



North Central Region

Center for FSMA Training, Extension
and Technical Assistance

December 2022

Annual Conference – Registration Is Open



The [2023 NCR FSMA Annual Conference](#) will be held March 15-16. We will meet at the Lismore Hotel, in Eau Claire, WI. [Registration is now open](#). Registration costs \$75. When you register, you will have the opportunity to sign up to display a poster, give a lightning round talk, and share about the work you are doing with under-served groups. (You can change your mind about these until late February.) You will also be asked which breakout

session you'll be most likely to join. (You can also change your mind about that one at the conference.)

Job Openings

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection currently has an opening for a [Produce Outreach Specialist](#) (Project) position. The deadline to apply for this position is Monday, December 5 at 11:59pm.

The University of New Hampshire is hiring a tenure-track [Assistant Professor of Protected Agriculture](#). The successful candidate will conduct research in the broad area of protected crop production systems that address the environmental, biotic, and market challenges faced by the region's food producers.

International Fresh Produce Association has several 2023 [summer internship opportunities](#), including one in food safety. IFPA is offering paid, 10-week project-based virtual internships that will explore subjects relevant to students' academic studies through hands-on experience with IFPA and the produce industry.

What's New on the Produce Safety Clearinghouse?

- [Out with the Old and In with A Liner](#)- A University of Maryland and University of Delaware research study provided preliminary evidence for improving watermelon harvest buses with a change in the food contact surfaces. By using vinyl liners and rubber floor mats that can be cleaned and sanitized, microbial loads were reduced compared to the industry standard of used carpet. The liners and mats also provided cushioning that protected watermelon surfaces against damage during harvest.
- [FSPCA Food Safety Plan Template](#)- while it's not new, it is one of the most popular resources on the Clearinghouse. This Food Safety Plan template is modeled after forms developed for the FSPCA Preventive Controls for Human Food curriculum, and can be modified to reflect the need of individual establishments. FSPCA has no input on individual establishment Food Safety Plans.

Featured NCR FSMA Resource



The communication survey found that not all the NCR FSMA partners (you!) are familiar with the resources that the group put together in 2018. So we'll be highlighting a resource each month. You can find all the resources on [our website](#).

The NCR FSMA and the University of Minnesota created four food safety training videos in the Hmong language (with subtitles in English). These videos cover Good Agricultural Practices and can be found on the [University of Minnesota's YouTube channel](#).

Federal Updates

In mid-November, the FDA issued a [final rule](#) on food traceability designed to facilitate faster identification and rapid removal of potentially contaminated food from the market, resulting in fewer foodborne illnesses and/or deaths...The final rule provides full and partial exemptions for some entities and foods, such as certain small producers, small retail food establishments and restaurants, farms that sell food directly to consumers, and foods that receive certain types of processing, among others. [Frank Yiannis shared his thoughts](#) on how the new rule is a game changer.

The FDA will hold an [informational webinar](#) on Wednesday, December 7, from 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm Central time on the recently released [Food Traceability final rule](#) issued under FSMA. The final rule is designed to facilitate faster identification and rapid removal of potentially contaminated food from the market. You may submit questions in advance of the webinar. If you miss the webinar, the recording will be posted on this same website where you register.

The CDC recently released its [Annual Reports on Foodborne Illness Source Attribution Estimates](#). The report, “Foodborne Illness Source Attribution Estimates for Salmonella, Escherichia coli O157, and Listeria monocytogenes Using Multi-Year Outbreak Surveillance Data, United States” uses data from 1998-2020.

These reports use outbreak data to produce annual estimates for foods responsible for foodborne illnesses caused by four pathogens. CDC estimates that, together, these four pathogens cause 1.9 million foodborne illnesses in the United States each year. The analysis uses a method developed by IFSAC to estimate foodborne illness source attribution, which is the process of estimating the degree to which specific foods and food categories are responsible for foodborne illnesses.

Help USDA better serve farmers, ranchers and forest managers by sharing this important nationwide [USDA survey](#) in your network by January 31, 2023. The survey is anonymous and takes about 10 minutes to complete.

Events sponsored by our partners

Next on CONTACT’s Produce Safety Webinar Series, there will be a deep dive into Agricultural Water with “[Risky to You?](#)”, on December 8, at 2:30 pm Central time.



[Bridging the GAPS: Approaches for Treating Preharvest Agricultural Water On-Farm Training Course](#)

This course will be offered next in-person.

The [in-person course](#) will be Jan. 4 in Savannah, GA. Register by December 16.

[From Food to Flowers: Everything Local Conference](#) will be held January 11-13, virtually and in Springfield, IL.

[Great Plains Growers Conference](#) will be held January 13-14, at Missouri Western University, St. Joseph, MO.

[Indiana Horticultural Conference & Expo](#) will be held January 23-24, in West Lafayette, IN.

Funding Available

The NCR FSMA budgeted funds to support professional development, outreach to underserved communities, and resource development/translation. **To access these \$500 stipends, [apply on our website](#).** One professional development stipend is available to each state, per year of our grant. If you accessed those funds between September 2021 and August 2022, you can apply again.

Upcoming NCR FSMA Meetings

There is no **Listening Session/ Webinar** in December. The third Thursday is also the NASDA Produce Safety Consortium, so we will not meet this month. We will look forward to hearing from mini-grant recipients in January.



Update from the last meeting:

At the November 17 meeting, [behavioral scientist Loran Nordgren](#), presented about his research that explores the psychological forces that propel and prevent the adoption of new ideas and actions. You can [find a recording in the NCR Box](#).

The **meeting for state inspectors/regulators** will happen Friday, December 2, at 9am, Central time. They will be sharing updates from each state and planning for 2023.

Neither the **meeting for data/inventory** nor the **meeting for program managers** will happen in December, due to the NASDA Produce Safety Consortium.

Please [contact us](#), if you need call information for any of these meetings.

Upcoming PSA Courses

Iowa (in-person): Jan. 11

Iowa/Nebraska (remote): Dec. 15; Jan. 24 & 26

Kansas/Missouri (remote): Dec. 6 & 7

Michigan (remote): Dec. 12; Jan. 13 and 23; Feb. 13; Mar. 13

Minnesota (in-person): Jan. 26

Minnesota (remote): Feb. 14 & 15; Mar. 9

North Dakota (in-person): Mar. 30

Ohio (in-person): Jan. 24

Wisconsin (in-person): Dec. 8; Jan. 24; Feb. 28

Wisconsin (remote): Jan. 16 through March 13

Online course: begins once per month. The first English-language course people can register for begins in March, so if you know growers who are interested, encourage them to sign up in advance.

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. 5, 6, 12, 13, and 14; Jan. 10 and 25; Feb. 7
 PC Animal Food: Dec. 5
 FSVP: Dec. 15; Jan. 17 and 19; Feb. 14

Michigan: **PC Human Food:** Dec. 13; Jan. 24
 FSVP: Jan. 10

Wisconsin: **PC Human Food:** Dec. 13; Feb. 14

Online: **PC Human Food:** Dec. 5, 7, 10, 12, 13, 14, 19, and 26;
 Jan. 2, 4, 9, 16, 17, 23, 24, and 25; Feb. 1, 3, 6, 7, 10, 13, 20, 21, 22, and 27;
 Mar. 1, 8, 10, 15, 20, 21, 24, and 27
 PC Human Food (Spanish): Dec. 5, 12, 19, and 26; Jan. 2, 9, and 16
 PC Human Food (Chinese): Dec. 5, 12, and 19

 PC Animal Food: Dec. 3, 5, 12, 20, and 21; Jan. 2, 10, 18, 23, 25, and 31;
 Feb. 6, 8, and 22; Mar. 6, 9, 22, and 29
 FSVP: Dec. 5, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, 21, and 26;
 Jan. 2, 9, 10, 12, 16, 17, 20, 23, 25, 26, and 27;
 Feb. 6, 10, 13, 14, 16, and 24; Mar. 6 and 9

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

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Thank you for your continued involvement with the NCR FSMA!

Sincerely,

NCR FSMA Training Center Team

Angela M Shaw

Arlene Enderton

Ellen Johnsen

Byron Chaves

Dan Fillius

Kathiravan Krishnamurthy

Phil Tocco

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