Agricultural Practices on Small Farms and associated worker training and documentation. The content aligns with requirements outlined in the USDA Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and Good Handling Practices (GHPs) Audit Verification Program yet is tailored to the small farm. Please contact Jennifer Sowerwine jsowerwi@berkeley.edu or Christy Getz cgetz@berkeley.edu for more information.

Note: Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)

D. GENERAL SANITATION

Hand Washing Facilities: Good sanitation and proper use of hand washing facilities includes the following:

SOP: Hand Washing Facilities

- Handwashing facility is located in close proximity of toilet.
- All handwashing facilities are clean and water source is covered. They are supplied with single use towels, hand soap and potable water for hand washing. Trash can with lid is located in vicinity and emptied regularly.
- Disposal of waste water from hand washing does not cause unsanitary conditions, nuisance or contamination.
- Hand washing container is thoroughly cleaned and sanitized on a weekly basis by scrubbing with a clearly labeled brush that is stored separately.
- Cleaning and resupply records are maintained.

Documentation: No. 3 Toilet & Handwashing Maintenance Record

Restroom Facilities: Good sanitation and proper use of toilet facilities includes the following:

SOP Restrooms Facilities

- Toilet facilities are located within ¼ mile or 5 min walk of workers.
- Field toilets are properly screened to keep animals and insects out. They are ventilated and provided with self-closing doors, lockable from the inside.
- Daily spot checks for cleanliness & spot cleaning/trash pick up.
- Weekly thorough cleaning (toilet, walls, floors) with Green Power (20 parts water to 1 part Green Power) or equivalent & rinse with hose.
- Sanitize toilets and urinals with a separate, labeled brush.
- Sanitize doorknobs, and any other surface inside unit with separate brush.
- Fill paper products and soap dispensers.
- Provide covered trash receptacle & remove trash to dumpster as needed.
- Record initials and date of cleaning on record sheet # 2 when unit is serviced. Keep records for 2 years.
- Materials required & labeled "Restroom Use Only": broom & dustpan, brush for wall & floor, brush for toilet & urinal, single use wipe for door knob, labeled bucket, trigger sprayer (for spot cleaning), hose (for rinsing).
- Cleaning and resupply records are maintained.

Documentation: No. 3 Toilet and Handwashing Maintenance Record

E. CHEMICALS AND PESTICIDES

Safe Pesticide Use

Before applying any pesticide, a grower must first obtain an "Operator Identification Number". To use a restricted pesticide, a grower must obtain a "Restricted Material Permit" and become a Private Certified Applicator" by passing a test. (If a grower is hiring a licensed pest control

- **SOP: BOXES**
- Standard Operating Procedures—A set of procedures or steps farmers follow the same way every time to ensure food is clean and safe.
- All SOPs have record keeping sheets.

Note: Worker Training Guidelines

Worker Training 3: Pesticide Handler Training

The training shall cover, for each pesticide or chemically similar group of pesticides to be used:

- How to read and understand the content of pesticide product labeling, Pesticide Safety Information Series leaflets, Material Safety Data Sheets, etc.
- The meaning of information contained in product label (such as precautionary statements about human health hazards, signal word, proper chemical handling including mixing and applying, application rate and how it can be achieved, PHI, REI, PPE) and other precautions of the chemical.
- Routes by which pesticides can enter the body; signs and symptoms of overexposure, emergency first aid for pesticide overexposure and how to obtain emergency medical care
- Routine and emergency decontamination procedures including spill clean up and the need to thoroughly shower with soap and warm water after exposure.
- Appropriate use and sanitation of required personal protective equipment.
- Safety requirements and procedures for handling, transporting, storing and disposing of pesticides (stored in locked area, transported separate from produce,)
- Environmental concerns such as drift, runoff, wildlife hazards.
- Warnings about taking pesticides or pesticide containers home.
- Proper disposal of left-over chemicals and chemical containers. Spray out remaining mixture and rinse sprayer with water; never store left-over mixture for later use. Never re-use containers. Triple rinse, empty, remove lid and puncture container—dispose of containers at approved hazardous material disposal site.

Documentation: No. 5 Worker Training Record

Worker Training 4: Pesticide Worker Safety

All employees who work in a field treated with pesticides has been trained within the last 5 years, in a manner the employee understands, before beginning work in the treated field. The training will include:

- The importance of routine decontamination and washing thoroughly after the exposure period.
- Restricted entry intervals and what posting means (both California and federal posting sign formats)
- Where pesticides are encountered, including treated surfaces in the field, residue on clothing, chemigation and drift.
- Routes of exposure
- Hazards of pesticides including acute effects, chronic and delayed effects, and sensitization effects.
- Common signs and symptoms of overexposure
- First aid including decontamination, eye flushing, and obtaining emergency medical care
- Warnings about taking pesticides or pesticide containers home
- The hazard communication program requirements of section 6761
- Employee rights as outlined in section 6764 of the California code of regulations

Documentation: No. 5 Worker Training Record

- **WORKER TRAINING BOXES**
- ALL helpers and workers are trained, understand, and implement GAPs.
- Worker trainings are recorded.

Note: Record Keeping Sheets

3. Toilet & Handwashing Maintenance Record

[illegible]

Food Safety Plan Template

[Change, delete, or fill-in parts in yellow, remove highlights. This template will help for either self certifying or 3rd party GAPs audit. It is usable for a “Farm Review audit” and/or Field Harvesting/Packing audit”. You may have add/revise for a Harmonized or Global GAPs audit.]

ABC Farm

street

city, State, zip

phone, email

Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs)

Checked boxes indicate I have read documentation to support this ☒

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Basic Gaps Checklist

WASSH!

General

- **Map of farm** (fields, structures (toilets, buildings, storage sheds), water source, chemical storage site, adjacent land & use).
- **Documentation:** See checklists.

Water

- **Drinking water:** Clean, potable drinking water available at all times.
- **Irrigation water:** Water test results available (total coliform for well water, E. coli for surface) to measure presence of fecal coliform. Treatment as needed.
- **Hand washing water, and produce wash water:** Must be potable.

Animals

- **Wildlife:** Monitor and record presence.
- **Rodents:** Develop pest control program as needed.
- **Domestic animals:** Exclude domestic animals during growing and harvest season.

Surfaces

- **Clean and Sanitize:** Develop SOPs for cleaning and sanitizing all surfaces (buckets, harvest equipment, wash tubs, packing area, transportation vehicles). Packing containers are protected from contamination.

Soils

- **Land Use History:** no known risk of prior contamination.
- **Manure:** Analysis reports available

Health & Hygiene

- **Signage:** (handwashing, designated lunch/smoking area, non-potable water on handwashing station).
- **Field Sanitation units** (toilet & handwashing facilities available for every 20 workers; 1 male & 1 female or if <5 workers, only 1 lockable unit required).
- **Worker Hygiene Training:** Train all workers in (handwashing, hygiene, illness & accident response procedures).
- **Chemical Storage:** in locked, separate shed.

Visitor/Volunteer Food Safety Policy

1. **Hand Washing & Hygiene:** Have clean and cut nails. Hands must be washed before beginning or returning to work and after the following activities: using the restroom, smoking or tobacco use, taking breaks, eating, handling trash containers, handling money, coughing and sneezing, shoveling manure/compost and after applying sunscreen. Hands are washed with soap and water, for 20 seconds and dried with disposable towels.
2. **Field Hygiene:** never spit, eat, smoke, drink chew gum in the field or packing area. Use garbage cans for trash. Always use designated toilet facilities and wash hands thereafter. Tie back hair, keep all glass containers away from field. Avoid using product containers (harvest bins) for personal use. Return tools after use.
3. **Hydration:** To avoid heat exhaustion, drink lots of water frequently (2 quarts per person/day especially when hot). Take breaks in the shade when necessary.
4. **Illness and Injury Prevention:**
 - a. Know where the first aid kit is
 - b. Anyone suffering from a contagious disease, and with temporary illness (diarrhea, nausea, vomiting or excessive sneezing/runny nose) are advised to stay at home.
 - c. Anyone who gets a cut or has a nosebleed while working must stop immediately, contact your supervisor and have it treated.
 - d. Wounds are immediately cleaned, treated, bandaged and covered with rubber glove as soon as possible.
 - e. Discard any product that is contaminated with bodily fluids and disinfect any tools, surfaces or containers immediately.
 - f. Report and record all accidents, illnesses or injury immediately.
5. **Glove Use:** If using gloves, wash hands and dry thoroughly before and after they are removed for 20 seconds with water; replace when ripped or worn out.
6. **Designated areas:** Only eat, smoke, drink, and chew gum in areas designated for these activities. Put all personal belongings in designated area.
7. **Good Agricultural Practices:** Follow all standard operating procedures outlined in the farm manual related to pre and post-harvest checklists, cleaning & sanitizing, good hygienic practices, and avoidance of cross contamination.
8. **Security:** Report any strange or suspicious activity and/or chemicals in or around the facility

What are some SOPs you
might develop for your
farm?

Examples of SOPs

- Cleaning and Sanitizing food contact surfaces
- Maintaining clean restrooms
- Pre-harvest food safety assessment
- Treating compost
- Treating processing (wash) water
- Policy and SOP for cleaning field harvest containers
- Pest control program (traps, monitoring, etc.)
- First aid policy and SOP for cuts and injuries

How to Develop an SOP

Well written standard operating procedures provide direction, improve communication, reduce training time and improve work consistency. How to write an SOP:

1. Watch someone do the task
2. Write down everything they do, breaking it into 10 steps or less. Long steps should be broken into sub-steps. This becomes your first draft.
3. Ask employees or co-workers to review and suggest changes
4. Have someone test the SOP by following all of the steps exactly as written – make any changes as needed.
5. Post the SOP where workers can see it
6. Keep another copy in your Food Safety Plan
7. Train all workers to follow the SOP and explain why it is important to follow

SOP on how to handle product and surfaces that come in contact with bodily fluids

1. Put on nitrile gloves
2. If large enough, isolate contaminated area by marking off with tape or string
3. Notify food safety coordinator _____
4. Dispose of any contaminated product in a covered trash bin
5. Wash and sanitize surfaces first with soap and water and then with 10% bleach solution
6. Remove and wash any affected clothing

On-Farm Food Safety Assessment
Daily Check List

Pre-Harvest:

1. Are toilet and wash facilities properly located, clean and stocked with toilet paper, wash water, soap, and paper towels?
2. Is drinking water and shade available to all workers?
3. Are harvest containers available, clean, well located and protected?
4. Is harvest, washing and packing equipment and area clean, sanitized and in good condition?
5. Are shade or other pre-cool measures in place?
6. Is there evidence of animal feces, dead animals, animal crop damage or other physical contamination in the crop area that needs to be isolated for “no-harvest”?
7. Are there other notable sources of contamination such as dump sites, fuels or chemicals, manure, burning debris, or water runoff that may affect food safety?
8. Is transportation equipment clean and available with protective covering?
9. Are all signs posted to a) instruct workers and visitors to wash hands before and after handling food, harvesting, eating and smoking, and b) indicating that wash water is not potable?
10. Have all new workers and visitors been trained in proper hygiene practices and their training been recorded?
11. Have all traps or pest control measures been checked and any animals disposed?

End of Day:

1. Are harvest buckets and washing bins cleaned and sanitized?
2. Has the drinking water container been cleaned and sanitized?
3. Is the packing area cleaned, sanitized and free of debris?
4. Is all packaging stored in a safe, secure location.
5. Are all chemicals stored in a safe, locked storage cabinet away from the packing area?
6. Have all Personal Protective Equipment been cleaned?
7. Have all garbage cans been emptied?
8. Do any supplies need to be updated (hand gloves, cleansers, sanitizers, toilet or hand-washing supplies, first aid kit, record keeping sheets, signage)
- 9. Have all activities been recorded in the food safety record keeping sheets?**

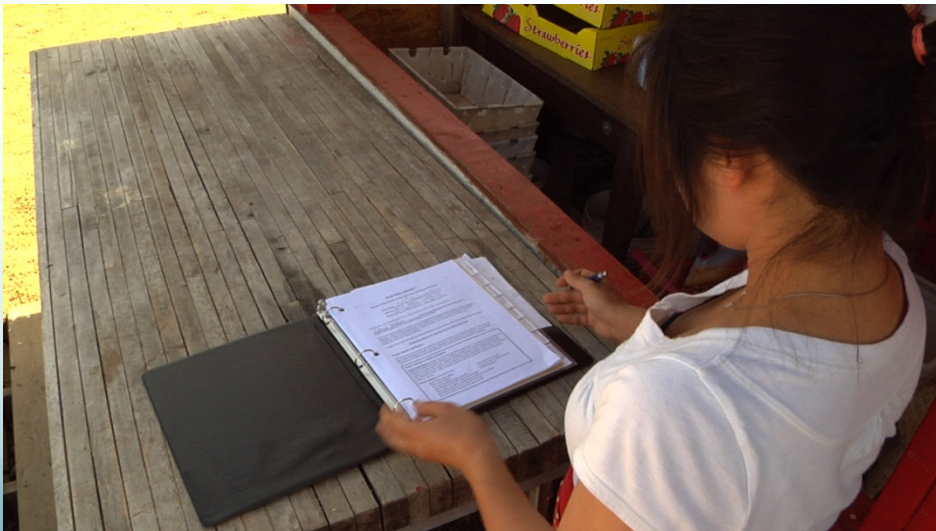
Documentation/Record Keeping

UC Berkeley/UCCE Food Safety For Small Farms Program

3. Toilet & Handwashing Maintenance Record

Date	Cleaned by	Hand Wash Water	Soap	Paper towels	Toilet paper	Toilet cleaned Mark with x
		checked/refilled	checked/refilled	checked/refilled	checked/refilled	
		checked/refilled	checked/refilled	checked/refilled	checked/refilled	
		checked/refilled	checked/refilled	checked/refilled	checked/refilled	
		checked/refilled	checked/refilled	checked/refilled	checked/refilled	
		checked/refilled	checked/refilled	checked/refilled	checked/refilled	
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		checked/refilled	checked/refilled	checked/refilled	checked/refilled	

Record your actions.



Step 5: Follow your plan and make corrections as needed!



Remember: 5 Steps

1. Talk to your buyer(s)
2. Assess your food safety risks
3. Implement corrective actions
4. Develop food safety plan & record keeping
5. Implement your plan & corrective actions

Questions?

