The Food Safety Modernization Act

Impacts on Local Farms & Resources

Roger Noonan, President

www.newenglandfarmersunion.org
Committed to the economic viability of New England’s family farmers and fishermen.

Legislation – Education - Cooperation
Roger Noonan, President NEFU

Owns and operates diversified organic family farm.
Growing Consumer demand for local foods has reached a tipping point, developing into a strong mainstream trend over the past decade and creating a structural competitive shift in the U.S. food industry.

Rabobank AgFocus Feb 2013

www.newenglandfarmersunion.org
Local Products now account for up to a quarter of retail fresh produce offering and sales are expected to continue to expand over the next five years.

Rabobank Agfocus Feb 2012

www.newenglandfarmersunion.org
Buying local makes an impact

Direct farm to consumer sales account for nearly $8 billion dollars of sales.

And demand is rising...

Emergence of Retail Agriculture: Report to the Farm Credit Council Sept. 2010
www.newenglandfarmersunion.org
Some western growers report a 10-15% drop in sales during the summer months.

Rabobank Agfocus Feb 2013

www.newenglandfarmersunion.org
Action Needed to be taken!

There's something wrong with this banana.
And the Food Safety Modernization Act was signed into law Jan 4, 2011
It represented just a little light reading...
We ask for clarity and redefinition of terms

Farm is defined under FDA’s organizing principles as:
Growing and harvesting its own Raw Agricultural Commodities (RACs) and preparing them for use as food.

This definition makes a farm that aggregates RACs from other farms or further processes its own RACs become a mixed type facility and triggers even more regulatory burden under the preventive controls rule.

Ownership is referred to often but not defined.

What about cooperative ownership?
We ask that the FDA conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment

The proposed Produce rule likely have a significant impact on our environment.

Increased use of ground and public water resources
Increased use of synthetic fertilizers
Increased stockpiling of manure and composting

The FDA concedes the cost of compliance will likely put some farms out of business.

The farms that represent our best stewards of our soil and water resources may convert their land to other uses potentially further increasing the environmental impact of this rule.
FSMA creates a significant regulatory burden for small businesses and burdens public

The costs of compliance are disproportionately borne by smaller farms.

Small farms will have restricted access to expanding markets

Increased demands will be made on public resources:

- NRCS & SWCD increased demand for applicable conservation practices
- Land Grant Universities and Extension Service increased demand for research to support Alternatives and Variances
Thank You!
Questions?