

## **2018 Participant in the Produce Safety Alliance Train the Trainer Training Course**

*“Providing fundamental, science-based, on-farm food safety knowledge to fresh fruit and vegetable farmers, packers, regulatory personnel and others interested in the safety of fresh produce.” <https://producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu>*

Through the SSARE funds and the state coordinator, Dr. Cassel Gardner at Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University, I participated in the April 19-20, 2018 Produce Safety Alliance Trainers (PSA Train the Trainer Training) in Hernando, Mississippi offered through a collaborative effort of Mississippi State University and the work of the Produce Safety Alliance at Cornell University.

The PSA course provided information about Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), co-management of natural resources and food safety, FSMA (Food Safety Modernization Act) Produce Safety Rule requirements, review of the PSA Grower Training curriculum, and provided participant discussions. Additionally,

- The course provided principles of adult education and how to incorporate the PSA curriculum into other extension trainings, develop working partnerships, etc.
- The course provided critical information for all sustainable agriculture farmers and organic farmers interested in participating in the marketplace. I share the importance of this information, as I am also a USDA certified organic farmer and minority small farmer.

Completion of the full, two-day PSA TTT course allowed one to receive a certificate from the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) that verified that I completed the training course. The certificate satisfies the training requirement outlined in § 112.22(c). Completing the PSA TTT training allowed one to deliver curriculum modules as a trainer in a PSA Grower Training, under the direction of a PSA Lead Trainer.

- The training enables one to offer the PSA standardized curriculum to train fresh produce growers to meet the regulatory requirements in the FDA’s Food Safety Modernization ACT (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule, a curriculum developed through a nationwide collaboration including produce growers, extension educators, researchers, produce industry representatives, and government personnel:
  - I completed the course, received the PSA TTT Certificate, and would like to continue for PSA-Lead Trainer.

The PSA-TTT training equipped me with the opportunity to develop capacity building sessions that share information on sustainable agriculture practices as they pertain to produce safety, sustainable agriculture and organic produce safety.

The PSA TTT training provides an opportunity for me to participate in our capacity building sessions as a PSA trainer; and to share information that would enable underserved small farm populations to meet FSMA requirements and maintain and/or enhance their success in the American marketplace and the sustainability of their small farm operations.

Thank you for the opportunity.

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