

# *After Flooding Best Practices*

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# FDA's Definition of Flood Water:

Flooding is the flowing or overflowing of a field with water outside a grower's control.

\*Pooled water (e.g., after rainfall) that is not reasonably likely to cause contamination of the edible portions of fresh produce is not considered flooding.

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GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

# Guidance for Industry: Evaluating the Safety of Flood-affected Food Crops for Human Consumption

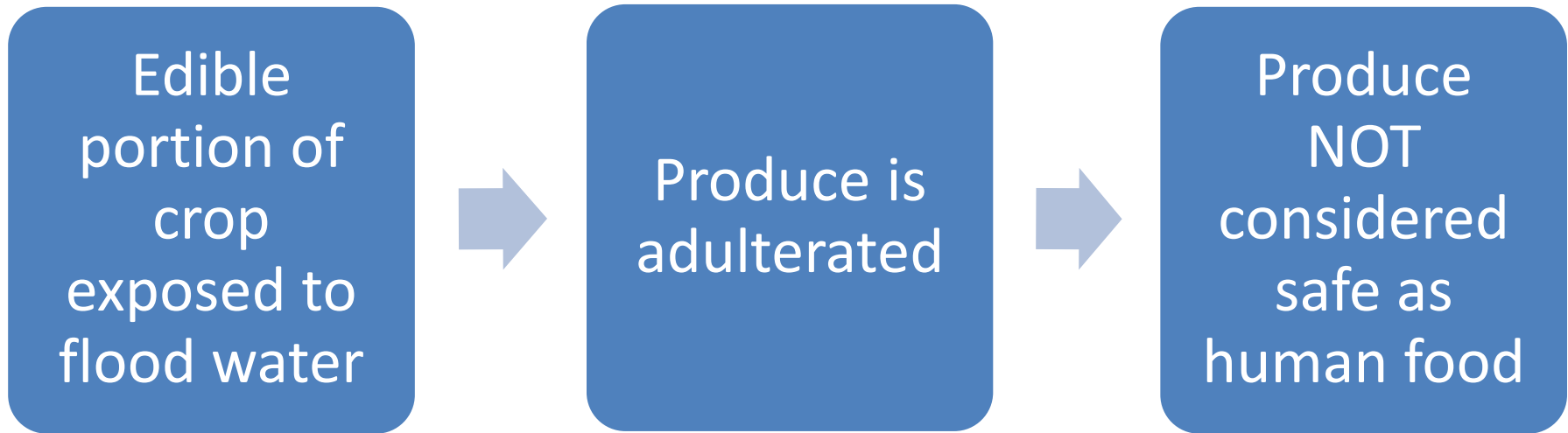
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[Read the Federal Register Notice](#)

Final

[Guidance for Industry: Evaluating the Safety of Flood-affected Food Crops for Human Consumption | FDA](#)

# Evaluating the Safety of Food from Flood-affected Crops



\*No practical method of reconditioning edible portion

\*Section 402(a) of FD&C Act applies to ALL food crops

# NO Flood Water Contact with the Edible Portions of the Crops

Edible portion of crop NOT exposed to flood water



Growers should evaluate produce on a case-by-case basis



Recommend growers work with states and local FDA offices to assess

# Factors to consider in terms of evaluation may include:

- Assessment of flood waters
- Type of crop and stage of growth
- Degree and duration of crop exposure
- Testing results





# Assessment of Flood-affected Fields before Replanting

- Recommended: replant after flood waters have receded and soil has sufficiently dried
  - Waiting period depends on conditions
  - State, industry, and university specialists have recommended 30-60 days
  - Soil testing prior to replanting
  - Consider chemical contamination

# Additional Controls to Avoid Cross-contamination after Flooding



- Segregate affected and non-affected crops
- Prevent cross-contamination
- Check your well





# Crops Harvested from Flooded Fields Intended for Animal Food

- In certain circumstances, flood-affected crops can be used for animal food (considered case-by-case)
- Crops must be tested for:
  - Mold [CPG Sec. 675.200 Diversion of Adulterated Food to Acceptable Animal Feed Use | FDA](#)
  - Bacteria
  - Chemicals [Crops Harvested from Flooded Fields Intended for Animal Food: Questions and Answers | FDA](#)
  - Heavy Metals

