



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 sixteen members, nine 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.

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

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The MN- FSDTF provides a unique public forum for the regulatory, industry, and academic communities to air and address food safety and related issues of shared interest for the advancement of public health in Minnesota.

– Ruth Petran, Ecolab

2020 MEETING DATES*

JANUARY 7, 2020

JULY 21, 2020

MARCH 10, 2020

SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

MAY 19, 2020

NOVEMBER 17, 2020

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

Members

Ruth Petran
Ecolab, Inc. (Chair)

Courtney Bidney
General Mills
(Vice-Chair)

Caldoun Abuhakel
Done Right Food
Services

Cecilia Coulter MN
Farmers Market Assoc.

Chris Gindorff
Lunds & Byerly's
Food Holding

Brent Kobielush
Cargill

Susan Palchick
Hennepin County

Jim Van Der Pol
Minnesota
Farmers Union

Benjamin Warren
Land O'Lakes

Patrice Bailey
MN Department
of Agriculture

Angie Cyr
MN Department
of Health

Michael Dutcher
US Food and Drug
Administration

Jaime Kirkpatrick
US Department
of Agriculture

Lolly Occhino
Agricultural Utilization
Research Institute

Jamie Pfuhl
MN Grocers
Association

Annalisa Hultburg
University of
Minnesota

More Information

Contact the MN 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.