Research:
It takes more than a village, it takes an industry.

Bonnie Fernandez
Executive Director
Center for Produce Safety

October 2, 2012
Center for Produce Safety:
Bringing Relevant Research to Industry
Among the Blameless Victims

Juanita and Caesar Gomez

Paul Schwarz and wife

William and Monette Beach

Michelle Wakley-Paciorek with David, Madison, and premature Kendall

Donna Wells Lloyd & Clarence Wells Jr.

Clarence Wells Sr.

Jeni Exley with father Herb

Herb and Elaine Stevens

Penny Hauser with Mike Hauser
Structure

• **Private** – Public Partnership located at the University of California, Davis

• **Initial Partners**: Produce Marketing Association, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Univ. of California, Davis

• **All administrative costs** - Funded by the Produce Marketing Association. Initial donation $2M. January 2012 $900k.

• **Research Program** began with a $2M donation from Taylor Farms
Structure cont....

• Organization oversight and direction
  – Center for Produce Safety Advisory Board.

• Research priorities and direction
  – Center for Produce Safety Technical Committee
4 Strategic Priorities

- Become a global clearinghouse & repository of research information
- Facilitate new actionable research
- Information Transfer
- Fund the strategic plan
Ask the tough questions...
...be prepared for the tough answers
Wegman Family Foundation
$250,000 Donation, June 2011
Campaign for Research

**Contribution of $250,000 - $499,999**
Georgia Pacific Packaging, Taylor Farms, Wegmans Family Charitable Foundation

**Contribution of $100,000 - $249,999**
Castellini Group of Companies, Driscoll’s, Fresh Innovations/JV Farms, Markon Cooperative, Tanimura and Antle, The Packer/Produce Retailer

**Contribution of $50,000 - $99,999**
Duda Farm Fresh Foods, H-E-B, Produce Business, The Produce News
Campaign for Research cont...

Contribution of $25,000 - $49,000

Contribution Under $25,000
Ecolab
Partners In Research Program

“It is all about partnerships”

Dr. Kalmia Kniel, University of Delaware

Bryan Silbermann, Produce Marketing Association
Partners in Research

State partners

• 11 State Commodity Organizations
  – California, Florida, Washington
  – Almonds, Cantaloupes, Pistachios, Tomatoes, Leafy Greens, Tree Fruit, Walnuts

• 2 State Departments of Agriculture
  – California, Washington (three more in the works)
Partners in Research

Why this approach is successful:

• Makes food safety research accessible
• Respect: Each party has much to bring to the relationship
• Commodity organization keeps the leadership role within their industry
• Matching funds
2013 Request for Proposals

• Announcement: February 1, 2013
• Due to CPS: March 29, 2013
• Awards announced Fall 2013
• Check CPS website for details

http://cps.ucdavis.edu
CPS: What have we done to date

- 7 requests for proposals (RFPs)
- >60 reviewers used to evaluate proposals
- Funded 69 projects (core, PIR, rapid response, proof of concept)
- $10,564,306
- 40 researchers
- 26 institutions
- 3 countries
- Established numerous research/industry partnerships
Look at our reach

$10.6M funded
69 grants
17 states
3 countries
26 institutions
CPS: Funding by RFP Topic

- Risk: $5.4M - 6
- Compost: $1.2M - 7
- Animal Vectors: $1.8M - 10
- Irrigation water: $1.5M - 12
- Harvest practices: $1 M - 8
- Testing methods: $1.9M - 11
- Postharvest: $.06M - 6
- Wash water: $.05M - 3
- Pathogen studies: $.05M - 7
What can we do?

• Partnerships
  – Industry, academia, government

• Research
  – Collaborate, prioritize, evaluate and fund

• Communicate
  – Translate results into practice, highlight science in the food safety discussion
What can you do?

• Identify research priorities
  – Commodity, region, topic, knowledge gaps

• Fund research
  – Competitive grant programs, rapid response programs, leverage private funds

• Be a resource
  – Identify industry needs, provide real-world insight
Research: It takes more than a village, it takes an industry.
Thank you

Center for Produce Safety

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