



North Central Region

Center for FSMA Training, Extension
and Technical Assistance

5/31/2016

Jan Joannides
Renewing the Countryside
2637 27th Avenue South, Suite 17
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Dear Jan Joannides,

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the grant that is being submitted to Jodi Williams at USDA NIFA in the amount. The North Central Regional Center for FSMA Training, Extension, and Technical Assistance was selected by FDA to represent the 12 states (Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Ohio, and Wisconsin) in the Midwest region of the United States. The North Central Regional Center's specific aims are to:

- a) Establish a sustainable communication network connecting educators and grower/processors throughout the North Central Region (NCR) to facilitate collaboration for FSMA compliance training and build training capacity;
- b) Conduct a regional needs assessment and identify the gaps in knowledge for growers/processors and in educational tools/technical assistance for educators;
- c) Develop and implement a food safety program that addresses the needs of small-scale growers/processors and educators and provide region-specific technical and FSMA rule assistance in the NCR; and
- d) Use continuous evaluation of the impact of food safety training and technical assistance by the NCR Center for FSMA Training, Extension and Technical Assistance as feedback to improve training and other services.

You have identified two specific aims (a and c) as aligning with the NCR Center. Specifically your grant wishes to establish regional meetings within Minnesota and prepare case studies featuring small-scale growers and processors that can show growers how to be FSMA ready. You will have discussion among all of the stakeholders present will focus on problem-solving around integrating entrepreneurs' business models, FSMA, and state- and local-level licensing requirements. The discussion will be captured and refined into fact sheets and other documents that will be available on a website created by the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture. You will accomplish this through partnerships with government and non-profit bodies and current outreach networks.

Your goals support the NCR Centers efforts. We believe that partnership building and increasing the number of educators is important to building training capacity. We believe that understanding the needs of specific populations will aid in the development of more targeted and specific curricula and tools for that population. We believe that

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developing and implementing new food safety programs specific to a population will assist with the understanding of the FSMA Rule and assist with increasing compliance rates. And we believe that documentation of the impact (i.e. behavioral, attitude, and knowledge) of programs will assist with determining effectiveness of food safety interventions.)

Collaboration amongst educators and researchers is critical to develop effective and meaningful programs for our stakeholders. The NCR Center is committed to working with other groups, agencies, and organizations to ensure compliance with FSMA is met. I wish you the best in your application to USDA NIFA and look forward to working with you as we ensure our stakeholders achieve the necessary training to be compliant with FSMA regulations.

Sincerely,

Angela Shaw, PhD

Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist, Food Microbiology

Iowa State University, Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition

PD of the North Central Regional Center for FSMA Training, Extension, and Technical Assistance