

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 - 2019

- Best Food Safety Practices Instruction for food industry partners (2)
- Food Safety Trainings (3)
- Poster Presentation “The Efficacy of ATP Monitoring for Measuring Organic Matter on Postharvest Surfaces” (2)
- Food Science STEM programming with K-12 children (3)
- Product Development – Consultation with food businesses (3)
- Product Development Short Course Program, "Considerations - Beyond the Concept" (1)
- Programming for the use of Specialty Crops in Acidified Canned Foods for Season Extension (5)
- Enhancing Microbial Food Safety by Risk Analysis – Annual Meeting Presentation (1)

Total Educational Contacts

	Youth Contacts	Adult Contacts
Direct	41	415
Indirect		2500

Narrative Summary and Impact

The UMass Food Safety Program has continued to focus on food safety programming specific to the needs of producers and processors. The program's contribution and network with NECAFS and Multi-State has enabled expansion of the network and has fostered new collaborations that help to utilize resources and locations more broadly in the region. Key successes include fielding a food safety needs assessment specific to small and emerging food businesses, contributing to fielding a food safety needs assessment to northeast food safety communicators, collaborating with other extension partners to build targeted programming to 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, the UMASS Food Safety program has been able to expand more broadly and is planning to increase impact in the upcoming year.

Collaborating Organizations

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