



# North Central Region

Center for FSMA Training, Extension  
and Technical Assistance

September 2022

## Communication Survey

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Thanks to everyone who shared their thoughts through our Communication Survey. We appreciate your time to improve the way the NCR FSMA connects with partners. Ten percent of our mailing list filled out the survey.

Based on the survey, we'll be making a few changes. You'll notice one new section of this newsletters "What's New on the Produce Safety Clearinghouse." We'll be highlighting one resource for growers and one for processors each month, to help you stay updated on new resources available.

The number who preferred an electronic newsletter with a PDF attachment was slightly higher than the number who preferred an electronic newsletter with the newsletter in the body of the email, like MailChimp, so we'll continue sending the newsletter in this format.

Nearly all respondents indicated the current time of monthly listening sessions (the third Thursday of the month at 2:00 PM, Central time) fits their schedule very well (nine respondents) or moderately well (seven). No one indicated the time does not fit their schedule at all, so we will continue those meetings at the same time.

Congrats to everyone who won the gift card. Please let us know if you didn't receive the email with the link to the Tango gift card website.

## 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. The afternoon of Day 2 will hopefully include a farm tour- details are still being worked out. This event is geared towards Produce Safety Alliance trainers, produce inspectors, and state regulators. [Please register by September 16.](#)

Participants will be responsible for arranging their own transportation, lodging, and suppers. The \$75 registration fee includes breakfast and lunch both days.

## Pre-Harvest Water Implementation Dates Comments

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The FDA issued a supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking to [extend the compliance dates for the pre-harvest agricultural water provisions](#) as outlined in the recent 2021 agricultural water proposed rule. They are reopening the comment period only with respect to the proposed compliance dates for the pre-harvest agricultural water provisions until September 19, 2022. [Comments should be submitted](#) to docket FDA-2021-N-0471 on Regulations.gov.

## Resources that were highlighted at IAFP

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[Guidance for Industry: Reducing Microbial Food Safety Hazards in the Production of Seed for Sprouting](#) (2022)

[Leafy Green Action Plan](#) (2020, updated in 2021)

[Cyclospora prevention, response and research action plan](#) (2021)

## What's New on the Produce Safety Clearinghouse

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[The Processors' Food Safety Toolkit](#) is a resource collection to help very small and small processors get started with Preventive Controls for Human Food (PCHF) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs). The website provides authoritative, comprehensive, and actionable resources for processors to understand and comply with federal

regulation.

[Detergents for Farm Food Contact Surfaces](#)- a blog post by Billy Mitchell, Chris Callahan, Phil Tocco, and Andy Chamberlin that covers key features of detergents and provides guidance for selecting an appropriate one for farm use.

## Evaluation Report

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The PSA Grower Training [Follow-Up Survey Report](#) is available on the NCR website. The impact of Produce Safety Alliance Grower Trainings in twelve North Central Region states was evaluated in five consecutive years. Training participants were invited to take the survey approximately one year after the training. The most recent evaluation found that 76% of growers who responded to the survey improved food safety practice, infrastructure, or equipment since the training. State level reports are available from your state lead. Contact us if you need more information.

## 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.

## Annual Conference – Save the Date

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The tentative 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](#).

## Job Openings

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Virginia Tech is hiring an [Associate Extension Specialist](#). The position will be located in Blacksburg, VA. The position includes providing education, support and leadership across the state through Virginia Cooperative Extension in the areas of consumer, retail and local food inspired food safety needs. The position will directly support the delivery of ServSafe, the Master Food Volunteer program as well as programming targeted to farmers markets, food recovery organizations and others as needed.

The Newaygo Conservation District is hiring a [Produce Safety Technician](#), who will be based in Fremont, MI. The job includes assisting growers in voluntarily assessing safe growing, harvesting, packing, and holding practices on produce farms. This includes outreach, education, on-farm technical assistance, completion of risk assessments with the landowner to facilitate practice changes, developing Improvement Action Plans, and coordination with local, state, and federal agency resources to help produce growers reduce food safety risks and make progress towards implementation of practices consistent with the FSMA PSR.

## Food Safety for Entrepreneurs Webinars

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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](#).

# Spanish-Language PSA Training/ Curso de capacitación virtual en español para agricultores

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## [Curso de capacitación virtual en español para agricultores](#)

dos sábados - el 17 y el 24 de septiembre de 2022  
8:45am – 1:30pm hora del centro (9:45am – 2:30pm hora del este)

## [Spanish-language PSA Produce Safety Rule Grower Training \(virtual\)](#)

September 17 and 24 (two Saturdays)  
8:45am – 1:30pm central time (9:45am – 2:30pm Eastern)

## CONTACT Team Webinar

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The CONTACT Team is delighted to bring Season 2 of the Produce Safety Webinar Series, premiering with “*Human Enteric Virus Contamination of Soft Fruits: Management of Risk in the Face of Uncertainty*”, on September 15, at 3:30 pm Eastern / 12:30 pm Pacific.

[Registration](#) is required.

## Bridging the GAPS

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## [Bridging the GAPS: Approaches for Treating Preharvest Agricultural Water On-Farm Training Course](#):

Fruit and vegetable growers are continually assessing their operations to determine where they can limit risk and increase productivity. As a result, many have expressed interest in learning more about how on-farm pre-harvest water treatment systems work and how they may fit within their current setup. This course will be offered remotely on Dec. 8 and 9. Register by November 8.

## The Food Safety Lunch Hour

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The Nebraska MEP, The Food Processing Center, & Presage Analytics, Inc. present: [The Food Safety Lunch Hour](#) with Dr. Byron Chaves. All virtual sessions meet the last Tuesday of the month, from 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m. CT.

## 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- August 18. Andy Chamberlin, from the University of Vermont, will be speaking on September 15.

### **Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device:**

[Join the meeting.](#)

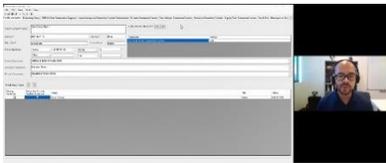
Or, go to <https://iastate.zoom.us/join> and enter meeting ID: 845 702 039

### **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:**



Byron Chaves spoke about “Developing Food Safety Plans for Processors.”

You can find [video and audio recordings](#) of the meeting in the Box. Let us know if you need access.

The **meeting for state inspectors/regulators** will not meet at their normal time on Friday, September 2 because of the holiday weekend. Their next meeting will be Friday, October 7.

The **meeting for data/inventory** will be Friday, September 16, at 9:00 am Central time.

The **meeting for program managers** will happen at a different time this month. They will meet on Friday, September 9 at 12:00 noon, Central time, to discuss the latest ag water rule implementation announcement. The focus of this meeting is to brainstorm how to educate growers about the new compliance dates and perhaps collectively put together grower educational resources.

Please [contact us](#), if you need call information for any of these meetings.

## Upcoming PSA Courses

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Kansas/Missouri (remote): Sept. 6 &7

Ohio: Sept. 24

Online course: begins once per month and is offered in English or Spanish. (The first English-language course people can register for begins January 1, 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: Sept. 12, 13, and 28; Oct. 3, 4, 12, and 24;  
Nov. 1, 14, 16, 20, and 30; Dec. 5, 6, 12, and 13; Jan. 10  
PC Animal Food: Sept. 20; Dec. 5  
FSVP: Sept. 1, 15, 20, and 21; Oct. 4, 11, and 27; Nov. 8

Michigan: PC Human Food: Sept. 20; Oct. 18

Minnesota: PC Human Food: Sept. 19

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

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

Wisconsin: PC Human Food: Sept. 13 and 20; Nov. 8; Dec. 13

Online: PC Human Food: Sept. 5, 6, 7, 9, 12, 14, 19, 23, 26, and 28;  
Oct. 3, 5, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, and 26; Nov. 8, 15, 16, 19, 23, 28, and 29;  
Dec. 5, 7, 10, 12, 13, and 19; Jan. 16 and 23  
PC Human Food (Spanish): Sept. 5, 12, 19, and 26; Oct. 3, 10, 17, and 24  
PC Human Food (Chinese): Sept. 5, 12, 19, and 26; Oct. 17 and 24  
  
PC Animal Food: Sept. 5, 6, 9, 19, 21, and 28; Oct. 3, 21, and 25;  
Nov. 2, 7, 12, and 30; Dec. 3, 5, 12, 20, and 21; Jan. 2  
FSVP: Sept. 2, 5, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, and 27;  
Oct. 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 24, and 25; Nov. 7 and 9  
FSVP (Korean): Sept. 14 and 21

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

[Follow us on Facebook](#)

[Visit our website](#)

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

Angela M Shaw

Arlene Enderton

Ellen Johnsen

Byron Chaves

Dan Fillius

Kathiravan Krishnamurthy

Phil Tocco

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For the full non-discrimination statement or accommodation inquiries, go to

[www.extension.iastate.edu/diversity/ext](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/diversity/ext).



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