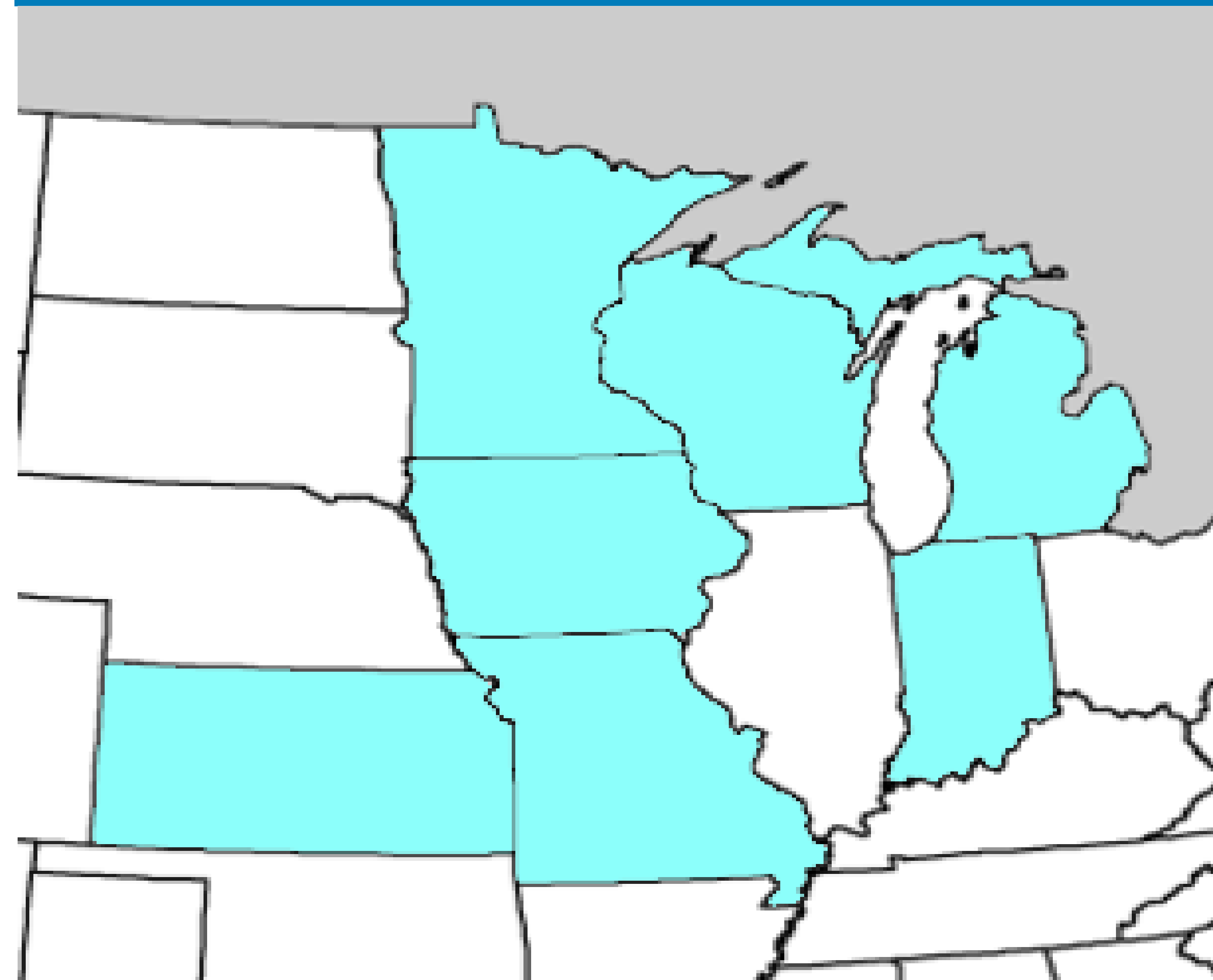
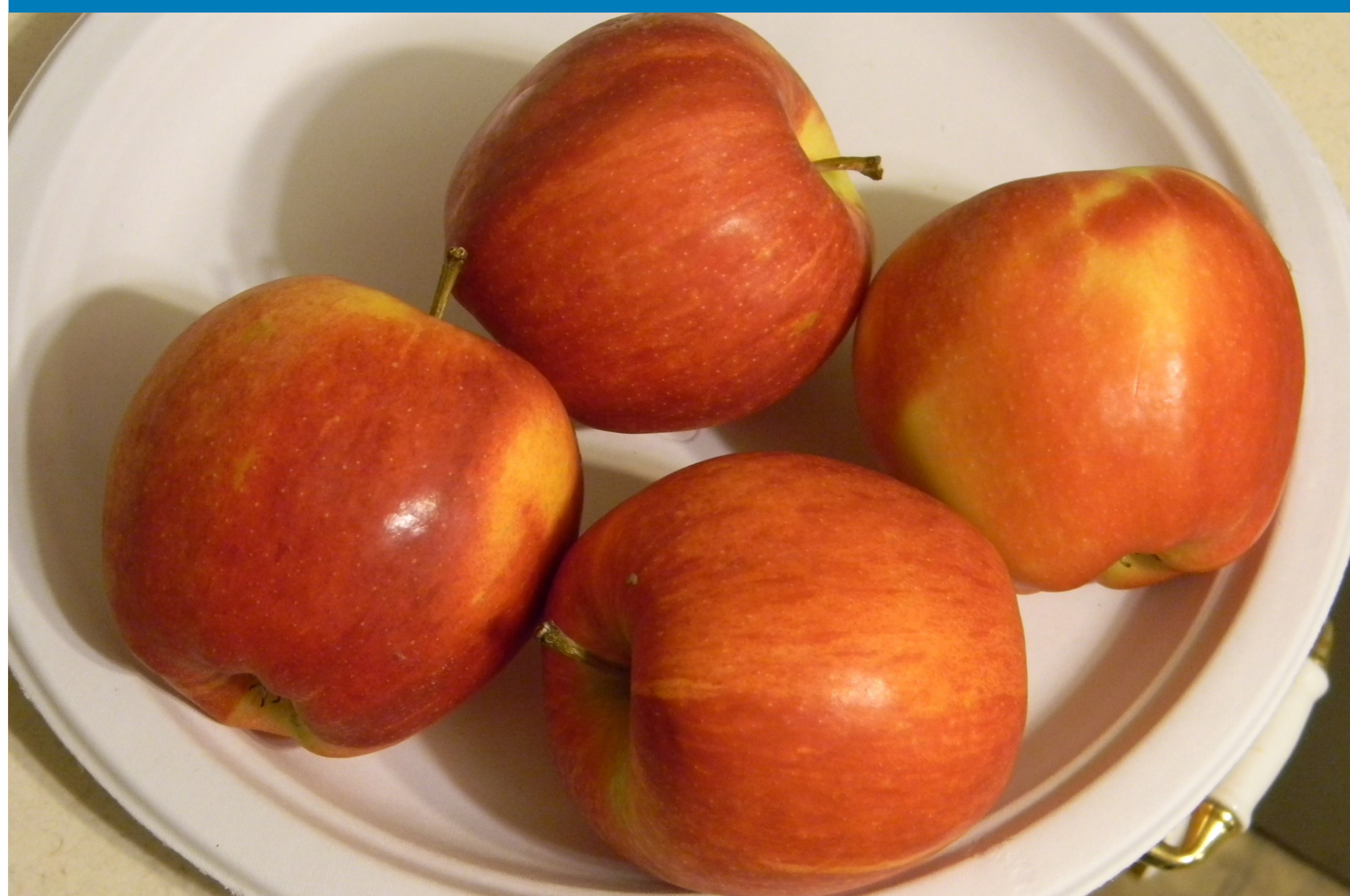


Spreading the Word on Food Safety Before and During the Pandemic

Missouri participated in the Midwest RRT Regional Meeting Marquette, Michigan.



The Midwest Meeting Included an exercise with E. coli in Apples.



Apples are an important crop in Missouri. The MRRT used the exercise from the Midwest Meeting and added participation from the Missouri Department of Agriculture's Produce Safety Team, so Missouri would be better prepared for an outbreak here at home.

The MRRT also provided a presentation on high nitrates in sorghum at the Midwest RRT Meeting.



This photo shows machinery on a farm processing facility where sorghum from the fields is squeezed.



After the juice is boiled down, it reaches the bottling stage shown here. An Extensive MRRT investigation found that nitrate levels were substantially lower than a sample from the previous year's crop.

The MRRT Provided a Presentation to the Mid-Continental Association of Food and Drug Officials about "Luster Dust."



Yellow luster dust in the flower petals contained high levels of lead and caused elevated blood lead levels in a child who ate them.



The Luster Dust Was Also Used to Make the Yellow Flowers On These Cup Cakes Served at the Same Party as the Cake.

Tests on the Opened Product Used in the Cakes and a Purchased Unopened Product Were Still High In Lead.



Tests on this opened jar used on the cakes showed it contained 290,000 parts-per-million lead. Tests on an unopened container of the same product tested at 250,000 parts-per-million lead. That means even the unopened container contained 25 per cent lead!

Following Test Results, Missouri Issued An Advisory Regarding the Product.

Information shared from the Rhode Island RRT's investigation helped Missouri find a lead source in a very tough lead investigation. Because Rhode Island shared information with Missouri, our state was much better prepared to solve the investigation. Missouri's lead program also continues to work with other states to keep them alert about the potential for lead in luster dust decorations.

Sharing Information, Experience and Expertise During the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The MRRT Coordinator provided another presentation about Luster Dust and lead for the International Association for Food Protection Conference in October, 2020.

In addition, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services has called on the MRRT because of its experience with continuous improvement. As a result, the MRRT Coordinator has worked with multiple partners to write After Action Reports regarding the COVID-19 Response.