

Produce Safety

ALLIANCE

Produce Safety Educator's Monthly Call #16

April 6, 2015

2 PM EST

Meeting Summary

Total Attendance: 42

Meeting recording available at:

<https://cornell.webex.com/cornell/lr.php?RCID=50401409f7d739b4642d051833685f3a>

Agenda

- Update: Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance
 - Mr. Gerald Wojtala, Executive Director, IFPTI
- Update: Sprout Safety Alliance
 - Dr. Kaiping Deng, Senior Scientist, IIT-IFSH
- PSA Updates
- USDA and FDA Updates/Announcements
- Other items

Discussion

I. Update: Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance

Mr. Gerald Wojtala, Executive Director, IFPTI

- FSPCA Structure
 - Steering Committee: Federal and state inspection officials, academic researchers and educators, and U.S. Food Industry Trade Association Reps.
 - Training Materials, Course Models, and Protocol: Editorial, Continuation, Animal Foods Subcommittees and Working Groups
 - Certificates and Records: Association of Food & Drug Officials (human foods) and Association of American Feed Control Officials (animal foods), International Food Protection Training Institute.
- Curriculum Modules:
 1. Introduction to Course
 2. Food Safety Plan Overview
 3. GMPs and Prerequisite Programs
 4. Food Safety Hazards (2 modules)
 5. Preliminary steps
 6. Hazard Analysis and Preventive Control Determination
 7. Process Preventive Controls
 8. Allergen Preventive Controls
 9. Sanitation Preventive Controls

10. Supplier Preventive Controls
 11. Recall Plan
 12. Verification & Validation
 13. Recordkeeping Procedures
 14. Regulation Overview
 15. Resources
 16. Food Safety Plan Examples
- Animal Food Curriculum
 - Utilizing the human food training curriculum, with changes including:
 - Added emphasis on cGMPs
 - Removal of allergen chapter
 - Addition of nutrient toxicity and deficiency info
 - Removal of hazards not applicable to animal food
 - FSPCA Timeline: http://www.iit.edu/ifsh/alliance/images/FSPCA-Task-Timeline_02-2015_GIF.gif
 - Pilot Trainings:
 - April 7-9: Rockville, MD
 - May 5-7: Vancouver, WA
 - June 16-18: Chicago, IL
 - Train the Trainer Courses - After Final Rule in August
 - Curriculum Support Materials
 - Students: participants manual, exercise workbook
 - Lead Instructors: Instructors guide, slide sets
 - Partial Food Safety Plans for model foods
 - FSPCA Outreach & Technical Assistance
 - Goals:
 1. To increase industry awareness about the FSPCA education, outreach, and technical assistance programs
 2. To identify and develop relevant technical information and educational resources useful especially for small food businesses
 3. To develop a comprehensive network of lead instructors interested in participating in the FSPCA training program
 4. To establish a national food safety technical assistance network for industry
 - Technical assistance will be established through a network of food safety experts that will be available to assist the industry. University and Extension specialists will be the primary target to become technical experts. There will be support for Extension individuals to become instructors.
 - Portal will be created for businesses and processors to ask questions to be answered by the technical network.

- Interpretation of regulatory questions will be referred to FDA experts.
- Upcoming FSPCA Webinars
 - Deans & Directors Webinar – April 30th, 1PM EDT
 - Extension Specialists Webinar – May 20th, 1:30PM EDT
- More information at FSPCA website: <http://www.iit.edu/ifsh/alliance/>
- **Questions & Answers**
 - Are educational materials for the FSPCA curriculum segregated to keep produce packing facilities and other food facility challenges separate? Produce packing facilities have different concerns.
 - This information may fall into the chapter which covers the regulation itself. The curriculum does not get into that fine line of detail. Depending on how the rule comes out, and whether emphasis is placed on packinghouses, then the FSPCA will come out with additional information to address specifics of packinghouses.
 - Is the webinar on April 30th appropriate for Extension specialists?
 - Yes, feel free to attend either.
 - How can individuals get more info on attending the Train the Trainer program for the FSPCA?
 - Information should be posted on the website shortly to collect information from prospective trainers. Once you have submitted information to the database, FSPCA will notify the group when the TTTs are scheduled. The PSA will also send out information to the group when this becomes available.
 - If an individual is already certified through the International HACCP Alliance, will the FSPCA recognize this for Train the Trainer?
 - All lead instructors for the FSPCA will need to attend the Train-the-Trainer course, regardless of their background and experience with HACCP since the Preventive Controls Rule does differ from traditional HACCP.

I. **Update: Sprout Safety Alliance**

Dr. Kaiping Deng, Senior Scientist, IIT-IFSH

- Sprout Safety Alliance created through a partnership grant from FDA to the Institute for Food Safety and Health (IFSH)
- Currently has 45+ participants including sprout growers, seed producers, testing companies, retail, state and federal government, and academia
- Goal: Enhance knowledge and adoption of best practices for safe sprout production, especially small sprout producers.
- Organizational Structure
 - Organizing Team: IIT IFSH, FDA, and California Dept. of Public Health

Produce Safety

ALLIANCE

- Steering Committee: IIT IFSH participants, federal and state government departments, academic institutions, trade associations
 - Technical Working Group
 - Education/Outreach Working Group
- SSA Curriculum includes 13 chapters. All chapters have been drafted and the technical working group are currently addressing questions and comments on each of the chapters.
 1. Sprout Safety Hazards
 2. Sprout Production Environment
 3. Employee Practices
 4. Cleaning and Sanitizing of Buildings and Equipment
 5. Environmental Monitoring: Sanitation Verification
 6. Environmental Monitoring: *Listeria* Control
 7. Seed Purchasing, Receiving and Storage
 8. Seed Treatment
 9. Spent Irrigation Water and Sprout Testing
 10. Additional Control Programs
 11. Recordkeeping Procedures
 12. Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption
 13. Review/Additional Materials
- Pilot training/feedback sessions
 - Chicago, IL, Feb 2013
 - Washington DC, Oct 2013
 - Richmond, CA, Aug 2014
- Currently have contact information for ~190 sprout growers from 26 states.
- A survey on training format and delivery method was drafted.
- SSA Steering Committee has discussed training protocols used by PSA & FSPCA.
- SSA plans to reengage educational and outreach working group and recruit new members including extension specialists, state training managers, and training consultants. If anyone is interested in joining these initiatives – contact Kaiping Deng at kdeng3@iit.edu or via [sproutalliance@iit.edu](http://www.iit.edu/ifsh/sprout_safety/).
- For more information, visit the website at: http://www.iit.edu/ifsh/sprout_safety/

II. Update: Produce Safety Alliance

- Continuing to finalize curriculum modules
 - Edits to provide more information on FSMA requirements versus best practices.
 - Clarifying this through a supplemental document which outlines each subpart and what is required of growers to be in compliance with the Produce Rule.
- Finalizing certification process through AFDO (March-April)

- Application and certification process will be shared in greater detail on May's educator call.
- Anticipating national launch in June
 - More info (training dates and locations) to be shared in May
- **Hiring Four PSA Regional Extension Associates**
 - **See job posting for more information:**
<https://cornellu.taleo.net/careersection/10161/jobdetail.ftl?job=27569&lang=en>
 - **Application Deadline: May 5, 2015**
- **Questions and Answers**
 - With the hiring of the PSA Regional Extension Associates (REA), will trainers be limited on when they can host trainings based on the REAs availability?
 - No, it is not limited to their availability. It is our intent to conduct Train-the-Trainers and develop a cadre of competent trainers. The REAs will help facilitate these trainings including organizing, where they are needed. They will not be a 'bottleneck' to the process.
 - Will the PSA be seeking input on the location and individuals hired regionally?
 - Yes, we hope that the current regional educators and experts can help us identify qualified people in their regions and where is best for them to be located. We plan to consult educators in each region as we move through the hiring process.

III. Other Items

- **Joint FDA & USDA GAPs Review – Leanne Skelton**
 - USDA GAPs Program will be updated to reflect the Produce Safety Rule.
 - Currently looking at entire GAPs programs (including Mushroom GAPs, Harmonized GAPs, Group GAP)
 - Review team has been formed including members from USDA, FDA – Produce Safety Staff, Office of Compliance at CFSAN, and Office of Regulatory Affairs – Field Component, and representatives from state partners.
 - First official meeting will be held in April. First 5-6 months of work will be a documents review, including audit checklists and user guides for revisions.
 - Plan to go out on audits with FDA colleagues to provide consistency on interpretation.
 - USDA is hoping that updating the audits and successfully passing a USDA audit will serve as a proxy for being in compliance with the Produce Rule. This means that if a grower passes a USDA GAPs audit, they are 'likely' to be in compliance to the rule. The review of the audits and Produce Rule (when final), will help the group move closer to that point. As an additional clarification, audits are not required to be in compliance with the Produce Safety Rule.

Produce Safety

A L L I A N C E

- Entire project will be wrapped up ~18 months from now, prior to when growers will need to be in compliance with Produce Rule.
- **Questions and Answers**
 - If a grower passes an audit, are they exempt from having to take the FDA approved training?
 - The Produce Safety Rule and audits are related, but not the same. The Produce Rule requires training, but participating in an audit does not satisfy this training requirement.
- **FSMA Public Meeting: April 23-24, 2015**
 - Washington Marriott Hotel at Metro Center
775 12th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005
 - Web-cast available
 - <http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/ucm438205.htm>

IV. 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: May 11, 2015, 2PM EDT**
Agenda and log-in information to be circulated closer to the date.