

**O'Donnell, Mary Beth**



CPIC#0266

**From:** LaRocque, Linnea on behalf of Barnes, Ed  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 02, 2014 8 20 AM  
**To:** O'Donnell, Mary Beth  
**Subject:** WFB Ag Spotlight

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

---

**From:** Carol Levanen [mailto:cnldental@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 29, 2014 2:20 PM  
**To:** Madore, David; Mielke, Tom; Barnes, Ed; Carol Levanen; Susan Rasmussen; Leah Higgins; Rick Dunning; Rita Dietrich; Jerry Olson; Fred Pickering; Jim Malinowski; Frank White; Benjamin Moss; Lonnie Moss; Melinda Zamora; Nick Redinger; Curt Massie; Marcus Becker; Clark County Citizens United Inc.  
**Subject:** Fw: WFB Ag Spotlight

Dear Commissioners,

CCCU has been researching information regarding clean water, water availability, water contamination and irrigation as it regards agriculture. These new rules from the federal government need to be seriously considered by the county as it relates to small and large farm operations. Any public food provider will more than likely be affected by these new rules, which will add another layer of costs and regulation associated with growing and selling of food. Please read the full article to have an understanding of what is being proposed

Best Regards, Carol Levanen, Ex. Secretary, CCCU, Inc.

----- Forwarded Message -----  
**From:** Washington Farm Bureau <tdavis@wsfb.com>  
**To:** cnldental@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Friday, August 29, 2014 1 11 PM  
**Subject:** WFB Ag Spotlight



9, 2014

Washington Farm Bureau's Ag Spotlight focuses on a story from our print publications, FB News and Neighbors magazine. Look for approximately once a week

This story is from the April 2014 edition of Farm Bureau News and details the concerns Washington farmers and ranchers

revised Food Safety Modernization Act, with some new regulations going into effect now

## **Food Safety Modernization Act: Deadlines defined, but uncertainty remains**

regulatory impacts of the federal Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) will arrive in late August

In response to several cases of food-borne illnesses in recent years, Congress passed the FSMA in 2010 to update the nation's food safety bill. The bill was signed into law in early 2011, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has begun writing rules to govern how foods are grown, harvested and processed. The FDA has divided the rulemaking into several different issue areas, each with its own deadline and timeline.

Recently, as part of a settlement agreement with consumer groups, the FDA agreed to implementation due dates for when the rules will go into effect. The agreement extends and staggers the final rule deadlines beyond the June 2015 deadline set by the U.S. District Court in Northern California last year. In exchange, the agency will drop its Ninth Circuit appeal in the dispute with the two consumer groups.

For more information on the various due dates, ranging from Aug. 30, 2015 to May 31, 2016, go to the FDA's website at [www.fda.gov/oc/foia/20150820-fsma-implementation-dates](http://www.fda.gov/oc/foia/20150820-fsma-implementation-dates)

Washington farmers and ranchers remain concerned about the impact of a gargantuan and expensive set of new regulations that will cover such issues as preventative controls for human and animal food, imported food and foreign suppliers, produce safety, intentional adulteration of food, and the potential requirement that irrigation water meet drinking water standards.

Comments submitted last year to the FDA, Washington Farm Bureau urged that any new rules adopted be practical and not impose undue burdens on farmers.

Washington is the largest employer in our state, providing more than 160,000 jobs and accounting for 13 percent of the state's economy. "Exports alone count for at least \$15 billion annually. However, family farmers operate on extremely tight profit margins. International competition for commodities, have limited ability to pass higher costs on to consumers. Even though agriculture in Washington on state has remained a bright spot in our state economy throughout the recent recession, that positive economic impact is being offset by the imposition of unreasonable regulations on our industry."

Washington agriculture industry believe the FDA's new proposed rules as written will unfairly burden family farmers, target sustainable agriculture and reduce the availability of fresh, local food in communities throughout Washington state.

Similar concern to tree fruit, onion and potato growers in Washington state are proposed water quality standards. Farmers have been using existing water sources that may not be allowed to be used untreated under the proposed rules.

Some of these commodities say agriculture provisions in the rules establish a standard that is impossible for growers who irrigate to meet. No approved treatment methods exists, and it would not be economical if it did exist.

Washington farmers in Washington state are dismayed by proposed rules that would require farmers who fertilize with untreated manure to apply it to the soil before harvesting crops that come in direct contact with the soil.

Washington Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau Federation will continue to monitor the situation as it develops.

**August 29, 2014**

*Washington Farm Bureau's Ag Spotlight focuses on a story from our print publications, FB News and Neighbors magazine. Look for Ag Spotlight approximately once a week.*

*This week's story is from the April 2014 edition of Farm Bureau News and details the concerns Washington farmers and ranchers have over the revised Food Safety Modernization Act, with some new regulations going into effect now.*

## **Food Safety Modernization Act: Deadlines defined, but uncertainty remains**

The first regulatory impacts of the federal Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) will arrive in late August.

Prompted by several cases of food-borne illnesses in recent years, Congress passed the FSMA in 2010 to update the nation's food safety laws. The bill was signed into law in early 2011, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has begun writing rules to govern the way foods are grown, harvested and processed. The FDA has divided the rulemaking into several different issue areas, each with its own set of details and timeline.

In February, as part of a settlement agreement with consumer groups, the FDA agreed to implementation due dates for when the new rules will go into effect. The agreement extends and staggers the final rule deadlines beyond the June 2015 deadline set by the U.S. District Court of Northern California last year. In exchange, the agency will drop its Ninth Circuit appeal in the dispute with the two consumer groups.

For more information on the various due dates, ranging from Aug 30, 2015 to May 31, 2016, go to the FDA's website at:

[http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Pk1XXTikIHv\\_G8YtsjRNjJbkRu6dCAihbvYIU-Pz0jSvSsXFW6ZvA7QWgWs3g1K0i9P6z7rVqt6eAEd\\_irEI3uu4k2RNVMG94yypxkFn8uOJ1P\\_x9e7usQbvspu11l-G\\_XDpfCexbSzMex1THNj72hyebqx8t3rld0YqeJQsZuPgvQxsfNKBmXFDjg6hydd23Ux5k1NC\\_n\\_a2eUTyERp7DEMLyvSrSkRQ&c=D\\_bJdf-zWtAO0HTN7O8a4Uq2e39jZVWmZErJDNxMz9WpluJiqHhCXg==&ch=gLFSADAYL048m-JEf4KdrSfBxrl49egGocyp4LyOrCNkGEC\\_R4Hnw==](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Pk1XXTikIHv_G8YtsjRNjJbkRu6dCAihbvYIU-Pz0jSvSsXFW6ZvA7QWgWs3g1K0i9P6z7rVqt6eAEd_irEI3uu4k2RNVMG94yypxkFn8uOJ1P_x9e7usQbvspu11l-G_XDpfCexbSzMex1THNj72hyebqx8t3rld0YqeJQsZuPgvQxsfNKBmXFDjg6hydd23Ux5k1NC_n_a2eUTyERp7DEMLyvSrSkRQ&c=D_bJdf-zWtAO0HTN7O8a4Uq2e39jZVWmZErJDNxMz9WpluJiqHhCXg==&ch=gLFSADAYL048m-JEf4KdrSfBxrl49egGocyp4LyOrCNkGEC_R4Hnw==)

Many farmers and ranchers in Washington remain concerned about the impact of a gargantuan and expensive set of new regulations. The new rules cover such issues as preventative controls for human and animal food, imported food and foreign suppliers, produce safety, food transportation, intentional adulteration of food, and the potential requirement that irrigation water meet drinking water standards.

In comments submitted last year to the FDA, Washington Farm Bureau urged that any new rules adopted be practical and not impose any undue hardships on farmers.

"Agriculture is the largest employer in our state, providing more than 160,000 jobs and accounting for 13 percent of the state's economy," WFB wrote. "Exports alone count for at

least \$15 billion annually. However, family farmers operate on extremely tight profit margins and, due to international competition for commodities, have limited ability to pass higher costs on to consumers. Even though agriculture in Washington state has remained a bright spot in our state economy throughout the recent recession, that positive economic impact can be dimmed by the imposition of unreasonable regulations on our industry."

Many in the agriculture industry believe the FDA's new proposed rules as written will unfairly burden family farmers, target sustainable and organic farming and reduce the availability of fresh, local food in communities throughout Washington state.

Of particular concern to tree fruit, onion and potato growers in Washington state are proposed water quality standards. Farmers have a history of using existing water sources that may not be allowed to be used untreated under the proposed rules.

Producers of these commodities say agriculture provisions in the rules establish a standard that is impossible for growers who irrigate from open ditches to meet. No approved treatment methods exist, and it would not be economical if it did exist.

Organic farmers in Washington state are dismayed by proposed rules that would require farmers who fertilize with untreated manure to wait nine months before harvesting crops that come in direct contact with the soil.

Washington Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau Federation will continue to monitor the situation as it develops.