

# North Central Region

Center for FSMA Training, Extension  
and Technical Assistance

July 2020

## Success Stories

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The NCR FSMA released its 13<sup>th</sup> success story this month. Read about the transition to the [remote PSA courses](#) and other successes on the website. Have a story about something great happening in your state? We can write it up and share with the region.

## Federal Updates

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The CDC published [COVID-19 guidance for agricultural workers and employers](#) on June 2. "There is no evidence that livestock, crops, or products that may be handled by workers involved in production agriculture are sources of COVID-19 infection. However, close contact with coworkers may contribute to spreading the virus among workers."

A companion piece to the earlier document, the [Agricultural Employer Checklist for Creating a COVID-19 Assessment and Control Plan](#) was released in mid-June.

## Reviewers Needed

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Reviewers are needed for add on materials through the NCR. Compensation is provided. If you would be willing to be part of the review process, [please fill out this survey](#) and let us know your areas of expertise.

You will be contacted when an add on is submitted in your area.

## Annual Conference Evaluation Report

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Read the [report of the annual conference evaluation](#). Thirty-four people completed the evaluation after the April 2 conference.

## Meetings/Reviews Sponsored by Other Groups

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### **2020 Center for Produce Safety Research Symposium**

Continuing through July 21

The event will now be taking place on-line in a series of five weekly webinars. The Symposium series is complimentary, but registration is required.

### **Webinars for Growers**

Virtual training will be offered from K State and the University of Missouri.

- 1) Cleaning and sanitizing for produce growers – FREE- July 9, 3-4:30PM OR July 14, 6:30-8PM
- 2) Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Alliance training- \$20- July 15 from 1-5PM AND July 22 from 1-5PM

### **Food Safety Outreach Projects Virtual Sharing Conference**

**August 18 - 19 (12:00-4:00 pm Central time each day)**

This two half-day virtual meeting is a collaboration between the Lead Regional Coordination Center, four regional centers, and USDA NIFA to highlight Food Safety Outreach Programs throughout the country. This meeting is required for FSOP recipients. Everyone is welcome to register and attend. [Register for the conference here.](#)

### **National Young Farmers Coalition Focus Groups**

The National Young Farmers Coalition is looking for produce farmers to help lead and participate in [online food safety focus groups](#) this summer. Each hour-long virtual focus group will feature a farmer co-facilitator discussing their operation and systems and 8 - 10 farmers asking the lead farmer questions and sharing their own experience with the topic. The farmer co-facilitator and participants will be paid for their time.

### **Looking for Testers**

The University of Minnesota is looking for about 10 farmers to test a food safety recordkeeping app meant for small- or medium-sized farms. The app is web-based, but can be accessed via cellphones. It allows tracking of employee training, crop plantings and harvests, manure and compost applied to fields, water sources, tools, vehicles, pests, and equipment. Testers will be paid \$35 an hour for their time, and must fill out a W-9 form in order to be paid. All data will be erased after farmers' testing input is provided. Contact [Cindy Tong](#) if you are interested.

## Job Openings

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The Division of Produce Safety (Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition) will soon be hiring two [Produce Safety Network positions](#). The first is a CFSAN Produce Safety Network position focused on produce safety efforts in Latin America, and the second position will be a CFSAN Produce Safety Network position focused on produce safety efforts in California.

## Produce Safety Alliance Temporary Policy

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The PSA is [temporarily allowing remote delivery](#) of PSA Grower Training Courses during the COVID-19 pandemic. This policy will be in effect until *September 30, 2020*, with the potential for extending this date pending updates on the pandemic. PSA will rigorously review course evaluations under this temporary policy. PSA reserves the right to revise or rescind the remote delivery option for individual trainers or teams should evaluations indicate this is in the best interest of training participants.

## Funding Available

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If you're an NCR partner (someone who attends listening sessions, engages with the Center, etc.) and would like to take an online professional development course (such as the online PSA course), please let [Ellen](#) know. We have funding available to help cover this cost. These funds are not available to growers unless they have been involved in the NCR FSMA.

## Reporting Book

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Thanks for sending in your reports for the booklet! We are just finishing the booklet, and it will be released soon to celebrate all the good work you've accomplished.

## Alternate Curriculum

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Is your alternate curriculum ready to be reviewed? Are you in the beginning stages of developing a new curriculum? The NCR FSMA, in conjunction with the Lead Regional Center, the FDA, the USDA, and other partners, has developed a review process. The review process is free for any group or organization who is developing an alternate curriculum. It is designed to be a clear process to help developers meet the equivalency standards.

Organizations can start the first stage when they have descriptions of the proposed learning objectives and learning activities. Find out more on the [Alternate Curriculum](#) page on the NCR FSMA website. Contact [Angela](#) with questions.

## Upcoming NCR FSMA Meetings

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The **meeting for inspectors/state regulators** happens the first Friday of the month 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 next meeting is scheduled for **Friday, July 10**, due to the holiday weekend.

The **meeting about farm inventories** for state government employees is happening on **Friday, July 17**, at 9:00 am. If you are charged with developing or maintaining the farm inventory in your state, please plan to join the call. Contact [Ellen](#) for call information.



The **Listening Sessions/ Webinars** happen the third Thursday of every month at 2:00 Central time. Join us for the next meeting on July 16. Billy Mitchell will give an update on the Food Safety Focus Groups that the National Farmers Union and the National Young Farmers Coalition have been hosting and everyone will have a chance to share ideas and ask questions.

### **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

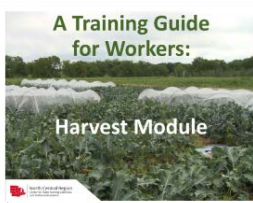
Meeting ID: 845 702 039

### **Update from the last meeting:**

If you missed the June 18 call where we discussed [new resources and adapting work during a pandemic](#), you can catch up on our website.

## Educational Add On Updates

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### Resource from the NCR FSMA

The Powerpoint presentations for the [On-Farm Training Guide for Employees and Volunteers](#) have been finalized! These flip-charts 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.

Have a new resource you created? Let us know and we'll highlight in the next newsletter and on social media.



### Resource being edited by the Iowa State University communications department (to be released soon!)

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.

### Resources from other organizations

Chris Callahan and Andy Chamberlin from the University of Vermont developed two new designs for handwashing stations, built the prototypes, and tested them out at farmers' markets recently. They also compiled a guide to [handwashing stations](#) and included the build sheets for both versions.

## COVID-19 Resources

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AFDO recently developed a resource on [Best Practices for Conducting Produce Farm Inspections](#) During the COVID-19 pandemic. It provides an insightful list of SOPs and considerations that may be helpful as your group is developing practices to return to activities like OFRRs.

We've been compiling this and other [COVID-19 resources](#) on our website.

## Upcoming PSA Courses

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Kansas and Missouri: Remote course on July 15 and 22

Ohio: In person course on August 12

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: July 13, 14, 22, and 29; Aug. 10 and 26; Sept. 14, 23, 28; Oct. 5, 12, 20, and 28; Nov. 16 and 30

PC Animal Food: Oct. 19

FSVP: July 2, 9, 14; Aug. 11 and 31; Oct. 8

Iowa: PC Human Food: July 10; Sept. 14

Michigan: PC Animal Food: July 28 and 30

FSVP: July 8

Minnesota: PC Human Food: Oct. 21

Wisconsin: PC Human Food: Aug. 5, 18; Oct. 6; Nov. 10

Online: Human Food: July 1, 6, 9, 17, 20, 21, 22, 27, and 29; Aug. 5, 18, 19, 24, 26, and 27; Sept. 2, 13, and 26; Oct. 13 and 26; Nov. 4

PC Animal Food: July 6 and 7; Aug. 3 and 11; Sept. 8; Oct. 5; Nov. 2

FSVP: July 7 and 21; Aug. 18; Sept. 22; Oct. 13; Nov. 10

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

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