



Coffee Talk with the Florida Department of Agriculture

The National Food Safety Data Exchange (NFSDX) Team caught up with the Bureau Chief of Florida's Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Food Safety, Matthew (Matt) Colson, for some *Coffee Talk*.

Matt is no stranger to the NFSDX project. His early involvement began with the Partnership for Food Protection Information Technology Workgroup (PFP IT WG) in 2014. Matt's initial role in the WG was to define data elements and use case scenarios. Matt's role quickly evolved into championing the NFSDX and PFP IT WG at national meetings and participating as an early adopter in the data-sharing pilot with FDA and making Florida the second state to electronically submit data from their electronic inspection system to Electronic State Access to FACTS (eSAF).



NFSDX Team: Now that your state system has integrated with NFSDX, what are some of the benefits or advantages?



Matt: *The process of putting our contracted inspections into eSAF is more streamlined, as most of the data elements are now submitted electronically.*



NFSDX Team: Looking ahead, is there any functionality you would like to see in NFSDX?



Matt: *I'm looking forward to being able to submit all the eSAF data elements electronically, as well as sharing laboratory data electronically.*

I'm also excited to be part of a new pilot with FDA to submit non-contracted inspections to eSAF. Neither the states nor FDA have the inspection resources we need, so it's vital to ensure we're not duplicating efforts. Electronic sharing of all inspection data is the future of the Integrated Food Safety System and it will help us all make more efficient use of our resources.



NFSDX Team: What is your advice for states considering integration with NFSDX?



Matt: *The more states that can get on board, the better. The more data we're able to share nationally, the faster we'll be able to identify problems and respond to them. If you're interested in participating in NFSDX, reach out to the NFSDX team or other states that are participating. There may also be funding opportunities through the FFM or other available cooperative agreements.*



NFSDX Team: Any additional support you would have liked to receive from FDA during the integration process with NFSDX?



Matt: *No – the team was great and helped us through the whole process. We had weekly scheduled conference calls and support whenever we needed it, including during testing.*



NFSDX Team: Is there anything unique about your state's integration experience that you would like to share?



Matt: *This is Florida, so I believe we experienced multiple hurricanes during the project. The NFSDX team was flexible with the timeline. We had some setbacks, and our contractor completed their contract before we went live, so our internal IT staff had to finish the testing. There were some interruptions, but we got there. Our new Agriculture Commissioner, Nikki Fried, has stressed the need for innovation and NFSDX helps us meet that challenge.*

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The NFSDX Team would like to thank Matt Colson and his team for all their hard work and support to the NFSDX project and PFP IT WG. We look forward to our continued collaboration with the Florida Department of Agriculture.

For questions or information about participating in NFSDX or joining the PFP IT WG, please contact Barbara Thiel: Barbara.Thiel@fda.hhs.gov



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