

FOOD SAFETY STATEMENT



ELDERBERRY GROWER/SUPPLIER INSTRUCTIONS

Dear Grower/Supplier:

Thank you for working with River Hills Harvest to help us meet the regulations and protocol we must follow in order to purchase your elderberry crop. The following information will help you keep records and fill out the necessary forms.

Food Safety Statement: Prepare this document, sign it and bring it with you to the packer (de-stemmer/cleaner/freezer) or point of sale of your fruit.

The GAP statements, section 1:

Please check all of the true statements in Section 1. This document also serves as a guide to help you remember training your picking and post-harvest handling staff require, and helping them maintain the GAP protocol.

Section 2:

This statement is further affirmation that your elderberries are varieties that can be reduced in toxicity, as well as the practices that aid in that effort. If you are not certain, please ask about this prior to preparing your berries for sale to River Hills Harvest.

Sign and date with the date of sale.

Food Safety Record: This document keeps track of each batch of elderberries as they are cleansed and sanitized. The grower should retain this document after it is filled out by de-stemming staff.

Staff will record each batch across one line on the table. The date and time when the process sanitizer is prepared, the grower's number, the batch number (as described in Post-Harvest Procedures), and the name of person or farm where cleansing is occurring.

The sanitizer's concentration is recorded in the fifth column in parts-per-million, and signed by the employee that is mixing the sanitizer – cleaning all surfaces and the de-stemmer.

The **Post-Harvest Procedures for Fresh Elderberries** page details the step-by-step process for arriving at **Batch Numbers**, preparing the **Sanitizing Solution and Cleaning Instructions** for the area prior to de-stemming.

Finally, **Instructions for Cleaning the De-stemmed Berries** gives detailed instructions for washing and packing the berries into buckets.

Each grower **NEEDS TO CHECK WITH THEIR PROCESSOR (de-stemmer location)** about the availability of buckets and lids. If you need to purchase them, here is the information from our supplier: **ULINE (uline.com), 1-800-295-5510 – pail # S-13650, lid # S-13651**

Have wonderful Harvest Time! And thank you, from all of us at River Hills Harvest!