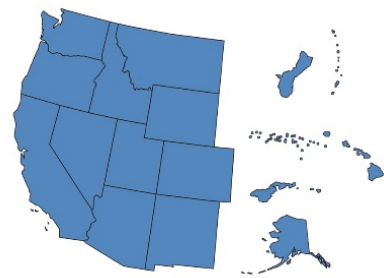


[View this email in your browser](#)

# WRRC



## Western Regional Center to Enhance Food Safety

October 2020 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.

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### **Social Media Webinar- Register Today!**

Ever wonder how to engage with growers online? How can you/your program best use social media to your advantage? Are you simply

confused about where to start when it comes to social media?

WRCEFS will be hosting a *free webinar* on **November 6th from 1-2:30 PM** to address this timely topics. Our webinar speaker, Dr. Connie Fisk, will provide insights into these topics as well as answers to other common questions about using social media.

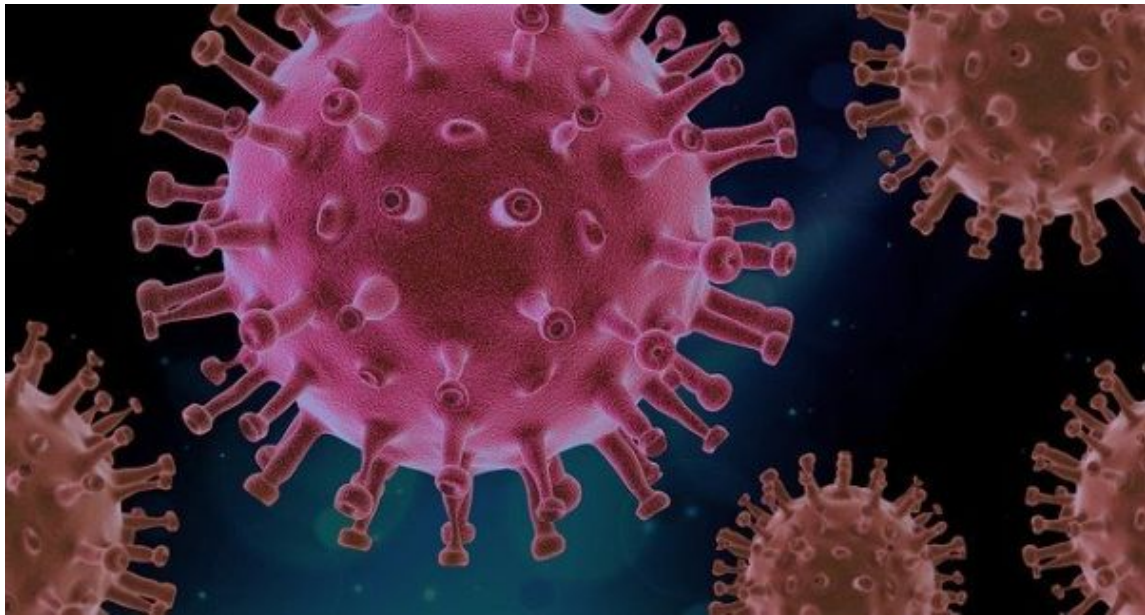
**The secret to the perfect social media post is only a listen away.**

To register, please use this link: <https://wrcefs-socialmediawebinar-november2020.eventbrite.com>

The password needed to complete registration is **webinar**

*\*This webinar is open to participants outside of the Western region.*

Photo credit: wocintechchat.com



## 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 resources available on the WRCEFS website include:

- 1) Considerations for Food Pantries and Food Distribution Sites (CDC)
- 2) Considerations for Outdoor Farmers Markets (CDC)
- 3) Considerations for Outdoor Learning and Community Gardens (CDC)

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](mailto: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/>).



## Training and Resource Updates

1) The PSA is hosting a Train-the-Trainer refresher webinar series to prepare trainers for remote delivery of the PSA Grower Training Course on Thursdays in October and November at noon (EST) and 9 AM (PST). Each week 1 hour is devoted to each module with tips included for teaching remotely. Presentations will be recorded and available on the PSA website.

### **Schedule:**

- Oct. 1 – Module 1: Introduction to Produce Safety
- Oct. 8 – Module 2: Worker Health, Hygiene, and Training
- Oct. 15 – Module 3: Soil Amendments
- Oct. 22 – Module 4: Wildlife, Domesticated Animals, and Land Use
- Oct. 29 – Module 5-1: Agricultural Water – Production Water

Nov. 5 – Module 5-2: Agricultural Water – Postharvest Water  
Nov. 12 – Module 6: Postharvest Handling and Sanitation  
Nov. 19 – Module 7: How to Develop a Farm Food Safety Plan

Connection details:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://cornell.zoom.us/j/97333455266?pwd=R1RpR0xYKzA4L3dBUnZOam0rSDNKZz09>

Meeting ID: 973 3345 5266

Passcode: 541541

2) 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](#)

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

4) 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.

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## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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## FDA Updates

### **1) FDA to Hold Webinar on the First 100 Days: New Era Smarter Food Safety**

The FDA will be hosting a webinar on Monday, October 26, 2020 from 3 to 4 p.m. on the highlights of the first 100 days since FDA issued its blueprint for the New Era of Smarter Food Safety. During this one-hour webinar, Deputy Commissioner Frank Yiannas and leaders of the four Core Elements of the blueprint will discuss the new approach FDA is taking to food safety, leveraging technology and other tools to create a safer and more digital, traceable food system. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and the webinar will be recorded and posted to the FDA website. Registration is required; please register at your earliest convenience as space will be limited. **Registration will close on Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 5 pm ET.** To register, please use this [link](#).

### **2) FDA Announces Key FSMA Rule to Advance Traceability of Foods, A Major Milestone in the New Era of Smarter Food Safety**

On September 21st, the FDA announced a proposed rule to establish additional traceability recordkeeping requirements for certain foods. The FDA also published a draft “Food Traceability List,” which describes the foods that would be subject to the proposed requirements. The list includes leafy greens, fresh cut fruits and vegetables, some types of fish, shell eggs, nut butters, and more. At the heart of the proposal is a requirement for those who manufacture, process, pack, or hold a food on the Food Traceability List (FTL) to establish

and maintain records associated with specific Critical Tracking Events (CTEs): growing, receiving, transforming, creating, and shipping. To read the proposed rule, please click [here](#).

### **3) Traceability Records for Certain Food Rule Virtual Public Meetings**

The FDA will be holding three one-day public meetings to discuss the proposed Traceability Records for Certain Food rule. The purpose of the public meetings is to discuss the proposed rule, which was issued under the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act. These public meetings are intended to facilitate and support the public's evaluation and commenting process on the proposed rule.

**Registration is required** to attend one of the virtual meetings. Space is limited so please register early.

#### *First Virtual Public Meeting- November 6, 2020, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. EST*

Registration closes on October 28, 2020. Register

here: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TraceabilityPublicMeetings\\_November6](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TraceabilityPublicMeetings_November6)

#### *Second Virtual Public Meeting- November 18, 2020, 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. EST*

Registration closes on November 6, 2020. Register

here: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TraceabilityPublicMeetings\\_November18](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TraceabilityPublicMeetings_November18)

#### *Third Virtual Public Meeting- December 2, 2020, 11:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. EST*

Registration closes on November 18, 2020. Register

here: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TraceabilityPublicMeetings\\_December2](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TraceabilityPublicMeetings_December2)

### **4) To learn more about the following updates, please check out the WRCEFS website:**

- 4) FDA establishes U.S. Agent Voluntary Identification System for Food Facilities
- 5) FDA Updates Health and Personal Hygiene Handbook for Food Employees
- 6) FDA and Mexico Sign Statement of Intent Forging Food Safety Partnership

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## **Faces of WRCEFS**

We have added a new section to the website called the Faces of WRCEFS. Here you can find staff

## Members



FACES OF WRCEFS

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.



## Funding Opportunities

The Center for Produce Safety has released their call for preliminary research proposals. Pre-proposals and required documents are due to CPS by noon (PST) on Wednesday, November 11, 2020. The 2021 research priorities can be found [here](#). For guidance documents, required forms, industry collaborators, please check out the [CPS Grant Opportunities webpage](#).



A Research Priorities Webinar for this funding opportunity will be held on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 10 am PST. Webinar registration can be found [here](#).

Photo credit: Pixabay, Nattanan Kanchanaprat, 2017

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## **Job Opportunities**

### **1) CFSAN/OFS Vacancy Announcement for a Biologist, GS-401-14 – Direct Hire**

There is a job opportunity in the Office of Food Safety (OFS), Division of Produce Safety (DPS), Fresh Produce Branch (FPB). The position is a CFSAN Produce Safety Network position focused on produce safety efforts in Latin America.

**This position closes on October 21st**

To learn more about the position and/or apply, please use this link: <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/581583800>

### **2) Produce Safety Research Specialist**

The Northeast Center to Advance Food Safety (NECAFS) seeks a Research Specialist to lead, coordinate and implement several research activities in the area of produce safety. 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.

To learn more about the position and/or apply, please use this link: <https://www.uvmjobs.com/postings/41968>

### **3) Environmental Scientist**

The California Department of Food and Agriculture is seeking an Environmental Scientist to serve in their Department of Food and Agriculture. This person will conduct on-farm environmental assessments and enforcement to ensure compliance with FSMA and

the PSR. The incumbent must be able to be commissioned and credentialed by FDA to perform work concerning present and future environmental issues relating to food safety and must work with industry to bring production/facility sites into compliance with FSMA requirements. The incumbent will be responsible for on-farm inspections to ensure that PSR standards are met and enforced and that effective on-farm training and communication are in place. The incumbent will use a prioritized inspectional approach to conduct specific statewide inspections and procedural activities for the PSP. The Environmental Scientist will be responsible for carrying out inspections and implementing the Produce Safety Rule in the Central Coastal Region (Region 3). The incumbent may be required to go to other locations throughout California as needed.

To learn more about the position and/or apply, please use this link: <https://www.calcareers.ca.gov/CalHrPublic/Jobs/JobPosting.aspx?JobControlId=216317>.

#### **4) Senior Environmental Scientist- Water Microbial Specialist**

The California Department of Food and Agriculture is seeking a Senior Environmental Scientist who will act as a subject matter expert on California agriculture water systems. This will include, but not limited to: treatment of surface or ground water; technical support to growers; conduct water microbiological assessments; and, identify and catalog agricultural water resources throughout California. The incumbent must be able to be commissioned and credentialed by FDA to perform work concerning present and future environmental issues relating to food safety and must work with industry to bring production/facility sites into compliance with FSMA requirements. The incumbent will explore data sources and options for the identification of farms using surface water, develop questions for CDFA Produce Safety inspections regarding the use of surface water, and provide technical expertise to farms using treatment systems for water.

To learn more about the position and/or apply, please use this link: <https://jobs.ca.gov/CalHrPublic/Jobs/JobPosting.aspx?JobControlId=219787>.

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## **Microgreens Food Safety Research**

The University of Arkansas, Clemson University, the University of Houston, and New Mexico State University are collaborating to develop food safety training specifically for the microgreens industry. Our objectives are to characterize production and distribution aspects of the microgreens industry, determine barriers to implementation of risk management practices, use science-based evidence to develop training for microgreens growers, develop guidance documents for buyers and regulators of microgreens, and to provide education and outreach materials to producers, buyers, and regulators of microgreens.

**If you are a microgreens grower in the United States and are interested in participating in this project, please fill out [this form](#) with your contact information.**

Image Credit: Pixabay, Coloboque, 2015

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## **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](mailto:stephanie.brown@oregonstate.edu)).

**We hope you have a safe fall!**



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wrcefs@oregonstate.edu

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