

Education Committee Report

2015-2016

The primary focus for the Education Committee was to look at ways to supplement educational efforts already underway for the implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). ASTA continued its jointly sponsored webinar series as the final rules were published and the Education Committee focused on development of more in-depth education focused on implementation.

The Committee designed the topics and identified speakers for the Pre-Conference Workshop to be held in conjunction with the April 2016 Annual Meeting. The workshop was developed to help attendees break down two primary rules into the key areas for implementation. Two sessions will focus on the Preventive Controls rule looking at the food safety plan and how to build one and then a closer look at the qualified individual who develops and validates the plan. Another session will look at the Foreign Supplier Verification Program (FSVP) and how both a U.S. company and an overseas supplier are preparing. There will also be a series of table top exercises for attendees to work through to discuss these rules and different interpretations based on particular scenarios.

The committee continues to review a priority list of other educational topics to begin development of new projects and coordinates with the Food Safety and Government Relations and Advocacy Committees to ensure key topics in their areas are also addressed.

I served as the committee's liaison to the Annual Meeting Program Committee as part of the Education Committee's commitment to ensure all of ASTA's education is coordinated.

I would like to thank the members of the Education Committee for their commitment to making their ideas become programs for our members and we look forward to continuing to provide necessary resources and education for the spice industry.

Education Committee:

Freddy Compean, Ecumexa - Compean
Rebeca Hard, ConAgra Foods
Doug Marshall, Eurofins
David Solomon, BDS Natural Products
Don Stephens, ACH Food Companies
James McKinley Thomason, The Doug Jeffords Group
Simone Cormier, Allegro Coffee Company, Board Liaison

Larry Lichter, McCormick & Company, Inc.
Education Committee, Chair
March 11, 2016