**Sample Farmer/Business Comment**

Re:  Preventive Controls Rule: FDA-2011-N-0920, Produce Standards Rule: FDA-2011-N-0921

I am a \_\_\_\_ [farmer, entrepreneur, processor, parent…].

*[Customize your comment with your story:* *What is the name and location of your farm? What do you grow? How long have you been in operation? Where do you sell your products and how do you already ensure their safety?]*

I am writing because I am concerned about the impact that FDA’s proposed FSMA rules will have on [my farm / business operation, the practices I use on my farm, other farmers in my community, the farms that I buy food from, etc…]. I ask you to ensure that new regulations do not put safe farms out of business, harm farmers’ soil, water, and wildlife conservation efforts, or shut down the growth of local and regional healthy food systems!

Because of all of the specific issues described below, I urge FDA to publish a second round of draft rules for public comment before finalizing the produce safety and preventive controls regulations.  The state regulators who know the most about agriculture and food agree with this recommendation:  In a statement on Sept. 20, 2013, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) observed that FDA has little to no experience inspecting farms, and that the rules have to potential to tilt the playing field in favor of foreign producers.  NASDA noted that “FDA needs to recognize legitimate farming practices – merely changing farming practice will likely drive some producers out of the marketplace rather than assure safer food,” and recommended that  FDA publish a second proposed rule draft for public comment before seeking to make the rules final.

<at this point you can comment on one or several of the specific issues highlighted on CFSA’s FSMA issues page - <http://www.carolinafarmstewards.org/fsma-issues/>>  