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# WRRC




## Western Regional Center to Enhance Food Safety

December 2023 Newsletter

Dear WRCEFS Community,



Below you will find information related to national updates and educational events, new resources, and ongoing WRCEFS initiatives.

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## Lunch and Learn with Dr. Cheryl Murphy

*Dr. Murphy joins us from Michigan State University to share her expertise on the emerging food safety research surrounding forever chemicals, also known as PFAS.*



**December 4th | 12-1 PM EST**  
Register via Zoom: <https://bit.ly/3SMc0Yb>



## Lunch and Learn Webinar

The Local Food Safety Collaborative invites you to a virtual discussion on PFAS, also known as “forever chemicals” with Dr. Cheryl Murphy on December 4th at 12:00 PM EST (9 AM PT).

PFAS or perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances are a class of man-made chemical compounds known to resist degradation, making them a harmful threat to human health and the environment. Dr. Cheryl Murphy is a distinguished professor in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University and currently leads the Center for PFAS Research. During this hour-long discussion, Dr. Murphy will dissect the long-term problems these widely used chemicals present and what they mean for agriculture and food safety.

[Register for the webinar here](https://bit.ly/3SMc0Yb)



**SAVE THE DATE**

A WESTERN US REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR  
EXTENSION FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES  
PROFESSIONALS

**FEB 29  
- MAR 2  
2024**

**MODERNIZING  
HOME FOOD  
PRESERVATION**

Oregon State University  
Portland Center  
**PORTLAND, OREGON**

HOTEL AND REGISTRATION DETAILS COMING SOON  
**[HTTPS://BEAV.ES/QMX](https://beav.es/qmx)**



Oregon State University  
Extension Service

## **Save the Date: Home Food Preservation Conference**

Members of the Western Region Food Preservation Working Group will be hosting a conference on current research in food preservation on February 29 to March 2, 2024 at Oregon State University's Portland Center.

Proposal submissions for this conference will be accepted through December 18, 2023. [Please see the attached document for submission](#)

[guidelines.](#)

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Royal Sonesta Hotel, and a dedicated booking link will be released soon. Event details and registration link will be posted on the registration website in early December.

[Click here for the conference registration website](#)

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**PRODUCE SAFETY WEBINAR SERIES**

  
 Michelle Danyluk, Ph.D.  
 University of Florida

  
 Tammi Frederick, M.S.  
 H.E.B.

  
 Jill Hollingsworth, Ph.D.  
 Ecolab

**BACK OF THE HOUSE**  
*but not back of the mind:*  
**Sanitation best practices at retail**

 **December 7, 2023**

 **3:30 PM - 5:00 PM**

Let's #MakeCONTACT | @ps\_sci

  
 Scientific Challenges and Cost-Effective Management of Risks  
 Associated with Implementation of Produce Safety Regulations  
[contactproducesafety.ifas.ufl.edu](http://contactproducesafety.ifas.ufl.edu)

**REGISTER NOW**

# CONTACT Produce Safety Webinar

Please join the CONTACT team for their upcoming webinar "**Best**

***Practices for Produce Safety at Retail***", on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM PT.

This webinar is free and will be held via Zoom. Registration is required. Produce safety industry, government, and academia are encouraged to come. All are invited!

**Register for the CONTACT Webinar**

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# DO YOU USE BIOLOGICAL SOIL AMENDMENTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN ON YOUR FARM?

**TAKE THIS SURVEY**  
(ANONYMOUS & LESS THAN 10 MIN)  
CLICK HERE:

**[HTTPS://RUTGERS.CA1.QUALTRICS.  
COM/JFE/FORM/SV\\_8CQWVKW0WB  
YTOPOQ](https://rutgers.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/sv_8cqwkw0wb_ytopq)**

Help us learn about your operation and how  
you use biological soil amendments of animal  
origin on the farm

**For questions or concerns, email**  
**[meredith.melendez@rutgers.edu](mailto:meredith.melendez@rutgers.edu)**



# Survey Opportunity

The CONTACT team is performing a short survey on biological soil amendments of animal origin (BSAAO) use on farms. Please pass along this survey to growers in your network who work with BSAAOs.

[Click here to take the survey](#)



## PSA Updates

1) **New-** The PSA team has release a Spanish-language podcast series "[¿Qué vaina con la inocuidad?](#)". The podcast series aims to expand produce safety understanding and promote food safety culture in farms and packing houses for Latino/Hispanic farmers. The first three episodes are available for listening now! [You can learn more about the podcast and listen to the episodes here.](#)

2) **New-** The PSA team has released several new resources including:

- [A revision to the FSMA PSR Water Requirements: Insights to Get you Organized! factsheet](#)
- [Compilation of resources related to agricultural water used for harvest and post-harvest activities](#)
- Factsheet on remote PSA grower trainings which includes lessons learned and course recommendation- available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
- [More than Words illustrations](#) (21 completed images with Spanish



translations of the notes coming soon)

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## Job Opportunities

**1) Assistant/Associate Professor, Food Science at the University of Vermont-** [Job posting linked here](#)

**2) Postdoctoral Researcher at USDA ARS Environmental Microbial and Food Safety Laboratory-** [Job posting linked here](#)

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## WRCEFS Ongoing Initiatives

- **Food Safety Training Data-** WRCEFS is collecting information about PSA, FSPCA, and other food safety trainings in our region. To share data and get quarterly training reports for your state/region, please contact us at [wrcefs.data@oregonstate.edu](mailto:wrcefs.data@oregonstate.edu).
- **Report Your Food Safety Training Courses-** For FSOP grantees and others who send us training data, you can now use a Digital Cover Page via [this Qualtrics link](#) or complete the traditional cover page document and email to [wrcefs.data@oregonstate.edu](mailto:wrcefs.data@oregonstate.edu).
- **WRCEFS Website-**
  - FDA updates page- more links to FDA resources and new updates now available [here](#).
  - Faces of WRCEFS is being updated.  
Let us know if you would like to be featured by emailing [wrcefs@oregonstate.edu](mailto:wrcefs@oregonstate.edu).
- **WRCEFS Communication (social media)-** Follow us on

[Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#)! We post updates, resources, regional spotlights, and upcoming training opportunities on a regular basis. If you have anything that should be shared with the WRCEFS community, please send to [wrcefs@oregonstate.edu](mailto:wrcefs@oregonstate.edu).

## Stay food safe!



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**Our mailing address is:**  
[wrcefs@oregonstate.edu](mailto:wrcefs@oregonstate.edu)

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