

# FSMA compliance and food safety-related training

## for small farmers of leafy greens in the Santa Maria Valley

**Who:** Small leafy greens farmers located in the Santa Maria Valley. According to the U.S.D.A., small farmers are those who earn a 3-year average of between \$25,000 and \$250,000.

**What:** Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) Training to help your farm business comply with FSMA legislation, and a second on-farm training covering food safety best practices, business and marketing, and crisis planning at your operation as a follow-up session for interested farmers.

**Where:** Allan Hancock College, Room G106A/B

**When:** Step 1 – Friday, January 24, 2020, 8:00am – 5:00pm

**Why:** FSMA compliance is now a requirement for small and very small producers and we know farmers face challenges complying with these requirements in a cost-effective way.

**How:** Two grant-funded training sessions, free to small producers of leafy greens, preparing you for FSMA Produce Safety Rule compliance and helping you develop best food safety, business and marketing, and crisis plans, so your operation can thrive.

**Cost:** Program trainings are funded by a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant and will be delivered by Cal Poly and Allan Hancock faculty experts and students.

Every year, more than 48 million people in the U.S. get sick from foodborne illnesses – a tremendous cost to human health. These outbreaks threaten public perceptions of food safety and quality, as well as farmers' business reputations and bottom line.

To address increasing public concerns about food safety, the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) was implemented, which emphasizes using prevention steps to stop illnesses.

While most farms were required to conform previously, small and very small farms (those earning a 3-year average of between \$25,000 and \$250,000, according to the U.S.D.A.) are only now required to comply. As of January 2020, small farmers can expect FDA food safety auditors to visit their operations unannounced.

We know major challenges exist for small farmers – interpreting and understanding complicated legislation is difficult, and it's hard to find a way to comply with the new rules in a cost-effective way.

Our team of experts from Cal Poly and Allan Hancock College earned a grant from the U.S.D.A. to provide trainings specifically to help address these challenges.

Our program\* takes place in two stages:

**Step 1** – Sign up for and complete the PSA Training to prepare your operation to be FSMA compliant.

**Step 2** – Schedule a second, on-farm training at your operation to help you learn about food safety best practices, business and marketing, and crisis planning strategies tailored to your business needs.

We know small-scale farmers are particularly hard hit when food safety problems arise. Let us use our expertise to help you plan for your farming operation to meet and comply with these FSMA regulations.

To sign up for Step 1 or get more information, contact:

At Cal Poly: Jeta Rudi-Poloshka,  
jrudi@calpoly.edu or (805) 756-5021

At Allan Hancock College: Erin Krier,  
erin.krier@hancockcollege.edu or (805) 720-4928

\* Training will be conducted in English with in-person Spanish translation available.