

Improving the Development of Food Safety Plans through the Advanced Preventive Controls School Initiative

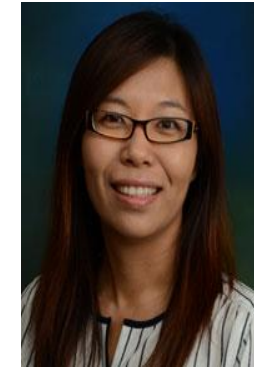
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NECAFS Annual Meeting and Conference, Hartford, CT
January 19, 2023



NEBRASKA MANUFACTURING
EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP



North Central Region
Center for FSMA Training, Extension
and Technical Assistance



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture

Problem Statement:

- The FSMA PCHF rule requires certain FDA-inspected facilities to have a food safety plan that includes an analysis of hazards and adequate risk-based preventive controls to minimize or prevent the identified hazards.
- Under the rule, certain individuals, known as PCQI, are responsible for identifying relevant food safety hazards, preparing or overseeing the preparation of the food safety plan, validating the effectiveness of preventive controls, reviewing records, and reanalyzing the food safety plan when needed.
- Lack of comprehensive advanced course to support small and very small companies dig deeper into the details of developing a food safety plan.
- The **long-term goal** of this project is to help increase FSMA regulatory compliance of small and very small facilities by building their capacity to develop and implement adequate food safety plans.

Approach / Methods:

MODULE 1: Hazard Analysis and Risk Assessment [Wang/Chaves]

- Hazard identification and evaluation
- Software demonstration and uses for food safety decision making

MODULE 2: Process Controls [Chaves]

- Use, selection, and interpretation of microbiological results - pathogen, surrogate, and indicator data
- Experimental design for in-plant validations

MODULE 3: Food Allergen Management [Baumert/Downs]

- Food allergen identification, labelling requirements, prevention of allergen cross contact, and validation and verification of food allergen controls

MODULE 4: Environmental Monitoring [Chaves]

- *Salmonella*/*Listeria* EMP
- Seek-and-Destroy approach
- Sampling and testing for a robust EMP



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INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY: FOOD SAFETY EXTENSION VISITING SCHOLAR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

USDA NIFA Grant 2019-70020-30340,
 Project Accession No. 1020747



- [Dr. Byron Chaves](#) is looking for two dynamic and motivated interns to join [Nebraska Extension](#) and the [Department of Food Science and Technology](#).
- The Visiting Scholars will work on a collaborative USDA NIFA-funded food safety extension project and will be directly mentored by one of the four University of Nebraska-Lincoln faculty participating in the project.
- The Visiting Scholars will work in one or more of the following areas: pathogen environmental monitoring, allergen management, product and process validations, or microbial risk assessment.
- Responsibilities may include developing and delivering food safety training under faculty supervision, creating food safety extension materials, writing factsheets, developing food safety impact surveys, and visiting food processing plants to provide training and technical assistance.

- **REQUIREMENTS:**
 - Be a US citizen or permanent resident in Puerto Rico.
 - Current undergraduate student, graduate student, or extension educator at the University of Puerto Rico system.
 - Willingness to spend four months in Lincoln, NE.
 - Interest in food safety and working with the food industry.
 - Background in life sciences, ag, health sciences or related field.
- **WHAT IS INCLUDED?**
 - Your airfare, roundtrip from PR to Lincoln, NE
 - Monthly stipend of around \$2,000.
 - Office space/work computer, supervision and mentorship, and the institutional support of the University of Nebraska.
 - NOTE: Health insurance must be covered by visitor.
- **APPLICATION PROCESS**
 - Reach out to Dr. Byron Chaves at byron.chaves-elizondo@unl.edu.
 - Attach your resume and indicate your preferred time to be in Lincoln: Fall 2022, Spring 2023 or Summer 2023.
 - Selected candidates will be invited to a Zoom interview.
 - Reach out if you have any questions!



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CHALLENGES:

- COVID-19 pandemic travel and food-facility access restrictions
- Recruitment of PR and Guam interns
- Identifying actual food safety training and education needs in PR and Guam

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Two PR interns completed – fall 2021 and fall 2022
- Two PR interns – spring 2023
- One Guam intern – summer 2023
- UoG collaborators attending IAFP 2022 in Pittsburgh, PA
- Exploratory trip to PR – December 7-14, 2022
- Training sessions in Guam – January 6-12, 2023

DISSEMINATION:

- Two virtual cGMP courses
- Two virtual EMP courses
- A food safety webinar series:
 - Food Safety Lunch Hour
- FARRP Food Allergen Fundamentals Virtual Course
- EMP course in Spanish

WHAT'S IN PROGRESS?

- Scholarly work around food safety practices and training needs in PR and Guam
- Guidance document on foreign material control
- A literature review of the microbiological safety status of foods in PR
- Digitalization of food safety courses
- Upcoming training visits to PR and Guam

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