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ERS Produce Food Safety Research

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Research Objectives

- Estimate the impact of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) on the U.S. produce industry
- To do that we need data on current practices--a pre-FSMA baseline
 - The first and last national and representative survey on produce food safety was done by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) in 1998





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Partnering with NASS

- Two surveys
 - Grower survey
 - Post-harvest survey
- Ensures no individual response or operation can be identified.
- Focus on food safety practices with a small number of questions about costs.
- These are national surveys and will cover all produce commodities and all farm sizes





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Grower Survey

- Part of the NASS Chemical Use Surveys
 - Fruit Chem Use goes out in September 2015 and we will have data in June 2016
 - Veg Chem Use goes out in September 2016 and we will have data in June 2017
- Surveys will go out to 10,900 growers over 2 years
- Surveys are personally enumerated by NASS staff which will give us a better response rate





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Post-harvest Survey

- NASS does not regularly survey post-harvest operations so this will be a stand-alone survey
- Mix of enumeration types—mail, electronic, phone, and some personal enumeration
- The survey will go out in September 2015 to 2,200 firms and we will get data in June 2016.





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- Better data makes better policy
- Documents the level of food safety practices already in place and progress made since 1998
- Provides a benchmark of practices prior to implementation of FSMA for comparison
- Provides input to guide research and/or training efforts.





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