



Minnesota Food Safety and Defense Task Force



2025 MEETING DATES*

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|------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| JANUARY 21, 2025 | MAY 20, 2025 | SEPTEMBER 16, 2025 |
| MARCH 18, 2025 | JULY 15, 2025 | NOVEMBER 18, 2025 |

* 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

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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

Angie Wheeler

Minnesota Department of Health

Amy Johnston

University of Minnesota

Dr. Carrie Rigdon

Association of Food and Drug Officials

Chris van Twuyver

U.S. Food and Drug Administration

Derick Davis

Maximus Federal

Erin Mertz

Ecolab

Dr. Jaime Kirkpatrick

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Julia Selleys

Hennepin County Environmental Health

Lolly Occhino

Agricultural Utilization Research Institute

Luke Meier

North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters

Patrice Bailey

Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Ruth Linkenmeyer Meirick

Minnesota Farm Bureau

Dr. Stan Osuagwu

Lauridsen Group Inc.

Steven Barthel

Minnesota Grocers Association

Steven Foster

Wholesale Produce Supply

Thomas Webber

Bizzy Cold Brew Coffee