

Module 7: Public Health
Topic 1 Content: Food and Drug Safety Organizations Notes

Introduction



Food and Drug Safety Organizations

Module 7: Public Health
Topic 1 Content: Food and Drug Safety Organizations Notes

Instructions



Have you ever wondered who or what determines the safety of the food you eat or the medication you might take? The United States Department Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration are two national organizations responsible for the safety of the food you eat and any drugs that you make take.

Click the arrows to learn more about the USDA and the FDA.

Module 7: Public Health

Topic 1 Content: Food and Drug Safety Organizations Notes

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)



United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Government organization that is responsible for all United States' policies pertaining to agriculture, food, and farming.

- ensures that all American food that is manufactured and consumed is safe, nutritious, and sustainable
- creates and enforces regulations about food handling, preparation and manufacturing, and by inspecting what pesticides are used by farmers.
- maintains national forests, helping farmers financially through loans and grants, and promoting and distributing information on food and nutrition.

The United States Department of Agriculture, also known as the USDA, is a government organization that is responsible for all United States' policies pertaining to agriculture, food, and farming. The USDA addresses several agricultural issues in order to ensure that all American food that is manufactured and consumed is safe, nutritious, and sustainable. It creates and enforces regulations about food handling, preparation and manufacturing, and by inspecting what pesticides are used by farmers. The USDA is also responsible for maintaining national forests, helping farmers financially through loans and grants, and promoting and distributing information on food and nutrition.

There are seventeen agencies within the USDA that assist with its operations, including:

- Agricultural Marketing Service
- Agricultural Research Service
- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
- Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion
- Economic Research Service
- Farm Service Agency
- Food and Nutrition Service
- Food Safety and Inspection Service
- Foreign Agricultural Service
- Forest Service
- National Agricultural Library
- Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration

Module 7: Public Health

Topic 1 Content: Food and Drug Safety Organizations Notes

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA)



The Food and Drug Administration, also known as the FDA, is an agency within the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The FDA has two main responsibilities:

1. Safeguarding the health of the public by ensuring that the following items are safe for consumption: the U.S. food supply, medical devices, vaccines and other biological products, cosmetics, products that release radiation, and human and veterinary drugs

The FDA is responsible for ensuring that medications, cosmetics, and dietary supplements are safe to use. If you are considering using any dietary supplement, including some vitamins, make sure that the label states that it is FDA approved. If it is not, be cautious. The product has not undergone the extensive testing and research performed by the FDA; therefore, it can pose potential health problems.

2. Regulating tobacco products

The FDA is also in charge of regulating tobacco products by developing and implementing effective public health strategies to reduce illnesses and deaths due to tobacco products.