

# CALIFORNIA INITIATIVES – A ROADMAP TO ENHANCED FOOD SAFETY

Food safety is a shared responsibility. Continued outbreaks of pathogenic *E. coli* associated with leafy greens necessitated a robust response through efforts shared among the industry, the broader agricultural community, and state and federal regulators to protect public health. The agricultural communities in California, specifically the Salinas Valley and Santa Maria Valley, continue to respond to the *E. coli* outbreak events linked to leafy greens in three distinct areas: Filling Knowledge Gaps, Prevention, and Response.



## FILLING KNOWLEDGE GAPS

**Colloquium on Shigatoxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC) involving leafy greens**, led by Center for Produce Safety (*January – June 2021*)

**Center for Produce Safety Research** funded 187 projects (*Ongoing*)

**CA Leafy Greens Research Program**, administered by representatives of leafy greens industry (*Ongoing*)

**CA Longitudinal Study (CALs)** to address knowledge gaps in reoccurring outbreaks, led by FDA, UC Davis Western Center for Food Safety, industry advisory group and coordinated by CDFA (*July 2020 – August 2023*)

**Research: Scientific Challenges and Cost-Effective Management of Risks Associated with Implementation of Produce Safety Regulations**, led by consortium of universities & USDA (*Sept. 2020 – August 2024*)

**Compost and Soil Inputs Surveillance Sampling**, led by CA agencies (*Jan. 2021 – June 2022*)

***E. coli* Cattle Vaccination Trial**, led by UC Davis (*February 2021 – June 2022*)

## PREVENTION

**CA Agricultural Neighbors (CAN)** workgroup to foster a constructive working relationship among stakeholders, led by Monterey County Farm Bureau, CDFA, RESOLVE facilitation (*January 2021 – December 2021*)  
\* *E. coli* cattle vaccination trial is action item

**CA LGMA Subcommittees**, led by CA and AZ Leafy Green Marketing Agreements (LGMAs) (*Ongoing*)

**Continuous Improvement (Revision) of LGMA-Approved Guidelines**, led by Western Growers in coordination with CA & AZ LGMAs (*Ongoing*)

**FDA Leafy Green Surveillance Sampling**, led by FDA (*February – April 2021*)

**Industry Food Safety Data-Sharing Initiative**, led by Western Growers (*August 2021 launch*)

**Industry Efforts to Collect Data on Water Treatment/Delivery in Agricultural Field and Creation of a Research Roadmap**, led by Western Growers (*Summer 2021*)

## RESPONSE

**Leafy Greens Outbreak Investigative Reports**, led by FDA and CDC (*fall 2018 – winter 2020*)

**Industry Guidance on Root Cause Analysis** to benefit diverse produce operations, including leafy green operations, led by Western Growers and involving Arizona LGMA, California LGMA, Grower-Shipper Association of Central California, Produce Marketing Association, Texas International Produce Association and United Fresh Produce Association (*May – June 2021*)

**Conduct Follow-Up Surveillance to the 2020 Outbreaks**, led by CDFA in coordination with CDPH and FDA (*April – July 2021*)