

## FOOD SAFETY ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING

**ABOUT R.U. NUTS CO.** A family-owned company in Lincoln, Nebraska, R.U. Nuts Co. was founded in 1983 as a way for a stay-at-home mom to make some extra income. The company grew from a family dining room, to the basement, the garage, and then to a mini storage, gradually expanding its bulk foods business into a multi-state operation. In 1997 the company began small batch coffee roasting and Ahroma Specialty Coffee was born.

R.U. Nuts Company has become a regional wholesale distributor to food retailers and coffee shops. They provide the grocery industry with complete bulk foods and bulk coffee programs, fully serviced. In addition, they equip private label brands with packaging and custom blending of snack and candy products, as well as custom coffee roasting. This service, along with their wide selection of coffee menu products, has allowed them to become a “one stop shop” for independent coffee shops. The company employs 7 full time individuals as well as 30 part time employees.

**THE CHALLENGE.** New regulations require food manufacturers regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to write a food safety plan, keep and maintain hazard analyses for all product groups, perform environmental testing, and to have a preventive controls qualified individual (PCQI) on staff.

**MEP CENTER'S ROLE.** R.U. Nuts personnel attended a FSPCA Preventive Controls for Human Food workshop hosted by the Food Processing Center and Nebraska MEP at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). Following the workshop, R.U. Nuts worked individually with Dr. Bismarck Martinez and the Food Processing Center to write a food safety plan, perform hazard analyses, and to meet all relevant FDA requirements.

**"The training and assistance we received from the Food Processing Center and Nebraska MEP at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln was of great assistance in our remaining compliant with Federal regulations, as well helpful in making our production area safer and more efficient."**

-Randy Ralston, General Manager

## RESULTS



**\$250,000** in retained sales



**\$50,000** in unnecessary investment avoided



**4 jobs** retained



Qualified associates to meet the Preventive Controls personnel requirements



The company was able to successfully complete an FDA inspection without any major violations.

## CONTACT US



University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
3 Agricultural Communications  
Building, 3625 East Campus  
Loop South  
Lincoln, NE 68583-0939



(402)472-5993



nemep.unl.edu



NEBRASKA MANUFACTURING  
EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

