

Needed: Future agriculture and food safety professionals who wish to develop a comprehensive understanding of safe agricultural practices and food distribution systems in compliance with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)

Opportunity: Two Graduate Student Fellowships at CSU for 2017-18

CSU is collaborating with the Colorado Department of Agriculture to create two graduate student fellowships providing interdisciplinary training and mentorship in the area of produce safety.

Professionals engaged in safe production of fruits and vegetables must have a clear understanding of current risks and threats to our food supply, which requires a working knowledge of food production and distribution systems, related public health issues, current state and federal requirements, and effective methods of educational delivery. Fellows will be involved in the development of produce safety outreach materials and assist with food safety related trainings and farm-level assessments. Following 9 months of mentorship and coursework (August – May), fellows will participate in a summer-long field-based experiential learning opportunity such as assisting a farm or food hub with food-safety program development or implementation; observing audit work of the Colorado Department of Agriculture’s Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Service; and attending food safety training or audit program training.

Fellowship compensation covers: 1) 10 hours per week for two semesters, with partial tuition stipend; and 2) 20 hours per week for three months in the summer. Each fellow will work with a supervisor to develop a program of study that builds competence in issues related to produce safety. Evaluation is based on a fellow’s ability to meet the study program goals and produce a final capstone paper on a subject pertinent to this program.

The selected GRA fellows will generate the following deliverables through the course of the program:

1. Survey current research literature to determine knowledge gaps and identify best practices related to safe produce production and handling under the direction of the fellowship supervisor;
2. Develop appropriate educational materials including presentation slides, online modules, infographics, fact sheets, checklists, FAQs, and mobile applications;
3. Pilot-test and evaluate outreach materials;
4. Travel and rotate through field internship experiences; and
5. Assist with writing project reports and making presentations to stakeholders.

Requirements for Application:

1. Admission or application to Colorado State University Graduate Program (Colorado School of Public Health students on the CSU campus are eligible to apply);
2. Undergraduate degree in food science, horticulture, pest management, crop science or related field;
3. Interest in produce safety, agricultural production, public health;
4. Demonstrated strong oral and written communication skills and computer competence;
5. Organizational skills and ability to multi-task;
6. Ability to work independently and with an interdisciplinary team; and
7. One-year commitment to the program.

Expectations of Fellows:

Fellows will become team members and active involvement in produce safety activities will be an integral part of the program. To fully benefit from this opportunity, fellows will be expected to:

- Participate in weekly team meetings or conference calls which will be scheduled to accommodate coursework;
- Support and collaborate with other students in the program;
- Complete assigned tasks and meet material development deadlines; and
- Travel and participate in internship opportunities.

Application Materials

- Statement of interest letter
- Resume
- College transcripts
- CSU Academic Department affiliation
- List of three references

Please submit application by April 28, 2017, as a single pdf to: fsfellows@colostate.edu.

For information on applying, please contact Tabitha Covey: fsfellows@colostate.edu.

For questions related to the fellowship opportunity, please contact:

Marisa Bunning, marisa.bunning@colostate.edu, or

Martha Sullins, martha.sullins@colostate.edu