

### New for 2023!

With 3 years under our belt, we've been able to consolidate the Produce Safety Immersion Program from 1 year to 6 months while retaining all of the in-person activities, collaboration and networking, and fundamental concepts core to produce safety excellence. With the support of our sponsors, Calavo Growers, we are able to offer the program at a reduced rate of \$5995.

### Participant Expectations and Responsibilities

The purpose of the Produce Safety Immersion Program is to help further develop produce safety professionals who are early in their careers. Ten-fifteen promising produce safety professionals will benefit from instruction, experiences, and mentoring through this program. This document provides more details on the program and expectations of participants. Questions can be directed to Katie McGowan at [kmcgowan@freshproduce.com](mailto:kmcgowan@freshproduce.com)

1. Who is this program geared toward?
  - a. This program is focused on early career produce safety professionals who are eager to learn the fundamentals of produce safety and expand their professional network.
2. What is the time commitment?
  - a. The program begins in late March and concludes at The Washington Conference in September.
  - b. Over the course of six months, participants should plan to spend approximately 3 weeks participating in immersion experiences, depending on the extent to which they take advantage of optional enrichment activities.
  - c. Participants will travel to an in-person meeting during the week of May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. This trip will include site visits/tours and learning experience. Throughout the program participants are expected to join virtual education sessions (format includes webinars, “hang out”, peer presentations, etc.), with an average of two events per month covering topics indicated on the tentative schedule. A pre-read may be required (no more than 1 hr. each) for some meetings/webinars. Participants will also attend The Washington Conference during the week of September 11<sup>th</sup> to present their final projects.
  - d. Participants will complete one group project to demonstrate their teamwork and critical thinking skills. Participants will work together in small, mentored teams to present a short research report, which will require 5-8 hours of preparation. The group presentations will be given halfway through the program and participants will receive feedback from their mentors and peers.
  - e. Participants are encouraged to set aside additional time each month to connect with their assigned mentor.
3. Do I need to participate in all activities?
  - a. Yes, full participation is required, with the exception of optional networking and enrichment activities (approximately 1 optional opportunity per quarter).

4. What is the fee?
  - The \$5995 fee includes
  - 3 Nights of hotel accommodations and ground transportation related to the first trip in May 2023
  - Registration and hotel accommodations for the 2023 Washington Conference, as well as transportation to member facilities as part of the related tour
  - Complimentary registration to the Global Produce and Floral Show
  - Participation in ten virtual sessions
  - \*Participants will be responsible for their own transportation and other travel expenses related to the trips.
  - b. The fee must be paid prior to the beginning of the Class Four launch in March 2023.
5. Will a specific mentor be assigned to me?
  - a. We will pair you with one mentor who will also support the group presentation, but we encourage developing relationships with all mentors to grow your network.
  - b. Participants will also be assigned a “peer connection” from the Immersion Program Alumni group to provide informal guidance, support, and a different perspective of the industry.
6. Can I participate more than once?
  - a. No.
7. What happens if a participant changes jobs?
  - a. Participants are welcome to complete the program regardless of employment. Refundswill not be provided due to change in employment. It is the responsibility of the participant to work with employers to determine how to allocate the program fee.
8. Is there a limit to the number of participants from an individual company?
  - a. No, applicants are judged on their own merit, so there is no restriction on the number of applicants from a single company.
9. Is participation limited to participants in the US?
  - a. No, participation is not limited to individuals in the United States; however, the program is delivered in English, and virtual sessions are generally held between 11 am – 6 pm Eastern (New York) time