

Master Family & Consumer Sciences Volunteer Program Summary

Institution: South Dakota State University Extension
Program: Master Food Preservation Mentor Program
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South Dakota State University Extension is developing a Master Food Preservation Mentor program for individuals that are interested in learning the USDA Home Food Processing Guidelines and help in disseminating the information to other in the their community.

The Master Food Preservation Mentor program consists of two components:

1. Food Preservation Modules – delivered on-line as a self-study or fact-to-face.
2. Hands-on food preservation workshops.

The Food Preservation Modules for preserving and adding value to specialty crops common in South Dakota will consist of the following: preserving acid foods; preserving acidified foods; preserving low-acid foods; drying foods (non-meat) and herbs (sun, air, electric food dryer); additional program (year 2 or 3) – may include – flavored vinegars, yogurt, wine making, cheese, starting a licensed kitchen and possibly others; and, food safety before and at the Farmer’s Market.

Participants that successfully complete #1-4, and participate in the hands-on workshops will be recognized as a Master Food Preservation Mentor (MFPM), if they choose to. As a MFPM they will be asked to assist in disseminating information to specialty growers in their area of the state, and assist in connecting growers with resources to help them in meeting food safety regulations to expand their market. They will receive special recognition from SDSU Extension.

SDSU Extension Food Safety Field and Campus Specialists will work with the MFPM to provide the following:

1. Updates of various fact sheets that are developed by SDSU or other Land-Grant Institution.
2. Provide copies of fact sheets that are requested by the MFPM to disseminate in their community, if they so desire.
3. SDSU Food Safety Field and Campus Specialists provide Food Preservation workshops across the state. MFPM will be asked to assist in finding locations, getting the word out, and putting on the workshop.

The MFPM is not required to put in a specific number of volunteer hours each year. However, they will be asked to participate in various training updates, and provide feedback to SDSU Extension on how to better serve the people of South Dakota.