



North Carolina Food Safety and Defense Task Force

www.ncfoodsafetytaskforce.com

Established 2003

Wednesday January 12, 2021 - 9:30AM (EST)
Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome, Introductions, & Membership Engagement** – Lynette Johnston
 - A. New attendee introductions
 - a. Ben Bailey- FBI Charlotte, coordinator for Matt Perkins
 - b. Kate Nicholas- NC State's Food Safety Extension Office
 - c. Amanda Osteen- New State Liaison with HAFE3 (ATL-DO)
 - d. Jason Smith- FBI TFO, Wilmington RA; work with Matt and Ben as an assistant WMD Coordinator
 - B. Meet Me in 3: Amber LaRose (NC Department of Public Safety)
 - a. Amber, Human Services Planner at North Carolina Department of Public Safety in Emergency Management
 - b. Aid with life sustaining services after an emergency event
 - c. Rely on collaborators and assist county partners
 - C. Speed Networking Proposed Topic: How have recent changes/proposals to food safety policies or regulations impacted you?
 - a. Support with understanding the adoption of the 2017 Food Code
 - b. OSHA Temporary standard for Covid-19 Testing
 - c. County purchased norovirus test kits
 - d. Coaching and support through the adoption of the 2017 Food Code has been great for education regarding handwashing and not working while sick
 - e. County working on food allergen posters
 - f. Positive feedback on vomit and diarrhea protocols from NCSU
- II. **Minutes Approval:**
 - A. September Meeting Minutes (approve revision: Jeff Hawley is with Harris Teeter)
 - a. Motion to approve: Veronica Bryant
 - b. Second: Nicole Lee
 - B. November Meeting Minutes
 - a. Motion to approve: Shane Smith
 - b. Second: David Buckley
- III. **Outbreak Update**
 - A. Nicole Lee: Reported and confirmed cases of *Salmonella Javiana*; cause is yet to be released; We heavily rely on the assistance and collaboration of our partners on this call and within the Food Safety and Defense Task Force, so thank you for all you do and reiterate the importance of this group
 - B. CDC CORE Investigation Outbreak Table: https://www.fda.gov/food/outbreaks-foodborne-illness/investigations-foodborne-illness-outbreaks?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery
- IV. **Business:**
 - A. Committee reports:
 - Executive Committee – **Lynette Johnston**
 - i. The Executive Committee meets on the second Wednesday of the even numbered months at 9:30am; reach out to Lynette or Sarah if you are interested in joining

- ii. At the December Executive Committee Daniel Gaines proposed to sunset the Dairy Committee and Egg and Poultry Committee; this was discussed and approved by the Executive Committee; it was determined these reports were redundant with what is reported by FERC committee so you will notice the agenda has been modified to reflect these changes
 - iii. The Executive Committee discussed and is working on planning the Annual Conference
- **FERC – Food Emergency Response and Communication (FERC) sub-committee– Sean Silva, NC Dept. of Ag (NCDA&CS)**
 - i. Kraft Heinz is recalling batches of powdered Country Time Lemonade, Kool-Aid, Tang and Arizona Tea due to the potential presence of small metal and glass pieces in the powder; recall effectiveness checks were conducted
 - ii. Dream Pops is voluntarily recalling select Dream Pops Bites products as they may contain undeclared milk; recall effectiveness checks were conducted
 - iii. Howling Cow Butter Almond Ice Cream Pints due to undeclared soy and wheat, containers of the Howling Cow Butter Almond Ice Cream contained Cookie Dough Ice Cream, The pints were sold in North and South Carolina Harris Teeter stores; recall effectiveness checks were conducted
 - iv. Dole Fresh Vegetables Announces Voluntary Recall for Salads Processed at Its Bessemer City, NC and Yuma, AZ Facilities Due to Possible Health Risk from *Listeria monocytogenes*; recall effectiveness checks conducted- responses are trickling in due to this occurring over the holiday season and due to employee shortages however, most of the product was already expired and already off the shelf
 - v. Collaborated with the NC Division of Public Health regarding the Salmonella *Salmonella Oranienburg* and *Salmonella Javiana* investigations
- **Crop/Produce – Chris Harris, NCDA&CS**
 - i. The NCDA&CS Produce Safety Program is continuing with inventory verification to identify produce farms and help them to determine if they are covered by the Produce Safety Rule, their farm size, if they are exempt, or if they are not covered by the Produce Safety Rule
 - ii. Continuing to offer On-Farm Readiness Reviews- two scheduled
 - 1. An OFRR is a voluntary, educational, non-regulatory, and confidential review of a farm's readiness for compliance with the Produce Safety Rule. OFRRs provide farmers with information and resources to assist in meeting the requirements of the PSR and prepare for inspections.
 - 2. Any farm, no matter their coverage under the Produce Safety Rule, can participate in an OFRR
 - iii. Thus far we have conducted 49 inspections, including one earlier this week
 - iv. Discussion points from Inspections and OFRRs:
 - 1. Growers need to attend PSA Grower Trainings
 - 2. Shared harvesters- training documentation and farm specific activities
 - 3. Harvest containers contacting the ground and how that can be a potential route of cross contamination through hand contact
 - v. No complaints or complaint follow ups recently
 - vi. Educational farm visits are ongoing
 - vii. The team recently attended Southeast Regional Fruit and Vegetable Conference in Savannah, GA and attended all of the Food Safety Sessions, topics included:
 - 1. Hygienic Design of Equipment, environmental monitoring, hard to clean food contact surfaces, Cyclospora, outbreaks, Ag Water Rule from FDA, Inspector panel, well water, food safety risk assessments, etc.

- viii. Upcoming events the team will be participating in: 2022 Southeastern Apple Growers Annual Meeting, 2022 Southern Farm Show, 54th Annual Meeting and Winter Vegetable Conference and Trade Show
 - ix. Chip Simmons: The NC Fresh Produce Safety Task Force hosted a Reconnect and Refocus Meeting in December for its members and those interested in joining the Task Force; great way to reconnect and plan for the year ahead; had speakers present including Joe Reardon and Bob Ehart with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture as well as Dr. Daniel Tregagle and Dr. Blake Brown with NC State University Agricultural and Resource Economics Department, at the Steve Troxler Agricultural Sciences Center
 - Conference Planning Committee - **Veronica Bryant/Lynette Johnston/Sarah Cope**
 - i. **2022 Annual Conference: May 10-11, 9:00am to 1:00pm- SAVE THE DATE**
 - ii. New Era of Smarter Food Safety and how it directly impacts us in NC
 - 1. The planning committee will begin contacting speakers shortly
 - iii. The conference will be free of charge, virtual attendance, two half days
 - iv. Information will be available on the website once it is confirmed and the planning committee will send save the dates to the various listservs shortly
 - v. Please send Veronica, Lynette, and/or Sarah with speaker or topic suggestions
 - vi. Diversey, David Buckley, will be providing sponsorship
 - 1. Please reach out if you would also like to sponsor the meeting
 - Task Force Education and Exercise Committee – **Candice Christian, NC State University**
 - i. Thanks to Tom Beam for being our guest speaker today, we are all looking forward to your presentation
 - ii. Still searching for a guest speaker for March 9th, 2022
 - 1. If you have any suggestions please reach out to Candice, Lynette, or Sarah
 - iii. FBI Headquarters will be the guest speaker for July 13th, 2022
- B. COVID Updates from All Stakeholders
- A. Michelle Howard, FDA: FDA has reinstated a pause on routine surveillance inspections at this time, expires January 20th, 2022 but may be reevaluated at that time; FDA is still doing mission critical at this time
 - B. Lindsey Kueffner, Carolinas Food Industry Council: labor shortages due to COVID causing issues and impacting supply chain and product outage issues within the retail industry; CFIC is working with the retail industry to help fill the need and make sure shoppers are safe
 - C. Nicole Lee, NC Division of Public Health: Communicable disease branch, volume of cases is astonishing
- C. Other reports:
- Academic Reports
 - i. Lynette: Classes have started with encouraged face to face attendance so everyone is wearing masks
 - ii. Chip: As some of you may know Dr. Chris Gunter recently left NCSU to join the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) as professor and chair of the Horticultural Sciences Department; this was a big loss for NCSU and the search has commenced for his replacement; the position will be filled with a vegetable production specialist so there sadly may not be as much emphasis on food safety in the role moving forward
 - Industry Reports
 - i. None
 - Agency Reports
 - i. Shane Smith, DHHS Food Protection and Facilities Branch: Back to normal business operations; several rules are going through adoption- there are fiscal notes for

review and rule re-adoption workgroups picking up; we welcome a new member to the staff; in the final process for interviewing and hiring one additional staff member as well

1. If you are interested in participating in one of the rule re-adoption workgroups please reach out to Shane

D. Additional business

A. Tommy Hyatt, FDA: In regards to a food defense question that was brought up during the breakout session, the FDA will be hosting a joint criminology and epidemiology class in order to bring public health and law enforcement (2-day course with mock scenarios) together to work through case studies together and establish networking and collaborations prior to an event occurring; we hosted one of these classes 2-3 years ago in Raleigh and would like to host another late spring of 2022 and would love the support and advertisement of the class through the Task Force

V. Speaker – Tom Beam: NC Baptists on Mission, Emergency Services Response in NC

A. Disaster Relief

VI. Adjournment: 10:57AM

A. Motion to adjourn: Chip Simmons

B. Second: Nicole Lee

VII. Attendance

Name:	Date: Wednesday, January 12, 2022
Alexandria Rimmer	
Alexis Welch	
Alice Isley	X
Allison Sain	
Alyssa Barkley	
Amanda Osteen	
Amber LaRose	X
Andre C. Pierce	
Anna Allen	
Anne Lowry	
Ashley Miles	
Ben Bailey	X
Ben Chapman	
Beth Frith	
Betsy Meeks	
Cameron Howell	
Candice Christian, <i>Executive Committee, Member</i>	X
Carla Catalán Day	
Carla Pressley	X
Christopher Harris	X
Chuck Martin	
Courtney Matthews	
Dan Tew	X
Daniel Gaines	
Danny Thornton	X
David Buckley, <i>Executive Committee, Member</i>	X
Debbie Hamrick	
Diane Ducharme	
Donna Wanucha	

Ellen Reynolds	X
Felissa Vazquez	X
Garry Freeman	
Genevieve Sinclair	
Gordon (Ross) Jackson	
Hannah Byers	X
Harold Jernigan	
Hillary Waldroop	X
Holly Haire	
James Ball	
James Thomas Jumalon	
Jamie Stamey	
Jason Smith	X
Jaymin Patel	
Jeff Hawley	
Jeff Suggs	X
Jennifer Hatley	X
Jessica Badour	
Jessica Zetlau	
Joan Sims	
JoAnn Pittman	X
Joe Doster	X
John Zeberan	X
Julie Schlegel	
Karen Beck, <i>Executive Committee, Member</i>	
Kate Nicholas	X
Katelynn Rollins	X
Kevin Hardison	
Kristine Markulin	
Larry Michael, <i>Executive Committee, Member</i>	
Lee-Ann Jaykus	
Lindsey Kueffner	X
Lisa Benton	
Lisa Halbedl	
Lisa McCoy	X
Lisa Morgan	
Lynette Johnston, <i>Executive Committee, Chair</i>	X
Mark A Kenion	
Marvin Lackman	
Mary Yavelak	
Matthew Perkins	X
Meg McGuire	X
Michele Howard	X
Michelle Bouchey	
Miranda Roehrig	
Monica T. Kiker	X
Neeti Karmacharya	X
Nicole Clausen	
Nicole Lee, <i>Executive Committee, Past Chair</i>	X
Nykesse Roberts	
Otto "Chip" D. Simmons, III, <i>Executive Committee, Member</i>	X
Peter Sloane	
Rachel McDowell	
Reagan Converse	
Rick Barney	

Roger Mozingo	
Rose Hoban	
Sandra Bridges	
Sandra Saunders	
Sarah Cope, <i>Executive Committee, Chair Elect</i>	X
Sean Silva, <i>Executive Committee, Member</i>	X
Shane Smith, <i>Executive Committee, Member</i>	X
Steve Tracey, <i>Executive Committee, Member</i>	
Susan M. Thompson	
Tammra Morrison	X
Terri Ritter	
Thomas Jumalon	X
Todd Taylor	X
Tommy Hyatt	X
Traci Stevens	
Valerie Lott	
Veronica Bryant, <i>Executive Committee, Past Chair</i>	X
Warren Richardson	
Wilbur Huggins	X

NOTE: Our next full Task Force meeting is scheduled for March 9 at 9:30am (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 Veronica Bryant, Lynette Johnston or Sarah Cope. The Executive Committee meets on the 2nd Wednesday of every even-numbered month (The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for February 9 at 9:30am.)
