Managing food safety modernization: The produce industry perspective

Jennifer McEntire, Ph.D.
VP Food Safety & Technology
jmcentire@unitedfresh.org
United Fresh Produce Association

• Founded in 1904, Headquartered in Washington DC
• 1,500 companies; 10,000 individuals
  – More than 100 commodity boards; local, regional, national, international associations
  – Members in every state, 25 countries
  – 300 volunteers on boards, councils
• We bring together the produce supply chain
  – Growers, wholesalers, fresh processors, distributors, retailers, restaurants, service providers, allied associations
Continuum of regulation

- Preventive Controls
- San. Transp

Supplier → Receiving Facility → Customer

- FSVP, VQIP, 3PAC
- Intentional Adulteration?

+ EPA, OSHA, Dual Jurisdiction

- 2018 – UFPA Ag Outlook Forum- Food Safety

Source: Microsoft Office Clipart
Cost of compliance

• It’s not about cost
• It’s about cost/ benefit & value
  – Is it worth it?
Pathways to compliance

• Voluntary certifications
  – Harmonized Standard
  – “group GAP”

GLOBALG.A.P.

User’s Guide and Self Assessment for
FSMA Produce Safety Rule Compliance

To be used as Guideline for Integrated Farm
Assurance – Crops – Fruit & Vegetables v5.0-2
Implementing the rules

• Need guidance!
• Need $
  – Farm Bill?

- Pathogen die off
- “Kill steps” for fresh produce
  & novel processes for all food products
Emerging science- policy issues

• Ag water (Produce Safety Rule)
  – Testing frequency, analyte, “one water source”
  – Public health benefit?

• *Listeria monocytogenes* (Preventive Controls)
  – FDA removed barriers to aggressive testing
  – Zero tolerance policy = unnecessary recalls

• Whole Genome Sequencing
  – Improved outbreak investigation & understanding of our ecosystem
  – FDA/ FSIS/ CDC
Collaborative opportunities

- FDA-USDA agreement
- FDA-NASDA/ state agreement
- Produce Safety Alliance- JIFSAN: Produce International Partnership
- Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance
- FSMA “centers”
Questions?

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