



North Central Region

Center for FSMA Training, Extension
and Technical Assistance

February 2023

Annual Conference



Please register soon for the NCR FSMA annual conference. The **registration deadline is Friday, February 17**. Registration costs \$75. The **deadline to get the conference rate at the hotel is February 11**. The NCR FSMA annual conference will happen March 15-16, in Eau Claire, WI.

When you register, you will have the opportunity to sign up to share a poster, a lightning round talk, and 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.)

A farm tour of [Superior Fresh](#) will happen on the morning of March 15. Space is very limited, so please register quickly if you are interested in attending. Once you've registered for the conference, you'll receive an email that includes how to sign up for the farm tour.

You can find the [agenda and information about the nearest airport](#) on our website. We will be meeting at the Lismore Hotel, in Eau Claire, WI, where we had planned to hold the April 2020 conference. Rooms are available for \$149/night. Please book your rooms by February 11 to take advantage of the conference rate. Each individual guest must make a reservation through the property front desk by calling 715-835-8888 option (0) for guest services or [booking online](#), with group code NCF. If using the website, click on "Special Rate" after you enter the dates and before you click "Room Rates." Be sure to enter the code in the box labeled "Group Code" and not "Promotional Code." Guests making such reservations must identify themselves as members of Group.

We are looking forward to seeing people in-person again and hearing from lots of great speakers! We'll be hearing from FDA and USDA staff; regional leaders; Extension educators who work with under-served audiences; experts on Wisconsin crops; and all of you! We'll have lots of time for sharing and discussion. You can find the [full agenda](#) on the NCR FSMA website.

Survey Responses



Thanks for sharing your thoughts on your professional development needs. If you think of other topics you'd like to discuss or learn more about, please be in touch with a member of the PI team.

What's New on the Produce Safety Clearinghouse?

- OFRR Videos- There are two new videos from the Pennsylvania Farmers Union and the Local Food Safety Collaborative. They show what an On-Farm Readiness Review might look like on an [urban farm](#) and a [rural farm](#).
- [Preventive Controls Course Evaluations](#)- This evaluation has been developed by partner subject matter experts within the Northeast Center to Advance Food Safety (NECAFS) to assess the regional impact of Preventive Controls for Human Foods (also called PCQI) training. Their goal is to identify additional technical support needs of those impacted by the FSMA Preventive Control for Human Food (PCHF) rule.

Federal Updates

- In mid-January, FDA posted [translated materials for the FSMA final rule on food traceability](#) in five languages: Indonesian, Simplified Chinese, Spanish, Thai and Vietnamese.
- [FDA Releases Fact Sheet](#) for Harvest and Post-Harvest Agricultural Water. The intended enforcement discretion period for the harvest and post-harvest agricultural water provisions for covered produce (other than sprouts) in the Produce Safety Rule ended on January 26, 2023, for all businesses other than small and very small businesses. To help prepare growers, the FDA has released a fact sheet with questions and answers on the requirements.
- [Frank Yiannis recently submitted his resignation](#) to the FDA Commissioner. He will leave his position as the Deputy Commissioner for the Office of Food Policy and Response at the FDA on Feb. 24.
- The deadline to apply for the Food Safety Outreach Program is Thursday, February 16, 2023. You can find more information, including a technical assistance webinar, on the [USDA website](#).
- FDA is exploring the development of a front of package system to help consumers interpret the nutrient information on food products. Front of Package (FOP) labeling is intended to complement the Nutrition Facts label by giving consumers a simple aid to provide additional context for making healthy food selections. [FDA is accepting comments](#) through March 27.

Highlighted NCR FSMA Resource

[Produce Safety Acronyms](#)- Quickly find what an acronym stands for in the produce safety world. A useful reference for new staff and a good reminder for experienced members of your team. Let us know if we're missing an acronym that you use frequently!

New Success Story

We've added another success story to our website. You can read more about the [Missouri Food Safety Task Force](#) hosting an annual Food Safety Conference on the website. Thanks, Cindy Borgwordt, for sharing about the good work happening in the Show Me State. If you have an FSOP project, effective outreach program, or new educational event you'd like to share, please let us know. We can write/edit a story or share one that you've completed.

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. Please contact Ellen if you have ideas that might qualify for these funds.

Events Sponsored by our Partners



The International Sprout Growers Association will be having their convention April 25-27, at the Miami University. They are looking for speakers and students working on things to do with sprouts, microgreens, and controlled environment. If you are interested, please contact Office@isga-sprouts.org.

Next on CONTACT's Produce Safety Webinar Series, they explore "To the Buyer and Beyond: What the New FSMA Traceability Rule Means for the Produce Industry" on February 23, at 3:30 pm Eastern / 12:30 pm Pacific. [Registration is required](#).

The topics for the upcoming [SCRUB Winter Twilight Webinars](#) have been announced. They will happen most Tuesdays through March 14, from 3-4:30pm Central time. These webinars will cover equipment, techniques, working with contractors, balancing work and family life, and other concerns.

NCR FSMA Meetings

The [Listening Sessions/ Webinars](#) happen on the third Thursday of every month at 2:00, Central time. At the February 16 meeting, Annie Fitzgerald from NECAFS will be presenting about [The Processors' Food Safety Toolkit](#). This is a resource collection to help very small and small processors get started with Preventive Controls for Human Food (PCHF) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs).

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

The meeting for [state inspectors/regulators](#) will be Friday, February 3, at 9am, Central time.

The meeting for [data/inventory](#) will be Friday, February 17, at 9:00 am, Central time.

The meeting for [program managers](#) will be Tuesday, February 14, at 10:00 am, Central time.

Please contact us, if you need call information for any of these meetings.

PSA Courses

Iowa (in-person): Feb. 8

Kansas/Missouri (remote): Feb. 7 & 8

Michigan (remote): Feb. 13; Mar. 13

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

Nebraska (in-person): Feb. 9

North Dakota (in-person): Mar. 30

Ohio (in-person): Feb. 9 and 11; Mar. 7, 28, and 30; Apr. 20

Wisconsin (in-person): Feb. 28

Online course: begins once per month.

Check out the [calendar](#) of PSA courses offered nationally.

Find a list of [registered PSA Trainers](#).

Upcoming FSPCA Courses

Illinois: PC Human Food: Feb. 6, 7, 15, and 20; Mar. 7 and 22;
Apr. 4, 18, 19, and 26; May 22
FSVP: Feb. 14 and 23; Mar. 13 and 30; Apr. 11

Iowa: PC Animal Food: Feb. 6

Kansas: PC Animal Food: Apr. 11

Michigan: PC Human Food: Feb. 7; Apr. 10; May 16
PC Animal Food: Feb. 13
FSVP: Feb. 13; Mar. 21

Nebraska: PC Human Food: May 1

Ohio: PC Human Food: Feb. 28; Mar. 23

Wisconsin: PC Human Food: Feb. 14; Apr. 18; May 16

Online: PC Human Food: Feb. 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 16, 20, 21, 22, 27, and 28;
Mar. 1, 6, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 24, 27, 29, and 31;
April 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, and 28;
May 1, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 30, and 31
PC Human Food (Spanish): Feb. 6, 13, 20, and 27; Mar. 6, 13, and 20
PC Human Food (Chinese): Feb. 6, 13, 20, and 27

PC Animal Food: Feb. 6, 8, 13, and 22; Mar. 6, 9, 20, 22, and 29;
Apr. 3, 10, 12, 17, 24, and 26; May 3, 8, 10, 17, 24, and 29
FSVP: Feb. 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, 20, 24, 27, and 28;
Mar. 6, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 24, 27, 30, and 31;
Apr. 3, 5, 10, 14, 20, and 28; May 4, 18, and 19



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

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Thank you for your continued involvement with the NCR FSMA!

Sincerely,
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