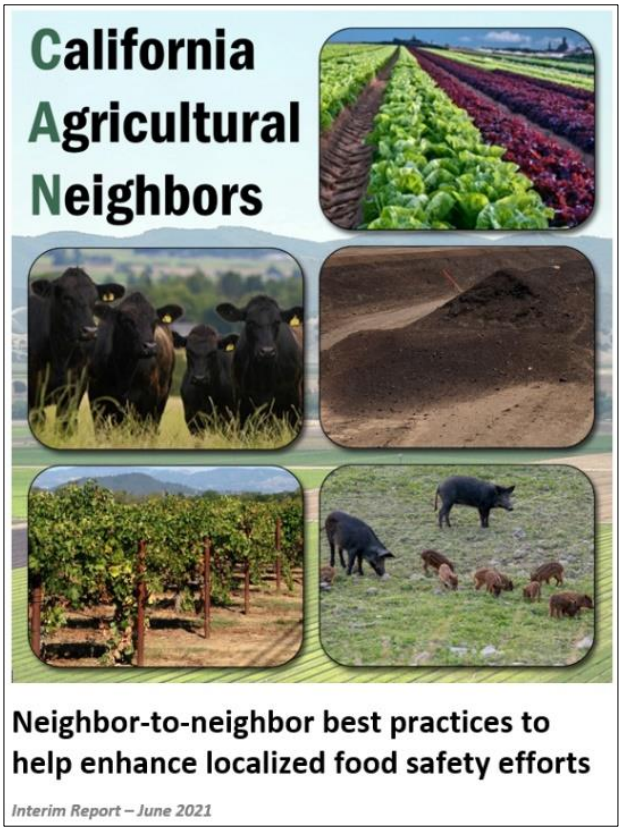
Salinas Valley agricultural community invited to town hall about food safety neighbor-to-neighbor best practices

WHEN: 1–2 p.m. Monday, June 21

WHAT: Virtual town hall to present and discuss the "California Agricultural Neighbors: Neighbor-to-neighbor best practices to help enhance localized food safety efforts" interim report. Learn about the agricultural neighbors group, what it has done to date, and how you can become engaged in the process through an upcoming webinar series.

HOW: Join Zoom meeting:
https://www.zoomgov.com/j/16128653823
Call-in phone number: (669) 254 5252
Meeting ID: 161 2865 3823

WHO: Hosted by the California Department of Food and Agriculture and Monterey County Farm Bureau, with speakers from the California Agricultural Neighbors (CAN) Dialogue Group. The 27-member CAN Dialogue Group includes representation from the agricultural production community (leafy greens, cattle ranching, viticulture, compost), academia, associations (industry, retail, consumers) and government (local, state and federal).



This interim report will be presented and discussed during the town hall.

cdfa CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE

FARM BUREAU MONTEREY

BACKGROUND: Food safety is a shared responsibility. Continued outbreaks of pathogenic *E. coli* O157:H7 associated with leafy greens in the Salinas Valley of California necessitated a robust response through efforts shared among the industry, the broader agricultural community and local, state and federal regulators in order to protect public health. Since January 2021, the agricultural community in the Salinas Valley has come together in an effort known as California Agricultural Neighbors (CAN). CAN provides a roundtable opportunity to foster collaboration and discuss enhanced neighborly food safety practices when agriculture operations are adjacent to one another. Continuing throughout 2021, the CAN effort will include information sharing, options generation, refinement and the development of a near-term food safety action plan. Additionally, the engagement of an ever-broadening roster of stakeholders, starting with neighbors, expanding to subject matter experts (SMEs), and then including the broader industry and supply chain are planned.