CSU Takes Farm-to-Table Approach to Food Safety



Food Safety Initiatives Centered at CSU

The food safety landscape is changing and that is definitely evident in Colorado. As the location of the deadliest produce-related outbreak ever documented and recent accountability consequences imposed on farmers, the importance of educating all food system participants and promoting practices to protect our food supply is very clear. CSU is striving to meet these demands with targeted research efforts and outreach materials to assist and educate food producers, retail food workers, health professionals, and consumers.

Centered in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition within the College of Health and Human Sciences, the Extension Food Safety Education team coordinates an extensive outreach network, contributes to academic food safety programs, and is involved in a variety of research projects.

Our Partners

- Colorado School of Public Health (CSPH)
- Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE)
- Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA)
- CSU College of Agriculture
 - o Department of Agriculture and Resource Economics
 - o Department of Animal Sciences
 - o CSU Extension Food Systems Team
- USDA FSIS (Food Safety Inspection Service)
- Produce Safety Alliance

Our Impact

- In 2013, there were over 887,000 website visits from more than a dozen countries to our Extension food safety fact sheets, totaling over 77,000 hours of viewing time, and over 17,000 Farm-to-Table Facebook visits
- The Extension Food Safety team oversees more than 170 volunteers, including Master Food Safety Advisor volunteers, contributing more than 2000 volunteer hours annually to Colorado communities
- Mass media interviews and releases reached millions of consumers in 2013

Our Projects

Center for Prevention of Foodborne Illness (CSU, CSPH, CDPHE, USDA)

This CSU designated Center, launched in 2013, provides the framework to foster collaborations among food safety professionals working in academia, government, and industry in Colorado and the Rocky Mountain region.



CSU Farm-to-Table Food Safety Website & Facebook (CSU Extension)

With a three-tiered approach of Grow-Prepare-Eat, this website provides current, readily accessible food safety education related to the farm-to-table continuum.



FSI (Food Source Information) Wiki CSU, CSPH, CDPHE)

CDPHE epidemiologist: "Clearly we're not the only epidemiologists who need fast, ready access to information about food production and agriculture. Other centers suggested topics that would be helpful in their region and a desire to use the wiki (interactive website) as well. Food Source Information may grow from the Rocky Mountain Region to a larger group."



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Tools for Improving On-Farm Food Safety Grower

Workshops 2013 Adams County & Tri River Area (CSU, CDA) A team of experts will present a curriculum designed to help growers develop strategies for managing on-farm food safety.



<u>Healthy Living with Chickens: Best Practices for Schoolyard and Backyard Chickens</u> (CSU, CSPH)

As part of a growing trend in urban-based agriculture, raising chickens has gained popularity and materials are needed to help ensure the health of the flock as well as those who provide their care.

Our Programs

CSU team members provide food safety trainings for:

- Retail food workers-FoodSafetyWorks, developed at CSU
- Retail food managers-ServSafe®, developed by National Restaurant Assoc.
- <u>Small-scale food producers</u>-Food Safety Training for Cottage Foods Producers, developed at CSU
- <u>Colorado fruit and vegetable farmers</u>-Good Agricultural Practices workshops, a collaboration between CSU, Cornell University, and the Produce Safety Alliance