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March 2022 Newsletter

Dear WRCEFS Community,

Below you will find information related to meetings and resources for the proposed ag water rule, potential trainings for our region, regional and national webinars, the add-on peer review process, job opportunities, and updates from our national partners and alliances.



Proposed Changes to Ag Water Requirements

On December 2nd, the FDA published a proposed rule that would revise subpart E of the FDA FSMA Produce Safety Rule to change certain pre-harvest agricultural water requirements for covered produce other than sprouts. Under this proposal, farms would be required to conduct annual systems-based agricultural water assessments to determine and guide appropriate measures to minimize potential risks associated with pre-harvest agricultural water. The assessment would include an evaluation of the water system, agricultural water use practices, crop characteristics, environmental conditions, potential impacts on source water by activities conducted on adjacent and nearby land, and other relevant factors, such as the results of optional testing. For more information, please visit the FSMA [Proposed Rule on Agricultural Water](#) webpage and the [Federal Register proposed rule](#) webpage. To provide comments on the proposed rule, please visit the [proposed rule's docket](#) page.

Image credit: Pixabay, Joseph Fulgham, 2019

Stakeholder Meetings on Proposed Changes to Agricultural Water Requirements

In response to this proposed ag. water rule, several organizations are hosting webinars to inform their stakeholders of these changes during the proposed rule's comment period.

NASDA in collaboration with the Washington and California Departments of Agriculture are hosting two regional webinars on the proposed rule. These meetings are intended for growers, associations, commodity groups, and other stakeholders.

The [Northwestern states regional meeting](#) (focused on Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, and Alaska) is scheduled for March 2nd (12:00 - 1:00 PM PST). If you have any questions, please contact [Connie Fisk](#).

The [Western states regional meeting](#) (focused on Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah) is scheduled for March 11th (10:00 - 11:00 AM PST). To receive the link to attend the meeting, please use this [link](#). If you have any questions, please contact: [Geetika Joshi](#) and/or [Don Stoeckel](#).



Webinar Series: Part II - Food Safety for Organic Food Processors

The CCOF Foundation in collaboration with the Washington State Department of Agriculture Organic program, Washington State University, UC Davis Food Science and Technology, and University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources are providing a part two to their food safety for organic food processors webinar series. Recently passed federal regulations require food processors to meet certain food safety standards. In part one of this series, organizers walked through the different compliance categories of the federal Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) for food processors. In part two of the series, speakers will dive deeper into food safety topics such as hazard analysis, validation, and cottage food laws. Due to popular request by organic businesses that both grow and process produce, we also included two webinars that review the FSMA Produce Safety Rule as it applies to organic produce farms.

To register for upcoming webinars visit: <https://ccof.org/blog/fsma-101->

[organic-processors-webinar-series](#)

Recordings of past webinars can be found on the CCOF YouTube channel: <https://bit.ly/3yQHsIB>

Webinar #5 - Hazard Analysis for Organic Food Processors

March 8th 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Pacific Time - To register, please click [here](#).

Webinar #8 – Validation for Organic Processors

March 22, 2022 – 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Pacific Time - To register, please click [here](#).

Webinar #9 - Cottage Food Laws in California and Washington State

April 27, 2022 – 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Pacific Time - To register, please click [here](#).

This webinar series is supported by Food Safety Outreach Program Grant 2020-70020-33025 from the [USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture](#).

Image Credit: Pexels, pic jumbo.com, 2015

WRCEFS Training Announcements

1) We want to hear from you! As we look ahead, we want to know what training events and opportunities you would like WRCEFS to bring to the region. To best understand your (and your stakeholder) training needs, please fill out a quick Qualtrics survey by clicking the "Go to Training Needs Survey" button below.

[Go to Training Needs Survey](#)

2) New Tracking Documents Available: For FSOP grantees and others who send us training data, we have developed an easier way for you to send us information about your activities. You can now use this Digital Cover Page, which is now available in Qualtrics. Every time you administer a training, please use this Qualtrics link or

complete the traditional cover page document and email to wrcefs@oregonstate.edu.

Qualtrics Link: https://oregonstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2nOpLGmNDztXcoK

Important Information for Current FSOP Grantees

As a reminder, FSOP grantees are expected to work with the Western Regional Center during the duration of their grant. A communication plan to interact with your respective Regional Center should be part of your project.

What Your Regional Centers Need from You (also good to consider for your new grant proposals!):

- Evaluation is a required component of leading FSOPs.
- Including an evaluation expert on your team is recommended.
- Evaluation should track participation, outputs, knowledge gain, practice change, and success stories. **Templates are available for recording/reporting this information.**

If you have questions about evaluation reporting, please contact Stephanie Brown (stephanie.brown@oregonstate.edu)



Farm Walks Podcast is Back for Season 2!

Tilth Alliance and WSU Food Systems have collaborated to bring their annual farm walks as a virtual listening experience. With the mission of education for farmers, by farmers, this podcast provides new, beginning, and existing farmers with education, advice, and mentorship from experienced farmers, agricultural and food systems professionals, and WSU Extension Specialists. To join in on the weekly walks, check out the farm walks website <https://www.farmwalks.org/>.

Photo credit: Riled Up Goats, 2021

The screenshot shows a web page with a header banner featuring a keyboard and fresh produce. The banner includes the 'FOOD SAFETY RESOURCE CLEARINGHOUSE' logo and navigation links for 'Home', 'Search', 'About', 'Calendar', 'Peer Review Process for Add-on Content', and 'My Dashboard'. The main content area is titled 'Peer Review Process for Add-on Content' and includes a 'Background' section. The background section states that three FDA-funded alliances (Produce Safety Alliance, Sprout Safety Alliance, and Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance) have developed standardized food safety training curricula. It also notes that additional content developed by stakeholder groups to supplement the standardized curriculum is considered 'add-on' content. A large grey box at the bottom of the page contains the text: 'THE PEER REVIEW PROCESS FOR ADD-ON CONTENT IS OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS'.

FOOD SAFETY RESOURCE CLEARINGHOUSE

Home Search About Calendar Peer Review Process for Add-on Content My Dashboard

Peer Review Process for Add-on Content

Background

The three FDA-funded Alliances (Produce Safety Alliance, Sprout Safety Alliance, and Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance) have developed standardized food safety training curricula designed to meet the needs of most stakeholders who must comply with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety and Preventive Controls for Human Food rules.

Additional content that is developed by any stakeholder group to supplement the standardized curriculum is considered "add-on" content.

THE PEER REVIEW PROCESS FOR ADD-ON CONTENT IS OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS

Add-on Peer Review Process- Open for Submissions

The Western Regional Center to Enhance Food Safety in collaboration with the Northeast Center to Advance Food Safety (NECAFS) has been working on a peer review process for add-on content that will be facilitated through the Clearinghouse.

Add-ons are material(s) in addition to standardized curricula that are developed and delivered pre-course, during a course, or post-course as a standalone.

The peer review system is **open and accepting submissions**. *At this time, only resources in English are being accepted for peer review.* Additional detailed instructions and guidance on the peer review process are available on the [Clearinghouse website](#) and [WRCEFS website](#).

Information about peer review of short courses is coming soon!



WRCEFS FSPCA PCHF and PSA Training Information

A fillable PDF version and Qualtrics survey version of the PSA and FSPCA PCHF pre-/post-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 and in-person courses, (whether or not you are administering the pre/post-tests) please continue to share all cover sheets and attendance rosters with WRCEFS. On the cover sheet, please indicate if the training was delivered remotely or in-person.



Training and Resource Updates

1) 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.

2) **New- Upcoming PSA Train-the-Trainer (TTT) Courses:**
Reminder: As of October 1, 2021, all individuals interested in enrolling in a PSA TTT Course must have attended at least one registered PSA GT Course. Successfully completing an in-person, online, or remote PSA Grower Training Course meets this requirement. All trainings listed below are \$350 to attend.

Remote delivery course | NY, USA: 3/7/2022 - 3/10/2022

Course #: Registration Closed- Course Full

Training Language: English

In-person course | Lake Alfred, FL, USA: 5/12/2022 - 5/13/2022

Contact Information: [Taylor L. O'Bannon](#), Phone: 352-354-5006

Cost: \$300; Course #: FL-220512-TR

Training Language: English

3) **Spanish-language Produce Safety Educator's group launch.**

PSA has launched a Spanish-language Produce Safety Educator's group. Similar to the English Produce Safety Educators' Group, the Produce Safety Educators' Group in Spanish has the purpose of

keeping PSA Trainers, PSA Lead Trainers, PSA Trainers-of-Trainers and produce safety educators, specifically those who are focused on produce safety outreach and extension, up to date on the latest educational resources, training opportunities, regulatory updates, and produce industry initiatives.

This group is open to anyone interested in produce safety education but may be most relevant to PSA Trainers and Lead Trainers conducting trainings in Spanish as well as extension educators from the United States and Latin America.

To sign up for the listserv, click [here](#).

To learn more about the group, please visit:

<https://es.producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu/recursos/grupo-de-educadores-sobre-la-inocuidad-de-los-productos-agricolas-frescos-en-espanol-notas-y-recursos-de-las-reuniones/>.

4) 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.



WRCEFS Website Change - FDA Updates

The FDA updates page on the WRCEFS website has been revised. It has been expanded to include relevant links and FDA provided resources for proposed regulations and new acts related to FSMA and food safety. This page will also continue to provide a summary of new FDA updates.

To view the revised webpage, please click [here](#).

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A PRODUCE
SAFETY
WEBINAR
SERIES
WEBINAR

SAFE-TEA: BREWING AND USING AGRICULTURAL TEAS SAFELY

Agricultural teas come in multiple forms, are prepared from many ingredients, and are brewed and applied in various ways. Each of these inputs is associated with various risks and benefits – some well-researched and some not. This webinar will provide background on agricultural teas and the implications of current policy on their use in fruit and vegetable production. The speakers will introduce important terms to know, discussions about past and ongoing research, and the science behind FSMA Produce Safety Rule provisions in a conversational atmosphere and interactive environment.



BILLY MITCHELL
FSMA Coordinator
Local Food Safety Collaborative



DR. DAVE INGRAM
Consumer Safety Officer
Food and Drug Administration (FDA)



DONNA CLEMENTS
PSA Coordinator
Produce Safety Alliance (PSA)

THURSDAY
MARCH 10, 2022
3:30PM - 5:00PM EST

[HTTPS://VIRINIATECH.ZO
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/WN_GUVR76HBSLOPGL_N
KTHLGW](https://viriniatech.zo
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KTHLGW)

REGISTER IN ADVANCE FOR THIS WEBINAR

contactproducesafety.ifas.ufl.edu

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This work is supported by the Specialty Crops Research Initiative 2020-51181-32157 from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this presentation are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Upcoming National Webinar

The CONTACT Team is delighted to bring you “**Safe-Tea: Brewing and Using Agricultural Teas Safely?**”, on March 10th at 3:30 pm Eastern / 12:30 pm Pacific. This webinar will feature the terrific trio of Dr. Dave Ingram (FDA/CFSAN), Donna Clements (Produce Safety Alliance), and Billy Mitchell (Local Food Safety Collaborative) to discuss agricultural teas. This will be a reoccurring, monthly Produce Safety Webinar Series.

This webinar is free and will be held via Zoom. Registration is required. Produce safety industry, government, and academia are encouraged to come. All are invited!

Registration link is available on the [CONTACT team webpage](#).

We welcome future webinar topic suggestions, Tweet Us (https://twitter.com/ps_sci), or Mention Us 🙌 https://www.instagram.com/ps_sci/

Job Opportunities

1) Produce Safety Alliance: Southwest Regional Extension Associate

The Produce Safety Alliance (PSA), is a collaborative project with the USDA and the FDA to provide educational outreach assistance to fresh produce growers and packers, including grower cooperatives, to increase their understanding of the critical role they play in public health by implementing food safety practices on the farm and in packinghouses.

As a key member of the PSA team, the Southwest Regional Extension

Associate (REA) will be responsible for planning, organizing, instructing, and evaluating PSA training programs for produce growers, extension educators, and regulatory personnel in their region. Due to extensive national and international collaboration established by the PSA, it is anticipated the SW REA will interact with a diverse population of individuals and groups with specific emphasis in the Southwest including, but not limited to, State Departments of Agriculture personnel, commodity groups, Land-Grant University personnel, and the Western Regional Center to Enhance Food Safety (WRCEFS) collaborators. The SW REA will facilitate and provide leadership for in-person meetings as applicable, conference calls and webinars, and be directly involved in training other individuals to use the developed PSA curriculum; provide continual feedback to PSA leadership through preparation of regional impact reports, training evaluations, and outreach activities; and participate in weekly PSA team calls. Must be willing to travel regionally and nationally a significant amount of time (~50%) pending COVID-19 control, including non-traditional and weekend work hours. This position will be located in the Southwest U.S. with exact location being flexible within the northwest part of the 15 states and territories of the Western Region.

To learn more about the position and to apply, please visit: <https://academicjobsonline.org/ajo?joblist---981-20848>

**2) Washington Department of Agriculture: (2 positions available)
Produce Safety Inspection Supervisor and Inspection
Administrative Coordinator**

The WSDA Produce Safety Program currently has two open Produce Safety Field Inspector positions available.

To learn more about the position and to apply, please

visit: <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/washington/jobs/3419112/produce-safety-field-inspector?keywords=produce&pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs>

**Job closes March 15th, 2022*

3) California Department of Agriculture: Compliance Officers

Two positions are open in the CDFA Produce Safety Program for Compliance Officers in Sacramento County.

For more details about the positions and to apply, please visit: <https://www.calcareers.ca.gov/CalHrPublic/Jobs/JobPosting.aspx?JobControlId=283524>

4) Iowa State University- Professor and Department Chair

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) and College of Human Sciences (CHS) at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa seek a Professor and Department Chair of the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition (FSHN).

To learn more about the position and to apply, please visit: https://isu.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/IowaStateJobs/details/Food-Science-and-Human-Nutrition-Professor-and-Department-Chair_R7427

If you have any questions, please contact Angela Shaw (angelaml@iastate.edu).

5) University of Florida- Extension Program Specialist (520658)

The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences is

seeking a full-time Education and Training Specialist who will be responsible for coordinating, conducting, and documenting activities related with associated with the Southern Regional Center for FSMA Training and the Lead Regional Center for FSMA training. This includes reviewing relevant articles and issues related to the produce safety and the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), identifying needed initiatives and creating and implementing them, and developing procedures and policies for project management across partner institutions. The position will also be responsible for supporting the design, development and implementation of training and education programs throughout the Southern US in conjunction with food safety extension personnel, coordinating and supporting meeting, training and evaluation efforts, attending meetings with project members, fostering relationships with stakeholders, and identifying opportunities for collaboration. The position is expected to implement evaluation of the program, compile data, and write reports. The candidate will work closely with Food Safety Extension colleagues from partner institutions across the US, the US State Department of Agriculture, growers, harvesters, packers, and other stakeholders to advance produce food safety. Successful candidates should be familiar with basic produce growing and packing and have a strong background in food safety/microbiology. This position will require some in state and national travel.

To learn more about the position and to apply, please visit: <https://explore.jobs.ufl.edu/en-us/job/520658/extension-program-specialist>

Review of applications will begin on March 18th.

Faces of WRCEFS

On the Faces of WRCEFS section of the WRCEFS website, you can

Members



FACES OF WRCEFS

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.

WRCEFS Communication

Website

Website 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 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 (wrcefs@oregonstate.edu).

Stay safe!



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