Penn State and Food Protection

Cooperative Extension

- 1862 - Morrill Act establishing land grant colleges and instruction in agriculture in higher education
- 1887 - Hatch Act established a cooperative bond between USDA and the land grant colleges allocating annual federal funding for research
- 1914 - Smith-Lever Act provided funds for cooperative administration of agricultural extension education by USDA and the state land grant colleges
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Current Involvement

- Agro-security
- Food Defense Training
  - Prevention Preparedness
  - AGBIO 521/FDSC 521
- Emergency Preparedness
Penn State and Food Safety

Faculty and educator expertise in food safety

• Dedicated research
• Certified training - HACCP and Food Safety Manager Certified Training (i.e. ServSafe)
• Workshops – Sanitation, Food Microbiology Shortcourse, Canning (BPCS), Pathogen Control, etc
• Consulting along with our partner PennTap
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Advantages of Cooperative Extension

- State-wide network of educators
- Established relationships with officials from state and local governments (e.g. PDA)
- Established relationships with community and business leaders
- Web-based resources – EDEN and eXtension.org
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Advantages of Cooperative Extension

• Dedicated to providing science-based information
• Access to a broad range of expertise from throughout University
• Experience working with food supply chain – from farm to table
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Advantages of Cooperative Extension

• Experienced educators
• Ability to reach various socio-economic groups
• Experience working with food supply chain – from farm to table
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Challenges

• Getting groups to become familiar with Cooperative Extension

• Determining how to best use capabilities in the event of an emergency

• Developing the skills and processes for various scenarios
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How Cooperative Extension can provide support

• Develop and deliver focused educational literature and training for constituent groups (consumers, businesses, etc)
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How Cooperative Extension can provide support

• Provide understandable information regarding emergency communications
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How Cooperative Extension can provide support

• Promote appropriate actions in response to an emergency and in recovery afterwards
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Penn State Cooperative Extension is committed to its vision:

“serve as a catalyst, collaborator, and connector to meet the needs of our various constituents and stakeholders, with the programs, research, and services of Penn State's colleagues and faculty.”