



# **FSMA Produce Safety Rule: What it Means for Vermont**

**February 16, 2016**

**Presentation to the House Committee on Agriculture &  
Forest Products**

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# FSMA Produce Safety Rule

**One of 7 FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Rules**

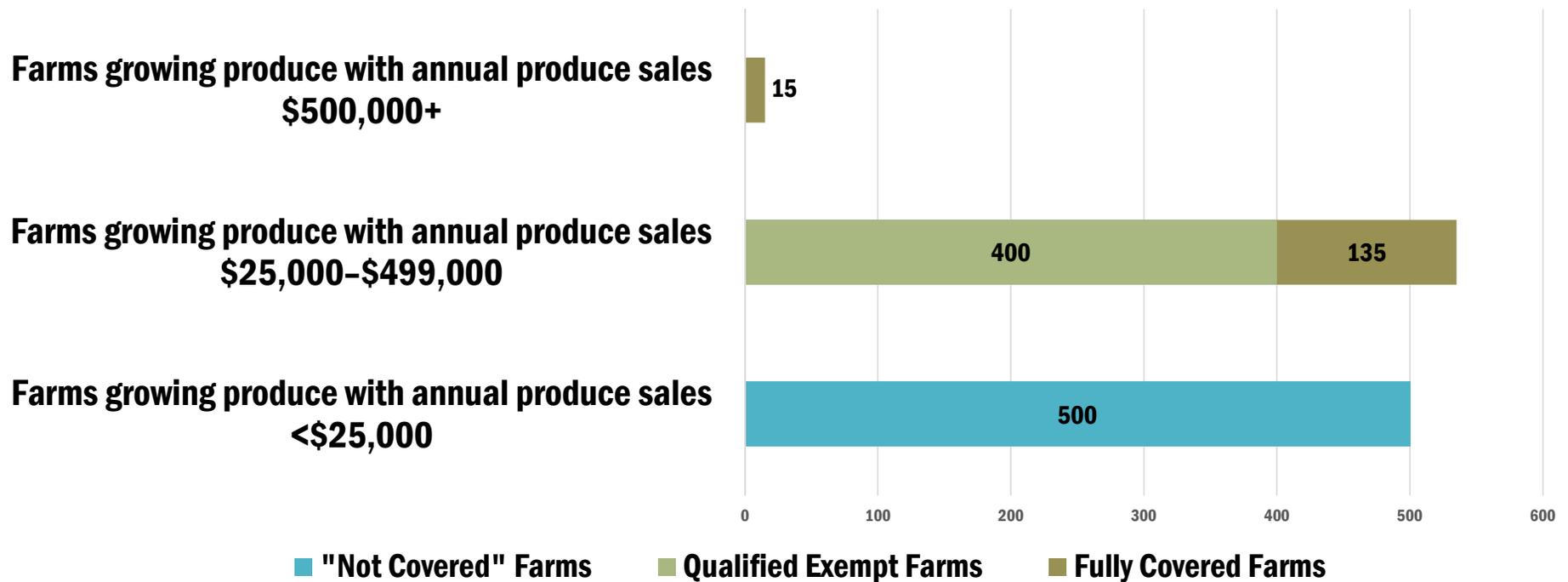
**Final as of November 27, 2016**

**“Effective” as of January 26, 2016**

**Compliance for some businesses begins in 2018**

# Vermont State Impact

## Farms that Grow, Harvest, Pack or Hold Fresh Produce



*Estimates based on 2012 U.S. Census of Agriculture data provided by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) for the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) in August 2015.*

# State Collaboration with FDA

**Over the past three years, states have worked with FDA to develop an Operational Plan for Produce Safety Rule Implementation.**

- FDA does not have the resources or expertise to inspect farms.
- States are preparing to build programs to provide outreach, education, and technical assistance as well to conduct inspections.
- We want to ensure that producers can meet market demand for food safety/FSMA compliance certification.
- Financial commitment: \$104.5 million for FSMA implementation in FDA's FY '16 budget; \$23.5 million additional requested for FY '17.

# Objectives of State Produce Program

1. FSMA Produce Safety Rule will impact Vermont farmers and we want a local liaison between industry and FDA
2. Ensure that producers can meet market demand for food safety and compete in the regional marketplace
3. Provide education and technical assistance to ensure compliance prior to enforcement (“educate before—and while—you regulate”)
4. Support public health
5. Achieve market access and meet buyer demand

# Feedback from Industry

1. Overall support for the Agency to stand up a program and provide FSMA compliance inspections. Buy-in for the “produce safety continuum” concept—education and technical assistance for all farms—and tiered approach—focus on farms that are required to comply with the federal rule first.
2. Meeting participants have expressed concerns that FDA will be looking at VT farms through eyes that are used to CA and NJ farms.
3. Growers would prefer Agency presence on farms.
4. Meeting participants felt that they have a better relationship with the Agency than with FDA and that the enforcement process would be more reasonable.
5. Agency is mission-driven to support agriculture.

# Implementation Timeline



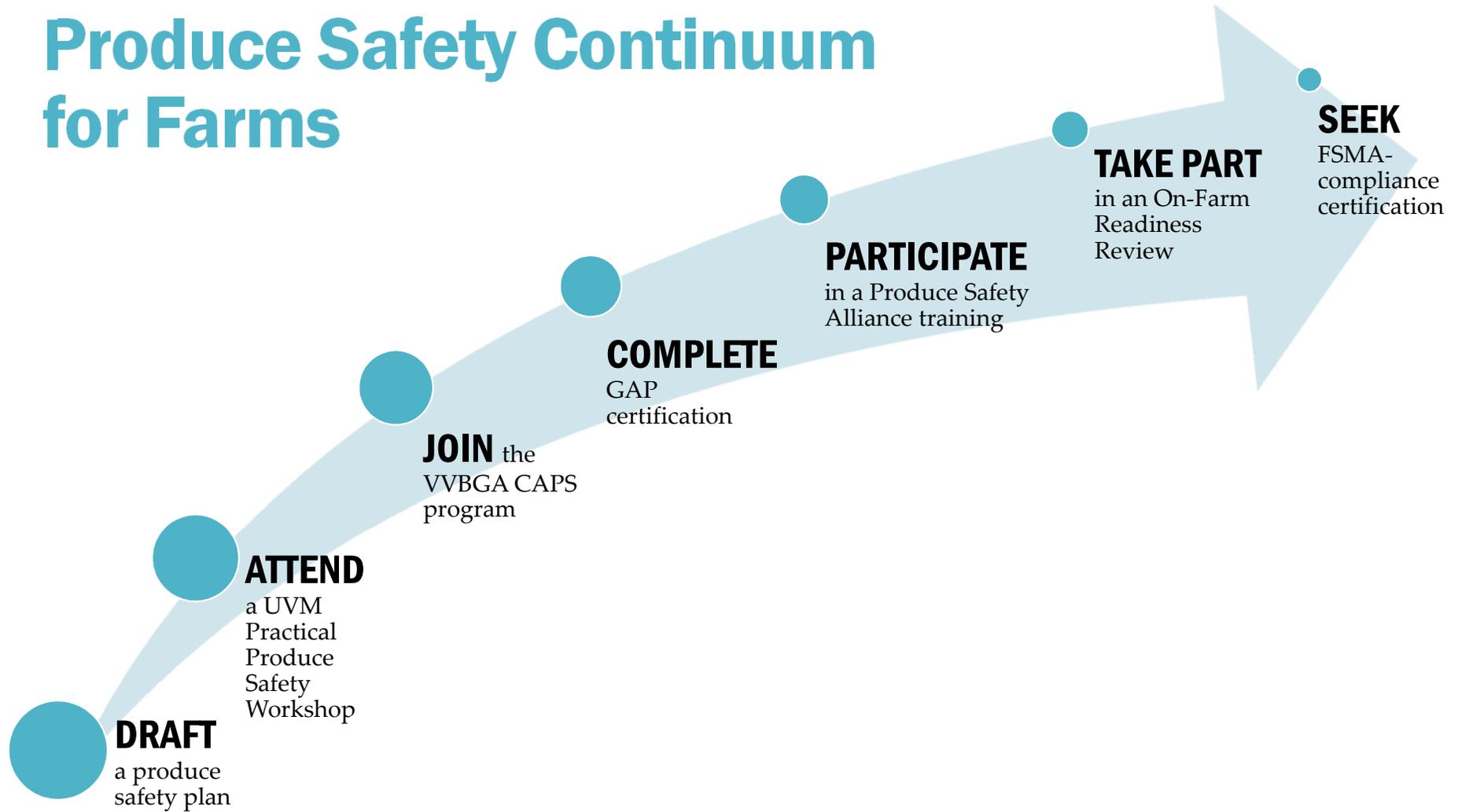
Compliance dates for certain aspects of the rule's water quality standards begin two years beyond each compliance date for the rest of the final rule. Inspection dates/frequency not yet determined.

# **DRAFT** Mission Statement

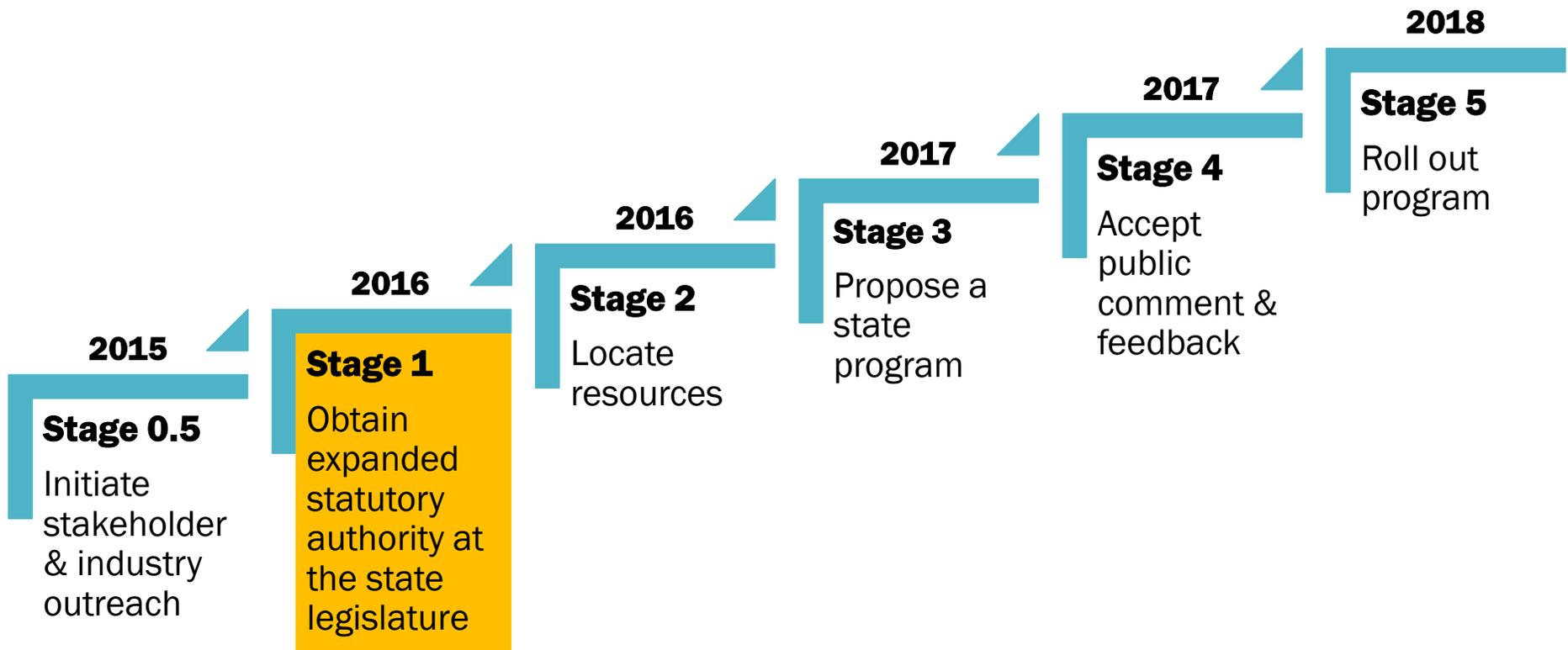
The Vermont Produce Safety Program will help to grow Vermont's produce industry—in the face of new federal regulations and changing market expectations—by aiding produce farms of all sizes and stages of development to meet food safety requirements, access markets, and promote public health.

This cross-divisional program will serve Vermont farms that grow and sell produce covered under FDA's Produce Safety Rule and engage critical external partners across a **produce safety program continuum**.

# Produce Safety Continuum for Farms



# Stages of Program Development



# Food Safety Modernization Act Educational Workshops

**FSMA Produce Safety Rule & Program Development Workshop**

**March 31, 2016**

**2:00–4:00 PM**

**Pavilion Auditorium**

**109 State Street, Montpelier**

**FSMA Preventive Controls & Produce Safety Rule Workshop**

**CO-HOSTED BY THE VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

**April 4, 2016**

**2:00–4:00 PM**

**Vermont Department of Health**

**108 Cherry Street, Burlington**

**FSMA Produce Safety Rule & Program Development Workshop**

**April 5, 2016**

**5:30–7:30 PM**

**Rutland Free Library**

**10 Court Street, Rutland**