

# Produce Safety

## ALLIANCE

Produce Safety Educator's Monthly Call #8

April 7, 2014

2 PM EST

Meeting Summary

**Total Attendance (Web & Call In): 31**

**Meeting recording available at:**

<https://cornell.webex.com/cornell/lsr.php?RCID=4f3794982b4c8f1ba8176dd4031bac8d>

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## Agenda

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- **Input for National need of T-the-T and Grower Trainings**
- **Survey review**
- **Update on Environmental Impact Statement for Produce Rule**
- **PSA Update**
- **Questions on Traceability – May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Meeting**

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## Discussion

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### I. **Input for National Training Needs**

- Questions We Have for the Group
  - Which organizations do growers in your state/region interact with/belong to?
  - How many Train the Trainer courses do you think need to be offered in your area?
  - How many grower training courses will need to be offered in your area?
- Brief survey sent to gauge training needs:
  - [https://cornell.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_aWXj3O7BkGgAD65](https://cornell.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_aWXj3O7BkGgAD65)
  - We are trying to determine how many train the trainer and grower training courses need to be offered nationally.
  - We are trying to gather information for this estimate in 2 ways 1) Determine organizations that growers belong to and find out how many growers are part of these organizations 2) Ask our GAPs collaborators about their own states and regions.
  - We are happy to have other ideas of how we determine need for training nationwide.

### II. **Update on Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Produce Rule**

- Comments due by April 18, 2014 for the Scoping Period for the EIS
- The scoping includes looking at all the areas within the proposed Produce Rule that may have an impact to the environment. This process will help inform what reasonable alternatives might be used
- The draft environmental impact statement will be released for public comment at a later date.
- Public meeting held April 4<sup>th</sup>
- Meeting recording: <https://goto.webcasts.com/viewer/event.jsp?ei=1030787>

### III. Review of Soil Amendments & Produce Handling Survey Results

- Please see attached PDF with the data slides presented during the meeting.
- As a reminder, this data cannot be used in publications. It was meant to help inform the group and provide topics for discussion in identifying critical education and training needs.
- If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Gretchen at [glw53@cornell.edu](mailto:glw53@cornell.edu)
- Comments are provided below where discussion occurred while reviewing the survey results.

### Comments on Soil Amendments

- Questions on Fish, Aquaponics, & Vermicompost:
  - Many Extension specialists are getting calls.
  - Many people doing these activities are not sure where they may fit within the regulation.
  - Many are selling the fish, which may mean they fall into Seafood HACCP
  - FDA has been receiving many questions about aquaponics and people using aquaponic system water to fertilize microgreens, herbs, or produce.
  - The definition of farm kicks in if what you are growing is produce, but unsure of where Preventive Controls kicks in. Raising animals would be the farm definition and not by itself put you into Preventive Controls unless there is a processing/manufacturing step. Not sure if harvesting these fish will stay in the farm definition or will kick it into the processing side.
- Questions on Bloodmeal & Feathermeal
  - Some Extension specialists are getting questions about these products and having certificates of conformance on hand. Will the makers of these products be able to pass the FDA standard for soil amendments?
  - Information on these products is not usually on the labels, but some farmers who have done GAPs audits were able to get these labels direct from the supplier.
- Question on Antibiotics in Horse Manure
  - Organic growers had issues with using horse manure that had high levels of residual antibiotics.
- Ginger Nickerson is looking into working with growers in Vermont (small growers not covered by FSMA) – growers who are rotating chicken and poultry into their farm system. Anyone interested in collaborating can contact her: [virginia.nickerson@uvm.edu](mailto:virginia.nickerson@uvm.edu)

### IV. PSA Update

- Final curriculum is scheduled to be released for final review by the end of April
- Train-the-Trainers to be launched as soon as possible
- We will be training BEFORE the rule is final and following up with growers if something changes in the final regulation

# Produce Safety

A L L I A N C E

## 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.
  - Discussion on traceability on May 5<sup>th</sup>- Come prepared with your questions!
  - More info on FDA resource on traceability: <http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/ucm247559.htm#ProduceTracing>
- **Next meeting: Monday May 5th, 2014 at 2PM EST**