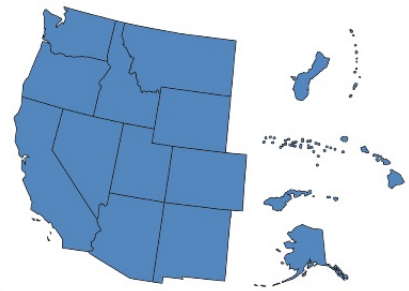


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WRRC



Western Regional Center to Enhance Food Safety

July 2022 Newsletter

Dear WRCEFS Community,

Below you will find information related to new peer reviewed add-on content, produce safety posters, job opportunities, USDA funding opportunities, updates from our national partners and alliances, and ongoing WRCEFS initiatives.



New Peer Reviewed Add-ons in the Clearinghouse

Over the last month, we have had several new add-ons peer reviewed in the Food Safety Resource Clearinghouse. Below are the new add-ons, including two of the three short courses that were part of our short course pilot. The short course pilot is almost completed and we will make an announcement when these materials can be reviewed.

- 1) [BSAAO Certificate of Conformance Example](#)
- 2) [Improving Access and Motivation for Small and Medium Processors in the Northeast to be in Compliance with FSMA's Preventive Controls Rule](#)
- 3) [Packing Materials and the FSMA Produce Safety Rule](#)
- 4) [BSAAO Factsheet for Third-Party Manufacturers and Composters](#)

- 5) [Michigan State University Online Produce Safety Supervisor Training](#)
- 6) [Produce Safety on the Blueberry Farm Factsheet](#)



Produce Safety Rule Posters

The Washington State Department of Agriculture have created six bilingual posters (English and Spanish) to help farmers train employees on how to minimize microbial contamination risk during growing, harvesting, packing, and holding activities. Small fruits, including strawberries, blueberries, and raspberries, are featured.

These six poster topics include on-farm health and hygiene, berry harvest practices, harvest equipment cleaning and sanitation, building maintenance and storage, packing area health and hygiene, and packing line cleaning and sanitation.

These posters can be accessed in one of three ways:

- Download for free at the [WSDA Produce Safety website](#) and print at scales up to 24" x 36".
- Order online directly to your Washington State home or office through [Department of Enterprise Services](#) at approximately \$25/poster set. These posters are printed at 20" x 30" on scrim vinyl, a flexible waterproof material that will last for several

years outdoors.

- Contact [Karen Ullmann](#) if you are a partner who is willing to help distribute multiple copies to growers in your region.



USDA Funding Opportunities

1) Framework for Shoring Up the Food Supply Chain and Transforming the Food System to be Fairer, More Competitive, More Resilient- On June 1st, 2022 the USDA announced details of a framework to transform the food system to benefit consumers, producers and rural communities by providing more options, increasing access, and creating new, more, and better markets for small and mid-size producers. This announcement builds on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and supply chain disruptions caused by Russia's war in Ukraine. The 2022 announcement also provides additional details on the June 2021 announcement to strengthen critical supply chains and address longstanding structural

challenges that were revealed and intensified by the pandemic. To view the update, [please click here](#).

Within this announcement, there are several funding opportunities that may be of interest to WRCEFS members and stakeholders, including [\\$200 million for Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops Program](#) for specialty crop operations that incur eligible on-farm food safety program expenses and initiatives for transitioning to organic and urban agriculture. **Notably, food safety training will be covered under this program at 100% up to \$200 (or \$300). Other reimbursable expenses include food safety plan preparation, audit fees and upload costs, and microbiological testing.**

2) Rapid Response to Extreme Weather Events Across Food and Agricultural Systems (A1712)- This program area priority is designed to rapidly deploy strategies and fill knowledge and information gaps to protect the nation's food and agricultural supply chains, from production through consumption, during and after extreme weather and disasters. This priority area seeks applications that focus on critical and urgent solutions in rapid response to extreme weather and disaster impacts on the nation's food and agricultural systems and that clearly describe short-term deliverables (within 3 months of award receipt), including a plan for their adoption/use. To learn more about this program, please [review the AFRI grant webpage](#).

Image Credit: Pixabay, Nattanan Kanchanaprat, 2017

North Central Region Events

Our partners at the North Central Region are hosting several events that are open for anyone to attend. Event details and descriptions

are below.

1) EPA/FDA Discussion on Hydrogen Peroxide and Other Sanitizers - Staff from the EPA and FDA are going to hold a meeting with the North Central Region, on **Friday, August 5, at 10:00 am Central time**. Everyone is welcome to join the call to discuss hydrogen peroxide and other sanitizer use. The government staff would like to know your questions on the topic.

Please email your questions to [Ellen Johnsen](#), so they can be compiled and submitted **before July 21**.

If you would like to join the call, please email [Stephanie Brown](#) for Zoom connection details.

2) Environmental Monitoring Short Course- The environment in which fresh produce is processed can affect the food safety of the end product. Environmental monitoring is a process used in facilities that assess how effectively the plant is being cleaned. Come for two, ½-day virtual sessions to learn about how to implement and interpret a monitoring program. This course is designed for educators and inspectors. **The course will be held on Zoom, August 23 and 25, from 12:00-4:00 Central time.** [Registration is free](#) and includes all course resources.



Training and Resource Updates

1) More than Words Illustrations- The PSA has developed a series of illustrations to communicate concepts related to the Produce Safety Rule (PSR) without the use of text. These illustrations allow growers to

consider risks they may have on their farms, practices that could reduce these risks, and regulatory provisions that may be relevant if they are subject to the FSMA PSR. The [14 images currently available on the PSA website](#) are accompanied by an illustration guide and teaching notes. Within these documents, you can also find relevant FSMA references, relevant resources, and notes on where these can be used in PSA Grower Trainings.

2) PSA has extended its temporary remote delivery policy for the PSA Grower Training and PSA Train-the-Trainer courses to **December 31, 2022** due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. For more information on remote delivery of courses, please review the [PSA remote training policy](#). This policy was recently updated (April 2022) to address use of participant smartphones.

3) Remote and in-person grower trainings are being offered throughout the Western region. To see a complete listing, please visit the PSA or WRCEFS websites.



FSPCA Annual Conference

Registration is now open for the 2022 FSPCA Annual Conference. This virtual conference will be held on October 19-20, 2022. Draft agenda

and details about the meeting can be [found here](#). To register, [please click here](#).

Job Opportunities

*** To learn more about the positions shown below and/or to apply, please click on the job titles. These contain the required links to access this content.**

- 1) New- Washington State University: [Food Safety Specialist \(Assistant Professor\)](#)
 - 2) New- University of Alaska: [Home, Health and Family Development Program \(Assistant Professor\)](#)
 - 3) New- Penn State: [Extension Educator 3](#)
 - 4) Northeast Center to Advance Food Safety (NECAFS): [Research Specialist](#)
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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.
- **Electronic Food Safety Tracking Documents-** 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.

- **Peer Review Process Tip Series-** The Peer Review Tip Thursday series for add-on content is now available on the WRCEFS social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter). Tell us your questions by contacting wrcefs@oregonstate.edu.
- **WRCEFS Website-**
 - FDA updates page- more links to FDA resources and new updates now available [here](#).
 - Faces of WRCEFS is continuously 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 weekly basis. If you have anything that should be shared with the WRCEFS community, please send to wrcefs@oregonstate.edu.

Stay safe!



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