

FOCUS ON FOOD SAFETY



Flooding

Last May, food establishments that were in flood impacted areas received a voice message, text and/or email from the Iowa Department of Inspections & Appeals stating “flooding has caused damage, loss of power and loss of potable water service in many areas of the county. If recent flooding has affected your food establishment, an inspection of your facility will be necessary before operations can resume. Please contact the Scott County Health Department for information on clean-up and to schedule an inspection before reopening.”

Some facilities may not have received the messages because contact information was out of date. If any of your emergency contacts have changed, please contact us at (563) 326-8618 or at health@scottcountyiowa.com to update it.

If flooding occurs again this year, please let us know if your facility is impacted. If you receive the emergency message, but you have not been impacted, please let us know as well.

Pest Control

As the warmer season approaches, the population of pests like insects and rodents will also be on the increase. Here are some basic guidelines to keep your facility pest free.



- Warm weather may make you want to prop the back door open in the kitchen. Doing so may allow for easy access for pests. Be sure to use screens or other barriers between the door and outside.
- Mind the gap. If you can see daylight under or on the sides of a door, it is enough of a gap to compromise pest control.
- Be cautious of which insecticides you use. Most over the counter insecticides are not made to be used in a kitchen and can be potentially harmful. Be sure that your insecticides are marked safe for food establishments.
- Do not use fly tape in food prep areas. Insect carcasses can fall from these and contaminate food.
- Maintain a clean facility. Pest control companies cannot completely prevent infestations. The only way to prevent/stop infestation is to deny pests of access and food.



Upcoming Dates

March 10th - 12th 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

April 7th - 9th, 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Exam proctoring available without class for \$38.

Call (563)326-8618 for registration information or email health@scottcountyiowa.com.

Temporary/Farmer's Market



Looking forward to springtime? Along with warmer weather and sunshine, comes the farmer's market and outdoor community events. There are specific rules and regulations that come with participating in the farmer's market and temporary events in our community. Licensing for these activities is dependent upon several criteria. All vendors, regardless of licensure status, are required to abide by the Iowa food code regulations.

A "farmer's market" is defined as a marketplace which operates seasonally, principally as a common market for fresh fruits and vegetables, on a retail basis for off-the-premises consumption.

A "temporary event" is defined as a significant occurrence or happening sponsored by a civic, business, educational, government, community, or veteran's organization that operates periodically for no more than 14 days and may include athletic contests.

For information on which food and beverage products are exempt from licensure, or if you need help determining whether or not you are required to obtain a license, contact Health Department staff at: 563-326-8618. Completed farmer's market applications must be submitted at least 30 days prior to your anticipated operating date. Completed applications for temporary food establishment licenses must be submitted at least 3 business days prior to the event date. The applications for obtaining these licenses are available on-line at: <https://www.scottcountyiowa.com/health/food/licensing>.

Food Delivery Services

If your food service establishment utilizes online food delivery services, it is the establishment's responsibility to ensure food safety standards are met until the order is picked up by the delivery service. Here are some tips:

- Do not prepare food too far in advance...this will affect food quality and possibly lead to time/temperature abuse.
- Do not ask delivery drivers to handle unpacked food and/or beverage. These individuals are not food handlers and do not have access to proper handwashing facilities.



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To receive this newsletter electronically or unsubscribe, please email health@scottcountyiowa.com or call 563-326-8618.