

# North Central Region

## Center for FSMA Training, Extension and Technical Assistance

July 2022

## Communication Survey

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The North Central Region Center for FSMA Training, Education, and Technical Assistance (NCR FSMA) began in 2015 to prepare produce growers, harvesters, and processors to comply with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) by determining needs and providing technical assistance. To understand how to best communicate with diverse produce industry stakeholders (i.e. growers, educators, processors) within the 12 Midwest states, the NCR FSMA is [conducting this survey](#). The survey is voluntary and will take approximately 5 minutes to complete. **Those who complete the survey will have an opportunity to enter a drawing to win one of four \$25 gift cards.** The survey is anonymous. Names and contact information collected for the drawing will be kept separate from the data collected on the survey. If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact NCR FSMA evaluator Arlene Enderton by phone at 641.425.4948 or email at [arlene@iastate.edu](mailto:arlene@iastate.edu).

## PSA Knowledge Assessments

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We evaluate Produce Safety Alliance pre- and post- knowledge assessments from July 1 through June 30. If you have additional knowledge assessments to submit for this year, please send them to Ellen or Arlene ASAP.

We have decided not to continue this evaluation next year, so **for any trainings after July 1, 2022, you do not need to send your knowledge assessments to the NCR FSMA Center.** If you would like to continue using the Qualtrics forms for your remote trainings, we can still set those up.

## EPA/FDA Discussion on Hydrogen Peroxide and other Sanitizers

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Staff from the EPA and FDA are going to hold a meeting with the North Central Region, on Friday, August 5, at 10:00 am Central time. Everyone is welcome to join the call to discuss hydrogen peroxide and other sanitizer use. The government staff would like to know your questions on the topic. **Please email your questions to Ellen, so they can be compiled and submitted before July 21.** Please RSVP via [email to Ellen](#), if you'd like to join the call.

## Annual Conference Planning



Would you like to help plan the next NCR FSMA annual conference? **Our plan is to hold the 2023 conference *in-person*, in Wisconsin.** Please [let us know](#) if you'd be interested in serving on the planning team.

## Environmental Monitoring Short Course

Due to demand, we are offering the Environmental Monitoring Short Course again in August. The environment in which fresh produce is processed can affect the food safety of the end product. [Environmental monitoring](#) is a process used in facilities that assess how effectively the plant is being cleaned. Come for two, ½-day virtual sessions to learn about how to implement and interpret a monitoring program. This course is designed for educators and inspectors. **The course will be held on Zoom, August 23 and 25, from 12:00-4:00 Central time.** [Registration is free](#) and includes all course resources.

## Indiana Water Workshop

[The Indiana Water workshop](#) was cancelled due to low registration numbers. **We hope to offer this program later.**

## Events from our Partners

### USDA GAP AUDIT 101: TOOLS FOR SMALL & MEDIUM-SCALE GROWERS

Are you a small or medium-scale grower interested in learning more about the food safety requirements of the GAP audit process to grow your operation?

Join us for a free virtual workshop to learn more about the basic requirements of this verification program and check out some tools that can help you implement a program of good produce safety practices that is compliant with the USDA GAP audit on your farm.

- FREE VIRTUAL HALF-DAY SESSIONS IN ENGLISH & SPANISH
- HOW AN GAP IT IS STRUCTURED
- HOW GAP AFFECTS YOUR BUSINESS
- HOW TO GET YOUR GAP AUDIT REQUIRED
- FREE MEALS

For more information contact:  
Alicia Rodriguez  
a.rod@ncrfsma.org



Join National Farmers Union and Food Safety CTS for a **USDA GAP Audit 101: Tools for Growers** virtual workshop, discussing the basic requirements of this verification program and sharing tools and best practices for small and medium-scale growers. [In English](#) (Tuesday July 12) and [Spanish](#) (Tuesday July 19) from 12:30-5 PM EST—**FREE!** Registration is required.

## 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](#).** Please contact us if you have an idea that might utilize these funds.

## USDA Funding

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USDA Announces [Framework for Shoring Up the Food Supply Chain and Transforming the Food System to Be Fairer, More Competitive, More Resilient](#). These efforts to create more and better markets will benefit both producers and American consumers through fairer prices, as well as address longstanding issues intensified by pandemic.

In early June, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced details of a framework to transform the food system to benefit consumers, producers and rural communities by providing more options, increasing access, and creating new, more, and better markets for small and mid-size producers. The announcement builds on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and supply chain disruptions caused by Russia's war in Ukraine. This announcement also provides additional details on the June 2021 announcement to strengthen critical supply chains and address longstanding structural challenges that were revealed and intensified by the pandemic.

**The funding includes:**

**[\\$200 million for Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops Program](#) for specialty crop operations that incur eligible on-farm food safety program expenses.** These operations incur significant costs to comply with regulatory requirements and market-driven food safety certification requirements each year and getting these certifications opens new market opportunities for the farmers. The ongoing economic challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic have made meeting those requirements even more financially challenging and more important to have access to additional markets.

## AFRI Funding

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NIFA is excited to share with you the funding opportunity announcement for a new crosscutting AFRI program area priority. Note applications will be accepted on a rolling submission basis, and as of June 6, 2022, NIFA has not assigned a deadline for A1712.

In FY 2022, NIFA requests applications for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) [Rapid Response to Extreme Weather Events Across Food and Agricultural Systems](#) (A1712) program area priority. **A1712 is designed to rapidly identify and implement strategies to protect the nation's food and agricultural supply chains and the people who support them during and after hazardous events.** Events may include droughts, heat waves, wildfires, tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, tropical storms, and blizzards. These events often disrupt agricultural, forestry and rangeland production systems, and innovative Extension and applied research efforts are needed to alleviate the impact of weather-related disasters. Proposed projects must provide solutions that can be rapidly adopted by end-users. Projects are also expected to include an evaluation plan to measure solutions. Priority will go to (i) applicants that integrate youth and adult volunteer development and (ii) applicants that support or enhance existing educational materials that address disasters and naturally occurring hazards without duplicating existing efforts.

## Upcoming NCR FSMA Meetings

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The **Listening Sessions/ Webinars** happen on the third Thursday of every month at 2:00, Central time. Kristin Esch from the FDA and her colleague from the EPA will be leading a discussion on biosolids on July 21.

**Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device:**

[Join the meeting.](#)

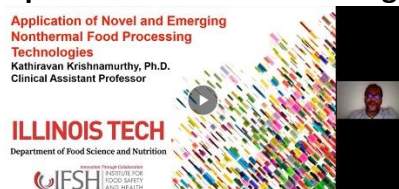
Or, go to <https://iastate.zoom.us/join> and enter meeting ID: 845 702 039

**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:**



On June 16, Kathiravan Krishnamurthy (from Illinois Tech) presented on Novel Processing Techniques. You can [listen/watch a recording](#) in the Box folder.

The **meeting for state inspectors/regulators** will meet at their regular time, the first Friday of the month (July 1), at 9:00 am Central time.

The **meeting for data/inventory** will not happen in July. The next meeting will be Friday, August 19, at 9:00 am Central time.

The **meeting for program managers** will happen Tuesday, July 12, at 10:00 am Central time. If you oversee your state's CAP grant, please plan to join to discuss FDA reporting and other projects.

Please [contact us](#), if you need call information for any of these meetings.

## Upcoming PSA Courses

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Ohio: July 14

Online course: begins once per month (The first course people can register for begins Nov. 2, so if you know growers who are interested, encourage them to sign up far in advance.)

Train-the-Trainer in Olathe, Kansas: July 12 & 13

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: July 11, 12, and 20; Aug. 8, 9, 24, and 29; Sept. 12, 13, and 28; Oct. 3 and 24; Nov. 14, 16, 20, and 30; Dec. 5 PC Animal Food: Sept. 20 FSVP: July 19 and 28; Aug. 16; Sept. 1, 20, and 21
Kansas:	PC Animal Food: Aug. 23
Michigan:	PC Human Food: Sept. 20; Oct. 18
Minnesota:	PC Human Food: Sept. 19
Missouri:	PC Human Food: July 14
Nebraska:	PC Human Food: Nov. 7 PC Animal Food: Oct. 17
Ohio:	PC Human Food: Aug. 8 and 17
Wisconsin:	PC Human Food: Aug. 16; Sept. 13 and 20; Nov. 8; Dec. 13
Online:	PC Human Food: July 1, 4, 5, 8, 12, 13, 18, 19, 22, and 29; Aug. 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 15, 17, 22, 23, 26, 29, and 31; Sept. 6, 7, 9, 12, 14, 19, 23, 26, and 28; Oct. 5, 10, 11, 17, 18, and 26; Nov. 15, 16, 19, 23, and 28; Dec. 10, 12, 13, and 19 PC Human Food (Spanish): July 4, 11, and 18 PC Human Food (Chinese): July 4, 11, and 18  PC Animal Food: July 7, 11, 20, and 28; Aug. 3, 8, 10, 15, 23, 26, 30, and 31; Sept. 5, 6, 9, 19, 21, and 28; Oct. 3, 21, and 25; Nov. 7, 12, and 30; Dec. 3, 5, 12, and 20 FSVP: July 4, 6, 11, 12, 18, 19, 20, 21, 25, 26, 27, and 29; Aug. 11, 12, and 16; Sept. 13, 14, 20, 21, 22, and 27; Oct. 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 24

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

**2018-2022\* Funding**

Anirudh R. Naig

\*No Cost Extension

**2018-2024 Funding**

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**2021-2024 Funding**

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