



Utah RAPID RESPONSE Team

Human and Animal Food


Official Newsletter of the Utah Rapid Response Team (URRT)

Monthly Review- June 2020

Here are the highlights of what happened with the URRT in the month of June:




- The Trailer for the URRT program has arrived! The trailer is a huge addition to the URRT program and gets us one step closer to preparing for emergencies.

- As mentioned in the FoodCORE meeting earlier in the month of June these are the outbreaks that are currently ongoing locally and nationwide: shigella sonnei, shigella flexneri, salmonella and live poultry, and crypto/campy. 




- Thayne Mickelson and Calli Nielsen presented a Food Vulnerability Study to the UDAF Commissioners.

- Thayne and Talisha did a virtual presentation to 100 employees of the engineering group at Rocky Mountain Power. The presentation covered an introduction to RRT, emergency preparedness, food safety, and food storage information. 



- The URRT is now ready to work on their App now that the URRT website is completed; check it out at <https://urrt.utah.gov>

- With more events, conferences, and trainings going virtually we are in the process of looking to see how to provide online/virtual trainings and webinars to be able to meet our grant requirements. 

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Steering Committee Spotlight - Jay Schvaneveldt

- 1. Describe your job in about 25 words?** Produce Safety Program Manager- Helping to build an new Produce Safety Program in Utah. The Produce Safety team includes Utah State University, UDAF Regulatory and our UDAF Plant industry.
- 2. What's one thing - industry-related you learned in the last year?** Our Utah produce farmers are highly educated. Many of them have masters degrees.
- 3. What aspect of your job do you enjoy the most?** Being out on the farms and getting to know the farmers.
- 4. What is one thing unique about you that people would be surprised if they knew?** I have lived in several countries.
- 5. How has your agency been influenced by the partnership with the URRT?** The URRT was activated during a recent Sprouts outbreak. This was a great practice exercise in a real event where the team worked together to help resolve issues.
- 6. What is your favorite quote or personal mantra?** "The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall." -Nelson Mandela

What is the Produce Safety Rule?

The Produce Safety Rule establishes science-based minimum standards for safe production and harvesting of fresh fruits and vegetables. These standards are based on a foundation of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs). For more information visit the produce safety program at <https://producesafety.utah.gov/>

Steering Committee

Talisha Bacon
URRT Coordinator

Thayne Mickelson
URRT Director

FDA
Holly Miller (Primary)

LHD
Michelle Cooke

UDAF Manufactured Food
Rick Beckstrand (Primary)
Jay Schvaneveldt (Alternate)

UDAF Animal and Feed
Mark Ashcroft (Primary)
Landen Kidd (Alternate)

UDAF Lab
Weston Judd (Primary)
Kathleen Thorsted
(Alternate)

UDOH Epi.
Cindy Burnett (Primary)
Delaney Moore (Alternate)

UDOH
Chris Nelson (Primary)
Karl Hartman (Alternate)

UPHL
Robyn Atkinson (Primary)
Kelly Oakeson (Alternate)

USDA-FSIS
Keith Banta (Primary)
Willy Lanier (Alternate)

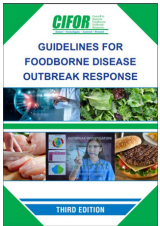
Steering Committee Spotlight - Delaney Moore

- 1. Describe your job in about 25 words?** I'm the Lead Enteric Diseases Epidemiologist for the Utah Department of Health. I help coordinate the response to foodborne outbreaks in Utah and serve as a subject matter expert on foodborne illnesses.
- 2. What's one thing - industry-related you learned in the last year?** Thanks to the large STEC and Jimmy John's outbreak from earlier this year, I have learned a lot about sprouts, particularly their growing conditions and why they are such a high risk food when eaten raw or lightly cooked.
- 3. What aspect of your job do you enjoy the most?** My favorite part of my work is that I'm constantly learning. If you get bored working as an epidemiologist, you are doing it wrong! There are always new questions to ask and new things to discover.
- 4. What is one thing unique about you that people would be surprised if they knew?** I was a band kid all growing up and still can play a large variety of instruments: piano, organ, guitar, ukulele, french horn, mellophone, a little bit of trumpet, and now I am working on the accordion.
- 5. How has your agency been influenced by the partnership with the URRT?** We were lucky to already have a good relationship with the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, but working with the URRT has strengthened that relationship, given us access to new training resources, and provided us with the support we needed to still investigate foodborne illness outbreaks while managing COVID-19 responsibilities.
- 6. What is your favorite quote or personal mantra?** "What matters is that you love your people." - Jeffrey R. Holland

National RRT Updates



- **FDA Voices Post:** Pandemic Challenges Highlight the Importance of the New Era of Smarter Food Safety. Topics in this article include:
 - Enhanced Traceability Could Increase Supply Chain Visibility
 - Smarter Tools for Prevention, Protections for Foods Ordered Online
 - Food Safety Culture on the Farms, in Food Facilities, and at Home



- **CIFOR Guidelines 3rd Edition** is now available.
 - The Council to Improve Foodborne Outbreak Response (CIFOR) released the streamlined and easy-to-read third edition of the CIFOR Guidelines for Foodborne Disease Outbreak Response. The CIFOR Guidelines are a comprehensive source of information on foodborne disease investigation and control for local, state, territories, tribes, and federal health agencies.

- **First Responders Toolbox** - Food Attacks: Chemical and Biological Threats to Food Retailers. This PDF resource is from the Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team (collaboration of NCTC, DHS, FBI). Topics in this toolbox include:
 - Chemical and Biological Threats to Food Retailers
 - Potential Indicators of a Chemical or Biological Attack
 - Private Sector Preventive Measures
 - Public Safety Considerations
- The National Face to Face Conference will be a Virtual Conference this year. Stay tuned for more information.

COVID-19 Updates

- CDC- Get the Facts About Coronavirus
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- FDA - Food Safety and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
 - <https://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-during-emergencies/food-safety-and-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>
- State of Utah
 - <https://coronavirus.utah.gov/>
- UDAF- COVID-19 News and Updates
 - <https://ag.utah.gov/covid-19-news-and-updates/>
- WHO- Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic
 - <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

Save the Date



Monthly RRT Teleconference

First Thursday of each month from 12:00pm-1:00pm

The Monthly RRT Teleconferences are on a National level. If you are available please add this teleconference to your calendar. It helps to know what other states are doing in their RRT programs. The number for the call in meetings is 646-828-7666 or 669-254-5252; Meeting ID: 1614242877



FoodCORE Project Meeting



URRT Steering Committee Meeting

BRIGHAM YOUNG



RRT C2C Virtual Conference

Subscribe

If you would like to receive the URRT Newsletter send an email to Talisha Bacon at tbacon@utah.gov.