



# Minnesota Food Safety and Defense Task force

## FOOD INNOVATION TEAM

### MEETING DATES

January 19, 2021

March 16, 2021

May 18, 2021

July 20, 2021

September 21, 2021

November 16, 2021

\* Note that meeting dates may change. Check our website ([mn.foodprotectiontaskforce.com](https://mn.foodprotectiontaskforce.com)) for updated meeting information.



### ABOUT THE FOOD INNOVATION TEAM

The Food Innovation Team (FIT) was created as a subcommittee of the Minnesota Food Safety and Defense Task Force (Task Force) to help answer questions and assist food business owners (FBOs) in navigating Minnesota's food licensing and regulatory environment. Most FBOs in Minnesota receive a license to do business from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), or their delegated agencies with relative ease. However, some FBOs may encounter challenges in licensing due to factors that may not be easily solved without assistance. When this happens, FBOs are encouraged to work with FIT to help answer their questions and create a path forward for their licensing needs. FIT does not take the place of working directly with licensing agencies. Rather, FIT helps FBOs who continue to face licensing challenges.



If you are interested in learning more about the process, please see the FIT Standard Operating Procedure and documents on the Task Force website at: <https://mn.foodprotectiontaskforce.com/food-innovation-team/>

The MDA has other resources to help new or growing food business. In particular, the [Starting a Food Business Roadmap](#) and the [Licensing Wizard](#) can be beneficial in helping FBOs determine what license type they may need.

## 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, 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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## FOOD INNOVATION TEAM ACRONYMS

Below is a list of acronyms used by FIT.

- AURI: Agriculture Utilization Research Institute
- DA: Delegated Agency
- FBO: Food Business Owner
- FFSD: Food and Feed Safety Division (MDA)
- FIT: Food Innovation Team
- FSDTF: Food Safety and Defense Task Force
- MDA: Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- MDH: Minnesota Department of Health
- MFMA: Minnesota Farmers' Market Association
- MISA: Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Farming
- PSIF: Pre Screening Intake Form

## MORE INFORMATION

Contact the MDA's Food and Feed Safety Division at 612-247-5888 or visit [mn.foodprotectiontaskforce.com](http://mn.foodprotectiontaskforce.com)

# Food Innovation Team Process & Procedures

Note: The gold boxes below represent which entity is responsible for each step of the process.

