

# North Central Region

Center for FSMA Training, Extension  
and Technical Assistance

May 2021

## Mini-grants

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Congratulations to everyone who was awarded a mini-grant! There is still a small amount of funding available, so send in an application if you have a project that can be completed by July. We were able to fund several projects to translate existing videos and webinars, one to create a needs assessment, and two projects that will create new resources.

The grants ranged from \$2500-\$6000. You can hear all about the projects at the listening sessions this summer.

## Federal Updates

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On April 6, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration took two important steps to advance the safety of leafy greens. The first is the release of a report on the investigation into the Fall 2020 outbreak of E. coli O157:H7 illnesses linked to the consumption of leafy greens. In addition, the FDA also released an updated version of the Leafy Green Shiga-toxin producing E. coli (STEC) Action Plan, reaffirming the need for collaborative action to improve the safety of leafy greens, and building on the work accomplished in 2020.

## Manuscript Invitations

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The *Journal of Amish & Plain Anabaptist Studies (JAPAS)* is interested in receiving submissions for a special issue focusing on agriculture and the environment, to be published autumn 2021. Areas of interest include: agricultural practice, extension/outreach projects, agricultural safety and health, environmental impacts and conservation, nature studies, history of agriculture, agricultural economics, views of science, and other related topics.

Dr. Sanja Ilic, from the Ohio State University is the new co-editor for a special issue of *Foods*. If you and your team are conducting behavioral research on food safety, you are invited to submit a manuscript to the special issue "Food Safety and Behavior Change" within the Food Quality and Safety section. The deadline for manuscript submissions is December 20, 2021.

## Success Story Honorariums

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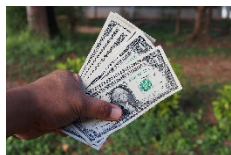
Have you worked with a grower who made a change for improved safety? Have you provided technical assistance to a processor that made a positive impact on the business? Have you suggested an NCR resource to someone for a specific problem? If so, we'd like to hear about it! Please write a success story, using the template from Arlene and Ellen. The NCR will reimburse you for the time you spend working on the story. (If you don't have time to write the story yourself, please send along ideas and the NCR staff can write the story.)

## Funding Available

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Funds are available to help NCR partners (anyone who participates in NCR activities) attend virtual trainings/events. Under most circumstances, the NCR will reimburse you after the event for the registration fee.

The mentoring program and the trainer sharing program also have funding available.



The NCR will cover the cost of PSA manuals and AFDO certificates for collaborative remote trainings. Money is available until it has all been requested. Not every state will be using the money designated for their growers, so please contact Ellen if you'd like to submit additional receipts.

Purdue University announced a [Request for Applications](#) for the [Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Safety](#). They are funding research partnerships to reduce the burden of foodborne illness in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean. Projects must be led by a researcher at a Minority Serving Institution (MSI), but project teams may include non-MSIs and other organizations as collaborators.

## Partner Events

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Registration is open for a [Bridging the GAPs](#): Approaches for Treating Pre-harvest Agricultural Water On-Farm course. This is an FSOP project from the Southern Center members. This course will take place May 18-19, from 12:00-4:00 pm, Central time, on Zoom. Registration is \$15.

Michigan State University researchers are conducting [a study to assess buyer requirements for produce safety standards](#) in the United States. This survey research is seeking responses from growers, buyers, and service providers to the fresh produce industry. The focus of this research is to understand the current status of buyers' acceptance and growers' adoption of USDA GAP (Good Agricultural Practices), other Harmonized GAP, and group produce audits. The survey is open until May 15, 2021.

## Internship Available

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The United Fresh Produce Association is looking for an undergraduate or graduate student in Food Science or a related field with an interest in food safety for a [virtual summer internship](#).

## Upcoming NCR FSMA Meetings

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The **Listening Sessions/ Webinars** happen the third Thursday of every month at 2:00 Central time. We'll be discussing yearly supervisor training on May 20.

### 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:

Byron Chaves, Cindy Borgwordt, and Janssen Hang shared about their FSOP awards at our last meeting. Their projects focus on listeria sampling, a culinary incubator project, and work with Hmong farmers. [Watch the recording or listen to the audio](#) in our shared Box account. If you don't have access to the Box account, please let us know.

The **meeting for inspectors/state regulators** happens the first Friday of most months 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 group will meet next on **Friday, May 7**. Contact [Ellen](#) for call information.

State employees responsible for **farm inventories** have scheduled their next call for **Friday, June 18**, at 9:00 am Central time. Contact [Ellen](#) for call information.

## Upcoming PSA Courses

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Online course: begins every three 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: May 3, 4, 18, 19, and 24; June 7, 8, 16, and 22; July 13, 19, and 21; Aug. 9  
FSVP: May 6 and 12; June 16; July 15 and 27
- Iowa: PC Human Food: June 7; Aug. 30  
PC Animal Food: May 25
- Kansas: PC Animal Food: June 22
- Michigan: FSVP: May 4
- Nebraska: PC Human Food: May 10  
PC Animal Food: May 24
- Ohio: PC Human Food: June 24
- Wisconsin: PC Human Food: May 18; June 15; Aug. 10  
FSVP: Aug. 24
- Online: PC Human Food: May 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14, 17, 19, 21, 24, 25, and 26;  
June 4, 8, 9, 11, 14, 16, 21, 22, 23, and 28; July 14, 16, 20, 21, and 28;  
Aug. 4, 18, 20, 24, and 25  
PC Animal Food: May 3, 10, 11, and 28; June 1, 2, 7, 25, and 28;  
July 6, 7, and 16; Aug. 2, 3, and 16  
FSVP: May 5, 6, 11, 12, 18, 24, and 26; June 4, 15, and 23; July 8, 14, 22, and 27;  
Aug. 5, 11, and 20

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

Angela M Shaw, Project Director (FDA Center)

Joe Hannan, Project Director (USDA Center)

Anirudh R. Naig, NCR FSOP Coordinator

Arlene Enderton, Project Evaluator

Ellen Johnsen, Project Manager

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