



Agricultural Water Assessment Builder

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Topics covered



- Background
- Overview of builder
 - Development
 - What the builder looks like
- Next steps

Background



- Feedback that 2015 testing requirements were difficult to implement across the wide variety of water sources, uses, and practices
- “Agricultural water assessments” identified by stakeholders as a promising approach
 - Many emphasized that additional educational tools would be needed

Overview

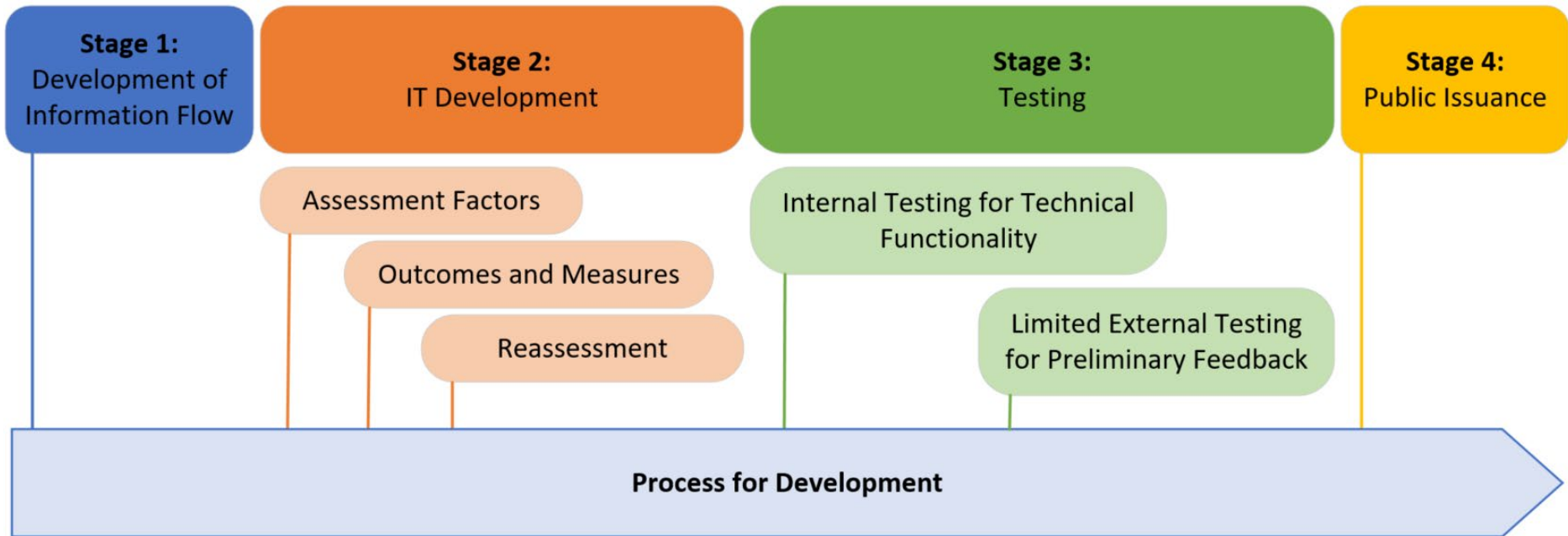
- User-friendly tool designed to help users understand the proposed requirements
 - Incorporates information from the proposed rule, final QAR, and 2015 Produce Safety Rule
- **Optional tool**, will not be required
- If the rule is finalized, tool would be updated to align with final requirements and feedback
 - Could supplement but not replace other technical assistance, education, training, and experience

Guiding principles

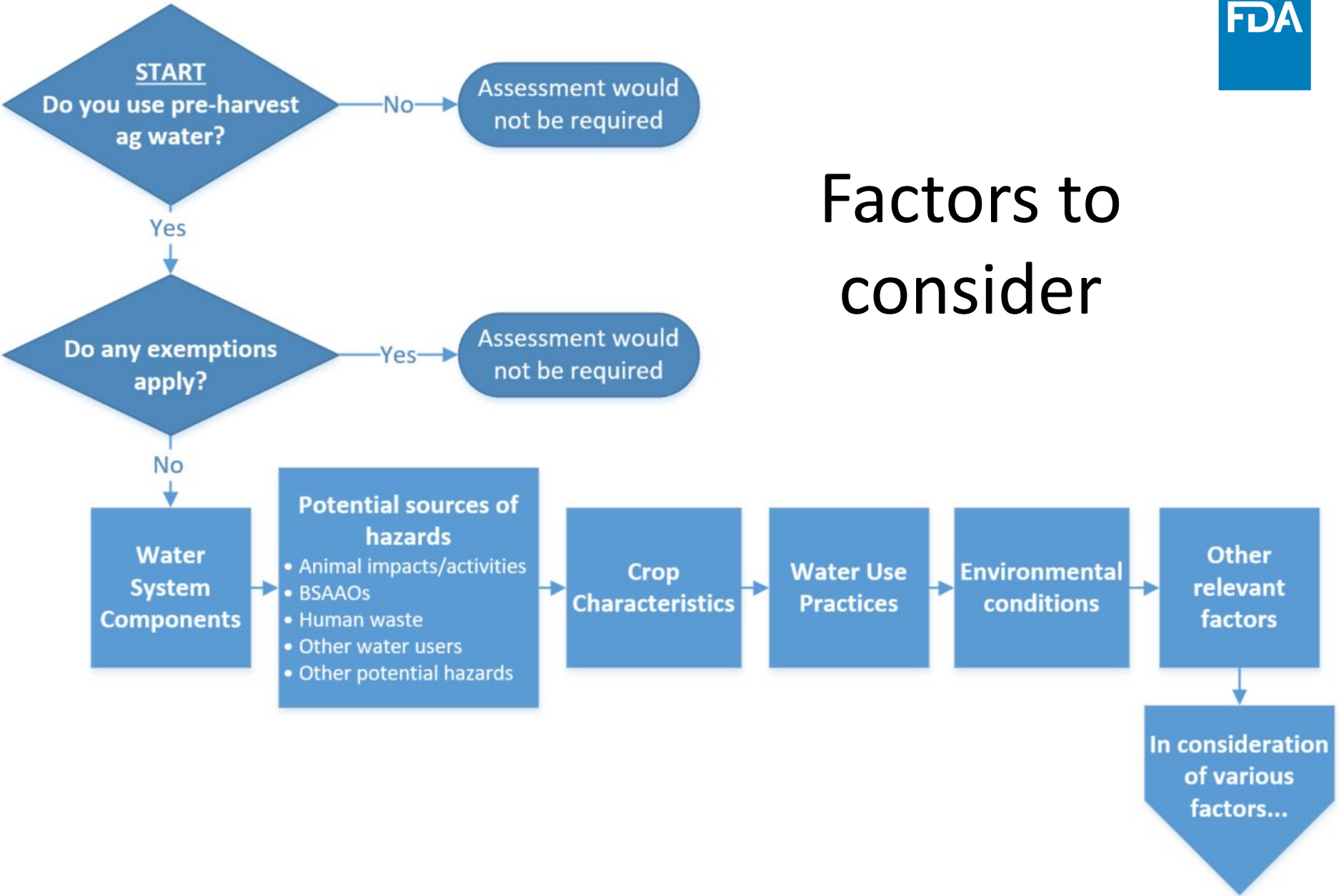


- Allow users to input dynamic information to populate the assessment
- The users' data will NOT be shared with the FDA or federal government
- Users can access the tool regardless of their computers' operating system (i.e., Windows, Mac), and it works across all common browsers
- Tool can be used on a computer or a mobile device
- Users can save their progress and return later to finish it, or to do a reassessment
- Users can save the information they've inputted as a PDF

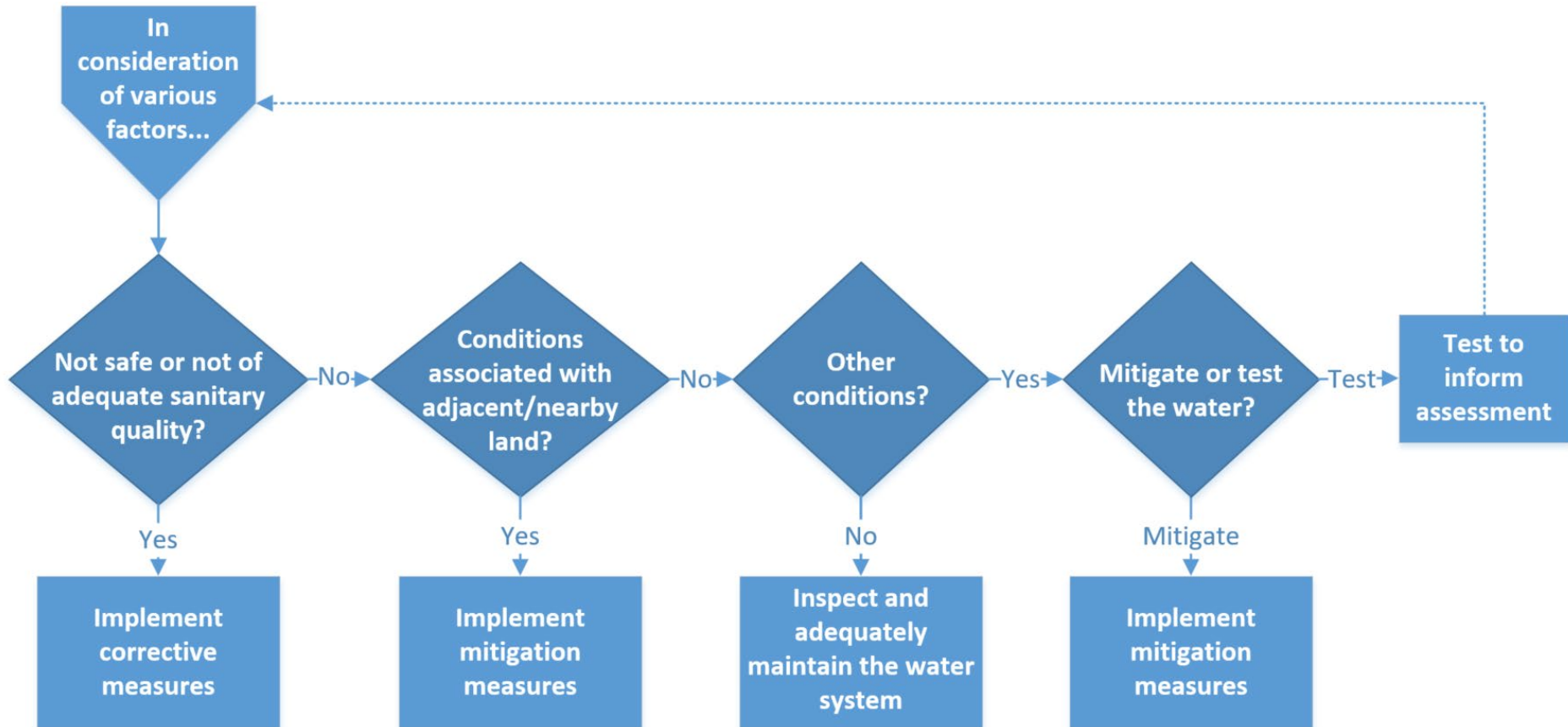
Development



Factors to consider



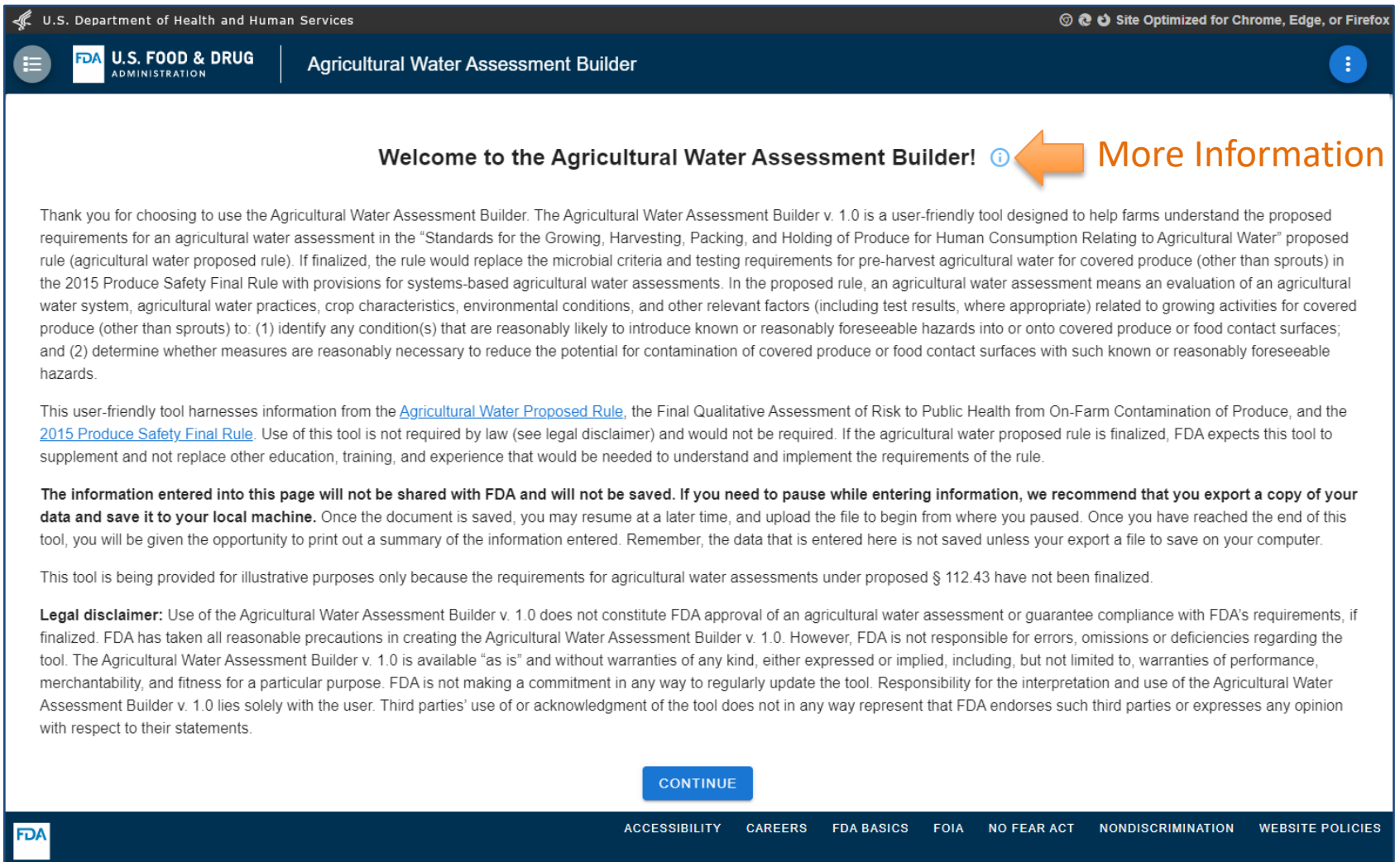
Outcomes / Measures



Landing Page Screenshot

Navigation

Supports Modern Browsers



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the following elements:

- Browser Address Bar:** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services | Site Optimized for Chrome, Edge, or Firefox
- Page Header:** U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION | Agricultural Water Assessment Builder
- Main Content:**
 - Section Header:** Welcome to the Agricultural Water Assessment Builder! [More Information](#)
 - Text:** Thank you for choosing to use the Agricultural Water Assessment Builder. The Agricultural Water Assessment Builder v. 1.0 is a user-friendly tool designed to help farms understand the proposed requirements for an agricultural water assessment in the "Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption Relating to Agricultural Water" proposed rule (agricultural water proposed rule). If finalized, the rule would replace the microbial criteria and testing requirements for pre-harvest agricultural water for covered produce (other than sprouts) in the 2015 Produce Safety Final Rule with provisions for systems-based agricultural water assessments. In the proposed rule, an agricultural water assessment means an evaluation of an agricultural water system, agricultural water practices, crop characteristics, environmental conditions, and other relevant factors (including test results, where appropriate) related to growing activities for covered produce (other than sprouts) to: (1) identify any condition(s) that are reasonably likely to introduce known or reasonably foreseeable hazards into or onto covered produce or food contact surfaces; and (2) determine whether measures are reasonably necessary to reduce the potential for contamination of covered produce or food contact surfaces with such known or reasonably foreseeable hazards.
 - Text:** This user-friendly tool harnesses information from the [Agricultural Water Proposed Rule](#), the Final Qualitative Assessment of Risk to Public Health from On-Farm Contamination of Produce, and the [2015 Produce Safety Final Rule](#). Use of this tool is not required by law (see legal disclaimer) and would not be required. If the agricultural water proposed rule is finalized, FDA expects this tool to supplement and not replace other education, training, and experience that would be needed to understand and implement the requirements of the rule.
 - Text:** **The information entered into this page will not be shared with FDA and will not be saved. If you need to pause while entering information, we recommend that you export a copy of your data and save it to your local machine.** Once the document is saved, you may resume at a later time, and upload the file to begin from where you paused. Once you have reached the end of this tool, you will be given the opportunity to print out a summary of the information entered. Remember, the data that is entered here is not saved unless your export a file to save on your computer.
 - Text:** This tool is being provided for illustrative purposes only because the requirements for agricultural water assessments under proposed § 112.43 have not been finalized.
 - Text:** **Legal disclaimer:** Use of the Agricultural Water Assessment Builder v. 1.0 does not constitute FDA approval of an agricultural water assessment or guarantee compliance with FDA's requirements, if finalized. FDA has taken all reasonable precautions in creating the Agricultural Water Assessment Builder v. 1.0. However, FDA is not responsible for errors, omissions or deficiencies regarding the tool. The Agricultural Water Assessment Builder v. 1.0 is available "as is" and without warranties of any kind, either expressed or implied, including, but not limited to, warranties of performance, merchantability, and fitness for a particular purpose. FDA is not making a commitment in any way to regularly update the tool. Responsibility for the interpretation and use of the Agricultural Water Assessment Builder v. 1.0 lies solely with the user. Third parties' use of or acknowledgment of the tool does not in any way represent that FDA endorses such third parties or expresses any opinion with respect to their statements.
- Footer:** CONTINUE | ACCESSIBILITY CAREERS FDA BASICS FOIA NO FEAR ACT NONDISCRIMINATION WEBSITE POLICIES

Navigation



Site Navigation ?

Factors

- Introduction
- Farm Information
- Applicability/Exemptions
- Elements of a Pre-harvest Agricultural Water Assessment
 - Agricultural Water System Components
 - Animal Impacts and Activities
 - BSAAs
 - Human Waste
- Other Water Users
- Other Potential Sources of Hazards
- Crop Characteristics
- Agricultural Water Use Practices
- Environmental Conditions
- Other Relevant Factors

Outcomes

“More information”

More Information

Agricultural water means 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 (including irrigation water applied using direct water application methods, water used for preparing crop sprays, and water used for growing sprouts) and in harvesting, packing, and holding activities (including water used for washing or cooling harvested produce and water used for preventing dehydration of covered produce). (21 CFR 112.3).

Covered produce means produce that is subject to the requirements of this part in accordance with §§ 112.1 and 112.2. The term “covered produce” refers to the harvestable or harvested part of the crop. (21 CFR 112.3).

Direct water application method means using agricultural water in a manner whereby the water is intended to, or is likely to, contact covered produce or food contact surfaces during use of the water. (21 CFR 112.3).

As proposed, **agricultural water assessment** means an evaluation of an agricultural water system, agricultural water practices, crop characteristics, environmental conditions, and other relevant factors (including test results, where appropriate) related to growing activities for covered produce (other than sprouts) to: (1) Identify any condition(s) that are reasonably likely to introduce known or reasonably foreseeable hazards into or onto covered produce or food contact surfaces; and (2) Determine whether measures are reasonably necessary to reduce the potential for contamination of covered produce or food contact surfaces with such known or reasonably foreseeable hazards. (Proposed addition to 21 CR 112.3).




As proposed, **agricultural water system** means a source of agricultural water, the water distribution system, any building or structure that is part of the water distribution system (such as a well house, pump station, or shed), and any equipment used for application of agricultural water to covered produce during growing, harvesting, packing, or holding activities. (Proposed addition to 21 CR 112.3).

Helpful resources:

- [Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption Relating to Agricultural Water \(Agricultural Water Proposed Rule\) \(86 FR 69120\), Dec. 6, 2021.](#)
- [Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption: Final Rule" \(2015 Produce Safety Final Rule\) \(80 FR 74353\), Nov. 27, 2015.](#)
- [Final Qualitative Assessment of Risk to Public Health from On-Farm Contamination of Produce" \(QAR\), Nov. 2015.](#)

Features Example Screenshot






  **U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION** | **Agricultural Water Assessment Builder** 



Proposed Exemptions


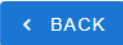

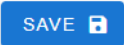
Can you demonstrate one of the following for the agricultural water you apply during growing activities for covered produce (other than sprouts)? If Yes, please explain.


- Agricultural water meets the requirements in proposed § 112.44(a), including the microbial quality criterion, and if untreated ground water, also meets the testing requirements in proposed §§ 112.44(b), 112.47, and 112.151;
- Agricultural water meets the requirements in proposed § 112.44(c) for water from a Public Water System or public water supply; or
- Agricultural water is treated in accordance with proposed § 112.46.

Instructions 

Select Answer  **Drop Down** 




Enter Response  **Comment Field** 

Page Controls    

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Features Example Screenshot





  Agricultural Water Assessment Builder 

Ground Water - Degree of Protection

Please consider the following factors in evaluating the degree of protection of the water source from potential sources of known or reasonably foreseeable hazards. Please choose Yes, No, or Not Applicable.

Element Question	Response Selection
Water source is regularly monitored to identify any conditions that are reasonably likely to introduce known or reasonably foreseeable hazards into or onto covered produce or food contact surfaces.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Not Applicable
Water source is regularly monitored for significant deficiencies, which if observed, are corrected (such as control of cross-connections and repairs to well caps, well casings, sanitary seals, piping tanks, and treatment equipment).	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Not Applicable
Water source and surrounding area are kept free of debris, trash, domesticated animals, and other possible sources of contamination of covered produce to the extent practicable and appropriate under the circumstances.	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Not Applicable

[< BACK](#) [NEXT >](#) [SAVE !\[\]\(05604d380e755a92e3161ab249a7c58e_img.jpg\)](#)  Save Functions

 [ACCESSIBILITY](#) [CAREERS](#) [FDA BASICS](#) [FOIA](#) [NO FEAR ACT](#) [NONDISCRIMINATION](#) [WEBSITE POLICIES](#)



“Save” Screenshot




The screenshot shows the 'Agricultural Water Assessment Builder' interface. The main heading is 'Ground Water - Degree of Protection'. Below it, a paragraph asks the user to consider factors in evaluating the degree of protection and to choose Yes, No, or Not Applicable. A 'Save Assessment' dialog box is open, providing instructions on how to export data. The dialog box contains two buttons: 'SAVE FOR IMPORT' and 'SAVE FOR VIEWING'. Below the dialog box, there are radio buttons for 'Yes', 'No', and 'Not Applicable'. At the bottom of the interface, there are buttons for '< BACK', 'NEXT >', and 'SAVE'. The footer contains the FDA logo and links for ACCESSIBILITY, CAREERS, FDA BASICS, FOIA, NO FEAR ACT, NONDISCRIMINATION, and WEBSITE POLICIES.

Save Assessment

There are two options for exporting data. Clicking the button **Save for Import** will export a JSON file that contains your current progress of the assessment to be used for continuing an assessment or conducting a re-assessment at a later time. **Do not modify this file.** Clicking the button **Save for Viewing** will export a PDF file that can be used for offline viewing of the assessment data. Feel free to click both if desired.

SAVE FOR IMPORT  **SAVE FOR VIEWING** 

Yes No Not Applicable

< BACK NEXT > SAVE 

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Next steps

- Incorporate feedback from external testing
- Publicly issue version 1.0 of the builder to include:
 - Factors, Outcomes, and Reassessment processes
 - Ability to save and return at a later time
 - Ability to export a PDF file of information inputted
- Long-term: update builder based on final rule (if finalized) and stakeholder feedback

