



## Day 2, Wednesday, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, 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 and 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.

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### **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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# 2019 NECAFS Annual Conference Notes

Albany, New York, 02/04/19 through 02/06/19

- 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](mailto:necafs@uvm.edu).

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