

Center for Produce Safety Announces Call for Research Proposals

Davis, California, October 23, 2014 - The Center for Produce Safety (CPS) today announced its 2015 request for proposals on food safety research. The Center and its public and industry research partners will fund general and commodity-specific research aimed at addressing the fresh produce industry's food safety research needs.

"We welcome back our returning research funding partners and welcome our newest partner, the California Fresh Fruit Association," stated CPS Executive Director Bonnie Fernandez-Fenaroli. "Each year the Center for Produce Safety strives to identify high priority research needs. Over the past six years, this process has encouraged the Center to invest \$16.4M to fund 100 projects. This year we have modified our research process to require concept proposals as a first step to identify those ideas that meet the current expectations of the industry. We invite produce industry members to invest in the CPS process."

The 2015 produce safety research objectives have been identified through solicitation of input from the produce industry as well as government and academic stakeholders. In addition, feedback from CPS research meeting participants and reviews of previously funded CPS grants and research outcomes were utilized to identify research objectives. The research objectives have been reviewed and revised by the CPS Technical Committee for the 2015 request for proposals (RFP). Core produce safety research objectives cut across all fresh fruits, vegetables and nuts, in production, packing, processing, cooling, storage, transportation, receiving and point-of-sale environments. A complete list of research priorities is posted on the home page of the CPS website at <http://cps.ucdavis.edu>.

To access the RFP Research Priorities, RFP Guidance and Concept Proposal Form, visit the Grant Opportunities page on the CPS website at https://cps.ucdavis.edu/grant_opportunities.php. Concept proposals are due by December 9, 2014.