Collecting & Sharing Education & Training Issues from OFRR and Other Farm Visits

The Produce Safety Rule (PSR) is a regulation promulgated to ensure a safe supply of produce to all stakeholders. It uses a preventive system-based approach that encompasses the areas of personnel qualifications and training, health, hygiene and sanitation, agriculture water, soil amendments, domesticated and wild animals and equipment, tools and buildings. NASDA has worked with various stakeholders that are subject to the FSMA Produce Safety Rule (PSR) as they transition from an unregulated business environment to one where they will be subject to significant regulations. Currently, NASDA is conducting On Farm Readiness Review (OFRR) training for State and Federal regulators and university extension staff. Once trained, these individuals will conduct voluntary reviews with farmers to assess their progress in implementing PSR food safety requirements. Numerous best practices that need to be captured, documented and communicated across all States are emerging as these trainings are taking place.

Charge: States, NASDA, and FDA will work together to establish a system to review trainings and other outreach activities in order to determine what was done well, what needs to be changed with future training and outreach activities, and what best practices need to be documented and communicated to other States to be utilized when conducting OFRR and other farm outreach visits. The information will need to be shared with appropriate other parties that can then develop this information into materials for training and educational programs – with the goal of all parties working toward and contributing to a safe food supply and meeting the Congressional and FSMA prevention goal.

These educational processes and materials should seek to foster consistent national policies, practices, processes, and systems when interacting with the farmer and to capture best practices and areas where current outreach and education material may be misunderstood. The Subgroup should consider:

1. Define the process of conducting After-Action Reviews subsequent to educational and other on-farm activities.
2. Share salient observations and recommendations to improve OFRR and inspectional processes, e.g., capture and share both best practices and areas to improve.
3. Define a uniform process for conducting After-Action Reviews and recommend the development of training or educational materials to enhance the likelihood of a safe food supply.
4. Develop uniform formats for documenting the information and best practices from the After-Action Reviews.
5. Develop a review process by subject matter experts to validate the recommendations from the After-Action Reviews.
6. Consolidate the recommendations from the After-Action Reviews and develop educational and outreach materials to be utilized by States.
7. Catalog the educational and outreach materials so that they may be utilized as needed.
8. Develop a process that would allow for similar input from other farm visits and inspections.