



North Central Region

Center for FSMA Training, Extension and Technical Assistance

November 2024

Save the Date



2025 NCR FSMA Annual Conference- April 23-24, to be held in Olathe, KS (45 minutes from the Kansas City Airport). See you at the Kansas State University Olathe campus!

Reagan-Udall Foundation Survey

The Reagan-Udall Foundation for the FDA is leading a stakeholder dialogue process to explore new strategies for produce safety and the development of a collaborative public-private partnership (PPP). Ensuring the safety of fruits and vegetables requires a holistic approach. To aid in the goal of improved protection of public health and establishing a PPP, the Foundation is collaborating with stakeholders from agricultural communities, industry, academia, and government to develop a shared understanding of the challenges and a vision for protecting public health. The Foundation has engaged a group of key stakeholders to guide the 6-month effort, which Dr. Jennifer McEntire and Ms. Gretchen Wall will be working with to support the initiative.

The Foundation want to hear from all stakeholders, including you! What are the priority areas? What's held back progress? Are there topical areas where you're willing to invest more time (e.g., education & training, policy & economics, research, buyer specifications, imports, etc.). The Foundation is soliciting perspectives, interest, and volunteers via a [short questionnaire](#). The **questionnaire will remain open through November 1** and responses by this date will help guide next steps.

Based on the input and willingness of stakeholders to engage (as indicated through the questionnaire and other outreach), the Foundation will hold several working sessions to refine priorities and articulate positions of various key stakeholders and their constituents. This project is anticipated to culminate in a meeting in February/March 2025 to discuss a priority roadmap for produce safety. A report will be issued after the meeting to guide FDA and others in understanding perspectives on produce safety and a pathway to create the proposed partnership.

Newsletters

Does your agency send out a produce safety newsletter? If so, is there a website where you post past issues? We're trying to compile a list of newsletters, in case others are looking for creative ideas to include in their newsletters. Please let Ellen know if there's a place someone can find your past newsletters. Thanks!

Fall Professional Development



The [Fall Professional Development](#) event was held Oct. 22-23. Thank you to the planning team who made the event happen- Heather Borden, Phil Tocco, Kristin Esch, Dan Fillius, Annalisa Hultberg, Kristin Krokowski, Scott Monroe, and Don Stoeckel.

We spent two days in the Detroit area and had a great time- discussing the water rules and visiting farms.

Food Safety Lunch Hour Webinar Series

Byron Chaves will be leading monthly webinars this academic year on “Microbiological Tools for Process Control and Product Acceptance.” Join the [Food Safety Lunch Hour webinars](#) at 12:00 noon, Central time. Registration is required for this free course.

The topic for the November 5th session is Statistical Process Control- Introduction to the concept of statistical process control and the use of microbial data to assess process variability and capability.

FSPCA Preventive Controls for Human Food (PCHF) V2.0

The [FSPCA PCHF V2.0 Lead Instructor Refresher Training](#) course registration is open. Version 2.0 Lead Instructor Refresher Training course was developed to provide an overview of the design and instructor materials of the FSPCA PCHF Version 2.0 standardized curriculum.

The Refresher Training course reviews the key updates to FSPCA PCHF Version 2.0 course content and provides guidance on how to use the Instructor Guide and instructor portal resources to support your Version 2.0 participant course delivery.

Successful completion of this Lead Instructor Refresher Training course is required for existing FSPCA PCHF Version 1.2 Lead Instructors to register and deliver the FSPCA Preventive Controls for Human Food Version 2.0 participant course. Register now for an in-person or virtual course.

Sprout Safety Alliance Technical Assistance Network



The Sprout Safety Alliance (SSA) was created to develop a training curriculum and outreach programs for stakeholders in the sprout production community to enhance the industry’s understanding and implementation of the requirements in the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule, and best practices for improving sprout safety.

You are welcome to submit a sprout safety related technical question to the [SSA Technical Assistance Network](#) (TAN).

Alliance for a Stronger FDA Update

The FDA reorganization became official on Oct. 1. At an upcoming Alliance for a Stronger FDA webinar, Jim Jones will provide an overview of the changes, focusing on how much has been accomplished in the first month since the reorganization. The event is scheduled for Thursday, October 31, at 1:00pm, Central time. [Registration is required.](#)

FDA Updates

Recently, FDA's Human Foods Program (HFP) announced a new, streamlined approach for processing complaints, including whistleblower complaints, that will improve the Agency's ability to detect and respond to problems related to FDA-regulated products and better protect public health. A complaint may be about an illness, injury, allergic reaction, or other health-related issue or about defects in the quality or safety of an FDA-regulated food, dietary supplement, or cosmetic product. Now, the public will be able to direct complaints about foods and dietary supplements to HFP by using their online reporting forms for:

[Foods and Dietary Supplements: Safety Reporting Portal](#)

FSOP Webinars

Thank you to everyone who attended the FSOP webinars in September. The webinars were recorded and will soon be posted to the Produce Safety Clearinghouse. Plans are being made for an in-person FSOP project directors' meeting during the week of May 26 (days still to be decided).

FDA Partners with Purdue University



The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has launched a new study in partnership with Purdue University and members of the produce industry in Indiana to better understand the ecology of human pathogens in the environment of the Southwest Indiana agricultural region. Following multiple Salmonella outbreaks linked to this region, this multi-year study will focus on assessing risks related to how Salmonella is distributed and survives in the environment in Indiana in order to identify and implement practical and cost effective mitigation strategies.

Research Articles for Growers and Processors

We've been gathering articles that educators/regulators share with growers and processors to help answer the question, "Do I really need to do that?"

Here's an example of what has been suggested:

[Cross-contamination risks in dry environments](#) by Nitin Nitin, Ph.D. and Linda Harris, Ph.D.

With extensive research, they developed understanding of the risk factors that promote cross-contamination of fresh produce during wet handling and processing as well as developed tools and technologies to reduce these risk factors. The data generated in this project address the gaps in knowledge of factors influencing crosscontamination risks in dry environments. There are 12 key findings and recommendations.

New Resources on the Produce Safety Clearinghouse



The University of Tennessee has a [new poster](#) about Cleaning and Sanitizing- This is a simple poster detailing the 6 steps of cleaning and sanitizing- sweep, rinse, scrub, rinse, sanitize, (possibly) rinse again.

Great for displaying in a packing house or anywhere else food contact surfaces are washed.

IFAI Job Openings

The [Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative](#) is hiring for three positions. One is based at the University of Arkansas, but remote work is an option for the other two.

NCR FSMA Funding

There is a \$500 stipend for each state, each budget year of the project. You can use those funds for professional development events or supplies for trainings geared towards under-served growers or processors. 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 on-line](#).

NCR FSMA Meetings

The Listening Session/ Webinar will be held in Thursday, November 21, at 2:00, Central time. Joe Masabni, PhD, Extension Vegetable Specialist, at Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, will be speaking at this month's NCR FSMA webinar. The title of his talk is: "Superhydrophobic coating materials in agriculture: theory and application to enhance food safety."

The December NCR FSMA webinar has been cancelled.

Update from last month's meeting: We had two presentations during the webinar. Lindsey Pender discussed infographics she designed, and Julie Garden-Robinson shared about the educational modules she developed as part of her FSOP grant.

You can find the recording in the [NCR FSMA Box](#).

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

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

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

Please contact us if you need call information 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.



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Thank you for your continued involvement with the NCR FSMA!

Sincerely,
NCR FSMA Project Team
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Arlene Enderton
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Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is an equal opportunity provider.
For the full non-discrimination statement or accommodation inquiries,
go to www.extension.iastate.edu/diversity/ext.

This work is supported by the Food Safety Outreach Program [grant no. 2024-70020-42954]
from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

If you'd like to be [removed from the NCR FSMA mailing list](#), please let us know.