Farm Inventory - Aggregate Data Sharing

The Produce Safety Rule (PSR) is a regulation promulgated to ensure a safe supply of produce to all stakeholders. It uses a preventive system-based approach that encompasses the areas of personnel qualifications and training, health, hygiene and sanitation, agriculture water, soil amendments, domesticated and wild animals and equipment, tools and buildings. As part of the reporting requirements for individual states for their Produce Safety Cooperative Agreements, each State is required to upload information reflecting the inventory of farms that meet the definition of farms subject to the Produce Safety Rule (PSR). Some States have encountered issues with meeting these reporting requirements due to State laws which restrict the sharing of collected data by State agencies. The legal restrictions on the sharing of data with outside entities include Federal government agencies. FDA has agreed to accept aggregate data about the inventory of farms in lieu of individual farm data; a process will be needed to share additional information in certain instances.

Charge: States, NASDA, and FDA will work together to establish criteria for the reporting of aggregate farm inventory. The subgroup will review available types of farm inventory data and establish reporting criteria which meet the reporting requirement of each State’s PSR Cooperative Agreements. These reporting requirements are to be developed with the goal to foster a greater degree of consistency of national policies, practices, processes, and systems for the reporting of farm inventory data to FDA, by the following activities:

1. Develop recommended farm inventory data criteria that each State will utilize when conducting inspections and outreach activities on farms.
2. Develop criteria for aggregating data into a format that will meet the reporting requirements of the PSR cooperative agreements.
4. Develop a recommended process to share additional relevant farm inventory data in certain circumstances, e.g., for case investigations.