

Assisting Small-and Medium-Sized Farmers through Cross-State Collaboration

Billy McCarthy | National Farmers Union
bmccarthy@nfudc.org
USDA-NIFA, FSOP



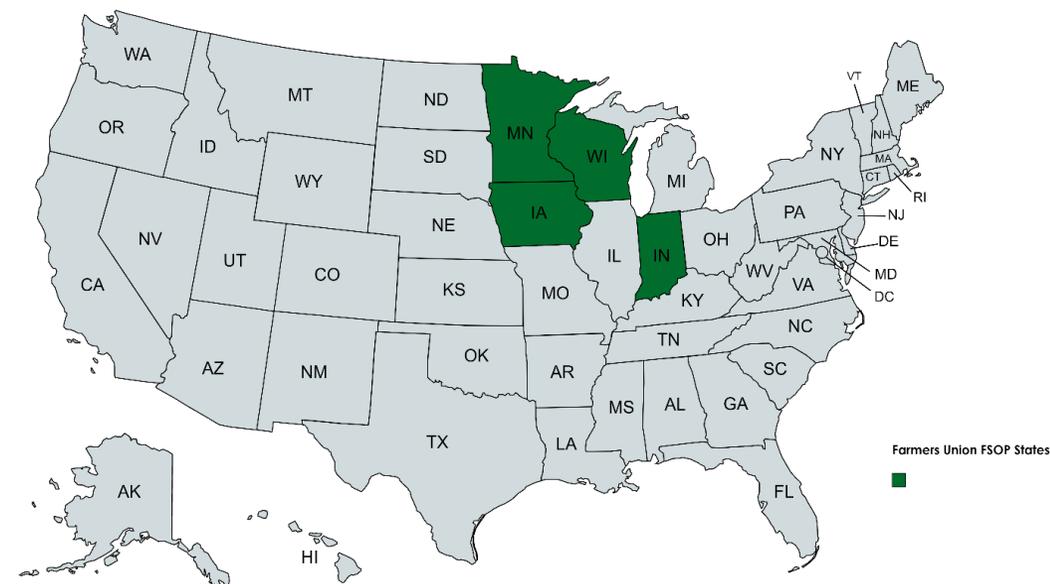
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USDA-NIFA | Food Safety Outreach Program



Problem Statement / Issue Definition:

- Target audience: small-to mid-sized farms, beginning farmers, socially disadvantaged farmers, and English-as-a-second-language (ESL) populations serving local markets in four Midwestern states: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Indiana
- Problem: existing resources and infrastructure may not meet the target audience's distinct set of food safety needs; growers may have difficulty accessing scale-and culturally appropriate education and resources
- Goal: reaching underserved farmer populations with education, resources, and technical assistance appropriate for their operation type, scale, and cultural context to support food safety knowledge and practice implementation



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APPROACH / METHODS:

NFUF has partnered with Farmers Union State Divisions in collaboration with local University Extensions, Departments of Agriculture, community-based organizations, and consultants to execute this project



TRAINING & EDUCATION

- Reduce participant costs associated with attending PSA Grower Trainings and food safety workshops
- Facilitate produce safety education to diversified farm growers

DIRECT ASSISTANCE

- Provide individualized technical support to farmers
- Host on-farm activities to demonstrate how to put food safety principles into practice

ACCESSIBILITY, OUTREACH & COORDINATION

- Leverage online platforms to equip producers with readily accessible resources
- Reduce language barriers by supporting the translation of videos, factsheets, and other training materials into Spanish and Hmong
- Work with local organizations to reach underserved populations like Amish, Hmong, and farmworker communities
- Collaborate with educators and regulators to expand reach of education, training, and technical assistance

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Results / Outcomes

Indiana Farmers Union:

Multiple PSA and Advanced PSA trainings hosted, with sponsored attendance. Collaboration with Food Safety CTS to deliver FSMA 101 and Produce Safety Rule Train the Trainer webinars in English and Spanish

Iowa Farmers Union

Worked with Iowa State University extension to deliver workshops and develop 10 new factsheets. Worked with Proteus, a workforce development agency, to integrate food safety training into farmworker outreach and support, also in Spanish language.

Minnesota Farmers Union

Hands on wash table demonstrations and plan sharing, non-English language outreach, buyer/grower safety training + marketing mixer

Wisconsin Farmers Union

WI Food Hub Coop food safety plan and Harmonized GAP (19+ farms, completed fall 2022), Hand washing station builds with Hmong growers and Bad River Tribe

