

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE



## Grand Challenges

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- Global Food Systems
- Water
- Health
- Community Vitality
- Developing Tomorrow's Leaders

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## Grand Challenge: Health

**Title:** Train the Trainer; Learning Food Safety for Producers

**Why is this issue important?** The Produce Safety rule establishes, for the first time, science-based minimum standards for the safe growing, harvesting, packing, and holding of fruits and vegetables grown for human consumption. The rule is part of the agency's ongoing efforts to implement the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act. The final rule went into effect January 26, 2016.

**How did Extension address this issue?** Ariel Whitely-Noll, Horticulture Agent for Shawnee County, attended a two day course to become a trainer for the new FSMA standards. This course consisted of one day of training for growers and an additional day of training on how to teach the course to growers. These standards are complex and unfamiliar to many growers. Regulations apply to every portion of the growing process from watering and fertilization to packaging and holding. Having regional trainers is an important resource for our local growers who are required to take the course. Without regional trainers, growers may have to attend out of state trainings at their own expense.

**What was the impact?** As a result of this certification, FSMA trainings can be hosted in and around Shawnee County. These regulations are mandatory, but they are also vital to produce safety. Compliant farms are significantly less likely to sell E.coli or *Salmonella* contaminated produce to consumers.



Above: Newly certified FSMA trainers at the Olathe Horticulture Research and Extension Center.