

VCFSA NEWS



Ventura County Food Safety Association

www.vcfsa.org

September 2020

September is National Food Safety Education Month!

Activate this [link](#) to the CDC Food Safety page. Take advantage of educational materials, CDC information, and partner information on food safety.

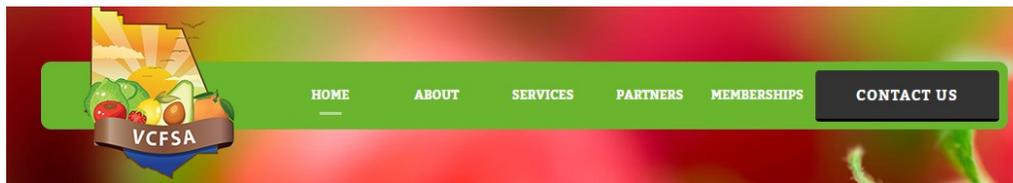
The VCFSA website has been updated and includes: links to partner websites, calendar of events, documents and news. Our new "Members Only" access link has all the general meeting presentations available since the onset of the association.

The August general meeting with Dr. Trevor Suslow is posted now.

There are open positions on the Board of Directors. If you want to get involved or simply have questions, please email Laura Miller at Lmiller@Limoneira.com.

Contact Us
For More Information

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www.vcfsa.org

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Food Safety and Local News

- If your supply chain is in an area with wildfires, you may see this orange [chemical](#) on your products.
- Visit the [WHO](#) site for sanitation and hygiene management of COVID-19.
- If you export food to [Canada](#), make sure your programs comply.
- Join United Fresh in the [Washington Virtual Conference](#) to lobby the country's leadership on our most pressing public policy matters.
- If your growers haven't already taken the [PSR class](#), the time is now. Inspections will start again soon.
- Food Safety control is essential in maintaining a healthful product. Read this [article](#).
- IAFP is holding their annual meeting virtually. [Sign up](#) to join thousands of food safety professionals for learning, sharing and networking.
- Nutrition Facts Label is changing. See the details [here](#).

Food Safety Has No Competition

New Era of Smarter Food Safety

It is my great privilege to join with you today to announce FDA's New Era of Smarter Food Safety Blueprint. We were originally going to make this announcement in March, but as you all are well aware, we were forced to turn our attention to addressing the public health emergency posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the months that have followed, it has become even clearer -- from our experiences with the pandemic and the lessons we have been learning as part of the FDA's response to it -- just how essential the actions outlined in this blueprint are and, if anything, that they are more important now, than ever.

Whatever theoretical or aspirational aspects there were to this blueprint before the pandemic, those have been propelled into concrete and essential action plans. I'll explain what I mean as I get into the details of just how we will be leveraging new technologies and approaches to create a more digital, transparent and safer food system.

I want to point out that food safety was high on my radar even before I'd come to the FDA. I'd heard about the New Era of Smarter Food Safety initiative and, upon arrived at the Agency, it was one of the first things I wanted to learn more about. That's in part because it seemed to align closely with the core values that have guided me in my work as a medical and public health professional: to apply the best medical science and most rigorous data to the work; to promote integrity and transparency; and to advance innovation and discovery.

So, when I arrived at the FDA last December, there was no doubt that some of the first people I wanted to speak with were the leaders of FDA's leadership on foods, Frank Yiannas, FDA's Deputy Commissioner for Food Policy and Response, Susan Mayne, the director of our Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Steve Solomon, the director of our Center for Veterinary Medicine, and Judy McMeekin, the Associate Commissioner for Regulatory Affairs.

These leaders highlighted the enormous opportunities we have to use cutting edge science and technology in support of our ability to help ensure the safety of the American public.

Stephen M. Hahn, M.D.
Commissioner of Food and Drugs—FDA

