

2020 Nevada Produce Safety Survey – Results

The Desert Farming Initiative and Nevada Department of Agriculture provide specialized training, education, and outreach to farmers who serve fresh produce markets in the State. This survey was conducted to inform extension activities regarding Food Safety Modernization Act compliance and third party audits (such as a Good Agricultural Practices certification). This survey was intended for owners or operators of farms that grow fruit and vegetables that are typically consumed raw (not cooked or fermented) and sold in Nevada. Survey participation was voluntary and responses were submitted in January and February 2020. Below is a summary of results; see the attached survey questions and find [full survey report online](#) for reference (edited to protect privacy of respondents). There were a total of 33 responses.

Topic:	Response:
1. Farm size:	Nearly 85% of farms were less than 5 acres (56% were 0-1 acre and 28% were 2-5 acres).
2. Farm income from produce sales in 2019:	More than 70% made \$0-25,000.
3. Market area:	Just over 50% sell within 275 miles and in Nevada.
4. Organic certification:	16% are certified organic.
5. Produce safety training in past 2 years:	Approximately 65% have not received produce safety training.
6. Food safety plan:	60% have a food safety plan.
7. Use of DFI questionnaire:	15% have used the questionnaire.
8. Desire for a food safety plan:	More than 50% of farms that do not have one do or may want one.
9. Implementing practices because of training:	Greater than 60% have implemented practices due to food safety training or planning.
10. Limits to implementation of practices:	Nearly a quarter lack financial resources. 15-20% said a lack of time, knowledge, and equipment were limiting, but most said nothing limits their implementation of produce safety practices.
11. Water testing:	Most are testing or rely on municipal water; 25% do not test and are not planning to test agricultural water for contamination this year.
12. Needed information:	The top areas of information desired are: composting and soil amendments (over 50%), managing wildlife (34%), cleaning and sanitizing tools (34%), water testing and corrective actions (31%), and traceability (28%).
13. Needed training:	Produce safety for small to medium farms (65%), for specific crops (45%), in relation to regenerative or soil health (39%), and for farms with mixed plant and animal production (32%) were the top needs.
14. Needed samples or templates:	All topics were of interest (selected by more than 20%) other than post-harvest water treatment, pesticide safety and mock recalls.
15. Funding needed:	If funding is needed, the range required is \$0-1,000.
16. Other support needed:	See list in full survey results.
17. Specific support requested:	The top categories were upcoming workshops (77%), DFI food safety newsletter – Wash House News (59%), an informal food safety visit from DFI (31%), and Produce Safety Alliance training (27%).

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2020 Nevada Produce Safety Survey – Questions

1. How many acres are in vegetable or fruit production on your farm?

- 0-1 acre
- 2-5 acres
- 6-10 acres
- 11-50 acres
- More than 50 acres

2. What is your estimated net annual income from produce sales in 2019?

- \$0-24,999
- \$25,000-250,000
- More than \$250,000
- I do not sell my produce.

3. Do you sell your produce within 275 miles of your farm and within Nevada (not beyond)?

- Yes
- No
- I do not sell my produce.

4. Is your farm certified organic?

- Yes
- No

5. Have you attended any produce safety training in the past 2 years? (Mark all that apply)

- Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) training
- Food Safety Modernization Act – full day grower training from the Produce Safety Alliance
- Food Safety Modernization Act – condensed training
- No
- Other _____

6. Do you have a food safety plan for your farm?

- Yes
- No

7. Did you use the Desert Farming Initiative questionnaire to complete your food safety plan?
- Yes
 - No
 - Does not apply
8. If you don't have a food safety plan, do you want one?
- Yes
 - No
 - Not sure
 - Does not apply
9. Have you implemented food safety practices as a result of attending a training or preparing a food safety plan?
(Mark all that apply)
- Yes
 - No
 - I was already doing the right things.
 - I have not attended a training and do not have a food safety plan.
10. What limits your ability to implement food safety practices on your farm? (Mark all that apply)
- Time
 - Ability of workers
 - Information and knowledge
 - Financial resources
 - Technical assistance
 - Availability of supplies or equipment
 - Nothing limits my ability to implement food safety practices.
 - Other _____
11. Are you currently testing or do you plan to test irrigation or wash water in 2020 for contamination? (Mark all that apply)
- Yes
 - No
 - I rely on water testing from a municipal water authority.

12. On which topics would you like more information? (Such as through a webinar/newsletter article/fact sheet/workshop) (Mark all that apply)

- Managing wildlife and conservation as related to produce safety
- Cleaning/sanitizing tools
- Water testing and corrective actions
- Composting or using soil amendments from animals (such as manure, fish emulsion, bone meal)
- Third party audits (such as GAP)
- Comprehensive product information (such as for sanitizers) with cost/benefit analysis
- Crop and liability insurance in Nevada
- Lot numbering and traceability (tracing produce from field to table)
- None
- Other _____

13. If you would like to receive produce safety training and materials specific to farm scale or type, which topics would interest you? Produce safety pertaining to... (Mark all that apply)

- Small to medium sized farm
- Large scale farm
- Certified organic operation
- Regenerative or soil health focused farming
- Permaculture farming
- Farm that uses synthetic pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers
- Farm with mixed plant and animal production
- Specific crops (tomato, melon, greens, etc.)
- Other _____
- I am not interested in such specific training or materials.

14. Which sample procedures or record keeping templates would be useful? (Mark all that apply)

- Pre-harvest field inspection or risk assessment
- Monitoring animal activity
- Post-harvest water treatment
- Training for workers
- Facility and equipment cleaning and sanitation
- Traceability (field to table and back)

- Produce safety during packing and storage
- Produce safety during transport and delivery
- Produce safety at a farmers market
- Pesticide application and safety
- Water testing
- Water system inspection
- Mock recall (to show how you would recall contaminated produce in the event of an outbreak)
- None
- Other _____

15. If financing is a problem in dealing with produce safety issues on your farm, how much funding would you need to implement a food safety plan?

- Up to \$1,000
- \$1,000-5,000
- More than \$5,000
- Does not apply

16. Are there any additional tools, resources or information about worker health, hygiene and training that would help you improve your food safety practices? If so, please explain in the box below.

17. Would you like to receive information about any of the following? (Mark all that apply)

- An informal produce safety farm visit from DFI
- An 'On-Farm Readiness Review' (informal visit to prepare for FSMA inspection) from DFI and NDA
- GAP audit from NDA staff – NDA offers free mock GAP audits!
- Produce Safety Alliance grower training (required for farms covered under FSMA)
- DFI food safety newsletter (Wash House News) – sent every 2 months
- Upcoming workshops