Day 2, Wednesday, Feb. 6th, 2019

1:00 pm: Workgroup Meeting Outputs and Next Steps

**Produce Safety Regulator Workgroup Summary**
- There is not much aggregating of data on farms
- How we can collect and hopefully use data
- Sean’s tool will be very useful for growers in compliance
- Some farms might want their own inspections
- Educate buyers on what is and not required by PSR
  - Confusion between audits and inspections
- Timing of exemption- provided annually
- Records will be looked at for farms, some brief overview, some a little bit deeper depending on state
- Determining exemption may take longer than inspection which don’t want
- Inspectional program readiness
- FDA assessed readiness of inspection programs
- Farm inventory assessed
- State efforts
  - Some states plan on reaching all large farms, some a few
  - Staffing of inspection staff from 1-5, some covered by grants
  - Regulator training is similar among states
  - Higher risk large farms will be checked first
  - Some states will modify existing SOP’s, some have new ones

**Produce Safety for Educators Workgroup Summary**
- Ag. Water was a big topic.
  - Water testing lab maps. Idea of creating a map of all the existing lab test plants for farmers to have access to.
  - We discussed ~5 top things for growers to do to come into compliance with the ag. water regulations
  - Do small group discussion with growers after water test result to explain their results and express what should be looked for
- Big discussion on cleaning an sanitation
  - What does “as needed” mean?
    - should there be research for when a surface is considered “needs to be washed”
  - Define “dropped produce” and elevate this concern to the FDA to get a uniform definition to all growers.
- Research to get specific risk factors for specific produce to avoid growers taking expensive and unnecessary precautions.
- Pre-req course for PS training.

*These notes are provided in an attempt to capture the conversations and spirit of the Annual Meeting. It is difficult to capture such events with complete accuracy in writing. If you see an error please make us aware of it by email at necafs@uvm.edu and we will revise the notes.*
Preventive Controls for Human Food Workgroup Summary

- 3 sub-groups: Evaluation, Resources, Awareness Campaign.
- Evaluation
  - Knowledge and resource gaps aren’t well known, want to better understand those gaps to provide the resources they need.
  - Develop evaluation tools that can be used by FSPCA lead instructors.
  - Will learn demographics, food product, plan help.
- Resources
  - How small processors know where the resources are.
  - How they will know if the resources are reliable.
  - Who to ask for help.
  - Provide roadmap so know where resources are.
  - Create a place to find resources.
  - Electronically published and distributed.
  - Compile resources.
- Awareness Campaign
  - Tools development and dissemination.
  - Small processors don’t know their compliance/exemptions.
  - Food safety communicators will communicate directly to small processors - goes beyond extension but also buyers, etc.
  - All food facilities are covered under some part of the rule, but they may lack time and resources how to correct problems.
  - Identify the grower communicators.
  - Develop brandable awareness materials.
  - Brandable materials distributed.
  - Evaluate impact of the materials.
  - Each group has a leader that can be contacted.

Educational Delivery Workgroup Summary

- Looking at best practices for adult trainings & farmers.
- PSA grower training was evaluated specifically.
- There’s a lot of different kinds of information on the trainings about the material and the delivery.
- There are questions that we as teachers cannot answer. Like “when needed”
- How do we most effectively deliver this information? MOVING FORWARD we will aim to consolidate this information and provide a resource for the best information to relay to participants and in what way.

Buyer Workgroup Summary

- What is the difference between inspections and audits?

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• Buyer needs for expectations and practices
• The differences occurring in states
• What we took away- each state provided a summary on how they are doing inspections.
• There was a large discussion on engaging buyers!
• Overlapping expectations for food safety... a guide to combine all documents to encapsulates all necessary actions for growers
• National efforts for outreach and national knowledge sharing, let's not do work that has already been done!
• Regulator compliance workers at buyer companies- there are specialties with local engagement, food safety and regulatory compliance,
• We decided that the more people we are made aware of in these companies, the higher chance we have of engagement

**USDA Update- Tricia Covax**
• Grant programs that may be helpful in these efforts
• AMS perspective- specialty block crop grants
• Cold storage, famer improvement grants, keep these in mind and talk to state regulators about these
• Take a look at market access and food safety priorities. – specific grant FSMP
• If you have opinions on the local ag. farm bill language and information please make suggestions to Tricia.
• Farm service agencies have farm facility loans if producers need funds for implementing food safety practices on farm.

**Next Steps for NECAFS- Chris**
• Specific and targeted potential actions are great to see! Lets work on putting “who's” and “when's” to these things. Please be proactive.
• Work on prioritizing these actions and volunteering yourself or others to get these things done.
• If you feel strongly about a specific action item, make sure you take steps to get the ball rolling.
• If you would like to head a workgroup meeting next year or otherwise be involved, let Chris Callahan or Elizabeth Newbold know by email necafs@uvm.edu.