

Attention all Growers-

The State of Alaska Division of Agriculture is pleased to announce an upcoming **[“On-Farm Food Safety Workshop”](#)** in the Mat-Su area. This workshop will be held on **[Wednesday, November 7th, 2012](#)** at the Alaska Plant Materials Center in Palmer. The workshop is limited to the first 25 attendees who sign up, so reserve your spot now!

Barb Hanson, Food Safety Auditor with the Division’s Inspection Program, and Johanna Herron, Coordinator of the Division’s Farm to School Program, will present information about:

- The Farm-to-School program and grant opportunities that assist schools to connect with local food producers
- The “Ins and Outs” of a USDA Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices (GAP/GHP) Audit
- Risk Analysis at your facility (water, crops, inputs, etc.)
- Food safety measures during Harvesting, Packing, Storage, and Distribution
- Traceback (Recall) methods and planning

The morning presentation will consist of a PowerPoint overview of the USDA GAP/GHP Food Safety Audit Program and a demonstration of FamilyFarmed.org’s new free online tool for growers who are interested in creating a Food Safety Plan, which is the first step in the GAP/GHP Audit process. We will provide all participants with a binder of food safety information and resources, as well as the book “Wholesale Success Manual: A Farmer’s Guide to Selling, Post-Harvest Handling, and Packing Produce”, published by Familyfarmed.org. A mock food safety audit of a greenhouse and outdoor growing area at the facility will be conducted after lunch.

This will be an informal workshop, with plenty of opportunities to ask questions pertinent to your growing operation and facilities. If there are any other specific topics or questions you would like us to cover, please feel free to let us know prior to the workshop. The session will run from 9AM until approximately 3 PM, with a one-hour break for lunch. The Plant Materials Center is approximately 20 minutes from downtown Palmer, so you should bring a lunch if you are planning to stay for the afternoon session.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you are interested in attending this workshop, so that we can reserve a space for you. Please respond to this email with your name, contact numbers, and some brief information about your farm/business. Workshop attendees will receive 3 Contact Hours of Continuing Education Credits, which are applicable to food safety training requirements for Food Safety Managers of a GAP/GHP-audited facility.

We look forward to hearing from you!

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