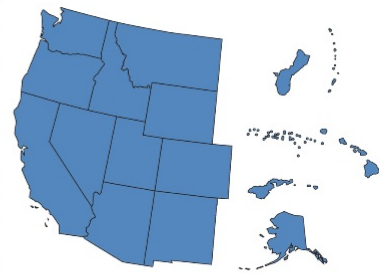


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WRRC



Western Regional Center to Enhance Food Safety

June/July 2020 Newsletter

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



Produce Safety Professional Development Workshop

A Second Produce Safety Professional Development workshop will be

held on July 30, 2020. During this half-day, virtual workshop, 25 participants will learn about recent updates to the Produce Safety Rule and how to address tough questions that come up during PSA grower trainings. Other workshop events will include: breakout groups that took deep dives into sticky topics, virtual demonstrations, and a talk on increasing participant engagement.

This workshop is a collaborative effort among the Produce Safety Alliance, WRCEFS, and New Mexico State University.

National PD Meeting

The Lead Regional Coordination Center, in collaboration with the 4 regional centers and USDA-NIFA, is hosting a virtual National Program Directors meeting for all active USDA-NIFA Food Safety Outreach Program (FSOP) projects on **August 18 and 19, 2020**. This free two-day event is open to all who want to learn more about the different FSOP projects occurring in our own region and across the country. To register for this free event, please use this link: https://ufl.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NfVyUcRdThSAKTowNMbKzA





Food Safety Farmer Focus Groups

This summer, the National Young Farmers Coalition has been holding online food safety focus groups with produce growers from across the country. These focus groups have enlightened both the Coalition staff and fellow young farmers on the challenges and successes surrounding produce safety.

They are continuing to schedule focus groups and are hoping to connect with even more growers. Each hour-long virtual focus group features a farmer co-facilitator who discusses their operation and systems, and up to eight farmers who ask the lead farmer questions and sharing their own experiences. They recognize the expertise that each farmer brings to the conversation, so the farmer co-facilitator and participants will be paid for their time (\$250 and \$50, respectively) and receive a copy of our food safety guidebook: [A Small Farmers Practical Guide to Food Safety](#). If you or someone in your network is interested, please check out youngfarmers.org/focusgroups for more information.

All focus groups are being recorded and will be posted on their website for other farmers in their network and beyond to listen and learn from. They are really looking forward to the upcoming sessions, and have listed our scheduled focus groups below, with more being added along the way. If you have any questions, please reach out to maggie@youngfarmers.org.

To see the view the focus group topics and schedule, please visit: <https://www.youngfarmers.org/business-services/workshops-trainings/>



New WRCEFS Resources

1) Irrigation Well Demonstration at the Leyendecker Research Center

The New Mexico Department of Agriculture and New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Service created an irrigation well demonstration for the WRCEFS Produce Safety Professional Development Workshop. This workshop was a collaborative effort among the Produce Safety Alliance, Western Regional Center to Enhance Food Safety, and New Mexico State University.

[Video can be viewed on our WRCEFS YouTube channel](#)

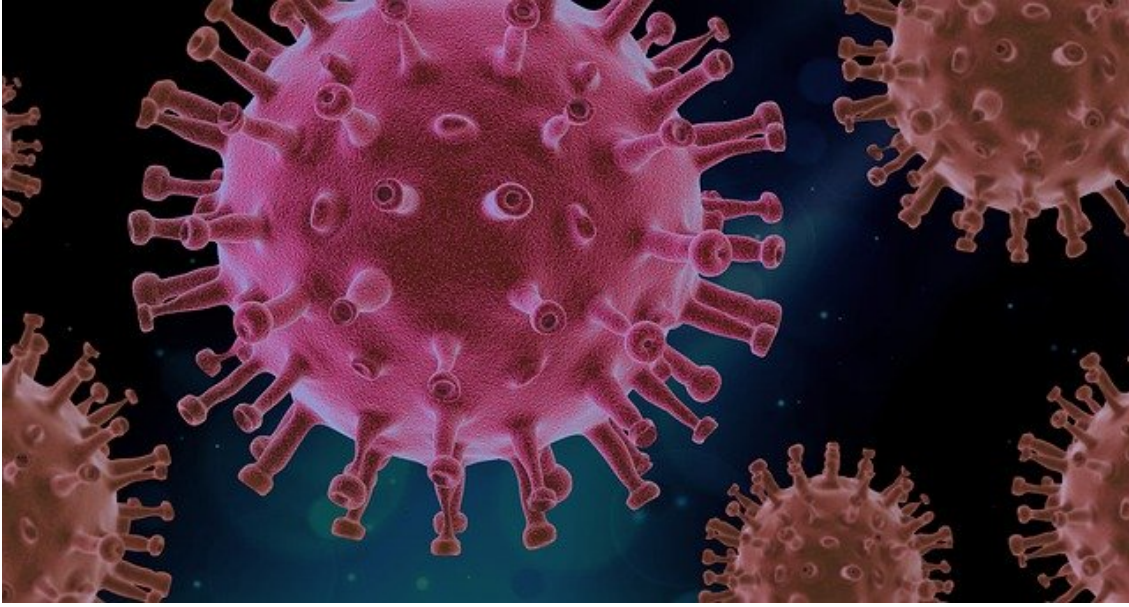
2) Spanish Translated Resources

The Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) has partnered with the University of Vermont Extension to translate some of their farmer resources into Spanish. To view these Spanish resources, please click on the links below or visit the CAFF

website: <https://www.caff.org/recursos-agricolas-en-espanol/>

3) Oregon Water Lab Testing Information

Oregon State University has compiled a list of water testing labs for the state of Oregon. This information will be added to the [National Water Testing Lab Map](#) that was created by the Northeast Center to Advance Food Safety (NECAFS). More information about the Oregon testing labs can be found [here](#).



COVID-19 Resources

The OSU team has created a page on the WRCEFS website dedicated to COVID-19 and food safety resources. We currently have many fact sheets, social media images, and links to other federal and state-specific websites and resources for viewing.

New resources available on the WRCEFS website include:

- 1) [Agricultural Employer Checklist for Creating a COVID-19 Assessment and Control Plan from the CDC and U.S. Department of Labor](#)
- 2) [Agriculture Workers and Employers: Interim Guidance from CDC and the U.S. Department of Labor](#)
- 3) AFDO: [Best Practices for Conducting Produce Farm Inspections during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- 4) [CDC Food and Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)

5) [Oregon- Food Processing Response Toolkit: Make a Plan for COVID-19 Mitigation in the Workplace](#)

6) [Playbook for Joint Timely Response Protocol for COVID-19 Outbreak in Food Processing Establishments](#)

7) [Protecting Seafood Processing Workers from COVID-19: Interim Guidance from CDC and OSHA with consultation from FDA](#)

If you have made any fact sheets, documents, or websites related to food safety and COVID-19 and want these shared within the Western region, please email us at wrcefs@oregonstate.edu.



Training and Resource Updates

1) The PSA team has modified their policy on remote delivery for PSA courses during the Coronavirus outbreak. Below are resources and documents needed to successfully deliver PSA content during this time.

- [Temporary policy](#)
- [Electronic Course Registration Form](#)
- [PSA Remote Delivery FAQ](#)
- PSA Educators' Call about remote delivery in [English](#) and slides in [Spanish](#)
- [Zoom Webinar Etiquette and Practices page](#)

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

3) The online PSA grower training course is now open. This three-week course can be completed at-your-own-pace and is expected to take 15-30 hours total for successful completion. To learn more about

costs and key differences in the online course compared to the in-person/remote delivery 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) The FDA will be hosting a webinar on Thursday, July 30, 2020 from 2-3pm EST to discuss the 2020 Leafy Greens STEC Action Plan. The action plan, which was released in March, outlines steps the agency plans to take this year to advance the safety of leafy greens. To read the full update and register for the webinar, please click [here](#).

2) The FDA has updated its temporary policy regarding Preventive Controls and FSVP food supplier verification onsite audit requirements during COVID-19. To review the updated policy, please click [here](#).

3) On July 13th, the FDA announced the release of the New Era of Smarter Food Safety blueprint. The New Era of Smarter Food Safety represents a new approach to food safety, leveraging technology and other tools to create a safer and more digital, traceable food system. To learn more about the blueprint, please visit the [FDA's New Era of Smarter Food Safety webpage](#).

4) On July 15th, the FDA announced that routine inspections of small businesses to verify compliance with the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act's (FSMA) Intentional Adulteration (IA) rule will begin in March 2021. For more information about the IA rule, please click [here](#). For more

information about food defense plans, the upcoming compliance date, draft guidance, and other resources are available in an [updated conversation piece](#) featuring FDA food defense experts Ryan Newkirk and Jon Woody.

USDA-NIFA Updates



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture

If your FSOP or other NIFA grants have been impacted by the Coronavirus outbreak, please refer to the NIFA COVID-19 FAQ page: <https://nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource/NIFA-20-005-NIFA-Coronavirus-FAQs-052620.pdf> This page addresses many issues including class cancellations, no-cost extensions, charging salaries, and much more.

Members



FACES OF WRCEFS

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 work related to the Food Safety Modernization Act.

Job Opportunities

1) **Research Specialist**- The Northeast Center to Advance Food

Safety (NECAFS) seeks a Research Specialist to coordinate and administer several activities of our regional Preventive Controls for Human Foods Workgroup and our national produce safety evaluation efforts. 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.

This is an exciting opportunity to help advance and continue to build the growing scope and project activities of NECAFS. Immediate priorities include researching, cataloging, assessing, and sharing through a framework to support small and very small processors the preventive controls for human food resources created by other universities and outreach partners; researching, collecting and posting preventive controls and produce safety material to the Food Safety Resource Clearinghouse; conduct short-term and long-term look back evaluations of attendees at both Preventive Controls for Human Food Qualified Individual and Produce Safety Grower Trainings across the northeast region to document behavior change; create and implement a social media plan for NECAFS; support in drafting NECAFS newsletter communications, and draft portions of NECAFS required annual reports.

We seek candidates with a background in food safety, evaluation and literature-based research. Candidates should be skilled at gathering and reviewing food safety related material for relevancy and accuracy for the intended audience. This position will be part of team where all members work remotely so should be skilled at communicating and coordinating with teleconferencing platforms and working remotely. We seek a good communicator and effective listener, somebody who is able to respond to the needs and ideas of NECAFS network partners in an evolving FSMA landscape. Strong interpersonal skills and an energetic commitment to teamwork are essential.

Responsibilities:

- Conduct research and catalog developed materials on Preventive Controls for Human Food and Produce Safety
- Conduct short-term and long-term look back evaluations of producers and processors across the northeast
- Create and implement a social media plan
- Administer the development of success stories
- Support drafting annual reports, and other communication outputs
- Writing, editing, proofreading of educational materials

Minimum Qualifications:

- Bachelors of Science in a related field or equivalent
- 3 years of experience in a related position preferred
- Experience in food safety
- Experience with literature-based research in scientific disciplines
- Experience with evaluation
- Experience with adult education approaches
- Strong written and verbal communication skills

To apply, go to the UVM jobs board (<https://www.uvmjobs.com>) and search for posting number S2505PO. Applicants must submit cover letter and resume to be considered. The University of Vermont is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, or any other category legally protected by federal or state law.

2) The FDA has 2 positions that they will soon be advertising within the Produce Safety Network.

These folks will work alongside, and in a similar capacity, to existing Produce Safety Network members based in the Division of Produce Safety.

The first position will be a CFSAN Produce Safety Network position focused on produce safety efforts in Latin America.

- Will be advertised at the GS14 level, and within the Biologist series (GS-0401);
- Incumbent will direct and coordinate FDA's produce safety training, education, and outreach activities in Latin America.
- Incumbent will support regulatory activities and policy-making activities related to the safety of fresh produce.
- Position will be based within the United States, with travel expected to, and within, Latin America, to support FDA produce safety activities.

The second position will be a CFSAN Produce Safety Network position focused on produce safety efforts in California.

- Will be advertised at the GS14 level, and within the Biologist series (GS-0401).
- Incumbent will support FDA's domestic produce safety training, education, and outreach activities in California, and other states.
- Incumbent will support regulatory activities and policy-making activities related to the safety of fresh produce.
- Position will be based in California, with travel expected domestically and internationally.

If you have questions about these positions and the work of the Produce Safety Network, or would like to express your interest, please contact Stephen Hughes (Stephen.Hughes@fda.hhs.gov).

3) USDA-NIFA has a standing [vacancy posting](#) on USAJobs that they hope will fill several National Program Leader (NPL) positions. These are the agency's science program leaders. Significant gaps have been identified in the following areas:

- Ag Economics, Veterinary Sciences, Undergraduate Education, Soil Science, Small Business Innovation Research, Food Safety, 4-H, Rural Sociology, and Horticultural Sciences

For the best possible consideration, candidates should apply **before the end of July** via the NIFA Biological/Social Science Specialist (National Program Leader) [vacancy](#) listed at USAJobs. Please see the National Program Leader [FAQ document](#) for answers to commonly asked questions generated by their most recent career Expo.

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 summer!



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wrcefs@oregonstate.edu

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