



North Central Region

Center for FSMA Training, Extension
and Technical Assistance

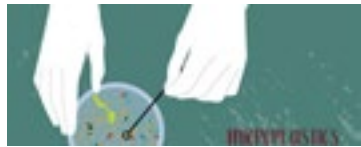
May 2026

NCR FSMA Annual Conference

Registration is still open for the virtual option of the annual conference, but it closes on May 1. Be sure to register by Friday, if you'd like to attend online.

Registration has closed for the in-person option.

The NCR FSMA [Annual Conference](#) will be held May 5-6, in Des Moines, Iowa, with a virtual option.



The Food Safety News recently featured [Pratik Banerjee's research](#) on microplastics and pathogens, and he'll be speaking about that at our annual conference.

Environmental Monitoring Course

Registration has also closed for the Environmental Monitoring course, to be held on May 7. Another course is being planned in Olathe, KS, so please let us know if you're interested.

FDA Meeting on the Food Traceability Rule

The FDA is hosting a [virtual, public meeting](#) on June 15, to give the public an opportunity to share information on implementation of the Food Traceability Rule and areas of remaining concern, specifically as they relate to lot-level tracking and flexibilities for compliance.

The public meeting is free and open to the public, but registration is necessary to attend.

General registration will remain open until June 14, but individuals who want to speak during the public comment period must register by June 5.

Food Traceability Rule Training

IFSH and the FSPCA are pleased to announce that the FSPCA [Food Traceability Rule – Training](#) for the Food Industry curriculum is now published and publicly available.

This curriculum was developed to support the food industry in understanding and meeting the requirements of the FDA's Final Rule on Requirements for Additional Traceability Records for Certain Foods, or Food Traceability Rule (FTR).

The published materials provide a standardized foundation for training across the supply chain, covering key concepts such as FTR recordkeeping requirements, traceability data, and Traceability Plan development.

The curriculum is intended for firms that manufacture, process, pack, or hold foods on the Food Traceability List, as well as others who support or work within the food system.

FSPCA Trainer Grant Expanded

The grant that can help cover expenses to become an [FSPCA lead trainer](#) has been expanded! It now covers course registration, certificates, and course materials for select FSPCA Lead Instructor courses. These courses include the FSPCA Food Traceability Rule (FTR) Combination Course and FSPCA Preventive Controls for Human Food (PCHF) Lead Instructor Course. In-person and virtual train-the-trainer events are scheduled. The July Traceability Rule Training is being held in the North Central Region (Chicago area). Get all the details and apply on their website.



FSOP Webinar

Recipients of the USDA NIFA Food Safety Outreach Project grants will be presenting at a national webinar on June 10, from 1:00-2:30pm, Central time. Please save the date! Registration information will be shared soon for this free event. Everyone is invited to learn what is happening around the country and potentially connect with educators working on similar projects to yours.

Pre-Harvest Water Webinar

A Pre-harvest Water Webinar for Educators will be held on May 26, from 11:00am to 2:15pm, Central time. This webinar is hosted jointly by NASDA, FDA, University of Florida, University of Arizona, and Virginia Tech. The agenda will cover the following topics and will offer an opportunity for Q&A.

- Water Systems and Hazards – presented by Channah Rock (U of A), Michelle Danyluk (UF), Chris Gunter (UF), and Laura Strawn (Va Tech)
- Group Exercise on Risk Ranking – led by Channah Rock and Michelle Danyluk
- Ag Water Assessment Tools – overview by Laura Strawn
- Overview of Pre-harvest Water Inspectional Approach - FDA

If you would like to attend, please contact [Carol Perrier](#) for a unique registration link.

Sprout Safety Alliance course

The [Sprout Safety Alliance](#) is hosting a virtual training in May. Join the Virtual Sprout Grower Training Course on May 12–14, 2026 (11:00 AM – 4:00 PM EST) to learn sprout-specific food safety practices and how to comply with the FDA Produce Safety Rule.



CPS Symposium

The 2026 Center for Produce Safety [Research Symposium](#) will be held June 16-17, in Nashville. Registration is now open. The agenda and hotel information are also available.

Food Safety Summit

Even though the [Food Safety Summit](#) is meeting in-person, there are a few sessions available to stream online, on May 12. You can also watch some of their recordings after the event.

The livestream sessions include:



- Leveraging AI for Food Safety: From Strategy to Impact
- Navigating Food Allergens: Insights and Strategies for Effective Management
- Effective Pathogen Control Through Identification and Management of Sources and Harborage in the Processing Environment

Kansas Remote PSA Training

If you have growers who still need to take the PSA course this season, Kansas is offering a [remote grower training](#) on June 9-10. The course will meet each afternoon from 12:45-5:00 PM CT. The cost is \$50 for Kansas growers and \$150 for anyone else.

Consumer Food Safety Conference

The [Consumer Food Safety Education Conference](#) will be held virtually on June 4. Registration is open and costs \$30.

Toll-Free Hotline for the Ag Water Rules



The toll-free hotline to ask questions about the agricultural water rules is now open! Speak with the team and receive a researched, expert-approved answer within 72 hours.

1-855-WATR RUL (1-855-928-7785)

The call line will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9:00am-4:00pm, Eastern time. Growers can call now!

Fall Professional Development Event

Mark your calendar for the NCR FSMA Fall Professional Development Event. It will be held somewhere in Ohio on October 27-28. Educators, regulators, and technicians who work with the Produce Safety Rule are encouraged to attend!



New Resources on the Food Safety Clearinghouse

The University of New Hampshire organizes the [Jumpstart to Produce Safety](#) program. For participating growers, the program includes:

- On-farm food safety risk assessments
- One-on-one help writing Farm Food Safety Plans
- Tools and templates like cleaning checklists, worker training SOPs, and sanitizer guides
- Follow-up support to track improvements and answer questions

The program also includes farmer-to-farmer learning. Several growers made short videos describing the food safety changes they made on their farms.

The [micro- learning videos](#), grouped by farm and also by Food Safety Plan section, are available online.



Additional NCR FSMA Funding Is Available

Please apply for an NCR FSMA stipend if you need to fund travel; professional development expenses; or trainings for local growers/processors. You can use these funds to attend NCR FSMA events and other events.

There are a small number of stipends available for creating new resources and reviewing resources through the Clearinghouse. Please contact Ellen with questions about the stipends and [apply online](#).

Highlighted FSOP Award

“Regional Food Hub Safety Training for New and Established Farmers in Southwest MO” is an FSOP project run by [Springfield Community Gardens](#). The non-profit is partnering with the University of Missouri to expand their online food safety training and offer in-person trainings. Their target audience includes farmers who participate in their market gardens and their regional food hub. Springfield Community Gardens runs 18 community gardens, three urban farms, a 4-H youth program, and a commercial community kitchen. You can learn more about this project on the June FSOP webinar.



NCR FSMA Meetings



The next NCR FSMA webinar will meet May 21, at 2:00pm, Central time. Kristen Newman from the Great Plains ADA Center will be speaking about how You Pick operators can politely and legally talk to guests with service animals. Julie Garden-Robinson will be speaking about a project in North Dakota that connect local tribes' indigenous food and produce safety.



Past Webinars- You can watch the recording of Daniel Numanac talk about AI recordkeeping technology in the [NCR FSMA Box](#). Please let us know if you need access to the Box.

The state inspectors/regulators will meet next on Friday, May 1, at 9am, Central time.

The meeting for data/inventory/outreach staff will be Friday, May 15, at 9am, Central time.

The meeting for program managers will be Tuesday, May 12, at 10am, Central time.

Please let us know if you need the call information/link for any of these meetings.

Upcoming Trainings for Growers and Processors

Looking for a training for growers or processors? You can find the upcoming trainings on the [Produce Safety Alliance](#) or [Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance](#) websites.

Follow us on [Facebook](#)

Visit our [website](#)

Thank you for your continued involvement with the NCR FSMA!

Sincerely,

NCR FSMA Project Team

Byron Chaves, Arlene Enderton, Dan Fillius, Phil Tocco, and Ellen Johnsen

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