



# **Vermont's Produce Safety Program**

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**Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets**

# Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule

- 1. One of 7 final FSMA Rules**
- 2. Effective as of **January 26, 2016****
- 3. Sets national standards for farms that grow, harvest, pack, or hold fresh produce**
- 4. Tiered compliance dates based on annual sales**
- 5. Several types of exemptions**

# Key Requirements (Fully Covered Farms)

**Conditions and practices that may contribute to microbial contamination of produce**

**pre-harvest,  
harvest &  
post-harvest**

**Agricultural water**

**Biological soil amendments of animal origin (BSAAO)**

**Domesticated & wild animals**

**Equipment, tools, buildings & sanitation**

**Worker health, hygiene & training**

**Irrigation**

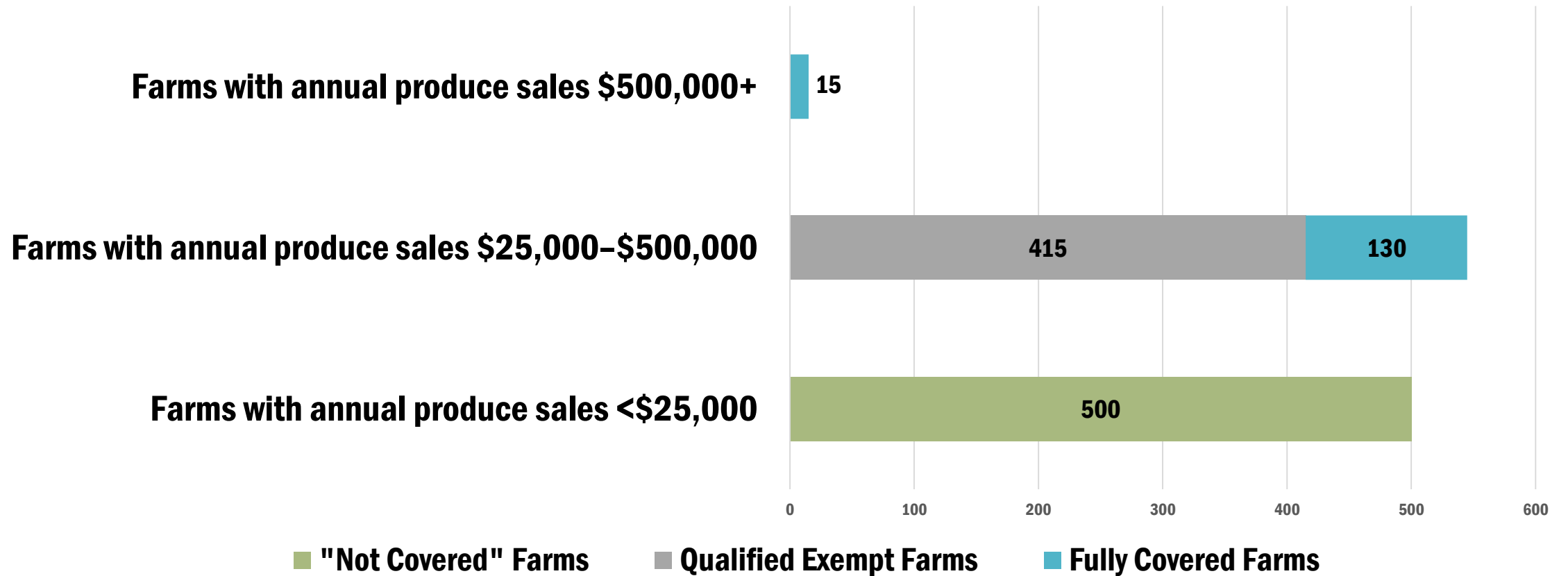
**Contact surfaces**

**Raw manure**

**Stabilized compost**

# Vermont State Impact

## FSMA Produce Safety Rule in Vermont



*Estimates based on 2012 U.S. Census of Agriculture data provided by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) for the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) in August 2015.*

# Vermont's Produce Safety Continuum



# 5 Year FDA Cooperative Agreement Program Components

## **Outreach, Education & Technical Assistance**

- Staff: 2 positions focused on outreach & education
- Collaboration with UVM Extension
- Grower training
- On-Farm Readiness Reviews

## **Compliance**

- Staff: 3 inspectors by 2019
- Inspections for fully covered farms beginning in 2018
- Facilitate implementation of water testing requirements

# Vermont Produce Program Development: 2017

## January – February 2017

- NECAFS Annual Meeting with Northeast State & Extension Partners: 1/9–11 – Boston, MA
- VVBGA Annual Meeting Presentation on FSMA & Produce Program: 1/23 – Lake Morey
- NOFA-VT Winter Conference Workshop : 2/19
- National Consortium for Produce Safety Program Development Meeting: 2/28-3/2 – Altamonte Springs, FL

## March – May 2017

- Buyer/Distributor Meeting
- Produce Program Advisory Group Meeting
- Large Stakeholder Meeting: *Growers, Service Providers, Buyers/Distributors, Associations & Advocacy Organizations*
- Release Voluntary Produce Farm Registration

## June – December 2017

- Vermont On-Farm Readiness Review Pilot: 6/26–29
- Hire & Train First Produce Program Inspection Staff

# Vermont Produce Program Development: 2018–2020

## 2018

- Launch Capital Infrastructure Grant Program
- Begin Inspections for Farms with \$500,000+ in Annual Produce Sales

## 2019

- Compliance Begins for Small Businesses (Less Than \$500,000 in Annual Produce Sales)

## 2020

- Compliance Begins for Very Small Businesses (Less Than \$250,000 Annual Produce Sales)
- Compliance Begins for Labeling Requirements Under Qualified Exemption



# Mission Statement

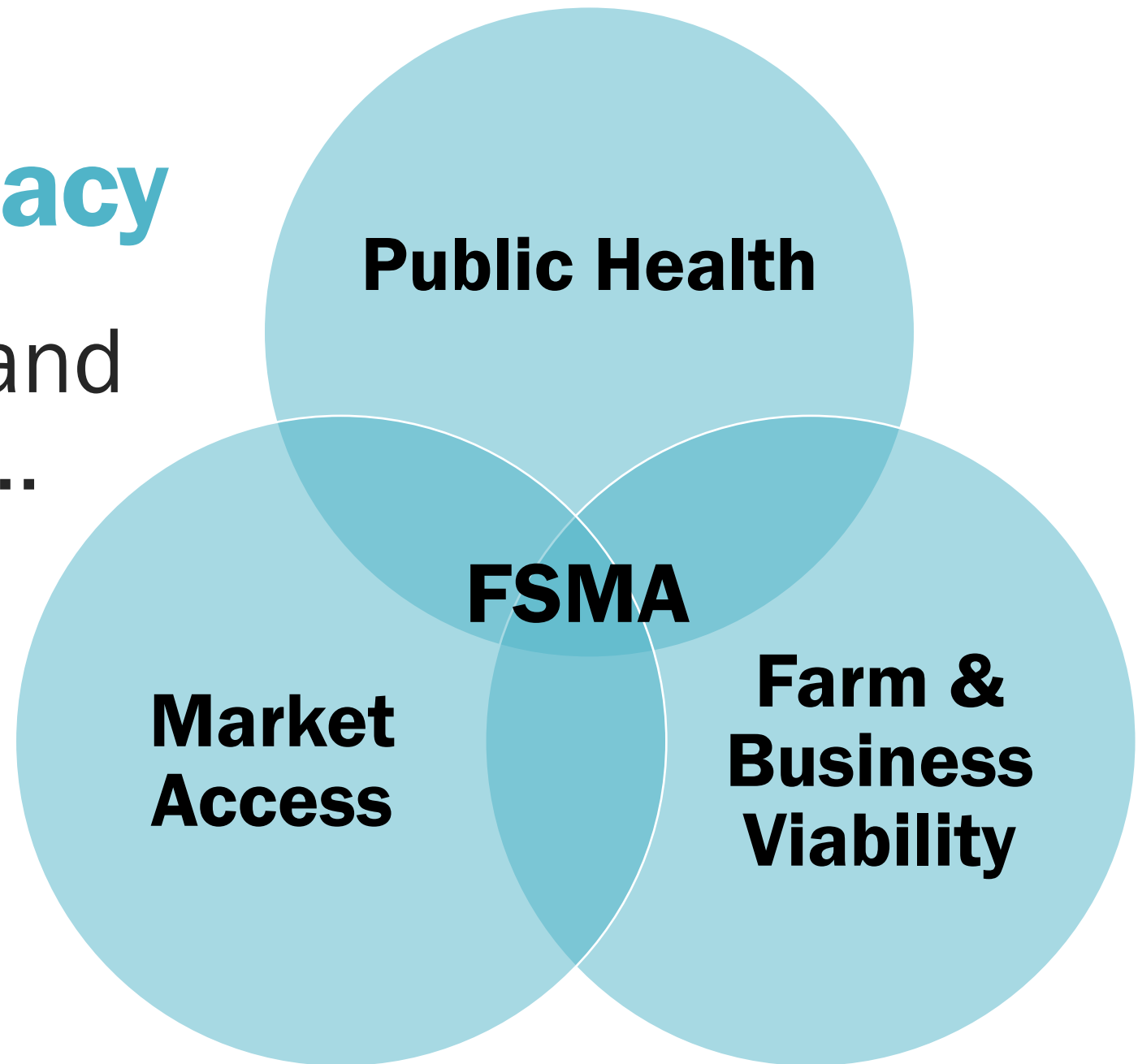
The Vermont Produce Program will help to grow Vermont's produce industry—in the face of regulations and evolving market expectations—by aiding produce farms of all sizes and stages of development to meet food safety requirements, access markets, and promote public health as sustainable agricultural businesses.

This program will serve Vermont farms that grow and sell produce and engage critical external partners across a **produce safety program continuum** to ensure the industry feels educated and supported and has the tools to achieve compliance.

# Regulatory Literacy

Education before—and  
during—regulation ...

**IN ACTION!**



# Contact Us

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