



# North Central Region

Center for FSMA Training, Extension  
and Technical Assistance

February 2020

## Register now for the NCR FSMA Annual Conference

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Register now for the second [annual conference](#) in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, being held April 1-2, 2020. 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. Find a [tentative agenda](#) on the website.

Don't forget to sign up for the lightning round talks and poster presentations. If you didn't sign up when you registered, contact Ellen to get on the list. We would love to highlight the great work that you and your organization are accomplishing! If you do not have access to funds to support your travel to the conference, the NCR FSMA Center is offer \$750 dollar stipends to support travel. [Apply for a stipend here](#). Five are still available.

## Reporting Book

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We are assembling a booklet to highlight all of the excellent work each state is accomplishing. See example previously developed by the Northeast Center. Please let us know what statistics you would like included on your state page. We will also need a success story idea (or we can use an already developed story) and a photo. Photos can be of people or crops that are grown in your state. Please send the information to [Ellen](#).

## Funds Available

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### 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. Four are still available for this budget year. 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 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. Four are still available. These funds cannot be used for attending NCR FSMA annual conference, as other money is available for that.

## Alternate Curriculum

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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

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The **Listening Sessions/ Webinars** happen the third Thursday of every month at 2:00 Central time. Join us for the next meeting on February 20, 2020. Mark Graf and Dan Egeland, from Nebraska, will be discussing well inspection and safety.

**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 January 16 meeting where each state shared what additional educational opportunities they have been offering, [you can catch up](#) on our website.

The online meeting for inspectors/state regulators regularly happens the first Friday of the month. However, February's meeting has been **moved to February 15**, due to scheduling conflicts, still 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

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- An update that was shared at the Southern Center's annual meeting:  
As many of you know, the USDA-NIFA experienced a large loss of employees from the move to Kansas City. **For 2019 projects, release of funds is stalled at the administrative review level.** This process can take 30-90 days. Staff shortages and training needs of new staff is pushing the release of funds back. The grants management office had retained 2 employees from before the move, one retired in December and one is retiring in March. **Funds could be released as late as March, April, or May of this year.** This is an issue for 3-year FSOP projects as no-cost extensions are not an option for 3-year projects; one-and two-year projects can apply for no-cost extensions once. If you are a 2019 project awardee and have been requested to provide an annual report for the REEport you were requested to submit but haven't been issued funds for, this is in error.  
The good news is that the **2020 request for applications for FSOP awards has an anticipated release date of January 31, 2020**; they don't anticipate many changes from last year's RFA. The anticipated due date is April or May of 2020. We will keep you posted as we hear more on this opportunity.

**Dr. Chester will leave her position with USDA-NIFA March 1, 2020** as she is on a program track. Staff changes should be expected continue often.

If you have questions for USDA-NIFA, email [awards@usda.gov](mailto:awards@usda.gov). Latest information can be found at <https://nifa.usda.gov/grants>.

For ASAP Questions contact [ASAPCustomerService@usda.gov](mailto:ASAPCustomerService@usda.gov) or [ASAPhelpdesk@fiscal.treasury.gov](mailto:ASAPhelpdesk@fiscal.treasury.gov) (ASAP or password issues).

- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) sends a [News for Educators](#) email monthly. Sign up on their website if you're interested.
- **Outbreaks Emphasize the Importance of Implementing Produce Safety Standards**  
Fresh produce plays an important part of an overall healthy diet. While millions of servings of fresh produce are consumed safely every day, recent outbreaks of foodborne illness have once again placed produce safety in the spotlight. The FDA must continue to build upon and implement the science- and risk-based controls envisioned by Congress through the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), including those set forth in the Produce Safety Rule.

Last year was the first in which the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and state regulatory counterparts began conducting routine inspections of large farms for this rule established by FSMA. (In general, they're not addressing sprouts operations here, which have additional requirements and earlier compliance dates.) Leading up to 2019, the agency has collaborated with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture and state partners to help prepare farmers to comply with the rule. They have also supported states in the development of their own produce safety programs.

## Educational Add On Updates

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### Highlighted Resource

[Farm Stand and U-Pick](#) Produce Operations Safety Best Practices

This add on includes guidance on signage, restrooms, offering samples, handling money, and restricted areas. It also offers suggestions on handling visitors who want to bring their pets.

### Traceability App

Cal Jamerson at Kansas State Extension has developed a new [produce traceability app](#).

Have a new resource you created? Let us know and we'll highlight in the next newsletter.

## 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 State and Regional Conferences

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Indiana: [Indiana Hort Conference and Expo](#). February 11-13, 2020

North Dakota: [North Dakota Farmers Market and Grower Association & Local Foods Conference](#). February 28-29, 2020

Regional: [Midwest Organic & Sustainable Education Service](#) (MOSES). February 27-29, 2020

## Upcoming PSA Courses

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Illinois: Feb. 26; Mar. 10

Indiana: Feb. 10; Mar. 20; Apr. 7

Iowa: Feb. 4, 11, 17, and 25; Mar. 3

Kansas: Feb. 18; Mar. 19; May 29

Michigan: Feb. 19; Mar. 19

Minnesota: Feb. 11, 26; Mar. 10 and 19; Apr. 9 and 14

Missouri: Feb. 21

North Dakota: Feb. 27; May 16

Ohio: Feb. 11, 18, 20, 26, and 27; Mar. 17, 26, and 31

Wisconsin: 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

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Illinois:	PC Human Food: Feb. 10 and 25; Mar. 11, 16, and 25; Apr. 13 and 21; May 4; June 8 FSVP: Jan. 13
Iowa:	PC Human Food: Apr. 24; June 11 PC Animal Food: Feb. 25
Kansas:	PC Animal Food: Feb. 18; Mar. 17
Michigan:	PC Animal Food: Apr. 21 FSVP: Feb. 27
Minnesota:	PC Human Food: Apr. 15
Nebraska:	PC Human Food: May 27 PC Animal Food: May 19
North Dakota:	PC Human Food: Feb. 25
Ohio:	PC Human Food: Feb. 25; May 12
Wisconsin:	PC Human Food: Feb. 4; May 19 PC Animal Food: Mar. 10 FSVP: June 23
Online:	Human Food: Feb. 5, 12, 13, 18, and 27; Mar. 23; Apr. 14, 22, 24, and 27; May 15 and 26; June 3, 12, and 18 PC Animal Food: Feb. 3 and 18; Mar. 9 and 17; Apr. 6 and 21; May 11; June 8 FSVP: 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](mailto:ncrfsma@iastate.edu).

Sincerely,

NCR FSMA Training Center Team

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