

North Central Region

Center for FSMA Training, Extension
and Technical Assistance

December 2019

Events Organized by our Partners



Pre-Harvest Agriculture Water Treatment Curriculum

Staff from Washington State University, University of Tennessee, University of Florida, Virginia Tech, and North Carolina State University have finalized the pre-harvest agricultural water treatment curriculum. To help share this curriculum with other

interested produce safety extension professionals, they are holding a [train-the-trainer](#) on January 8 in Savannah, GA ahead of the Southeast Regional Fruit and Vegetable Conference. Registration deadline is December 18. Registration is limited to 30 participants.

Inspection Training

Purdue Extension and the produce safety team from the Indiana State Department of Health are offering “[Grow your Confidence about Produce Safety Inspection](#).” This workshop, on December 3 at the Purdue Extension Produce Safety Hub in Vincennes, IN, is intended for farmers. Educators will share information on the produce safety inspections process and how growers can prepare.

National FSOP Round Table

The Regional Centers and the Lead Regional Coordination Center will be co-hosting a National FSOP Round Table Webinar on Monday, December 16, from 12:30-2:00 pm Central. The goal of this webinar is to highlight planned, current and recently completed Food Safety Outreach Projects (FSOP) and encourage communication and collaboration and share information on successes and project outcomes. [Register to attend](#) the webinar.

FSPCA Training

The FSPCA Conference was held in October in Burr Ridge, Illinois. If you missed it, you can read updates by checking out the [presentation slides](#).

Great Plains Grower Conference and Trade show

The [Great Plans Grower Conference](#) will be held January 9 - 11, 2020, in the Fulkerson Center at Missouri Western State University (St. Joseph, MO). A FSMA training will be offered as part of the conference.

Urban Food Systems Symposium

The [Symposium](#) will be held June 4 – 6, 2020, at the Marriott Country Club Plaza in Kansas City, MO. They are now accepting scholarships applications for student and professional travel.

PSA Trainings Knowledge Assessment

As you offer PSA Grower Trainings this fall, please continue to use the [pre- and post- knowledge assessments](#). Please fill out the [cover sheet](#) completely and assign a unique ID number to each assessment (for example 1, 2, 3 not 1A, 1B, 1C). Contact [Arlene](#) with questions. Arlene and Bridget will discuss the pre- and post- knowledge assessment data from the past year at the next listening session on December 19.

Job Opening

CCOF Certification Services, LLC (CCOF) is seeking a [Food Safety Certification Specialist](#) to work in the Santa Cruz, California office, performing tasks related to the certification of organic farms and facilities. This position will work with GFSI benchmarked food safety standards such as GLOBALG.A.P., SQF, and/or PrimusGFS, and will focus on how these standards interact and overlap with USDA National Organic Program (NOP) certification.

Funds Available

Trainer Sharing Program

Are you short a trainer for your class? Do you need someone to fill in for a couple of modules? We can help. The Center has funds to bring in trainers to your state to ensure every farmer has an equal chance to attend a class near them. Contact Ellen for details or formally request trainer sharing funds through our [website](#).

Funding is available to support sending a lead trainer of the Produce Safety Alliance grower training, Preventive Controls Human Food training, or other food safety certified program training in the absence of lead trainers.

Twelve travel stipends (up to \$500 each) are available each year. All funds are distributed on a first come, first served basis.

Funding can be requested for a niche population training, but not for an individual company.

Peer Mentorship Program

Want to learn new skills to use in your role as a trainer? Looking to expand your knowledge in a particular area? The Center has a new trainer peer mentorship program. Contact Angela for more information or apply for the program on our [website](#).

Each pair will meet virtually and at least once in person. Eight stipends (up to \$1000 each) are available each year to cover travel expenses for the two people to meet. All funds are distributed on a first come, first served basis.

Participants are expected to attend a pre-program webinar and program evaluation. Each mentoring pair will establish their own goals for the match.

Professional Development Travel Funds

In support of professional development and our mentorship program, we are offering six stipends (up to \$750 each) for educators and inspectors to travel to state (cannot be in your employment state), regional, and national produce safety conferences for professional development. You will be expected to have a goal for your travel and report back impacts after the travel. Contact Angela for more information or apply for the program on our [website](#). All funds are distributed on a first come, first served basis.

Save the Date for the NCR FSMA Annual Conference

Mark your calendars for April 1-2, 2020 for the second [annual conference](#) in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. The conference will include an optional tour of Superior Fresh (an aquaponics facility). The room block is available at the Lismore Hotel. Registration is now open.

Alternate Curriculum

Is your alternate curriculum ready to be reviewed? Are you in the beginning stages of developing a new curriculum? The NCR FSMA, in conjunction with the Lead Regional Center, the FDA, the USDA, and other partners, has developed a review process. The review process is free for any group or organization who is developing an alternate curriculum. It is designed to be a clear process to help developers meet the equivalency standards.

Organizations can start the first stage when they have descriptions of the proposed learning objectives and learning activities. Find out more on the [Alternate Curriculum](#) page on the NCR FSMA website. Contact [Angela](#) with questions.

Upcoming NCR FSMA Meetings

The **Listening Sessions/ Webinars** happen the third Thursday of every month at 2:00 Central time. Join us for the next meeting on December 19. **Arlene Enderton and Bridget Perry**, from Iowa State University, will be presenting on the PSA course knowledge assessment results.

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

[Join the meeting.](#)

Or, go to <https://iastate.zoom.us/join> and enter meeting ID: 845 702 039

Join from dial-in phone line:

Dial: +1 646 876 9923 or +1 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: 845 702 039

Update from the last meeting:

If you missed the November 21 meeting with Traci Knight on social media best practices, you can [view the slides or listen to a recording](#) in Box or on our website.

The online **meeting for inspectors/state regulators** happens the first Friday of the month. The next meeting will be Friday, December 6, at 9:00 am Central time. State government staff take turns leading a discussion, and there's time to share what's happening in your state and ask questions.

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

Please click this URL to start or join. <https://iastate.zoom.us/j/628849382>

Or, go to <https://iastate.zoom.us/join> and enter meeting ID: 628 849 382

Join from dial-in phone line:

Dial: +1 646 876 9923 or +1 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: 628 849 382

FDA Updates

- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is [extending the comment period](#) by 15 days to allow stakeholders more time to provide input on the New Era of Smarter Food Safety. The comment period will now close on December 5, 2019, in response to requests for additional time to submit comments.
Comments can be submitted electronically to the Federal Register ([Docket Number: FDA-2019-N-4187](#)) or in writing to: Dockets Management Staff (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.

- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is proposing to establish a program for the [testing of food by accredited laboratories](#) as required by the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). Accredited laboratories would be required to follow model standards and would be subject to oversight by FDA-recognized accreditation bodies to help ensure consistently reliable testing results.
- In early November, Dr. Stephen Hahn was nominated to be the next commissioner of the US Food and Drug Administration. The Senate held a [confirmation hearing](#) on November 20.
- On Nov. 6, the FDA announced it will be continuing its [enforcement discretion policy](#) for compliance with certain FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) supply-chain program requirements applicable to receiving facilities that are co-manufacturers.

Educational Add On Updates

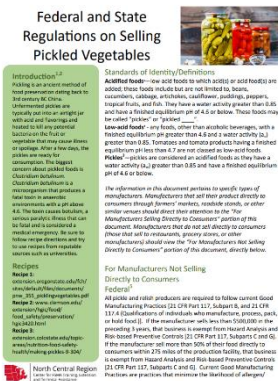
New Resources

In November, the NCR FSMA created a new resource, which highlights [key organizations that oversee food safety](#).

Resources from our partners

University of Minnesota Extension recently released a new [exemptions/exclusions video](#).

Have you recently released any FSMA-related resources? [Let us know](#) and we'll include them in the newsletter.



Highlighted Resource

Federal and State Regulations on Selling Pickled Vegetables.

This add on includes the definitions high-acid foods, low-acid foods, and pickles. You can find links to verified recipes as well. It includes federal guidelines and each North Central Region state's individual rules. If your state laws have changed since 2017, please let us know and we will update the document.

Resources being edited by the subgroups

- FSMA Summary for Midwest Hops Growers: This document is to assist those who grow Hops with compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule.
- On-Farm Training Guide for Employees and Volunteers: This is a flip-chart that can be used as a training guide for employees and volunteers on produce farms. It is broken into Pre-Harvest, Harvest, and Post-Harvest activities and can be used in one session or multiple sessions.

Upcoming PSA Courses

Illinois:	Dec. 8 and 18; Jan. 8; Mar. 10
Indiana:	Dec. 20; Jan. 17; Feb. 10; Apr. 7
Iowa:	Jan. 14; Feb. 4, 11, 17, and 25; Mar. 3
Kansas:	Dec. 4; Jan. 9
Michigan:	Dec. 9; Jan. 16; Feb. 19; Mar. 19
Minnesota:	Dec. 3 and 18; Jan. 15, 22, and 30; Feb. 11, 26; Mar. 10 and 19; Apr. 9 and 14
Missouri:	Dec. 4; Jan. 9
North Dakota:	Dec. 7; Jan. 13; Feb. 27; May 16
Ohio:	Dec. 3, 17, and 18; Jan. 14, 15, 16, 21, 28, and 30; Feb. 11, 18, 20, 26, and 27; Mar. 17, 26, and 31
Wisconsin:	Jan. 14, 17, and 26; Feb. 11, 21, and 25

Check out the [Calendar](#) for postings of PSA courses offered nationally.
Find a list of [registered PSA Trainers](#).

Upcoming FSPCA Courses

Illinois:	PC Human Food: Dec. 9; Jan. 13 and 14; Feb. 10; Mar. 16; Apr. 13 and 21; May 4 FSVP: Dec. 12
Iowa:	PC Human Food: Dec. 2
Kansas:	PC Animal Food: Mar. 17
Michigan:	PC Human Food: Jan. 22 FSVP: Dec. 10; Feb. 27
Minnesota:	PC Human Food: Jan. 21
Missouri:	PC Human Food: Dec. 16
Nebraska:	PC Human Food: May 27 PC Animal Food: May 19
Ohio:	PC Human Food: Dec. 3; Feb. 25
Wisconsin:	PC Human Food: Dec. 3 and 14; Feb. 4; May 19

Online: Human Food: Dec. 2, 11, 12, and 13; Jan. 1, 8, 14, 16, 17, & 30;
Feb. 5, 12, 13, and 27; Mar. 23; Apr. 22; May 26
PC Animal Food: Dec. 9 and 10; Jan. 6 and 7; Feb. 3
FSVP: Dec. 10 and 16; Jan. 13; Feb. 10

Check out the [calendar](#) for postings of FSPCA courses offered nationally.

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Thanks for your continued interest in the North Central Region Center for FSMA Training, Extension, and Technical Assistance as we develop the necessary foundation for future collaboration. If you have specific questions or feedback, please email ncrfsma@iastate.edu.

Sincerely,

NCR FSMA Training Center Team

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