

# Produce Safety

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## Produce Safety Educator's Monthly Call #16

October 13, 2015

2 PM EST

### Meeting Summary

**Total Attendance: 62**

**Meeting recording available at:**

<https://cornell.webex.com/cornell/lr.php?RCID=ff9dcab0e920ae6e85e7d2aa0b84b2d6>

## Agenda

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### Agenda, Tuesday October 13, 2015, 2PM EDT:

- 2:00 PM: Welcome
- 2:05 PM: FSMA Preventive Controls Rule: Discussion of the farm definition
  - Jenny Scott
  - *FDA Senior Advisor, Office of Food Safety, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition*
- 2:20 PM: Questions & Answers on the Farm Definition
- 2:30 PM: Produce Safety Alliance Updates
  - Introduction of the new PSA Team members
  - Training timeline and updates
- 2:45 PM: FSMA Training Strategy & The Produce Safety Alliance
  - See more about FDA's Strategy for FSMA Training, released earlier this week
  - <http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/ucm461513.htm>
- 3:00 PM: Adjourn

## Discussion

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- I. **FSMA Preventive Controls Rule: Discussion of the farm definition**
  - A. **Jenny Scott, FDA Senior Advisor, Office of Food Safety, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition**
    - i. See attached slides and audio for presentation.
  - B. **Questions & Answers: Farm Definition**
    - i. If a cooperative is farmer owned and they have a packing house, would that be qualified as a secondary activities farm?
      - If that cooperative is farmer owned and more than ½ of the produce going through that packinghouse are coming from the farms that are cooperative members, then it would be a 'secondary activities' farm.
    - ii. How many questions have you been getting from the electronic question submission online, and will there be Q&A's distributed?

- Eventually, the Q&A's will be posted on the FSMA webpage. Sign up for the [FSMA listserv](#) to get notification on when this becomes available. In terms of how many, Jenny currently has 56 items in her inbox of Qs to be answered that are directed to her. There are a dozen SMEs receiving questions. They are certainly receiving quite a few right now. Please be specific in the scenarios and questions asked.
- iii. Non-profits are currently exempt from registering. Will 501c3 educational arms and food hubs not be subject to FSMA?
  - The FDA has received this question through the technical assistance web Q&A. It is a bit more complicated than it sounds, so Jenny encourages you to submit this question to the web forum.
- iv. You mentioned the Preventive Controls Rule provisions allow packinghouses covered by the Preventive Controls Rule to choose some of their analogs to the Produce Safety Rule. Will the FDA be developing guidance for that?
  - This is with respect to GMPs. FDA will be issuing guidance for this, after the Produce Safety Rule is released. This guidance will be applicable to packinghouses on-farm and off-farm and will better clarify activities that the FDA essentially considers the same, or activities that may be slightly different.
- v. How do packing operations rent or lease a stall on a state-owned farmers market, work in with the farm definition?
  - Please submit this questions online, since the specifics to this question may impact the answer. It may be impacted by leasing or ownership.
- vi. **Please submit your questions online!**
  - Be sure to include as many details as possible.
  - <http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/ucm459719.htm>

## II. PSA Updates

- A. PSA will not be hosting any Train-the-Trainer or Grower Training Courses until January 2016
  - i. Currently awaiting the final Produce Safety Rule to align curriculum materials with final regulatory language
  - ii. There will be many opportunities to attend a PSA TTT Course in 2016
  - iii. Train-the-Trainer and Grower Training Courses will be announced via the general listserv, once available
- B. PSA has hired four new individuals to join the team
  - i. The purpose of hiring the Extension Associates is to facilitate and collaborate with educators and growers to make trainings as easy and as functional as possible.
  - ii. It is not our intent to take over trainings in states or to be a bottle-neck for trainings.

## C. Introductions of the New PSA Team Members

### **Michele Humiston, Extension Aide**

Michele has been employed by Cornell University for more than 20 years, serving in a variety of roles. The majority of Michele's years of service were as a Research Support Specialist for the IR-4 Project, a national program that facilitates regulatory approval of sustainable pest management technology for specialty crops and specialty uses to promote public well-being. As an Analytical Chemist for the IR-4 Project, Michele extracted and analyzed pesticide residues from varying crop matrices using High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC), Gas Chromatography (GC) or Liquid Chromatograph Mass Spectrometry (LC/MS/MS) instrumentation following EPA Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) standards. The data collected and reported supported new EPA tolerances and labeled product uses for specialty crop growers. Michele has also worked as a Quality Assurance Auditor for IR-4, monitoring compliance of USDA IR-4 agrochemical residue studies at field research facilities located across the Northeast Region through on-site critical phase audits, facility audits, and field data reviews. Michele, who holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology with a minor in Chemistry from Keuka College, joined the Produce Safety Alliance in July 2015. Michele will play a crucial role in many of the PSA's behind-the-scenes administrative tasks, training organization, review and production of educational materials, and will be a primary contact for questions related to the PSA's training courses.

### **Donna Pahl, M.S., Southwest Regional Extension Associate**

Before joining the Produce Safety Alliance, Donna worked at the University of Maryland as a produce safety trainer where she collaborated with the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) and University of Maryland Extension to conduct produce safety training programs and offered individualized support for farmers seeking GAP certification. She also helped MDA develop and launch a State of Maryland GAP certification for direct market growers. Donna's research collaborations include studying the effects of production practices and region on the microbial populations of fresh market crops and surveying the microbial quality of Maryland agricultural water sources. Donna's involvement in the fresh produce industry began while working on her family's fruit and vegetable farm, which was primarily a direct marketing enterprise. She has experience in production, harvesting, postharvest handling, and sales of perishable products. Donna received both her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Plant Science from the University of Maryland. Donna joined the Produce Safety Alliance in September 2015 to serve as the Southwest Regional Extension Associate.

### **Don Stoeckel, Ph.D., Midwest Regional Extension Associate**

Don is an environmental microbiologist who has collaborated with the Cornell National Good Agricultural Practices Program for nearly a decade on water quality issues related to

food safety. For the past five years, he has been an instructor of the online GAPs Produce Safety Course. As a career research scientist and educator, he has 15 years of professional research experience at Battelle Memorial Institute and the U.S. Geological Survey. Over the course of 20 years, he also has served in adjunct teaching roles at Cornell University, the Ohio State University, Auburn University, Columbus State Community College, and Cincinnati State Technical and Community College. His professional experience ranges across development of conceptual models of fate and transport of chemicals and pathogens following introduction to water and water systems, estimating public health consequences, field monitoring of water quality, research into sources of water quality impairment, and laboratory studies to improve monitoring and forensic attribution of contaminants. Don has authored 15 peer-reviewed research articles among other publications that include extension publications, government reports, review articles, and book chapters. His outreach experience includes development of technical seminars and workshops for diverse audiences across a broad spectrum of topics, in particular water quality and GAPs. Dr. Stoeckel joined the Produce Safety Alliance in August 2015 to serve as the Midwest Regional Extension Associate.

**Kristin Woods, Ph.D., Southeast Regional Extension Associate**

Kristin joins the Produce Safety Alliance through a collaborative arrangement with Alabama Extension and Auburn University. For the past 12 years, Kristin's focus has been on community education and economic development in the area of food safety and food systems. Her primary area of interest has been the development of food businesses in the rural area of Alabama where she lives. She specializes in helping small farmers and retail food establishments meet food safety requirements and navigate food regulations. Kristin has taught Better Process Control School, Seafood HACCP, School (CNP) HACCP, and ServSafe®. In addition, she has led training and instructed farmers in GAPs, as well as the small farmer food safety training program: *Enhancing the Safety of Locally Grown Produce*. Prior to her Extension experience, Kristin spent five years in the food industry working in process development, quality, and management. Kristin embraces a lifelong love of agriculture and currently owns and operates a small diversified farming operation in Southwest Alabama. Kristin joins the Produce Safety Alliance in October to serve as the Southeast Regional Extension Associate.

- D. The regions for the PSA Regional Extension Associates is still being worked out.
- i. The defining lines will not be hard and fast; we will move around as needed. Some states and regions may require more or less help, depending on what is going on in those states.
  - ii. We do not have a prescriptive expectation that we will be doing the same thing in each state and we will do what needs done to move the process forward. We will work with everyone at whatever level that they are interested in working with us.

- E. We are still interviewing and accepting applications for the Northwest Regional Extension Associate position. If you know of anyone that might be interested or would like more information, please contact Betsy or Gretchen.

### III. PSA & The FSMA Training Strategy

- A. FDA released their training strategy on October 6
  - i. <http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/ucm461513.htm>
  - ii. PSA is included as one of the major components for outreach and training
  - iii. PSA personnel will work with both the newly established National Coordination Center and the Regional Centers (once awarded)
  - iv. PSA REAs will help facilitate and host PSA trainings with regional and national collaborators
  - v. **Question:** Is there any information on the 'Local Foods Cooperative' listed on the diagram? No, that is not listed online now, but FDA will share more information as it becomes available.

### IV. Other Items

- A. Pew Charitable Trusts
  - i. Need stakeholder involvement on the importance of giving FDA robust funding for FSMA in FY2016
  - ii. Extension educators and Land Grant Universities are stakeholders needing to be engaged since we play a vital role in providing education, outreach, and assistance with FSMA compliance
  - iii. Is there interest in developing and co-signing a letter encouraging funding to be committed to extension?
  - iv. Kyle Kinner – Pew Charitable Trusts
    - o Pew is focused on FSMA implementation and funding. FDA is very aware of the need to bring a broad spectrum of trainers and training resources to support the agriculture and processing community as they internalize the new complex regulations ahead of us, including the Preventive Controls Rule and Produce Safety Rule.
    - o FDA knows this (FSMA) is a very important step forward, but recognizes there are limits to the expansive array of activities that Congress has charged them to do.
    - o In the normal appropriations process, they provides \$45 million this year for FSMA implementations. FDA asked for \$110 M. In a normal year, the funding would have already been decided by now.
    - o Through as many channels and stakeholders as possible, Pew is trying to bring voices to policy makers who care about this issue and want to engage individuals who would find value in letting decision-makers know that this is an issue they value.

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- Pew is willing to circulate a draft letter for educators to sign off on. General agreement on call that this is a valuable process, but individuals may need to run this by Extension leadership.

## V. New PSA Staff Contacts

- **Michele Humiston**  
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Extension Aide II*  
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- **Don Stoeckel, Ph.D.**  
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- **Kristin L. Woods, Ph.D.**  
*Southeast Regional Extension Associate*  
Based in Grove Hill, Alabama  
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## VI. Call Wrap Up:

- **Future Produce Safety Educator Meeting Agendas:** Let us know what you would like to talk about! Send us your ideas, concerns, comments and we will add it to the next monthly meeting.
- **Next meeting:** Tuesday November 10, 2015 - 2PM EST
- **Thanks to everyone for taking time to participate in this call!**