

# Increasing Accessibility of Food Safety Education Through Remote Learning Opportunities

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USDA-NIFA, 2020-70020-33030



FLORIDA  
AGRICULTURAL AND  
MECHANICAL  
UNIVERSITY



## Problem Statement / Issue Definition:

- Only 42% of farmers feel confident in the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule after completing the Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training.
- 28% of growers have a worker training program in place to address FSMA produce safety requirements.
- Critical need for remote learning resources to provide ongoing food safety education for farmers.
- Developed accessible, remote learning resources specifically designed for small, beginning, and minority growers.

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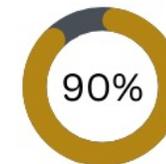


## Approach / Methods:

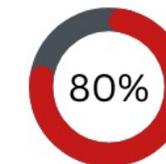
1. **Recruit** a Farmer Advisory Board representative of our target audience
2. **Identify** topics our target audience struggle to grasp in traditional food safety workshops, some of those topics included:
  - Agricultural water
  - Sanitary design
  - Basic microbiology concepts
3. **Create** a diversity of accessible resources alongside FAMU students and faculty for growers



Beginning Farmers



Minority Farmers



Produce Fruits & Vegetables



## OUR FARMER ADVISORY BOARD



### DIVERSE

Group of farmers from Tallahassee, FL that identify as Black, Hispanic, Asian and White.



### RELEVANT

Majority of the board are beginner farmers interested in advancing their food safety skills.



### HELPFUL

Each farmer submits detailed feedback on how we should improve our food safety outreach program.

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## Results / Outcomes:

The resources created include:

### 1. Produce Safety in Minutes\*

5-minute videos on produce safety concepts

### 2. Instructor-led Webinars

Professors and Produce Safety experts teach farmers and students in a live zoom call about various produce safety

### 3. Case Presentations

Overviews of previous produce safety outbreaks are reviewed by experts in the field

### 4. Microbiology Basics\*

Short video series on major pathogens involved in produce safety outbreaks

**Videos set to be released August 2023 on  
UF Food Safety Extension YouTube Channel**



<https://www.youtube.com/@uffoodsafetyextension1490>

\*In-production



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food and  
Agriculture

# Questions?

**LRCC**  
Lead Regional  
Coordination Center



**NECAFS**  
The Northeast Center to  
Advance Food Safety

**SC**  
Southern Center  
For Food Safety Training, Outreach and Technical Assistance



North Central Region  
Center for FSMA Training, Extension  
and Technical Assistance

**WRC**  
Western Regional Center to  
Enhance Food Safety



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