



# North Central Region

Center for FSMA Training, Extension  
and Technical Assistance

August 2022

## Communication Survey

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The North Central Region Center for FSMA Training, Education, and Technical Assistance (NCR FSMA) began in 2015 to prepare produce growers, harvesters, and processors to comply with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) by determining needs and providing technical assistance. To understand how to best communicate with diverse produce industry stakeholders (i.e. growers, educators, processors) within the 12 Midwest states, the NCR FSMA is [conducting this survey](#). The survey is voluntary and will take approximately 5 minutes to complete. **Those who complete the survey will have an opportunity to enter a drawing to win one of four \$25 gift cards.** The survey is anonymous. Names and contact information collected for the drawing will be kept separate from the data collect on the survey. **The survey will close Tuesday, August 2.** If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact NCR FSMA evaluator Arlene Enderton by phone at 641.425.4948 or email at [arlene@iastate.edu](mailto:arlene@iastate.edu).

## NCR Changes

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July 31 is Angela's last day working at Iowa State University. On August 1, she will begin her new role at Texas Tech University. Ellen Johnsen will become the new PI of the grant and Angela will move into the co-PI role. No changes will occur with the objectives, deliverables, or subcontracts/obligations on the grant. Please contact Angela or Ellen with questions and concerns.

## NCFSEN Resources

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The North Central Food Safety Extension Network has developed a 3-publication "Working Regionally" set of Extension publications. They provide information about forming and sustaining a food safety regional group based on published research conducted by the regional group.

Find the links to [Part 1](#); [Part 2](#); and [Part 3](#). Or find them on the [NCR FSMA website](#).

# Spanish Language GAP Audit 101 Workshop

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## AUDITORÍA GAP DEL USDA 101: HERRAMIENTAS PARA PEQUEÑOS Y MEDIANOS PRODUCTORES

¿Es un productor o proveedor de alimentos locales? ¿Está interesado en aprender más sobre el proceso de auditoría de la Norma Práctica Agrícola GAP? ¿Hay alguna duda sobre el proceso?

Únase al taller virtual para obtener más información sobre los requisitos básicos de este programa de certificación y aprender algunas herramientas que pueden ayudarle a implementar el programa de forma más sencilla de manera que sea compatible con la actividad USDA-GAP en su finca.

OBJETIVOS:

- ENTENDER EL PROCESO DE AUDITORÍA
- APRENDER MÁS SOBRE LOS REQUISITOS BÁSICOS DE ESTE PROGRAMA DE CERTIFICACIÓN
- APRENDER MÁS SOBRE LOS REQUISITOS BÁSICOS DE ESTE PROGRAMA DE CERTIFICACIÓN

Para obtener más información contacte a:

Food Safety CTS

National Farmers Union



The **free Spanish GAP Audit 101 Workshop**, sponsored by the National Farmers Union and Food Safety CTS, has been rescheduled to Monday August 15, from 12:30-5PM EST. The [link to registering](https://bit.ly/3mUERN) remains the same.

## Updates from Kristin Esch

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### Ag Water Resources Development:

FDA will be developing educational resources for harvest and post-harvest agriculture water. However, I realize that states would like to begin sooner rather than later on providing education to farms. Until such time that those materials are available, rather than each state spending time and energy individually, it might make sense for all the NCR states to work collaboratively to develop some of these materials. If you are interested in that project please reach out to me, [Kristin Esch](#), and if there is enough interest I will schedule a meeting to begin discussions.

### Quarterly State Calls:

When I initially started with FDA, I provided the opportunity for states to meet with FDA one on one in addition to the all-states quarterly calls. These recurring meetings have since ended and I wanted to again extend the opportunity to states if they would like to resume or start one on one calls with myself, OP and ORA. Please [reach out to me](#) if you would like to continue or start these calls and I will work with you to set up recurring dates/times that work for your state.

## FDA Updates

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- In mid-July, the FDA issued a supplemental notice of [proposed rulemaking to extend the compliance dates for the pre-harvest agricultural water provisions](#) as outlined in the recent 2021 [agricultural water proposed rule](#). The 2021 agricultural water proposed rule, if finalized, will require farms to conduct annual systems-based agricultural water assessments to determine and guide appropriate measures to minimize potential risks associated with pre-harvest agricultural water. The FDA is now proposing extended compliance dates for those proposed pre-harvest requirements and is also providing clarifying information about the enforcement discretion policy for the harvest and post-harvest agricultural water requirements.

**The FDA is reopening the comment period only with respect to the proposed compliance dates for the pre-harvest agricultural water provisions until September 19, 2022.** Comments should be submitted to docket FDA-2021-N-0471 on Regulations.gov.

- Dr. Robert Califf, FDA commissioner, in mid-July, [commissioned external agency experts to conduct a comprehensive evaluation](#) for the agency’s Human Foods Program, including the Office of Food Response and Policy (OFPR), Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN), as well as relevant parts of the Office of Regulatory Affairs (ORA).

According to the press release, Dr. Califf explained, “**the Reagan-Udall Foundation, an independent partner organization for the agency, will be working with an external group of experts on the evaluation.** The Foundation will report its findings, including an initial assessment of the processes and procedures, resourcing, and organizational structure for the Foods program and CTP, to the agency within 60 business days of initiation. It may take some time to implement any recommended changes, but I am committed to addressing them and communicating them to the public in a timely manner. It is my belief that this effort will continue strengthening the FDA and better position the agency to deal with the many immediate public health issues we are facing, while preparing for the many scientific challenges and fascinating opportunities of the future.”

- July 2022 was the second anniversary of the release of the FDA’s [New Era of Smarter Food Safety Blueprint](#), which outlines their commitment to continuous modernization to address the ever changing food system and potential challenges ahead.

The blueprint lays out achievable goals to, among other things, enhance food traceability and transparency, strengthen their use of data through predictive analytics and the use of other tools, respond more rapidly and thoroughly to outbreaks to identify root causes, address new foods and business models, reduce contamination of food, and ultimately foster the development of stronger food safety cultures among food producers everywhere.

FDA’s New Era of Smarter Food Safety is leveraging technology and other tools and approaches to create a safer and more digital, traceable food system. Their ultimate goal is clear. It’s to bend the curve of foodborne illness in this country by reducing the number of illnesses, so that consumers can live better lives.

## PSA Knowledge Assessments

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We have decided not to continue Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training Pre- and Post-Knowledge Assessments evaluation next year, so **for any trainings after July 1, 2022, you do not need to send your knowledge assessments to the NCR FSMA Center.** If you would like to continue using the Qualtrics forms for your remote trainings, we can still set those up.

## EPA/FDA Discussion on Hydrogen Peroxide and other Sanitizers

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Staff from the EPA and FDA are going to hold a meeting with the North Central Region partners, on Friday, August 5, at 10:00 am Central time. Everyone is welcome to join the call to discuss hydrogen peroxide and other sanitizer use. Please RSVP via [email to Ellen](#), if you'd like to join the call.

## Annual Conference – Save the Date

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The tentative dates for the 2023 NCR FSMA Annual Conference will be March 15-16. We are still confirming the hotel and a farm tour. Short courses may be offered before the conference.

## Environmental Monitoring Short Course

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Due to demand, we are offering the Environmental Monitoring Short Course again in August. The environment in which fresh produce is processed can affect the food safety of the end product. [Environmental monitoring](#) is a process used in facilities that assess how effectively the plant is being cleaned. Come for two, ½-day virtual sessions to learn about how to implement and interpret a monitoring program. This course is designed for educators and inspectors. **The course will be held on Zoom, August 23 and 25, from 12:00-4:00 Central time.** [Registration is free](#) and includes all course resources.

## New Resources

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The NCR FSMA Juniper Gardens Training Farm, home of the New Roots for Refugees program in Kansas City, KS wrote a [food safety plan](#) for their incubator farm. This plan was written in 2021. This plan is intended to be used as a template, draft or example for other incubator or training farms developing food safety plans. **The plan was translated into [Burmese](#), [Swahili](#), and [Falam Chin](#).** The NCR FSMA provided funds for the translation. If you have resources that could benefit for a little extra funding, [please apply](#).

## Funding Available

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The NCR FSMA budgeted funds to support professional development, outreach to underserved communities, and resource development/translation. **To access these \$500 stipends, [apply on our website](#).** Please contact us if you have an idea that might utilize these funds. Our goal is to support produce safety efforts in each of the twelve states.

# California Agricultural Neighbors



A [California Agricultural Neighbors: neighbor-to-neighbor best practices to help enhance localized food safety efforts](#) report was released in July. As everyone works to continuously improve produce safety and assessment then management of risk, the CAN effort might serve as an example of how to foster local or regional collaboration and discuss enhanced neighborly food safety practices when various agricultural operations such as leafy green fields, cattle ranches, vineyards and compost sites are adjacent to one another, as is the case in the Salinas Valley growing region.

If you have any questions, please reach out to [Don Stoeckel](#) at the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

## Upcoming NCR FSMA Meetings

The Listening Sessions/ Webinars happen on the third Thursday of every month at 2:00, Central time- August 18. Byron Chaves will be speaking on “Developing Food Safety Plans for Processors.”

**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:**



Kristin Esch from the FDA and Laura Boczek from the EPA spoke about biosolids on July 21. You can find [video and audio recordings](#) of the meeting in the Box. Let us know if you need access.

The meeting for state inspectors/regulators will join the EPA/FDA call instead of their regularly scheduled call on August 5. This call will happen at 10 am Central time. There is a different link for this meeting. Please RSVP if you'd like to join the call.

The meeting for data/inventory will be Friday, August 19, at 9:00 am Central time.

The meeting for program managers will happen Tuesday, August 9, at 10:00 am Central time.

Please [contact us](#), if you need call information for any of these meetings.

## Upcoming PSA Courses

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Kansas/Missouri: Sept. 6-7

Online course: begins once per month (The first course people can register for begins January 1, so if you know growers who are interested, encourage them to sign up far in advance.)

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. 8, 9, 24, and 29;  
Sept. 12, 13, and 28; Oct. 3, 4, and 24;  
Nov. 1, 14, 16, 20, and 30; Dec. 5, 6, 12, and 13  
PC Animal Food: Sept. 20; Dec. 5  
FSVP: Aug. 16; Sept. 1, 20, and 21; Oct. 4 and 27; Nov. 8

Iowa: PC Animal Food: Aug. 8

Kansas: PC Animal Food: Aug. 23

Michigan: PC Human Food: Aug. 9; Sept. 20; Oct. 18

Minnesota: PC Human Food: Sept. 19

Nebraska: PC Human Food: Nov. 7  
PC Animal Food: Oct. 17

Ohio: PC Human Food: Aug. 8 and 17; Oct. 18; Nov. 9

Wisconsin: PC Human Food: Aug. 16; Sept. 13 and 20; Nov. 8; Dec. 13

Online: PC Human Food: Aug. 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 15, 17, 22, 23, 26, 29, and 31;  
Sept. 6, 7, 9, 12, 14, 19, 23, 26, and 28; Oct. 5, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, and 26;  
Nov. 8, 15, 16, 19, 23, and 28; Dec. 5, 10, 12, 13, and 19  
PC Human Food (Spanish): Aug. 1, 8, and 15  
PC Human Food (Chinese): Aug. 1, 8, and 15  
  
PC Animal Food: Aug. 3, 8, 10, 11, 15, 23, 26, 30, and 31;  
Sept. 5, 6, 9, 19, 21, and 28; Oct. 3, 21, and 25;  
Nov. 7, 12, and 30; Dec. 3, 5, 12, and 20  
FSVP: Aug. 1, 8, 11, 12, 15, 16, and 25;  
Sept. 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, and 27; Oct. 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 24, and 25  
FSVP (Korean): Sept. 14 and 21

Check out the [Calendar](#) for postings of FSPCA courses offered nationally.

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[Visit our website](#)

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

**2018-2022\* Funding**

Anirudh R. Naig  
\*No Cost Extension

**2018-2024 Funding**

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Arlene Enderton  
Ellen Johnsen

**2021-2024 Funding**

Byron Chaves  
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Phil Tocco

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