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October 2022 Newsletter

Dear WRCEFS Community,

Below you will find information related to 2022 FSOP projects, regional and national events and news, and ongoing WRCEFS initiatives.



WRCEFS Received USDA NIFA Partnership Award!

Each year, USDA NIFA presents Partnership Awards in three categories including (i) Mission Integration or Research, Education or Extension; (ii) Multistate Efforts; and (iii) Innovative Programs and Projects.

The WRCEFS leadership team is excited announce that **WRCEFS has been selected as the 2021 winner in Category II: Multistate Efforts.**

WRCEFS has received this award for working collaboratively to provide continued food safety education, training, extension, outreach and technical assistance to the food industry in the Western Region. Many thanks to everyone for your contributions to our food safety community and for all that you do to improve food safety in

our region!



Congrats Grantees!

USDA NIFA has just announced their Food Safety Outreach Program (FSOP) project grantees for the FY 2022 funding cycle.

Our new Western Region grantees, include:

- S. Li- Increasing accessibility of food safety resources to tribal growers in Arizona to advance resilience of native nations
- N. Harkleroad- Latino immigrant-owned farms training in food safety (LIFT)
- K. Feiereisel- Relationship driven food safety technical assistance to California small farmers
- K. M. Kelly- Opening new markets for small farms by expanding Hawaii's USDA GroupGAP food safety certification program

To learn more about the newly funded projects, please see the [funded project page](#).



Better Process Control School

New Mexico State University is offering a Better Process Control School (BPCS) course using Consumer Brands Association (CBA) manuals (9th edition) presented in English, online via Zoom, over 7 sessions from 8:00 AM- 2 PM MDST each session, with additional time for participants to take exams.

Two course options are offered: one for acidified foods (4 session) cost \$400.00 USD per person. The course for low acid foods (7 sessions) cost \$600.00 USD. Registration cost includes online instruction and testing using NMSU OnDemand (Canvas based platform). Participants must purchase their own manuals. Click here to [Purchase the Manual](#), or digital manuals are available at [Canned Foods: Digital](#).

Course instructors have vast experience and knowledge of food regulations, processing and food safety. They are recognized processing authorities who educate and assist food entrepreneurs and food companies as part of NMSU's land-grant mission.

More information can be found about this course on the [NMSU workshop website](#). Please see [brochure or agenda](#) with complete dates and times of presentation.

Deadline to register: October 25 at 5 PM

[Register here for Better Process Control School](#)

Photo credit: OSU EESC, Lynn Ketchum

Produce GAPs Harmonized Auditor Training

The International Fresh Produce Association will be hosting the next Produce GAPs Harmonized Auditor Training in November in a hybrid format with a newly added on-farm portion with hands-on activities and scenarios to solidify the standard requirements.

The training will be held on November 2-3, 2022 online (Zoom) with a 1 day on-farm portion on Nov. 17, 2022 at NC State University's Produce Handling Facility and research farm at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center in Mills River, NC (near Asheville, NC). Participants must attend the online portion in

order to be eligible to attend the on-farm session. Auditors are the primary audience, but many growers, Extension, and other stakeholders may find value in the training.

[Click here to register for auditor training](#)

A PRODUCE SAFETY WEBINAR SERIES

POST-HARVEST WATER: THINGS TO CONSIDER

Thursday,
OCTOBER 13TH

Webinar + Q&A
3:30 - 5:00 PM ET/
12:30 - 2:00 PM PT



DR. KEITH SCHNEIDER
PROFESSOR OF FOOD SAFETY

REGISTER IN ADVANCE TO ATTEND

Let's #MakeCONTACT | @ps_sci

contactproducesafety.ifas.ufl.edu



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Produce Safety Webinar

The next CONTACT Produce Safety Webinar is: **"Post-harvest Water: Things to Consider"**.

This webinar will be held on October 13th at 3:30 pm Eastern / 12:30 pm Pacific.

This webinar will feature Dr. Keith Schneider from the University of Florida. He will cover wash water quality, sanitizer use, methods/pros and cons of monitoring, and some recommendations for post-harvest water management that attendees may apply to their operations. Be sure to stick around for the live only Q&A, where Dr. Schneider will stay and answer audience questions.

As a reminder: Each webinar will consist of a one-hour presentation followed by 30 min of interactive Q&A. Please join us - all welcome!

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!

[Register here](#)



PSA Updates

1) **2022 PSA Update Webinar**- The 2022 PSA Update webinar is scheduled for October 25, 2022 from 11:00 AM- 12:30 PST (2:00- 3:30 PM EST). Registration for this webinar will be available soon. Details will be sent out on the PSA educator's listserv.

The 2022 PSA Update Webinar will also be provided in Spanish. This webinar is scheduled for November 30, 2022 from 11:00 AM- 1:00 PST (2:00 - 4:00 PM EST). Registration for this webinar will be available soon. Details will be sent out on the PSA educator's listserv.

2) **PSA Educator's Call**- The next PSA Educator's call will be on October 24, 2022. Speakers Dr. Kristin Woods, Ms. Gretchen Wall, and Mr. Billy Mitchell will present on incorporating interactive training elements into produce safety trainings. Registration information will be sent out on the PSA educator's listserv.

3) **New**- PSA has **extended its temporary remote delivery policy** for the PSA Grower Training and PSA Train-the-Trainer courses to **June 30, 2023** 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.

4) **Welcome Collins!** PSA's new Northwest Regional Extension Associate is Dr. Collins Bugingo. You can learn more about Collins at [the PSA team page](#). Welcome to the Western Region Collins!



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](#).

Registration closes October 17th at midnight (Central time).

Job and Graduate Position Opportunities

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

1) **University of Minnesota-** [Extension Educators in Food Safety \(2 positions\)](#)

2) **Texas Tech University-** Angela Shaw is recruiting four PhD students for Spring/ Summer 2023. The position will be based in the Department of Animal and Food Sciences at Texas Tech University, Lubbock Campus. The graduate student will assist with conducting food safety risk assessments within controlled environmental agricultural herb-producing facilities throughout the United States. The graduate student will also be involved in the development of food safety risk mitigation strategies and the development of a food safety curriculum based on the research findings. The selected graduate student will be required to travel to Michigan, Virginia, California, and other areas of Texas to conduct this research. Contact [Dr. Angela Shaw](#) to apply.

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.
- **WRCEFS Website-**
 - FDA updates page- more links to FDA resources and new updates now available [here](#).
 - Faces of WRCEFS is 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 regular 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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