



# Leading Harvest Farmland Management Standard + FSA Silver Addendum

## Frequently Asked Questions

Below are the questions we hear most often now that a single Leading Harvest audit—with 17 supplemental questions—delivers verified equivalence to SAI Platform’s FSA 3.0 Silver tier. The Addendum is optional; use it only when a customer requires FSA recognition.

### What does “FSA Silver equivalence” actually mean?

Acres certified to the Leading Harvest Farmland Management Standard (FMS) plus the 17-question Addendum meet FSA 3.0 Silver achievement level.

### What does the Addendum cover?

A short set of items on social-labor safeguards, nutrient and water-quality metrics, and a few governance checks that the FSA calls out explicitly.

### Does this change the requirements of the Leading Harvest Farmland Management Standard?

No, the FMS remains exactly the same. The Addendum is an overlay that confirms a handful of governance and verification details FSA tracks more granularly. Skip it if you don’t need FSA recognition.

### How does the “one audit, two certifications” process work?

Your accredited Certification Body (CB) adds 17 questions to the normal Leading Harvest checklist, collects answers in the same site visit, and issues reports and checklists that clearly specify that FSA equivalency was achieved.

### What extra documentation do I need?

Keep: (a) answers to the questions in the Addendum, (b) any FSA-specific policies in the Addendum references, and (c) mass-balance records if you blend FSA-equivalent and non-equivalent product streams. All can live in your existing LH file structure.



## Who benefits from the equivalence?

*Farms/suppliers* avoid dual audits and gain access to buyers that mandate FSA Silver or above.  
*Buyers/brands* can source Leading Harvest acres and still meet FSA procurement targets.

## Is the Addendum mandatory for all Leading Harvest users?

No, the Addendum is not required unless a customer specifically asks for FSA Silver recognition. Otherwise, continue with standard LH certification alone.

## Will my audit fee go up?

Marginally: the additional audit duration and reporting time should be specified by the Certification Body during planning.

## Does Leading Harvest issue an FSA certificate?

No, your Leading Harvest certificate and audit report carry an “FSA Silver Equivalent” notation. FSA does not issue farm-level certificates.

## Can I put “FSA Silver” on my retail packaging?

No, the FSA restricts on-pack labeling. The claim is for business-to-business and off-pack communications (e.g., spec sheets, ESG reports, investor decks).

## How do downstream buyers verify my claim?

- Review your Leading Harvest certificate/audit report with the equivalence note
- Check the public Leading Harvest registry (FSA-compliant users are flagged)

## Where do I get the Addendum and benchmarking matrix?

Download “FSA Silver Addendum v1.0” from the [Standards](#) page at [LeadingHarvest.org](https://LeadingHarvest.org) or request them from your CB. The full benchmarking matrix is available upon request ([info@leadingharvest.org](mailto:info@leadingharvest.org)).

## Who can help if we have any questions?

Email [info@leadingharvest.org](mailto:info@leadingharvest.org)

