



North Central Region

Center for FSMA Training, Extension and Technical Assistance

October 2024

Fall Professional Development



Register for the in-person Fall Professional Development Event before October 12!

The [Fall Professional Development](#) event will be held Oct. 22-23. Everyone who works with the Produce Safety Rule (educators, technicians, inspectors, etc.) is invited! Join the group in the Detroit area for two days of presentations, discussions, and farm visits. We'll be discussing the finalized water rule, including the

ag water assessment. We will be meeting from 8:30-4:30 each day. (If you're planning to fly, please book your flight home after 7:00pm on Oct. 23.)

Registration is open. The cost to attend this event is \$75 which includes boxed lunches, drinks, and snacks for both days. You can cancel with a full refund up until October 15. No refunds after October 15. Registration closes at 11:59 p.m. ET on October 12.

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 October 8 session is "Establishing Microbiological Criteria" (Introduction to purpose, types, and components of microbiological criteria for decision-making).

Food Traceability Rule meeting with FDA and Reagan Udall Foundation

A few months ago, the FDA worked with the Reagan-Udall Foundation for the FDA to host three roundtable discussions on the Food Traceability Rule.

The FDA wants to hear more perspectives, so the FDA and the Foundation are facilitating a public meeting on October 7, from 12:00-2:30pm, Central time, that will review what was discussed during the roundtable discussions and provide others the opportunity to offer feedback.

The free public meeting will be virtual, and [registration is required](#).

Additionally, there will be an open period for comments until October 25.

More information is available in the [Constituent Update](#).

FDA Call

The fourth Thursday of October is the quarterly call between FDA and all North Central Region stakeholders. If you have a question for FDA (or would like to listen to other people's questions), please join the call on Thursday, October 24, at 10:00am, Central time. Educators, regulators, technicians, non-profit staff, anyone who works with produce safety is invited. Contact [Kristin Esch](#) for the call information.

FDA Update

The FDA has announced the availability of an updated guidance for industry entitled "Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption: What You Need to Know About the FDA Regulation: [Small Entity Compliance Guide](#)" (SECG). This update aims to assist small entities in complying with the revised requirements related to pre-harvest agricultural water for covered produce (other than sprouts) under the Produce Safety Rule.

Save the Date

2025 Produce Safety Consortium: March 17-20. The event, sponsored by NASDA, the NASDA Foundation, and FDA, will be held in Fort Worth, TX.

FSPCA Conference

Register for the [FSPCA conference](#) before October 1 to save \$100 on the conference price. The 8th FSPCA Annual Conference will be held in-person at the Chicago Marriott Southwest at Burr Ridge on November 19-20, 2024.

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. If you haven't already done so, please [fill out the evaluation survey](#) by October 3. Plans are being made for an in-person FSOP project directors' meeting during the week of May 26 (days still to be decided).

IFAI Resources

The Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative's Food Safety team recently launched an [online hub](#) that provides a one-stop-shop for all of IFAI's food safety created content, including infographics, webinars, demonstrations, and more.

Research Articles for Growers and Processors

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

Here's an example of what has been suggested:

[Evidence for the efficacy of pre-harvest agricultural practices in mitigating food-safety risks to fresh produce in North America](#)

New Resources on the Produce Safety Clearinghouse



[Understanding Biological Cross Contamination](#)- this resource is geared towards technical service providers and/or farm managers looking to do an interactive and memorable activity with farmers. Farmers are able to visualize the spread of biological contamination and discuss risk assessment details to keep in mind.

Journal Article about the Cost of Implementing Preventive Controls for Human Foods Standards-

The authors combined economics and food science principles to identify and estimate cost barriers for food processing businesses in the Northeast U.S. The study provides food safety educators with concrete cost information to support businesses to pursue Preventive Controls standards.

NCR FSMA Funding

We did not budget as much money for stipends in this round of funding as we did in previous iterations of the project. However, there is a small amount of funding available. 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. If you'd like to utilize these funds for the event in Michigan, please apply before October 18.

Please contact Ellen with questions about the stipends and [apply on-line](#).

NCR FSMA Meetings

The Listening Session/ Webinar will be held in Thursday, October 17, at 2:00, Central time. We will have two presentations during the webinar. Lindsey Pender will be discussing the infographics she designed, and Julie Garden-Robinson will be sharing about the educational modules she developed as part of her FSOP grant.

Update from last month's meeting: We discussed the updated agricultural water rules in September. 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, Oct. 18, at 9am, Central time.

The meeting for program managers will be Tuesday, Oct. 8, at 10am, Central time.

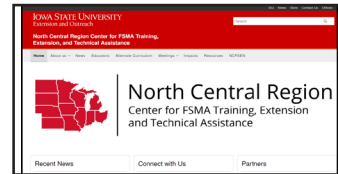
Please contact us if you need call information for any of these meetings.

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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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.