



# North Central Region

Center for FSMA Training, Extension  
and Technical Assistance

January 2020

## Save the Date for the NCR FSMA Annual Conference

---



Mark your calendars for April 1-2, 2020, for the second [annual conference](#) in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. 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.

## Funds Available

---

### 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. A separate announcement for support to attend annual conference will be announced later.

## Alternate Curriculum

---

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.

## Events/Surveys Organized by our Partners

---

### Agritourism and Direct Sales Survey



If you have visitors on your farm, ranch, vineyard, or fishery, you are invited to take part in a [national survey about agritourism and direct sales](#). Whether you have a farmstand, u-pick, tastings, school field trips, events, tours, hunting, fishing, overnight stays, or open your farm to the public in any other ways, your experiences are

important. This survey is confidential and should take about 10 minutes to complete. Results will be used to develop tools and resources for farmers. The survey will close January 31.

Questions can be directed to [Lisa Chase](#), 802-257-7967 (University of Vermont Extension/Vermont Tourism Research Center).

### Vegetable Production and Management Course

The Iowa State University Department of Horticulture will be offering a new online [Vegetable Production and Management Course](#) in Spring 2020. This course is being offered both for college credits and for non-credits (for professionals and individuals interested in vegetable production) and starts January 13, 2020.

## Job Opening

---

Community Alliance with Family Farmers is hiring a [Farmer Services Coordinator](#). This position supports CAFF's Farmer Services program, and specifically the Food Safety program, by providing in-person training to farmers and leading their Partner Farm Program. CAFF offers a wide variety of food safety trainings to meet farmers where they are at and help guide them in improving their farm's food safety practices.

This is a 60% Part Time job, with more hours during November-March. Pay is \$17-20/hr, depending on experience.

## Upcoming NCR FSMA Meetings

---

The **Listening Sessions/ Webinars** happen the third Thursday of every month at 2:00 Central time. Join us for the next meeting on January 16, 2020. Almost every state is providing some form of supplemental training to farmers; either targeted towards fully covered farms or the many exempt or qualified exempt farms in their state. Annalisa Hultberg, University of Minnesota and Phil Tocco, Michigan State University, will lead a group discussion on supplemental trainings offered across the region. With Specialty Crop Block and FSOP grant proposals due soon, this is an excellent opportunity to start brainstorming projects to support your farmers.



We will do a round-robin to share ideas. If you would like to share ideas from your state, please complete the [short slide template](#) and email to [Annalisa](#) by Jan 10. Plan to share for about 5 minutes on supplemental trainings and educational offerings you hosted or are planning to host, the topics, speakers, format of the events, and why you chose these topics. We will then have open discussion after all have presented.

### **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 December 19 meeting with Arlene Enderton on the PSA Knowledge Assessment results, you can [view the slides or listen to a recording](#) in Box or on our website.

The online meeting for inspectors/state regulators happens the first Friday of the month. The next meeting will be Friday, January 3, 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

---

The Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP) Committee voted in early December to recommend that Stephen Hahn, MD, be confirmed as the next FDA commissioner. He was [confirmed by the full Senate](#) on December 12.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is providing flexibility for when states may begin [conducting routine inspections of small farms](#), other than sprouts operations, under the FSMA Produce Safety Rule.

## Educational Add On Updates

---



### Highlighted Resource

Federal and State Regulations on [Frozen and Dehydrated Foods](#).

This add on includes the standards of identity and recipes. It includes federal guidelines and individual state rules for each of the North Central Region states. If your state laws have changed since 2017, please let us know and we will update the document.

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

---

- Illinois: [Illinois Specialty Grower Association](#). January 8-10, 2020
- Indiana: [Indiana Hort Conference](#) and Expo. February 11-13, 2020
- Iowa: [Iowa Fruit and Vegetable Grower Association](#). January 23-24, 2020
- Kansas: [Great Plains Grower Conference](#). January 9-11, 2020
- Michigan: [Great Lakes Expo and Michigan Greenhouse Growers Expo](#). Past
- Minnesota: [Upper Midwest Regional Fruit and Vegetable Grower Conference](#). Jan. 18-19, 2020
- Missouri: [Great Plains Grower Conference](#) January 9-11, 2020
- North Dakota: [North Dakota Farmers Market and Grower Association & Local Foods Conference](#). February 28-20, 2020
- Ohio: [Ohio Produce Growers & Marketers Association](#). January 21-23, 2020
- South Dakota: [South Dakota Local Foods Conference](#). Past
- Wisconsin: [Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Conference](#). January 26-28, 2020.  
[2002 Organic Vegetable Produce Conference](#). January 31-Feb. 1, 2020
- Regional: [Midwest Organic & Sustainable Education Service \(MOSES\)](#). February 27-29, 2020

## Upcoming PSA Courses

---

Illinois: Jan. 8; Mar. 10  
Indiana: Jan. 17; Feb. 10; Apr. 7  
Iowa: Jan. 14; Feb. 4, 11, 17, and 25; Mar. 3  
Kansas: Jan. 9  
Michigan: Jan. 16; Feb. 19; Mar. 19  
Minnesota: Jan. 15, 22, and 30; Feb. 11, 26; Mar. 10 and 19; Apr. 9 and 14  
Missouri: Jan. 9  
North Dakota: Jan. 13; Feb. 27; May 16  
Ohio: Jan. 14, 15, 16, 21, 28, 29, and 30; Feb. 11, 18, 20, 26, and 27;  
Mar. 17, 26, and 31  
Wisconsin: Jan. 14, 17, and 26; 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

---

Illinois: PC Human Food: Jan. 13, 14, and 22; Feb. 10; Mar. 16; Apr. 13 and 21; May 4  
FSVP: Jan. 13  
Kansas: PC Animal Food: Mar. 17  
Michigan: PC Human Food: Jan. 1, 13, and 22  
FSVP: Feb. 27  
Minnesota: PC Human Food: Jan. 21; Apr. 15  
Nebraska: PC Human Food: May 27  
PC Animal Food: May 19  
Ohio: PC Human Food: Feb. 25  
Wisconsin: PC Human Food: Feb. 4; May 19  
Online: Human Food: Jan. 1, 8, 14, 16, 17, 21, and 30;  
Feb. 5, 12, 13, 18, and 27; Mar. 23; Apr. 22; May 26  
PC Animal Food: Jan. 6 and 7; Feb. 3  
FSVP: Jan. 13; Feb. 10

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](mailto: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 does not discriminate on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, pregnancy, race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or status as a U.S. veteran, or other protected classes. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies may be directed to the Diversity Advisor, 2150 Beardshear Hall, 515 Morrill Road, Ames, Iowa 50011, 515-294-1482, [extdiversity@iastate.edu](mailto:extdiversity@iastate.edu). All other inquiries may be directed to 800-262-3804