



Kami Weddle is the Director of Food Safety and Quality for Rousseau Farming Company located in Tolleson, Arizona. Kami has worked with Rousseau Farms for 13 years!

**What do you do for your job?**

My job is to take water, soil and plant samples and analyze for various bacteria during growing and harvesting, including generic E. coli and total coliforms. I also help ensure that the harvesting crews are following strict hygiene and safety guidelines while they are working in the fields. Rousseau Farms grow carrots, broccoli, cabbage, watermelons, sweet corn, parsley, cilantro, kale, beets, onions and lettuces!

**Why did you Get involved in Food Safety?**

I got involved in Food safety because I wanted to use my microbiology degree while working in agriculture, this position was a great fit after graduating from college with a science degree and a master's in business. I've been able to utilize both degrees and stay connected to agriculture and farming. It's an increasing and unique position within a farm, you don't just have to be a farmer to be involved in Agriculture today!

**What is your favorite part about working in food safety?**

Every day is a different challenge and with those challenges come unique opportunities, you must have great problem-solving skills! Our team loves the changing environment with our seasons, we are able to grow different commodities throughout the year here. We don't have to transition to other areas to grow the same commodities.

**What is your least favorite part about working in food safety?**

The growing regulations that don't allow flexibility in solutions. We have to have flexibility in the guidelines for the different commodities and growing practices. Risk assessing has become a valuable tool when determining food safety standards.

**Any cool stories or facts to share?**

We have a market from Memorial Day to Fourth of July where we sell sweet corn and watermelons; a lot of people from the Midwest say our Sweet Corn is some of the best they've had! You can eat the entire Watermelon, rind and all! it's a perfect refresher for the hot summer months here! A baby carrot isn't exactly a baby, they are a large carrot cut into pieces for your snacking pleasure! Americans on average eat 10lbs of fresh carrots per year.