



Summary of Produce Safety Rule (PSR) Agricultural Water Requirements

Reminder: The PSR agricultural water requirements ONLY apply to covered farms; exempt and qualified exempt farms are not required to comply.

All required records (in purple text) must be reviewed, dated, and signed within a reasonable time by a supervisor or responsible party and kept for 2 years.

Pre-Harvest Agricultural Water Requirements

A written agricultural water assessment is required* at the start of the growing season or at least once annually.

This assessment which you conduct will be used for hazard identification and risk management decision-making purposes related to pre-harvest agricultural water. The assessment will review your farm's agricultural water system(s), agricultural water practices, crop characteristics, environmental conditions, and other relevant factors. At the end of your assessment, you will make a determination whether corrective or mitigation measures are necessary (if so, follow the requirements of §112.45) or that there are no known or reasonably foreseeable hazards. Access FDA's online Agricultural Water Assessment Builder at agwaterassessment.fda.gov

A reassessment is required at least once annually and whenever a significant change occurs in your agricultural water system(s).

Documentation of agricultural water assessments and any reassessments is required, including descriptions of factors evaluated and written determinations. If corrective or mitigation measures are used, you must keep documentation of any actions you take (§112.50(b)(7)).

*Exemption from a written agricultural water assessment may apply if it is reasonably likely that the quality of the water will not change prior to use as agricultural water AND if one of the following situations also applies:

- Exemptions do not apply to untreated surface water.
- If ground water or public water system water meets the microbial quality criterion of no detectable generic *E. coli* in 100mL of water.
- If your agricultural water source is from a public water system and you have annual water testing results or a certificate of compliance demonstrating that the water meets relevant PSR requirements of §112.44(c).
- If water is treated in accordance with the requirements of §112.46.

Under the finalized agricultural water requirements testing is NOT required for pre-harvest agricultural water. However, testing may be used to help inform decisions on water use and may provide eligibility for an exemption from the agricultural water assessment. See reverse side for a list of labs in Montana.

Compliance Dates (based on 3-year average of produce sales):
April 2025 - more than \$500k
April 2026 - \$250k to \$500k
April 2027 - \$25k to \$250k

Harvest and Post-Harvest Agricultural Water Requirements

An annual agricultural water systems inspection and **an annual record of the findings of this inspection are required** along with maintenance of your agricultural water systems (§112.42).

The PSR has established **testing requirements for harvest and post-harvest agricultural water**. See reverse side for requirements and a list of labs in Montana.

There are additional management and monitoring practices for harvest and post-harvest agricultural water (§112.44(d)).

Farms of all sizes must comply by January 2025.

Disclaimer: Farms may be subject to additional agricultural water requirements and may need to keep additional records. This summary sheet provides basic information for all farms. Subpart E of the PSR (§112.40-§112.50) should be reviewed to determine if additional requirements or records apply to your farm.

Produce Safety Rule: Harvest and Post-Harvest Agricultural Water Testing

Testing requirements for harvest and post-harvest agricultural water:

- Public Water System or Public Water Supply: There is no requirement to test, but an annual record is required of the public water system results that demonstrates the water meets the requirement of no detectable generic E. coli in 100mL of water OR a certificate of compliance demonstrating that the water meets relevant PSR requirements of §112.44(c).
- Water treated in accordance with the requirements of §112.46: There is no requirement to test.
- Ground Water: **
Year 1: Test each source at least 4 times during the growing season or over a period of 1 year.
After Year 1: Test each source once annually.
**If any annual test fails to meet the microbial quality criterion (no detectable generic E. coli in 100mL of water), you must: immediately discontinue use, re-inspect the agricultural water system, make necessary changes, and ensure water meets the microbial quality criterion OR treat the water in accordance with §112.46. Then resume testing four times per growing season or year until all tests collected in a year meet the microbial quality criterion.
- Surface Water (springs, rivers, ponds, holding tanks, or other water that is open to the atmosphere): NEVER use untreated surface water. Surface water can only be used for harvest/post-harvest activities if it is treated in accordance with the requirements of §112.46.

**Farms of all sizes must comply by
January 2025.**

All records of the results of analytical water tests or any results or certificates of compliance from a public water system/supply must be kept for 2 years.

Location	Lab	Phone	Generic E. Coli Present/Absent
Billings	Energy Laboratories Inc	(406) 252-6325	\$53 \$33/sample if 2 or more samples
Bozeman	Bridger Analytical Lab Inc	(406) 582-0822	\$30
Great Falls	Great Falls Water Treatment Plant Water Testing Lab	(406) 455-8557	\$26
Helena	Alpine Analytical Laboratory	(406) 449-6282	\$30
Helena	DPHHS Environmental Laboratory	(406) 444-3444	\$25
Helena	Energy Laboratories Inc	(406) 442-0711	\$53 \$33/sample if 2 or more samples
Kalispell	Montana Environmental Laboratory LLC	(406) 755-2131	\$35
Lewistown	Aqua Tech Laboratory	(406) 538-6988	\$25
Missoula	Crisp Water Technologies	(406) 549-8868	\$20 Lab collection of samples \$95+milage
Missoula	Missoula City-County Health Department Water Lab	(406) 258-4755	\$18
Missoula	RD Water Lab LLC	(406) 721-8179	\$25
Ravalli	Mission Mountain Laboratories Inc	(406) 745-5227	\$25

Price per sample (Updated June 2024)

Procedure: Contact the lab directly for collection container(s), sampling and drop-off instructions, and other lab specific protocol.

Produce Safety Rule Microbial Quality Criterion: no detectable generic E. Coli in 100mL of water

Lab results may read: E. coli: absent, no detect, or <1 MPN/100mL

Methods: The PSR approves Method 1603. Other scientifically valid methods that are at least equivalent to Method 1603 in accuracy, precision, and sensitivity may be used.

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