

# North Central Region

Center for FSMA Training, Extension  
and Technical Assistance

October 2022



## Global Handwashing Day

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On October 15, celebrate Global Handwashing Day, an advocacy day dedicated to increasing awareness and understanding about the importance of handwashing with soap as an effective and affordable way to prevent diseases and save lives.

## Reagan-Udall Foundation's review of FDA

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As part of the Reagan-Udall Foundation's review of FDA, they are gathering feedback about the human foods program. Academics, advocates, state government staff, and others are encouraged to submit their input using the Stakeholder Portal.

The comments will be viewable by the public, but the optional contact information will only be shared with the Reagan-Udall Foundation.

The review focuses on the structure/leadership, authority, resources, and culture of FDA's human foods program. Comments can be submitted through October 7, 2022.

## Fall Professional Development

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The **Fall Professional Development meeting** will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, October 4-5. The group will be gathering in Vincennes, IN, for two full-days of classroom talks, hands-on activities, and demonstrations. Registration has closed.

## Annual Conference – Save the Date

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The dates for the 2023 NCR FSMA Annual Conference will be March 15-16. We are still confirming the hotel and a farm tour, but we plan to meet in Eau Claire, WI. Short courses may be offered before the conference. If you are interested in offering a course, [please let us know](#).

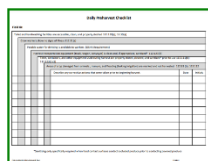
## What's New on the Produce Safety Clearinghouse?

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- Two new episodes of the Agrifood Safety Produce Bites Podcast- from the Michigan On-Farm Produce Safety Team. You can find episodes featuring [Landen Tetil](#), [Micah Hutchison](#), [Jordan DeVries](#), and [Elizabeth Visser](#) (a Michigan farm manager).
- Factsheets on different techniques used to process food- from Virginia Cooperative Extension. There are resources on using [microwave technology](#), [high pressure processing](#), [chlorine gas](#), and [ozone gas](#).

## Featured NCR FSMA Resource

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The communication survey found that not all the NCR FSMA partners (you!) are familiar with the resources that the group put together in 2018. So we'll be highlighting a resource each month. You can find all the resources on [our website](#).

The [Daily Pre-Harvest Checklist](#) can be downloaded as a pdf or edit-able excel document. The checklist gives growers a place to record that they have done an assessment and are ready for harvesting each day.

## Job Openings

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The University of Minnesota Extension is hiring two full-time [Extension Educators in Food Safety](#). The Educators will be an integral part of the Food Safety team, working with a wide Extension audience on educational topics such as food preservation, cottage food production, food allergens, safe food handling practices, food security and access, emerging food safety issues and the reduction of risk factors associated

with foodborne illnesses.

## FDA Updates

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On Sept. 27, the FDA released its [Activities to Enhance the Safety of Imported Produce](#), which provides an overview of the work underway to advance the safety of produce imported into the United States. This overview follows the 2019 release of the *Strategy for the Safety of Imported Food (Import Strategy)* which described the agency's comprehensive approach to enhancing the safety of food imported into the United States.

## Updates from our Partners

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On the Produce Safety Alliance website, you can find the slides and a recording of the most recent Educators' Call. The PSA team previewed the draft supplemental slides on the proposed Subpart E (Agricultural Water) requirements and discussed the new proposed compliance dates for Subpart E. Their annual update call is scheduled for October 25.

The Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative is excited for the launch of Gaining Ground: A Report on the 2018 Farm Bill Successes for Indian Country and Opportunities for 2023.

International Fresh Produce Association (formerly Produce Marketing Association & United Fresh Produce Association) will be hosting the next Produce GAPs Harmonized Auditor Training. The training will be held on Nov. 2-3, online and a 1 day on-farm portion on Nov. 17, in North Carolina.

Purdue University invites you to join the 2022 Workshop on Hydroponics and Floriculture Production. The conference is November 3, 2022 (8 am to 5 pm). Deadline to register is October 25. Cost is \$25 and includes lunch.

Food entrepreneurs can learn about best practices related to food safety, food labeling, and cleaning and sanitation of food contact surfaces during a free webinar series Oct. 12, Oct. 26, and Nov. 9. The series features extension food safety specialists from several land-grant universities (and NCR FSMA partners!) and is made possible through a food safety outreach grant supported by USDA and the North Central Region Food Safety Extension Network.

Byron Chaves will be offering a virtual HACCP course on October 17, 18, 19, and 20. Participants will gain an understanding of HACCP regulatory requirements (FDA and USDA-FSIS), HACCP plan development, and HACCP system implementation. The course has multiple opportunities for discussion and ample time allocated for questions, examples, and case studies. At the end of the course, participants will receive proof of course completion with the seal of the International HACCP Alliance.

Next on CONTACT's Produce Safety Webinar Series: **"Post-harvest Water: Things to Consider"**, on October 13 at 2:30 pm Central time. This webinar will feature the engaging Dr. Keith Schneider from the University of Florida. This webinar is free and will be held via Zoom. Registration is required. Produce safety industry, government, and academia are encouraged to come.



## 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.

## Controlled Environmental Agriculture Produce Food Safety Researchers and Extension

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Do you conduct controlled environmental agriculture produce food safety research and/or extension? If so, we want to include you in a national conversation. A google document and google form have been created to identify who are these individuals. The goal is to have a CEA Food Safety Conference to bring industry, government, and academia together in Late Spring 2023.

[Please fill out this google form](#) which asks questions about your publications, your facility capacity, and asks for feedback on the idea of holding a conference.

This [google document has information](#) for people who have filled out this google form. If you have questions, please [contact Angela Shaw](#).

## Graduate Position Openings

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Angela Shaw is recruiting four PhD students for Spring/ Summer 2023. The position will be based in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences at Texas Tech University, Lubbock Campus. The graduate student will assist with conducting food safety risk assessments within controlled environmental agricultural herb-producing facilities throughout the United States. The graduate student will also be involved in the development of food safety risk mitigation strategies and the development of a food safety curriculum based on the research findings. The selected graduate student will be required to travel to Michigan, Virginia, California, and other areas of Texas to conduct this research. [Contact Dr. Angela Shaw](#) to apply.

## Upcoming NCR FSMA Meetings

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The **Listening Sessions/ Webinars** happen on the third Thursday of every month at 2:00, Central time. At the October 20, meeting, Kathiravan Krishnamurthy will be speaking on "Validating Critical Parameters for Juice 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:**

We did not record last month's meeting, as it was a time for discussion and questions. It was a great time to get to know our colleagues!

The meeting for state inspectors/regulators will hold their next meeting will be Friday, October 7, at 9am, Central time. Evaluator Arlene Enderton will be attending to discuss collecting areas of concern that inspectors have been seeing.

The meeting for data/inventory will be Friday, October 21, at 9:00 am, Central time.

The meeting for program managers will happen at its regular time, on Tuesday, October 11, 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: Nov. 4

Kansas/Missouri (remote): Nov. 21 & 22

Missouri: Nov. 1

Online course: begins once per month and is offered in English or Spanish. (The first English-language course people can register for begins in February, so if you know growers who are interested, encourage them to sign up in advance.)

Train the Trainer: [Oct. 27-28, Athens, GA](#)

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:** Oct. 3, 4, 12, and 24; Nov. 1, 14, 16, 20, and 30; Dec. 5, 6, 12, and 13; Jan. 10  
**PC Animal Food:** Dec. 5  
**FSVP:** Oct. 4, 11, and 27; Nov. 8; Dec. 15; Jan. 17

Iowa: **PC Animal Food:** Nov. 7

Kansas: **PC Animal Food:** Nov. 8

Michigan: **PC Human Food:** Oct. 11 and 18  
**FSVP:** Oct. 6

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

Ohio: **PC Human Food:** Oct. 18; Nov. 9

Wisconsin: **PC Human Food:** Nov. 8; Dec. 13

Online: **PC Human Food:** Oct. 3, 5, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, and 26; Nov. 1, 7, 8, 11, 14, 15, 16, 19, 21, 23, 28, and 29; Dec. 5, 7, 10, 12, 13, and 19; Jan. 4, 16, 17, and 23; Feb. 21  
**PC Human Food (Spanish):** Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31; Nov. 7, 14, and 21  
**PC Human Food (Chinese):** Oct. 17 and 24; Nov. 7, 14, and 21  
**PC Animal Food:** Oct. 3, 21, and 25; Nov. 2, 7, 12, and 30; Dec. 3, 5, 12, 20, and 21; Jan. 2 and 10; Feb. 6  
**FSVP:** Oct. 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 24, and 25; Nov. 7, 9, 14, 15, 16, and 21; Dec. 13 and 15; Jan. 10; Feb. 13

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

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Sincerely,

NCR FSMA Training Center Team

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