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March 2021 Newsletter

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

A promotional banner for the 5th WRCEFS Annual Meeting. The background shows a person with their back to the camera, looking at a laptop screen. On the left, a blue circular graphic contains the text "Register Now!". To the right, the text reads "Western Regional Center to Enhance Food Safety" followed by "VIRTUAL" in green and "Annual Meeting" in white. At the bottom, the dates and times are listed: "May 4 1PM-4PM PDT", "May 5 9AM-12PM PDT", and "May 6 1PM-4PM PDT". The WRRC logo is in the bottom right corner of the banner.

5th WRCEFS Annual Meeting- Registration

Open!

Planning has begun for the 2021 WRCEFS Virtual Annual Meeting. The annual meeting is planned for May 4-6th, 2021. These three hour sessions will be held from 1-4 PM PDT on May 4th and 6th as well as from 9-12 AM PDT on May 5th.

Registration is now open. To register, please click [here](#). Please note that attendance to the annual meeting is on an invite only basis. A password is needed to complete registration. To get this password, please contact Stephanie Brown at wrcefs@oregonstate.edu.

Draft agenda for the meeting can be viewed [here](#). Final agenda will be shared closer to the event.

We look forward to interacting with everyone online!

Photo credit: Faith Critzer, WSU, 2021



Add-on Peer Review Process

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.

We are excited to be opening up this review system in **early April**. Please be on the lookout for an additional newsletter that will provide detailed instructions and guidance on the peer review process.

At this time we are soliciting Western Region reviewers.

Please complete this survey by April 16th to be added to our subject matter expert list:

https://oregonstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cC51GrGczbC6bpY

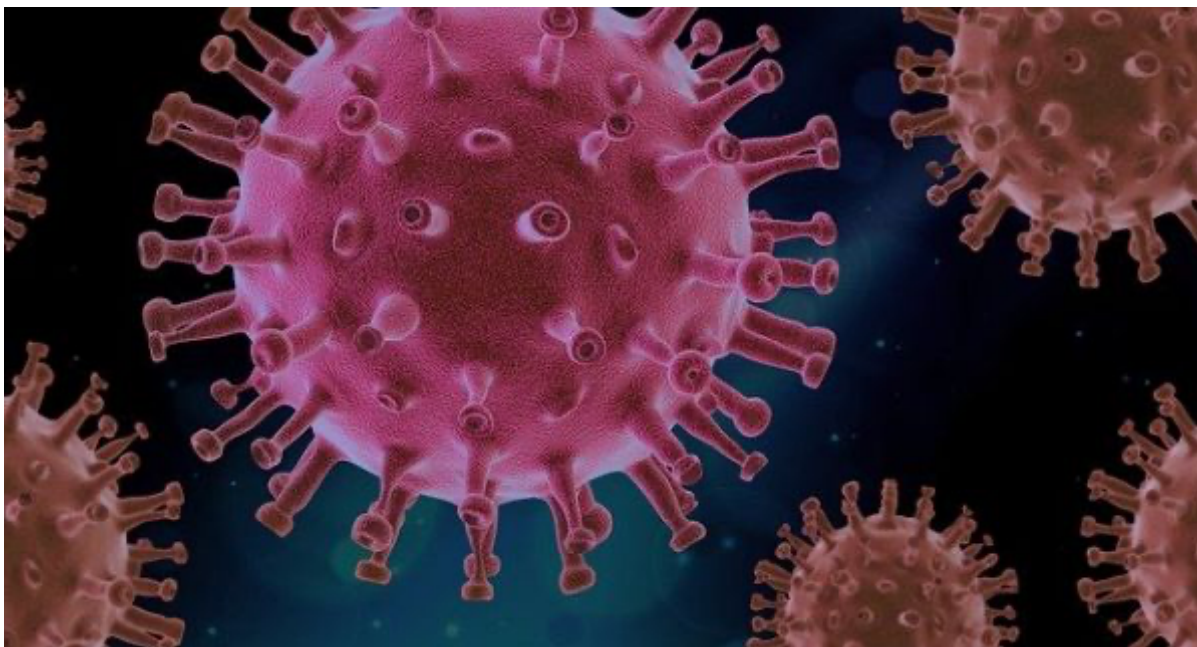


FSMA Produce Safety Webinar Series

The University of Idaho Extension is hosting a free webinar series in April focused on produce safety. Webinar titles are provided below. To view a more detailed description of each webinar and to register, please click [here](#).

- April 6th: Be a Bad Neighbor: Making your building less attractive to mice and birds
- April 20th: Why do I have to do FSMA if I do GAP?
- April 27th: Approaches to Composting Safely

Image Credit: Pixabay, Alexandra Koch, 2020



COVID-19 Resources

1) 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: Our colleagues at Emory University have created English and Spanish infographics for the food industry. These include infographs focused on cleaning and disinfection in the workplace, general prevention, prevent spread in worker housing, preventing spread in worker transportation, and symptoms, screening, and exposure. These images along with accessibility usage sheets for each infographic can be found on the WRCEFS website.

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.

2) North Carolina State University, Rutgers University, the University of Florida, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln have partnered to develop FoodCoVNET. This team will be evaluating current practices through laboratory research on virus persistence, inactivation and transfer. Results

collected from this team will be provided on their [website](#), which will serve as a hub information related to SARS-CoV-2 management in the food sector. For more information about the team and to view current resources, please check out their website (<https://foodcovnet.ces.ncsu.edu/welcome-to-foodcovnet/>).

New: The FoodCoVNET team is hosting a series of webinars on food industry issues related to COVID-19. Check out their website for webinar dates and recordings.

Podcast Alert!

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 catch up on all the season 1 weekly walks, check out the farm walks website <https://www.farmwalks.org/>.

Photo credit: Riled Up Goats, 2021





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 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 or register for an upcoming course, please visit the PSA website.



FDA Updates

1) FSMA's Produce Safety Rule Now Available in Chinese, Portuguese and Spanish

On March 10th, the FDA announced that the Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule (PSR) is now available in Chinese and Portuguese. The PSR was previously translated into Spanish. In conjunction, the Produce Safety Alliance, an FDA-funded produce safety training partner, is publishing a grower curriculum for farmers in Chinese and will soon finalize the curricula in Portuguese. The translations of the PSR can be found on the FSMA Web page at <https://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-modernization-act-fsma/fsma-final-rule-produce-safety>.

Additional information/links: [PSA Grower Curricula in Chinese](#)



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.

Survey Request

Researchers from Virginia Tech and North Carolina State University are requesting our help. Their team is assessing the impact of COVID-19 on farmers markets nationwide. They are seeking input from farmers market vendors on practices implemented in response to COVID-19. They hope to use this data to better understand how resources can be developed for these groups.

The survey can be accessed through the following link: https://virginiatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_byeRemthrdWqbu5

Please share this survey within your networks. If you have any questions about the survey or the research it supports, please contact either Minh Duong at minhd16@vt.edu or Ben Chapman at bjchapma@ncsu.edu

Job Opportunities

1) Produce Safety Program Manager- Washington State Department of Agriculture

The Washington State Department of Agriculture's Produce Safety Program is excited to announce the opening of the Produce Safety Program Manager position in Olympia Washington!

ABOUT THE POSITION: The **Produce Safety Program Manager** is primarily responsible for implementing and operationalizing the federal Produce Safety Rule - part of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) - in Washington State. The FSMA

Produce Safety Rule requires certain produce production and handling activities (for produce eaten raw) to be conducted in a sanitary manner. This position is expected to continuously improve the state's Produce Safety Program, which exists to protect public health through implementation of the federal Produce Safety Rule. This position is funded on a five-year basis by a federal cooperative agreement. The program helps farmers understand and successfully meet the requirements of the rule, conducts on-farm inspections, and ultimately protects public health.

For more information about this position, follow this [link](#) or find the position by searching Produce Safety Program Manager-WMS02 at: <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/washington>

2) Senior Scientist - Microbiology/Sprout Safety

This position will plan, design and execute collaborative and contract research projects, maintains laboratory equipment and solves routine problems independently. Mentors staff and students on research and safety related topics. **Lead the Sprout Safety Alliance.** IFSH is one of FDA's center of excellence in food safety and conducts research that furthers FDA's public health mission as well as provides the food industry with critical food safety information.

For more information about this position and to apply, please use this link: <https://iit7.peopleadmin.com/postings/6915>

3) Spanish Language Extension Associate - Produce Safety Alliance

The Produce Safety Alliance (PSA), based in the Department of Food

Science at Cornell University, 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 Spanish Language Extension Associate (SLEA) will be required to have dual English and Spanish proficiency, including the ability to read, write, speak, and edit in both English and Spanish languages. The SLEA will be responsible for overseeing the translation, editing, and proofreading of PSA projects to ensure quality, message accuracy and consistency, appropriate tone and voice, and cultural relevance. By participating in a panel of reviewers, the SLEA will lead the evaluation process for English and Spanish-speaking applicants who apply to become PSA Lead Trainers. Due to extensive national and international collaboration established by the PSA, it is anticipated the EA will interact with a diverse population of individuals and stakeholder groups across the country and outside of the United States, with specific emphasis on engagement with the Produce International Partnership (PIP). The SLEA will facilitate and provide leadership for conference calls relating to international outreach efforts and may be directly involved in training other individuals to use the curriculum, in-person and through online platforms in English and Spanish. In addition, the SLEA will provide continual feedback to PSA leadership through preparation of international impact reports, training evaluations, and outreach activities. Must be willing to travel regionally, nationally, and internationally a significant amount of time (~30%), including non-traditional and weekend work hours.

For more information about this position and to apply, please use this link:

<https://academicjobsonline.org/ajo/jobs/18362?fbclid=IwAR3X4EBa8YfsxXGYoOczvdi2yyIyJL6KhrzwhSNOYoShU6QAobSmITZ9-J0>

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.

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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wrcefs@oregonstate.edu

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