



Minnesota Food Safety and Defense Task Force



2024 MEETING DATES*

JANUARY 16, 2024	MAY 21, 2024	SEPTEMBER 17, 2024
MARCH 12, 2024	JULY 16, 2024	NOVEMBER 19, 2024

* Note that meeting dates may change, check our website for updated meeting information.

About the Task Force

The Governor’s Food Safety and Defense Task Force has continuously met since 1990 to discuss issues affecting Minnesota’s food system. The task force is composed of seventeen members, ten of whom are appointed by the Governor’s office, representing food regulatory agencies, agricultural industries, food related non-profit associations, and the University of Minnesota. Meetings of the Task Force are held every other month and are open to anyone interested.

“For over 30 years, the MN-FSDTF has offered a critical forum for regulatory, industry, and academic communities to collaborate on training and sharing of best practices to advance a safe and secure food supply for Minnesota.”
-Courtney Bidney, General Mills

Mission

The task force coordinates educational efforts regarding food safety and defense; provides advice and education to agencies as requested; serves as a source of information and referral for the public, news media, and others concerned with food safety and defense; and makes regulatory recommendations to Congress, the legislative committees with jurisdiction over agriculture finance and policy, the legislature, and others about appropriate action to improve food safety and defense in the state. In addition, the Task Force supports the Integrated Food Safety System (IFSS) initiative promoted by the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) by providing an interdisciplinary response to food safety and defense issues.

Funding

Funding for Task Force activities are made possible in part through grant 1U2FFD008104 from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The views expressed in written conference materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services; nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

More Information

Contact the Minnesota Department of Agriculture’s Food and Feed Safety Division at 612-247-5888 or visit mn.foodprotectiontaskforce.com. If you are interested in being added to our email list, please send an email request to info@mn.foodprotectiontaskforce.com.

Members

Courtney Bidney
General Mills (Chair)

Chris Gindorff
Hy-Vee, Inc.
(Vice-Chair)

Angie Cyr
Minnesota Department
of Health

Amy Johnston
University of Minnesota

Brent Kobiulush
Conagra Brands

Caldoun Abuhakel
Done Right Food
Services

Patrice Bailey
Minnesota Department
of Agriculture

Chris van Twuyver
US Food and Drug
Administration

Jaime Kirkpatrick
US Department of
Agriculture

Jamie Pfuhl
Minnesota Grocers
Association

Erin Mertz
Ecolab

Julia Selleys
Hennepin County
Environmental Health

Lolly Occhino
Agricultural Utilization
Research Institute

Derick Davis
Maximus Federal

Luke Meier
North Central States
Regional Council of
Carpenters

**Ruth Linkenmeyer
Meirick**
Minnesota Farm Bureau

Steven Foster
Wholesale Produce
Supply