

Produce Safety



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Fellowship Announcement

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 to Three Graduate Student Fellowships at CSU for 2019-20

CSU has collaborated with the **Colorado Department of Agriculture** to create two to three 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 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 to build 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 that is pertinent to this program.



What our Fellows have to say....

Heather Marshall: The produce safety fellowship has introduced me to so many opportunities that I would never have had access to on my own. I have had the opportunity to speak with food safety experts, Colorado growers, and government officials. I would recommend this fellowship to anyone who has an interest in food safety or food systems.

Tyler Mason: This has been a great learning experience and I would recommend this fellowship to anyone interested in pursuing a career in food safety and security, public health, extension education, and agricultural production to name a few.

Deborah Ray: The educational experiences I have taken part in as a Produce Safety Fellow have broadened my understanding of all the moving parts of our complex food system and how FSMA uniquely relates to each one. Taking part in this fellowship has prepared me to do my part as an aspiring agricultural professional to ensure the safety of our fresh produce.

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.

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:
- Attend weekly team meetings or conference calls which will be scheduled to accommodate coursework;
- Support and collaborate with other students in the program;
- Complete tasks and meet material development deadlines;
- Participate in annual *Produce Safety Symposium* and *Produce Safety Capstone and Poster Session*; and
- Travel to and participate in internship opportunities.

Requirements for Application:

- Admission or application to Colorado State University Graduate Program (Colorado School of Public Health students on the CSU campus are eligible to apply);
- Undergraduate degree in food science, horticulture, pest management, crop science, microbiology, public health, or related field;
- Interest in produce safety, agricultural production, public health;
- Demonstrated strong oral and written communication skills;
- Computer competence, including skills in email communication and computer applications (Microsoft Office Suite, particularly Word and Excel);
- Organizational skills and ability to multi-task;
- Ability to work independently and with an interdisciplinary team; and
- One-year commitment to the program.

Application Materials:

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

Application Process: Email all application materials by attaching a single *.pdf* document, with the subject line 'Produce Safety Fellowship Application' to Dr. Marisa Bunning; Marisa.Bunning@colostate.edu.

Deadline: May 10, 2019.

Contact Information

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This program is made possible by

