

Claire Marik is a second-year graduate student at Virginia Tech pursuing a master's degree in food science and technology with an emphasis in food safety. Claire graduated with her bachelor's degree in food science from the University of Delaware in May of 2018. While attending the University of Delaware, Claire worked as an undergraduate researcher where she had the privilege of working on numerous research projects related to the safety of fresh produce. Through the opportunities she was afforded at the University of Delaware, Claire found a passion for produce safety research and decided to continue her education at Virginia Tech. Claire's thesis work at Virginia Tech focuses on investigating the effects of non-chemical fumigation techniques on soil *Salmonella* populations in tomatoes fields. Additionally, during her master's, Claire conducted a systematic literature review on *Listeria monocytogenes* growth and survival on fruit and vegetable surfaces in order to identify currently available data, determine existing data gaps and develop quantitative risk models to demonstrate growth and survival potential. After finishing her graduate education, Claire is excited to enter into a career in the produce industry.