



Food Security

PHOTO: USDA

Extension helps food industry deliver during COVID-19

COVID-19 greatly disrupted the nation's food-supply chain, which required producers to quickly learn how to operate in this new environment. Extension education was critical at this time in helping the industry get back to operation safely and keep essential workers on the job.

Here are a few examples of that work:

- **Colorado's** "Cottage Food Safety Training" provided small food-production businesses important information on food safety that allowed these operations to pivot to food delivery and pick-up services to keep their businesses operating. Information was pushed out to some 3,000 businesses.
- When meat shortages started impacting grocery stores, beef producers in **Arkansas** and 12 other states were invited to participate in a free webinar to learn how to direct-market their beef to consumers. More than 500 producers viewed the video live during the webinar or afterward online.
- In **Georgia**, small, local and organic farms were the target audience for a statewide food safety webinar training, "Farm to Fork." Nearly 100 producers participated, learning how to keep both employees and food safe.
- Farmers markets are essential retail businesses in **Virginia**. To continue operation safely, farmers were taught how to set up an inexpensive, online preordering system. These small business operators also learned how to increase sales during COVID-19.

www.landgrantimpacts.org

ABOUT LANDGRANTIMPACTS.ORG | The Land-Grant University System is a uniquely American institution, and has operated successfully for more than a century. The landgrantimpacts.org website documents and demonstrates the collective and individual impacts of the national system of joint teaching, research, and extension institutions.

Prepared by the National Impacts Database Communications Subcommittee, supported by ESCOP, ECOP and USDA/NIFA.

02/2021