

July 18, 2019
NCR FSMA Listening Session/ Webinar

In attendance: Joe Hannan, Angela Shaw, Kaiping Deng, Carly Tyler, Adam Mefrakis, Bridget Perry, Manreet Bhullar, Nick Roth, Sarah Browning, Cal Jamerson, Cindy Borgwordt, Leanne Skelton, Dan Fillius, Annake Ramsey, Marcy Billings, Laurie George, Julie Garden-Robinson, Kristin Krokowski, Holly Mawby, Londa Nwadike, Kali Fererisel, and several on the phone

Announcements: NBII event for educators is in October. BSAAO event is in Sept. Inspectors' event in August. Register for all of them on the NCR website (except BSAAO, you can register for that waiting list)

Kaiping Deng, director of the Sprout Safety Alliance, gave an overview of her organization. Subpart M is very specifically for sprout growers, but they have to follow the entire PSR.

IFSH was funded to start SSA. They focus on curriculum and outreach. Training involves 12 modules. Can take course in two days, in-person. Or take online part and then one day in the classroom. Train-the-trainer events are 2.5 days in the classroom.

They work to identify operations and inform them about regulations. Work with state inspectors. Small growers are exempt.

Held a training in Spanish. Require at least 5 growers/session. Looking for bilingual growers to become trainers.

Three water tests are required. They are unusual tests for labs. So Kaiping and Don Stoeckel participated in a webinar for the Association of Public Health Labs to explain requirements. But many sprout growers use private labs, so they are considering another webinar.

Led a webinar with the International Sprout Growers Association.

Microgreens are not sprouts, but they are grown in similar environments, so microgreen growers could benefit from SSA course (perhaps on the online part?)

Grocery stores have attended trainings.
A video project is underway, but not finished.

Questions:

Dan- difference between sprouts and microgreens?

Kaiping- is defined in the Preamble to the Rule. It's by stage. Sprouts are 5-7 days. MG are 10-12 days old. MG are grown in soil and sprouts in water

Angela- what is your focus for training labels?

Kaiping- labs need to know FDA methods

Kaiping- microgreens are just required to take PA course, but she does recommend online SSA or they can download curriculum for free

Joe- can sprout growers access CAP funds to subsidize trainings?

Kaiping- depends on the state

Split into two groups:

Inspectors- didn't have enough people to meet

Educators-

Cal would like to discuss liability at a future webinar.

Joe recommends have Theresa Klamen visit your state and ride along for an OFRR.

NE- quiet with low numbers of growers and the time of year

ND- the state recently got CAP A funds, shared Holly

MO- it's just very hot down there!