

Risky business? Conducting a risk assessment of postharvest operations using washing machines for leafy greens

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The Problem

Post-Harvest: Washing machines for spinning greens is a very common practice

No established research to inform growers on the development of specific best practices



Figure. Image of a field site of a postharvest processing that dries leafy greens. Image sourced from <https://tinyfarmblog.com/spin-cycle/> .

NECAFS NETWORK

NECAFS

The Northeast Center to

Advance Food Safety



2019 NECAFS Steering Committee

Regulators

Extension agents

Producers and buyers

Discussion

Challenges with sanitation design and management.

DIY converted washing machines

Project Objectives

Objective 1: Identify, source and build converted washing machines for that are applicable for small scale leafy green operations.

Objective 2: Conduct a science-based risk hazard identification assessment that will investigate the harborage and sanitation risks of using DIY converted washing machines for drying leafy greens.

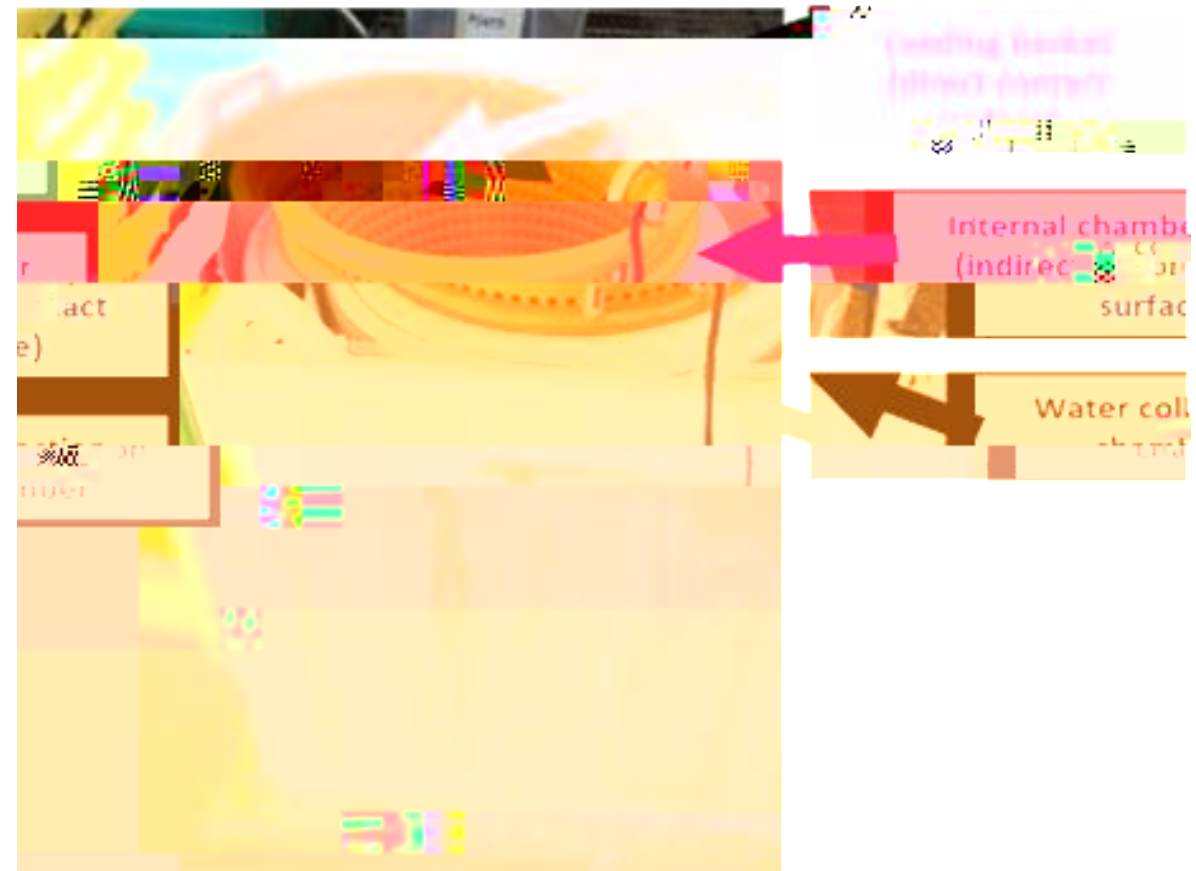
Objective 3: Develop and design a mixed-media portfolio of extension-based tools, which will focus on the principles of cleaning and sanitation, sanitation design and sanitation management.



Objective 2: Conduct a science-based risk hazard identification assessment

What is the overall contamination risk of using DIY converted washing machines for drying leafy greens?

Can DIY converted washing machines for drying leafy greens be cleaned and sanitized to effectively manage microbial risk?



Objective 3: Develop and deploy extension-based tools

Activity: Extension programming may include-

Brief video tutorials

Downloadable pdf Fact Sheets

Face-to-face workshops/speaking events

Real-time (and recorded) webinars

Current Status

Objective 1: COMPLETE

UVM Extension Washing
Machines Greens Spinner
Workshop November 2019

Assembled 4 Units at UMASS

Purchase Industry leafy green
dryer

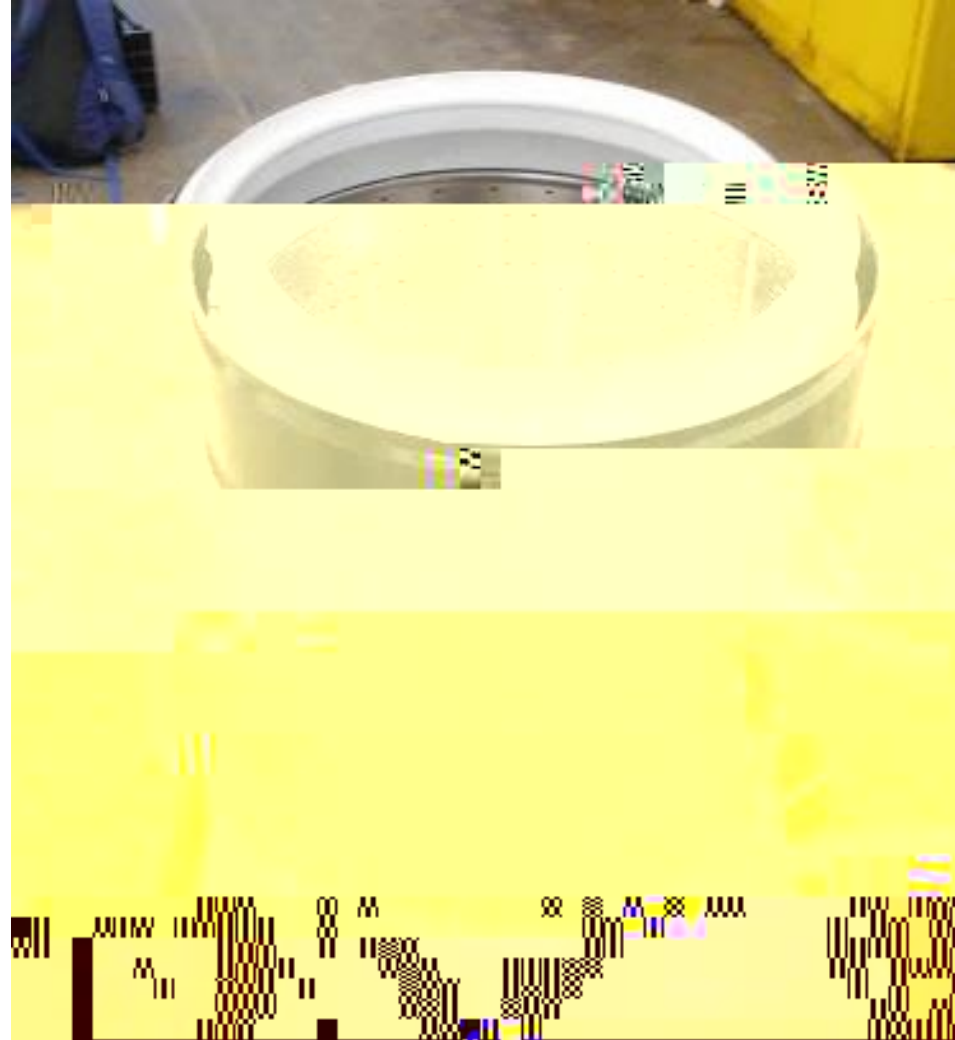
Objective 2: In-Process





Building Washing Machines

Greens Spinner



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