

# North Central Region

## Center for FSMA Training, Extension and Technical Assistance

May 2020

## NCR FSMA Annual Conference

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The NCR FSMA Annual Conference was held Thursday, April 2, 2020, through Adobe Connect. Ninety-three people attended at least part of the day. Find the [information from the conference](#)- speakers' powerpoints, an update from Theresa Klamon on maple syrup, COVID-19 resources, and the text of Ben Marshall's song- on our website.

Thank you to Theresa Klamon, Juan Silva, Marianne Solomotis, Don Stoeckel and Eko Gardenhire, and all the lightning round presenters for your work preparing for and leading the conference.

Thank you to Shawn Bartholomew and Heidi Busse in Wisconsin for all your hard work to plan the original Eau Claire conference!

Thank you to Don Stoeckel, Phil Tocco, Annalisa Hultberg, Kristin Esch, and Lisa Baker Gilk for all your work planning sessions that we weren't able to include during the virtual conference.

Finally, thank you to everyone who participated in the annual conference and their patience while we pivoted to a virtual conference on short notice. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in person again next year (and hopefully before at other events). All the best to everyone!

## FDA Updates

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- [FDA is seeking public comments](#) on the paperwork and regulatory burdens associated with its regulatory program which "... requires that persons who manufacture, process, pack, hold, receive, distribute, transport, or import food in the United States establish and maintain records identifying the immediate previous sources and immediate subsequent recipients of food ...". The deadline to submit comments is June 8.
- FDA's perspective on [food safety and availability](#) during and beyond COVID-19, an interview with Frank Yiannis, was released April 16.
- **New Funding Opportunity: USDA NIFA AFRI (COVID-19 Rapid Response)**

- **Rapid Response to Novel Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) Impacts Across Food and Agricultural Systems**
- <https://nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/rfa/FY-2020-AFRI-Foundational-and-Applied-Science-RFA-modified-4-16-2020.pdf> (See Updates, Pages 72-75)
- There are four areas of priority: Health and Security of Livestock; Well-being of Farm, Food Service Providers, and Rural Americans; Economic Security; and Food Safety. Applicants should focus on critical and urgent research, extension, or integrated solutions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts on the nation's food and agricultural system. Applications should include strategies and knowledge that can be rapidly implemented to minimize or eliminate COVID-19 impacts on the nation's food and agricultural system. Deadline to submit applications is June 4. NIFA will expedite application evaluation & awards review to ensure rapid project start-up. For more information and to apply, view the [AFRI funding opportunity](#).

## Special Produce Industry Virtual Office Hours

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Wednesday, April 29, 2020 | 11:30 am to 12:30 pm Central time

Joined by colleagues from United Fresh, University of Delaware, Rutgers University, and the University of Florida, this session will be led by Cornell University produce safety professionals including members of the Produce Safety Alliance, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and the Department of Food Science. Produce Industry Virtual Office Hours are free and open to anyone in the food industry from farm to fork. Registration for this event is required.

The intent is to discuss issues relevant to the produce industry, and how the produce industry manages health and business risks in the context of COVID-19.

[Please register here.](#)

## COVID-19 Resources

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We've been compiling all the [COVID-19 resources](#) that people have shared.

## 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 *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. This July date is a recent update.

## 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've been involved in the NCR FSMA.

## Reporting Book

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Thanks for sending in your reports for the booklet! We are compiling them and will release the book soon to celebrate all the good work you've accomplished.

## Job Opening

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The Produce Safety Alliance is hiring a [Spanish Language Extension Associate](#)- required to have dual English and Spanish proficiency. Must be willing to travel regionally, nationally, and internationally a significant amount of time (~30%), including non-traditional and weekend work hours. This position will have the option to establish a work flexplace agreement depending on home location. The position will be advertised until May 6.

## 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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New Meeting about Farm Inventories for state government employees is happening on Friday, May 8 at 9:00 am. If you are charged with developing or maintaining the farm inventory in your state, please plan to join the call. Wisconsin, Indiana, and Missouri have volunteered to share their processes during the first meeting. 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 May 21. Staff from the National Young Farmers Coalition will be speaking about their new food safety guide.

**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 April 16 discussion on COVID-19 resources, you can [catch up on our website](#).

The online 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 May 1.

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

Please click this URL to start or join. <https://iastate.zoom.us/j/628849382>

Or, go to <https://iastate.zoom.us/join> and enter meeting ID: 628 849 382

**Join from dial-in phone line:**

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

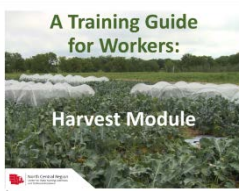
Meeting ID: 628 849 382

## Educational Add On Updates



### Highlighted Resource

[Ensuring Food Safety in the Vineyard: Wine Grapes](#) document includes PSR citations and training checklists. It briefly covers Juice, Must, and Nectar.



### **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.

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

Chris Callahan, from the University of Vermont, put together advice on [drains and hygienic design](#) for produce wash/pack areas.

### **Resource being edited by the subgroups**

- 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](mailto:ncrfsma@iastate.edu).

Sincerely,

NCR FSMA Training Center Team

Angela M Shaw, Project Director (FDA Center)

Anirudh R. Naig, NCR FSOP Coordinator

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