



# Minnesota Food Safety and Defense Task Force



## 2026 MEETING DATES\*

JANUARY 22, 2026	JULY 21, 2026
APRIL 21, 2026	OCTOBER 20, 2026
* 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, Previous Food Safety and Defense Task Force Chair*

## 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](http://mn.foodprotectiontaskforce.com). If you are interested in being added to our email list, please send an email request to [info@mn.foodprotectiontaskforce.com](mailto:info@mn.foodprotectiontaskforce.com).

## Members

### Angie Wheeler

Minnesota Department of Health

### Chris van Twuyver

U.S. Food and Drug Administration

### Julia Selleys

Hennepin County Environmental Health

### Patrice Bailey

Minnesota Department of Agriculture

### Steven Barthel

Minnesota Grocers Association

### Amy Johnston

University of Minnesota

### Derick Davis

Maximus Federal

### Charlie Lucas

Agricultural Utilization Research Institute

### Ruth Linkenmeyer Meirick

Minnesota Farm Bureau

### Steven Foster

Wholesale Produce Supply

### Dr. Carrie Rigdon

Association of Food and Drug Officials

### Erin Mertz

Ecolab

### Luke Meier

Northern Midwest Regional Council of Carpenters

### Dr. Stan Osuagwu

Lauridsen Group Inc.

### Thomas Webber

Bizzy Cold Brew Coffee