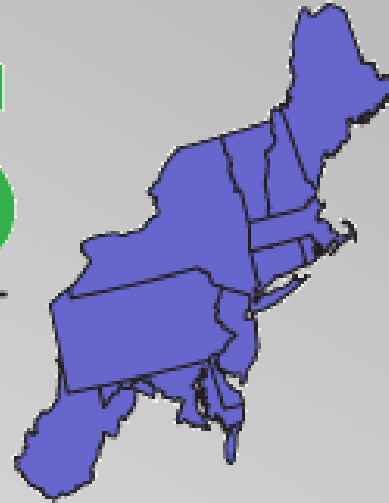


NECAFS

The Northeast Center to
Advance Food Safety



Buyer Workgroup Meeting

Elizabeth Newbold
Hans Estrin
Wes Kline

History of Buyer Workgroup Engagement

- Began with a few conference calls in 2017
- Articulated a need for a buyer panel in 2018
- Workgroup meeting in 2019
 - Questionnaire was distributed ahead of 2019 meeting to frame and form the discussion to ensure that it was output oriented

Review of 2019 Discussion

1.) Reviewed questionnaire responses

- What's going on at the retail level?
- There is confusion between audits and inspections
- We have state specific audits
- Buyers are adjusting to multiple audits
- Buyer perspective on inspections vs audit.

State Walkthrough



Buyer Walkthrough



What did we learn?

- Did not know the crazy state variations that exist in inspection and auditing.
- We need to access more buyer opinions.
- Growers have audit fatigue.

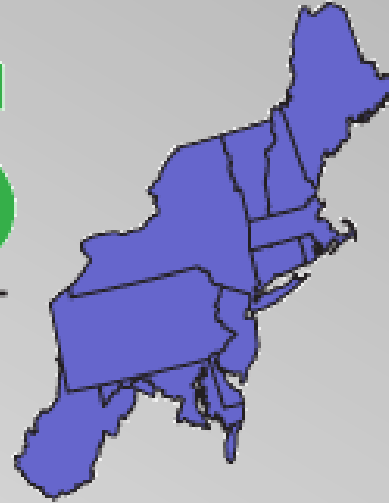
Next Steps

- We need to work on outreach to buyers?
 - The community level is the most effective way to do this
- Make a working document for states to update with the regulations on inspection and auditing.
- If state's are not doing an annual certification what are they doing to help growers meet their market access requirements?

Thank You!

NECAFS

The Northeast Center to
Advance Food Safety



FSOP Buyer Handbook Funding

Elizabeth Newbold
Hans Estrin
Wes Kline

Buyer Handbook Proposal

- Buyers perspective on audit versus inspection
- Audit fatigue for producers
- Education to buyers is paramount

Long-term Goal of Project

- The *long-term goal* of this project is to provide a sustainable, comprehensive produce safety online handbook that will assistance produce buyers in navigating the range of FSMA audit and inspection schemes that may apply to their supplying producers.
- Intended for buyers but certainly a resource growers can use
- Should help to facilitate communication between buyers and growers

Project's Objectives

- *Articulate all relevant state and federal specific produce safety standards and cross-calibrate as needed*
- *Online Buyer Handbook is developed based on specific produce safety*
- *Extend the project results through education and outreach*
- *Evaluate and assess progress and impact*

Project's Objectives and Activities

- *Articulate all relevant state and federal specific produce safety standards and cross-calibrate as needed*
 - Summarize individual state accreditation schemes, FSMA implementation process for states within the Northeast and Federal audit programs and cross-calibrate
 - Summarize existing buyer relevant educational efforts
- *Online Buyer Handbook is developed based on specific produce safety*
 - Crowd sources with limited fields for account holders to update
 - Prompt annually to confirm accuracy of information

Project's Objectives and Activities

- *Extend the project results through education and outreach*
 - Educational materials will be created to share at local buyer education events
 - Shared through NECAFS channels and on the Clearinghouse
- *Evaluate and assess progress and impact*