

COVID-19

Best Practices for Food Handling & Customer Communication



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Best Practices for Farms

The following are best practices to help farmers keep their workforce healthy, their food products safe, and to protect their businesses as much as possible during this COVID-19 outbreak. Farmers are encouraged to continue these best practices and integrate them into their farm hygiene and sanitation systems to ensure their on-farm health and hygiene standards remain at a high level into the future.

KEY TAKE-AWAYS FOR FARMERS:

- Improve your farm's hygiene and sanitation programs by making them more frequent and in-depth.
- Have ill employees stay at home.
- Keep high-touch surfaces clean and sanitized.
- Reduce numbers of customers at points of sale at any one time.
- Stay informed and responsive by checking updates on the [CDC](#), [CDPHE](#), and your [local public health](#) websites.

1. Let your customers know that you have stringent hygiene practices in place (on your website and at point of sale areas such as your farm stand and CSA pickup site(s)).
2. Reduce the amount of contact consumers have with food products:
 - Consider having employees use disposable gloves for all produce bagging and boxing.
 - Pre-bag produce and pre-box CSA shares.
 - Ensure that all food contact surfaces have been cleaned and sanitized at least daily.
3. Reduce crowding at your point of sale areas by:
 - Clearly designating browsing and sales areas that maintain a social distance of 6 feet between farm staff and each customer.
 - Restricting visitor/customer access areas.
 - Extending sales hours to accommodate more customers without crowding. Current recommendations for the number of individuals attending any event is 10 or fewer as of March 24, 2020.
4. Increase frequency of cleaning and sanitizing around areas that customers access.
5. Post signage reminding customers who are ill, or who believe themselves to be ill, to avoid from coming to your farm stand, or your pick-up or drop-off site for public health and safety. Post signage for vendors and delivery services that warns them not to enter if they are sick or not feeling well, have recently traveled outside of the US, or may have come into contact with someone with COVID-19. Here is [example signage](#) recommended by the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment that you can adapt to your operation.