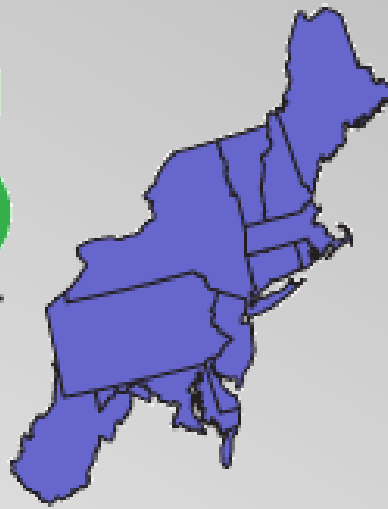


# NECAFS

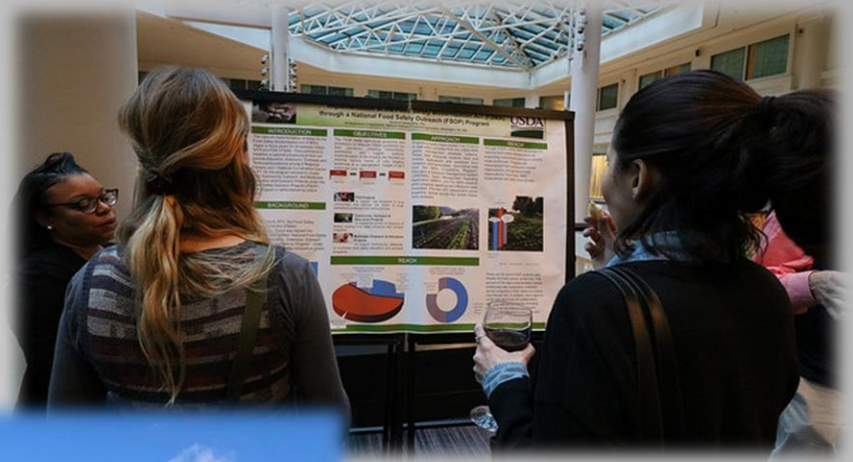
The Northeast Center to  
Advance Food Safety



## NECAFS Highlights and Conference Expectations

February 17, 2021

Chris Callahan  
Elizabeth Newbold



# **Enhance produce safety and preventive controls**

Enhance produce safety and  
preventive controls **training,**  
**education, and outreach**

Enhance produce safety and preventive controls training, education, and outreach **among small and medium sized farms and small processors**

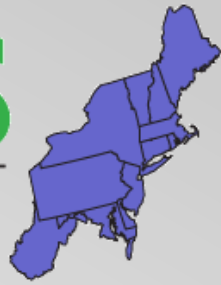
Enhance produce safety and preventive controls training, education, and outreach among small and medium sized farms and small processors **in the Northeast.**

Enhance produce safety and preventive controls training, education, and outreach among small and medium sized farms and small processors in the Northeast.



# NECAFS

The Northeast Center to  
Advance Food Safety



## Who:

- University researchers, educators and extension specialists
- State regulatory and enforcement agency partners
- Local food and farming organizations, NFP's
- Consultants & Industry associations
- Small and medium sized producers, small processors, buyers
- Other regional centers and initiatives, national center, USDA/FDA

## Goal:

Enhance produce safety and preventive controls training, education, and outreach among small and medium sized farms and small processors in the Northeast.

## Objectives:

1. Establish  
Foundational  
Network Structure

2. Build Capacity,  
Competency, and  
Collaboration

3. Develop and  
Deliver Educational  
Programs

4. Evaluate and  
Assess Progress  
and Impact

5. Sustain  
Good  
Work

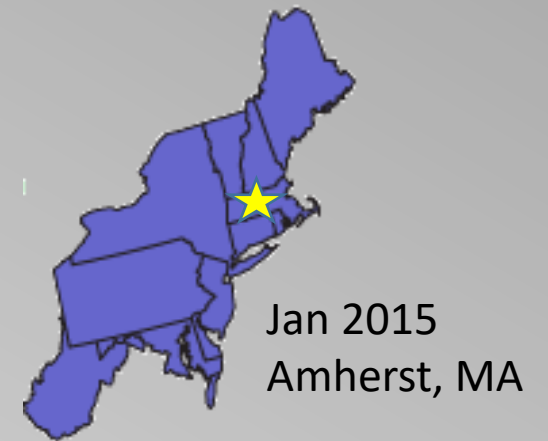


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*(Northeast Center to Advance Food Safety)*

# NECAFS started with NE-PHRESH

*(Northeast Postharvest Research and Extension Service Hub)*



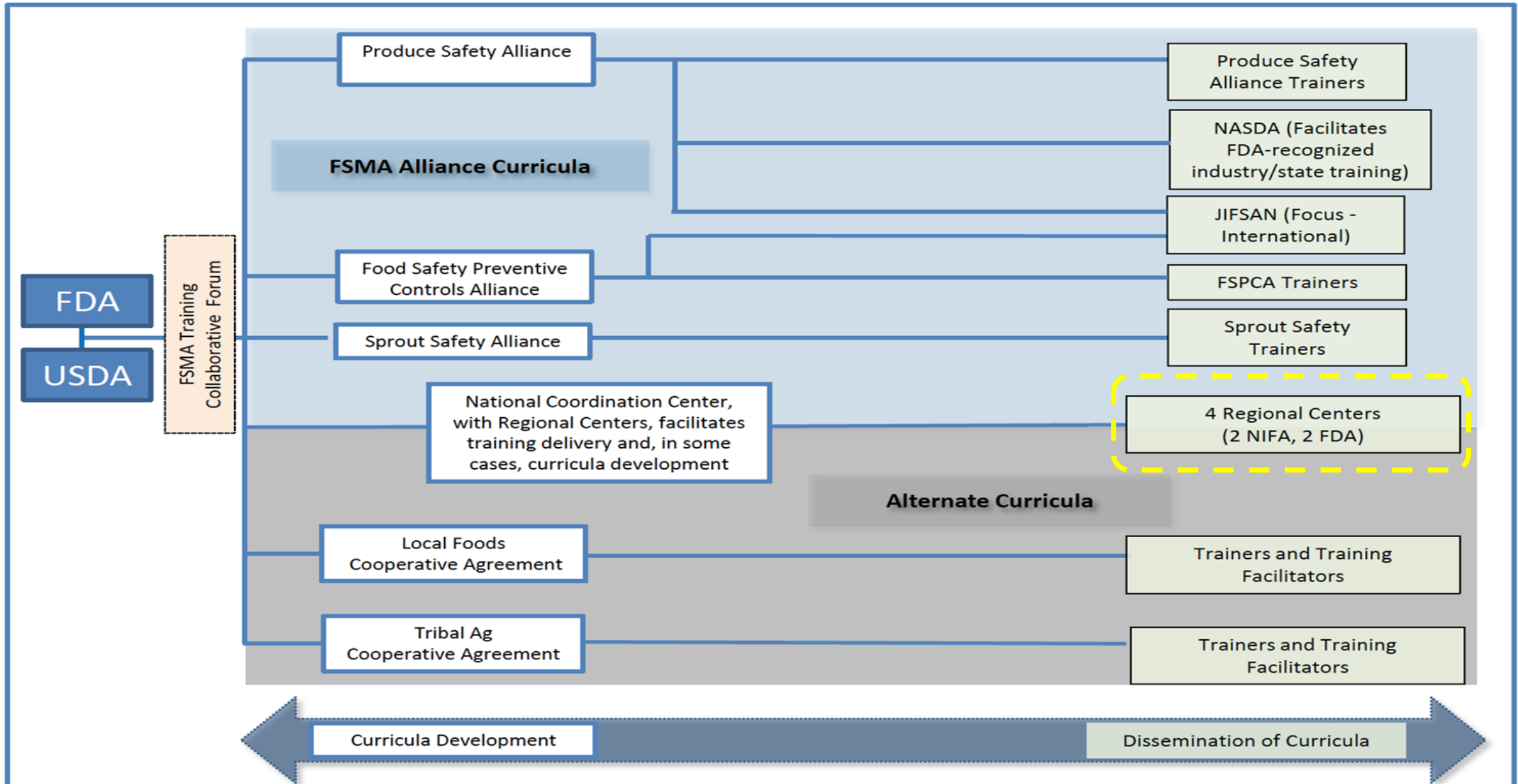
- Disparate opinion, accuracy and location of knowledge. Overlapping and non-coordinated effort in region.
- Based field experiences. Shared by peers.
- Lacking regional relevance and research base.
- NEED/NERA\* Planning Grant (\$4k) to focus on postharvest research and educational needs. Together.

\* Northeast Extension Directors / Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors



# FSMA Framework for Industry Curriculum Development and Dissemination

October 2015



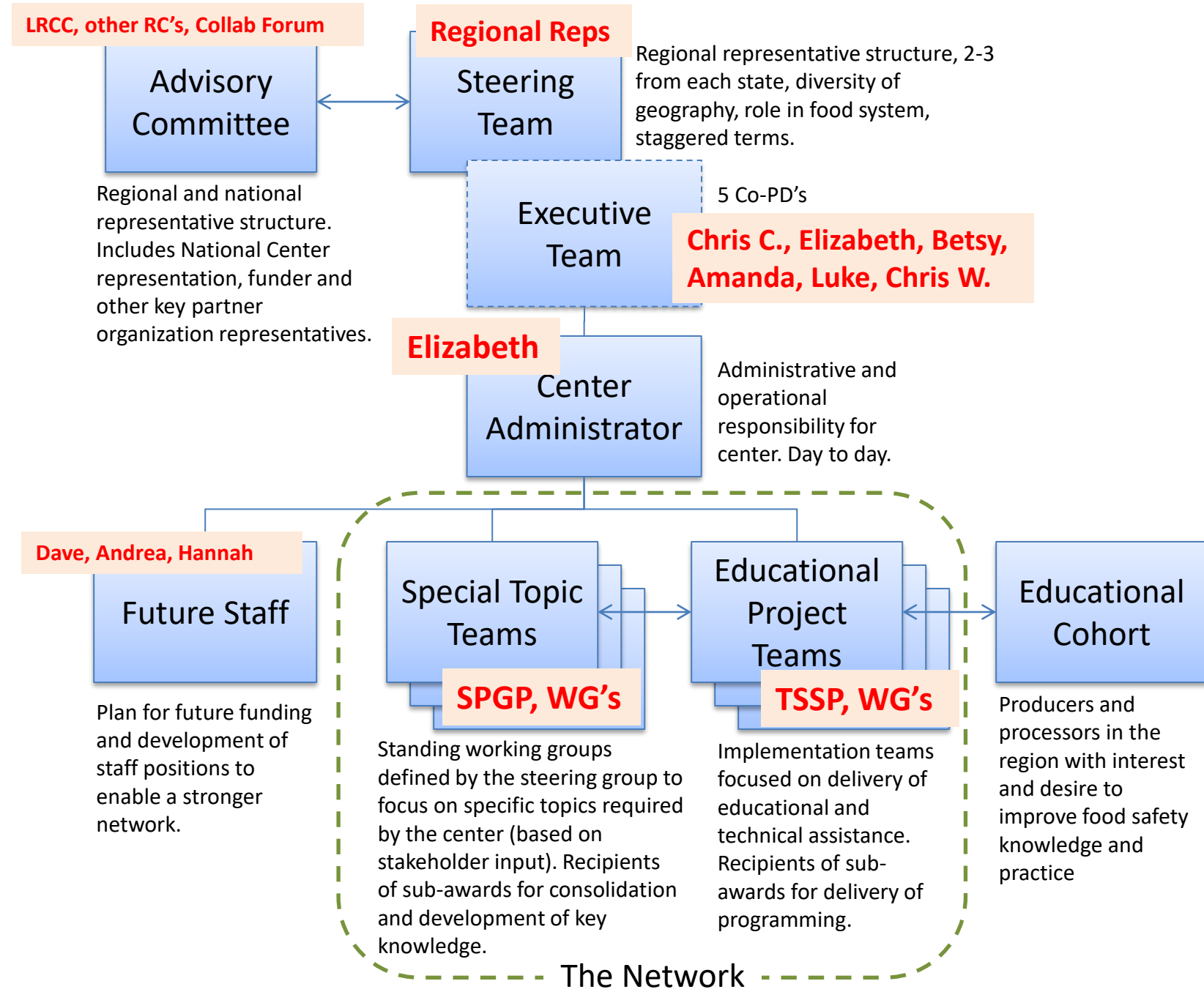
This is not an all-inclusive list of entities that will be developing training curricula and delivery for domestic and foreign food businesses.

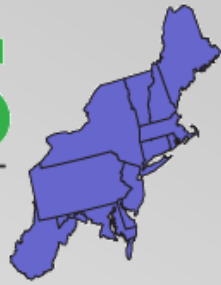
# 2015 Proposal to RFP For Feb 2016 – Feb 2019

## Objectives

1. Establish Foundational Network Structure
2. Build Capacity, Competency, and Collaboration
3. Develop and Deliver Educational Programs
4. Evaluate and Assess Progress and Impact
5. Sustain Good Work

## Northeast Center to Advance Food Safety (NECAFS)





## Who:

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**NECAFS**

The Northeast Center to  
Advance Food Safety



# Summary of NECAFS 2020 Activities

Elizabeth Newbold



# National PSA Pre and Post Test Evaluation

- Stated need: National need to understand knowledge gain
- Collaborators: NECAFS network and Regional Centers
- Impact: Documented knowledge gain

0

Last Name (Lead Trainer)

114 participants across 5 courses

First Name (Lead Trainer)

SUMMARY OF PRE POST TEST RESULTS

Summary for Class by Question

Question	Pre Test % Correct	Post Test % Correct	Delta
1	93%	97%	4%
2	69%	84%	16%
3	64%	88%	24%
4	80%	90%	10%
5	93%	99%	6%
6	93%	96%	3%
7	69%	83%	15%
8	81%	89%	8%
9	88%	88%	0%
10	60%	79%	20%
11	46%	74%	27%
12	93%	84%	-9%
13	49%	79%	30%
14	78%	97%	19%
15	80%	83%	4%
16	91%	93%	2%
17	32%	77%	45%
18	72%	63%	-9%
19	56%	90%	34%
20	63%	84%	22%
21	61%	58%	-2%
22	5%	61%	56%
23	81%	88%	7%
24	31%	61%	30%
25	62%	73%	11%

Summary for Class by Module

Module	Pre Test % Correct	Post Test % Correct	Delta
1	78%	84%	6%
2	93%	97%	4%
3	74%	85%	10%
4	58%	83%	25%
5	68%	84%	17%
6	60%	77%	18%
7	45%	71%	26%

Overall Summary Stats

	Pre	Post	Delta
N	99	96	-3
Min	9	5	-4
Mean Score	16.9	20.6	3.7
Overall %	67%	82%	15%
Max	24	25	1
SD	3.3	3.7	0.4

Key

>=80%	>=80%	>=10%
<80, >60	<80, >60	<10, >0
<=60	<=60	<=0

The mean score on the exam increased by 3.7 from 16.9 to 20.6 among those who took both.

Test for Statistical Significance

T-Test

3.222E-11 (p-value)

The difference in mean score is statistically significant at or above the 99% confidence interval (alpha=0.01) with a p-value of 3.22E-11 determined using a paired, two tailed Student T-Test.

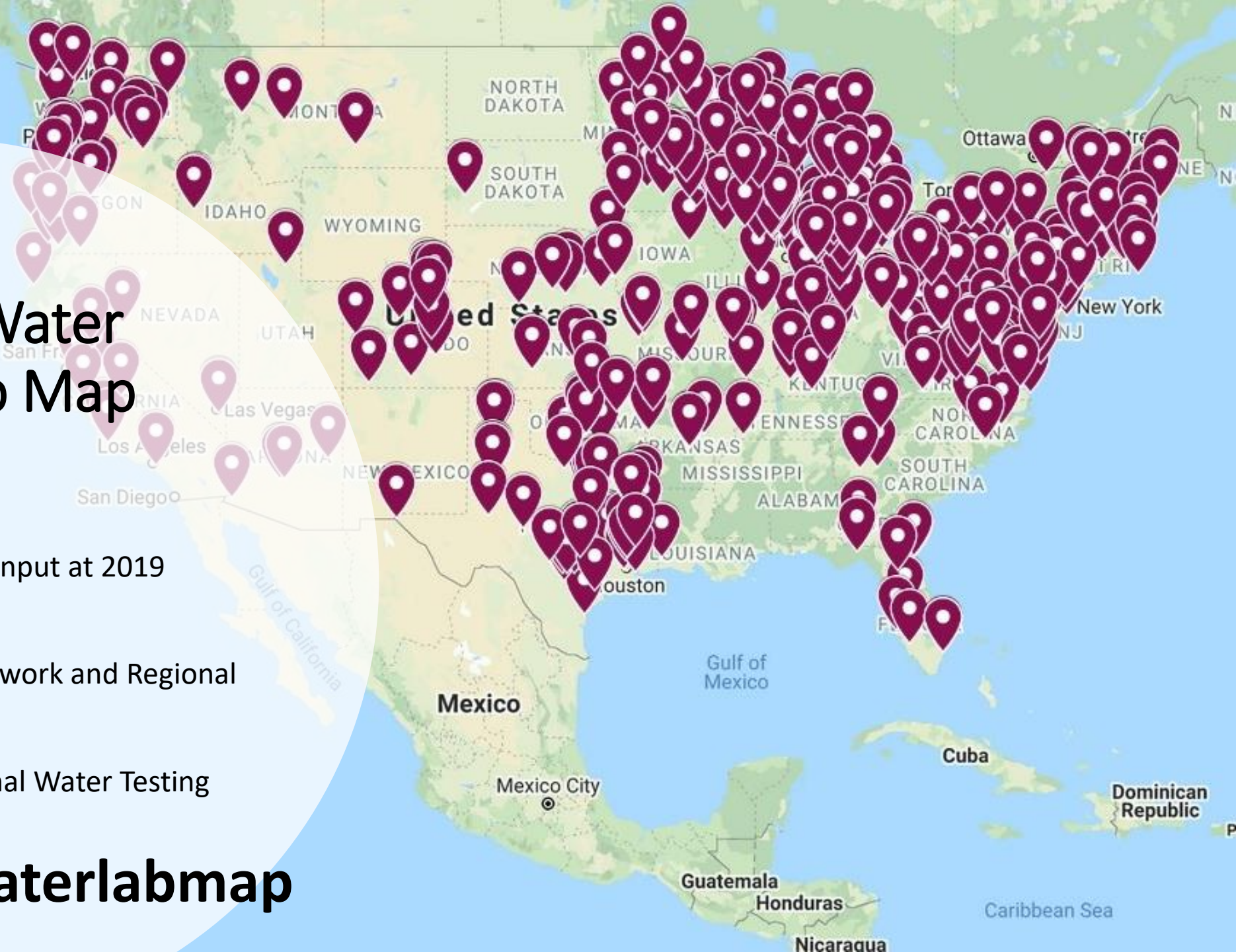


# National Water Testing Lab Map

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- Stated need: Stakeholder input at 2019 Annual Meeting
- Collaborators: NECAFS network and Regional Centers
- Impact: Creation of National Water Testing Lab Map in One Location

[go.uvm.edu/waterlabmap](https://go.uvm.edu/waterlabmap)





# PRODUCE SAFETY RULE INSPECTIONS AND THIRD-PARTY AUDITS

Extension Legal Services Initiative  
FSMA Fact Sheet



AGRICULTURE &  
FOOD SYSTEMS

## PRODUCE FARMS, FOODBORNE ILLNESS, AND LEGAL LIABILITY

Extension Legal Services Initiative  
FSMA Fact Sheet



## Extension Legal Services Initiative

- Project Partner: Center for Agriculture and Food Systems at Vermont Law School
- Outputs:
  - FSMA PSR State Implementation Map
  - FSMA PSR Coverage and Exemptions for Farms with Multiple Business Entities
  - FSMA Supply Chain Program Requirements for Processors and Their Produce Suppliers
  - Using the FDA TAN and FOIA to Access Information about FSMA
  - Understanding the Relationship between FDA Rules, Guidance and Other Communications
  - Produce Farms, Foodborne Illness, and Legal Liability
  - Produce Safety Rule Inspections and Third-Party Audits
  - Alternatives and Variances to the Produce Safety Rule

[elsi.necafs.org](http://elsi.necafs.org)





# Decision Support Tool (DST)

- Stated need: Clarity on risk assessment around specific commodities with regional relevance
- Funding: USDA AFRI
- Collaborators: NECAFS (UVM), Cornell, and Rutgers



# Online Buyer's Handbook

- Stated need: Development of handbook to articulate regional produce safety voluntary and required standards
- Funding: USDA FSOP
- Collaborators: NECAFS (UVM), UVM and Rutgers
- Final Handbook: Anticipated Summer 2021

Inspection form  
FDA credentialed

Plan to register farms, initial inspection, schedule in growing season - registration, market access certificate, annual inspection  
in 20 doing market access in 200

Notice of Inspection - Roll in inspection program  
(ABCD rating) Inspection M...  
1500 not every year + market access

30 covered all tiers Farms covered who need market  
18 large this year, capacity inspections annually access  
give NASDA FDA observer, not certificate, not  
fail, Timing needs

# Food Safety Resource Clearinghouse

- Stated need: Create on location for hosting PS and PCHF related resources
- Peer Review Process coming soon – being led by Western Regional Center



## **CLEARINGHOUSE**

[go.uvm.edu/clearinghouse](http://go.uvm.edu/clearinghouse)



# NECAFS is Growing!!



Annie Fitzgerald

Preventive Controls

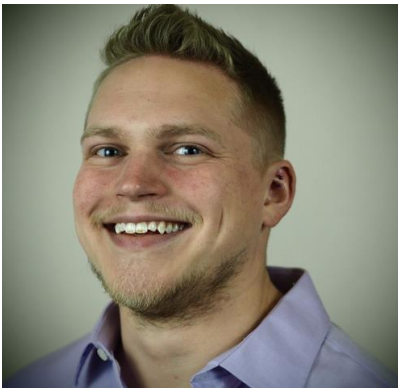
Collecting and cataloging a roadmap of resources for small and very small processors



Johanna Doren

Produce Safety

Summarizing and extending published research for use by produce community



Sean Fogarty

Aquaponic  
Hydroponic Resource  
Development

Subject matter expert  
guiding resource  
development for  
growers



**NECAFS**

The Northeast Center to  
Advance Food Safety



# Framing the 2021 Annual Meeting

Elizabeth Newbold

# Agenda Review

Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>



9:30 Concurrent Workgroup Meetings



11:30 Virtual Poster Session



12:00 Lunch



1:00 Concurrent Workgroup Meetings



3:00 Networking

Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup>



8:30 Morning Coffee Networking



9:30 Federal Updates



10:30 Concurrent Workgroup Meetings



12:30 Lunch



1:30 Report Out and Closing Remarks

[go.uvm.edu/necafs](https://go.uvm.edu/necafs)

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

# Expectations

- Connect with partners
- Meet new collaborators and peers
- Ask questions
- Share resources and experiences
- Engage in discussion
- Workgroup approach is intended to provide time together to move topics along through dialog
  - ... and to promote co-discovery
  - ... and to hatch new plans and projects



**NECAFS**

The Northeast Center to  
Advance Food Safety



# Annual Meeting

## Virtual

February 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>

Chris Callahan  
Elizabeth Newbold