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WRRC



Western Regional Center to Enhance Food Safety

January 2024 Newsletter

Dear WRCEFS Community,

Below you will find information related to a new funding opportunity, national updates, new resources, and ongoing WRCEFS initiatives.



Funding Opportunity: USDA NIFA FSOP

The request for applications for the FY2024 Food Safety Outreach Program has been released. Applications are due back to USDA by **February 13, 2024**.

The Request for Applications (RFA) [can be reviewed here](#).

The NIFA team will host a live webinar on Tuesday, January 16th, 2024. Registration and details about the webinar [can be found here](#).

As before, each successfully funded project must develop a communication plan to interact with their respective Regional Centers. We are glad to work with you on that and to offer letters of support as requested. Please contact Stephanie Brown (wrcefs@oregonstate.edu) regarding letters of support as soon as possible.

USDA FSOP Grant Technical Assistance

Texas Tech University, Alabama A&M University, and Iowa State University were awarded an USDA Food Safety Outreach Program (FSOP) Technical Assistance grant titled "Empowering Minority Serving Institutions Food Safety Specialists to Write Successful Food Safety Outreach Program Grants through Education, Training and Technical Assistance." This grant supports faculty and staff at Minority Serving Institutions and institutions collaborating with Minority Serving Institutions. This team will host a series of one-hour webinars on grant-related topics and host office hour consultations to assist with grant development.

To receive information on upcoming webinars and educational offerings from this grant, [please click here to signup for the listserv](#).

Office Hour consultations are for those who wish to receive feedback on their grant idea or submit grant drafts for guidance. During this time, a professional grant writer with over 20 years of experience and a food safety expert will be present to answer questions related to the Request for Proposal (RFP) and provide feedback on grant ideas and oral or written drafts. Office hours will be on the following dates from 10 AM to 2 PM CST:

- January 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 29th, 30th, 31st
- February 1st, 2nd, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th

Office hours sign up is located at the button below.

This work is supported by FSOP grant no. 2023-70020-40631 from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

Sign up for office hours here!



Congrats Grantees!

USDA NIFA has recently announced their Food Safety Outreach Program (FSOP) project grantees for the FY 2023 funding cycle.

Our new Western Region grantees include:

- J. Chester- New Mexico Food Safety Strong
- J. Hibbard-Swanson- Culturally Responsive Food Safety Education in Tribal Communities in Oregon
- H. Doan- Food Safety Outreach and Technical Assistance to Historically Underrepresented Farmers in the Inland Empire of Southern California

- D. Stone- Pacific Food Safety Education and Training Collaborative
- S. Smith- Food Safety Training for Cottage Food Processors

To learn more about the newly funded projects, please see the [USDA NIFA press release page](#).



1) **New Lead Instructor Resource:** FSPCA has created supplemental slides focused on the Food Traceability Rule. These slides summarize key points relevant to food processors subject to the PCHF rule. These can be accessed on the FSPCA Lead Instructor portal.

2) FSPCA has released a new website, which can be viewed here: <https://www.fspca.net/>. If you are using links to the FSPCA website in your training materials, **please make sure these are updated** to match the new website!

A webinar was hosted in late October to walk viewers through the new website. The webinar recording [can be accessed here](#).



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_8CQWVKW0WB_YTOPOQ)**

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



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) 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 six episodes are available for listening now! [You can learn more about the podcast and listen to the episodes here.](#)

2) 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)

Job Opportunities

1) **Assistant Professor – State Extension Specialist in Food Safety-**

Utah State University: [Job posting can be found here](#)

2) **Assistant/Associate/Full Professor- Dairy Products Science and Technology-** Iowa State University: [Job posting can be found here](#)

3) **Extension Assistant Professor- Food Sciences-** University of Massachusetts: [Job posting can be found here](#)

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.
- **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.
- **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.

- **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.

Stay food safe!



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wrcefs@oregonstate.edu

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