

# Produce Safety

A L L I A N C E

July 10, 2013

## Hello Produce Safety Alliance Members:

It was great seeing many of you at the [Center for Produce Safety](#) Symposium in Rochester, NY earlier this month! Special thanks to all of you who were able to attend the PSA Discussion Session on Monday night to provide feedback on our Train-the-Trainer Prerequisite Knowledge document. We are in the process of revising it and will be sending it around for comments again soon. As we continue to work on refining the PSA curriculum modules, we greatly appreciate your continued involvement with the PSA. We will keep this newsletter short, but look for some more information from us next month as well as a few new website resources!

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## Only 68 days left to comment on the proposed Produce Rule!

We know summer can be a very busy time for those working out in the field, but we would like to remind everyone that the comment period will only be open until **September 16, 2013** for the [Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption](#) (the proposed Produce Safety Rule). We cannot stress enough how important it is for comments to be submitted to the docket. The FDA recognizes that there are many situations and practices that they may be unaware of and may affect how the regulation should be revised. Comments that are thoughtful and substantive, containing real examples and data that support your position are encouraged and will have the most impact.

### How to submit your comment:

- 1.) Comment electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=FDA-2011-N-0921>
  - 2.) Written comments may be faxed to the FDA at 301-827-6870 or you may mail them to:  
Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852
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## Program Highlight of the Month

In the wake of the [Hepatitis A outbreak associated with pomegranate seeds](#) last month, we thought a timely program to highlight would be the [NoroCORE](#) collaborative based at NC State University. The USDA-NIFA Food Virology Collaborative, or NoroCORE, is a food safety collaborative that focuses on outreach, research, and education in the field of food virology. NoroCORE's ultimate goal is to reduce the burden of foodborne disease associated with viruses, particularly human noroviruses. NoroCORE is comprised of a large, multi-disciplinary team of researchers, with numerous stakeholders from industry, academia, and the government. NoroCORE collaborators work in an



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integrated manner to develop improved tools, skills, and capacity for understanding and controlling foodborne virus risks. NoroCORE works to translate the latest research findings into messages that can be used through its extensive outreach and educational efforts. NoroCORE activities belong to one of six principal functions, which they call Cores: Molecular Virology; Detection; Epidemiology and Risk Analysis; Prevention and Control; Extension and Outreach; and Capacity Building.

Currently, NoroCORE is working with its stakeholders to identify and meet their needs related to foodborne viral contamination. The fresh produce industry is a key, high priority stakeholder group for the NoroCORE initiative, given that fresh produce items have historically been identified as high-risk foods for viral contamination. A significant portion of NoroCORE's extension and outreach effort is dedicated to addressing the needs of the fresh produce industry. Additional information and resources related to the NoroCORE collaborative, including infosheets specifically designed for the fresh produce industry, can be found at their website: <http://norocore.ncsu.edu/>.

Please visit the NoroCORE website above to review their work and for additional contact information. They are very interested in stakeholder feedback and look forward to working with industry partners to reach their goal of reducing the burden of foodborne illness associated with viruses.

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### Join Us!

Our general listserv provides a great way to stay in touch with the PSA! To sign up, please visit our website at <http://producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu/psa.html>. Already signed up? Please share this newsletter with friends and colleagues who might also be interested in produce safety. As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, comments, or ideas.

We hope everyone is having a great summer,



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