

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY FOR SMALL TO MEDIUM SIZE FARMS

Project Background

We are looking for volunteers to participate in a study to identify on-farm food safety practices that are specific to the unique conditions and needs of small to medium size* farms including operations that integrate livestock and fresh produce production systems. Our long term goal is to develop innovative, cost-effective, scale-size appropriate food safety metrics and recommendations for risk reduction for farms producing fresh produce and animal products.



How You Can Help

- Researchers at the University of California-Davis are enrolling organic and conventional farms selling fresh produce and animal products with primarily local marketing channels in Northern California. Farms with integrated livestock and fresh produce production are encouraged to participate. The study is voluntary and all locations and names will be kept confidential.
- Researchers will visit enrolled produce farms at least once per growing season (2015-2016) to collect leafy greens (lettuce, spinach, etc.) and fresh market tomatoes, water and compost. Livestock feces will be collected quarterly. Farmers will be asked to complete a short survey about farm management practices.
- Produce and water samples will be tested for bacterial indicators such as non-pathogenic *E. coli* and pathogen markers. Feces and compost will be cultured for food-borne pathogens.



How You'll Benefit

- Individual farms participating in the study will receive all testing for free. Results will be provided in a confidential format, and we will answer any questions about interpreting the tests.
- A final report summarizing the overall study findings will be given to participants.
- We will conduct workshops in partnership with local farming groups to share information with a broader farming and food safety audience.

Project Contacts

For more information and to enroll:

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*We define small-scale farms by size: < 500 goats/sheep; < 100 cows/pigs; < 1,000 chickens/year); or, gross-sales < \$500,000; and direct-marketing your products (through farmers markets, farm stands, etc.) or through other intermediate channels that maintain the farm identity to the end consumer.