NECAFS Highlights and Conference Expectations

February 17, 2021

Chris Callahan
Elizabeth Newbold

go.uvm.edu/necafs  necafs@uvm.edu
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.

go.uvm.edu/necafs    necafs@uvm.edu
Enhance produce safety and preventive controls training, education, and outreach among small and medium sized farms and small processors in the Northeast.

go.uvm.edu/necafs  necafs@uvm.edu
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

Funding for NECAFS was made possible, in part, by the Food and Drug Administration through grant 1R01FD005686, views expressed in written materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services; nor does any mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organization imply endorsement by the United States Government.
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
What came from this?

- Expressed need for consolidated resources – sharing work
- Expressed desire for collaborative research and educational programming – e.g. drafted collective research questions
- Concerns about how to “train up” for anticipated FSMA rules (PCHF and PSR) (this was Jan ’15)
- Concerns about maintaining regional relevance of information, educational programs and best practice
- Sustained, nascent network with willingness to collaborate

9 go.uvm.edu/necafs
necafs@uvm.edu

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)

Advisory Committee

Steering Team
Regional and national representative structure. Includes National Center representation, funder and other key partner organization representatives.

Executive Team
Regional representative structure, 2-3 from each state, diversity of geography, role in food system, staggered terms.

Center Administrator
Administrative and operational responsibility for center. Day to day.

Future Staff
Plan for future funding and development of staff positions to enable a stronger network.

Special Topic Teams
Standing working groups defined by the steering group to focus on specific topics required by the center (based on stakeholder input). Recipients of sub-awards for consolidation and development of key knowledge.

Educational Project Teams
Implementation teams focused on delivery of educational and technical assistance. Recipients of sub-awards for delivery of programming.

Educational Cohort
Producers and processors in the region with interest and desire to improve food safety knowledge and practice

Regional Reps
Regional representative structure, 2-3 from each state, diversity of geography, role in food system, staggered terms.

5 Co-PD’s
Chris C., Elizabeth, Betsy, Amanda, Luke, Chris W.

The Network

LRCC, other RC’s, Collab Forum

Dave, Andrea, Hannah

Elizabeth

The Network
**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

**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

Funding for NECAFS was made possible, in part, by the Food and Drug Administration through grant 1R01FD005686, views expressed in written materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services; nor does any mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organization imply endorsement by the United States Government.
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

### SUMMARY OF PRE POST TEST RESULTS

#### Summary for Class by Question

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Pre Test % Correct</th>
<th>Post Test % Correct</th>
<th>Delta</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>-9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>-7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Summary for Class by Module

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Pre Test % Correct</th>
<th>Post Test % Correct</th>
<th>Delta</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Overall Summary Stats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pre</th>
<th>Post</th>
<th>Delta</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean Score</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall %</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SD</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**: $3.22E-11$ (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

- 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

goto.uvm.edu/waterlabmap
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
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
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

[Website Link] 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
Framing the 2021 Annual Meeting

Elizabeth Newbold
## Agenda Review

**Wednesday, February 17th**
- **9:30** Concurrent Workgroup Meetings
- **11:30** Virtual Poster Session
- **12:00** Lunch
- **1:00** Concurrent Workgroup Meetings
- **3:00** Networking

**Thursday, February 18th**
- **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**

**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
Annual Meeting
Virtual
February 17th and 18th

Chris Callahan
Elizabeth Newbold