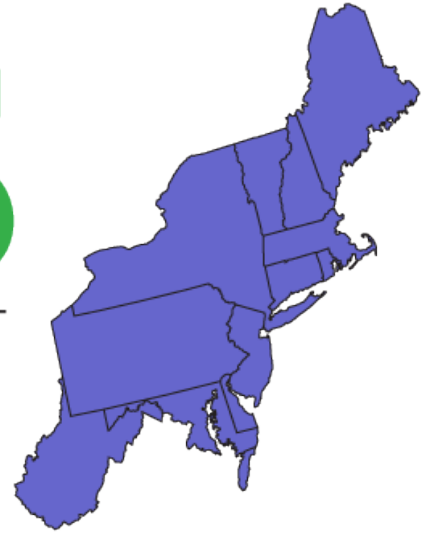


NECAFS

The Northeast Center to
Advance Food Safety



Northeast Regional Food Safety Update
Summary of Actively Funded Projects
February 2020



FOOD SAFETY OUTREACH PROGRAM (FSOP)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

“The work we have done as a team provides valuable assistance to growers facing complex and often confusing regulations and positively influences their ability to sustain the profitability of their businesses.”

Luke LaBorde, Ph.D., Penn State Extension

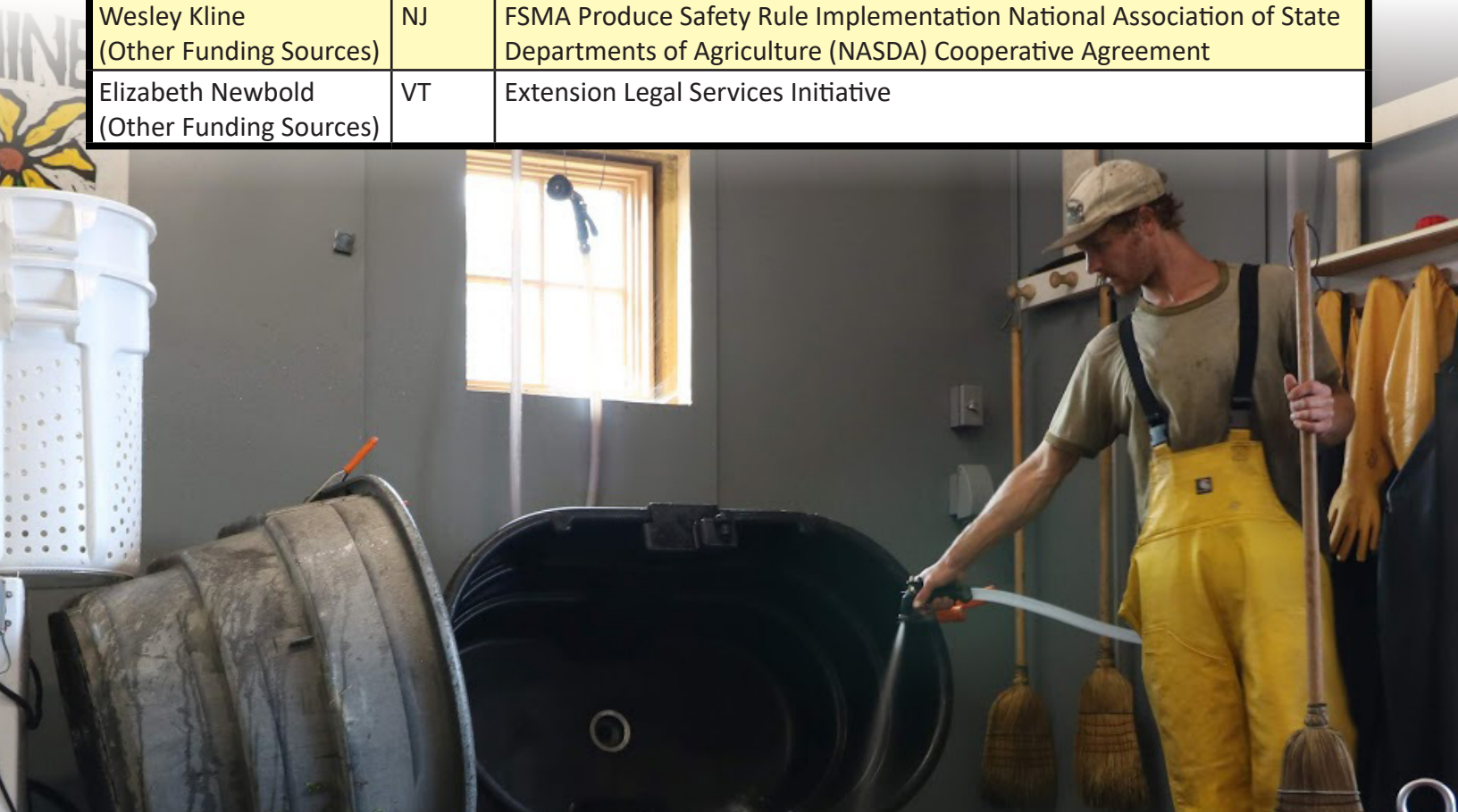
NAME	STATE	PROJECT
Samuel Alcaine	NY	National Dairy Food Safety Plan Coaching Workshop
Elizabeth Bihn	NY	Fruits, Vegetables and Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Compliance: Multilingual Audiovisual Food Safety Training for Farms and Packinghouses
Margaret Christie	MA	Food Safety Solutions for Farm Owners and Employees
Kevin Cody	MA	Preparing Diverse Beginning Farmers for Growth: New Entry Expands FSMA Training and On-Farm Technical Assistance Through Tiered FSMA Support Mechanisms That Don't Leave New/Beginning Farmers Behind
Jill Fitzsimmons	MA	Improving Access for Small and Medium Processors in the Northeast to be in Compliance with FSMA PC
Cara Fraver	NY	Produce Safety Spring Training: Engaging Beginning Farmers With Timely and Practical Guidance to Build a Community of Food Safety Practitioners
Megan Govindan	WV	The CHIP Project: Developing and Implementing Food Safety Education and Outreach for Commercial Kitchens, Home Kitchens, Incubator Kitchens and Food Producers in West Virginia
Ann Hamilton	NH	Expanding the Reach of New Hampshire's Food Safety Education and FSMA Programs to Include Value-Added Processors
Amanda Kinchla	MA	Developing Food Safety Program for Small and Emerging Food Businesses
Melinda Meddaug	NY	Sullivan County Food Safety Outreach Program
Elizabeth Newbold	VT	Northeast Center to Advance Food Safety (NECAFS)
Elizabeth Newbold	VT	Developing a Handbook of Produce Safety Standards for Buyers
Abigail Snyder	NY	Food Safety Management and Document Development for Preventative Controls for Human Foods (PCHF) Rule Qualified Exemption-Eligible Food Facilities
Eric Spring	NY	Students for a Fresh Community

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIATIVE (AFRI) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) OTHER FUNDING SOURCES

“This year, the Produce Safety Alliance reached a major milestone of training over 50,000 individuals on the PSA Grower Training curriculum! Collaboration in the Northeast through NECAFS, along with the other FSMA Regional Centers, played an integral role in achieving this level of outreach and engagement within the produce industry ... The value and utility of the NECAFS Clearinghouse cannot be understated in making these resources publicly searchable and available.”

Gretchen L. Wall, M.S., Produce Safety Alliance Coordinator
Department of Food Science, Cornell University

NAME	STATE	PROJECT
Chris Callahan (AFRI USDA)	VT	Decision Support Tool (DST) for Grower Adoption of Food Safety Practices
Elizabeth Bihn (Other Funding Sources)	NY	Cleaning, Sanitizing and Sanitary Design: Helping Specialty Crop Growers Develop Effective Sanitation Programs
Amanda Kinchla (Other Funding Sources)	MA	Risk Assessment on DIY Washing Machines for Post Harvest Leafy Green Drying
Wesley Kline (Other Funding Sources)	NJ	FSMA Produce Safety Rule Implementation National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) Cooperative Agreement
Elizabeth Newbold (Other Funding Sources)	VT	Extension Legal Services Initiative



OTHER - FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA) OTHER - UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

“The [On-Farm Readiness Review] team helped us understand the requirements (of the PSR) ... Cornell University educators were very knowledgeable, they understood our operation and how the rule applied to us. They made suggestions that were both realistic and obtainable.”

Rich Farlese, General Manager
Hudson River Fruit Distributors, Milton, N.Y.

NAME	STATE	PROJECT
Deanna Baldwin (Other FDA)	MD	Rapid Response Team
Chelsea Matzen (Other FDA)	DC	Local Food Safety Collaborative
Meredith Melendez (Other FDA)	NJ	State Education and Outreach On-Farm Readiness Review (OFRR)
Elizabeth Bihn (Other USDA)	NY	Produce Safety Alliance
Robert Hadad (Other USDA)	NY	Educating Produce Growers and Workers in the Farm Food Safety Aspects of Efficient Reasonable Cleaning of Wash-Line Equipment
Kerry Kaylegian (Other USDA)	PA	Development of Resources for Small Raw Milk Cheesemakers to Conduct Science-Based Risk Assessments
Kali Kniel (Other USDA)	DE	Characterization and Mitigation of Bacterial Pathogens in the Fresh Produce Production and Processing Continuum
Robson Machado (Other USDA)	ME	Info Toons and Video as Delivery Tools for Food Safety Training



SPECIALTY CROP BLOCK GRANT

“We feel more confident in the food safety consistency we provide ... Within the first moments of our first wash/pack day, our entire farm life had changed forever, and we questioned how and why we had done things the way we did previously.”

Vermont Grower via Dominique Giroux
Produce Safety Improvements on a
Diversified Vermont Vegetable Farm

NAME	STATE	PROJECT
Deanna Baldwin	MD	Transitioning from Voluntary Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) to Mandatory Produce Safety Rule
Ananda Fraser	RI	Rhode Island Project to Implement Produce Safety
Andrea Jackson	DE	Cost Share for a Successful Third Party Audit and Water Testing
Amanda Kinchla	MA	Determining New Markets for Frozen Local Retail Products
Nichole Martz	PA	Continuing Enhancement of Food Safety Practices by Providing Educational and Support Materials to Produce Farms
Meredith Melendez	NJ	Postharvest Sanitation
Jeffrey Stoltzful	PA	FMSA Training and Compliance Education for Small and Mid-Sized Growers in Pennsylvania



STATE PRODUCE IMPLEMENTATION COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT (CAP) FUNDS FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA)

"I think [the food safety educational videos] turned out great and will be a great tool for our Pennsylvania farmers ... [especially] smaller farms who are having some anxiety over this new rule."

Nichole Martz, Division Chief
Food Safety Field Operations
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

NAME	STATE	PROJECT
Deanna Baldwin	MD	Maryland Produce Safety Rule Cooperative Agreement
Michael Botelho	MA	Massachusetts Produce Safety Rule Cooperative Agreement
Ananda Fraser	RI	Rhode Island Produce Safety Rule Cooperative Agreement
Andrea Jackson	DE	Delaware State Produce Safety Rule Cooperative Agreement
Chris Kleinguenther	NJ	New Jersey Produce Safety Rule Cooperative Agreement
John Luker	NY	New York Produce Safety Rule Cooperative Agreement
Cindy Martel	WV	West Virginia Produce Safety Rule Cooperative Agreement
Stefanie Smith	PA	Pennsylvania Produce Safety Rule Cooperative Agreement
Celeste Poulin	ME	Maine Produce Safety Rule Cooperative Agreement
Bruce Sherman	CT	Connecticut Produce Safety Rule Cooperative Agreement
Vickie Smith	NH	New Hampshire Produce Safety Rule Cooperative Agreement
Abbey Willard	VT	Vermont Produce Safety Rule Cooperative Agreement

CONTRACT FROM STATE'S PRODUCE IMPLEMENTATION COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT (CAP) FUNDS FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA)

"[We are] having a lot of luck with outreach and education on the FSMA Produce Rule. The growers are finally realizing that it is not going away and it's here to stay. [We] have had luck with group OFRR's on a host farm ... conducting these group meetings has brought more growers out to see what it's all about."

Anita Marie Maher, Food Inspection Technician
Pennsylvania Bureau of Food Safety

NAME	STATE	PROJECT
Wesley Kline	NJ	New Jersey Department of Agriculture Produce Safety Rule (PSR) Education
Lisa McKeag	MA	Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Food Safety Interdepartmental Service Agreement
Meredith Melendez	NJ	FSMA PSR Education Contract
Indu Upadhyaya	CT	Produce Safety Grant with Department of Agriculture - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
Chris Walsh	MD	Maryland Department of Agriculture Implementation of the Produce Safety Rule Education

NECAFS BY THE NUMBERS

TOGETHER, IN 2019, THE NECAFS NETWORK DELIVERED ...

ON-FARM READINESS REVIEW **623**

FOOD SAFETY PREVENTIVE CONTROLS
ALLIANCE QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL TRAINING **210**

PRODUCE SAFETY
ALLIANCE GROWER TRAINING **69**

NECAFS

The Northeast Center to
Advance Food Safety



necafs@uvm.edu | 802-447-7582 x254
P.O. Box 559
Bennington, VT 05201-0559

As part of a regional effort, NECAFS works alongside Regional Centers (RCs) and training alliances on education and outreach efforts related to food safety and compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA).

Writers and contributors:

Chris Callahan, Andy Chamberlin, Elizabeth Newbold, Mary Peterson, Marcus Tracy, Cathy Yandow

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. University of Vermont Extension, Burlington, Vermont. University of Vermont Extension, and U.S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating, offer education and employment to everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status. February 2020.