

What is considered a farm under the FSMA Produce Safety Rule?



The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule defines a farm by its activities of growing, harvesting, packing or holding crops. Let's explore some of the small but challenging aspects of that very simple definition.

Phil Tocco June 18, 2018
MSUE News Article

The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule regulates farms. The definition of a farm can be a tricky business under the law, however, and bears a bit of exploration. Some businesses you may not think of as a farm are considered a farm under the FSMA definition.

Harvesting is the physical act of harvest and does not require the harvester own the land or crop. This means that a custom harvest operation meets the definition of a farm under the FSMA Produce Safety Rule. For example, a business that pays a grower for the right to harvest a crop and sells the crop at a profit can be a farm even though it does not grow the produce itself. As of June 2018, it is unclear as to how a custom harvest operation that does not sell the produce it harvests would determine "gross produce sales" in light of the fact that they may never own the product to begin with, but it is clear they carry the designation "farm."

Packing and holding are also considered farm activities, irrespective of whether the facility that is packing or holding the produce is the owner or grower of the crop. Businesses that only pack or hold produce might be farms or they might be facilities (subject to a different FSMA rule, the Preventive Controls Rule for Human Foods), depending on where they are physically located and what their ownership structure is. For example, a cold storage business that simply stores fresh produce until it's sold may be a farm under the FSMA Produce Safety Rule definition.

If you have specific questions about whether or not you are a farm under the Produce Safety Rule or have difficulty determining your own status, contact the Michigan State University Extension Agrifood Safety Work Group at gaps@msu.edu or 517-788-4292.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

MISSION:

Michigan State University Extension helps people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs and opportunities.

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer, committed to achieving excellence through a diverse workforce and inclusive culture that encourages all people to reach their full potential. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status. Issued in furtherance of MSU Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Jeffrey W. Dwyer, Director, MSU Extension, East Lansing, MI 48824. This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by MSU Extension or bias against those not mentioned. The 4-H Name and Emblem have special protections from Congress, protected by code 18 USC 707.



Jackson County 2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE NUMBERS

- 101** years of serving Jackson County
- 13** Extension professionals based in and providing programs in Jackson County
- 53** Extension professionals serving Jackson County based in neighboring counties
- Over 119** programs held in Jackson County
- More than 3,755** youth in 4-H, early childhood and school enrichment programs
- MSU Extension** helped 9 farm families through stress-management workshops
- More than 978** residents benefited from health and nutrition programs
- Assisted 353** Jackson County home gardeners through the Home and Garden Hotline
- \$37,523,556** total economic impact in Jackson County

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Over the past year, Michigan State University (MSU) Extension partnered with Jackson County to continue strengthening youth, families, businesses and communities. Your MSU Extension staff members, grounded in local relationships, serve by bringing the university's research and resources to provide outreach and education in the areas Jackson County residents need it most.



Be sure to check out the feature story, to learn how MSU Extension is helping to keep our food safe.

We're passionate about serving Jackson County and are looking forward to a new year. Thank you for your continued support of MSU Extension and for partnering with us to make a difference.

Matt Shane Matt Shane

CONTACT

- Location:** Jackson County MSU Extension, 1715 Lansing Ave. Ste. 257, Jackson, MI 49202
- Website:** www.canr.msu.edu/jackson
- Email:** msue.jackson@county.msu.edu
- Facebook:** [Jackson County 4-H](#)
- Phone:** 517-788-4292
- Twitter:** @MSUEExtension

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

Program Highlights



Jackson 4-H Members prepare a healthy snack during their afterschool club experience.



MSU Extension helps to end the stigma surrounding mental health with workshops to help participants practice mindfulness to reduce stress.

4-H Afterschool Programming

Through a generous grant from the Jackson County 4-H Foundation, MSU Extension was able to hire a part-time Program Assistant to help start new programming in urban and underrepresented areas of Jackson County. A variety of lunchtime and afterschool club activities have been created. These short-term special interest (SPIN) Clubs are a unique way to teach youth life-skills, engage them in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) curriculum as a part of a 4-H club setting. While these programs don't necessarily look like the "traditional" 4-H programs, they are every bit as impactful on the lives of the participants. Like with all 4-H activities, they are designed "To Make the Best Better".

Reducing Farm Stress

To help respond to the needs of Michigan farmers and their families, Michigan State University Extension developed the Communicating With Farmers Under Stress workshop. It was designed for people who work with agricultural producers and farm families to help them learn more about managing stress and communicating with those in need. It highlights existing resources and programs including MSU Extension's Stress Less With Mindfulness that introduces participants to the experience and practice of mindfulness to reduce stress.

There were 9 participants from Jackson County that attended a workshop.

District Advisory Council

Washtenaw Council member Doug Lewis was asked why he is on Council. Here is his response: "I suppose the simple answer is, "because I was asked to". I find it hard to say no when someone asks for some of my time in an endeavor that has the potential to impact others in a positive fashion. Even more so when the people who may be impacted are the youth of my county and state.

I also like being here for the information that is provided. In my mind the more you know the better off you are. Where else would I get the chance to learn so many different things? I might never have seen the inside of the garden where we held a recent meeting. The council is a great place to meet new people with different views of the world. I find it helpful in my many different roles that support extension."

Program Highlights

Discover Michigan Fresh Junior

The Discover Michigan Fresh Junior program was developed to help familiarize kids with fruits and vegetables in season and to encourage them to include them in their regular diet. As a result of this program kids learn how plants grow. They also have the opportunity to touch, smell, and taste a variety of different fruits and vegetables.

The kids then have the opportunity to make recipes by adding ingredients to a bowl and "shaking it up". This hands-on approach is an effective way to get kids to experience a variety of new foods. The program also included a visit to the Grand River Farmer's Market



Participants learn about lettuce varieties at the Discover Michigan Fresh Junior program.

Emergency Rollover Response

To help first responders prepare for accidents involving livestock transport, a specialized and hands-on emergency response training was conducted. Of the 60 participants in the workshop, 88.46% indicated that they were significantly better prepared to assist with or respond to an accident involving livestock and 11.54% indicated that they were somewhat prepared to assist with or respond to an accident involving livestock .

Next steps include assisting with the creation of an Emergency Response Trailer that is equipped to respond to accidents involving livestock.



Animal Control Officers participated in a training about how to handle livestock during an accident on the roadways.

Consumer Horticulture

Jackson County MSU Extension horticulturists provided leadership to 90 active Master Gardener volunteers that provided over 4500 volunteer hours, in the last year, helping to educate the public on problems with gardens, lawns, and many more related issues. Thirty new volunteers were trained through the 15 week Master Gardener program.

Local Jackson residents numbering 370, either dropped off problem plant and insect samples, met with the horticulturist concerning lawn, garden, landscape or indoor pest issues or contacted us through our state wide garden and landscape hotline.



Consumers with horticulture questions can call the Home and Garden Hotline Monday through Friday 8-5 during the growing season or 8-12 in the off-season at 1-888-678-3464.

Doug Lewis has been a District 12 Advisory Council member for many years. Doug was a 2018 recipient of the MSU Extension Key Partner Award.

