

# California Agricultural Neighbors Actions for Food Safety

## Action 1: Foster Neighbor-to-Neighbor Interactions and Conversations

- 1.1 Sharing California Agricultural Neighbors (CAN) glossary of terms to foster a common understanding.
- 1.2 Collaborating with partnerships in CAN Outcomes Table that engender goodwill among vested agricultural stakeholders.
- 1.3 Creating a Discussion Template to support neighbor-to-neighbor dialogue.

## Action 2: Build a Research Roadmap for the Salinas Valley based on the following processes

- 2.1 Introduction of pathogenic *E. coli* to host populations, and re-introduction into the environment in a cycle that leads to continuing exposure and outbreaks.
- 2.2 Amplification of pathogenic *E. coli* within host populations, following introduction, and through conditions that may allow for regrowth in produce-growing lands and adjacent lands.
- 2.3 Survival and persistence of pathogenic *E. coli* under various conditions that do not allow for amplification, but which do allow more time for transport opportunities and intersection with leafy green crops.
- 2.4 Mechanisms of movement and transport of pathogenic *E. coli* across the landscape, including by air, water, animals, and machinery.

## Action 3: Create a Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment (QMRA) Framework

- 3.1 Assess the current state of knowledge and sponsored research underway and supported by various entities.
- 3.2 Apply a QMRA framework to organize data, both existing and upcoming through the research pipeline, as a means to prioritize data needs and research gaps for a completely populated QMRA foundational data set.

## Action 4: Build and Maintain Capacity to Transfer Knowledge from Research into Applied Practice

- 4.1 Research Capacity. Right-size the needed depth and breadth of experts to fully support farmers, ranchers, and agriculture neighbors in the Salinas Valley. Experts will need to have a multidisciplinary approach to collectively foster food safety, food security, and environmental sustainability with a One Health goal of achieving target health outcomes.
- 4.2 Research Funding Sources. Typical and non-typical funding sources and partnerships need to be pursued to support produce-specific research efforts. Researchers from allied fields of study / specializations should be actively engaged, particularly specialists in climate and weather patterns that might impact produce safety in the Salinas Valley and researchers who are able to study wildlife populations, migration patterns, and STEC carriage rates.
- 4.3 Capacity to Transfer Knowledge. Agricultural extension partners at land-grant universities, particularly including historically Black State colleges and universities and Tribal colleges, are valuable partners in providing research capacity and translating research findings into applied, science-based recommendations to industry. Non-traditional partners such as industry trade organizations should continue to be encouraged to fulfill this role.



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE



### California Agricultural Neighbors



**Neighbor-to-neighbor best practices to help enhance localized food safety efforts**

Action Report – June 2022

[Click here](#) to view full details in the pictured report.