

NCR FSMA

Year 3 Impact Summary

Faces of Impact



The first face-to-face gathering held for partners of the North Central Region Center for FSMA Training, Extension, and Technical Assistance (NCR FSMA) was a grassroots effort organized by two prominent partners: Phil Tocco (Michigan State University Extension) and Don Stoeckel (Produce Safety Alliance). During the summer, new information about the Produce Safety Rule was released, and teams had time to develop new classroom activities.

The gathering was held at The Inn on Ferry Street in Detroit, Michigan, on October 23, 2018. Amanda Deering of Purdue Extension described the location: “They had an awesome venue!” The unique venue gave the meeting an intimate feel, and most attendees really liked it.

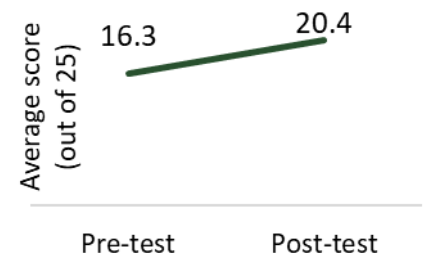
This close, intimate feel was intentional. Says Tocco, “I’ve seen with the other regions the more they see each other and

The North Central Region Center for FSMA Training, Extension and Technical Assistance (NCR FSMA) began in March 2016 with funding from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. It is a collaboration of on-farm food safety specialists from 12 Midwest states. Its purpose is to help small and medium-scale fruit and vegetable growers become compliant with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule. This document shares impacts of the NCR FSMA from Year 3 (2018-2019).

Top Outcomes

PSA course participants’ knowledge about FSMA and food safety increased.

On a knowledge assessment the day of the training, their scores increased an average of **4.1 points**.



PSA Course participants’ behavior changed.

Within one year of attending a PSA course, **73%** of grower respondents (94 of 128) made a food safety change on their farm. **31%** made changes to infrastructure or equipment to improve food safety practices.

Partners, state leads, and educators were better connected.

To state leads, the peer network of NCR FSMA partners is by far the greatest benefit of the center. **87%** of communication survey respondents read the NCR FSMA electronic newsletters, and **83%** participated in the monthly listening sessions.

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collaborate, the more they flourish.”

Participants found a lot of value in meeting face to face, some for the first time, and learning from one another. Deering said, “The most beneficial aspect of the meeting was meeting people doing the same thing you are doing [...] We are all doing the same stuff, but everyone is going about it a little differently.”

Lindsey Pender of The Ohio State University is relatively new to FSMA-related work. She said, “They made me feel I belonged there.”

Holly Rose Mawby of Dakota College in North Dakota joined the meeting remotely. Despite the fact that she didn’t attend in person, she also felt it provided her with opportunities to “meet” people. She said, “Participating in the conference helped me put faces to names [...] That made me feel more a part of the team.”

Of course, participants also found the content of the meeting beneficial, too. Mawby said, “It gave me really good ideas on activities to incorporate into trainings. Without interaction or activities, producer trainings can be long.”

Stoeckel appreciated the session regarding FSMA inspectional designs, during which each state shared their status and plans for beginning inspections. “That was the most valuable session—to hear from each state outreach team all in one session.”

Improvements Shown

State leads have developed **deeper relationships** among partners.

Improved communications between NCR FSMA staff and partners.

With feedback from the knowledge assessments, Grower Trainers have taught **increasingly effective PSA courses**.

Recommendations For The Future

Assist Trainers, State Leads, and other Partners by:

Providing opportunities for NCR FSMA partners to meet **face to face**, but also allow those who cannot travel the option to join remotely.

Continuing to offer opportunities for partners to **work together** in small groups.

Helping partners become more familiar with **NCR FSMA add-ons** by highlighting key points in a newsletter or online call.

Replacing at least some optional listening sessions with a “**deep dive**” into a topic.

Assist Growers by:

Distributing accurate information, especially about finalized regulations.

Creating **new resources and templates** to help growers comply with FSMA.

Providing **technical assistance**.

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