

Food Safety

- I. What resources are currently available in the area of food safety?
 - a. Cornell University website
 - b. Cornell university training program
 - c. Familyfarm.org
 - d. Gaps workshop with UI extension
 - e. National Sustainable Ag Coalition
 - f. County and State departments of public health
 - g. USDA
 - h. State Department of Agriculture
 - i. UC-Davis
 - j. Leopold Center
 - k. Moses
 - l. PFI
- II. What resources are not available but should be?
 - a. Simple guide to Food Safety Modernization Act
 - b. Rich Shells— Guide to Illinois Laws Governing Direct Farm Marketing
 - c. Policy resources
 - d. Bi-lingual and bicultural food safety trainings
- III. How can we develop a message that can be used to engage policy makers, consumers, and the ag community in the interests of beginning farmers and ranchers?
 - a. Don't assume you're exempt
 - b. Food safety is everyone's responsibility—farmer and consumer
 - c. Farmers want to produce safe food but they want rules and regulations to be practical, affordable, and transparent
 - d. Adopt a legislature program, farm week for law makers
 - e. Utilize bloggers
 - f. Local tours of local farms for general public
- IV. Best practices—what works?
 - a. GAP training is successful when it's required
 - b. Illinois local food systems website
 - c. Integration of best management practices within farm plan/ risk management
 - d. Mock audits

- e. Cost share—department of ag, buyers
 - f. Gap and good handling practices and HACCP may allow for better insurance rates
 - g. Missouri farm Bureau commercial ag insurance policy—hybrid policy that bridges gap between small diversified and commercial scale
- V. What doesn't work (Best Practices)?
- a. Misinformation amongst those that aren't trained
 - b. Understaffed auditors, trainers and inspectors
 - c. No guarantee of protection or liability for producers, even if they are certified and have been audited
 - d. GAPS is all about who is to blame
 - e.
- VI. What needs to be explored?
- a. Assistance for diversified operations—plant and animal on the same farm
 - b. Small diversified farms—auditors have no mechanism for how to appropriately audit these farms
 - c. Farmers markets—counties not equipped with inspectors, skilled inspectors
 - d. Risk management strategies—if you're gap certified—insurance
 - e. Education to insurance companies (insurance auditors to verify lower risks due to gaps and better policies for producers)
- VII. Next steps
- a. Always engaging farmers about food safety
 - b. Inform our producers to be aware of policy and be engaged in policy opportunities
 - c. Continued education with updated information
- VIII. What does success look like?
- a. People will continue farm
 - b. People will develop interests in farming
 - c. Rules will be easily understood and easily followed—
 - d. Educated auditors and reliable insurance
 - e. Rules scaled appropriately to operation