



# North Central Region

## Center for FSMA Training, Extension and Technical Assistance

**September 2024**

### **NCR FSMA Funding**

We are excited to announce that the [NCR FSMA has received another three years of funding](#) from USDA NIFA through the FSOP program. Our new funding begins Sept. 1. Many of the leadership team from this round of funding will continue with the project- Byron Chaves, Arlene Enderton, Phil Tocco, and Ellen Johnsen. These newsletters, webinars, and in-person meetings will continue, as well. We received a three-year FSOP grant, so this round of funding will end in August 2027.

### **Fall Professional Development**



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 and 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 eight webinars this academic year on "Microbiological Tools for Process Control and Product Acceptance." Join the [Food Safety Lunch Hour webinars](#) at 12:00noon, Central time, on Sept. 3; Oct. 8; Nov. 5; Dec. 10; Jan. 28; Feb. 25; Mar. 25; and Apr. 29. Registration is required for this free course.

### **Annual Conference Planning Team**

Would you like to serve on the team to plan the next NCR FSMA annual conference? Our first priority is to decide on a time and location. We are looking for five people. Hopefully our team will include people from both the processing and growing side of produce safety and include educators, non-profit staff, and regulators. Please let Ellen know if you're willing to be part of this group. The NCR FSMA will pay the conference registration fee for each member of the planning team.

## FSOP Award Webinars

Two FSOP webinars will be held this fall: Fri., Sept. 20, at 11:00 Central time, and Tues., Sept. 24, at 1:00 Central time. Current FSOP awardees are expected to attend at least one, and everyone is welcome to attend and learn more about the Food Safety Outreach Program (grants through the USDA NIFA) projects. [Registration](#) is free.

## Research to Share with Growers/Processors

Do you have a favorite article that you share with growers or processors when they ask, “Do I really need to do that?” Is there research that you point to emphasize why a practice is risky? If so, please share the article with Ellen. We’re putting together a new section of the website to help regulators and educators quickly find the science-based information their growers and processors need to make informed decisions.

## Contact Webinar

Join the Contact team on Tuesday, September 24, at 2:30, Central time, for their new webinar, Comparative Evaluation of Commonly Used Agricultural Water Chemical Treatments, featuring guest speaker Dr. Channah Rock from the University of Arizona. [Registration is required](#) for this free webinar.

Contact is also offering a Self-Paced Environmental Monitoring Course for Beginners. They put together a 5-hour beginners’ course all about foundations in environmental monitoring. The course is broken up into three modules that address what an EMP is, how it can help identify and verify control of food safety risks, and the prerequisite programs that need to be in place before you implement the program. It’s entirely on-line and you can take it at your own pace as you develop your own EMP. [Registration is available now.](#)

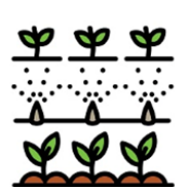
## Water Rules Book Club

Michigan State Extension is hosting a “Water Rule Book Club” and they’ve invited all their regional partners. The plan is to collectively read the entire updated PSR Water Rule over the span of 3 months and meet every few weeks to discuss what each segment says/means. The goal is to efficiently seek clarification and consensus in our interpretation of the new guidelines. All meetings are from 12N to 1PM Eastern Time.

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/99439782267?from=addon> (Meeting ID: 994 3978 2267)

*The updated schedule is as follows:*

Sept 11	Pages: 37476 – 37489	(Comment 37 to Comment 53)
Sept 26	Pages: 37489-37496	(Comment 54 to Comment 77)
October 7	Pages: 37496-37504	(Comment 78 to Comment 101)
October 21	Pages: 37504-37511	(Comment 102 to Comment 123)
Nov 4	Pages: 37511-37519	(Comment 124 to Item XII)



Please let Heather ([bordenhe@msu.edu](mailto:bordenhe@msu.edu)) know if you have any questions or concerns!

## New Resources on the Produce Safety Clearinghouse

**Developing Your On-Farm Food Safety Worker Training Program-** [This resource](#), from Rutgers University, is designed to be used by farmers to assess the activities that take place on their farm and the relevant worker training needs specific to produce safety.

**Enhancing Food Safety Capacity of Western Elderberry Producers: Best Practices for Harvest and Processing-** [This project](#) intends to enhance food safety practices across the elderberry supply chain - from harvest to processing - with particular attention towards a niche audience of small-scale, regionally-based producers and processors in California, by creating and disseminating 4 guidance documents, in English and Spanish, on best practices related to harvesting, post-harvest handling, on-farm drying, freezing, and storage of elderberry fruit and flowers.

## 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 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.

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

## Job Opening

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship is excited to announce the opening of a newly created position for a [Local Foods Program Planner 2](#) within the Ag Diversification and Market Development Bureau. This role will involve working across several federally funded programs, with responsibilities that include both assisting with and occasionally administering these programs. One of the projects is the Produce Safety Rule.

The application is open until September 5. If you have any questions about the position, please feel free to reach out to Paul Ovrom, Ag Diversification & Market Reporting Bureau Chief, at [paul.ovrom@iowaagriculture.gov](mailto:paul.ovrom@iowaagriculture.gov).

## NCR FSMA Meetings

The Listening Session/ Webinar will be held in Thursday, September 19, at 2:00, Central time. We will be discussing the recently finalized ag water rules. Please join with your questions and comments about the rules and how to help growers understand them.



Update from last month's meeting: Because it was the last webinar funded by our previous grant, we celebrated all that had been accomplished during the previous three years. We thanked all of our partners from that round of funding. Everyone had a chance to share what they enjoyed most about the NCR FSMA. 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, Sept. 20, at 9am, Central time.

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

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



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Thank you for your continued involvement with the NCR FSMA!

Sincerely,  
NCR FSMA Project Team

Byron Chaves  
Phil Tocco

Arlene Enderton  
Ellen Johnsen

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If you'd like to be [removed from the NCR FSMA mailing list](#), please let us know.