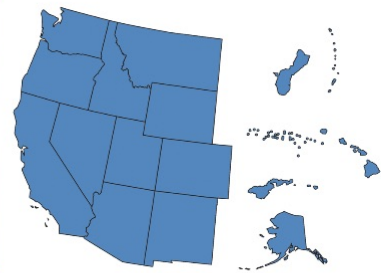


[View this email in your browser](#)

WRRC



Western Regional Center to Enhance Food Safety

September 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.



Ag Water Treatment TTT Workshop

The Ag Water Treatment Train-the-Trainer Workshop is scheduled for October 13, 2020 from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM PST and October 14, 2020

from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. This two day workshop is designed for extension and industry professionals who wish to teach courses on preharvest agricultural water treatment.

Registration for the course was capped at 30 participants. Course registration opened on August 28th and seats filled up within 1 hour! Due to the high demand for this workshop, the Western Regional Center is looking into bringing this training back to our region in the spring of 2021.

This workshop was created by North Carolina State University, University of Arizona, University of Florida, University of Georgia, University of Tennessee, Virginia Cooperative Extension, and Washington State University.

Photo credit: OSU EESC, Stephen Ward, 2019



New WRCEFS Resources

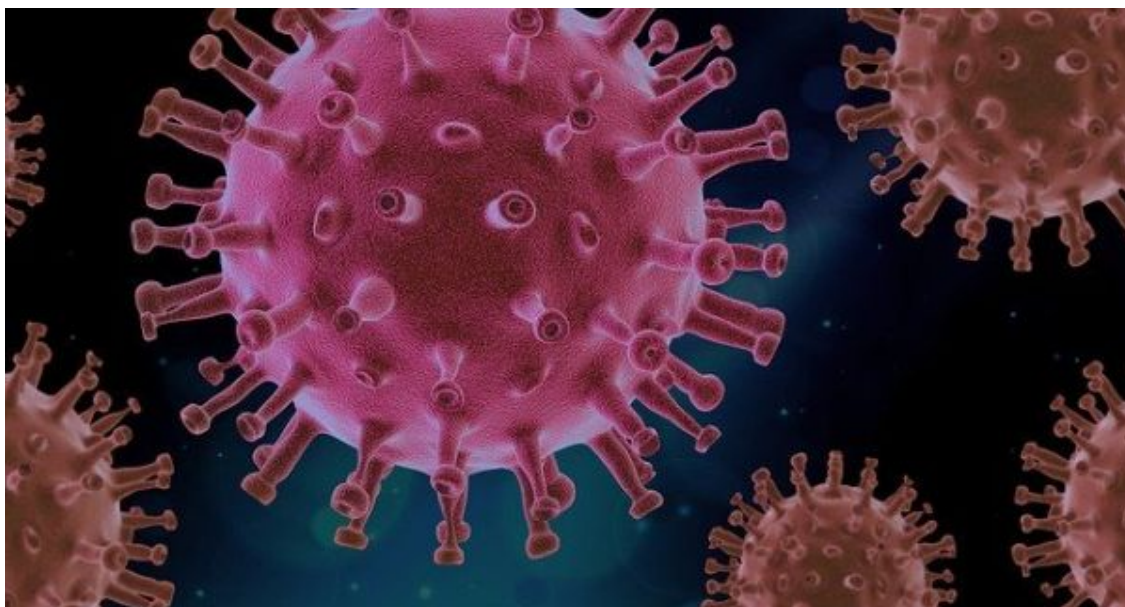
1) Food Safety and Wildfires

This article contains key points for food safety and produce safety and resources for the food industry, worker health, and consumer safety. This article can be found in the In the News section of the WRCEFS website. This page will be updated as we continue to gather resources and information from our partners. If you have any

resources or materials you would like to add to this page, please contact Stephanie Brown.

2) Modified Produce Safety Alliance and Water Testing Trainings in Oregon

The goal of this project was to build upon the food safety outreach program at the Oregon State University (OSU) to address knowledge and resource gaps in delivering standardized Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) training to the produce industry in Oregon. PSA curriculum modifications included add-on exercises. To learn more about this work and developed resources, visit our [resource section](#) of the WRCEFS website.



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) [Employee Health and Food Safety Checklist for Human and Animal Food Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). This resource was created by FDA and OSHA.

2) [Local Food System Response to COVID Resource Hub](#). This hub was created through a USDA cooperative agreement with the University of Kentucky, Colorado State University, and Pennsylvania State University.

3) [International Commission on Microbiological Specifications for Foods \(ICMSF\) Opinion on SARS-CoV-2 and its relationship to food safety](#).

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 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.



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) Employee Health and Food Safety Checklist for Human and Animal Food Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic

On August 19th, the FDA and OSHA released a checklist for FDA-regulated human and animal food operations to use when assessing operations during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially when re-starting operations after a shut down or when reassessing operations because of changes due to the COVID-19 public health emergency caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2. To view the press release, please click [here](#). To access the checklist, please follow this link: <https://www.fda.gov/media/141141/download>

2) FDA Requests Information on Expansion of the Rarely Consumed Raw List for Uncommonly Consumed Produce

FDA issued a Request for Information (RFI) to open a docket for data and information related to produce that has been known to have no or low reported consumption. The Agency will use the data and information to consider whether any of these produce commodities should be added to the “rarely consumed raw” (RCR) list and thereby exempt from the Produce Safety rule. The items currently on the exhaustive RCR list are not subject to the requirements in the Produce Safety rule. Beginning **August 10th**, the FDA will be collecting information from the public for 90 days and invites those with data, information, and/or comments on consumption of produce that is rarely consumed raw to submit it through the Request for Information (RFI) docket. To access the docket, please use this link: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/08/10/2020-16800/request-for-information-consumption-of-certain-uncommon-produce-commodities-in-the-united-states>

3) National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Announces Cohort 10 Application Window for Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards Mentorship Program

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) invites all state, local, tribal, and territorial retail food regulatory programs to submit applications to participate in a mentorship program with their peers to learn, share experiences, and acquire tools and resources related to the FDA’s Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards (Retail Program Standards). [Applications to become a mentor and/or mentee for Cohort 10 are due by Oct. 13, 2020 at 11:59 PM ET.](#) For more information and to access the applications, please visit the [Retail Program Standards Mentorship page](#).

USDA-NIFA Updates



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture

1) FSIS to Host Public Meeting on the Future of Consumer Food Safety Education

USDA FSIS will be hosting a virtual public meeting on October 6th to discuss the state of consumer food safety education, current research, and future studies and engagement to close the gap between food safety messages and consumer action. The meeting will be held from 12-4 PM (ET). To register for this meeting, please click [here](#). To learn more about this meeting and documents available for comment, please click [here](#).

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.



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

Job Opportunities

1) The FDA has 1 position 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 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.

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

2) 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

Candidates should apply 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.



September is National Food Safety Education Month!

We would like to celebrate our WRCEFS members and your food safety educational efforts throughout the month. Tag us on social media so we can promote your food safety educational activities throughout the region!

Image Caption: Jovana Kovacevic and Joy Waite-Cusic leading participants in breakout group reporting during the OSU Pathogen Environmental Monitoring Program Workshop, February 2020

Photo Credit: Stephanie Brown, 2020

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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