

Process Authorities/Training/Scheduled Process Development – Acidified Foods

A **Process Authority** is someone with the technical knowledge, training, and years of experience to be able to effectively evaluate and approve your process. Most individuals or programs who serve as Process Authorities are affiliated with **state universities**. The following are recognized by their state for expertise in acidified food processing. A **Process Authority** will review a formulation/recipe and issue a **Scheduled Process** that will outline critical processing steps to help ensure a safe food product.

State	Contact
California – Cannery Inspection Program	California Department of Public Health FDBinfo@cdph.ca.gov ; 800-495-3232
Georgia – University of Georgia	Food Science & Technology Extension, 706-542-0272; efs@uga.edu
Massachusetts – University of Massachusetts	Dr. Amanda Kinchla, 413-545-1017 amanda.kinchla@foodsci.umass.edu
Nebraska – University of Nebraska-Lincoln*	Dr. Jayne Stratton, 402-472-2829 jstratton1@unl.edu
New Jersey – Rutgers University	Food Innovation Center, 856-459-1900 foodinnovation@aesop.rutgers.edu
New Mexico – New Mexico State University	Dr. Nancy Flores, 575-646-1179 naflores@nmsu.edu
New York – Cornell University* https://cfvc.foodscience.cals.cornell.edu/	Northeast Center for Food Entrepreneurship 315-787-2273
North Carolina – NC State University* Entrepreneur Initiative for Food foodbusiness.ces.ncsu.edu/entrepreneurialprogram/	919-513-2090 foodbusiness@ncsu.edu
Pennsylvania – Penn State University	Dr. Luke Laborde, 814-863-2298 lfl5@psu.edu
South Carolina – Clemson University	Dr. W. Scott Whiteside, 864-423-0727 wwhtsd@clemson.edu
Utah – Utah State University	Dr. Brian Nummer, 435-797-2116 brian.nummer@usu.edu
Wisconsin – University of Wisconsin-Madison*	Dr. Barbara Ingham, 608-263-7383 bingham@wisc.edu

*Primary resource; active program.

Laboratory firms that provide product testing would not generally have expertise to serve as a Process Authority. A processor, even one who has attended an approved training is not qualified to serve as their own process authority. Fees for services vary; call or email for up-to-date information. May 2020

Training and Scheduled Process Development

Regulations require that key operations in manufacture of acidified or low-acid canned foods **are under the supervision of a trained employee**. Key operations include pH testing, closure evaluation, thermal processing, etc. Trainings follow a standardized FDA curriculum and are approved/recognized by the state in which the company resides. **A certificate of training should be presented at the time of inspection.**

Training- Acidified Canned Foods

- **Online training** (Acidified Foods Manufacturing School – \$400, training only)
North Carolina State University <https://foodsafety.ncsu.edu/afms/>
- **Wisconsin** Small Business Acidified Foods Manufacturing School (training for small businesses not involved in co-packing –\$250, training fee includes **scheduled process development**)
University of Wisconsin-Madison <https://foodsafety.wisc.edu>

Training- FDA Better Process Control School (low-acid and acidified)

- **Online** training (FDA Better Process School – includes Acidified \$400)
University of Tennessee <https://foodscience.tennessee.edu/betterprocesscontrolschool/>
- **Illinois** Institute for Food Safety & Health (IFSH)
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/acidified-foods-only-better-process-control-school-registration-67305621927>
- **New York** (Cornell University) FDA Better Process Control School (includes Acidified) **offers training in Spanish:** <https://foodscience.cals.cornell.edu/extension/events>
- **Ohio** (Ohio State University) FDA Better Process Control School (includes Acidified) **offers training in Spanish:** <https://www.foodindustries.osu.edu>
- **Wisconsin** (University of Wisconsin-Madison) FDA Better Process Control School (includes Acidified) <https://foodsafety.wisc.edu>



Scheduled Process Development

*Each acidified or low-acid canned food must be manufactured according to a **Scheduled Process** developed by a **Process Authority**. Processors will contract with a program for scheduled process development, usually on a fee-for-service basis. Processors are generally not qualified to serve as their own process authority. Contact each program directly for an updated fee schedule and anticipated turn-around-time on your request (generally 2-3 months).*

Northeast Center for Food Entrepreneurship (New York, Cornell University)

<https://cfvc.foodscience.cals.cornell.edu/>

- Scheduled Process development (\$150/product plus \$55 one-time registration fee)

Entrepreneur Initiative for Food Program (North Carolina, NC State)

<https://foodbusiness.ces.ncsu.edu/entrepreneurialprogram/> [see Online Request Form on the upper left hand side of the webpage]

- Process Authority letter (Service A \$150/product). [Note, processors who manufacture under 10,000 units/recipe/year do not need nutrition facts panel information.]

Food Entrepreneurial Center (Nebraska, University of Nebraska)

- Dr. Jayne Stratton jstratton1@unl.edu (fee structure not available)

University of Wisconsin (Wisconsin, UW-Madison) <https://foodsafety.wisc.edu>

- Dr. Barbara Ingham bingham@wisc.edu or 608-263-7383 (FREE to those who have attended a UW training)

Tips for working with a **Process Authority**:

- **Be organized!** Know what you want to manufacture and have a good idea that the products are safe. Knowing that your food products meet some food safety standards, e.g. low pH, will help ensure a successful review.
- **Attend training.** In some cases, you will need to attend any required training before working with a process authority.
- **Follow through.** Regardless of the process authority service that you choose, don't let a good idea stall because of lack of follow-through on your part. Failing to communicate clearly or stopping and restarting the recipe review process can be costly and may mean that your product review isn't successful.

Note: Staff at **commercial food testing labs** are generally **not qualified** to serve as process authorities.

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