



## **FSMA Final Rule on Pre-harvest Ag Water: Requirements**

In May 2024, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [published a final rule on certain pre-harvest agricultural water](#), revising requirements for covered produce, other than sprouts, in the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule (PSR).

**Under the new rule**, at the beginning of the growing season, but at least once annually, farms are required to evaluate various factors as part of their agricultural water assessment.

The following must be documented as part of that process:

- **Agricultural water system(s):**
  - Location and nature of the water source
  - Type of distribution system
  - Degree to which the system is protected, including from other water users, animal impacts, and certain uses of adjacent and nearby land
- **Agricultural water practices:**
  - The type of application method
  - Time interval between direct application and harvest
- **Crop Characteristics:**
  - Susceptibility of the produce to surface adhesions or internalization of hazards
- **Environmental conditions:**
  - Frequency of heavy rain or extreme weather events that impact water systems or covered produce
  - Air temperatures
  - Sun (UV) exposure
- **Other relevant factors:**
  - Test results to inform an assessment (testing is not required under this rule but may be used in certain circumstances using the sampling framework and microbial criteria for pre-harvest ag water in the 2015 Produce Safety Rule)

**The assessment must be written.**

*If multiple water sources are used, each must be evaluated with an assessment.*

*If a farm uses different agricultural water systems for different fields, the farm is required to prepare an agricultural water assessment for each system.*