



Food Safety Outreach Program *in FY 2015 Appropriations*

Ensuring a safe food supply and thriving family farms

Training farmers in food safety practices is a critical piece of ensuring a safe food supply. In 2010, Congress passed the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) – the first major overhaul to our nation’s food safety laws since the 1930s. Recognizing the importance of training as a part of a food safety system focused on prevention, Congress created a competitive grants program in FSMA, to be administered by USDA’s National Institute for Food and Agriculture, to fund farmer and food processor training efforts. The Food and Drug Administration is the process of implementing FSMA and proposing new, expansive food safety regulations for farmers and food processors. Now is the time for Congress to provide funding for this much-needed training program.

We urge Congress to launch the Food Safety Outreach Program at \$5 million in FY 2015 so that farmers have the training they need to implement and comply with new food safety regulations.

Why It Matters

- A food safety strategy based on preventing food safety outbreaks requires a strong commitment to training farmers and food processors in food safety practices that are appropriate for the wide variety of farming systems and businesses impacted by the new regulations.
- Compliance with the new regulations once finalized will be a significant burden for farmers, and training is a critical aspect of easing the burden of compliance.
- A two-year, \$300,000 grant through the program to a farmer-based organization is estimated to result in the training of approximately 1,000 farmers to pass food safety audits. Activities include working directly with farmers to prepare food safety plans, hosting food safety workshops for farmers, and creating user-friendly food safety resources and materials.
- Without training resources available, the final regulations will inevitably fall far short of the goal of improving food safety.



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