



Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor  
Joseph Bartenfelder, Secretary  
Julianne A. Oberg, Deputy Secretary

The Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. Building  
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
Internet: [www.mda.maryland.gov](http://www.mda.maryland.gov)

410.841.5700 Baltimore/Washington  
301.261.8106 Washington, D.C.  
800.492.5590 Toll Free

**TELEPHONE: (410) 841-5769 FAX (410) 841-2750 EMAIL: [Produce.Safety@maryland.gov](mailto:Produce.Safety@maryland.gov)**

## 2020 Produce Safety Rule Qualified Exemption Registration Worksheet

The Maryland Department of Agriculture is enforcing the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Produce Safety Rule through Maryland legislation that was effective July 1, 2019. Information on individual farms collected through this program will not be shared with any entities or persons outside of the MDA unless it is part of an active food borne illness outbreak investigation. All data collected concerning farms is shared with FDA as aggregate data only. If you have questions concerning your eligibility, please review the Maryland Department of Agriculture "Produce Safety Rule Exemptions and Compliance Dates Fact Sheet" or contact MDA at (410) 841-5769 or [produce.safety@maryland.gov](mailto:produce.safety@maryland.gov). This worksheet is for your use in determining if you are eligible for the Qualified Exempt status and documenting the required annual review. **Do not submit the worksheet to MDA.** The Produce Safety Rule Qualified Exempt Registration Form is required to be filed with MDA annually to exclude you from the inventory of farms required to fully comply with the Produce Safety Rule.

Name of Farm:

Name/Title of Person conducting annual review:

Address of Farm:

1. Insert your total **food** sales (All food for human and/or animal consumption not just produce sales for 2016, 2017, and 2018).
2. Add your 2016, 2017 and 2018 Total Food Sales

_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____
(2016)		(2017)		(2018)		(Total food sales three years)

3. Divide your Total Three Year Food Sales by three to calculate your average.

_____	Divided by "3" =	_____
Total Food sales for 3 years from above		3 Year average value

If your three-year average value of food sales is <\$550,551<sup>†</sup>, complete the Qualified End Users portion of the worksheet to determine if you are eligible for Qualified Exempt status. If your three-year average value is >\$550,551, you are not eligible for this exemption. Please refer to the other exemption categories to determine if you are eligible for another type of exemption. <sup>†</sup> *On a rolling basis and adjusted for inflation; current value is based on adjusted inflation value for 2016, 2017 and 2018.*

1. Enter your direct food sales to Qualified End Users (Consumers, restaurants and/or retailers in Maryland or not more than 275 miles from your farm).
2. Add your direct food sales to Qualified End Users.

_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____
(2016)		(2017)		(2018)		(Three year Total food sales to Qualified End Users)

3. Divide your Total Three Year Food Sales by three to calculate your average.

_____	Divided by "3" =	_____
Total Qualified End User Food sales for 3 years from above		3 Year average value

4. Enter your direct food sales to all other buyers.
5. Add your direct food sales to all other buyers.

_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____
(2016)		(2017)		(2018)		(Three year Total food sales to all other buyers)

6. Divide your Total Three Year Food Sales to all other buyers by three to calculate your average.

_____	Divided by "3" =	_____
Total Food sales for 3 years from above		3 Year average value*

\*If this value is less than the 3-year average value of sales to Qualified End Users you are eligible for the Qualified Exemption. If this value is more than the 3-year average value of sales to Qualified End Users you are not eligible for this exemption even though your food sales are less than \$550,551<sup>†</sup>.

**Date of Annual Review:**

**Signature of Reviewer:**



# Maryland Department of Agriculture

Agriculture | *Maryland's Leading Industry*  
Office of Marketing, Animal Industries and Consumer Services  
Food Quality Assurance Program

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## Maryland Produce Safety Program - 2020 Produce Safety Rule Qualified Exempt Registration

**Note: File this form with the Maryland Department of Agriculture to be excluded from the inventory of farms required to fully comply with the Produce Safety Rule. You are not required to apply for the Qualified Exemption just because you are eligible. If you are eligible and do not apply for the Qualified Exempt status, you will be considered fully covered by the Produce Safety Rule and your compliance date will be based on your annual produce sales.**

<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Name of Farm</p> <hr/> <hr/> <p>Telephone</p> <hr/> <hr/> <p>Mailing Address</p>	<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Name of person filing</p> <hr/> <hr/> <p>Email</p> <hr/> <hr/> <p>Mailing City, State and Zip Code</p>
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### Farm Location Address(s)

I/we acknowledge the following:

- My/our average sales value of all food is \$550,551<sup>†</sup> (based on the 2016, 2017 and 2018 adjusted for inflation average) or less and more than 50% of the food sales were to a Qualified End User meeting the eligibility requirements for the Qualified Exempt category of the Produce Safety Rule.
  - I/we are required to maintain records verifying our status as Qualified Exempt that may be inspected by the Maryland Department of Agriculture.
  - I/we are required to review our records annually to verify we continue to meet both the sales value of food and sales to a Qualified End User requirements of the Qualified Exempt category and document the review.
  - I/we are required to submit the Qualified Exempt registration form annually to MDA to remain in the Qualified Exempt category.
  - I/we are required by law to provide the name and complete business address of the farm where the produce was grown either on a label or at the point of sale while operating under the Qualified Exempt category by January 1, 2020.
  - I/we understand my/our Qualified Exempt status may be revoked if there is an active investigation of food borne illness linked to my/our farm and/or it is determined necessary by MDA and/or FDA to protect public health.
  - Qualifying my/our farm for this exemption does not preclude me/us from following the requirements of the FDA Produce Safety Rule and Maryland Produce Safety Program.
  - Qualifying my/our farm for this exemption does not exempt my farm from complying with all adulteration and other applicable provisions under the U.S. Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act.
  - Qualifying my/our farm for this exemption does not exempt my/our farm from complying with other applicable Maryland and local laws and regulations.

**Filers Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Filers Title:** \_\_\_\_\_