



# North Carolina Food Safety and Defense Task Force

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Established 2003

**Wednesday, November 13, 2024 - 9:30AM (EST)**

**4400 Reedy Creek Rd.  
Raleigh, NC 27607**

**Teams Link:**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

**I. Welcome, Introductions, & Membership Engagement- Candice Christian, Chair**

- New attendee introductions
  - Monkless Ghaly – FDA CSO
  - Corrin Howard – Publix
  - Christina Kostrzebski – NCDA
  - Melissa Lombardi – New Hanover EHD
  - Nicole Lyons – FDA CSO
  - Jhakeim Seaberry – FDA CSO
  - Traci Stevens – Richmond EHD

**II. Minutes Approval**

- September 11, 2024, meeting minutes approval
  - Motion: Daniel Gaines
  - Second: Joan Sims

**III. Outbreak Update**

- Nicole Lee: No Updates

**IV. Business**

- Committee reports:
  - Executive Committee- **Sarah Avery, NCDA&CS**
    - i. Held emergency executive committee meeting on 10/2 and 10/9 to discuss Hurricane Helene response activities. Emergency water use, emergency operating plans, resource sharing and supporting food safety in the affected region were topics of discussion.
  - Food Emergency Response and Communication (FERC)- **Sean Silva, NCDA&CS**
    - i. FDPD Recalls - F&D Update:
      - Treehouse Foods recalled pancakes and waffles due to potential Listeria monocytogenes contamination.
      - Reser's Fine Foods recalled a limited number of meal kits due to recalled chicken from ingredient supplier, Bruce Pac due to potential Listeria monocytogenes contamination.
      - HP Hood LLC recalled refrigerated Lactaid milk due to possible almond allergen.

- Discussed Hurricane Helene damage assessments conducted initially by phone and eventually in the field on site.
- c. Crop/Produce- **Chip Simmons, NCSU and Chris Harris, NCDA&CS**
- The Produce Task Force has a new meeting format.
  - Discussed recovery efforts in Western NC in the October meeting.
  - Discussed Hurricane Helene efforts.
  - Upcoming Produce Safety Conference in Greensboro on 12/12/24. The new water provisions will be a topic of interest for discussion.
- d. Conference Planning Committee 2025 – **Sarah Avery, NCDA&CS**
- A location for the conference has not been determined yet.
  - Save the date in May 2025.
- e. Task Force Education and Exercise Committee- **Candice Christian, NCSU**
- Contact Sara or Candice for potential speakers.
- Other reports:
    - Academic Reports
      - i. NCSU - Chip Simmons: Extension is working together to help Western NC by organizing strike teams. Hay distribution is the largest need.
      - ii. NCSU – Lynette Johnston: NCDA (Food and Grade A Milk) management provided the inspectors course students a demonstration of conducting an inspection on site at two different manufacturing facilities. FDA personnel presented material to students on the experiences of being a Consumer Safety Officer (CSO). NCSU is providing a webinar for food businesses on restoration and sanitation considerations after a natural disaster.
    - Industry Reports -N/A
    - Agency Reports
      - i. FDA – Michele Howard: Largest reorganization in the history of FDA was effective on 10/1/2024. A streamlined process for consumer complaints contact information to one phone number. (888) INFO – FDA to report a complaint.
      - ii. NCDHHS – Veronica Bryant: Deployed approximately 95 personnel from around the state to conduct restaurant inspections, well and septic permitting, and health care assessments due to the effects of Hurricane Helene in Western NC. Resources are available on the NCDHHS website such as reopening guidance. Buncombe County water system is still not functioning and a boil water notice is in effect. The boil water notice is planned to continue until December 2024. Appreciate all the work coordination and collaboration from the county environmental health departments and other partner agencies.
      - iii. NCDA – Chris Harris: The Produce Program has shifted focus to broccoli and cabbage commodities. Conducted assessments and worked with NCSU and extension to address any findings. 157 inspections, 56 on farm readiness reviews, and 196 educational farm visits have been conducted. Inspections are set up now to focus on winter crops. There is an interest in developing an educational needs assessment for mushrooms and microgreens with other states and FDA. Upcoming events are the Southeast Strawberry Expo and NC Niche Ag Conference.

- Additional business
  - Next full task force meeting is Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at ASC in Raleigh NC.

**V. Speaker Topic: On Target Preparedness**

- David Hesselmeyer will discuss the services of his company.

**VI. Adjournment**

- Motion: Chris Harris
- Second: Lynette Johnston

**NOTE:** Our regular meetings are scheduled for every 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every even-numbered month. The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for April 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am.

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