



North Central Region

Center for FSMA Training, Extension
and Technical Assistance

February 2021

NCR Annual Conference 2021



Please register for the NCR FSMA Virtual Annual Conference by February 5. We'll be gathering remotely on **February 11, 18, and 25 from 1:00-4:00 pm, Central time each day.** [Registration is open](#) for this free event.

Mini-grants



The NCR FSMA Center is [re-budgeting funds into mini-grants](#) in light of the Coronavirus pandemic. Funds are largely available for service honorarium and travel funds to help meet 1 of 3 center objectives as outlined under "Project Initiatives" listed on the website. Complete items under "Proposal" and submit to Ellen by February 14. Proposals will be accepted after February 14 but probably won't be included in the first round of funding. Because these are funded projects, it is expected that all produced material is free and available to those who request. For any questions, please feel free to reach out to [Ellen](#).

New Resources

Back in 2017 Chris Blanchard and Dr. Erin Silva received funding from NIFA to create a series of podcasts on farm food safety. If you knew Chris, you'll be aware that he passed away late in 2018 and was unable to finish the project.

The team regrouped and brought on board Harriet Behar (UW-Madison) and Annalisa Hultberg (U of MN State Food Safety Educator) to complete the project. They are happy to report that the podcasts have turned out well and are now available for listening.

[The series is temporarily available from the Silva Lab website.](#) When this changes to a permanent location, we will update our website.

FDA Updates

The FDA has made two updates to its materials for stakeholders regarding the proposed rule, [“Requirements for Additional Traceability Records for Certain Foods” \(Food Traceability Proposed Rule\)](#). The FDA is proposing to establish additional traceability recordkeeping requirements (beyond what is already required in existing regulations) for persons who manufacture, process, pack, or hold foods the Agency has designated for inclusion on the Food Traceability List.



The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is extending the comment period for the proposed rule entitled [“Requirements for Additional Traceability Records for Certain Foods”](#) and reopening the comment period for the information collection provisions until February 22, 2021.

Job Openings

The Illinois Institute of Technology is hiring a [Senior Scientist – Microbiology/Sprout Safety](#). Based in Bedford, IL, the person hired will lead the Sprout Safety Alliance.

Seneca Foods Corporation (in Minnesota), currently has an opening for a [Quality Control Intern](#) for the 2021 production season, which runs from roughly June through September.

Partner Events

Registration is open for the [Food Safety Outreach Program \(FSOP\) Roundtable Webinar](#) on Feb. 4. Eight awardees from around the country will be presenting on their work.

The virtual 2021 Consumer Food Safety Education Conference will happen March 10-12, 2021. Graduate and undergraduate students studying food safety, food microbiology, public health or environmental health at a US-based university are eligible to [apply for a scholarship](#). The deadline for submission is February 18, 2021.

West Central Missouri’s 3rd annual [Farm to Fork Summit](#) goes online in 2021 with speakers and sessions every Tuesday afternoon on Feb 2, Feb. 9, and Feb. 16. Scholarships are available.

The [Great Plains Grower Conference](#) will be held online Feb. 12-13.

The [Indiana Hort Conference and Expo](#) will be held every Wednesday in February.

The National Farmers Union is hosting a webinar for produce safety educators, [Stories from the field](#): Small Farms and GAP Audits, on Monday Feb 22, from 2:00 PM – 3:00 pm EST.

The [5-in-1 Organic Conference](#) will be held Feb. 22-26. MOSES (Midwest Organic & Sustainable Education Service), GrassWorks, Iowa Organic Association, OGRAIN (Organic Grain Resource and Information Network), and FairShare CSA Coalition & University of Wisconsin Extension are all collaborating for this virtual conference.

Struggling with cleaning and sanitizing practices? You're not alone. You asked, we listened, and now we have a few follow-up questions... Partners at the University of Vermont, Cornell University, USDA, and National Farmers Union Foundation are working together to develop a [new training program](#) to help small and medium-scale farmers take their businesses to the next level of safe and efficient vegetable handling systems. Do you have a few minutes to [complete a short survey](#) to help us? The voice of farmers is invaluable to the process.

Michigan State University Extension is offering an online [course for farm supervisors](#). It begins February 8.

Funding Available

[Funds are available](#) to help NCR partners (anyone who participates in NCR activities) attend virtual trainings/events. Under most circumstances, the NCR will reimburse you after the event for the registration fee.

The mentoring program and the trainer sharing program also have funding available.

The NCR will cover the cost of PSA manuals and AFDO certificates for collaborative remote trainings. Money is available until it has all been requested. Not every state will be using the money designated for their growers, so please contact Ellen if you'd like to submit additional receipts.

[Food Safety Outreach Grants](#) The RFA is out and the due date is April 1, 2021. The Food Safety Outreach Program will complement and expand the national infrastructure of the National Food Safety Training, Education, Extension, Outreach, and Technical Assistance Competitive Grants Program. If you have an idea and need partners please contact Ellen or Ani to help with identification of potential partners.

The North Central Region has developed 13 success stories since the start of the regional center. Eight of which were developed under our current funding. This is absolutely fantastic! To keep the ball rolling through 2021, the NCR FSMA Center is offering \$1,000 honorariums to the next 10 success stories submitted to the center. You must use the template provided by Arlene and Ellen.

Upcoming NCR FSMA Meetings

The **Listening Sessions/ Webinars** happen the third Thursday of every month at 2:00 Central time. As this falls during the NCR annual conference, there will be no separate listening session in February.

Update from the last meeting:

If you couldn't join the January 21 call, you can [catch up on our website](#). Londa Nwadike presented about her FSOP award.

The **meeting for inspectors/state regulators** happens the first Friday of most months 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. The group will meet next on **Friday, February 5**. Contact [Ellen](#) for call information.

State employees responsible for **farm inventories** have decided to return to quarterly meetings, so plan to join the call on **Friday, April 16**, at 9:00 am Central time. Contact [Ellen](#) for call information.

Upcoming PSA Courses

Indiana: Feb. 12 and 19; Mar. 19; Apr. 9 and 30 (in-person)

Iowa/Nebraska: Feb. 2-3 (remote)

Michigan: Feb. 9, 10-11, 16, and 23; March 9, 16, and 23 (all remote)

Minnesota: Feb. 9; Mar. 13 (all remote)

Wisconsin: Feb. 16 (remote)

Online course: begins every two weeks

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: Feb. 8, 10, 16, 22, and 24;
Mar. 2, 8, and 17; Apr. 12; May 3
FSVP: Feb. 11; Mar. 11

Iowa: PC Animal Food: Feb. 16
FSVP: Feb. 18

Michigan: PC Human Food: Feb. 8 and 9
FSVP: Mar. 2 and 30; May 4

Nebraska: PC Human Food: May 10
PC Animal Food: May 24

Ohio: PC Human Food: Feb. 9

Wisconsin: PC Human Food: Feb. 9 and 16; Mar. 1; May 18

Online: Human Food: Feb. 1, 3, 9, 10, 15, 17, and 22; Mar. 2, 3, 9, 10, 11, 15, 17, 19, and 22; Apr. 2, 7, 8, 12, 13, 19, 20, 21, 23, and 26;
May 11, 12, 17, 19, 21, 24, and 25
PC Animal Food: Feb. 1 and 3; Mar. 1 and 2; Apr. 5, 7, 12, and 21;
May 3, 10, 11, and 28
FSVP: Feb. 8, 9, 11, and 16; Mar. 3, 9, 10, 11, 16, and 18;
Apr. 6, 8, and 20; May 6, 11, 18

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

[Follow us on Facebook](#)

[Visit our website](#)

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

Angela M Shaw, Project Director (FDA Center)

Anirudh R. Naig, NCR FSOP Coordinator

Ellen Johnsen, Project Manager

Joe Hannan, Project Director (USDA Center)

Arlene Enderton, Project Evaluator

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is an equal opportunity provider. For the full non-discrimination statement or accommodation inquiries, go to www.extension.iastate.edu/diversity/ext.



North Central Region
Center for FSMA Training, Extension
and Technical Assistance
