



North Central Region

Center for FSMA Training, Extension
and Technical Assistance

July 2023

FSOP Project Directors' Meeting



The Food Safety Outreach Program Project Directors' Meeting was held May 31-June 1, in Tampa, FL. The recording is available to watch.

The abstracts of each project have been shared in the [program book](#). Take a minute to look for projects that cover similar topics/work with similar populations to your works. There might be opportunities for collaboration. Hint: Use your browser's FIND function within the PDF to locate specific authors, abstracts, or key words. (Abstract Compilation starts on page 17.)

You can also find the report of the breakout sessions of the past two years. Attendees brainstormed success stories from FSOP projects and what could be accomplished with continued funding.

Upcoming NCR FSMA Events

Byron Chaves and Kathir Krishnamurthy will be offering a “Food Safety Validations – How to Do a Microbial Challenge Study” webinar, on July 13, from 1:00-2:30 Central time. This webinar will present the fundamentals of microbial challenge studies to ensure the microbiological safety and stability of foods. Topics include microbial target, experimental design, choice of microbial surrogates, and data interpretation. [Sign up for the webinar.](#)



The [Fall Professional Development event](#) will be October 3-4, in Jefferson City, MO. Everyone who works with the Produce Safety Rule (educators and regulators) is invited! Join the group for 1.5 days of hands-on activities and discussions to prepare for the winter training session. Some of the sessions will be recorded and shared later, if you can't attend in-person.

Registration will open soon.

New Evaluation Report



With the permission of the lead trainer, the Produce Safety Alliance shared the results of the course evaluations with the NCR FSMA. Arlene Enderton put together 14 takeaways from that data. Read the [regional report](#) or contact your state lead for your local report.

Job Opening

Iowa State University is inviting applications and encouraging nominations for a 12-month, full-time, tenure-track [faculty position in food safety](#). The position is 55% research, 40% Extension, and 5% service. The review of applicants will begin on August 1, 2023, and applications must be received before then for guaranteed consideration.

If you have any questions, please contact the search committee chair, Shannon M. Coleman, Ph.D., at scoleman@iastate.edu or 515-294-9011.

CDC Updates

A [new report](#) on preliminary 2022 data from the Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network (FoodNet) finds that reported enteric (intestinal) infections in the United States generally returned to or exceeded levels observed in 2016–2018, before the COVID-19 pandemic. Progress in reducing enteric infection incidence was not observed during 2022, as influences of the COVID-19 pandemic subsided.

The CDC recently released a report about [Foodborne Illness Outbreaks at Retail Food Establishments](#). It shares that “Although a majority of managers reported their establishment had an ill worker policy, often these policies were missing components intended to reduce foodborne illness risk. Contamination of food by ill or infectious food workers is an important cause of outbreaks; therefore, the content and enforcement of existing policies might need to be re-examined and refined.”

FDA Updates

In June, FDA released two [new fact sheets](#) that are farm-specific related to the Traceability Rule. While there is no new information, these fact sheets provide the farm-specific information in one location in an easy to read format with links to the rule.

FDA also published a new webpage with [FAQ’s about the Traceability Rule](#).

Kristin Esch and other FDA staff will hold the regularly-scheduled quarterly meeting with NCR stakeholders on Thursday, July 27, at 10:00am Central time. Please contact Kristin for the call information or to add question to the agenda.

From the June 28 [update from FDA Commissioner Robert M. Califf](#), M.D. “Earlier this year the FDA announced steps to modernize and streamline our food program, including field operations, to address these mounting challenges. Listening closely to feedback provided by employees and stakeholders, our thinking has significantly broadened. We know that in front of us is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to unify our field work with the priorities of program offices and Centers. This is why I’m proposing a number of additional changes to ORA, including moving several of the office’s laboratories and merging its current compliance functions into those of the new HFP and other agency product Centers. These proposed changes are designed to help ensure the most strategic use of resources to meet the demands of our increasingly complex public health mission.”

AFDO Updates

In June, the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) introduced a [Food Safety Regulatory Professional Credentialing program](#).

The online courses will allow aspiring and current regulators earn credentials, including Food Safety Regulator, Food Foundations Regulator, Manufactured Foods Regulator, and Retail Foods Regulator.

These AFDO certification opportunities are provided for Local, State, Tribal, Territorial, and Federal Regulatory personnel.

Announcements from our partners

The North Central Food Safety Extension Network (NCFSEN) consumer food safety sub-group has put together several sessions of [“Summer School for Consumer Food Safety Education”](#). A huge shout out to Dr. Betty Feng and her students Suyapa Rojas Oropel and Elma Kontor-Manu for all their work on this! The times and topics are as follows:

- Safety of fermented products (July 12 @ 1-2pm EDT) and
- Flour food safety (July 26 @ 1-2pm EDT)

Please keep in mind that the intended audience for this webinar series is Extension personnel, educators, Extension volunteers, and related personnel for their professional development so that they in turn can share the information with consumers.

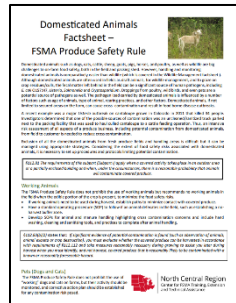
A PSA Advanced Trainer Workshop has been scheduled for October 17, 18, and 19, 2023 in Geneva, NY. Please [sign up for updates](#), if you’d like more information about the event.

The Produce Safety Alliance is looking for Spanish-speaking individuals interested in participating in their first Spanish Language Online PSA Grower Training. If you or a grower you work with are interested in participating in the pilot course, please reach out to [Yulie Meneses](#).

The Produce Safety Alliance has a [new fact sheet](#) that covers the differences between an Agricultural Water System Inspection (§ 112.42) and the *proposed* Agricultural Water Assessment (AgWA) from the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule (PSR). Based on the current FSMA PSR requirements for agricultural water as well as proposed revisions to Subpart E published in 2021, this resource highlights differences in compliance dates, required frequency, evaluation parameters, and documentation requirements. This fact sheet is currently available in English and is being translated into Spanish.



Highlighted NCR FSMA Resource



Domesticated Animals Factsheet- Domesticated animals such as dogs, cats, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses, and poultry, are big challenges to on-farm food safety, both in the field and packing shed. Exclusion of all the domesticated animals from fresh produce fields and handling areas is difficult but it can be managed using appropriate strategies. Considering the extent of food safety risks associated with domesticated animals, it is necessary to set up procedures and protocols limiting potential contamination.

New Resources on the Produce Safety Clearinghouse

A Guide to Food Safety Certification for Food Hubs and Food Facilities- this resource is available in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#). This guide is written for food hubs and other food facilities seeking information about how to navigate food safety questions from buyers and pursue a third-party food safety audit.

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](#). One of each of these stipends is available to each state, per year of our grant.

NCR FSMA Meetings



The **Listening Sessions/ Webinars** happen on the third Thursday of every month at 2:00, Central time. The next meeting is on Thursday, July 20. The presentation will be focused on controlled environment agriculture.

Update from last month's meeting: Kathir Krishnamurthy presented on Fermentation in June. [Find the recording](#) in the Box folder.

The meeting for **state inspectors/regulators** will be Friday, July 7, at 9am, Central time.

The meeting for **data/inventory/outreach staff** will be on Friday, July 21, at 9am, Central time.

The meeting for **program managers** will be Tuesday, July 11, at 10am, Central time.

Please contact us if you need call information for any of these meetings.

PSA Courses

Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative: July 8, in Kansas, for tribal producers

The Online delivery course is offered monthly.

Check out the [calendar](#) of PSA courses offered nationally.

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

Upcoming FSPCA Courses

Illinois: PC Human Food: July 26; Aug. 16; Sept. 14
 PC Animal Food: July 11
 FSVP: July 13; Sept. 19; Oct. 26

Kansas: PC Animal Food: Aug. 22

Michigan: PC Human Food: Sept. 19
 FSVP: Sept. 12

Ohio: PC Human Food: July 26

Wisconsin: PC Human Food: Aug. 15

Online: PC Human Food: July 3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 17, 20, 24, 25, 26, and 31;
 Aug. 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 28, 29, and 30;
 Sept. 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 19, 20, 22, 25, 26, 27, and 28;
 Oct. 2, 3, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25, and 30
 PC Human Food (Spanish): July 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31
 PC Human Food (Chinese): July 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31; Aug. 7, 14, 21, and 28;
 Sept. 4, 11, 18, and 25; Oct. 2

PC Animal Food: July 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 19, and 24; Aug. 1, 2, 9, 22, and 23;
Sept. 5, 7, 13, 20, 27, and 29; Oct. 2, 4, 11, 24, 25, and 30

FSVP: July 3, 5, 7, 10, 13, 14, 17, 18, 24, 25, and 31;
Aug. 1, 7, 11, 15, 16, 22, 24, 25, and 31; Sept. 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, 19, 25, 28, and 29;
Oct. 2, 10, 16, 17, 19

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

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Thank you for your continued involvement with the NCR FSMA!

Sincerely,
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Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is an equal opportunity provider.
For the full non-discrimination statement or accommodation inquiries, go to
www.extension.iastate.edu/diversity/ext.

This work is supported by the Food Safety Outreach Program [grant no. 2021-70020-35732] from the
USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

If you'd like to be [removed from the NCR FSMA mailing list](#), please let us know.