



# North Central Region

Center for FSMA Training, Extension  
and Technical Assistance

August 2021

## FDA Updates

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The FDA is asking stakeholders, including technology providers, public health advocates, entrepreneurs, and innovators from all disciplines and from around the world, to develop traceability hardware, software, or data analytics platforms that are low-cost or no-cost to the end-user.

The Challenge ends July 30.

In early July, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration released a Cyclospora Prevention, Response and Research Action Plan that outlines FDA's strategy for reducing the public health burden of foodborne cyclosporiasis in the United States caused by *Cyclospora cayetanensis* (*C. cayetanensis*) in both domestically grown and imported produce.

An Update from Janet Woodcock, M.D. and Frank Yiannas, M.P.H.

"One year ago the U.S. Food and Drug Administration released the New Era of Smarter Food Safety Blueprint. During the past 12 months, we've made significant progress in working toward the goals outlined in the blueprint, even in the midst of a pandemic.

The blueprint gives shape to the New Era of Smarter Food Safety initiative that the FDA announced in April 2019 to keep pace with the rapidly evolving environment in which foods are being reformulated, new foods and new production methods are being realized, and food delivery systems continue to evolve...

Working together, we **will** bend the curve of foodborne illness in this country, using the right technology, the best data, and the most consistent oversight. Consumers deserve no less."

## Reminder from Kristin Esch

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A reminder of a resource available to you. For farm inspections, FDA investigators and state inspectors can request an appointment with the Regulator Technical Assistance Network by [sending a request](#). If you have any questions please [contact Kristin Esch](#).

Requests should be submitted in advance of the inspection, preferably 7 days in advance, to allow for time to find and schedule an appropriate Subject Matter Expert. In the request, the investigator or inspector should include:

- Investigator or inspector name, agency, and contact information;
- Date and time of the planned inspection;
- If known beforehand, the commodities grown, harvested, packed, or held at the farm.

## CAP grant reports

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The state employees responsible for completing the Final Federal Financial Report for the state CAP grants will be meeting on Friday, August 27, at 11:00 Central time. If you'd like to discuss sections of this report, plan to join. Please let Ellen know if there are particular sections you want to ensure the group talks about by August 25. If you haven't received the call information, we can add you to the list.

## Job Opening

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RECRUITMENT

Iowa State University invites applications for a 12-month, full time [Extension Food Safety Specialist](#) position who will develop and teach food safety programs related to fruit and vegetable growing, harvesting, holding, processing, and distributing. Applicant will conduct, support and develop food safety programming. This position will support fruit and vegetable entrepreneurs who are farmers, food hubs, farmers' markets, retailers, processors of produce, and/or community partners. Applications accepted through August 15.

## Partner Updates

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[Small Fruit Certification Course](#) from the Southern Center

Do you occasionally get questions about produce safety certifications and regulations, but don't have time to take a multiday course? This free two-hour course may be for you. The Small Fruit Certifications course provides Extension agents and specialists with a broad overview of certifications and regulations affecting small fruit producers in the southern region. The course covers the basics of the National Organics Program, Certified Naturally Grown, Primus Global Food Safety Initiative, United States Department of Agriculture, Good Agricultural Practices, and the Food Safety Modernization Act. Upon completion, participants receive a certificate of attendance. The program was developed by Auburn University, the University of Georgia, and Clemson University and sponsored by the Southern Region Small Fruit Consortium.

NECAFS and the Center for Agriculture and Food Systems at Vermont Law School recently announced the release of additional educational resources for farmers and food producers as part of the FSMA legal research project.

Available at [elsi.necafs.org](http://elsi.necafs.org), the new resources answer key legal questions about:

- FSMA PSR Implementation and State Laws;
- Understanding When a Produce Market Intermediary is Subject to FSMA; and,
- Interactions Between the FSMA PSR and Other Laws that May Apply to Produce Operations.

The Food Safety Clearinghouse (hosted by NECAFS) is a partner organization in the [Food Systems Practitioner and Educational Resource Database](#). The mission is to identify and aggregate individual practitioner and educational resources to improve the competencies of food systems practitioners through various levels of learning in order to advance food systems development.

## Partner Events

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The [Food Incubation Summit](#) is one of a kind event for food incubator administrators, commissary kitchen operators, and food industry service providers. On September 22-24, experts from all around the country will get together for a 3-day virtual summit to share their experiences and embrace the food industry. The Summit includes virtual education sessions, tours, networking, and a celebration of all things food incubation. Register by July 31 for the cheapest rate.



The University of Arkansas is hosting a virtual workshop on BSAAO's, from August 2-4, 12:30 pm-4:30 pm CDT each day. The training will cover best practices of using and making biological soil amendments of animal origin (BSAAO), such as compost. Produce Growers, Cooperative Extension, Composting and other BSAAO industry members are invited. The training is free, but [registration is required](#).

## Funding Available

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Funds are available to help NCR partners (anyone who participates in NCR activities) attend virtual or in-person 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.

## Upcoming NCR FSMA Meetings

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The **Listening Sessions/ Webinars** happen the third Thursday of every month at 2:00, Central time. More recipients of the NCR mini-grants will be presenting on August 19.

GRANT

**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:



We heard reports from three of the mini-grant recipients at the July meeting. Jason Grimm and Claire Zabel shared about their handbook to create a packhouse. Jordan DeVries showed the videos that the Michigan team created. Shannon Coleman and Manreet Bhullar talked about the videos that they are having translated into Spanish. You can find the [recording and the links](#) that were shared in the chat box in the NCR Box folder. Let us know if you need access to that Box folder.

The meeting for state inspectors/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, August 6**. Contact [Ellen](#) for call information.

State employees responsible for farm inventories have scheduled their next call for **Friday, August 20**, at 9:00 am Central time. Contact [Ellen](#) for call information. There is more information about the extra meeting for those responsible for final CAP grant reports earlier in this newsletter.

## 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: Aug. 2, 9, 11, 17, and 18; Sept. 13, 21, 28, and 29;  
Oct. 4 and 26

PC Animal Food: Aug. 2

FSVP: Aug. 24; Sept. 2 and 15; Oct. 13

Iowa: PC Human Food: Aug. 30; Oct. 5

Kansas: PC Animal Food: Aug. 17

Michigan: PC Human Food: Oct. 19  
PC Animal Food: Sept. 14  
FSVP: Sept. 8

Nebraska: PC Human Food: Aug. 9  
PC Animal Food: Aug. 16

Ohio: PC Human Food: Sept. 28  
PC Animal Food: Sept. 27

Wisconsin: PC Human Food: Aug. 10 and 17; Sept. 13; Oct. 11  
FSVP: Aug. 24

Online: PC Human Food: Aug. 2 (Spanish), 4, 9 (Spanish), 10, 16, 18, 20, 23,  
24, 25, and 27; Sept. 1, 13, 17, 20, 22, and 27;  
Oct. 5, 13, 18, 19, 25, and 27  
PC Animal Food: Aug. 2, 3, 9, 11, 14, 16, 25, and 30;  
Sept. 3, 7, 10, 15, and 29; Oct. 4, 13, and 15  
FSVP: Aug. 5, 11, 19, and 20; Sept. 2, 8, 13, 14, 21, 28, and 30;  
Oct. 1, 12, 13, and 21

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 [nrcfsma@iastate.edu](mailto:nrcfsma@iastate.edu).

Sincerely,  
NCR FSMA Training Center Team

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Anirudh R. Naig, NCR FSOP Coordinator  
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Ellen Johnsen, Project Manager

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