

# Steve Patton



Over 35 years of experience in the agricultural sector, both private and governmental. The I & C Branch in conjunction with the County Agricultural Commissioners provides statewide enforcement of statutes and regulations for a variety of fruit and vegetable industry funded programs. Shipping Point Inspection provides a fee for service, inspection quality and auditing services under a cooperative agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture. The newly created Environmental Auditing Unit is responsible for enforcement of the Produce Safety Rule, one of seven rules created under the Food Safety Modernization Act.

# Food Safety Modernization Act - Implementation Update and Progress



Steve Patton, Chief, Inspection and Compliance Branch  
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# Food Safety Modernization Act

- Produce Safety
- Preventative Controls (Human food)
- Preventative Controls (Animal food)
- Sanitary Transportation
- Foreign Supplier Verification
- Third-party Certification
- Intentional Adulteration



## Produce Safety Implementation



- Cooperative agreement – 42 states
- Total amount: \$11.7 million
- Duration– 5 years
- Phase-in approach, Competition A and B.



FDA FOOD SAFETY  
MODERNIZATION ACT



## Feed Standards Implementation



AFRPS  
Animal Feed Regulatory Program Standards

- Cooperative agreement
- Total amount: \$300,000 – Feed Program; \$150,000 – CAC laboratory
- Duration – 5 years
- 11 standards to implement

# Working Partnerships

- National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA)
- Regular communication with FDA leadership and quarterly meetings with San Francisco and Los Angeles District Offices
- MOU in place with sister-agency, CA Department of Public Health
- Stakeholder input – industry workgroups and regular update meetings



*“Educate before and while we regulate”*



## NASDA Participation

- Leader of a state model to prioritize farm inspections
- CDFA's is participating in development of standardized farm inspection protocol
- Sharing resources with consortium members
- Communication mechanisms for enforcement actions
- Working on measurable objectives and data-sharing

# Produce Safety Rule (PSR)

- The rule supersedes voluntary metrics (It's federal law)
- Creates consistency on a national level
- No current acceptance from FDA that any scheme is PSR approved
- No current scheme allowed under FDA that is GFSI approved
- There is flexibility among the states in PSR implementation



# Produce Safety CDFA'S Tasks - Year 1 (Ends June 30, 2017)

- Jurisdictional self-assessment and planning
- Farm inventory
- Legislative research
- Infrastructure development
- Strategic multi-year planning





# Produce Safety CDFA'S Tasks



## **Year 2**

**(July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018)**

- Data sharing
- Create a prioritized inspection approach
- Internal staff training
- Opportunity to engage the buyer community
- Contract with entities to provide mandated grower training
- Voluntary survey to gather information
- Begin enforcement

## **Years 3, 4, 5**

**(July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2021)**

- Continued grower education in years 3 and 4
- Increased enforcement visits
- Annual farm inventory assessments
- Ongoing industry commitment

Current  
California Food Safety  
Certifications

Leafy Greens  
Marketing Agreement

Cantaloupe Advisory  
Board

USDA Harmonized and  
GAP



USDA Harmonized  
Audit

Scheduled to become  
GFSI approved

May be acceptable to  
FDA as compliant with  
PSR

Requires USDA Licensed  
auditors to perform the  
audit

A photograph of a woven basket filled with walnuts. The walnuts are in a white mesh bag, and the basket is made of light-colored straw or burlap. The walnuts are a light brown color with their characteristic wrinkled texture. The basket is placed on a dark wooden surface.

## Moving Forward - CDFA

- Share information with the buyer community
- Continue to work with FDA to leverage existing audit work – LGMA, CCAB, USDA Harmonized
- Continued participation in National meetings and workgroups
- Preventive Controls Rule - Animal Feed
- Outreach and Education
  - Communication contract
  - Grower Training RFP
- Prioritizing enforcement in California

A large sack of walnuts is shown, filled with many light-brown, textured walnuts. The sack is made of a white, mesh-like material and is placed on a dark wooden surface. The walnuts are piled high, and some are visible through the mesh. The background is a plain white wall.

## Moving Forward - Industry

- Review the farm definition and assess where your operation fits
  - Utilize flow charts
- Perform a farm assessment and evaluate your operation through the lens of food safety
  - C-GAP checklist
- Water requirements – compliance timeline delayed
- Attend a grower training



Thank you!

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