Hello Produce Safety Alliance Members:

As many of you know, the Produce Safety Alliance and the Institute for Food Safety at Cornell University (IFS@CU), in collaboration with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), convened a Soil Summit on March 28-29, 2017 to discuss the benefits and challenges of using soil amendments. During the summit, it was suggested that additional summits in other regions of the country should be held since there are likely differences in cultural practices, commodities produced, and soil amendments used. We are happy to announce our collaboration on two additional Soil Summits to be hosted in December 2017 and January 2018 (see registration info below).

These summits will build upon the body of knowledge developed at the first Soil Summit hosted by the PSA and will expand to explore regional differences in soil amendment use and challenges. Each summit will include presentations and break out discussion about the benefits and challenges of the use of biological soil amendments of animal origin (BSAAO) relative to the safety of fresh fruit and vegetable production. Key goals for the summit include identifying barriers to using and/or producing compost while identifying management strategies, resources, and additional support necessary to assist growers in minimizing food safety risks on the farm, especially when using raw manure. Additionally, produce growers, educators, and researchers will gain a better understanding of current FDA research and risk assessment efforts and the final FSMA Produce Safety Rule standards included in Subpart F - Biological Soil Amendments of Animal Origin and Human Waste.

Come prepared to share your knowledge, thoughts, and innovative ideas!
Soil Summit Information & Registration

South Central Soil Summit in Houston, December 12 & 13, 2017
Sponsors: The Texas Department of Agriculture, University of Houston Conrad N. Hilton College, The Southern Center for Training, Education, Extension, Outreach, and Technical Assistance to Enhance Produce Safety, and the PSA
Register Now!

South East Soil Summit in Atlanta, January 21 & 22, 2018
Sponsors: Produce Food Safety Services, The Southern Center for Training, Education, Extension, Outreach, and Technical Assistance to Enhance Produce Safety, University of Georgia Extension - Food Science, US Composting Council, the Georgia Department of Agriculture - Food Safety, and the PSA
Register Now!

REMINDER: Local Food Safety Collaborative - Food Safety Survey

The Local Food Safety Collaborative (LFSC), a collaboration between National Farmers Union Foundation and the Food and Drug Administration, aims to provide specialized training, education, and outreach to farmers and food processors who serve local markets. The LFSC is conducting a food safety survey to help direct their resources to best enhance fundamental food safety knowledge and help small farmers and processors comply with applicable Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) regulations. Survey participation is voluntary and will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. After completing the survey, participants may elect to enter personal information to be entered in a raffle for one of twenty $100.00 gift cards.

The survey will close on October 31, 2017

Survey Link in English: www.localfoodsafety.org/survey
Survey Link in Spanish: www.localfoodsafety.org/spanish-survey

Stay in Touch!

Our general listserve reaches over 3,000 growers, industry members, regulatory agents, and educators in the United States and around the globe. Signing up for the listserve is the best way to stay in touch with the PSA. To sign up, please visit our website at producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu or use the link included at the bottom of this e-mail message.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, comments, or ideas. We love feedback, so let us know! Good, bad, or otherwise - our ears (and e-mail inboxes) are always open!

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