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# Cooperative Extension Service offers online produce safety workshop to fruit, vegetable growers

By Tracy Courage
U of A System Division of Agriculture

**Fast Facts:**

* Two-day Produce Safety Workshop offered May 5-6
* Training covers federal standards for growing, harvesting, packing and handling fresh fruits and vegetables
* Register by April 28 at <https://bit.ly/3tnPV2z>

(265 words)

LITTLE ROCK — The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture will offer an online produce safety training workshop May 5-6 to educate fruit and vegetable producers about federal rules.

The online training will be offered via Zoom from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Participants can register at <https://bit.ly/3tnPV2z>. Registration is limited to 20 farmers and growers and closes April 28, so that training materials can be mailed to participants before the workshop.

The training, developed by the Produce Safety Alliance and presented by the Cooperative Extension Service, helps growers understand regulatory requirements of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule. The rule regulates standards for growing, harvesting, packing and holding fresh produce. The rule will affect most produce farms.

“The FDA’s Food Safety Modernization Act introduced new regulations to protect public health by preventing food-safety incidents instead of reacting to them after they occur,” said Natacha Cureau, Food Systems and Safety postdoctoral associate. “This way, we can reduce financial risk to farmers and protect the public by ensuring a safe food supply.”

The training will cover topics such as agricultural water, soil amendments, worker health and hygiene, wildlife management, post-harvest handling and food safety plans.

Growers who attend the training will receive a certificate of completion, which satisfies the FDA requirement. Participants must be present both days of the training and must have Internet access, Zoom video conferencing software, a web camera and a microphone.

The cost is $20 for Arkansas residents and $100 for out-of-state residents.

For more information, contact Cureau at ncureau@uada.edu or 501-416-6247, or visit [www.uaex.uada.edu/producesafety](http://www.uaex.uada.edu/producesafety).

To learn about extension programs in Arkansas, contact your local Cooperative Extension Service agent or visit [www.uaex.uada.edu](http://www.uaex.uada.edu/). Follow us on Twitter at [@UAEX\_edu](https://twitter.com/UAEX_edu).

**About the Division of Agriculture**

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture’s mission is to strengthen agriculture, communities, and families by connecting trusted research to the adoption of best practices. Through the Agricultural Experiment Station and the Cooperative Extension Service, the Division of Agriculture conducts research and extension work within the nation’s historic land grant education system.

The Division of Agriculture is one of 20 entities within the University of Arkansas System. It has offices in all 75 counties in Arkansas and faculty on five system campuses.

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture offers all its Extension and Research programs and services without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

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