



# North Central Region

Center for FSMA Training, Extension  
and Technical Assistance

October 2019

## Events from Partner Organizations

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### Open House

You are invited to celebrate the grand opening of the Food Safety Training Center in Vincennes, Indiana. November 4, 2019, from 3:00-5:00 Eastern time at the Purdue Extension Food Safety Training Hub. [RSVP online](#).

### "Listeria Environmental Monitoring in Produce Facilities and Packing Houses"

#### Webinar

The Food Safety lab at Cornell University and the Strawn lab at Virginia Tech will be hosting a two part webinar series entitled "Listeria Environmental Monitoring in Produce Facilities and Packing Houses." This series (Oct. 8 and 15) will demonstrate a PEM training workshop developed for produce facilities and packing houses. Find [call information](#) on our website.

## Funds Available

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### Trainer Sharing Program

Are you short a trainer for your class? Do you need someone to fill in for a couple of modules? We can help. The Center has funds to bring in trainers to your state to ensure every farmer has an equal chance to attend a class near them. Contact Ellen for details or [formally request trainer sharing funds](#) through our website.

Funding is available to support sending a lead trainer of the Produce Safety Alliance grower training, Preventive Controls Human Food training, or other food safety certified program training in the absence of lead trainers.

Twelve travel stipends (up to \$500 each) are available each year. All funds are distributed on a first come, first served basis.

Funding can be requested for a niche population training, but not for an individual company.

## Peer Mentorship Program

Want to learn new skills to use in your role as a trainer? Looking to expand your knowledge in a particular area? The Center is creating a new trainer peer mentorship program. Contact Angela for more information.

[Apply for the program here.](#)

Each pair will make a 6 to 9 month commitment to meeting monthly online and once in person. Eight stipends (up to \$1000 each) are available each year. All funds are distributed on a first come, first served basis.

Participants are expected to attend a pre-program webinar and program evaluation. Each mentoring pair will establish their own goals for the match.

## New Partners

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Are there new educators, inspectors, or regulators in your state who could benefit from connecting with the NCR FSMA? Do you work with a grower organization that is involved in food safety? [Please let us know.](#) We'd love to connect with more partners across the region!

## SAVE THE DATE FOR NCR FSMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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Mark your calendars for April 1-2, 2020 for the second annual conference in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. The conference will include an optional tour of Superior Fresh. More information will be [posted here.](#)

## Alternate Curriculum

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Is your alternate curriculum ready to be reviewed? Are you in the beginning stages of developing a new curriculum? The NCR FSMA, in conjunction with the Lead Regional Center, the FDA, the USDA, and other partners, has developed a review process. The review process is free for any group or organization who is developing an alternate curriculum. It is designed to be a clear process to help developers meet the equivalency standards.

Organizations can start the first stage when they have descriptions of the proposed learning objectives and learning activities. Find out more on the [Alternate Curriculum](#) page on the NCR FSMA website. Contact [Angela](#) with questions.

## Upcoming NCR FSMA Meetings

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The Listening Sessions/ Webinars happen the third Thursday of every month at 2:00 Central time. Join us for the next meeting on September 19. **Chelsea Matzen from the Local Food Safety Collaborative** will be presenting on the organization's needs assessment and focus group interviews.

**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:**

If you missed the September 19 meeting with the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative, you can [read the minutes, review, or watch a recording](#) of the meeting on our website.

## Federal Updates

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### Technical Assistance Network

Regulation and policy interpretation questions related to the Produce Safety Rule should continue to be submitted to the [FDA FSMA Technical Assistance Network](#) (TAN). In addition, the Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance (FSPCA) has developed their own Technical Assistance Network. In the past, the FSPCA TAN has supported inquiries related to the FSMA Preventive Controls Rules, the Foreign Supplier Verification Program (FSVP), sprout safety, and other FSMA programs and activities. The FSCPA TAN is now open to receive technical questions related to Produce Safety Rule and related guidance. Questions can be submitted by visiting the produce section of the [FSCPA TAN webpage](#). The inquiries submitted to the FSPCA TAN are referred to extension staff for a response.

### Cooperative Agreement with NASDA

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced the award of a cooperative agreement with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) to provide critical information and resources to help state and territorial regulatory agencies plan and help carry out implementation of the [FDA Food Safety Modernization Act \(FSMA\) Produce Safety Rule](#).

The cooperative agreement will provide funding that will allow NASDA to assist state and territorial produce safety regulatory programs in developing produce safety programs that

encourage the safe production of fresh fruits and vegetables, understanding of the Produce Safety Rule, and compliance with the Produce Safety Rule’s requirements. This advances the agency’s efforts to develop a nationally integrated food safety system by helping to ensure consistency of state and territorial produce safety regulatory programs with the Produce Safety Rule.

As part of the five-year cooperative agreement, NASDA will also work with the agency to plan and host an annual National Consortium meeting of state and territorial regulatory agencies involved with implementation of the Produce Safety Rule for the purpose of providing program updates, sharing best practices, and providing the FDA with feedback on opportunities for enhancements and program adjustments. Additionally, NASDA will work closely with the FDA to implement and update the On-Farm Readiness Review system and develop a national produce safety regulatory program that promotes a uniform foundation of produce safety.

### Smarter Food Safety

The FDA will be holding [a public meeting](#) entitled “FDA’s New Era of Smarter Food Safety,” on October 21, in Rockville, MD. The meeting will be held at the Hilton Washington DC/Rockville Hotel, 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852. It will include sessions on topics that include traceability, smarter tools for prevention, evolving business models and retail food safety, and food safety culture.

## Educational Add On Updates

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### Highlighted Resource



#### Federal and State Regulations on Selling Jams and Jellies

This add on includes the definitions jams, jellies, preserves, and fruit butters. Federal guidelines for their sales are explained. Then specific regulations for each state are listed. If your state laws have changed since 2017, please let us know and we’ll update the document.

## Resources being edited by the subgroups

- FSMA Summary for Midwest Hops Growers: This document is to assist those who grow Hops with compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule.
- On-Farm Training Guide for Employees and Volunteers: This is a flip-chart that can be used as a training guide for employees and volunteers on produce farms. It is broken into Pre-Harvest, Harvest, and Post-Harvest activities and can be used in one session or multiple sessions.

## Upcoming PSA Courses

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Illinois:	Dec. 18; Jan. 8
Iowa:	Nov. 6, 7, 14, 21; Jan. 14
Kansas:	Oct. 3; Nov. 8 and 15
Missouri:	Nov. 13; Jan. 9
Nebraska:	Nov. 15
North Dakota:	Dec. 7
Ohio:	Dec. 17 and 18
Wisconsin:	Jan. 14

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

Find a list of [registered PSA Trainers](#).

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## Upcoming FSPCA Courses

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Illinois:	PC Human Food: Oct. 1 and 21; Nov. 4, 5, and 13; Dec. 9 FSVP: Oct. 3 and 24
Indiana:	PC Human Food: Nov. 12
Iowa:	PC Human Food: Dec. 2 PC Animal Food: Oct. 9
Kansas:	PC Human Food: Oct. 22
Michigan:	PC Human Food: Oct. 9 FSVP: Oct. 10

Minnesota: PC Human Food: Oct. 23 and 28  
FSVP: Sept. 26

Missouri: PC Human Food: Nov. 19; Dec. 16

Nebraska: PC Human Food: Oct. 21

Ohio: PC Human Food: Oct. 29

Wisconsin: PC Human Food: Oct. 8; Nov. 5 and 12

Online: Human Food: Oct. 2, 9, 10, 23, 24, and 25; Nov. 4, 7, 20, 21, and 22; Dec. 11, 12, and 13; Jan. 8, 16, 17, and 30  
PC Animal Food: Oct. 1, 8, and 21; Nov. 4; Dec. 9 and 10; Jan. 7  
FSVP: Nov. 12; Dec. 16; Jan. 13

Check out the [calendar](#) for postings of FSPCA courses offered nationally. 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](mailto:ncrfsma@iastate.edu).

Sincerely,

NCR FSMA Training Center Team

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Lakshman Rajagopal, NCR FSOP Coordinator

Ellen Johnsen, Project Manager

Joe Hannan, Project Director (USDA Center)

Arlene Enderton, Project Evaluator

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