

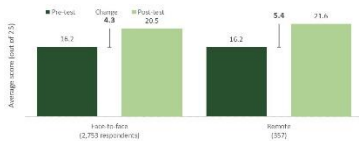
North Central Region

Center for FSMA Training, Extension
and Technical Assistance

September 2021

Knowledge Assessments Released

Figure 3: Participants in remote delivery training learned more than participants in face-to-face trainings.



Between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021, NCR FSMA partners offered and evaluated 52 PSA Grower Trainings. Of these trainings, 30 were offered using remote delivery, because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In collaboration with partners, the NCR FSMA evaluated these trainings using a knowledge assessment.

The report sharing the results from trainings held in year 4 (2020-21) was just released. Year 4 saw a proliferation of multi-state trainings, when NCR FSMA partners jointly taught remote trainings. Knowledge assessment results showed that knowledge gained from remote delivery trainings was higher than face-to-face trainings. Read the [regional report](#). State-level reports were sent to state leads.

Save the Date for Fall Professional Development



The fall NCR PSA Grower training season kickoff will be October 13 and 14, in Wisconsin. There will be a virtual option as well, for this educator professional development event. More details are to come.

Mini Grant Updates



More funding is available for mini grants. Submit your application by Wednesday, September 8, to be considered in the next round. Applications will be accepted after that, if funds are still available. Previous recipients may apply for additional funding, but preference will be given to teams that have not previously received funding.

Congratulations to Julie Garden-Robinson, Phil Tocco, and Shannon Coleman and their teams for their successful applications. We look forward to hearing about your projects at listening sessions when the work is completed.

FDA Updates

The FDA will host a [virtual summit](#) October 19-21, 2021, for a discussion and exchange of perspectives about the safety of human and animal foods produced, manufactured, sold, and delivered directly to consumers through e-commerce. Summit participants will discuss the regulatory framework that apply to these foods and ways to strengthen food safety.

FDA and Mexican counterparts report progress and next steps for food safety partnership, according to Frank Yiannis. The two countries held their first [Food Safety Partnership Annual Meeting](#) on August 20, 2021.

FAO Update

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations recently released [updated guidance](#) to highlight additional measures that food businesses and the authorities regulating the sector can take to protect workers from person-to-person spread of COVID-19. While COVID-19 may pose an occupational safety risk for workers in any type of business or industry where individuals work in close proximity to one another, SARS-CoV-2 itself is not considered a direct food safety hazard.

Evening Produce Safety Alliance training?

Is there a need in your state for an evening, remote PSA training? Are there growers with off-farm jobs during the day that keep them from attending other trainings? Would you like to collaborate with trainers from other states, so you can offer this training without having to work eight evenings? The NCR has funds to compensate the lead trainer for this event. If you would like to be a part of a training like this, [please fill out the survey](#) by September 10.

Share your Expertise



We need a few more add-on reviewers for our region. If you already filled out the Qualtrics form, no need to fill it out again. If you'd be willing to review add-on's that have been developed by people in our region and posted to the Clearinghouse, please [fill out the survey](#) and let us know your areas of expertise. We will compensate you for your time reviewing (if your organization allows for that). To review add-on's, you need experience advising growers/processors on produce safety. This includes FSPCA/PSA trainers and those who can lead OFRR's. Currently, no one has been asked to review more than one resource.

Job Openings

The **University of Georgia** is hiring a [program coordinator](#) to provide technical assistance to Food Science and Technology Extension faculty. The position will be housed in the Food Science Building at the Athens, GA campus. Responsibilities include the development and review of food product classifications, process approvals, nutrition fact panels, and food safety plans for food processors, packinghouses, and farm. The program coordinator II will also offer laboratory-based support for the food industry.



The **University of Arkansas**, Local, Regional and Safe Foods Team is hiring a [Post-Doc](#) who will lead education and on-farm technical assistance for produce growers, stakeholders, and county agents in the FSMA Produce Safety Rule or Preventive Controls training and other related food safety training. PSA trainer or lead trainer certification preferred.

They are also hiring a [Program Associate](#) in Food Systems and Food Safety to identify, enroll, and train produce growers, stakeholders, and county agents in the FSMA Produce Safety Rule training and other related food safety training. PSA trainer certification preferred.

Funding Available

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



The **Listening Sessions/ Webinars** happen the third Thursday of every month at 2:00, Central time. We will be wrapping up the 2018-2021 NCR FSMA grant.

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:

Julie Garden-Robinson presented on the North Central Region Food Safety group and her mini-grant project. Arlene Enderton shared the results of the PSA training knowledge assessment. You can listen to/watch the meeting recording in the [Box](#). You can also find links to the resource Julie mentioned and the slides that Arlene shared. Let Ellen know if you don't have access.

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, September 3**. Contact [Ellen](#) for call information.

State employees responsible for farm inventories have scheduled their next call for **Friday, September 17**, at 9:00 am Central time. Contact [Ellen](#) for call information. They will continue their discussion about the final closeout reporting for the CAP grant reports.

Upcoming PSA Courses

Iowa in-person: Jan. 27; Mar. 8

Iowa/Nebraska/North Dakota/South Dakota remote: Dec. 14; Feb. 9 & 16

Kansas in-person: Sept. 8; Jan. 7

Kansas/Missouri remote: Oct. 28 & Nov. 4

Missouri in-person: Sept. 8

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

Illinois: PC Human Food: Sept. 13, 21, 28, and 29;
Oct. 4, 6, and 26; Nov. 8 and 16; Dec. 7 and 13
FSVP: Sept. 2 and 15; Oct. 13

Iowa: PC Human Food: Oct. 5
FSVP: Sept. 8

Michigan: PC Human Food: Oct. 19; Nov. 3
PC Animal Food: Sept. 14
FSVP: Sept. 8 and 13; Nov. 9

Ohio: PC Human Food: Sept. 28; Dec. 14
PC Animal Food: Sept. 27

Wisconsin: PC Human Food: Sept. 13; Oct. 11 and 19; Nov. 9; Dec. 13; Jan. 18

Online: PC Human Food: Sept. 1, 13, 16, 17, 20, 22, 27, and 28;
Oct. 5, 11, 13, 15, 18, 19, 25, 26, and 27; Nov. 9, 11, 12, 15, 17, 18, 22, and 30;
Dec. 6, 7, 8, 10, 13, 20, and 28; Jan. 10, 17, and 25; Feb. 1, 14, and 21
PC Animal Food: Sept. 3, 7, 10, 15, and 29; Oct. 4, 13, and 15;
Nov. 1, 15, 24, and 30; Dec. 1; Jan. 3
FSVP: Sept. 2, 8, 13, 14, 21, 22, 28, and 30;
Oct. 1, 4, 12, 13, 20, and 21; Nov. 5, 8, 10, and 23; Dec. 2 and 7

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.

Sincerely,
NCR FSMA Training Center Team

Angela M Shaw, Project Director
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