

Producer and Produce Vendor Certificates

Frequently Asked Questions



All producers in Nevada are required to have a certificate to sell their farm products. Listed on each certificate is the location of the farm, crops grown, amounts harvested and harvest seasons for each crop. Both producer certificates and produce vendor certificates are issued by the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) under the authority of Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 576.128.

What is a producer certificate?

Producer certificates are used to verify that farmers are selling crops of their own production. Producer certificates are required for honey, eggs of domestic poultry and all crops produced in Nevada in their natural and unprocessed state.

What is a produce vendor certificate?

A produce vendor certificate is required in Nevada for vendors selling produce they have not grown themselves and/or for the sale of produce that is grown in another state and brought into Nevada for commerce. Per federal law, the sale of produce from another grower requires the maintenance of records to trace a product to its source in the instance of a food safety outbreak. Individuals with a valid Nevada producer certificate do not require a produce vendor certificate.

Why are producer or vendor certificates required?

Producer and produce vendor certificates are required to improve traceability of food grown and sold in Nevada. This required traceability will ensure all Nevada operations are in compliance with the rules set forth by the FDA's Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), passed in 2011.

Can I use a producer or produce vendor certificate for the production of processed products like jams and salsas?

Producer and produce vendor certificates are only issued for raw, unprocessed agricultural products. Refer to NRS 446.866 and agri.nv.gov/craftfoods for more information and regulations pertaining to processed products and cottage foods.

Can eggs be listed on my producer certificate?

A producer certificate must be obtained for the direct sale of eggs. Your local health department may also require an additional permit or license to sell eggs.

Do I need a producer certificate to sell plants at a farmers market?

No, but a nursery stock dealer license issued by the NDA is required to sell plants anywhere in Nevada.

My operation is USDA certified organic, do I need a producer certificate?

No, the organic certification provides traceability, so a producer certificate is not needed. However, producers selling organic goods that were grown by another producer requires the maintenance of records to trace the product to its previous source.

How do I get a producer or produce vendor certificate?

Applications can be found on at agri.nv.gov/producer_certificate. Producer certificates require an on-site inspection of the growing area (when the crops are growing in the ground). Once the inspection is completed, a certificate will be issued. Produce vendor certificates do not require an inspection.

How much does it cost?

Currently, the cost for each certificate is \$50 for the first year and \$30 to renew. In addition, inspections cost \$30 per hour, plus milage from the inspector's assigned office.

Do I have to renew my certificate every year?

Yes, to remain valid with the state and in compliance with the FSMA, certification renewal is required each year. Certified producers and produce vendors will receive a renewal notice from the NDA when due.

Are inspections required every year for the producer certificate?

The inspection schedule for the producer certificate follows a risk-based matrix. If applicants have not been inspected in the last five (5) years, they will be inspected upon application renewal. The risk-based inspection schedule will be conducted as follows:

- If an applicant has not been inspected within the past 5 years, they will require an inspection in 2026.
- If a producer is growing any of the seven (7) FDA Priority List items (leafy greens, cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers, cantaloupe, honeydew melon, and onions) they must be re-inspected every other year.
- If a producer is *not* growing any of the seven (7) FDA Priority List items but still has produce listed on their certificate, reinspection must occur every three years from the date of initial inspection.
- If a producer has honey/bees only, reinspection must occur every three years from the date of initial inspection.
- If a producer has eggs only, a self-reinspection must be performed every year.

What is a self-inspection?

For producers with only eggs on their application, a self-inspection form must be completed and submitted it to the NDA for review. If when reviewing the application there is cause for concern, the inspector will schedule an on-site interview.