



# FSRC Food Safety Information Infrastructure Project: Phase 1

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## Glossary of Terms

For purposes of the FSRC's Food Safety Information Infrastructure Project, the following terms are used as indicated:

**Food Safety Information Infrastructure:** Includes all of the many public and private institutions, programs and processes through which data and information are collected, made accessible, and actively shared to protect and improve food safety.

**Food Safety:** Involves consideration of all hazards, unintended or intended, arising along the farm-to-fork continuum, including but not limited to pathogens, toxins, chemicals, and physical objects.

**Data Collection:** Encompasses acquisition of quantitative and qualitative information at any point along the farm-to-fork continuum related to food safety, and includes at least three types of activity:

**Data generation:** Activities that result in primary information collected at the source of food safety activities or in experiments, such as microbial contamination data collected through inspection or data from animal toxicity tests.

**Data assembly:** Activities that result in compilation of primary food safety information, such as outbreak reports, microbial databases, and food additive petitions.

**Data analysis:** Analytical activities that use both primary information and compilations to yield insights relevant to protecting or improving food safety, such as exposure or risk assessments and risk rankings.

**Data Access:** Means food safety information is passively made available to the food safety community, such as through posting of information on websites or publication of food safety information in journals.

**Data sharing:** Involves food safety information being actively shared for a specific purpose, such as state-federal data sharing during an outbreak investigation or the food industry providing information to a government agency or academic researcher for inclusion in a risk assessment.