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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Food Business Incubation Summit: Sept. 17-18

GENEVA, NY: The second annual Food Business Incubation Summit for professionals working with incubator kitchens, shared-use facilities and food venture centers will be held Sept. 17-18 at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center in Northampton, Mass.

The two-day event is sponsored by The Northeast Center for Food Entrepreneurship ([NECFE](#)) at Cornell and the University of Vermont, the Franklin County Community Development Corporation, in partnership with the Massachusetts Food and Agriculture Department and Rutgers University/NJAES Food Innovation Research & Extension Center (FIRE).

"The symposium will re-unite food processing technical and business support professionals from across the U.S. to review the best practices for food venture centers and incubation facilities," said Olga Padilla-Zakour, director of NECFE and one of the summit's organizers.

Workshops that review and explain some of the new and revised requirements of food processors are scheduled in addition to a full agenda of educational and regulatory topics related to economic development. Topics will include: labeling regulations, food safety, the Bio-terrorism Act relating to food processing, developing a stakeholder committee, assessment of documentation of facility policies and procedures, FDA Food Establishment Plan Review Guidelines, program evaluation methodologies and instruments for reporting.

In addition, there will be a tour of a recently established shared-use food processing in Greenfield, MA, sponsored by the Franklin County Community Development Corp., and a reception with appetizers for guests. After the tour and reception, conference speakers will host discussions at several restaurants in the Northampton area.

Greenfield is a 20-minute drive from the Clarion in Northampton. Registration is \$75, which includes lunches, breaks and educational materials. Participants are responsible for their own lodging, travel, and dinner. There is a block of rooms reserved at the Clarion Hotel (413-586-1211) for a special reduced rate, if reserved by Aug. 18.

To register for the Food Business Incubation Summit, call or email Cheryl Leach at 315-787-2622; cal35@cornell.edu; or Sarah Lincoln at 315-787-2274; sil38@cornell.edu

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