

Guidelines for Produce Generated by CFAES Programs

Applies to: All CFAES Food Producing Programs	Responsible Department(s): Operations; Research & Graduate Education; TIUs	Date Issued: May 2023
Category: Operations		Date Revised: N/A

Intent/Background

In 2021 CFAES convened a Fresh Produce Working Group to review opportunities for introducing products from our research, teaching, and other programs safely into the food system from our farms and controlled environments. This working group, led by Dr. Melanie Ivey and Dr. Sanja Ilic, provided several recommendations that focuses greater attention to food safety practices across our enterprise where appropriate and when products may be entering the food supply. One of the more important recommendations was the development of guidelines and policies for selling and/or donating food produced from our farms, gardens, and controlled environments. A key element in the recommendations is the possible need for Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) training for those personnel directly working with this produce. It is not a requirement that produce be donated or enter the food system, however, those who choose to do so will need to ensure appropriate practices.

As we continue to increase our awareness for food safety based on these recommendations, we are announcing the following policy for 2023. This policy will be revisited and possibly revised for the 2024 growing season.

Definitions

Term	Definition
Rarely Consumed Raw Produce	For CFAES, this mostly includes sweet corn, potatoes, wine grapes, and pumpkins. See fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/ucm253380.htm for more information.
Production-based Research	Production based research is broadly defined to include any examples where measurements or data (e.g. size, color, yield, resistance to infestation) are directly recorded from the generated produce or crops.
Internal Donations	Donations made to faculty, staff, and students of The Ohio State University.
GAP Training	Good Agricultural Practices: training provided by the OSU Fruit and Vegetable Safety Team that covers food safety protocols.

Guideline Details

1. The sale or donation of any produce from research trials that include unregulated, unregistered, or unknown pesticides, adjuvants or other inputs is prohibited.
2. CFAES Programs should follow USDA recommendations regarding the sale or donation of rarely consumed raw produce. GAP Training is **not required** but is strongly encouraged for those personnel directly working with this type of produce.

3. Produce **not classified** as rarely consumed raw and grown on CFAES farms or in controlled environments as a by-product of production-based research **will not be permitted** to be sold or donated to external partners; however, internal donations **are permitted**. GAP Training is **not required but is strongly encouraged** for those personnel directly working with this produce.
4. Produce grown for the purpose of direct consumption either through sale or donation (e.g. student volunteer gardens, Master Gardener Volunteers) or through classroom instruction may continue in 2023. GAP Training **is required** for those personnel directly working with this type of produce, including all employees and volunteers working in the gardens or greenhouses and those who are heavily involved in handling the produce.

Responsibilities Under the Policy

CFAES Operations and Research and Graduate Education will work with programs to provide access to GAP Training to those that need it and ensure that additional food safety protocols are followed. They will also continue to investigate and adapt food policies to future considerations. CFAES has a Land-Grant University responsibility to adhere to similar policies as to what our commercial stakeholders are required to follow based on USDA recommendations.

Produce-generating CFAES Programs that wish to donate or sell produce must identify how they align within the guidelines established in this document and any employees or volunteers who require GAP training. Requests to access GAP training should be sent to Betty Aylsworth (Aylsworth.1@osu.edu).

Contacts for Questions

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Document Change History

Version no.	Effective date	Description of change/sections revised	Reason for change	Author name
1	May 2023	N/A	N/A	Josh Clasen