

The Produce Rule and Biological Soil Amendments of Animal Origin – Action Plan and Record

Date of Application	What is Applied Supplier's Name Indicate Records	Treated & Method Or Untreated	Growing Area ID	Application Plan - Crop, type and planting date - Contact with crop - Application Rate	Incorporation Date	- Earliest Harvest Date Allowed - Actual Harvest Date	Applicator's Name

Farm Name _____ Address _____ Date _____ Initial _____

The Produce Rule and Biological Soil Amendments of Animal Origin (BSA)

Application Intervals Vary Based On The Type Of BSA (Treated Or Untreated) And Also The Method Of Application.

Standards for Treated BSAs (Compost and tea and other inputs made from treated BSAs)

- Treated soil amendments must be “processed to completion to adequately reduced microorganisms of public health significance.”
- Agricultural teas: the biological materials must be processed to adequately reduce microorganisms of public health significance, untreated surface water cannot be used to make the tea, and the water must meet the requirements above for water used in harvest/post-harvest activities (no detectable generic E. coli per 100mL).

Acceptable treatment processes include any scientifically valid controlled physical, chemical, or biological process – or a combination – that is validated to satisfy certain microbial standards. Composting is considered a common biological process, and validated composting methods include:

1. Static composting that maintains aerobic (*i.e.*, oxygenated) conditions at a minimum of 131 °F (55 °C) for 3 consecutive days and is followed by adequate curing; and
2. Turned composting that maintains aerobic conditions at a minimum of 131 °F (55 °C) for 15 days (which do not have to be consecutive), with a minimum of five turnings, and is followed by adequate curing.

Per FDA’s definitions, curing may or may not involve insulation, depending on environmental conditions.

- If treated BSAs (ie. composted manure) are applied in manner that minimizes the potential for contact with covered produce during or after application, then you do not have to wait any specified number of days between application and harvest.

- Documentation must be kept.

Standards for Untreated BSAs

If you are using soil amendments containing animal byproducts (ie. manure or fish emulsion) and it does not meet the above criteria for treatment, then it is considered untreated. It is also untreated if it has been recombined with untreated biological soil amendments, or there is reason to believe that a treated amendment has become contaminated with untreated waste. Therefore, there are also requirements regarding the handling, storage, and transport of BSAs to minimize the risks of cross contamination between treated and untreated products, and to avoid untreated materials from becoming a potential source of contamination.

Raw Manure And Other Untreated BSAs (Untreated)

1. Untreated biological soil amendments of animal origin, such as raw manure, must be applied in a manner that does not contact covered produce during application and minimizes the potential for contact with covered produce after application.
2. If untreated BSAs are applied in a manner that does not contact covered product during or after application, then no restrictions are placed on the time between which it can be applied and harvest. However:
 - Certified organic farmers need to continue following the NOP standards regarding the application of raw manure (90-120 days, depending on the application method).
 - Other farmers may also wish to adhere to the same or a similar standard as a prudent interim measure.

Human Waste As A BSA

The Produce Rule prohibits the use of human waste as a biological soil amendment, unless in the form of sewage sludge biosolids. The National Organic Program prohibits the use of sewage sludge biosolids.

The Produce Rule and Domesticated and Wild Animals

The rule addresses concerns about the feasibility of compliance for farms that rely on grazing animals (such as livestock) or working animals for various purposes. It establishes the same standards for these animals as it does for intrusion by wild animals (such as deer or feral swine). Farmers are required to take all measures reasonably necessary to identify and not harvest produce that is likely to be contaminated.

- At a minimum, this requires all covered farms to visually examine the growing area and all covered produce to be harvested, regardless of the harvest method used.

- In addition, under certain circumstances the rule requires farms to do additional assessment during the growing season, and if significant evidence of potential contamination by animals is found, to take measures reasonably necessary to assist later during harvest. Such measures might include, for example, placing flags outlining the affected area.

- Although the final rule does not require establishing waiting periods between grazing and harvest, the FDA encourages farmers to voluntarily consider applying such intervals as appropriate for the farm's commodities and practices. The agency will consider providing guidance on this practice in the future, as needed.

- Farms are not required to exclude animals from outdoor growing areas, destroy animal habitat, or clear borders around growing or drainage areas. Nothing in the rule should be interpreted as requiring or encouraging such actions.

Be aware, that audit programs may require waiting period or have other standards.