

March 25 Agricultural Summit in Maryland

How will new FDA rules impact local produce industry?

For Immediate Release

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4th PRODUCE SAFETY PROJECT FOOD SAFETY STAKEHOLDERS' DISCUSSION SERIES TO TAKE PLACE APRIL 7, 2010 IN HYATTSVILLE, MD

- WHO:** The **Produce Safety Project** and **Center for Food Safety and Security Systems at the University of Maryland** have invited fruit and vegetable growers, extension educators, food retailers, packers, consultants, produce trade association personnel and other interested stakeholders to a public meeting designed to encourage a robust discussion on the science of and practical considerations for growing, harvesting and packing of fresh fruits and vegetables.
- WHEN:** April 7, 2010 8:30-5:00 pm
Proposed Agenda
Overview by FDA, USDA and others from 8:30-9:15 am
Series of panels, breakout session and reports 9:15 am -5:00 pm
- WHERE:** [The Marriott Inn and Conference Center](#)
[3501 University Ave.](#)
[Hyattsville, MD 20783](#)
- WHY:** The Food and Drug Administration is going to establish a nation-wide produce safety standard for the growing, harvesting and packing of fresh fruits and vegetables. The FDA has announced its intention to publish a proposed rule on this subject by October 2010. This public meeting is designed to provide industry expertise and on-the-ground knowledge to the FDA. Topics affecting produce safety and to be discussed include, water quality, worker health and hygiene, compost and wildlife and environmental issues.

HOW: For more information on the proposed FDA rule or meeting logistics call Caroline Hubbard 202-687-2976. Media wishing to attend the session should call Alicia at 410-991-7027 or e-mail Alicia@brightlinemedia.com.

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About the Produce Safety Project (PSP):

The Produce Safety Project at Georgetown University, an initiative of the Pew Charitable Trusts, seeks the establishment by the Food and Drug Administration of mandatory and enforceable safety standards for domestic and imported fresh produce, from farm to fork. Our families need to have confidence that federal food safety regulation is based on prevention, scientifically sound risk assessment and management, and coordinated integrated data collection. For more information online, visit www.producesafetyproject.org.