



# North Central Region

Center for FSMA Training, Extension  
and Technical Assistance

January 2021

## NCR Annual Conference 2021

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Make plans to join the NCR FSMA Virtual Annual Conference. 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.

## FDA Comment Periods

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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.

The deadline to comment on the [expansion of the Rarely Consumed Raw List](#) for uncommonly consumed produce is January 8.

## Produce Safety Alliance Train-the-Trainer virtual events

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The Produce Safety Alliance has scheduled [four Train-the-Trainer virtual events](#) for this winter/spring. Each course is capped at 15 people and costs \$350.

## Success Stories Support

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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.

## Mini-grants

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GRANT

The NCR FSMA Center has submitted a request to re-budget funds intended for support of in-person annual conferences to support mini-grants. We are awaiting approval from USDA but wanted to give everyone a heads up regarding what is hopefully coming in January. More details to come as soon as we have them.

## Funding Available

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[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 (up to 10 participants per state). Money is available until it has all been requested. Trainer sharing money is still available for trainings targeting one state. Contact Ellen if you have questions or would like logistical help during your remote training.

## 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 **January 21**. FSOP awardees from the North Central Region will be presenting on their projects.

**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 couldn't join the December 17 call, you missed a fun game of Jeopardy!

At the end of the meeting, there was a question about sunflower seeds intended for roasting and if they should be included in produce sales. Here's a follow up answer from Kristin Esch, Produce Safety Expert, from the FDA Produce Safety Network:

Produce, per the Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption (Produce Safety Rule) (21 CFR 112), "does not include food grains meaning the small, hard fruits or seeds of arable crops, or the crops bearing these fruits or seeds, that are primarily grown and processed for use as meal, flour,

baked goods, cereals and oils rather than for direct consumption as small, hard fruits or seeds (including cereal grains, pseudo cereals, oilseeds and other plants used in the same fashion). Examples of food grains include barley, dent- or flint-corn, sorghum, oats, rice, rye, wheat, amaranth, quinoa, buckwheat, and oilseeds (e.g., cotton seed, flax seed, rapeseed, soybean, and sunflower seed).”

If your seed is one of the above listed food grains, then it would not meet the definition of produce and the monetary value received in the sale of such seed would not be used in calculating the average amount of produce sold for determining whether you meet the \$25,000 threshold for coverage under the Produce Safety rule (see 21 CFR 112.4).

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, January 8**, because of the holiday on Jan. 1. Contact [Ellen](#) for call information.



State employees responsible for farm inventories will meet on **Friday, January 15**, at 9:00 am Central time, to continue the discussion on databases and SOP’s. Contact [Ellen](#) for call information.

## Upcoming PSA Courses

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Illinois: Jan. 6-7 (remote)

Indiana: Jan. 15 and 25; Feb. 12 and 19; Mar. 19; Apr. 9 (in-person)

Iowa: Jan. 13-14; Feb. 2-3 (all remote courses)

Kansas/Missouri: Jan. 21 and 28 (remote)

Michigan: Jan. 12; Feb. 9 and 10-11; March 9 (all remote courses)

Minnesota: Jan. 12-13; Feb. 9; Mar. 13 (all 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

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- Illinois: PC Human Food: Jan. 11, 13, 19, and 27; Feb. 8, 10, 16, and 22; Mar. 2, 8, and 17; Apr. 12  
FSVP: Dec. 10; Jan. 28; Feb. 11; Mar. 11
- Iowa: PC Human Food: Jan. 12  
PC Animal Food: Jan. 20
- Michigan: PC Human Food: Jan. 12; Feb. 9  
FSVP: Jan. 19; Mar. 2 and 30
- Ohio: PC Human Food: Feb. 9
- Wisconsin: PC Human Food: Feb. 9 and 16; Mar. 1
- Online: Human Food: Jan. 4, 5, 6, 11, 18, 25, and 27; Feb. 3, 10, 15, and 22; Mar. 2, 3, 9, 11, 19, and 22; Apr. 2, 8, 12, 20, and 23  
PC Animal Food: Jan. 5, 8, and 19; Feb. 1; Mar. 1; Apr. 21  
FSVP: Jan. 12, 15, and 19; Feb. 8, 9, 11, and 16; Mar. 9, 11, 16, and 18; Apr. 6 and 8

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

Angela M Shaw, Project Director (FDA Center)

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