

Food Safety and the National Good Food Network

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Food Safety and NGFN

- Motivation

- Advisory Council: “food safety issues a recurrent theme”
- NGFN regional lead teams doing food safety work
- Potential to effect ALL small- and mid-sized producers, *esp. those interested in scaling up*

Phase 1 Mission

1. Engage advisory council
2. Study and report on current food safety landscape
3. Make recommendations to the network

1. Engage Advisory Council

Current advisory council work in food safety is practical / hands-on

- On-farm training and verification of practices
- Get folks “on the ladder”
 - How to get farmers / food producers started on food safety
- Buyer and regulator requirements present a barrier

And also in dialog with ...

- Buyers / distributors
- Networks / organizers
- Farmer advocates

*Focus:
National / Regional*

- ... and, now, YOU!
 - As we move forward, we will continue to expand the conversation
 - (details soon...)

2. Current Food Safety Landscape

Current food safety environment is focused on:
Assuring buyers and satisfying consumers

- Chaotic
 - Conflicting mandates, redundant initiatives
- Upcoming legislation could help
 - ... but beware the law of unintended consequences

3. Make recommendations

1. Training for farmers in GAPs and food safety
2. Methods for certifying smaller farmers and groups of farms
 - in a cost and time effective fashion
3. Tools for self-assessment and farmer planning
 - especially on-line, and for underserved and minority farmers
4. Engagement to inform policy process
5. Education about federal initiatives
6. A food safety FAQ

NGFN Food Safety FAQ

- A primer on the intersection of food safety and policy
- A “living document”
 - Committed to updating as new information becomes available
 - Please contact us with your additions or comments
- **Available Now!**
<http://ngfn.org/foodsafety>

Moving Forward

Specific NGFN Activities in next 6 months:

- Monthly advisory council calls on food safety
 - Plus participation in these calls by the wider NGFN community
- Identify existing and needed farmer / food producer training tools
 - Send your resources to us! (contact@ngfn.org)
 - We will share tools with the NGFN community

Moving Forward (cont'd)

- Keep FAQ updated
- Continue work with other orgs
 - e.g. NSAC, NOC
- Present NGFN members with opportunities to comment at “public input sessions” (e.g. on policy)
- Perhaps future webinar(s) on food safety issues
- ... and TELL US: How can we most help YOU?
(contact@ngfn.org)

Other Presenters Today

- National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
 - Aimee Witteman, executive director
 - Ferd Hoefner, policy director
- Food and Water Watch
 - Patty Lovera, assistant director
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
 - Russell Libby, executive director