

COVID-19: Farmers' Changes During the Pandemic

Angelina Harrison, *Market Umbrella*
Angelina@marketumbrella.org



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Market Umbrella

- **Crescent City Farmers Markets** – Producer-only farmers markets
- **Fresh food access incentive programs** – Market Match, Market Mommas, FMRx
- **Small business incubation** – Providing vendors with training and financial resources, connecting to and creating extra-market opportunities
- **Farm to School** – Marketeers, Meet Me at the Market, Harvesting for Health in Louisiana
- **Technical assistance** – providing assistance to markets and vendors

Celebrating 25 years of operation in 2020!

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Market Umbrella Pre-COVID Operations



- Six weekly, year round markets
- Four markets in Orleans Parish, two in Jefferson
- All fresh food access incentive programs offered at all markets



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Aggregated Home Delivery



Aggregated Home Delivery



Contactless Drive Thrus



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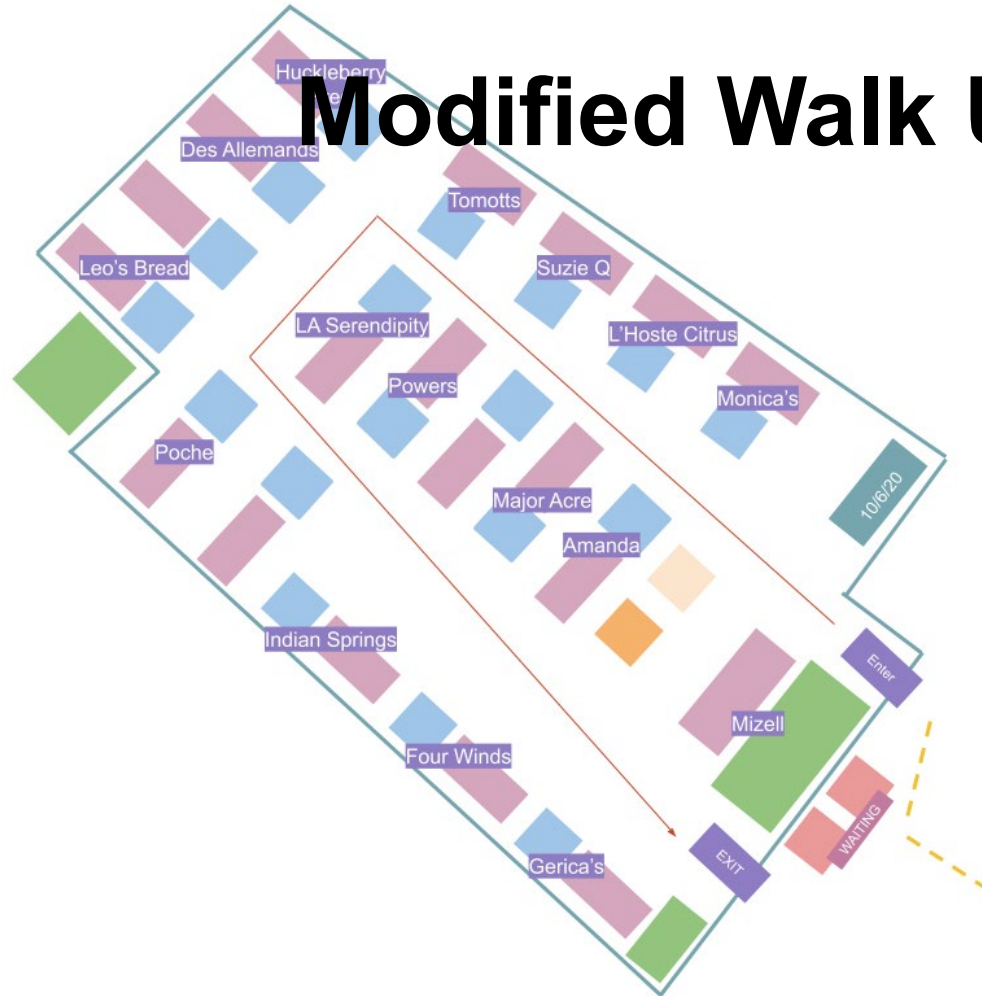


Contactless Drive Thrus





Modified Walk Up Market(s)



- Vendors required to submit stall plan conducive to social distancing
- Vendors widely spaced, crowd size limited
- Unidirectional customer flow
- Single isolated entry point, single isolated exit
- Masks required and offered
- Prominent signage throughout
- Hand sanitizing stations
- Contactless payment forms encouraged
- Customers can order and pay in advance

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Contact:

Angelina Harrison, Director of Markets

angelina@marketumbrella.org

504-451-1638



Emergency Inspections During Federal Shutdown



PRODUCE SAFETY
SCPRODUCESAFETY.COM

What Does a For-Cause Inspection Process Look Like During a Federal shutdown?

1. Complaint from DHEC (Local State Agency)
2. Contacted FDA partners for support for a For-Cause Inspection
3. FDA reviewed the complaint details and agreed to go forward with “Mission Critical”
4. Immediately scheduled inspection with the farm (19 hours after complaint)
5. On the farm inspection showed multiple problems that included condemning of produce
6. A warning letter was issued, and a follow-up inspection was scheduled within 30 days

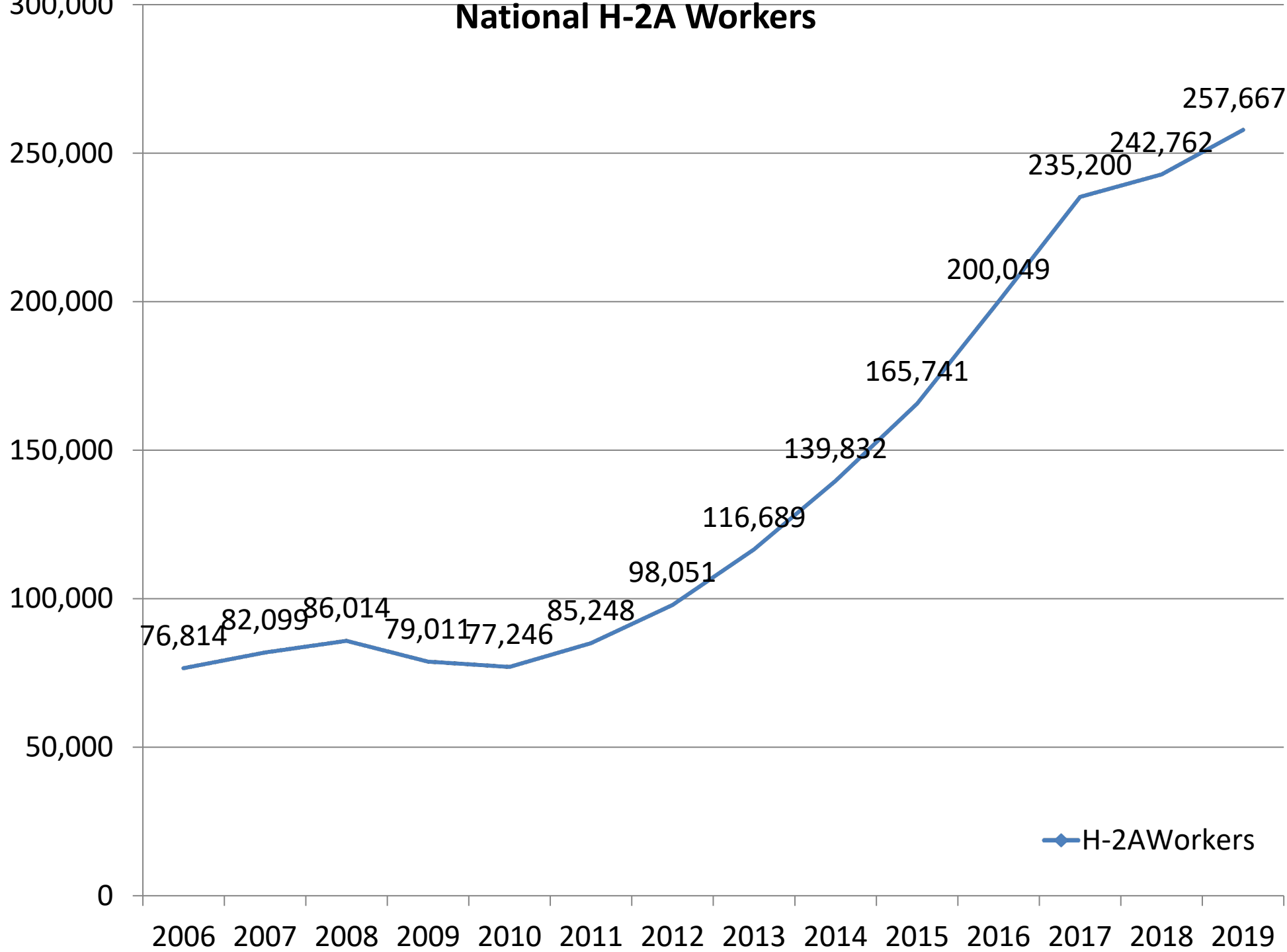
Complaint Details:

Black mold growing on containers that they store the lettuce in.

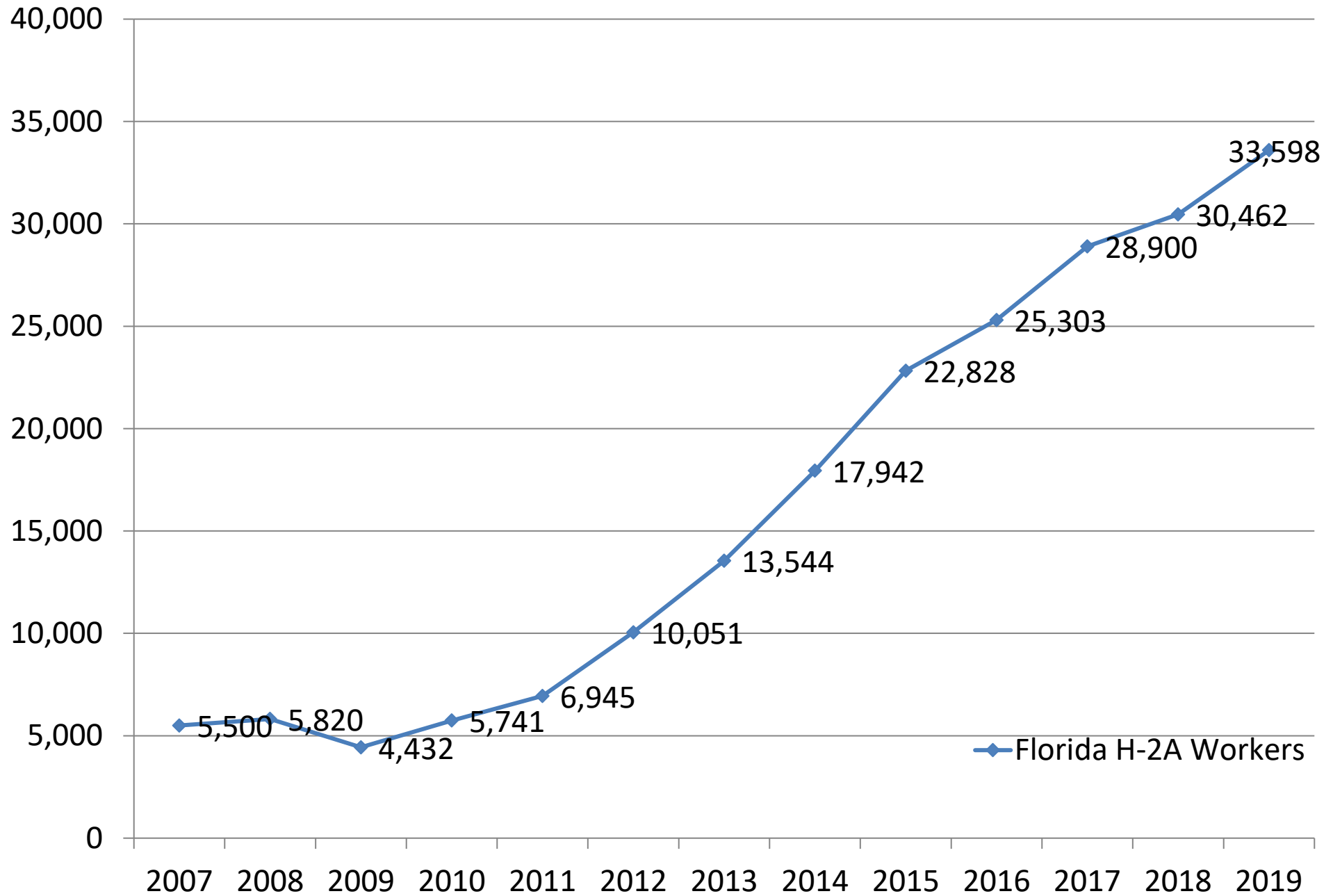
COVID-19 vs H-2A Program



National H-2A Workers



Florida H-2A Workers



Initial Issues & Solutions

- Consulate closures in Mexico
 - 90+% of H-2A workers are from Mexico
 - State Dept. adjusted processes to allow for expanded interview waivers
 - H-2A workers deemed ‘essential’ as a necessary part of food service industry



H-2A 2019 vs 2020

(Quarter 3 – April 1- June 30)

2019	2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications <p style="text-align: center;">2,948</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications <p style="text-align: center;">2,680</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positions <p style="text-align: center;">82,094</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positions <p style="text-align: center;">86,117</p>



August 18, 2010



Agritech 2010

Other Issues

- Difficulty in returning workers to some countries
 - Peru, Honduras, Guatemala, Paraguay
 - Jamaica: requires workers fill out a 6 page form when returning and isolates when communal living
- Some countries closed off
 - S. Africa: many grain combine workers are S. African and consulate there was closed



August 18, 2010

Agritech 2010

Financial Impact

- Added Costs
 - Reduction in bus capacity for transporting workers
 - Added housing costs for quarantining
 - Sanitizing busses and housing
 - Masks
 - Sanitizer
 - COVID-19 tests



Worker population & COVID (perspective)

- US Population – 330 million
- Estimate of farmworkers – 2.5 million
- Positive farmworker tests – 6,700
- Positive US tests – 6.4 million
- Farmworker positives are 0.104% of all US positives
- Farmworker positives are 0.268% of all farmworkers
- 6.4 million positive US tests are 2.207% of US population



Thank you!
Mike Carlton
Florida Fruit & Vegetable Assn.
mike.carlton@ffva.com





Training Challenges and Changes During Coronavirus Pandemic

SRIPS
October 6, 2020

Tommy Saunders
Produce Safety Alliance
Southeast Regional Extension
Associate

Produce Safety
ALLIANCE

Taking A Look On How Training Has Gone During The Pandemic

Outline:

- Highlighting changes due to switching to Remote Grower Training
- Challenges for trainers and grower participants
- Moving forward/ Silver Linings





Temporary Remote Grower Trainings



Produce Safety Alliance

Training | PSA Curriculum | Resources | News | Food Safety Modernization Act | The Alliance | Contact Us | PSA en español

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Temporary PSA Grower Training Course Policy Update

Remote Delivery Options During COVID-19 Outbreak

Version 2, Updated: March 26, 2020

Background

The PSA has been asked to consider temporary remote training options in the context of WHO, federal, and other guidance about geographic restriction and social distancing strategies to slow the spread of COVID-19. In response to these requests, the PSA has decided to temporarily amend its current policy for PSA Grower Training delivery. Currently, PSA Grower Training registrations are only approved for in-person courses. PSA prioritizes making sure growers who need to meet § 112.22(c) have access to a course in a way that is consistent with efforts to reduce public health impact of COVID-19. It is imperative that courses be available, provided for growers in a high-quality manner, and that they do not increase public health risks. The policies outlined below provide options for remote delivery. They include detailed requirements that must be followed if the PSA Grower Training Course is delivered remotely. The [PSA Team](#) is available to support remote delivery and to answer any questions.

Policy Amendment

The PSA is temporarily allowing remote delivery of PSA Grower Training Courses during the COVID-19 pandemic. **This policy will be in effect until May 31, 2020, with the potential for extending this date pending updates on the pandemic.** PSA will rigorously review course evaluations under this temporary policy. PSA reserves the right to revise or rescind the remote delivery option for individual trainers or teams should evaluations indicate this is in the best interest of training participants. Course registrations beyond May 31, 2020 should be based on an in-person delivery (with a physical training address) unless further guidance indicates an extension is needed to allow continuation of remote training delivery. This policy only applies to the delivery of PSA Grower Training Courses.

What You Should Do Now (For Trainers)

TEMPORARY REMOTE DELIVERY POLICY QUICK LINKS

- PSA Grower Training Course Registration Form
- Temporary Remote Delivery Policy FAQ
- Grower Manual Order Form for

- Offer courses completely remote
- Temporary format due to pandemic
- Extended to April 30, 2021
 - Pandemic pending



Remote PSA Grower Training

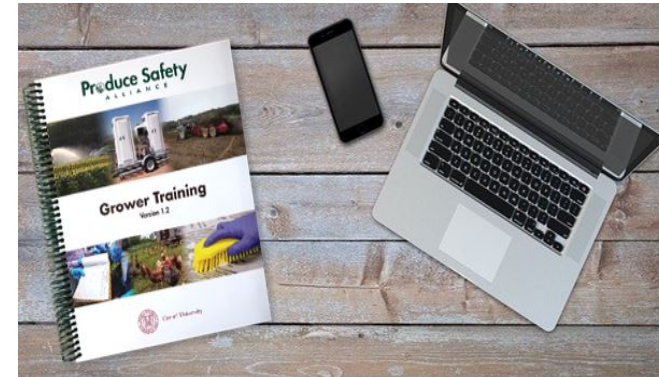
Changes:

- Most are unable to host in-person PSA GT
- Quick push to offer remote and online courses
 - Necessary to have trainings available
- New set of responsibilities for Lead Trainers & Trainers



Response to Change by PSA

- Creation of a Remote Grower Training Policy
 - Highlights on PSA website:
 - Updates
 - Registration
 - Remote delivery options
 - Requirements
 - PSA Policy FAQ
- Educator Calls, Webinars, Co-training, Office Hours



<https://producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu/training/covid-19-outbreak-temporary-policy/>



New set of responsibilities for Lead Trainers & Trainers to consider

While we focus on what has changed, it is important to highlight that the PSA GT curriculum has stayed the same!

Considerations as you plan your training:

- Choosing a web interface
- Multi-day vs. Single-day course
- Training team preparation
- Tailoring to your audience



Challenges



1. Technology Requirements
 - Grower Participants & Trainers

1. Grower Training Participant Engagement
 - Participant attendance

2. Remote Training Fatigue
 - Multi-day vs. Single-day training
 - Grower options



Technology



Audio/Visual Connectivity

Technical Support

- Designated individual or member of the team not presenting that could help manage participant connectivity issues
 - Manage the chat box
- Ability to work with growers that have issues with bandwidth and cannot keep their camera on for entirety of the course



Technology

Take advantage of the Policy FAQ

11. Can more than one course attendee share one computer and audio/visual equipment?

Yes, though social distancing is recommended. Each course participant must have their own printed manual even if they are sitting at the same computer for the presentations. Their video must be able to capture all participants at the location so the course monitor can verify their participation. Each course attendee should fill out the evaluation separately, even if they are participating in the course from the same location.

12. Do I have to have visual confirmation of participants at all times during the course?

All participants must have the ability to use the audio and video features during the training. The PSA recognizes that having the video functionality may present bandwidth challenges, and therefore PSA Lead Trainers, PSA Trainers, and the course monitor may choose one of the alternative approaches listed below to ensure participants are present and engaged during all modules.

- Video checks at beginning, middle, and end of modules to ensure all participants are present and engaged. If individuals are missing during these video checks, they should not be eligible for a certificate.
- Use of non-verbal feedback functionalities built into the web interface, if available. For example, trainers can ask a question that requires each participant to answer with yes or no. This technology must be able to identify individual participants so the course monitor can ensure all participants are present.



Engagement

How do we ensure to grower participants stay engaged?

Functions in Zoom:

- Annotate
- Non-verbal feedback
- Polls
- Chat Box
- Un-mute and talk

True or False: Wash water that contains a sanitizer will remove or kill all pathogens on the surface of the produce.

True = yes

False = no

What does the Pr for water used in activities on cover

126 or less CFU generic *E. coli* per 100 mL sample geometric mean

126 or less MPN generic *E. coli* per 100 mL sample geometric mean

Polly Pumpkin

yes no go slower go faster more



Preventing remote training fatigue

Sitting behind the Computer can be a long and tiring day for anyone!

Choosing the length of course that works for your training team and growers:

- Multi-day vs. Single-day
- Breaks
- Insertion of videos
- Demonstrations



Infiltration



What's Next/ Silver Linings

- Temporary policy extended to April 30, 2021
 - Potential to extend policy depending on COVID-19 and travel status
- Areas that may have benefited due to the pandemic
 - travel for trainers and participants
 - ease for access to courses for some growers, though not for all
 - Multi-state collaborations and ability to cross train
 - Effective use of polling questions



Let's Hear From You!

- Any questions?
- Any of our trainers on the call have anything they would like to add?

