



North Carolina Food Safety and Defense Task Force

www.ncfoodsafetytaskforce.com

Established 2003

Wednesday, July 12, 2023 - 9:30AM (EST)

**NC Department of Health and Human Services / Division of Public Health
5605 Six Forks Road
Raleigh, NC 27609
Building 3
Eagle Room on the 3rd floor**

Zoom information:

<https://ncsu.zoom.us/j/94313227881?pwd=a05MNG0xR3huOXp6YzBOYmNjUDBZQT09>

Meeting ID: 943 1322 7881

Passcode: 619614

- I. Welcome, Introductions, & Membership Engagement- Sarah Cope, Chair**
 - New attendee introductions
 - Several new attendees
 - “Meet me in 3” member introduction
 - Thomas Parrott, Emergency Management Planner, NC Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management
 - Raena Cing-Cabrera, Emergency Management Planner, NC Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management

- II. Minutes Approval**
 - March 8, 2023 meeting minutes approval
 - Motion: Marvin Lackman
 - Second: Nicole Lee

- III. Outbreak Update**
 - No reported outbreaks

- IV. Business**
 - Committee reports:
 - a. Executive Committee- **Sarah Cope, NCDA&CS**
 - i. Incoming Chair elections will be held at the August EC meeting and Chair rotations will take effect at the September 13th Task Force meeting
 1. If you’d like to nominate yourself or someone else to be the new Incoming Chair please send me an email at sarah.cope@ncagr.gov
 - ii.
 - b. Food Emergency Response and Communication (FERC)- **Sean Silva, NCDA&CS**
 - Van’s International Foods Recall for Gluten Free Frozen Waffles. Product was recalled due to undeclared wheat. Stores in NC were Impacted and recall effectiveness checks are being conducted.
 - Mondelez Global LLC Recall for belVita Breakfast Sandwich Products, Product is being recalled due to undeclared peanuts. Stores in NC were Impacted and recall effectiveness checks are being conducted.

- Ziyad Brothers Importing Recall for Jameed Soup Starter. The product is being recalled due to undeclared milk. Stores in NC were Impacted and recall effectiveness checks are being conducted.

Updates from other agencies:

- Marvin, with the Meat & Poultry Division, reported that stores in North Carolina had been impacted by the Mitten Gourmet, LLC Recall for Ready-to-Eat Pork Rind Products. The product was recalled due to being Produced without Benefit of Inspection. He also reported that NC was impacted by the House of Raeford Recall for Foster Farms Brand Mini Chicken Corn Dog Products Due to Possible Spoilage.
- Our industry partners (Food Lion and Publix) will inform us if they are impacted by any of the recalls that come out.
- Public Health, FDA, and Environmental Health had no updates during the calls.
 - i.
 - c. Crop/Produce- **Chris Harris, NCDA&CS**
 - i. 2023-209 Farm visits: 209 Produce Safety Rule visits and inspections, goal is to increase in 2024, focus on cleaning, safety and record keeping
 - d. Conference Planning Committee 2023- **Lynette Johnston, NCSU**
 - i. Conference recap Sarah gave update on survey results
 - ii.
 - e. Task Force Education and Exercise Committee- **Candice Christian, NCSU**
 - i. September will be Produce Safety Task Force update, November Nicole Lee
- Other reports:
 - Academic Reports: Chip Simmons announced new NCSU chancellor Guy Fox
 - Industry Reports: none
- Agency Reports: Shane Smith discussed two new Bills that were recently signed into law: [Session Law 2023-65](#) (House Bill 190) includes a provision in Section 9.1 that modifies the educational requirements for Registered Environmental Health Specialists (REHS). The amendments ease the educational requirements, allowing for more eligible REHS candidates, and are more consistent with the National Environmental Health Association's REHS credential requirements. Thanks to the NC Association of Local Health Directors, NC Environmental Health Supervisor's Association, and the State Board of Environmental Health Specialist Examiners (REHS Board) for supporting this effort. Please note that this provision is effective on **October 1, 2023**.
- [Session Law 2023-90](#) (House Bill 628) provides that an individual with an Associate's degree and 15 hours of sciences is eligible to become a Registered Environmental Health Associate (REHA). A REHA must be registered by the REHS Board, successfully complete Centralized Intern Training, and be authorized by the Department to carry out limited environmental health duties (refer to the law for the list of duties) . A REHA is also required to complete continuing education requirements, which will be determined in REHS Board rule amendments. The REHA section is effective **May 1, 2024**.
 - Daniel Gaines discussed the upcoming AFDOS meeting
 -
- Additional business

V. Speaker Topic: Recap of the 2023 Conference for Food Protection

- Panelists:
 - a. Shane Smith, NC Department of Health and Human Services

- b. Veronica Bryant, NC Department of Health and Human Services
- c. Ellen Shumaker, NC State University
- d. Chris Rupert, Compass Group USA
- e. Amber Daniels, Mecklenburg County Environmental Health
- f. Thomas Jumalon, NC Department of Health and Human Services

VI. Adjournment

- Motion: Shane Smith
- Second: Daniel Gaines

NOTE: Our next full Task Force meeting is September 13th at 9:30am. Our regular meetings are scheduled for every 2nd Wednesday of the next odd-numbered month. If you have any questions, or would like to join the Executive Committee, please reach out to Sarah Cope, Shane Smith, or Lynette Johnston. The Executive Committee meets on the 2nd Wednesday of every even-numbered month. The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for August 9th at

9:30am.