



GreenLink Platform

Glossary of Terms

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Action required/AR

Non-conformance; does not meet established food safety criteria. (To move away from non-compliant mentality). Data may also be represented as # AR for number of non-conformance items and % AR where data is normalized to account for the number of AR samples/items collected.

Agriculture Water

Each distinct, separate combination of water source, conveyance, storage used to carry water from its primary source to its point of use; this includes wells, irrigation canals, pumps, valves, storage tanks, reservoirs, meters, pipes, fittings, and sprinklers.

Animal Hazard

Feeding, skin, feathers, fecal matter or signs of animal presence in an area to be harvested in sufficient number and quantity to suggest to a reasonable person the crop may be contaminated.

Block

Fixed feature of how the ranch is divided (primary farm division).

Buffer

Area of land that is not planted or harvested due to presence of a hazard or a food safety specification.

Bypassed / Walk by

Area of the crop that is not harvested for any reason other than food safety.

Cattle/Farming Operation/CAFO

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture, is an intensive animal feeding operation in which over 1,000 animal units are confined for over 45 days a year. 1,000 pounds of “live” animal weight.

Compost

Organic material that is used to enrich the soil and can come from a variety of sources. (Compost is the product manufactured through the controlled aerobic, biological decomposition of biodegradable materials. The product has undergone mesophilic and thermophilic temperatures, which significantly reduces the viability of pathogens and weed seeds and stabilizes the carbon such that it is beneficial to plant growth. Compost is typically used as a soil amendment but may also contribute plant nutrients.)

Crop Inputs

Materials that are commonly applied post-emergence for pest and disease control, greening and organic and inorganic nutrients supplementation to the plant during the growth cycle.

Disced

When a crop is incorporated back into the soil.

Distribution System

Consisting of pipes, pumps, valves, storage tanks, reservoirs, meters, fittings and other hydraulic appurtenances to carry water from its primary source to a crop.

Farm or Ranch

A physical agricultural site owned or leased by a grower, contiguous or non-contiguous (GPS location is encouraged).

Flooding

The flowing or overflowing of a field with water outside a grower's control that is reasonably likely to contain microorganisms of significant public health concern and is reasonably likely to cause adulteration of edible portions of fresh produce in that field.

Grower

Grows produce on a ranch or farm.

Growing Season

A length of time for a given region(s) and crop(s) when different activities take place. It represents the activities of growing a crop, from planting or beginning of groundwork to harvest and may include post-harvest activities.

Handler or Shipper

Owns product or purchases product from growers and first distributes product into commerce.

Hobby Farm

A non-commercial farming operation or a farm where the primary source of income is not obtained by the sale of its products.

Irrigation Water Sample

Sample drawn and tested from the water source or the water distribution system for indicator organism, and/or pathogens testing (water test).

Irrigation Water System Assessment

An assessment of the water source and distribution system.

Irrigation Water Test Result

The result of analyzing a water sample.

Lot

A sub-division of the block from where the crop is harvested in a specific timeframe. May include the grower name/ranch or farm name/block ID.

Off-Season

Period when the growing season ends (from end of prior crop to start of current crop-with or without groundwork).

Out of Tolerance/OOT

Exceedance of limits on any test result (water/product testing).

Post-Harvest

Period after harvest activities (farm gate) when different activities take place (for instance those during in-field post-harvest at packing facilities, cooler facilities and processing plants).

Pre-Harvest

Period prior to harvest when different activities take place, for instance pre-harvest assessment, water testing and pre-harvest product testing.

Pre-Harvest Indicator Test (Tissue Sample)

A sample of the harvestable lot collected prior to harvest and evaluated for indicator organisms.

Pre-Harvest Pathogen Test (Tissue Sample)

A sample of the harvestable lot collected prior to harvest and evaluated for pathogens.

Pre-Plant or Ground Prep

Time interval between plantings before the seed or crop is planted in the soil. A season may include multiple plantings. Note: ground prep may occur at end of previous crop or season or occur at the beginning of the current crop or season.

Pre-Season

Period prior to growing season when different activities take place.

Processor

Owns product or purchases product from a shipper/handler and converts raw agricultural commodities into fresh-cut products. Fresh cut means any fresh fruit or vegetable or combination thereof that has been physically altered from its whole state after being harvested from the field (e.g., by chopping, dicing, peeling, ricing, shredding, slicing, spiralizing or tearing) without additional processing (such as blanching or cooking).

Ranch or Field Assessment/Inspection

A visual assessment of the potential hazards present on a ranch and adjacent land, the associated risks and how these risks are mitigated.

Region

State, county, cities, growing region, and other areas of focus. Note: Growing regions may include: Yuma, Phoenix, Southern Arizona, Northern Arizona, Northern California, Salinas, Santa Maria, Southern California, Imperial Valley, Coachella, Central Valley, Northern Mexico, Central Mexico, Southern Mexico) (Question-and-Answers-on-Romaine-Provenance-Labeling-sept-2020cleanv2.pdf) (unitedfresh.org)

Soil Amendments

Elements added to the soil—such as compost, peat moss, or fertilizer—to improve its capacity to support plant life.

Swab Test

A swab taken for a specific pathogen or other indicators as part of an environmental monitoring program (for instance, samples taken from a cooling facility or from harvest equipment).

Water source

The location from which water originates. Water sources can be municipal, well or surface water such as rivers, lakes, or streams.