

3. Joint Educational & Problem-Solving Forums 2x per year in 8 locations in MN - short term

SITUATION: Farmers, food entrepreneurs, food system advocates, and regulators in Minnesota have difficulty navigating complex food safety requirements in the FSMA and in state and local rules and regulations. Moreover, there is a disconnect in understanding around food safety practices and business innovations among these groups at the regional level.

Summary: MDA/MDH/Delegated staff and food entrepreneurs located in 8 regions of Minnesota hold in-person meetings twice per year to share information, work out food safety solutions, and build relationships within the region.

Ask: Funding is secured for meeting facilitation. MDA/MDH/Delegated Authorities facilitate meeting attendance by food inspectors operating in the regions and by state-level staff where appropriate. MDH and MDA assist with developing meeting schedule and securing venues.

INPUTS	OUTPUTS (Activities)	OUTCOMES		
		Knowledge	Actions	Conditions
<p>Funding to support travel, honoraria, food, etc.</p> <p>MDA/MDH/Delegated Authority leadership support for attendance by staff within the regions</p> <p>Commitment from MDA/MDH/Delegated Authority staff with regions to attend</p> <p>MDH Food Safety Partnership existing meeting infrastructure opened to this forum 2x/year</p> <p>MDH 8 regional offices opened to this forum 2x/year</p> <p>Meeting coordination/facilitation team managed by Renewing the Countryside</p> <p>Sustainable ag & local food organizations, trade associations willing to assist with outreach communications, logistics, hosting (MISA, MFMA, SFA)</p> <p>Food entrepreneurs committed to attending</p>	<p>FSMA curriculum and educational materials created</p> <p>Targeted outreach to food entrepreneurs to encourage attendance</p> <p>Targeted outreach to regional MDA/MDH/Delegated staff to encourage (require) attendance</p> <p>Development of food entrepreneur case studies within regions</p> <p>Development or compiling of resource documents based on feedback from the regional meetings</p> <p>Ongoing revision of meeting design/content based on evaluation & feedback by attendees</p> <p>Meeting agendas may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Presentations by food entrepreneurs about their businesses (case studies) * Panel discussions * Q & A from the field * Informal networking & discussion time * Presentations by regional regulators re: food safety issues and best practices * Problem-solving around licensing or food safety issues 	<p>Increased food entrepreneur knowledge and inspector knowledge including on issues of food safety and business practices</p> <p>Increased MDA/MDH/Delegated inspector and staff knowledge of food entrepreneur questions and concerns</p> <p>Increased food entrepreneur knowledge and reduced confusion around licensing and food safety</p>	<p>Coordination/alignment among food regulatory agencies within regions</p> <p>Apply increased knowledge of food safety (FSMA and state regulations) to business practices</p>	<p>Improved food entrepreneur perception/trust of MDA/MDH/Delegated Authority intentions</p> <p>Improved MDA/MDH/Delegated Authority perception of food entrepreneur willingness to comply with food safety provisions</p> <p>Increased efficiency for food inspectors fielding fewer points of confusion</p>
<p>ASSUMPTIONS: A two-way dialog learning method will lead to effective FSMA knowledge retention and implementation among farmers, food entrepreneurs, food system advocates, and regulators.</p>	<p>EXTERNAL FACTORS: The success of this project will depend on willingness of participants to engage by attending meetings and contributing during these meetings. Levels of fear around this topic will also affect project success.</p>			