

Project: Strategy for Successful Implementation of Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) in the North Central Region through Adoption of a Systems Approach and Stakeholder Engagement Framework

Personnel:

Dr. Touria Eaton: Principal Investigator
Joyce Rainwater: Project Coordinator
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This project is a three year project funded by the Food and Drug Administration National Training, Education, Outreach, and Technical Assistance Competitive Grants Program. The overall goal of the project is to build a sustainable educational infrastructure that will support national food safety training, education, and extension work, and to develop new food safety guidance materials, with partnerships, throughout the 12 states of the North Central Region (NCR). The 12 states of the NCR are Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The FSMA NCR center is based at Iowa State University and directed by Dr. Angela Shaw.

This Extension project is based upon FSMA Produce Safety Rule and Preventive Control rules that require that produce growers, processors, and distributors comply with new food safety standards for domestic and international markets. This work directly impact owners and operators of small and medium-sized farms, beginning farmers, socially disadvantaged farmers, small processors, and small fresh fruit and vegetable merchant wholesalers.

The outreach efforts are expected to reduce incidences of foodborne illness, provide a safer food supply, and ensure development of human capital and communities through education, extension, and engagement programs that support a sustainable agricultural system. We anticipate that the outcomes of this project will result in safer food available to consumers, more control of farmers over the quality of their products, savings in the cost of healthcare and improved local economies.

The specific objectives of the project are to:

- 1) Establish a sustainable communication network with lead educators and grower/processors throughout the region to share research and education activities
- 2) Assess needs and prioritize the knowledge gaps for the growers/processors and educators affected by FSMA
- 3) Develop a food safety program that speaks to the needs of the North Central Region while maximizing efforts through utilization of current/developing resources throughout the region/ U.S.

4) Develop an educated team that is able to assist growers/processors within their states on how to comply with FSMA rules, and

5) Document and evaluate

Deliverables:

• **Year 1: 2/20/16 - 2/28/17**

- **Objective 1:** Assist in the identification of stakeholders affected by FSMA and educators that will be providing education to this group. Assist with the location of databases and list serve to access those affected by FSMA. Learn how to utilize the website interface from ISU.
- **Objective 2:** Assist with the dissemination of the needs assessment survey and provide feedback on the needs assessment. Assist with the identification of current curriculum within my state or region that speak to the needs of the growers and provide feedback on the priority report provided by Dr. Shaw.
- **Objective 3 (begin):** Assist with the establishment of priority materials to be developed. Provide feedback on the developed food safety curriculum for growers and processors as it relates to my state.

• **Year 2: 3/1/17 - 2/28/18**

- **Objective 2 (cont.):** Continue to communicate the needs of my state with FSMA compliance. Continue to make the core team aware of newly developed FSMA materials that met the needs of the North Central Region.
- **Objective 3 (cont.):** Continue to provide feedback on the developed food safety curriculum as it relates to my state.
- **Objective 4:** Provide feedback on the developed food safety curriculum for the educators and suggest new materials that require development. Ensure that the educators of the food safety are connected with this project.
- **Objective 5:** Assist with the identification of Preventive Control and food safety trainings that can benefit from the developed curriculum for the grower/processors and educators within my state. Assist with obtaining the demographic information of those that have utilized the developed curriculum to monitor the impact (food safety behavior, knowledge, and attitude) of the curriculum within my state.
- **Objective 6:** Assist with the dissemination of the Objective 4 and 5 outcomes as it becomes available throughout my state.

• **Year 3: 3/1/18 - 2/28/19**

- **Objective 5 (cont.):** Continue to assist with identification of trainings that can benefit from this curriculum and assist with monitoring short and medium term impacts within my state.

- **Objective 6:** Continue to assist with the dissemination of the Objective 4 and 5 outcomes as it becomes available throughout my state.