Food Business Central

An online course on starting a food business

Food Business Central is an online, self-paced course focused on starting a farm-raised or home-based food business in Ohio.

Ohio State University Extension will help you develop a Food Business Action Plan and learn what you need to start off organized, safe, compliant, and strategic.

2025 Course Dates:

January 1 – May 31, 2025
(Enroll by May 1)

August 1 – December 31, 2025
(Enroll by December 1)

Course cost: $25
Register at:
go.osu.edu/foodbusinesscentral

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

WHAT'S IN FOOD BUSINESS CENTRAL?

Ten topic-oriented modules, a guide for developing a Food Business Action Plan, and links to resources on your food products.

1: My Food Business Idea

Every action begins with an idea. Module 1 explores what it means to be an entrepreneur and introduces you to food product development.

2: Start Off Organized

How do you establish a food business? Module 2 presents four steps for starting and organizing your food business.

3: Start Off Safe

Food entrepreneurs must ensure their products are safe. Module 3 explains food safety and biological, physical, and chemical food hazards.

4: Start Off Compliant

Legal compliance requires knowing the laws that apply to your food product. Module 4 overviews the legal compliance landscape.

5: Start Off Strategic

Marketing is critical to success. Module 5 provides a starting point for developing a marketing plan for your food product.

Specific Food Modules

Modules on baked goods, cottage foods, canned foods, meats, poultry, eggs, and a variety of other foods.

Building a Food Business Action Plan

Assignments to help you gather your ideas and identify your next steps.

Resources

A compilation of the agencies, laws, regulations, and other resources that apply to your food business.

NORTH CENTRAL EXTENSION RISK MANAGEMENT EDUCATION

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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