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### **Free On-Farm Food Safety Workshop to be offered in Palmer on June 19**

(Palmer, AK) – The Division of Agriculture will offer a free, half-day workshop on June 19 to educate produce growers about food safety practices in the field and after harvest to minimize risk of foodborne illnesses. The workshop will be held at the Plant Materials Center in Palmer.

The On-Farm Food Safety Workshop will provide information, resources, and on-site examples for producers to learn about good agricultural and food safety practices at their farm or garden. Large and small growers, farmers' market vendors, home gardeners, and any others interested in learning more about ways to grow, handle, and distribute fresh produce safely are encouraged to attend.

The workshop will help open new opportunities for farmers and prepare them for the requirements of the U.S. Food & Drug Administration's Food Modernization Act. Topics include Good Agricultural and Handling Practices (GAP/GHP) principles, GAP/GHP audits, risk analysis at growing facilities and distribution areas, creating a food safety plan with the new online tool available at <http://onfarmfoodsafety.org/> and a variety of other post-harvest produce handling topics.

"Growers can make small affordable changes to help minimize risk on their farm and that is what we cover during these workshops," said Barb Hanson, agriculture inspector for the Division of Agriculture.

**CONTACT:** If you are interested in attending this workshop, please contact Barb Hanson at the Division of Agriculture at [barbara.hanson@alaska.gov](mailto:barbara.hanson@alaska.gov), or by phone at 907-761-3854.

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