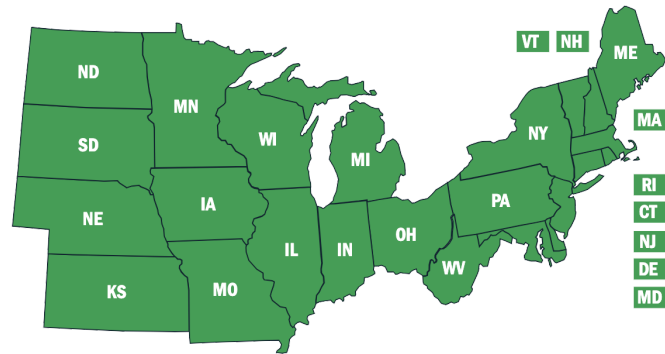




Produce Safety Handbook for Buyers

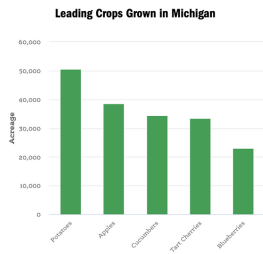
About the website

The produce safety handbook for buyers is a summary of the Northeast and North Central Region produce food safety landscape, giving an overview of produce production and helping to distinguish between each state's audit and inspection information.



The Goal

The produce safety landscape can be confusing; there are a variety of produce safety standards and verification systems that can look similar in practice, yet are different in application for produce operations. As a result, market access requirements may not match grower obligations and documentation after being found in compliance following a FSMA Produce Safety Rule inspection, or from succeeding to meet an audit's acceptance criteria. To help buyers navigate these complications, this website provides farm production statistics, state inspection and audit information in simple charts and tables, all with an eye to improving produce safety knowledge, communication, and alignment among buyers and producers.



Source: 2017 USDA Census of Agriculture.

How to use the site

An interactive map allows users to drill down at the state level to learn more about the produce production landscape, farm size, and scale within each state. Here the user will also find a detailed review of what is required for audits and inspections in the state along with corresponding program contact information.

Michigan: What is Required for Audits and Inspections in this State?

Need more information? Go to the [Produce Safety Rule Plain Language overview](#).

Issuing a Certificate: Will a grower receive a certificate following an audit or inspection?
 Produce Safety Rule: No
 USDA GAP, HGAP, and HGAP+: YES mail or scan/ send/ website

Required On-Farm Verification: How often are the audit or inspection produce safety practices verified?
 Produce Safety Rule: Periodic inspection with annual max frequency
 USDA GAP, HGAP, and HGAP+: Annual Audit

Written Food Safety Plan: Does an audit or inspection require a written farm food safety plan?
 Crop Coverage: What crops are covered by, or subject to, the requirements outlined in an audit or inspection?

Get in touch!

If you would like to provide feedback or learn more about this project, scan the QR code to provide your contact information



Intended Audience

The intended audience for this site are professional produce buyers, or people who purchase produce for distribution to customers. This guide is Intended to help produce buyers understand the produce safety programs that each state's growers have available to them, and as a follow up project, hold a discussion about the nature & strengths of each of the produce safety programs.