



5 Reasons

to write a **FARM FOOD SAFETY PLAN**

1

Easy to Start. There are many farm food safety plan (FFSP) templates available. The Produce Safety Alliance has both general, audit-specific, and commodity-specific templates.¹

2

Identify Your Farm's Key Characteristics & Contacts. The FFSP is the perfect place to note what your farm does, its unique mission, and the designated food safety point person for your farm. You can also include frequent contacts to keep track of current buyers, government contacts, and service providers.

3

Helps You Assess Farm Risks. Documenting the farm's products and operating procedures is the first step in identifying the practices or areas on your farm that pose the highest food safety risks. Writing a FFSP helps growers get organized and focused on produce safety, and prepares the farm for buyer requirements, third party audits, and government inspections.

4

It's Good Business—Promotes Food Safety Culture & Branding. Creating your own FFSP lets your workers and customers know that you prioritize food safety on the farm. It can also be shared with prospective buyers or markets who value a proactive food safety culture.

5

It's Alive! Your FFSP is a living document that can and should be revised and amended as new practices or products are incorporated, new equipment or facilities are acquired, and/or as the business grows.



¹ To access the Produce Safety Alliance farm food safety plan templates:
<https://cals.cornell.edu/produce-safety-alliance/resources/farm-food-safety-plan-writing-resources>

Questions? Contact the Maryland Department of Agriculture at 410-841-5769, produce.safety@maryland.gov

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