How To Join Audio

*You must enter your attendee ID # when you call into the teleconference to ‘raise your hand’, be unmuted, and participate in the discussion.

You will either see a small telephone icon or headset icon next to your name if you are connected to the audio. If not, then you cannot be unmuted.

Don’t know your attendee ID?
Click on the ‘EVENT INFO’ tab on your WebEx screen. If using the telephone, call in again and enter in this information.
Produce Safety Educators
Monthly Meeting
Special Seminar!
September 19, 2016
2PM EDT
Instructions

• All participants are muted.
• There will be time for questions and answers throughout the meeting. Only those connected online will be able to participate.
  – To ask a question or make a comment, please ‘raise your hand’ using the small button on the right hand panel
  – We may not get around to all comments/questions, BUT you may leave additional comments in the comment box to be compiled after the session
• This session will be recorded and notes will be shared after the call.
Agenda

Established partnerships for supporting in-state produce safety

• NECAFS Intro:
  – Chris Callahan, UVM Extension Ag Engineering, NECAFS Lead

• Massachusetts:
  – Amanda Kinchla, UMass Extension Specialist
  – Michael Botelho, Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Commonwealth Quality Program Coordinator

• Maryland:
  – Christopher Walsh, UMD Professor
  – Justine Beaulieu, UMD GAP Educator
  – Deanna Baldwin: Maryland Dept. of Agriculture
NECAFS Overview

Chris Callahan
Project Lead - UVM Extension

chris.callahan@uvm.edu

go.uvm.edu/necafs
NECAFS Overview (What and When)

• 1 of 4 Regional Centers (RC’s)
• Work with the National Coordination Center (NCC)
  • Along with
    • Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Program Teams.
    • Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) and Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance (FSPCA)
• Support the implementation of and compliance with rules stemming from the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)
The Fab Five – Project Principal Investigators / Directors (PI/PD’s). (L to R) – Luke LaBorde (Penn State), Amanda Kinchla (UMass), Chris Walsh (UMD), Betsy Bihn (Cornell), Chris Callahan (UVM, lead). PI Meeting at UMD in College Park, MD. May 2016. New! Center Administrator Elizabeth Newbold (not shown in this picture).
NECAFS Goal

To build a Northeast regional network infrastructure to support a national food safety training, education, extension, outreach, and technical assistance system to increase the understanding and adoption of established food safety standards, guidance, and protocols through a comprehensive food safety training, education and technical assistance program for those affected by the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) with a particular, regional focus on the needs of owners and operators of small and medium-sized produce farms, beginning farmers, socially disadvantaged farmers, small processors, or small fresh fruit and vegetable merchant wholesalers.
NECAFS Goal

Build a Northeast regional network ...

to increase ... understanding and adoption of ... food safety standards, ...

through ... training, education and technical assistance programming...

... with a particular, regional focus on ... small and medium-sized producers and processors.
But, what does it all mean?

• What we are doing
  • Supporting training of trainers (stipends)
  • Helping to coordinate stakeholder training
    • Other groups are leading the training development
  • Starting a new grants program
    • Special Projects Grant Program
    • Focused on small awards, quick projects with regional relevance
  • Establishing a formalized network for...
    • Collaborative research
    • Sharing of resources
    • Multi-state effort and impact
Get Connected and Stay in Touch

Web: go.uvm.edu/necafs
Email: necafs@uvm.edu
Listserv: go.uvm.edu/necafslots
eNewsletter: go.uvm.edu/necafsnewssub
Facebook: www.facebook.com/necafs/
Twitter: @necafs

Upcoming events:
October Webinar: Friday 10/14 – Regional Roundtable.
Annual Meeting: In Planning. Jan 2016 – Boston, MA
Lessons Learned in Food Safety Coordination and Collaboration

Maryland: Chris Walsh, Justine Beaulieu, Deanna Baldwin
Massachusetts: Amanda Kinchla, Michael Botelho
Maryland GAP Program

Maryland Department of Agriculture, University of Maryland, and University of Maryland Extension Partnership
1999 FDA issued Guidance to fresh produce industry on food safety

1999-2007 buyers of fresh produce began requiring documentation that growers were complying with FDA guidance
  - Private certifiers and USDA developed audit and cert. programs to document compliance

2007 Start of Maryland Program
  - MDA recognized importance of food safety, and that GAP audits were becoming a barrier to market entry for producers
  - MDA began offering USDA GAP Audits through an existing Cooperative Agreement with USDA AMS Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program
  - UME and UMD began offering training to assist growers in understanding and implementing the FDA Guidance
History of Maryland Program

• Buy Local movement created increased retailer demand for produce from smaller farms in MD

• 2008 - MDA, UMD, UME recognized many barriers for growers trying to obtain GAP certification
  • Cost of private and USDA compliance audits
  • Cost of implementing food safety practices
  • Difficulty of writing a food safety plan
  • Increased demand for local produce by retail buyers that required GAP certification
    • Relatively small farm operations not equipped or trained to implement GAP and GHP Food Safety Programs

• 2010 Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) – Compliance with GAP and GHP will assist with compliance
Structure of Maryland GAP Program

• Cooperative Effort between UMD, UME and MDA Partnership for Produce Safety
  • Maryland GAP Team
    • Coordination of Food Safety efforts for Produce
  • Research
  • Education
  • USDA, USDA Harmonized and MDA GAP/GHP Audits
  • Contact with Buyers to accept MDA GAP/GHP Audits
  • Progression to FSMA Produce Rule Compliance
Structure of Maryland GAP Program

- **UMD/UME**
  - Five one-day-long annual basic GAP/GHP trainings with one advanced GAP/GHP training
  - One-on-one assistance to farmers with food safety plans
  - Research related to Produce Safety
  - Presentations on GAP/GHP at grower meetings
  - Coordinate with MDA on GAP certification requirements
  - Coordinate with MDA on FSMA Produce rule requirements
  - Publish Guidance Documents on specific food safety issues related to produce
Structure of Maryland GAP Program

• Maryland Department of Agriculture
  • USDA and USDA Harmonized GAP Audits
    • Conduct USDA and USDA Harmonized GAP Audits
    • Cost share of Audit Fees (First $400 and 75% of amount over $400)
  • MDA GAP Certified Program
    • Update requirements for certification
    • MDA Auditors conduct inspections to verify compliance with program requirements
    • Provide feedback for growers that want to obtain USDA or USDA Harmonized GAP Certification
    • Issue Certificates of Compliance to Growers
    • MDA GAP Certified Logo
    • Provides a stepping-stone for growers to build a food safety program
Structure of Maryland GAP Program

- Maryland Department of Agriculture
  - Meet with Wholesale buyers (Retail and Foodservice Buyers) to encourage acceptance of MDA GAP certification
  - Provide funding for Consumer Education Materials used at Farmer’s Markets
  - Provide Laboratory Analysis of environmental samples collected by UMD
    - Used to determine the effectiveness of GAP/GHP practices
Status of Maryland GAP Program

• Continuing to do annual trainings, incorporating information about the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)
  • FDA Approved Produce Safety Alliance Training
• Continue to work directly with growers to write and implement a food safety plan
• Update MDA GAP standards to meet FSMA Produce Rule requirements
• Continue the MDA GAP Certification Program
  • Smaller farms that fall into FSMA Produce Rule Qualified Exemption or Exempt category
  • Assist farmers with FSMA Produce Rule Compliance
Funding for Maryland GAP Program

- MDA grant through USDA Specialty Crop Marketing Program provides bulk of funding
  - Dedicated GAPs Educator position at UMD
  - MDA GAP Certification Program
    - No fees charged to farmers for MDA GAP audits
  - MDA GAP Certified logo and signs
  - Consumer Information on Produce Safety (Wash your produce signs)
  - Cornell Worker Health and Hygiene training materials
  - Cost share assistance for USDA GAP and USDA Harmonized Audit Fees
  - Cost share assistance for implementation of GAP/GHP practices
    - Hand washing stations, water treatment equipment, cleanable harvest baskets
Roles

- **Deanna Baldwin**, Food Quality Assurance Program, MDA
  - Specialty Crop Grant; MDA, USDA, and USDA Harmonized GAP/GHP Certification; Buyer acceptance of GAP/GHP certification; Environmental Sampling – laboratory analysis; Cooperative Agreements with FDA and MD Department of Health and Mental Hygiene regarding produce safety

- **Christopher Walsh**, Professor, Plant Sciences, UMD
  - Research, Education, NECAFS Liaison

- **David Martin**, UME Educator
  - GAP trainings
  - One-on-one assistance to growers
Roles

• **Justine Beaulieu**, UMD GAP Educator
  - GAP trainings
  - One-on-one assistance with food safety plans
  - PSA/PC trainings this winter

• **Shirley Micallef**, Assistant Professor, Plant Sciences, UMD
  - Research and education

• **Shauna Henley**, UMD Extension Agent
  - Consumer Education on Produce Safety

• **Donna Pahl**, Former UMD GAP Educator
  - Instrumental in development of Maryland GAP Program
Lessons Learned

- Only a small percentage of attendees becoming certified
  - Most attendees implement better food safety practices even though they don’t become certified
- Usually a two-year process to become certified
- Getting food safety plans started at the training is key
- Usefulness of laptops in training very dependent on audience
- Creation of templates and examples is helpful
- Thumb drives a great tool
- Onsite inspections encourage continued improvement of food safety practices
Plans and Future Needs for Maryland

- NIFA project: “Develop and implement a hybrid workshop in FSMA produce safety and preventive controls rules for stakeholders engaged in growing and processing high-risk produce”

- FDA Cooperative Agreement - Local Food Producer Outreach, Education, and Training to Enhance Food Safety and FSMA Compliance
  - Provide FSMA training to diversified, sustainable, organic and identity preserved produce growers

- Five year Cooperative Agreement with FDA
  - Develop a Maryland Produce Safety Program – UMD, UME and MDA
    - MD Regulations that are equivalent to the FSMA Produce Rule
  - Build on the existing Maryland GAP Program
    - MDA – Outreach, Inventory, Inspection and Enforcement
    - UMD/UME – Provide training and technical assistance
History of CQP Program

• Launched in 2008.
• Created through a broad collaboration of Stakeholders.
• An Integrated standards based audit program with a focus on Farm Food Safety (GAPs).
• Is voluntary and scale-able.
• Checklist based.
• Facilitates market access.
• Education, Technical Assistance and Grant Support.
• Provides integrated Change Management.
• Built upon three core areas.
Structure of CQP

- **Local Definition**
  - Chapter 94 99b (Native Law)
  - Regional brand integration
  - Regional equivalency

- **Food Safety**
  - GAPs Lite
  - Commodity Specific BMPs

- **Environmental Sustainability**
  - Soil and Water Health
  - IPM and Chemical applications
  - Plant and Animal Health
  - Nutrient Management
Status of CQP - Program Benefits

• Market Channel Support.
• Certificate issue and listing.
• (GMP) Infrastructure Modernization.
• Cost Free.
• Marketing and sales support – *Key Messages!*
• Minimizing Market Churn and assisting in channel diversification.
• Integrated comprehensive approach.
• Prepared to comply with other audit/regulatory programs.
• Strengthening “local”.
Funding Support: MDAR CQP Program Deployment Methodology
Support for Program Participants

• **MDAR/UMASS**
  - One day GAP-GHP-CQP Trainings.
  - GAP and Harmonized GAP Audit support (2 auditors).
  - GAP cost share through SCBGF.
  - Pre-audit support for both GAP/CQP.
  - One-on-one assistance to farmers with food safety plans.
  - Presentations and outreach on GAP/CQP at grower meetings
  - Support of the MDAR Food Safety AFSIP Grant Program for Produce and Aquaculture sectors.
  - Collaboration with wholesale buyers, partners and farm aggregators.
Roles

- **Michael Botelho**, Commonwealth Quality Program Director, MDAR
  - Regulator, educator, market access liaison
- **Lisa McKeag**, Extension Educator, UMass Vegetable Extension Program
  - Produce Safety trainings
  - One-on-one assistance to growers
  - Editor, Vegetable Notes
- **Amanda Kinchla**, Assistant Professor, Food Science, UMass
  - Research, Education, NECAFS Liaison
Lessons Learned

• Classroom training important as a first step.
• Pre-audit and technical support crucial to uptake and change management.
• Buyers creating confusion and churn.
• Grant funds crucial to assisting growers comply.
• Creating market opportunity crucial to uptake.
• Working with stakeholders to create and sustain trust, transparency and change management.
Future Needs and Plans for CQP

• State Qualified Program under State authority.
• Continue to encourage the safe production of fruits and vegetables in Massachusetts.
• Continue to utilize the current program structure and deployment methodology.
• Standard approach for all farms.
• Educate while you regulate!
Future Needs and Plans for CQP

• To integrate CQP with the Produce Rule MDAR will:
  • Obtain and evaluate information on current programs, requirements and statutes.
  • Develop and assess the resources necessary to support a State qualified State Produce Safety Program.
  • Develop a Strategic Plan with clear milestones and objectives.
  • Develop supporting Tactical Plans.
  • Execute and launch the integrated State Produce Safety Program (CQP).
Thank you!
Next Meeting

• Tentative: October 24, 2016 – 2 PM EDT
• Send any agenda items or topics for discussion to glw53@cornell.edu
Contact Us!

• Betsy Bihn, Ph.D.
  PSA Director
  Phone: (315) 787–2625
  E-mail: eab38@cornell.edu

• Gretchen Wall, M.S.
  Produce Safety Alliance Coordinator
  Phone: (607) 255–6806
  E-mail: glw53@cornell.edu

• Michele Humiston
  Produce Safety Alliance Extension Aide II
  Phone: (315) 787–2287
  E-mail: mmc15@cornell.edu

• Barb Fick, M.S.
  Northwest Regional Extension Associate
  Based in Corvallis, OR
  Phone: (541) 250–6227
  E-mail: bjf77@cornell.edu

• Don Stoeckel, Ph.D.
  Midwest Regional Extension Associate
  Based in Columbus, Ohio
  Phone: (614) 634-0884
  E-mail: dstoeckel@cornell.edu

• Donna Pahl, M.S.
  Southwest Regional Extension Associate
  Based in Riverside, California
  Phone: (909) 552-4355
  E-mail: dmp274@cornell.edu

• Kristin Woods, Ph.D.
  Southeast Regional Extension Associate
  Based in Grove Hill, Alabama
  Phone: (251) 753–1164
  E-mail: WOODSKL@aces.edu