

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 - 2018

- Applied Research Project - Sanitation (using environmental monitoring tools) (1)
- Better Process Control School Training and Certification (5)
- New England Vegetable & Berry Growers Conference Demonstrations (8)
- Northeast Center to Advance Food Safety (NECAFS) Educational Programs (42)
- Eureka! UMass Girls Inc. Workshop (1)
- Grant preparation and submission related to food safety research and extension (eg USDA NIFA) (5)
- Multistate Conference - Enhancing Microbial Food Safety by Risk Analysis(1)
- Produce Safety Workshops - Preventive Controls and Post Harvest (5)

Total educational contacts

	Adult Contacts
In Person	810
Indirect Contacts (Print, Web, etc...)	2500

Narrative Summary and Impact

UMass Food Safety Program has continued to focus on food safety programming specific to the needs of producers and processors. Our contributions and network with NECAFS and Multi-State have enabled us to expand our network that has fostered new collaborations that help to utilize resources and locations more broadly in the region. Key successes include maximizing capacity to host Preventative Control trainings throughout the region with area partners, collaborating with other extension partners to build targeted programming that address critical issues in food safety for growers and processors and maintaining direct contact with the stakeholder community (i.e. PD consults and Harvest Conference). As a result of this work, our program has been able to expand more broadly and is planned to increase impact in the upcoming year.

In Dec 2018, Amanda received a personal email thank you note appreciating the PC program we delivered in Oct. Due to the program, this participant successfully built a regulatory compliant FS plan that received high scoring at an in-field audit. They were so thrilled they reached out to give recognition.

One local processor was prepared to invest a significant amount of money to conduct a challenge study for a food safety management plan. However due to the scope of the operation and identified hazards, through a consult, the UMass FS Extension Team was able to guide them through an alternative approach that would achieve the same goal (time/temperature monitoring logs).

Collaborating Organizations

- **Massachusetts Department of Agriculture**
- **Red Fire Farm**
- **New England Vegetable Growers Association**
- **New England Fruit and Berry Growers Association**