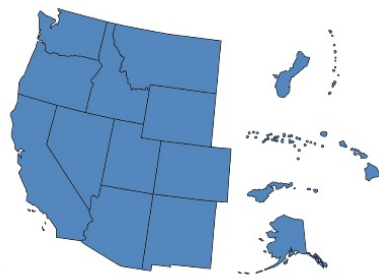


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WRCC



Western Regional Center to Enhance Food Safety

December 2020 Newsletter

Dear WRCEFS Community,
Below you will find information related to relevant resources, job opportunities, and updates from our national partners and alliances.

The WRCEFS Annual Meeting Report is now available!

The WRCEFS 4th Annual Meeting was held online on May 12, 2020. During the one day virtual meeting, 92 attendees had the opportunity to hear updates from WRCEFS members and FSOP grant awardees in the Western Region, USDA, FDA, PSA, FSPCA, LFSC, IFAI, sister Regional Centers and Lead Regional Coordination Center. The group discussed regional updates, walked through a demonstration of the peer-review process for add-on materials, and listened to a panel discussion on food industry challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. **The Annual Meeting Report and COVID-19 presentations can be accessed [here](#) and on the [WRCEFS website](#).**

WESTERN REGIONAL CENTER TO ENHANCE FOOD SAFETY

2020 ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 12, 2020



Western Regional Center to Enhance Food Safety (WRCEFS) hosted its 4th Annual Meeting online on May 12, 2020. During the one-day virtual meeting, 92 attendees had the opportunity to hear the updates from WRCEFS members and FSOP grant awardees in the Western Region, USDA, FDA, PSA, FSPCA, LFSC, IFAI, sister Regional Centers and Lead Regional Coordination Center. The group discussed regional updates for 2019-2020, walked through a demonstration of the peer-review process for add-on materials, and listened to a panel discussion on food industry challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic.

List of presentations and meeting minutes can be accessed [here](#).





Train-the-Trainer Save the Date

1) The Produce Safety Alliance will be offering 4 remote Train-the-Trainer (TTT) courses in 2021. These are scheduled for:

February 1-4 (Course full)

March 15-18

April 26-29

June 7-10

This course costs \$350 and spaces are limited. To register and learn more about these courses, please visit the PSA website.



WRCEFS FSPCA and PSA Training Information

WRCEFS is interested in having anyone who delivers PSA or FSPCA courses remotely to share their experiences with the rest of the

group so we can learn from their activities. If you plan on offering remote courses and would be willing to share your experiences, please email Jovana Kovacevic at wrcefs@oregonstate.edu.

We understand collecting pre-/post-test data during remote training is challenging. A fillable version of these tests are now available. If interested, please email Stephanie Brown at wrcefs@oregonstate.edu to obtain a copy. There are also polling options available in Zoom for capturing this information. If you have any specific questions on Zoom polling options, please contact us at wrcefs@oregonstate.edu.

If you are capturing these data, please share with WRCEFS.

For any remote courses, please continue to share all cover sheets and attendance rosters with WRCEFS. On the cover sheet, please indicate that the training was delivered remotely.



FDA Updates

1) FDA Extends the Comment Period for the Food Traceability Proposed Rule and the Information Collection Provisions

The FDA is extending the comment period for the proposed rule entitled "[Requirements for Additional Traceability Records for Certain Foods](#)" and reopening

the comment period for the information collection provisions until **February 22, 2021**. The FDA previously signaled its intention to extend the comment period for the information collection provisions after hearing concerns from several stakeholders that more time was needed to adequately review and analyze those provisions with consideration to the entire proposed rule. The announcement today formally reopens and extends the comment period for the information collection provisions and extends the comment period for the entire rule.

2) FDA Extends Period Before It Will Begin to Consider Comments on Draft Guidance for Industry on Voluntary Disclosure of Sesame When Added as Flavoring or Spice

The FDA is extending for 45 days the period before it will begin to consider comments on its [draft guidance regarding voluntary disclosure of sesame as an allergen](#). Comments should be submitted **before February 25, 2021** to ensure that FDA considers them before beginning work on the final guidance.

3) VQIP Application Portal Now Open for FY 2022

On January 1, 2021, the FDA will open the [Voluntary Qualified Importer Program](#) (VQIP) application portal for fiscal year 2022. VQIP is a voluntary fee-based program that provides importers, who achieve and maintain control over the safety and security of their supply chains, the benefits of expedited review and importation of human and animal foods into the United States. To participate in VQIP, food importers must meet certain eligibility requirements, including ensuring that the facilities of their foreign suppliers are certified through the FDA's [Accredited Third-Party Certification Program](#). Certification bodies conduct food safety audits of foreign facilities and farms, and issue the certifications that importers need to participate in VQIP. If you are an importer interested in applying for VQIP benefits during fiscal year 2022, the portal will be open through **May 31, 2021**.

Faces of WRCEFS

We have added a new section to the website called the Faces of WRCEFS. Here you can find staff spotlights, featuring our leadership team and partners. The goal of Faces of WRCEFS is to highlight the diverse expertise of our regional leaders by showcasing their stories and

Members

work related to the Food Safety Modernization Act.



ACES OF WRCEFS

Job Opportunities

1) State Specialized Extension Agent II, III, or IV – Food Safety

This position has statewide responsibility in food safety education and outreach. As a Food Safety State Specialized Extension Agent, you will lead and participate on Food Safety program initiative teams, aligning educational programs with the UF/IFAS Extension Roadmap. You will partner with industry, government agencies, and clientele groups in developing and delivering high-quality education and training programs compliant with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA).

What you will do:

- Establish a stakeholder advisory committee to assess needs and guide program direction.
- Plan, develop, deliver, evaluate, and report on a comprehensive education and training program in Food Safety, including the FSMA Produce Safety Rule, Preventive Controls for Human

Foods, Foreign Supplier Verification, and Sanitary Transport Rules.

- Plan, develop, deliver, and evaluate organized educational events. Delivery methods will include in-person or online workshops, conferences, seminars, short courses, etc.
- Review and write educational materials (e.g., fact sheets, publications, etc.) to support extension programs.
- Collaborate with agencies, businesses, and organizations to enhance the content and delivery of food safety programs within the programmatic area, including participation in integrated programs with state and federal agencies.
- Establish standing as an expert resource and point-of-contact for advanced clientele, area Extension Centers, industry-related businesses, and governmental or non-profit agencies.
- Work cooperatively to facilitate area extension programs for extension agents and clientele to enhance research and knowledge transfer within the area.
- Provide evidence of positive practice change by target audiences and communicate program success across the state to a variety of audiences.
- Participate in collaborative and applied research projects and demonstrations related to variances and alternates as defined in the produce safety rule and other science-based food safety metrics.
- Translate research information to the industry and citizens associated with an identified area of expertise in cooperation with the research efforts of the Citrus Research and Education Center (CREC).
- Serve as project leader for revenue enhancement that supports the extension program.
- Establish and maintain a system to measure program accountability and effectiveness including area-wide programs and impacts.
- Provide leadership for the management of all program components including program policies, record keeping, risk management, communications, and educational materials.
- Establish and follow a professional development plan.
- Assume other assignments and responsibilities in support of the total extension program as assigned by the CREC Director in collaboration with the Southwest District Extension Director.

Further information:

This position is part of the UF/IFAS Southwest Extension District and it is located at the Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred, FL.

Extension is a partnership between state, federal, and county governments to provide scientific knowledge and expertise to the public. As such, all partners are involved in the supervision of the office and contribute to the salary and support resources. The primary goal of Extension is to disseminate the latest knowledge and applicable technologies in agriculture, human and natural resources, and the life sciences in order to sustain and enhance the quality of human life. The UF/IFAS mission is accomplished through Extension faculty members, scientists, educators, administrative staff, and volunteers working cohesively throughout Florida's 67 counties.

Candidates will be reviewed as applications are received, but please be aware that interviews might not be scheduled until 4 to 6 weeks after the position closing date.

JOB QUALIFICATIONS**What you will bring (required):**

- A master's degree from an accredited college or university in food science or a related field. We will accept applicants without a master's degree if the degree will be earned by May, 2021.
- Strong written and verbal interpersonal and communication skills.
- A commitment to customer service.
- Ability to develop good media relations.
- Ability to work independently as a leader and team member with minimal supervision.
- Ability to use computer technology, web sites, and social media for communication and program management functions.
- Ability to possess (or be able to obtain) a Florida driver's license.

- Flexibility with working hours; willingness to work irregular hours, including evenings, weekends and overnight travel with personal transportation.

What you will bring (preferred):

- A Ph.D. degree.
- Experience and/or training in the food safety field.
- Land-grant university extension or equivalent educational programming experience.

INSTRUCTIONS

Apply at <http://apply.interfolio.com/82046> by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern) of the posting end date, and attach:

- Cover letter that describes how your experience and qualifications have prepared you for this position
- Résumé or Curriculum vitae

The following documents are required and may either be submitted through the above link at the time of application, or sent separately to our office (below).

- Current and Previous Employment Form (located at <https://hr.ifas.ufl.edu/resources/form-index/current-and-previous-employment-form/>).
- Unofficial copies of all transcripts and/or coursework of your academic degrees
- A minimum of 3 reference rating forms (located at http://hr.ifas.ufl.edu/assets/pdf/forms/ref_form.pdf) from your professional/academic references. Reference forms will be kept on file for 1 year and will be automatically used with any of our extension agent positions you apply for during that time.

2) Produce Safety Research Specialist

The Northeast Center to Advance Food Safety (NECAFS) seeks a Research Specialist to lead, coordinate and implement several research activities in the area of produce safety. The position reports to NECAFS Assistant Director and works closely with the Director, workgroup members, staff from the Lead Regional Coordination Center, and regional NECAFS partners.

To learn more about the position and/or apply, please use this

link: <https://www.uvmjobs.com/postings/41968>

WRCEFS Communication

Website

We have given the WRCEFS website a new look for 2020. Content is constantly being added so please continue to check back with us to find new resources, training opportunities, and more!

Social Media

Follow us on Social Media! We now have WRCEFS accounts on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#)! We will be posting updates, regional spotlights, and upcoming training opportunities on a weekly basis. We will also be sharing this information on the WRCEFS website. If you have anything that should be shared with the WRCEFS community, please contact Stephanie Brown (stephanie.brown@oregonstate.edu).

**We hope you have a safe holiday
season and productive new year!**



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wrcefs@oregonstate.edu

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