



North Central Region

Center for FSMA Training, Extension
and Technical Assistance

July 2019

Update from the Annual Conference

The NCR FSMA hosted its first annual conference June 10-11, 2019, at the Crowne Plaza Indianapolis Airport. We recapped the annual conference during the latest listening sessions. You can find [notes and a recording](#) from this listening session on our website. [Presentations and notes](#) from the conference are available on our website.

If you have success story ideas to share, please [contact us](#). We'd love to promote the great work being done in your area!

If you'd like to continue the discussion around the OFRR Scenarios, please contact Cal Jamerson at 913-213-3757.

Save the date for the 2020 Annual Conference tentatively planned for April 1-2 in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

Follow-up Survey Released



The evaluation report for the 12-month follow up survey for the Produce Safety Alliance Grower Trainings has been released. You can read the [full report](#) or the [2-page summary](#) on our website.

Biological Soil Amendments Workshop

The North Central Region Center in partnership with the FDA is hosting a Produce Safety Rule Biological Soil Amendments of Animal Origin Pilot Workshop on September 11-12, 2019. Space is limited. Cost is \$25 to cover lunch and snacks.

See our website for all the [details](#) and [register today](#). Only four spots remain in the workshop (as of June 27, 2019).

Wednesday- workshop in Altoona, Iowa

Thursday- optional tour of a composting facility in Ames, Iowa



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) will be 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.

New Trainer Mentorship Program

Are you a new trainer? Would you like assistance getting caught up with the Produce Safety Rule? Would you like to train with experienced trainers to gain experience teaching the Produce Safety Alliance Curriculum, The Preventive Controls Rule, or the Sprouts Rule? The Center is creating a new trainer mentorship program. Contact Angela for more information. [Apply for the program here.](#)

Each pair will make a 6-9 month commitment to meeting monthly online and once in person. Eight stipends (up to \$500) are available each 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.

Save the Date



The NCR Training Blast Off II will be held Oct 9 and 10, 2019, at the Good Acre food hub in St. Paul, MN. Expand upon the NCR Annual Conference trainer-related elements with this opportunity for engaged discussion and advanced practical learning among PSA Trainers and Lead Trainers. Work together as trainers in the North Central Region to share lessons learned and prepare for the 2019/2020 season. More

details will be available soon on the [NCR FSMA website](#).

Upcoming Meetings

The Listening Sessions/ Webinars happen the third Thursday of every month at 2:00 Central time. Join us for the next meeting on July 18. Topic will be announced soon.

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 June 20 meeting updates on the annual conference, you can find [a recording and minutes](#) on our website.

Educational Add On Updates

Highlighted Resource

The image shows a document titled "Daily Pre-Harvest Checklist". It contains several sections of text and a table. The table has two columns: "Date" and "Status". The text includes instructions for pre-harvest activities such as cleaning bathrooms, checking for animal excreta, and ensuring proper handwashing. The table is currently empty.

Daily Pre-Harvest Checklist: a simple way to ensure you're thinking about produce safety before each harvest day. Use the checklist to record that the bathrooms are clean and you've scouted for animal excreta. Includes space for corrective actions if needed.

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.

Events Sponsored by Other Organizations

Working with Plain Communities

Learn more about how to better work with Amish and Mennonite communities at two conferences in Millersburg, Ohio, on August 1 and August 2.

August 1 is the biennial [Amish Health Conference](#), which is focused on those who serve the Amish in health-related capacities. August 2 is the [Amish and Plain Anabaptist Studies Association \(APASA\) Conference](#).

Job Openings

The University of Missouri seeks a talented full-time [Assistant Professor and State Extension Specialist](#) in Food Processing. The position is offered as a twelve-month, tenure-track at the Assistant Professor rank with a split appointment between extension (70%) and research (30%). Screening will begin immediately. Applications are accepted through July 31, 2019.

The University of Georgia seeks a 9-month, Tenure Track, [Assistant Professor of Food Microbiology](#). The position is 40% Teaching and 60% Research. Position begins January 2020, and applications review will begin July 1, 2019.

FDA Updates

In early June, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released a [draft guidance](#) that, when finalized, will help farmers and educators utilize alternate curricula to meet certain training requirements of the Produce Safety Rule mandated by the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). Comments are open for 120 days.

On June 7, Deputy Commissioner for Food Policy and Response at the FDA, Frank Yiannas, released a [statement observing World Food Safety Day](#).

On June 11, the FDA updated its [Frequently Asked Questions on the Food Safety Modernization Act \(FSMA\)](#) to include additional questions and answers related to the [Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption \(Produce Safety Rule\)](#).

On June 20, the FDA Finalized Guidance to [Help Facilities Determine Their Business Size Under FSMA Preventive Controls Regulations](#).

Safe Use of Animal Based Soil Amendments: FSMA Compliance Tools for Produce Growers



New resources available from Michigan State University Extension for growers and educators

Author: Mariel Borgman, Community Food Systems Educator, Michigan State University Extension

Biologically based soil amendments, such as manure and compost, are used on produce farms to increase soil organic matter, improve fertility and deliver other benefits. There are also significant risks to consider. If not treated and handled properly, these amendments could have microbial risks to fresh produce, resulting in foodborne illness.

The Produce Safety Rule (PSR) is part of the federal Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). This is the first ever mandatory rule regulating produce farms that grow, harvest and sell fresh produce. As part of the PSR, the use of biological soil amendments of animal origin on produce farms are now regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). In 2018, Michigan State University Extension received a grant from The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) to fund workshops designed to assist in the education of farmers regarding the use of biological soil amendments of animal origin (BSAAO) such as raw manure, compost, emulsions, and meals on or around produce covered under the PSR.

Five “Safe Use of Animal Based Soil Amendments” workshops were held in 2018. The program engaged produce growers of many different natures, with farms ranging in size from four city lots to 250 acres. The program was particularly attractive to beginning farmers, with the majority of the participants reporting 5 years or less of farming experience. The materials from these workshops, including presentations, templates and videos have recently been published to the MSU Extension Agrifood Safety website. Growers and educators can access and download these materials for free at https://www.canr.msu.edu/agrifood_safety/produce-safety-education/soil-amendments.

Editor Note: Do you have a great set of materials or resources to share? Help promote your materials across the region in our next newsletter by contacting us at NCRFSMA@iastate.edu.

Upcoming PSA Courses

Kansas: July 11; Aug. 2 and 26; Sept. 6; Oct. 3; Nov. 8 and 15

Missouri: Nov. 13

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

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

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Upcoming FSPCA Courses

Illinois: PC Human Food: July 15 and 17; Aug. 6, 12, and 27; Sept. 16 and 18; Oct. 1 and 21; Nov. 4 and 5; Dec. 9

Iowa: PC Human Food: July 1; Sept. 30; Dec. 2

Kansas: PC Human Food: Oct. 22
FSVP: Aug. 20

Michigan: PC Human Food: July 23; Sept. 18
FSVP: Oct. 10

Minnesota: PC Human Food: Sept. 11 and 23
FSVP: Sept. 26

Missouri: PC Human Food: July 15

Nebraska: PC Human Food: Aug. 14 and Oct. 21
PC Animal Food: Jun. 25

Ohio: PC Human Food: July 30

Wisconsin: PC Human Food: Aug. 7; Nov. 5

Online: Human Food: July 3, 11, 12, 24, and 25; Aug. 9 and 13; Sept. 18, 20, and 24; Oct. 9, 10, 23, 24, and 25; Nov. 7, 20, and 21; Dec. 12
FSVP: July 11 (Spanish), 23
PC Animal Food: July 1; Sept. 3

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

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