CAPS *Community Accreditation for Produce Safety*

CAPS Certification Deadlines (early submission is encouraged!)

March 1: Current CAPS growers review and roll-over their existing plans.

April 1: New CAPS growers submit a draft of their produce safety plans for review, and further revision if needed.

June 15: All CAPS growers revise and finalize their plans if needed, based on scores and comments. Growers will verify implementation of this plan to earn their CAPS certificate.

July 15: All CAPS growers, if applicable, submit their annual water test record and/or employee training verification

Nov 1: CAPS farms not needing a 3rd-party audit (i.e. the standard CAPS certificate, on-line) verify implementation of their plans by uploading remaining photos and records (contact hestrin@uvm.edu to finish early)

Additional Certification Deadlines CAPS + and CAPS+ LGS

June 1: Request a CAPS+ audit with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets (VAAFM)

July 15: In addition to the deadlines above, ALL records and requirements for the season must be met. Farms verify implementation of requirements by uploading remaining photos and records (contact hestrin@uvm.edu to finish early).

July 15 - September 21: Before your audit, complete a self-audit checklist. The self-audit is required for CAPS+LGS farms and recommended for CAPS+ farms.

July 15 - September 21: VAAFM conducts on-farm CAPS+ and CAPS+LGS audits to verify implementation of the farms CAPS Plan.