

MINNESOTA FOOD SAFETY AND DEFENSE TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2022

Today's meeting was held via Microsoft Teams.

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 PM.

Members present included: Courtney Bidney, Chris Gindorff, Jaime Kirkpatrick, Julia Selleys, Patrice Bailey, Brent Kobielush, Lolly Occhino, Annalisa Hultberg, Caldoun Abuhakel, Mick Ditcher, Jon Hilgren, and Angie Wheeler.

Visitors present included: Jamie Julian, Gabriel Wilson, Sana Elassar, Karly Ackerman, Jane Jewett, Brinn Harris, Meghan Melheim, Joe Scimeca, Jasmine Johnson, Mark Nisley, Ellen Ciarimboli, Joli Weiss, Chowdhury Sagar, Greg Abel, Deb Freedman, Jennifer Stephe, Jennifer van de Ligt, Heidi Varberg, Shaun Kennedy, Sadie Gannett, Erin Niehoff, Kate Meck, Morrine Omolo, Jill Ball, Dionne Meehan, Ben Miller, Alida Sorenson, Natasha Hedin, Lillian Otieno, Brian Yager, Ruth Petran, Mary O'Meara

1. Dates and links

The next Food Safety and Defense Task Force (FSDTF) Meeting will be Tuesday, March 15th, 2022 via Microsoft Teams.

- [Unleashing the Power of FDA Data to Support COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution to Food and Agriculture Workers | FDA](#)
- [Public Meetings on the Proposed Changes to Agricultural Water Requirements in the Produce Safety Rule - 02/14/2022 - 02/15/2022 | FDA](#)
- [MFMA Events – Blazing Trails Through the Jungle of Food Regulations Training](#)
- [Emerging Farmers Working Group](#)

2. The minutes from the November 2021 meeting were accepted with no comments.

3. Member and Visitor Updates

Chris Gindorff (Hy-Vee): Chris took a new job with Hy-Vee as GVP, Compliance and Food Protection and is moving to Iowa. His new email address: chris.gindorff@hy-vee.com.

Julia Selleys (Hennepin County Environmental Health): Julia is working on the County Climate Action Plan which might impact grocers or restaurants regarding reducing food waste.

Jane Jewett (Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture (MISA)): Jane is working with Kathy Zeman to offer another round of Blazing Trails Through the Jungle of Food Regulations Training. The training is designed to provide access to information and resources on how to navigate food regulations pertaining to local food. Two trainings are scheduled for late January and early February. Reach out to Jane for more information.

Lillian Otieno (Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA)): Lillian is currently working in the new Emerging Farmers office at MDA. A recent program newsletter went out and there will be an open meeting on February 11th from 1-3 pm. Lillian will share information with the group and

is open to any questions about this new office.

Shaun Kennedy (Food System Institute): A health leadership course exploring the intersection of animal, human, and environmental health has just started. Students are required to complete a project each year. The program is asking for project ideas that students could explore (e.g., reducing plastic use in laboratories). Prior student videos can be found [here](#). The goal is to have problem statements identified within the next month, and projects completed by the end of June.

Debra Freedman (Food Protection and Defense Institute (FPDI)): The FPDI will be hosting a Food Defense Intentional Adulteration Training at the end of January, with another one slotted for May. Email Deb or visit their website for more information.

Morrine Omolo (U of MN): Morrine is looking forward to the start of the semester. She will be working on the reformulation of banana bread to adjust moisture levels to meet cottage food requirements.

Patrice Bailey (Assistant Commissioner MDA): The legislative session is starting in about a week and Minnesota has a surplus of over 7 billion dollars. The Emerging Farmers office is up and running. A new agriculture-based Minnesota license plate is expected to come out in the coming months. Minnesota FFA and 4-H groups will be the benefactors of the plate. This will be the first of its kind in the United States. Ag Expo Week starts tomorrow.

Brent Kobielush (The Acheson Group): Brent will be giving a presentation on chemophobia and risk during FSMA Fridays via Safety Chain on January 28th.

Michael Dutcher (U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)): Mick introduced Lieutenant Sana Elassar as the new Emergency Response Coordinator for the District. Sana is replacing Heidi DeBeck. Mick and Sana shared the following updates:

- FDA has shifted to mission-critical inspectional work only at this time due to the uptick in COVID-19 cases.
- FDA will be holding [two virtual public meetings](#) in February on [proposed changes to agricultural water requirements in the Produce Safety Rule](#). Attendees must register ahead of time to participate.
- FDA/ORA kicked off Phase 3 of its *21 Forward Project* this week in conjunction with FDA's Office of Food Policy and Response. In this project, FDA conducts surveys with food manufacturers to collect information related to COVID-19 impacts to regulated industry. During Phase 3, FDA will be issuing surveys to industry. This project is continuing, and manufacturers may be contacted by FDA to see if they would be willing to take a survey. Members can find more information on the “21 Forward Project” at this link: [Unleashing the Power of FDA Data to Support COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution to Food and Agriculture Workers](#).

4. Grant Year 4 Deliverable Discussion

A discussion was held regarding grant deliverables to meet the current grant objectives:

Objective 1: Provide a forum for all the stakeholders of the state food protection system to improve human and animal food safety and defense. This objective is met by routine FSDTF meetings.

Objective 2: Assist in adopting or implementing applicable sections of the Code of Federal Regulations, Food Code, and other food protection laws and regulations. This objective is met by

our annual trainings related to what is happening in the regulatory space (e.g., the basic traceability training completed through IFT).

Objective 3: Promote the concept of an Integrated Food Safety System by communicating and supporting agency and related federal, state, territorial, and tribal objectives that maximize protection of the public health through integration activities. Objective 3 was met this past year by MDH's COVID briefing.

Potential grant deliverable options moving forward:

- Option 1: Offer a second basic traceability course (like the one last year completed through IFT, focusing on basic rules).
- Option 2: Offer a more in-depth traceability course that coordinates with FDA's Traceability Rule coming out November 7, 2022. The focus of this course would be on compliance.
- Option 3: Offer a two-part course – the basic course this summer and then the more advanced training in February or March of 2023.
 - Shaun and Courtney are willing to offer a repeat of the workshop they facilitated last fall.
 - Other volunteers would need to step up to assist with development of advance training for compliance with the rule.
 - Foundational elements of food safety, allergens, date marking, etc. might be a good training for the future, but traceability is a priority at this time.
- Option 4: Overlap with COVID-19 trainings and other pathogens like norovirus; other practices to consider now that COVID-19 is more endemic?
- Option 5: Conducting a needs assessment.
- Option 6: Hosting a co-meeting with another taskforce state (Arizona, Iowa, Georgia, North Dakota) or hosting a Coalition of FSDTF Quarterly Meeting.
- Option 7: Hosting a food safety webinar exploring food safety as a human behavior issue, rather than a scientific or technical problem. Di

5. Food Innovation Team (FIT)

Jane Jewett, FIT Chair provided updates from the FIT meeting earlier today. Presented by Jane Jewett, MISA and Chair of FIT.

- a. January case – Discussed a not-for-profit food business based in North Dakota, food donations crossing the border, and North Dakota's "Community Spirit" license.
- b. Documentation updates – Discussed potential changes to the FIT SOP and other FIT documents. The FIT committee will be voting on updates during the March FIT meeting and will bring forward to the FSDTF.

6. Decree 248 – China's Facility Registration Requirements

Kate Meck, FDA CFSAN provided updates regarding Decree 248:

- Background: China is asking that the "competent authority" in exporting countries (i.e., FDA and USDA in the United States) must provide approval/registration for food facilities for 18 specific types of food products. This has not been categorized as a food safety requirement, but it appears China's rationale is that this process will give them more control over their imports.
- FDA is currently working with the General Administration of Customs (GAC) in China on this unprecedented requirement. FDA is also speaking with Canada and the EU on how they are handling the requirements.
- The General Administration of Customs People's Republic of China (GACC)

registration process is complicated and includes signed declarations and submission/uploading of a large body of documentation.

- [Food Export Library](#): The information listed on this page reflects CFSAN's current understanding of our trading partners' certification requirements for U.S. food exports.

7. Potential Agenda Items for January

- Updating Terms of Reference
- FSIS research presentation – <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/food-safety/food-safety-stats/consumer-research>
- FDA work on heavy metals in infant food
- FASTER Act; sesame as an allergen
- Hennepin County Climate Action Plan

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Attachment 1
Member Update - The Acheson Group
Ben Miller, Ph.D., MPH

MN FSDTF January 2022 Updates



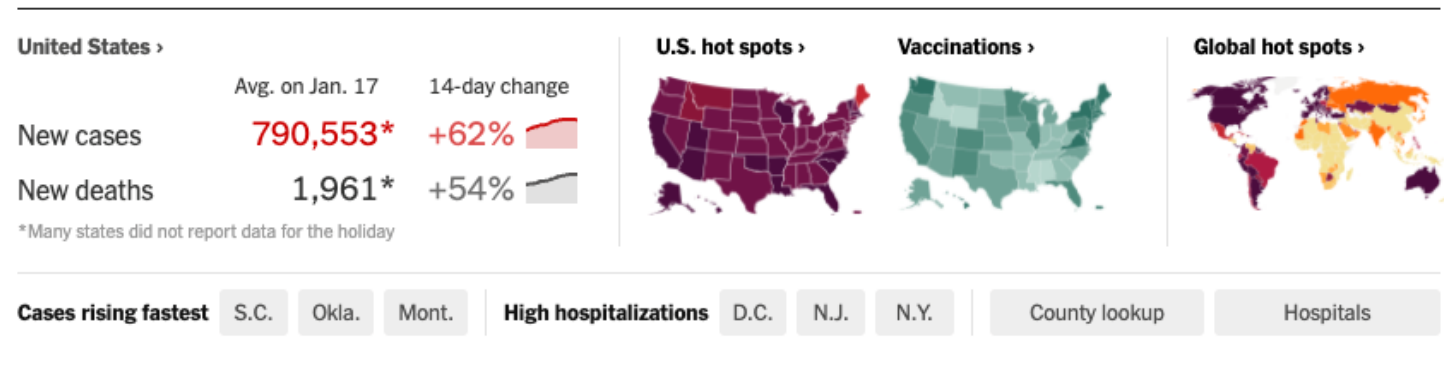
Ben Miller
January 18, 2022

Thoughts from 2021 and heading into 2022

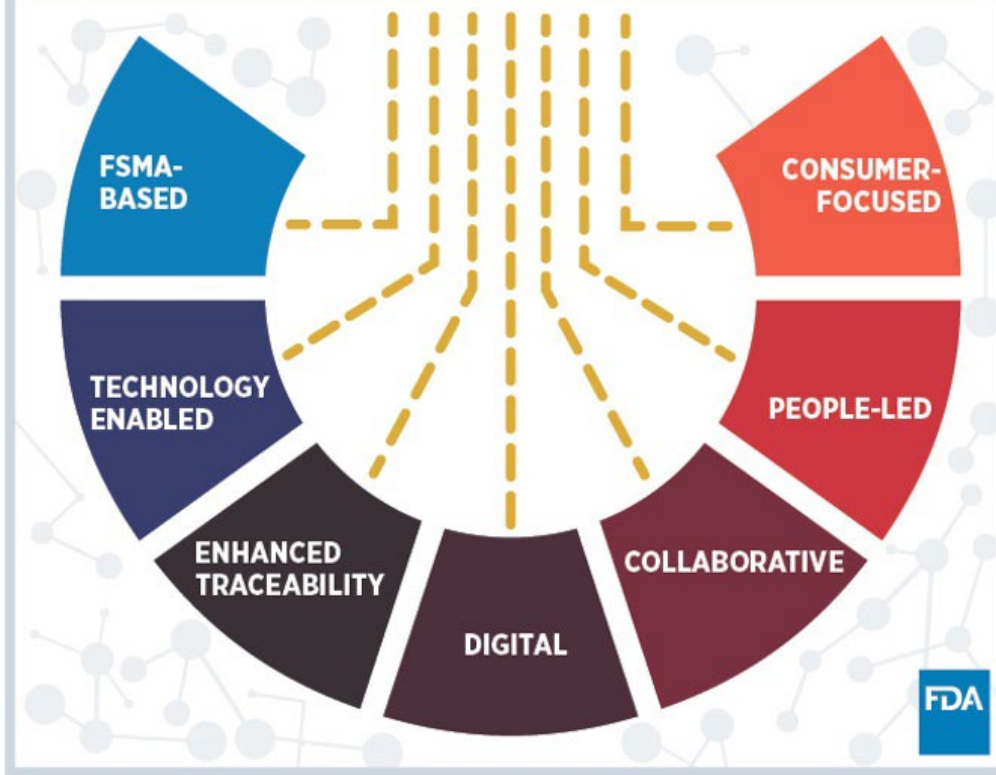
- Covid...Impacts to the industry and long-term implications on food safety
- Food Safety Culture
- Outbreaks
- Evolving Business Models

- Shifting mindset – “When will this be over?” to “How will do we operate during future surges?”
- Lack of regulatory inspections and third-party audits had food-safety implications
- Combination of supply-chain constraints, consumer demand, employee turnover, and quarantine and isolation requirements stressing all food-safety systems
- Take a significant time for the system to heal

Covid...



Together, a New Era of
Smarter Food Safety



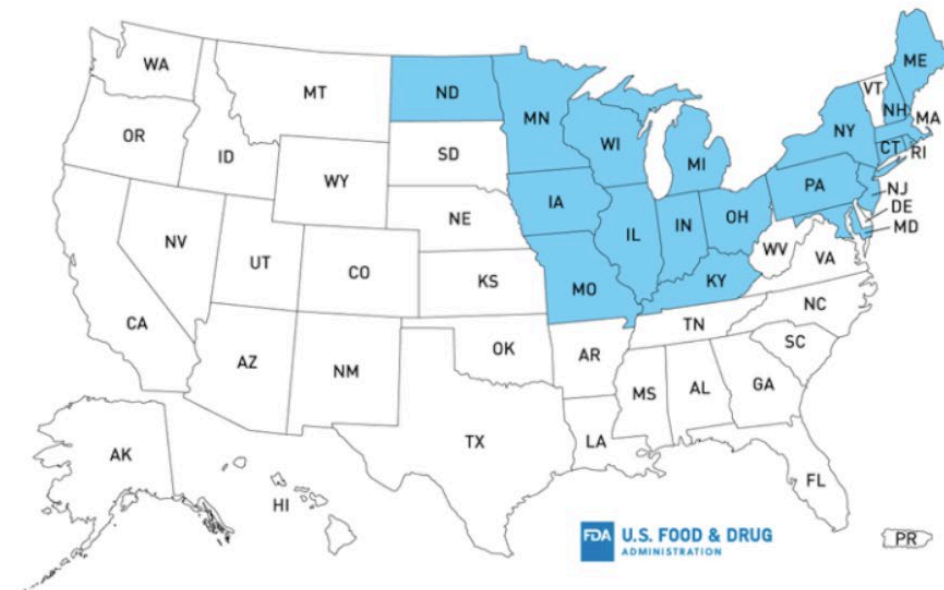
Food Safety Culture

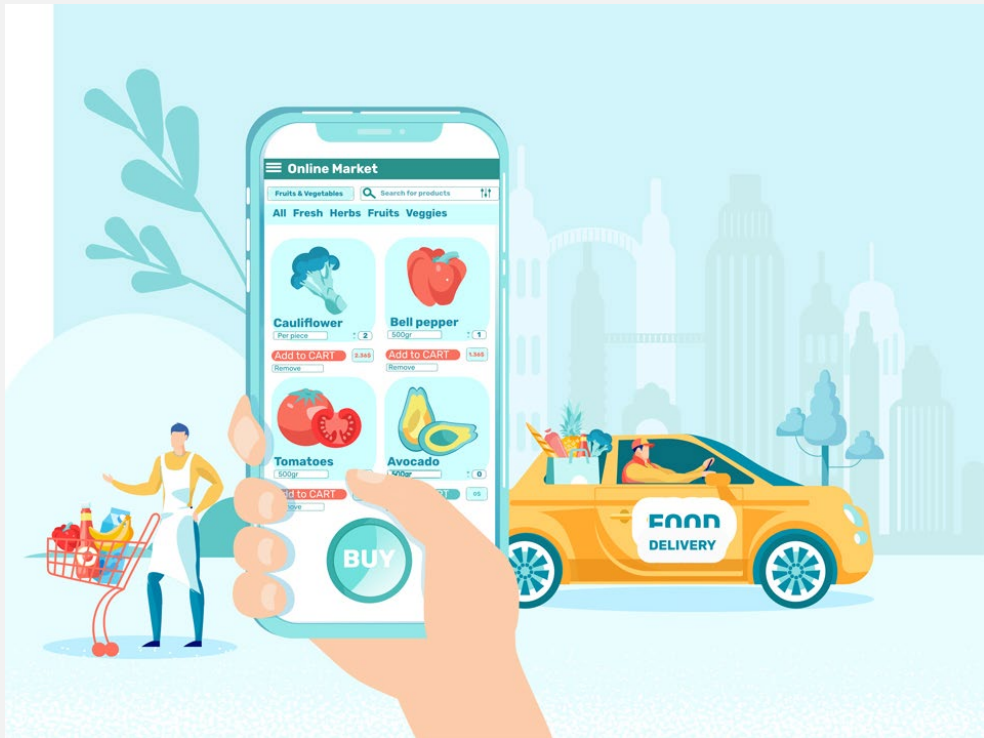
- True investment or the next NFT/Bitcoin of food safety?
- What does it actually mean and how do you create a healthy culture of food safety?

Outbreaks

- Leafy greens continue to cause problems
 - *Listeria*
 - Pathogenic *E.coli*
 - *Salmonella*
 - Onions
 - Controlled Environmental Agriculture
- Growing vs. processing environments
- In CA and AZ – land and water use policies are part of the root cause

U.S. Distribution of Recalled Packaged Salad





Evolving Business Models

- Controlled Environmental Agriculture
- Shifting Consumer Preferences
 - Online delivery
- Technology companies entering food without food safety knowledge

Thank you



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