

FERN

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TRAINING

OBJECTIVES

- To construct and implement an effective training curriculum for FERN member labs
- Enhance lab capabilities to detect intentional biological, chemical, and radiological food contaminants
- Develop and promote the use of standard methods among member labs

THE CURRICULUM

Utilizing a blended learning approach of e-learning modules, face-to-face training, OJT, and proficiency, and training practice samples

TRAINING



Florida Department of Agriculture

Virginia Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services



What Have We Done

- 🌐 BSL-3 Rapid Identification and Food Enrichment Techniques for the Detection of *Bacillus anthracis*.
- 🌐 BSL-3 *Yersinia pestis*, *Francisella tularensis* and *Bacillus anthracis* training
- 🌐 Dig-ELISA *C. botulinum* neurotoxin training collaborations with ORA, ORA U, CFSAN Staff College, CDC and APHL.
16 State and 16 Federal participants

What Have We Done

- 🌐 FERN Screening Methodologies for the Detection of *Bacillus anthracis* and *Salmonella*
16 State Participants
- 🌐 FERN Screening Methodologies for the Detection of *Bacillus anthracis* and *Yersinia pestis*
12 State Participants
- 🌐 FERN Real-Time PCR
36 State Participants (2 sessions)
2 From Mexico and 2 from Canada

What Have We Done

- 🌐 Food Emergency Response Network GC/MS Chemistry Training **August 05'**
2 sessions, 8 State participants per session
- 🌐 Food Emergency Response Network LC/MS Chemistry Training **August 05'**
2 sessions, 8 State participants per session
- 🌐 FERN Radiological Training **Going on this week**
30 State Radiological Participants

The Numbers

**Since 2003 over
200 participants
have been trained from
over 35 States**

Where We Are Going

PROPOSED FY 2006 FERN Training

- 2 Microbiology sessions
- 2 Chemistry sessions
- 1 Radiological
- Web-Based training
 - Tour of FDA
 - Scripts in development
 - Intro To Biosafety level techniques with foods
 - Scripts are developed
 - FERN Method specific web trainings
 - Identifying appropriate methods to implement

Where We Are Going

INTERAGENCY COOPERATION

- ICLN will play a functional role to further identify, develop, prioritize and implement training among the various networks
 - Training catalogue
 - Training charter
- Work cooperatively to optimize national laboratory preparedness and provide mutual support wherever possible for training operations

For Further FERN Information

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Work in Progress



Questions?