

UMass Agricultural Water Twilight Series

Part II: Water System Mapping and Water Testing for FSMA

9/23/20

RESOURCES and Q&A

Agricultural Water resources – UMass Food Safety for Farmers

<https://ag.umass.edu/resources/food-safety/for-farmers/agricultural-water>

Scroll down to “General FSMA Water Requirements” for a list of drop-down answers to questions, including:

- How do I collect water samples?
- What test do I order?
- What lab can I send my samples to for testing?
- What do my test results mean?

Massachusetts Water Management Act – M.G.L. 21G, 310 CMR 36.00

- Agricultural users may be subject to WMA
- Permit application and guidance:
<https://www.mass.gov/lists/water-management-act-wma-permitting>
- Questions to:
Duane LeVangie
Mass DEP
Water Management Program Chief
One Winter Street, Boston, MA 02108
Duane.levangie@mass.gov
617-292-5706

Massachusetts Drought Management website

<https://www.mass.gov/drought-management>

VIDEO on sampling of surface and well water – Vermont Agency of Agriculture:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SvjCidO6KE>

The Water Analysis Method Requirement in the FSMA Produce Safety Rule – Produce Safety Alliance:

<https://producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu/sites/producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu/files/shared/documents/Water-Analysis.pdf>

Backflow Prevention for Produce Farms – UVM Extension Ag Engineering blog:

<https://blog.uvm.edu/cwcallah/2019/05/20/backflow-prevention-for-produce-farms/>

Annual Water System Inspection Log Example – Michigan State University Extension

https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-ppt/msu_annual_water_system_inspection_log_example.pdf

Water system food safety inspections – Michigan State University Extension

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/water-system-food-safety-inspections#:~:text=To%20find%20out%20more%20about,by%20Michigan%20State%20University%20Extension.&text=To%20contact%20an%20expert%20in,888%2D678%2D3464>).

VIDEO on Water system inspections – Michigan State University Extension

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=94tqcqnKQo0&feature=youtu.be>

Meeting Q&A – summary of chat questions and answers. See recording for full discussions.

Q: Does the [Massachusetts] [Water Management Act](#) apply to artesian water or surface water?

A: (Duane LeVangie, Mass. Dept. of Env. Protection) Yes it does apply to surface water withdrawals, artesian conditions may be applicable.

Q: How frequently should farmers be testing their water to comply with state regulations, and is it the same requirement for the voluntary audit program, Commonwealth Quality (CQP)?

A: (Michael Botelho) Ma. State regulations are dictated by the federal rule [[FSMA Produce Safety Rule, subpart E](#)]. When final federal produce safety water requirements are released, Ma. regulations will follow those. Ma. does not plan to deviate from the federal rule. For CQP, requirement is currently 3 tests per year for surface water, 2 for ground water, and a record of municipal water test for municipal water. Having some difficulty this year with audit program participants, farms are just not having their water tests available. May be due to covid, labor shortages.

Q: Do you test for total coliform or generic *E. coli*?

A: (Don Stoeckel, Produce Safety Alliance) Generic *E. coli*. For well water that is used for drinking water, total coliforms can be used as an indicator of surface water intrusion into the well, but for agricultural water tests, get generic *E. coli*.