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WRRC



Western Regional Center to Enhance Food Safety

June 2022 Newsletter

Dear WRCEFS Community,

Below you will find information related to highlights from recent meetings, partner podcasts, job opportunities, updates from our national partners and alliances, and ongoing WRCEFS initiatives.



Highlights from Recent Meetings

1) WRCEFS Annual Meeting and Pre-Meeting Professional Development Workshop

WRCEFS hosted its 6th Annual Meeting in Las Cruces, New Mexico on May 4-5, 2022. During the two day in-person meeting, 50 attendees heard updates from WRCEFS members and FSOP grant awardees in the Western Region, USDA, FDA, PSA, FSPCA, IFAI, sister Regional Centers and the Lead Regional Coordination Center. On day one, updates on the peer review process for add-ons and evaluations were also shared. Over the two day meeting, the group learned about several regional topics of interest including, what's new and relevant with the Produce Safety Rule, food safety challenges at the border, and a recall readiness essentials workshop and template. Several breakout sessions were also held focusing on agricultural water and working with underserved audiences. Highlights from the 2022 Annual Meeting are coming soon!

Prior to the Annual Meeting, a pre-meeting produce safety professional development workshop was held on May 3, 2022. The 30 workshop attendees started off the day with an agricultural water assessment scavenger hunt, transitioned into cleaning and sanitizing scenarios for produce farms and packing facilities, and ended the day with learning about a new recall essentials plan builder.

2) National FSOP PD Meeting

The Lead Regional Coordination Center, along with the four USDA-NIFA regional centers, hosted the 2022 Food Safety Outreach Program Project National Project Director's Meeting. The project directors met May 25-26 in Orlando, FL and virtually. The program booklet is available on the [Southern Center website](#).



Partner Podcasts

The Farmers Beet Podcast is Back!

Season 2 of The Farmers Beet podcast (produced by CAFF) has started! This season has thirteen new food safety episodes available for listening. These podcasts can be found on Spotify, Apple podcasts, or on the CAFF [website](#).

New Food Safety Episodes of the Farm Walks Podcast are Available!

New food safety episodes of the Farm Walks podcast are available for listening. These podcasts can be accessed wherever you listen to podcasts and their website can be accessed [here](#).

Photo credit: Cottonbro, 2021



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.

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.*

Academia

- 1) **New-** Northeast Center to Advance Food Safety (NECAFS): [Research Specialist](#)
- 2) Produce Safety Alliance: [Southwest Regional Extension Associate](#)
- 3) University of Idaho: [Education and Outreach Coordinator - Commercial Produce Safety Program](#)

Government

California Department of Agriculture: [Senior Environmental Scientist](#)

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.

- **Add-on Peer Review Process Tip Series-** The Peer Review Tip Thursday series 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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