



July 19, 2011

Hello Produce Safety Alliance Members:

It is my pleasure to introduce Gretchen Wall. She will be working with us as the PSA Program Coordinator. Her primary responsibilities will be organizing PSA WC activities and helping to develop the curriculum. Those of you who were able to attend the PSA GAPs Conference in Orlando had the opportunity to meet Gretchen in person. For those of you who were unable to attend, I wanted to formally introduce Gretchen and provide some important PSA information.

1.) How to contact Gretchen Wall:

- Please do not hesitate to e-mail or call Gretchen with questions, comments, or suggestions. We would like this to be a very open and efficient process; your input is essential in making this project a success and she will be the main working committee (WC) contact person.
- E-mail: glw53@cornell.edu
- Office Phone: 315.787.2626

2.) Check for updates!

- The calendar is up and running on the PSA website (<http://producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu/calendar.html>). Please check the calendar for dates and times of PSA activities including WC meetings.
- In addition, WC meeting notes are being posted for download as they are received (<http://producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu/wk-notes.html>).
- In the near future, we will be launching online workspace for each WC to utilize for file sharing, discussion, and calendars. Keep your eye out for updates!

3.) If you missed out on the June 29 & 30 Conference in Orlando:

- The conference proceedings have been posted on the website under the title "Produce Safety Alliance- 2011 Conference Proceedings" at <http://producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu/edu-mat.html>.
- Hard copies will be mailed to those who have signed up for WC but were not able to attend the conference.

4.) It's not too late to sign up!

- It's not too late to sign up for a working committee! We are continually accepting applications and would be happy to have you join us. There is still time to join this process since some WCs have not yet started to meet while others have just started the process of identifying challenges in their focus areas. Please visit the

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website (<http://producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu/working.html>) to view committee objectives and access the application form.

5.) Calling all growers!

- The WCs currently have 130 very engaged participants from 32 states, with farmers representing just over 12% of the participants. All farmers are invited to participate in this process since they are the target audience and their participation is crucial to the development of a curriculum. WCs meet by toll free conference call, so there is no travel required and no cost to participants other than their time. Even in the busiest of growing seasons, this amounts to about 1 hour every 3 weeks. By participating in the WCs, farmers can share their knowledge about the challenges to implementing food safety practices to help ensure the curriculum addresses their needs and provides guidance on how to address their challenges. If you are a grower or know one who might be interested, please have them visit www.producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu or contact Gretchen at glw53@cornell.edu.

We really appreciate your time and effort to participate in the WCs. We hope to have all the initial WC meetings finished with co-chairs in place by the end of August. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. We are very happy to have Gretchen join the PSA, so please join me in welcoming her to this program.

**Take care,
Betsy**

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