

North Central Region

Center for FSMA Training, Extension and Technical Assistance

June 2020

PSA Grower Training One-Year Follow-Up Survey



The impact of Produce Safety Alliance Grower Trainings in eight North Central Region states was evaluated in January 2020. Between October 2018 and June 2019, 926 participants attended a training in one of those states. They were invited to participate in the survey.

Read the [regional results](#).

Read the [two-page summary](#).

FDA and USDA Updates

The [Spanish translation of the Produce Safety Rule](#) is now available on the FDA website.

The FDA released an update on [surveillance inspections during COVID-19](#).

What to Do if You Have [COVID-19 Confirmed Positive or Exposed Workers](#) in Your Food Production, Storage, or Distribution Operations Regulated by FDA is available in English and [Spanish](#), and [Chinese](#).

In mid-May, Mindy Brashears, and Frank Yiannas announced what the USDA and FDA are doing to help [prevent interruptions at FDA-regulated food facilities](#), including fruit and vegetable processing facilities.

Last week, the FDA released its report on the investigation into the fall 2019 outbreaks of illnesses tied to [Romaine Lettuce](#).

In late May, the FDA announced [flexibility in the eligibility criteria for the qualified exemption](#) from the Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption (Produce Safety Rule) (21 CFR Part 112) due to disruptions to the supply chain for the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Meetings Sponsored by Other Groups

PSA Office Hours

Every Thursday in June - 11 am (Central time)

Join Connie Fisk and practice using Zoom for remote PSA Grower Training Courses

[Join here](#) or use Meeting ID: 922 4549 5123 and password: 495192

If this time doesn't work for you or you would like Connie to meet with your training team on this topic, [email her](#).

Food Industry Virtual Office Hours

Tuesday, June 2, 2020 - 11:00 am to 12:00 pm (Central time)

Join the Cornell University Department of Food Science's Extension Team for weekly Q&A and facilitated discussions during [Food Industry Virtual Office Hours](#). Registration is required.

An Introduction to the Produce Safety Rule Coverage & Exemptions

Tuesday, June 23, 2020 – 3pm (Central time)

This [webinar is specifically for farmers](#) who grow, harvest or pack fresh produce. This webinar will discuss how the new Federal produce safety laws may affect your farm, the steps you need to take now, and where to go for more information. [Register online](#).

Sponsored by Kansas State University and University of Missouri

2020 Center for Produce Safety Research Symposium

Beginning June 23

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

SAVE THE DATE: Food Safety Outreach Projects Virtual Sharing Conference

August 18 - 19 (Time TBA)

Hosted by the Southern FSMA Center and NECAFS, this meeting will allow FSOP projects to share their projects and results. More information to come in the next months.

Produce Safety Alliance Temporary Policy



The PSA is [temporarily allowing remote delivery](#) of PSA Grower Training Courses during the COVID-19 pandemic. This policy will be in effect until *July 31, 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.

COVID-19 Resources

We've been compiling all the [COVID-19 resources](#) that people have shared and last updated the list on May 27.

Funding Available



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

Thanks for sending in your reports for the booklet! Our communications department is editing the booklet, and it will be released soon to celebrate all the good work you've accomplished.

Alternate Curriculum

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

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, June 5.

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 June 18. This call will be 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:

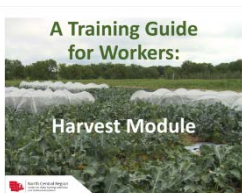
Dial: +1 646 876 9923 or +1 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: 845 702 039

Update from the last meeting:

If you missed the [May 21 call with the National Young Farmers Coalition](#), you can catch up on our website.

Educational Add On Updates



New Resource from the NCR FSMA

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.

[The guides have just been added to our website](#) for everyone to access them. PDF's and Publisher files are available now. Powerpoints will be shared soon.

The NCR FSMA put together guidance for the **cottage food industry** in 2018. Has your state updated its laws since then? If so, please [let us know](#) and we'll update the document.



[Frozen and Dehydrated Produce](#)

[Jams and Jellies](#)

[Fermented Foods](#)

[Pickled Vegetables](#)



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.

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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

Angela M Shaw, Project Director (FDA Center)

Anirudh R. Naig, NCR FSOP Coordinator

Ellen Johnsen, Project Manager

Joe Hannan, Project Director (USDA Center)

Arlene Enderton, Project Evaluator

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