



North Central Region

Center for FSMA Training, Extension
and Technical Assistance

January 2022

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 FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), and it proposes to replace some of the existing requirements for agricultural water in the Produce Safety Rule (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.

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.

The NCR FSMA is hosting an informal discussion time with Kristin Esch (much like our December meeting) on Monday, January 10, at 1:00 Central time.

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.

More FDA Updates

In mid-December, the FDA issued an [improvement plan focused on modernizing foodborne illness outbreak responses](#). This plan is designed to help the FDA and their partners enhance the speed, effectiveness, coordination and communication of foodborne outbreak investigations. They are confident that the actions outlined in this plan will in turn translate into activities focused on enhancing the prevention of outbreaks.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has updated three guidance documents for food producers covered by the FDA's regulations for [Juice Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point \(HACCP\)](#), [Seafood HACCP](#), and [Low-Acid Canned Foods](#) to explain the connection between the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) regulations and pre-FSMA regulations.

Success Stories



You can read the latest success story on the NCR website. Find out how Purdue University is reaching [military veteran farmers](#). Do you have a great story about the impact your work is making? We would like to highlight it. You can write the story or NCR FSMA staff can write it for you.

Unfortunately, all the stipends for writing success stories have been awarded. If you've been in contact with Ellen about writing a story, you will receive the stipend, but we have not budgeted for more in the future.

Update from the Long-Term Behavioral Change Study



The Institutional Review Board (IRB) at Iowa State University has approved the upcoming long-term behavioral change study. Led by Arlene Enderton, this study will evaluate what behavioral changes have occurred with growers who took the Produce Safety Alliance training in 2017 and 2018 (the first 2 years of the offering). This will require time for Interview Question Development, Human Subject Approval, recruitment of participants, and interviewing at least 50 growers. This estimate is based on Produce Safety Alliance Grower training number of 860 participants and a 5% interview rate. The research team has reached out to lead trainers in all 12 states soon to start the process of recruitment. If you desire to assist with this project or need more information about this project, please contact ncrfsma@iastate.edu.

PSA Knowledge Assessment Change

The NCR FSMA evaluation team has [updated the PSA knowledge assessment pre-test](#). Three demographic questions have been added. It would be appreciated if PSA trainers would use this form for future trainings. The post-test is unchanged.

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 website. You'll find links to state-level websites, journal articles, and presentations. Sign up for their newsletter if you want more information.

Job Openings

The Produce Safety Alliance has re-opened the [PSA Northwest Extension Position](#). The deadline to apply is January 3.

The Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative at the University of Arkansas is hiring a [Food Safety Specialist](#). The position is responsible for participating in the comprehensive development, execution, and maintenance of the IFAI's core work: developing strategies and solutions to empower Tribal governments and Native food producers in food safety, food safety curriculum, regulatory compliance, and food systems development.

The Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) is searching for a new [Executive Director for the Institute for Food Safety and Health \(IFSH\)](#). IFSH is a nonprofit research organization of IIT and plays a crucial role in collaborating with the FDA and food industry partners to conduct cutting-edge food safety research, and to ensure and promote the integrity of our food supply.

Partner Webinars



The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture and Clemson are hosting a pair of FREE national [produce safety trainings for strawberry growers](#). These trainings were developed through a series of surveys of strawberry growers themselves.

The [CONTACT Team](#) invites you to “[Risk-based Thinking in Agricultural Food Safety](#)”, on January 13, at 2:30 Central. Risk assessments are all the rage these days in agricultural food safety. Unfortunately, the phrase "risk assessment" can mean different things to different people. Dr. Schaffner will provide his perspective on what constitutes a risk assessment and, more importantly, how agricultural producers can use risk-based thinking to improve food safety.

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 January 20. Two mini-grant recipients, Barb Ingham and Phil Tocco, 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: You can [watch or listen to a recording](#) of the December meeting. Jeff Stoltzfus and Luke LaBorde from Penn State shared advice on working effectively with the Plain Community.

The meeting for state inspectors/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 7**. Contact Ellen for call information.

A meeting for program managers has been scheduled for January 11. If you oversee the CAP grant in your state and didn't receive the invitation, please be in touch.

State employees responsible for farm inventories have scheduled their next call for **Friday, January 20**, at 9:00 am Central time. Please contact Ellen for call information or if you have a topic you'd like to discuss.

Upcoming PSA Courses

Iowa in-person: Jan. 27; March 8

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

Kansas in-person: January 7

Kansas/Missouri remote: Jan. 25 & 27

Michigan in-person: Jan. 11; Feb. 1

Michigan remote: Jan. 25; Feb. 15; Mar. 8 and 22; Apr. 12 and 26

Minnesota in-person: Apr. 8

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

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: Jan. 10, 18, 19, and 26; Feb. 7, 8, 21, and 28;
 Mar. 1, 7, and 30; Apr. 4 and 25; May 9 and 25; June 6

PC Animal Food: Apr. 19

FSVP: Jan. 13 and 25; Feb. 16; Mar. 3, 15, and 23; Apr. 28

Iowa: PC Human Food: Jan. 12; Feb. 9
 PC Animal Food: Jan. 11 and 18; Feb. 15
 FSVP: Feb. 9

Kansas: PC Animal Food: Feb. 22

Michigan: PC Human Food: Jan. 11; Mar. 22
 PC Animal Food: Mar. 22
 FSVP: Jan. 18; Feb. 23; May 25

Ohio: PC Human Food: Feb. 1; Mar. 15

Wisconsin: PC Human Food: Jan. 18; Feb. 22; May 17

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

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.

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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