

Produce Safety

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Produce Safety Educator's Monthly Call #6

March 3, 2014

2 PM EST

Meeting Summary

Total Attendance (Web & Call In): 19

Meeting recording available at:

<https://cornell.webex.com/cornell/lsr.php?RCID=8378ec42abc0793d73f8eba9316dd408>

Agenda

- Thanks for responses to survey
- FSMA Timeline Update
- Discussion about requirement for standardized GAPs training
- PSA Train-the-Trainer

Discussion

I. Discussion on Soil Amendments & Preliminary Survey Results

- Thank you to all who have completed the survey so far – 36 as of today (3-21-14). The survey will remain open until the end of the week – March 28, 2014.
https://cornell.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_6A39vnz5PSq4ZBX
- Feel free to forward on the survey link to those who may be able to more accurately answer questions – we welcome all responses.
- We plan to discuss the survey results during the next meeting on Monday, April 7th at 2PM EST.

II. FSMA Timeline Update

- The dates for the release of final rules have been extended:
 - **Produce Safety:** October 31, 2015
 - **Preventive Controls:** August 30, 2015
 - **Imported Food:** October 31, 2015
 - **Food Transportation:** March 31, 2016
 - **Intentional Adulteration:** May 31, 2016

III. Discussion about requirement for standardized GAPs training

- PSA's plan to conduct train-the-trainer workshops as soon as we can
 - Plan to train (and certify) growers as soon as we can. This means before the rule or even the re-release of key provision for comment is final.

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- Since PSA will have a database (through AFDO) of those who have been trained, we will follow up with them if something is different in the final regulation.
- We are interested to know whether the farmers you work with are aware of the requirement to attend a standardized GAPs training program outlined in the proposed Produce Rule.
- Proposed § 112.22(c) would require that at least one supervisor or responsible party for your farm successfully complete food safety training at least equivalent to that received under standardized curriculum recognized as adequate by the Food and Drug Administration.
- **Discussion Question 1:**
Are your growers aware that there is a training requirement included in the proposed Produce Rule?
 - Yes (0/18)
 - No (7/18)
 - Not sure (4/18)
 - No answer (7/18)
- **Comments:**
 - I think growers are more focused on the other standards more so than the training requirement.
 - Confusion between requirement for third party audits versus training (“certification”) requirement in FSMA.
 - Confusion exists between Preventive Controls Rule and Produce Rule. They do not realize these are two separate sets of curriculum.
 - Small growers think if they are in the exempt category that they are exempt from all training, even though it is a good idea.
 - If you are exempt from the rule, then the rule does not establish required rules for you, but since they are growing food it seems training is a good thing, so they should at least be aware that there is training available even if not required.
 - Will there be a way that we (as educators) will know which growers in our state will need the PSA training? Who has to have training versus who ‘should’ go to training?
 - They will need to self-identify. Farms are not required to register. Best bet is to do outreach to all of the farms you know of – and those who fall into the rule will be required to attend.
 - A little bit of knowledge goes a long way for risk reduction.

IV. Review of Competencies for PSA Trainers

- **Competency 1: Technical produce Safety (Scientific) Knowledge**
 - Foundational knowledge of science and agriculture
 - Ability to understand and relay scientific literature to audiences
 - Applicable produce safety job related responsibilities and experience

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- **Competency 2: Agricultural Knowledge and Experience**
 - Agricultural experience
 - Ability to apply scientific information to real-world agricultural situations
 - Educational credentials and professional certifications
- **Effective Training Delivery**
 - Ability to present and explain technical scientific information
 - Exceptional public speaking and verbal skills
 - Ability to organize and evaluate training programs
- **Discussion Question 2:**

Within your state or region, do you think you can build a complete training team?

Yes (10/18)
No (2/18)
No answer (6/18)
- **Comments:**
 - Concerns about ‘being able to interpret scientific literature’. It is asking a lot to have someone go back to primary literature and interpret it. Especially since this person likely will not be able to attend every training in the state or region.
 - The idea is not necessarily to have trainers be able to interpret all of the literature, but people have to feel somewhat comfortable in reading scientific papers when new research comes out. Is it relevant to my growers? Will practices change based on this literature? Is there new science that supports alternative practices?
 - The Extension model is that the educators are supported by faculty at land grant institutions. Faculty (Extension specialists) educate the educators – so not every trainer in Extension may have direct ties to interpreting this research.
 - Asking someone to have ALL of the competencies seems to be asking a lot, therefore a team approach may be the solution in many locations.
 - All qualified trainers may not be available at all times for a large state. The competencies may all be there, but not for all trainings (e.g. only three people for state to cover all competencies and only two are available to host the training). Could consider technologies such as video conferencing, conference calls, to have participation even if people are not in the room.
 - I think an educators survey would be important to determine knowledge level of potential trainers. I think knowledge base would be diverse.
 - The trainers will have a wide range of skills and knowledge gaps, time will need to be devoted to getting everyone on the same page.

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- **Discussion Question 3:**

Are you interested in becoming a trainer?

Yes (11/17)

No (0/17)

Not sure yet (3/17)

No answer (3/17)

- **Comments:**

- We ask this only because we do not want to assume that all want to become trainers using the PSA curriculum.

V. **Review of Working Committee #8 Summary Document**

- Review of final recommendations from working committee #8 which discussed Train-the-Trainer programs. Because the WCs were the foundation for the content, we wanted to go back to the WC summary and share what they had outlined and probe to discuss what other things might be important in a T-the-T workshop.

- Effective adult education
- Standardized content, consistent messages
- Meet needs of diverse audience
- Pre-training survey to assess knowledge gaps of trainers
- Tailor to meet regional/commodity needs
- Ease of trainer access to materials and continuing education
- Emphasize importance of writing a FSP
- Focus on science-based risk assessment
- Must address grower's pre-conceived notions about food safety
- Must convey a positive message and empower growers to implement practices

- **Discussion Question 4:**

Are there other things that you think are important to have in a train-the-trainer workshop?

Yes (6/16)

No (4/16)

No answer (6/16)

- **Comments:**

- If there is diversity in knowledge, what do you do?
- Once we do the first T-the-T, there may be some things that arise that we were not aware of before.
- A pre-survey of trainer participants may be able to provide some additional information that would need to be covered.
- This topic is big enough to warrant its own call (topic of discussion T-the-T workshop development)

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- **Discussion Question 5:**

Will you be able to attend a train the trainer session without funding?

Yes (5/16)

No (5/16)

Not sure yet (5/16)

No answer (1/16)

- **Comments:**

- Yes, if the costs are kept low.
- Several educators are not currently on this call – so multiply those numbers.
- It really depends on state budget and cost. Average travel for a week is ~1500\$, just depends on what other demands are on current budget.
- I personally would expend some of my own funds if not unreasonable travel expense.
- Depends on location, time involved.

Call Wrap Up:

- Survey link will remain open through March 28, 2014
https://cornell.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_6A39vnz5PSq4ZBX
- **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: Monday April 7th, 2014 at 2PM EST**