



North Central Region

Center for FSMA Training, Extension
and Technical Assistance

October 2021

Fall Professional Development



We'll Bring the News, You Bring your Brews...

...Coffee and tea of course!

The **North Central Region (NCR) Fall Professional Development Meeting** (*formerly News and Brews*) will take place on October 13 and 14, 2021, from 8:30-1pm (CT) via Zoom. If you are reading this, please plan to attend!

Not to brag, but we've got a few produce safety celebrities lined up and you do not want to miss the make and take either! Some highlights straight off the agenda include the state updates (where we learn what our counterparts in other states are doing), FDA and PSA updates, a visit from Chris Callahan from University of Vermont (yep- THE Chris Callahan) and some interactive and hands-on skill development activities! Just because we aren't together, doesn't mean we can't do something together, apart. :)

Find a more [detailed agenda](#) on our website.

But wait, there's more! This one is FREE to attend...so [please click here to register](#) ASAP! If you would like to participate in the make and take activity, please be sure to register by October 5 and provide a mailing address (during registration) where you can receive packages.

Zoom you soon!!

NCR FSMA Annual Conference

We're planning another virtual annual conference for March 2022. Exact days and times will be announced soon. If you'd like to help plan the conference, please [contact Angela](#) by October 8.

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 October 8.

Updated Resources



The NCR FSMA add on [resources dealing with value-added agriculture](#) have been updated. You can find the federal and state-specific guidelines on selling Jams and Jellies, Fermented Foods; Pickled Vegetables; and Frozen and Dehydrated Foods on the NCR FSMA website.

**If you have any new resources, please contact Ellen to have them featured.

FDA Updates

The FDA New Era of Smarter Food Safety [Summit on E-Commerce: Ensuring the Safety of Foods Ordered Online and Delivered Directly to Consumers](#) will take place virtually October 19-21, 2021. The summit is designed to help the agency improve its understanding of how human and animal foods are sold through Business to Consumer (or B2C for short) e-commerce models across the U.S. and globally.

During the three-day event, there will be opportunities for public comment each day. Participants who wish to speak during the public comment sessions must register as indicated in the Federal Register Notice by October 8, 2021.

There is no cost to attend the summit, but registration is required.



The winners of the [FDA Traceability Challenge](#) have been announced. Twelve of 90 submissions were presented at a webinar in late September. The FDA's goal of the contest was to help achieve end-to-end traceability – from source to table – throughout the food safety system.

One of the winners of the competition was Iowa Valley Resource Conservation and Development! Their staff presented about their Clean Start program (which utilized a mini-grant from the NCR FSMA) at a recent listening session. As part of the Clean Start program, they developed the FarmTabs traceability program.

Mini Grant Updates



Congratulations to Jordan DeVries and Lisa Bates, and their teams for their successful mini grant applications. All of the allotted funds have been distributed. We are looking forward to hearing about these projects soon!

Job Opening

The University of New Hampshire is seeking a [food safety specialist](#) to fill a full-time, benefits-eligible position as State Specialist/Extension Professor of Food Safety.

New Resources

The [Artisan Grain Collaborative](#) and the [Center for Agriculture and Food Systems](#) at Vermont Law School are pleased to share a new guide for food-grade grain farmers and processors. Titled "[Understanding FSMA's Preventive Controls Rule: A Guide for Grain Businesses](#)," the guide breaks down complicated federal food safety regulations related to the Food Safety Modernization Act's (FSMA) Preventive Controls for Human Food Rule (PCR). It aims to help farmers and processors identify which food safety requirements apply to their particular operations and assist them in understanding what they need to do to comply as they work to build local and regional food systems.

Translations



The Produce Safety Alliance manual is now available in [Portuguese](#). The training is also available in Spanish and Chinese.

The [Produce Safety Rule](#) is now available in [Korean and Japanese](#). The PSR is also available in Spanish, Chinese, and Portuguese.

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.

Updates from Partner Organizations

United Fresh offers a virtual Produce GAPs Harmonized Standard Auditor Training, October 18-21, featuring 4 half-day sessions. This course utilizes the official training materials developed by the Produce GAPs Harmonization Initiative Calibration Committee, designed to standardize food safety auditors' use and expectations of the combined Pre- and Post-harvest Harmonized Standards.

The Center for Produce Safety announced its annual call for preliminary research proposals. Pre-Proposals and required documents should be emailed to CPS by 2:00 Central time on Wednesday, November 10, 2021. The CPS website has more information, including how to ask questions during Office Hours in early October.

Upcoming NCR FSMA Meetings

The Listening Sessions/ Webinars happen on the third Thursday of every month at 2:00, Central time. The next meeting will be on October 21. Billy Mitchell and Anita Adalja will share new resources from the Local Food Safety Collaborative and the National Young Farmers Coalition.

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:



Angela Shaw gave an overview of the NCR FSMA partners' accomplishments during the 2018-2021 grant, and she shared the plans for utilizing the no-cost extension. You can [listen to or watch the recording](#) in the Box. All the resources shared in the Chat are also in the Box. Contact us if you need 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, October 1**. Contact Ellen for call information.

State employees responsible for farm inventories have scheduled their next call for **Friday, October 15**, at 9:00 am Central time. Thanks to Doreen Gubbay and Andrea Schmidt from the FDA for attending the September meeting to answer questions about completing the required reports. Contact [Ellen](#) for call information.

Upcoming PSA Courses

Iowa in-person: January 27; March 8

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

Kansas in-person: October 12; January 7

Kansas/Missouri remote: October 28 & November 4

Nebraska in-person: November 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: Oct. 4, 6, and 26; Nov. 8, 16, and 30; Dec. 7 and 13
FSVP: October 13

Iowa: PC Human Food: Oct. 5 and 26
PC Animal Food: November 2

Michigan: PC Human Food: October 19; Nov. 3 and 8
FSVP: Nov. 9; Jan. 18

Ohio: PC Human Food: Oct. 27; Dec. 14

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

Online: PC Human Food: 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, 11, 17, 25, and 26; Feb. 1, 8, 14, 21, and 23; Mar. 16, 25, and 31
PC Animal Food: Oct. 4, 13, and 15; Nov. 1, 10, 15, 24, and 30;
Dec. 1; Jan. 3 and 14; Feb. 4 and 16; Mar. 11 and 29
FSVP: Oct. 1, 4, 12, 13, 20, and 21; Nov. 5, 8, 10, and 23; Dec. 2, 7, 15, and 17;
Jan. 18, 20; Feb. 2 and 10; Mar. 22 and 24

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

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