



Produce Safety Network

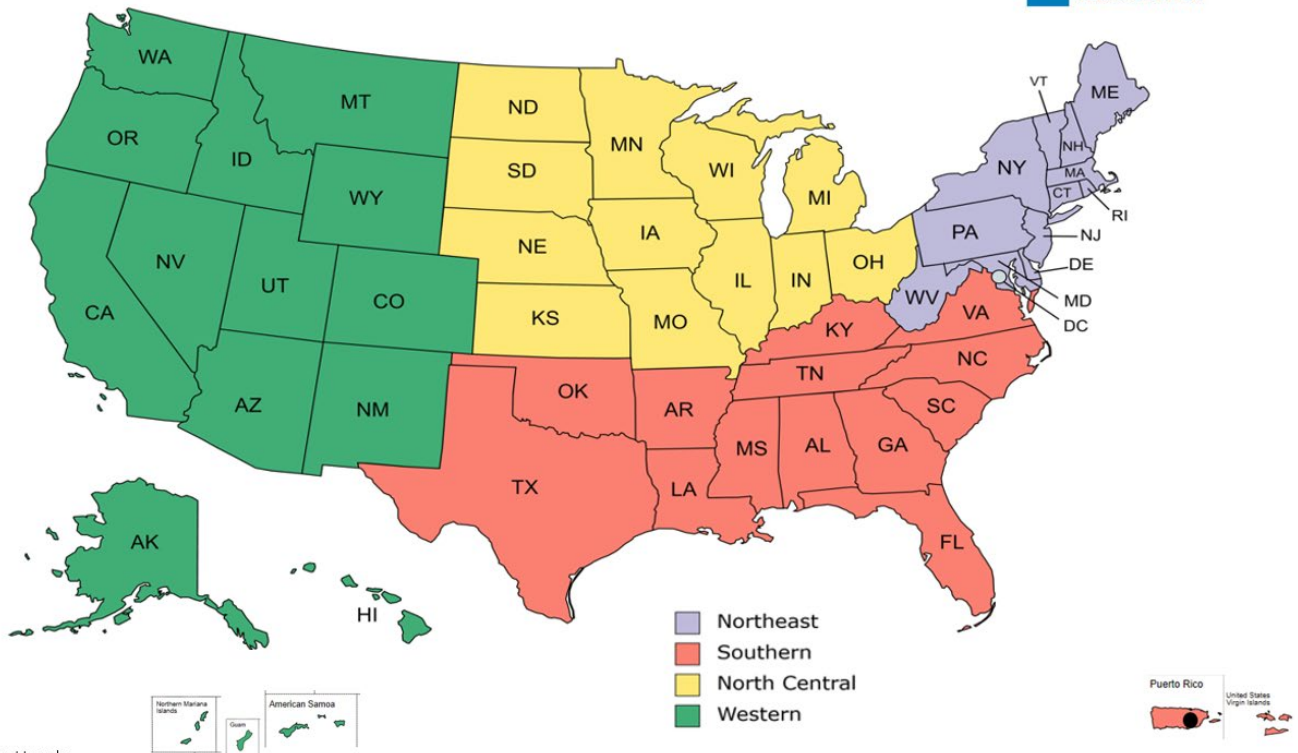
Implementation of the Produce Safety Rule provides unique opportunities and challenges, including recognition of regional differences in growing practices, and increased reliance on state regulatory partners.

To achieve the goal of high rates of industry compliance, FDA created the Produce Safety Network (PSN). The PSN, comprised of both ORA and CFSAN staff, is regionally based and responsible for collaborating and communicating with regional partners to build on existing programs to achieve high levels of compliance in the farming community.

Locating PSN staff in specific growing regions allows those staff members to develop expertise in the growing conditions and practices in their regions, which in turn enhances their ability to provide outreach and technical assistance that is specifically tailored to the unique needs of their regions.

Figure 1: Location of Produce Safety Network members

Produce Safety Network (PSN)



AUGUST 2024 Map is not to scale

Contact Information for the CFSAN PSN Staff

The CFSAN members of the PSN focus their efforts on providing technical assistance to state regulatory partners that are implementing produce safety programs, academia, industry, and other partners in the fresh produce community. They serve as the PSN's primary point of contact (POC) and engagement for external stakeholders. Region and state assignments for each CFSAN-based PSN member are listed below.

CFSAN – PSN Team Lead

| Assigned States | Contact Information |
|---|---|
| *Covering states for vacant, on special projects, and on details in other offices within FDA. | Acting Team Leader, Produce Safety Expert Diane Ducharme, PhD Phone: (301) 796-7083, Mobile (240) 535-7543, Diane.Ducharme@fda.hhs.gov |

North Central Region

| Assigned States | Contact Information |
|---|--|
| Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin | Kristin Esch, MS Produce Safety Expert Phone: (240) 893-6244, Kristin.Esch@fda.hhs.gov |

Northeast Region

| Assigned States | Contact Information |
|--|---|
| Connecticut, Delaware, D.C., Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia | *Vacant *Covering areas: Diane Ducharme, PhD Acting Team Leader, Produce Safety Expert Phone: (301) 796-7083, Mobile (240) 535-7543, Diane.Ducharme@fda.hhs.gov |

Southern Region

| Assigned States | Contact Information |
|---|--|
| Texas | Mary Tijerina, MS Produce Safety Expert Phone: (240) 402-0405, Mary.Tijerina@fda.hhs.gov |
| Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands | Trevor Gilbert Produce Safety Expert Phone: (240) 402-3633, Trevor.Gilbert@fda.hhs.gov |
| Kentucky, Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia | *Vacant *Covering areas: Diane Ducharme, PhD Acting Team Leader, Produce Safety Expert Phone: (301) 796-7083, Mobile (240) 535-7543, Diane.Ducharme@fda.hhs.gov |

Western Region

| Assigned States | Contact Information |
|--|---|
| Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands | Lianna Kelly Produce Safety Expert Phone: (240) 506-6132, Lianna.Kelly@fda.hhs.gov |
| Alaska, Hawai'i, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa | *Special Project indefinitely Laura Grunenfelder, MS Produce Safety Expert Phone: (240) 205-0610 Laura.Grunenfelder@fda.hhs.gov *Backup for area: Diane Ducharme, PhD Acting Team Leader, Produce Safety Expert Phone: (301) 796-7083, Mobile (240) 535-7543, Diane.Ducharme@fda.hhs.gov |
| California, Mexico, and other international partners | Mauricio Castelo, PhD Produce Safety Expert Phone: (240) 731-9342, Mauricio.Castelo@fda.hhs.gov |
| South America and other International Countries, Tribal Nations | Oscar Galagarza, PhD Produce Safety Expert Phone (301) 509-3235 Oscar.GalagarzaAngulo@fda.hhs.gov |

Office of Regulatory Affairs, Produce Safety Network (ORA PSN)

The ORA PSN is the lead investigations branch in FDA ORA for produce safety on produce farms. The ORA PSN members conduct foreign inspections and routine inspections in states that do not develop a produce safety program under the [State Produce Implementation Cooperative Agreement Program \(CAP\)](#). In addition, ORA PSN members conduct education, outreach, technical assistance and coordinate with state partners on field activities, such as emergency response (e.g., foodborne illness outbreaks).

The ORA PSN Produce Program Specialists (PPSs) serve as ORA PSN's primary point-of-contact (POC) for state Produce CAP grantees. The ORA PSN contact information is listed below.

ORA PSN Branch Chiefs

| Branch 1 | Branch 2 | Branch 3 |
|--|---|--|
| LCDR Cullen Wilson Cell: (240) 234-0879 Cullen.Wilson@fda.hhs.gov | CDR Brittany Nork Cell: (312) 315-5536 Brittany.Nork@fda.hhs.gov | Kate Allen Cell: (425) 492-0296 Kate.Allen@fda.hhs.gov |

ORA PSN Produce Program Specialists (PPSs)

| Assigned States | Contact Information | ORA PSN Branch |
|---|---|----------------|
| <u>North Central Region:</u> OH <u>Northeast Region:</u> All States <u>Southern Region:</u> AL, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, PR, TN, VA, VI | Benjamin Marshall Cell: (251) 406-8131 Benjamin.Marshall@fda.hhs.gov | Branch 1 |
| <u>North Central Region:</u> IA, KS, MO, NE <u>Southern Region:</u> AR, OK, TX | <i>Vacant.</i> Acting: Benjamin Marshall Cell: (251) 406-8131 Benjamin.Marshall@fda.hhs.gov | Branch 2 |
| <u>North Central Region:</u> IL, IN, MI, MN, ND, SD, WI | <i>Vacant.</i> Acting: Avery Cromwell Cell: (831) 201-2643 Avery.Cromwell@fda.hhs.gov | Branch 2 |
| <u>Western Region:</u> All States | Avery Cromwell Cell: (831) 201-2643 Avery.Cromwell@fda.hhs.gov | Branch 3 |

ORA Produce National Expert (NE)

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| Kevin Gerrity Cell: (858) 401-0242 Kevin.Gerrity@fda.hhs.gov |
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ORA PSN Produce Experts (PEs)

| Contact Information | ORA PSN Branch |
|--|----------------|
| Travis Chapin Cell: (240) 702-3959 Travis.Chapin@fda.hhs.gov | Branch 1 |
| Estefania Garber Cell: (510) 427-0367 Estefania.Garber@fda.hhs.gov | Branch 2 |
| Shane Rainey Cell: (408) 309-6921 Shane.Rainey@fda.hhs.gov | Branch 3 |

ORA PSN Investigators

| ORA PSN Branch 1 |
|---|
| Alex Goodman: (480) 578-5240, Alex.Goodman@fda.hhs.gov |
| Erin Hale: (240) 328-4834, Erin.Hale@fda.hhs.gov |
| Miguel Manzano: (301) 633-5597, Miguel.Manzano@fda.hhs.gov |
| Erin Nagel: (202) 695-0333, Erin.Nagel@fda.hhs.gov |
| Leah Tapley: (240) 328-5983, Leah.Tapley@fda.hhs.gov |
| ORA PSN Branch 2 |
| Rodrigo Chipres: (949) 301-7787, Rodrigo.Chipres@fda.hhs.gov |
| Britton Walker: (240) 702-3946, Britton.Walker@fda.hhs.gov |
| Joseph Willems: (559) 445-0120 x31 Joseph.Willems@fda.hhs.gov |
| Megan Wright: (240) 641-2288, Megan.Wright@fda.hhs.gov |
| ORA PSN Branch 3 |
| Michael Barta: (301) 908-8336, Michael.Barta@fda.hhs.gov |
| David Castillo: (240) 224-4056, David.Castillo@fda.hhs.gov |
| Arturo De La Garza: (240) 702-3950, Arturo.DeLaGarza@fda.hhs.gov |
| Cesar Herrera: (202) 650-7285, Cesar.Herrera@fda.hhs.gov |
| Aric Sonnenschein: (202) 570-5051, Aric.Sonnenschein@fda.hhs.gov |
| Shane Teeter: (202) 430-9631, Shane.Teeter@fda.hhs.gov |