



# North Central Region

Center for FSMA Training, Extension  
and Technical Assistance

## March 2023

### Annual Conference

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The registration deadline for the NCR FSMA annual conference has passed. We are looking forward to seeing so many of you later this month!

The NCR FSMA annual conference will happen March 15-16, in Eau Claire, WI.

A farm tour of [Superior Fresh](#) will happen on the morning of March 15. Space is very limited, so please register quickly if you are interested in attending. If you registered for the conference, you should have received an email that included how to sign up for the farm tour. If not, please let Ellen know.

You can find the [agenda and information about the nearest airport](#) on our website. We will be meeting at the Lismore Hotel, in Eau Claire, WI, where we had planned to hold the April 2020 conference.

We are looking forward to seeing people in-person again and hearing from lots of great speakers! We'll be hearing from FDA and USDA staff; regional leaders; Extension educators who work with under-served audiences; experts on Wisconsin crops; and all of you! We'll have lots of time for sharing and discussion.

### What's New on the Produce Safety Clearinghouse?

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[AFDO Emergency Planning Tool](#)- this resource is to help identify the key contacts within your state or jurisdiction you might need to connect with and talk to about Food Emergency Response Plans (FERP) in advance of working together on a food/feed-related emergency, e.g., a foodborne illness investigation, recall, or natural disaster.

### Highlighted NCR FSMA Resource

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[Scenario Discussion](#)-This scenario was developed for the NCR FSMA 2021 Virtual Conference and is designed for small group discussions on how educators and regulators would react to this farm. It involves a farm that grows tomatoes and also processes them into salsa, so participants discuss both the Produce Safety Rule and the Preventive Controls Rule. A short video about the farm is included in the PowerPoint.

## Job Opening

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### RECRUITMENT

Lincoln University of Missouri, Jefferson City, MO is seeking highly motivated, creative individuals to apply for an [Assistant Professor in Food Science](#). The mission of this program is to enhance the quality of life for diverse, limited-resource citizens of Missouri and the nation as a whole through supportive food research and education. The position has the opportunity contributing to the programs in microbial safety of produce and meats, aquaculture, food and water quality, food processing/ packaging, pathogen detections, FSMA compliance and other food-safety relevant topics.

This is a 12-month, non-tenure track, full benefit-eligible faculty position with 80% research, and 20% extension responsibilities.

## Upcoming Events

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### GOOD MANUFACTURING PRACTICES FOR THE FOOD INDUSTRY

The NCR FSMA will be hosting a [virtual GMP's course](#) on May 24 and 25, 12 to 4 pm Central time. Byron Chaves from the University of Nebraska will be leading the course. The virtual course is free, and registration is required.

This course is designed to review the requirements of 21 CFR 117 Subpart B: Current Good Manufacturing Practices. The regulation outlines basic sanitary conditions for facilities that manufacture, process, pack, or hold foods for human consumption. The adequate implementation of Good Manufacturing Practices and other prerequisite programs ensures the right operational and environmental conditions for the production of safe and wholesome foods.

## Events from our Partners

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On April 13 and 14, 2023, you are invited to the SAFER Controlled Environment Agriculture conference! The Strategizing to Advance Future Extension and Research (SAFER) CEA conference aims to advance the science, knowledge and practice of food safety in the CEA produce industry. CEA industry stakeholders, regulatory partners and food safety research and extension professionals are invited to learn about past and ongoing CEA food safety projects and discuss research and extension priorities for the CEA produce industry. Organizers want the SAFER CEA conference to enhance and encourage future collaborations between academia, industry and regulatory agencies. Registration is open. Find more information on the [conference website](#).

[“Scaling Up Your Small- and Medium- Size Farm”](#) a special webinar series for small- and medium- size farmers and those interested in starting their own farm will be offered by Purdue University. Topics covered include Marketing; Food Safety Plans; Agricultural Soil Managements; and Good Agricultural Practices. These evening webinars will happen in March and April. Registration is required.

The next CONTACT's Produce Safety Webinar Series is "It Must Have Been the Chicken." Attribution of Illness Burdens to Specific Foods, on March 16, at 2:30 Central time. In this webinar, Dr. Robert Scharff will present and discuss recent attribution estimates that match specific food categories with illnesses and pathogens. Focusing on produce, he will then present illness estimates, associated economic burdens, and will discuss implications for food firms and regulators. This webinar is free and will be held via Zoom. [Registration](#) is required.

## Funding Available

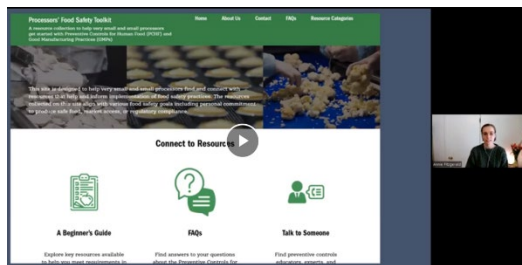
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The NCR FSMA budgeted funds to support professional development, outreach to underserved communities, and resource development/translation. To access these \$500 stipends, [apply on our website](#). One professional development stipend is available to each state, per year of our grant. If you accessed those funds between September 2021 and August 2022, you can apply again. Please contact Ellen if you have ideas that might qualify for these funds.

## NCR FSMA Meetings

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The [Listening Sessions/ Webinars](#) happen on the third Thursday of every month at 2:00, Central time. There will be no March meeting, as the day overlaps with the in-person annual conference.



Update from last month's meeting: At the [February 16 meeting](#), Annie Fitzgerald from NECAFS presented about [The Processors' Food Safety Toolkit](#). This is a resource collection to help very small and small processors get started with Preventive Controls for Human Food (PCHF) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs).

The meeting for [state inspectors/regulators](#) will be Friday, March 3, at 9am, Central time.

The meeting for [data/inventory](#) will not happen this month, as it falls just after the in-person conference. The group will meet next on April 21.

The meeting for [program managers](#) will not meet, as many will be traveling to the annual conference that day. The group will meet on April 11.

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

## PSA Courses

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Iowa and Nebraska (remote): Mar. 7 & 9

Kansas/Missouri (remote): Mar. 1 & 3

Michigan (remote): Mar. 13

Minnesota (remote): Mar. 9

Missouri (in-person): Mar. 24

North Dakota (in-person): Mar. 30

Ohio (in-person): Mar. 7, 28, and 30; Apr. 20

Wisconsin (in-person): Mar. 29

Online course: begins once per month.

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

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

## Upcoming FSPCA Courses

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Illinois: PC Human Food: Mar. 7 and 22; Apr. 4, 18, 19, and 26;  
May 2 and 22; June 12  
PC Human Food (Spanish): May 22  
FSVP: Mar. 13 and 30; Apr. 11; May 16; June 15

Kansas: PC Animal Food: Apr. 11

Michigan: PC Human Food: Mar. 8 and 21; Apr. 10; May 16  
FSVP: Mar. 21

Missouri: PC Human Food: May 9

Nebraska: PC Human Food: May 1

Ohio: PC Human Food: Mar. 23; Apr. 12

Wisconsin: PC Human Food: Apr. 18 and 25; May 16

Online: PC Human Food: Mar. 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 24, 27, 29, and 31;  
April 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, and 28;  
May 1, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 30, and 31;  
June 5, 7, 13, 19, 21, 26, and 28



PC Human Food (Spanish): Mar. 6, 13, 20, and 27; Apr. 3, 10, 17, and 24;  
May 1, 8, 15, and 22  
PC Human Food (Chinese): Mar. 6, 13, 20, and 27; Apr. 3, 10, 17, and 24;  
May 1, 8, 15, and 22

PC Animal Food: Mar. 6, 9, 20, 22, and 29; Apr. 3, 10, 11, 12, 17, 24, and 26;  
May 3, 8, 10, 17, 24, and 29; June 7, 12, 14, and 21  
FSVP: Mar. 6, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 24, 27, 30, and 31;  
Apr. 3, 5, 10, 14, 19, 20, and 28; May 4, 18, 19, 22, 25, and 26;  
June 9, 20, 21, and 23

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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