November 2, 2011

Happy November PSA General Listserve-
As we round the corner into winter, we’ve seen some great progress in the working committees. Several groups have already started to prioritize topics to be included in the PSA curriculum. We are hoping to begin assembling a draft curriculum so we can hit the road in 2012 to focus group the new curriculum in several locations across the country.

It’s not too late to sign up
There are 350 of you signed up on the general listserve, but only 160 actively participating in the discussions. Don’t worry if you have not signed up for a committee yet. The PSA still needs your help! 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 just started the process of identifying challenges in their focus areas. Working committees #1-6 are a bit further along in the process, as they have been meeting all summer long. However, WC’s 7-10 are still in the midst of identifying challenges within their group.

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

Membership by the Numbers (Updated 10/31/11)
- 160 unique committee members
- 350 signed up for the general listserve
- 22 (14%) committee members are farmers
- 54 (34%) committee members are educators
- 84 (53%) committee members represent a wide variety of professionals in the fresh produce industry
- 34 states represented in the process
- 36 working committee meetings held to date

Produce Safety Alliance Website by the Numbers
- Website has been accessed in 53 different countries with top international visits from Canada, Brazil, Mexico, Spain, and China.
- In seven months, there have been just over 5,000 visits to the site with 16,500 page views from March 15 - October 15, 2011.
- Working committee web page represents 2,586 of the total hits to the site.
- Over 800 people have accessed the educational materials posted online.
- Visitors from New York, California, Washington, D.C., Florida, and Maryland represent the top five most frequent users of the site, although all 50 states have visited.
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).

Current Events in Produce Safety: October 2011
Guidance for Industry: Evaluating the Safety of Flood-affected Food Crops for Human Consumption
Information on the Recalled Jensen Farms Whole Cantaloupes

Thanks again to all the dedicated co-chairs and working committee members for your contribution to the Produce Safety Alliance! As always, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Betsy Bihn (eab38@cornell.edu) if you have any questions.

Take care,

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