



## 2023 NECAFS Annual Conference and Meeting

---

### Presentation title: Welcome meeting

- Introduction: Chris Callahan
  - Thank you to attendees
  - Open sharing/reflection
  - The annual meeting is to come together to discuss the programs you have run in the past year.
- What people hope to get out of the annual meeting this year?
  - Discussion groups – open forums to discuss food safety initiatives
  - Meeting people in person after being virtual for so long; new faces
  - Learning from others' experiences
  - Making new connections, expanding their network
  - Visit with old friends
- NECAFS
  - Enhance produce safety and preventive controls training, education, and outreach among small and medium sized farms
  - Who: University researchers, educators and extension specialists, state regulatory
    - Connecting all professionals together to work on enhancement of produce and preventive controls training education, and outreach among small and medium sized farms and processors.
  - NECAFS started with NE-PHRESH
    - Disparate opinion, accuracy and location of knowledge. Overlapping and non-coordinated effort in region,
    - Based on field experiences, shared by peers
  - FSMA implementation
    - Delivering on the sense of enhancing produce and preventive controls safety education
- Elizabeth Newbold
  - Introduced additional staff to the team – Chris Callahan, Elizabeth, Annie, Sean Fogarty, Anna Loewald
- Produce Safety in Hydroponic and Aquaponic Operations
  - Topic-based factsheets
    - Cleaning and sanitizing
    - Fish health and handling
    - Harvest, post-harvest
  - Guide reader to implementing produce safety
  - FSOP grant application
  - Northeast Produce Safety Research Consortium – establish regional



## 2023 NECAFS Annual Conference and Meeting

---

- Work with university partners to work on outreach -> farmers get guidance for sampling
  - Looking in pathogens at processing environment
  - Year 1 Sample Collection – Maine: Blueberries, Delaware: Apples, Ohio:
  - Year 2 – More Apples?
- Existing Produce Safety Research – Anna Loewald
  - Articulate critical research questions and conduct extensive review of existing research related to FSMA PSR topics – approaching existing produce safety research in an approachable way
  - Lit reviews and digestible outputs
- NECAFS Preventive Controls Working Group: Leveraging the shared needs, skills and outputs of Food Safety Communicators in the Northeast - Annie
  - Preventive Controls Workgroup: Leveraging the shared needs, skills, and outputs of food safety communicators in the northeast
  - Resources: Processors food safety toolkit
  - Awareness: Processors and community are aware of this work
  - Evaluation: developing regional assessment of the PCHF course and learning outputs
  - Needs Assessment: Research into what food safety communicators need in terms of needs of small processors
  - Resource Clearinghouse: Using google analytics to understand how the Clearinghouse is used, what needs are not being met, and how do we use this to improve the Clearinghouse
  - How do people find what they need on NECAFS?
    - Water: 31% click through to a resource – other % are not finding what they're looking for
    - Water testing, managing water, water quality
    - Handwashing Food Safety Plan
  - How do we close the research gaps?
    - FSOP proposal
    - Develop a peer review tool on Clearinghouse
    - Understand what the gaps are and how do we connect people to resources that they need
    - Video series
- Elizabeth - Wrap-up of ongoing projects
  - Produce Safety Handbook for Buyers
    - Help with the communication gap between buyers and growers
    - Regional handbook: online tool, about to be launched – Feb/March 2023



## 2023 NECAFS Annual Conference and Meeting

---

- Look at the various state audit and inspection information and put this information on a site that's transparent and enhance ability of language and other information: use friendly
- **Training support stipend program**
  - Funding available for lead training, produce safety and preventive controls to support costs for trainings
  - Subsidize cost for attendees
- National Water lab Map
  - 607 maps
  - 27,209 views
  - Map water testing sources throughout the country
- Pre-post testing
  - Produce safety alliance
  - Knowledge went up from pre- to post- test across the region
- Upcoming Work
  - Long term look back survey in partnership with the Produce safety Alliance
  - Assesses behavior change, confidence and continuing need
- What to expect this year
  - Last Year – Situational assessment, planning for changes, change in practices...
  - Now
    - Day One – Separate in different working groups: Regulatory and Educational Group
    - Day Two: Panels -> Joint Breakout Groups to facilitate change -> plans & teams for a handful of feasible and important actions and projects
    - Coming Year – collaborative activity, change in practice, repeat... follow our activities!
  - Guiding Protocols
    - Respect and trust each other
    - Everybody is an expert!
    - Step forward and step back
    - Celebrate and share success, and be candid that remain
    - Take breaks and take care of yourself!
    - **Funder: USDA NIFA**

### **Presentation title: State Department of Agriculture Introductions**

- Massachusetts
  - 6 Program Personnel



## 2023 NECAFS Annual Conference and Meeting

---

- 4 Inspectors
- UMASS Agricultural Extension
- 894 Farm Registry
- 578 Verified Farm Registry
- 72 Large Covered Farms
- 78 Number of Inspections
- 0 For-Cause Inspections
- 105 Follow Up Inspections (Educational Visits)
- Maryland
  - 3 Program Personnel
  - 2 Inspectors
  - University of Maryland Plant Science Extension ALEI (Agricultural)
  - 808 Farm Registry
  - 145 Verified Farm Registry
  - 33 Large Covered Farms
  - 13 Number of Inspections
  - 0 For-Cause Inspections
  - 21 Follow Up Inspections
- New Hampshire
  - 4 Program Personnel
  - 2 Inspectors
  - UNH
  - 211 Farm Registry
  - 143 Verified Farm Registry
  - 24 Large Covered Farms
  - 8 Number of Inspections
  - 0 For-Cause Inspections
  - 16 Follow Up Inspections
  - New program staff hired
  - Farm inventory data and verification
- Rhode Island
  - 4 Program Personnel
  - 2 Inspectors
  - URI
  - 493 Farm Registry
  - 199 Verified Farm Registry
  - 14 Large Covered Farms
  - 28 (from 2022) Number of Inspections
  - 0 For-Cause Inspections



## 2023 NECAFS Annual Conference and Meeting

---

- 77 Follow Up Inspections
- Formal Produce Farm Registration
- Agricultural Water Quality testing program
- Mini grant program in 2021 and 2022 to assist with produce safety improvements
- Continue to support the RI GAP program – technical assistance and compliance vehicle
- New York
  - 8 Program Personnel
  - 5 Inspectors
  - Cornell University & Cornell Coop Ext.
  - 1503 Farm Registry
  - 1503 Verified Farm Registry
  - 236 Large Covered Farms
  - 121 Number of Inspections
  - 0 For-Cause Inspections
  - 134 Follow Up Inspections (Including 8 OFRRs)
  - Number of inspections conducted exceeded the goal, despite losing an inspector
  - Produce Safety compliance program has been easily and effectively retrofitted into our Division's compliance program
- Connecticut
  - 7 Program Personnel
  - 5 Inspectors
  - UConn Extension
  - 202 Farm Registry
  - 386 Verified Farm Registry
  - 20 Large Covered Farms
  - 7 Number of Inspections
  - 0 For-Cause Inspections
  - 2 OFRRs
  - Voluntary Registration and All Inspections are completed online through our E-license System.
  - All new staff with less than 2 years of experience
- Maine
  - 1 Program Personnel
  - 3 trained Inspectors
  - UMaine Cooperative Extension
  - 1985 Farm Registry
  - 872 Verified Farm Registry
  - 22 Large Covered Farms
  - 19 Number of Inspections



## 2023 NECAFS Annual Conference and Meeting

---

- 2 For-Cause Inspections
- 12 OFRRs
- As of last week testing of the new database/major fixes seem to be winding down
- CPI position (PSR specialist) re-posted
- Caught up with meeting min requirements
- Delaware
  - 4 Program Personnel
  - 1 Inspector
  - University of Delaware Cooperative Extension
  - 155 Farm Registry
  - 110 Verified Farm Registry
  - 14 Large Covered Farms
  - 20 Number of Inspections
  - 1 For-Cause Inspections
  - 9 Follow Up Inspections
  - State regulation for mandatory registration for produce farms growing, harvesting, packing and/or folding
- Pennsylvania
  - 9 Program Personnel
  - 8 Inspectors
  - Penn State Extension
  - 1643 Farm Registry
  - 762 Verified Farm Registry
  - 150 Large Covered Farms
  - 119 Number of Inspections
  - 3 For-Cause Inspections
  - 507 Follow Up Inspections
  - Completed 2 FDA Calibration Inspections
  - Developed 4 SOPs
- West Virginia
  - 8 Program Personnel, 3 of which are 100% Produce
  - 1 Inspector
  - West Virginia University, West Virginia State University
  - 2365 Farm Registry
  - 1256 Verified Farm Registry
  - 7 Large Covered Farms, 1 Small
  - 8 Number of Inspections
  - 0 For-Cause Inspections
  - 118 Follow Up Inspections



## 2023 NECAFS Annual Conference and Meeting

---

- 100% of covered farm inspected
- New Jersey
  - 7 Program Personnel
  - 6 Inspectors
  - Rutgers Cooperative Extension
  - 231 Farm Registry
  - 416 Verified Farm Registry
  - 887 Large Covered Farms
  - 55 Number of Inspections
  - 1 For-Cause Inspections
  - 1 Follow Up Inspections
  - 51 Farms Received Technical Assistance
  - 282 Inspections
  - 233 initial
  - 49 routine inspections
- Vermont
  - 7 Program Personnel (20-82% CAP funded)
  - 1 Inspectors
  - UVM Extension
  - 612 Farm Registry
  - 612 Verified Farm Registry
  - 17 Large Covered Farms, 6 Small, 7 Very Small
  - 20 Number of Inspections
  - 2 For-Cause Inspections
  - 1 Follow Up Inspections (Including 8 OFRRs)
  - Completed FDA inspector calibration in 2022
  - Voluntary farm registration, QE farms are encouraged
  - 33 OFRRs ad 57 non-OFRR educational visits
  - 8 PSA grower trainings

### Presentation title: Federal Updates

- FDA Produce Safety Network: Ben Marshall, CFSAN FDA
  - FDA CFSAN
    - Promote, Build, Engage, Collaborate
  - Produce Safety workshops
    - BSAAO Workshop
    - Cleaning and Sanitation Workshop
      - Virtual, but adapt to their farmers/clientele



## 2023 NECAFS Annual Conference and Meeting

---

- Ag water workshop
- Systems Thinking
- Contact: 301-906-8064, [Benjamin.marshall@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Benjamin.marshall@fda.hhs.gov)
- Questions
  - How do you train farmers that don't speak English? ESL strategies?
    - Doesn't know – making note to ask other folks in the room
- USDA Food Safety Outreach Program: Jodi Williams, NIFA USDA
  - The USDA always reads comments, evaluations and questions
  - FSOP program
    - SMP support for those under FSMA
    - Mid-november: request for applications
    - Technical assistance webinar available
    - Program has been around for ~10 year, started at 2.5 million dollars.
    - Feb. 16th proposal deadline
    - Technical assistance program
    - 150,000 entities (not strictly only academia/university professionals)
    - Cooperative extension, federal state local or travel agencies
    - 3 priorities: community outreach, collaborative education and training, and technical assistance and grant writing skills program (minority serving entities).
    - Proof in proposal that org that you're collaborating with is underserved
    - Grant writing – NEW grant: grant writing resources, groups that interact with underserved populations. Problem with the writing, not a problem with goals or work in question
    - Coordinating and communicating sectors for social media and outreach to support target audiences
  - Questions:
    - Can I apply for equipment for the farm fields?
      - As long as education outreach and training is part of the proposal
- Produce Safety Alliance: Donna Clements, Cornell
  - Produce Safety Alliance Team
    - Diversity in language spoken
    - Gretchen left the program but we still work with her in an expanded team
    - Don is now in the west coast
    - West: Mariana Villarreal, Spanish language
    - Collings Buggingo – NW regional extension associate
    - Thais Ramos – SW regional extension associate
    - Looking to hire new Spanish language position
  - Training Accomplishments
    - 3,742 grower trainings



## 2023 NECAFS Annual Conference and Meeting

---

- 122 train the trainer
- 79,707 GT participants
- 3,486 TTT participants
- Total PSA trainers: 2,925 (2,070 domestic)
- Total PSA Lead Trainers: 505 (281 domestic)
- Trainers can update their affiliation and contact preferences online
- PSA Updates
  - Expanding into international training
    - 15 PSA GT in Mexico, onion, mango, melon
    - Will impact domestic Spanish-language outreach
  - New Website
    - Update your bookmarks
  - Funding remains a big concern
    - Full funding through September 2023
    - Partial funding through June 2024
- Agricultural Water
  - Supplemental training slides on Subpart E requirements
  - Current priority is on harvest/postharvest water requirements
    - Updating PSA required records templates (water system inspection template)
    - Updating sanitizer resources
  - Upcoming produce safety educators call series on harvest/postharvest water
- Educational Materials
  - Traceability Supplemental Slides
  - More than words illustrations
  - PSA Grower training manual translations (English, Spanish, Korean, Chinese and Portuguese) online
  - Educators' groups (English and Spanish) going strong
  - Independent series for English and Spanish
- Additional Updates
  - Settling into a new COVID normal
    - Optimizing training schedules, assessing needs and prioritizing objectives
    - Analyzing PSA Grower Training evaluations to evaluate the temporary remote training policy
      - Comparing differences between training modalities
      - Developing recommendations for effective remote trainings
      - No significant difference in evaluations from in-person and online



## 2023 NECAFS Annual Conference and Meeting

---

- PSA Advanced Trainer Workshop
  - February 7-9, 2023 Lake Alfred, Florida
- PSA Migrated Website
  - [Producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu](https://Producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu)
  - [Es.producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu](https://Es.producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu)
- Questions:
  - Final Subpart E?
    - Versions are relatively equivalent
    - Waiting for subpart E to be finalized
    - 2.0, coming in the future, will not be equivalent, start when subpart E is finalized
  - Powerpoint presentations?
    - Send email to Donna Clements for the new translated documents
  - Process envisioned for re-train the trainer?
    - Process in mind, have not finalized that process
    - Hosting a webinar to retrain
    - A couple of hours long
  - Do farmers need to be retrained?
    - No. Not a requirement
    - Recommended to know what the final requirements are
  - Difference between PSA training and TTT?
    - Participants attend grower session, next step would be to take TTT course
    - Attending the TTT gives opportunity for you to train other growers the PSA training
- Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance
  - Donna Schaffner – Rutgers Food Innovation Center
  - Version 2 has to be approved by the FDA
    - Curriculum committee has approved the content and is in the process of being approved by the FDA
    - Will not be submitted to the National HACCP alliance and will not take place of a HACCP course
    - Lead instructors that would present this curriculum, all lead trainers are required to go through an updated training session
    - In-person or remote? In discussion
    - Cost? Being determined.
    - Would processors be required to go through training for version 2? No. No requirement to go through initial training, highly required to be as updated as possible.



## 2023 NECAFS Annual Conference and Meeting

---

- 3<sup>rd</sup> party audits: will recommend that they go through the new training
  - No requirement
  - Not enough changes to go through a subsequent training.
- Lead instructors (all trainers) are required to go through updated training
- Encourage them to retake the course (updated training) – for former participants, not a requirement (trainers are still required)
- Certificates – drop during COVID, gradually growing back
  - Certificates
    - Drop in trainings during COVID
    - Gradually training back upward, with a more recent downward trend
  - Domestic PCQI Certs
    - Participants: 137,000
    - LI: 2,255, 105 courses completed
    - Upcoming registered: 350
    - Gap between registered and completed
- Contact: [dfschaff@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:dfschaff@njaes.rutgers.edu)
- FDA Preventive Controls
  - Glenn Bass – Office of Regulatory Affairs
  - PCHF Update
    - Human and animal food is the largest organization in the FDA
    - Food compliance programs to best prepare compliance group
      - Staff development via webinars: how to implement subpart B
      - Quarterly PCHF meeting with FDA and states: go over strategies and novel cases and findings, integrative food safety system
    - ORA Food Safety Culture
      - Sense of understanding of food safety
      - Translates to food safety preparedness
      - 1004 FDA staff in Food and Feed
      - 24 virtual and hybrid course sessions
    - Registration of Food Facilities and Other submissions
      - Final Rule: Requirement for Additional Traceability Records for Certain Compliance date: January 20, 2026
      - Working on implementation strategy to get program up and running
      - Working with state partners to flesh out new authority
  - Impact of COVID
    - Now: considered back to normal (for routine work)
    - Routine onsite inspections postponed due to variants



## 2023 NECAFS Annual Conference and Meeting

---

- COVID data tracker to track variants in areas of the country, thus impacting outreach in those areas
- 2020 – below 4000 inspections
- Always had the ability to conduct emergency work: recalls, etc.
- Remote Regulatory Assessments (RRAs)
  - Done in Human Foods side
  - Have done in medical setups...
  - Offer for food side –
  - Does not replace an inspection – reduces the amount of time for inspection (documents given beforehand)
- FDA Domestic Inspections – getting back to previous numbers (had decline during 2020-2021)
  - Classifications
  - Observations
  - FDA Data dashboard: <https://datadashboard.fda.gov/ora/index.htm>
- Questions?
  - Are food compliance program training and culture trainings available to educators?
    - Reach out to NC state to form collaboration to get access to food safety training
    - Webinars are internal trainings – will not share with educators
      - Push by Amanda Kinchla to improve inspections, provide regulatory perspective and motivate processors to comply.
      - Advocating access to regulatory trainings with educators

### Presentation title: Educational Projects with Unique Approaches

- Sanitizing and Cleaning Resources for your Business (SCRUB): Andy Chamberlain
  - Barriers
    - Scattered resources
    - Gaps and questions to answer
    - Digestible ways of communicating and sharing knowledge
  - Technical Assistance
    - Twilight highlights
      - Online workshops
      - Peer learning in small groups
    - One-on-one, in-person and virtual sessions
    - Active listening to inform new resource needs
      - Listening to what growers need
  - Resources



## 2023 NECAFS Annual Conference and Meeting

---

- Print PDF
- Responsive web and blog post
- Video case studies, audio, and social
  - Good and bad instances
- Existing resources have been reviewed and curated
  - 93 reviewed, 34 shared (38%)
- Example situation: concrete floor repair
  - Start with farm visit
  - Process photo flow – blog post
- Example: Cleaning tools
  - Blog post highlight color coding in farm
  - Videos explaining the cleaning tools: how cleanable? What options
  - Scrub shorts –
- Post-Harvest Case studies
  - 13 farms – 3 formats: blog post, pdf, video
- Instagram is a popular resource for farmers!
  - Curated site for sources
    - SOPs,
    - Case studies (post-harvest)
    - Culture
    - Trainings
    - Nonconformances (example: fixing concrete floor, cleaning tools, hygienic design, color coding)
    - Scrub shorts: short videos <60 seconds.
- [Go.uvm.edu/scrubresources](http://Go.uvm.edu/scrubresources), [go.uvm.edu/phcs](http://go.uvm.edu/phcs)
- Experiential Learning Opportunities for Limited Resource Growers through Mobile Farm Innovation in Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia: Billy Mitchell
  - Barriers
    - Time and cost that farmers take for farmers to seek educational opportunities
    - Limited resources
    - Presentation is not the preferred method of learning, food safety is not the number 1 concern
  - Solutions
    - Mobile Farm Innovation trailers
    - Portable in-person activities
    - **Represented in program creation through programming materials**
    - Paid farmer review panel with honest feedback
    - Bring relevance back to farmers: conserving their land is a benefit to food safety education and programming



## 2023 NECAFS Annual Conference and Meeting

---

- Work with underserved communities
- Hands on Activities – 3 major activities
  - About 20 minute activities
  - Discussion amongst the group
  - Fun and engaging
  - Farmer and trainer will display that activity and then they'll perform that activity
  - Water Sampling
  - Using Sanitizers
  - Cold Storage
- Train the trainer model
  - Videos, fact sheets, guides
  - All resources are on the Clearinghouse
- Data collection
  - Focus groups for qualitative data
  - Pre and post
  - Improve awareness and intent to implement practices
  - Time and cost are major barriers to this audience
  - Creates space for collaboration
  - Farmers come back every 6 months to share how they've impacted their community
- Development of an alternative FSMA compliant produce safety curriculum for plain, sect and other smaller fresh produce growers: Jeff Stoltzfus
  - Barriers
    - Low tech methods for trainings aren't readily available
    - Low resources in certain cities/counties/states (specifically Amish communities in this instance)
    - Where do you conduct trainings?
    - Some communities don't like cameras
  - Solutions
    - Develop low tech options for training
    - "Plain English" training for farmers
    - Put FSMA curriculum into a notebook and put 2 slides to a page
    - Alternative to PowerPoint – grower doesn't take the book home, they still need the manual
    - Offer 20 of them for free for teaching the Amish
    - Worked very well – great feedback on the model
  - Worker Training Flip Chart
    - Pictures on the front, text on back
    - Changed pictures for Amish communities: emphasis on working with animals



## 2023 NECAFS Annual Conference and Meeting

---

- Costs \$25
- Questions?
  - Spanish-speaking group in Massachusetts didn't like this model
    - Made the slides into videos instead
  - How is the book different from the grower training manual?
    - No presenter notes
    - Nothing but slides
    - Keep up with both grower manual and flipbook, works better for the presenter perspective.
  - Where to get them?
    - Luke LaBorde has the code to get up to 20 for free to teach underserved communities

### **Presentation title: Educational Barriers of Producers and Processors**

- On-Farm Produce Safety: A Review of Needs Assessments of Small- and Medium sized Growers in the United States
  - Elizabeth Newbold – University of Vermont, NECAFS
  - Research Question
    - In Boston (area meeting) there was a discussion of needs assessments
    - Determined the need of a published peer review of all published needs assessments.
    - What are the known produce safety needs among small and medium sized producers in the northeast?
  - Goal: Avoid duplication of what's already done, summary of all available needs assessment research
  - Overview: conducted a national semi-systematic review
    - Data from 2005-2020
    - Included only published lit
    - Reviewed 34 needs assessments
    - Preset findings at NECAFS in Philly 2020
    - Published in Food Protection Trends Jan/Feb issue
  - Needs Assessments include:
    - Surveys
    - Phone interviews
    - Pre- and post-event surveys
  - Two emerging dimensions or frameworks for Needs
    - Training: Specific technical training, on-the-ground assistance, 1:1, small group, technical skills for management, those not covered under the rule still want food safety training



## 2023 NECAFS Annual Conference and Meeting

---

- Knowledge: lack of information, no resource on given topic, confusion on regulation, inconsistency in messaging, science behind the recommendations (WHY are they doing this practice)
  - Pathways of contamination etc.
- Time: Farmers never have enough time, time for record keeping, time for improving practices
- Capital: high cost of compliance, infrastructure, equipment, cost of labor (training, implementation), maintaining or gaining market access (audits)
- Mindset: Motivation, perspective, confidence. Big picture of motivation for compliance; motivation comes from buyers, regs, and opportunities with mutual benefits
- Factors that influence need
  - Farm size: scale ,methods, regulations that vary by annual sales
  - Farm type: organic versus conventional, Crop mix
  - Region: practices vary by region, public perceptions of food safety, cultural differences
  - Market: Wholesale versus small scale distribution
- How best can we meet needs?
  - Tailor outreach in content and delivery
  - Who's presenting the content
  - NOT federal agencies
  - HOW are you presenting the content? Online? Hybrid? On-farm workshops?
  - Consider language barriers
  - Creative solutions to combat problems
  - Foster confidence
- Conclusion: Tailor outreach and Education consider both content and delivery
  - Content
    - Credible (experienced sources)
    - Respondents often favored ag service providers (extension professionals, researchers) NOT federal agencies
  - Delivery
    - Format: Online? Handouts? On-farm workshops?
    - Consider literacy, numeracy and language barriers
    - Creative solutions
- Understanding the Food Safety Needs of Small and Very Small Processors in the Northeast United States: A Food Safety Communicator Perspective
  - Andrea and Annie
  - Update on project



## 2023 NECAFS Annual Conference and Meeting

---

- Problem: many food processor struggle to understand and implement FSMA PCHF requirements that apply them
  - Small and very small processors have problems understanding regulations
  - The FDA says that 3500 processors are eligible for attestation, but 531 actually have filed for attestations
  - Difficulty reaching processors
- Need to identify barriers faced by small and medium sized food processors what adopting food safety programs and practices required
- Developed and deployed a needs assessments
  - Background: where people are located
  - Understanding awareness of the rule
  - Educational challenges, courses, and resources
  - Technical assistance needs and implementation barriers
  - What did they observe? Nonconformances
- Identified additional need
  - Initial results indicate sig diff between regulators and the food safety communicators (FSC's)
  - Second survey was created to understand the diff in opinion
  - If they can give anonymous changes in the past year
- Takeaway 1: Awareness is the biggest challenge
  - Processors 17% average awareness
  - Majority below average awareness
  - Biggest impact: increase awareness
- Takeaway 2: Knowledge challenges are not always education priorities
  - Knowledge ranking GMPs: 3.8 (most recommended course for processors)
  - Knowledge ranking HACCP: 2.8
- Takeaway 3: Gaps in knowledge are also observed in implementation
  - Similarities in topics of food regulators and processors facing
  - Topics identified to improve
    - Sanitation controls
    - Allergen controls
    - Recall plan development
- Recommendations
  - Emphasize outreach to improve awareness
  - Create resources customized for this audience
    - One-on-one advice and consultation and training workshops
    - Topic specific information most recommended type of information
    - Additional technical/scientific resources and make them accessible
- Breakout Groups: Preventive Controls



## 2023 NECAFS Annual Conference and Meeting

---

- Goal: Sharing and Emergence – let people share, get comfortable with the framework, allow ideas to emerge to inform the next breakout activity
- Closing thoughts
  - Gaps
    - Exemption
    - Culture of food safety
    - Without documented change, you can't call something a solution
    - Refresher training for inspectors
    - How do we sell food safety: how do we motivate sales to small growers
    - How do we get people to review resources
  - Solutions
    - “Connection before content”
    - Tell stories: of success or of failure (outbreaks)