

## **Data-based decisions for 2015 – MFSQ**

We gathered information and used it to make decisions that will improve our professional MS program in NDFS in the following ways:

- The MFSQ was intended to serve students statewide by employing online and off-campus access. We observed that the online has advanced further than other access, and we met with USU Regional Campuses and Distance Education and the College of Agriculture to identify additional opportunities for program delivery at existing distance education portals across the state.
- The overall program was self-evaluated in comparison to a similar online food safety Michigan State University program. The MSU program has been in existence for a over a decade, has a much larger enrollment, and has several faculty dedicated to it. The USU program compares favorably in many aspects with tuition less than half that of the MSU program. We have targeted student recruitment as a priority to grow our program, plus we are developing novel partnerships with private consultants to expand our offerings of professional workshops affiliated with the degree program
- We met with students as part of the NDFS 6170 course series to get their input on the workshop program. Overall, the feedback is extremely positive for continuing the workshops for degree credits.
- USU IDEA evaluations continue to be scrutinized to evaluate each course offering. This past year, our department's teaching evaluations were among the highest at the university.