Project: Extension Food Safety

Project Leader: Amanda Kinchla

Project Overview

The Food Safety Extension program focuses on applied research and food safety education to support the food industry and a safe and sustainable food system. The program conducts and supports research to help businesses address technical challenges and create innovative products and processes from farm to fork. Our group also identifies public needs, conducts applied research and educational programming and offers other outreach opportunities that address the food safety needs of individuals and groups through short courses, on-line training and other outreach venues.

Activity Summary - 2014

- Better Process Control School, incorporating MDAR Specialty Crop Grant (Supporting Specialty Crops through Better Process Control School and Value-Added Processing)(1)
- Food Safety Magazine Publication related to On-Farm Food Safety Challenges and Opportunities (1)
- Grant Preparation and submission(1)
- Hazard Analysis of Critical Control Point training and certification program(1)
- Product Development Short Course(2)
- Product Development – Consultation with food businesses(1)

Total educational contacts

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<th>Adult Contacts</th>
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<td>In Person</td>
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<td>Indirect Contacts (Print, Web, etc...)</td>
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Narrative Summary and Impact

Food Safety extension has focused on two pillars: On-farm food safety and Product Development. Many food processing entities are now encouraging and/or requiring educational certifications to ensure proper food safety practices are introduced and practiced in all aspects of food processing from farm-to-fork. UMass Food Science Extension has been building a variety of relevant programs to the stakeholders of MA to ensure that they have the appropriate tools to be a successful and sustainable business within the state of MA (and outside of MA)
Collaborating Organizations

- Massachusetts Department of Agriculture
- Northeast Produce Safety Coalition
- New England Food Entrepreneurs, New England Extension Food Safety Consortium
- Franklin County Community Development Center, Food Processing Center
- CropCircle Kitchen