



North Central Region

Center for FSMA Training, Extension
and Technical Assistance

February 2022

NCR FSMA Annual Conference

Mark your calendars for the NCR FSMA virtual annual conference on March 1 and 3, 2022, 9am-4pm, Central time. We plan to have multiple sessions for people who work in different areas of produce safety. [An agenda](#) is available on our website. The conference is free, but [please register](#) by February 25. Please let us know if you're able to attend both days, or just one. We'd also like to know which of the concurrent sessions you plan to attend. It's not a firm commitment, but it will allow us to plan better.



There's also a chance to sign up to record a short "poster" or "powerpoint" presentation. You would have five minutes to talk about your research or projects. There won't be a set time for people to view these during the conference, but the videos will be available before and after the conference.

Water lab maps

Hannah Doyle from NECAFS at the University of Vermont is working on the annual updates to the National Water Testing Lab Map created for producers to use as an informational resource for locating and contacting laboratories. The map is located here:

<http://go.uvm.edu/waterlabmap>

If there are updates in your state, please make the updates or ask the lab to update their information.

FDA Updates

Frank Yiannas, FDA Deputy Commissioner for Food Policy and Response, reflected on some of [the strides the FDA made last year](#) in protecting the safety of human foods, which they plan to continue building on this year.

The FDA wants to remind produce stakeholders that the Agency previously announced its [intention to exercise enforcement discretion](#) for all of the agricultural water requirements for covered produce (other than sprouts). This includes exercising enforcement discretion related to the January 26, 2022, compliance date for the pre-harvest, harvest and post-harvest agricultural water requirements in the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) [Produce Safety Rule](#) for the large covered farms.

Resources and Virtual Events from Partners

North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension again will host the [Field to Fork “Wednesday Webinar” series](#) starting February 16. Experts from across the region (including many NCR FSMA partners) will provide information about growing, preserving and preparing specialty-crop fruits and vegetables safely in this seventh annual webinar series.

The webinars will be held online from 2 to 3 pm Central time through April 20. The webinars are free of charge but pre-registration is required.

The Extension Community Food Systems Program in Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Women’s Business Initiative Corporation are piloting a virtual [Spanish-language food entrepreneur showcase](#). Topics will include importation, developing a market, and growing a business incrementally. While the program is targeted outreach to Spanish-speaking audiences in Wisconsin, Spanish-speaking food entrepreneurs from other states are welcome to participate.

A [virtual HACCP course](#) will be delivered by Nebraska Extension, on February 15 and 17. The cost is \$300/person. Participants will gain an understanding of HACCP regulatory requirements (FDA and USDA-FSIS), HACCP plan development, and HACCP system implementation. The course has multiple opportunities for discussion and ample time allocated for questions, examples, and case studies. At the end of the course, participants will receive proof of course completion with the seal of the International HACCP Alliance.

The CONTACT Team is delighted to bring you “*Cyclospora Facts and What You Can Do Right Now*”, on February 9, at 2:30 pm Central time. This webinar will feature produce safety experts Drs. Kali Kniel and Michelle Danyluk for a live one-hour presentation, followed by 30 min Q&A. [Registration is required.](#)

A report from the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA) on the [Prevention and Control of Microbiological Hazards](#) in Fresh Fruits and Vegetables has been released. This is part 3 of a larger group and covers Sprouts. The meeting was held virtually last November.

North Central Food Safety Extension Network



The [North Central Food Safety Extension Network](#) website has been updated. You can find information about this group that brings together educators from all twelve NCR states on the NCR FSMA website. You’ll find links to state-level websites, journal articles, and presentations. Sign up for their newsletter if you want more information.

FDA Proposes Changes to FSMA Rule to Enhance Safety of Agricultural Water Used on Produce



On December 2, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued a proposed rule that aims to enhance the safety of produce. It proposes to require farms to conduct comprehensive assessments that would help them identify and mitigate hazards in water used to grow produce. This is the latest step in the agency's implementation of the FSMA, and it proposes to replace some of the existing requirements for agricultural water in the PSR. The FDA is proposing a revision to Subpart E.

Questions can be submitted via email. Currently only simple clarifying questions may be answered during this time of deliberation.

Comments and feedback can be submitted online. The comment period is open until April 5, 2022. Growers, educators, regulators, and others are all encouraged to submit feedback.

The Agricultural Water Assessment Factsheet and the Expanded Table on Factors to be Considered as Part of Agricultural Water Assessment are now available in Spanish.

Meetings to Discuss the Proposed Water Rule Changes



Two virtual meetings have been scheduled by the FDA to discuss the proposed changes. The first meeting will be held February 14, 2022, 10:45 am to 6:45 pm Central time, and the second meeting will be held February 25, 2022, 7:45 am to 3:45 pm Central time.

PSA will be hosting a series of "Subpart E Office Hours" in February to give PSA Trainers, extension educators, and others working with growers a platform to discuss the proposed Subpart E requirements and the impact it may have on produce growers. Dates and registration links are on their website.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development and NASDA are co-hosting a meeting geared towards growers. The Zoom webinar will be on March 2, from 12:00 noon – 1:00 pm, Central time. No registration is required. FDA officials will give a brief presentation and be available to answer questions.

Job Openings



As a key member of the Produce Safety Alliance team, the [Southwest \(SW\) Regional Extension Associate](#) (REA) will be responsible for planning, organizing, instructing, and evaluating PSA training programs for produce growers, extension educators, and regulatory personnel in their region. Must be willing to travel regionally and nationally a significant amount of time (~50%) pending COVID-19 control, including non-traditional and weekend work hours. This position will be located in the Southwest U.S. with exact location being flexible within the region.

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CAL S) and College of Human Sciences (CHS) at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa seek a [Professor and Department Chair](#) of the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition (FSHN). [Reach out to Angela](#) if you have questions.

New Funding Available

Are you working on a food safety project, and you need additional funds to:

- 1) Provide honorarium for a speaker at a food safety program
- 2) Provide print-outs at a food safety program
- 3) Provide demonstrations for food safety programs
- 4) Modify existing food safety materials
- 5) Translate materials into another language;
- 6) Sponsor registration for an underserved produce industry member to be trained and/or
- 7) Supplies to host a Produce Safety Alliance or Preventive Control for Human Food or food safety program?

Please reach out to the NCR FSMA Center as we have funding to support these food safety efforts.

Funding Available

Funds are available to pay for educator/regulator professional development and for the trainer sharing program. In most cases, the NCR FSMA will reimburse you for expenses after the event. Stipends are \$500 each for the professional development funds and trainer sharing program. Each state may apply for one stipend for each program per year (September through August). If not all the funds have been requested by July, states may apply for additional stipends.

Upcoming NCR FSMA Meetings



The **Listening Sessions/ Webinars** happen on the third Thursday of every month at 2:00, Central time. The next meeting will be on February 17. James DeDecker from Michigan State University will be talking about the North Central Regional Wildlife working group and share some of the factsheets that working group has put together.

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: Thank you Barb Ingham and Phil Tocco for sharing at the January listening session. It was great to hear how you utilized funds from our mini-grant program! [You can watch or listen to a recording](#) in the Box. All the resources mentioned in the chat can also be found in the Box. Please let us know if you need access to the Box.

The **meeting for state inspectors/regulators** and those responsible for **data/inventory** will have a joint meeting on Friday, Feb. 18. A trainer from Michigan will be leading situational awareness and de-escalation training.

The inspectors/regulators will not meet on their normal first Friday of February, because of the other meeting. They will resume their regular meetings on Friday, March 4.

A **meeting for program managers** has been scheduled for the second Tuesday of every month at 10:00 Central time. If you oversee your state's CAP grant, please plan to join.

Upcoming PSA Courses

Indiana in-person: Feb. 23; Apr. 7

Indiana remote: Feb. 10

Iowa in-person: March 10

Iowa/Nebraska/North Dakota/South Dakota remote: Feb. 9 & 16; April 5 & 6

Kansas in-person: Feb. 9 and 18

Kansas/Missouri remote: Feb. 7 & 17

Michigan in-person: Feb. 1

Michigan remote: Feb. 15; Mar. 8 and 22; Apr. 12 and 26

Minnesota in-person: Apr. 8

Minnesota remote: Feb. 22; Mar. 16 & 17

Michigan/Minnesota Spanish-language remote: Feb. 12 & 19

Ohio in-person: Feb. 7 and 24; Mar. 15 and 16; Apr. 12

Wisconsin remote: Jan. 20 through March 10

Online course: begins every three 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. 7, 8, 21, and 28; Mar. 1, 7, 23, and 30;
Apr. 4, 5, 25, and 27; May 3, 9, and 25; June 6, 7, and 27
PC Animal Food: Apr. 19
FSVP: Feb. 9 and 16; Mar. 3, 15, and 23; Apr. 12 and 28; May 5

Iowa: PC Human Food: Feb. 9; Apr. 12
PC Animal Food: Feb. 15; June 6
FSVP: Feb. 9

Kansas: PC Animal Food: Feb. 22

Michigan: PC Human Food: Feb. 8 and 14; Mar. 22
PC Animal Food: Mar. 22
FSVP: Feb. 23; May 25

Nebraska: PC Human Food: June 7
Ohio: PC Human Food: Feb. 1; Mar. 15
Wisconsin: PC Human Food: Feb. 22; Apr. 5; May 17
Online: PC Human Food: Feb. 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 23, and 28;
Mar. 2, 7, 8, 14, 16, 21, 25, 28, 29, and 31; April 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, and 25;
May 3, 5, 9, 11, 12, 17, 18, 23, and 25; June 8, 16, 22, and 28
PC Human Food (Spanish): Feb. 7, 14, 21, and 28; Mar. 7, 14, 21, and 28
PC Human Food (Chinese): Feb. 7, 14, 21, and 28; Mar. 7, 14, 21, and 28
PC Animal Food: Feb. 2, 4, 7, and 16; Mar. 1, 7, 11, and 29;
Apr. 4, 6, 8, and 27; May 9, 13, and 19; June 6, 8, 14, 17, and 22
FSVP: Feb. 2, 9, 10, 21, 22, and 23; Mar. 1, 2, 5, 15, 22, 23, and 24;
April 1, 7, and 12; May 3, 4, 5, 17, and 26
FSVP (Spanish): Feb. 2

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

[Follow us on Facebook](#)

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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

2018-2021 Funding

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2018-2024 Funding

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2021-2024 Funding

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