

MN FOOD SAFETY AND DEFENSE TASK FORCE
Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2020

Today's meeting was held via WebEx

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 PM.

Members present included: Courtney Bidney, Chris Gindorff, Lorrene (Lolly) Occhino, Annalisa Hultberg, Jaime Kirkpatrick, Patrice Bailey, Angie Cyr, Jamie Pfuhl, Caldoun Abuhakel, Michelle Rossman, Julia Selleys, Sarah Anderson, John Hilgren, and Brent Kobielush.

Visitors present included: Ruth Petran, Benjamin Warren, Joe Jurusik, Carrie Rigdon, Karly Ackerman, Carolyn Warren, Jennifer van de Ligt, Dionne Meeham, Shaun Kennedy, Cheryl Eia, Joseph Scimeca, Jan Kelly, Mathew Gerths, Alida Sorenson, Jane Jewett, Jennifer Stephe, Natasha Hedin, Jane Knott, Brent Brehmer, Heidi Varberg, Lisa Wetzell, Alison Behling, Lenora Howard, Patrick Kennelly, Douglas Snyder, Michelle Boyd, Susan Bishop, and Julie Wagendorf.

1. Dates and links

The next Food Safety and Defense Task Force (FSDTF) Meeting will be Tuesday, November 17, 2020 via WebEx.

- The Minnesota Department of Agriculture [Emerging Farmers Working Group](#)
- [Minnesota Department of Health COVID-19 Recommendations for Critical Infrastructure Businesses and Industries](#)
- [Employee Health and Food Safety Checklist for Human and Animal Food Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Food Safety and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- American Association of Colleges and Universities [2020 Virtual Conference on Global Learning](#)
- [International Association of Food Protection \(IAFP\) 2020 Annual Meeting](#)
- [Food Protection and Defense Institute \(FPDI\) Intentional Adulteration Rule Online Training](#)
- [2020 Livestock Processing Survey Results](#)
- AURI webinar Wednesday: [Building and Industrial Hemp Industry in Minnesota](#)

2. The minutes from the July 2020 meeting were accepted with no comments.

3. Member and Visitor Updates:

Patrice Bailey (Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA)): Patrice is the Assistant Commissioner for the MDA. He shared that the Emerging Farmer Working Group is accepting applications through 10/2/2020. See the link above for more details.

Julia Selleys (Hennepin County Public Health): Julia shared that they have been overwhelmed with COVID-19 response. Lots of staff have received reassignments to help with response including cluster calls, contract tracing and outreach.

Annalisa Hultberg (University of Minnesota Extension): Annalisa mentioned that they will be hosting virtual Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) produce safety grower trainings this winter.

There will be four English language trainings, one Spanish language training and one Hmong language training. Trainings will run January 2021 – April 2021. Many distributors and grocers that purchase local produce in the summer may have vendors that are covered by the Produce Safety Rule and are therefore required to attend this training.

Carrie Rigdon (Minnesota Department of Agriculture): Carrie shared an update on the Safe at Retail Cost-Share Program which designated money from the legislature to retailers who have a Retail Food Handlers license. The program closed the end of August, and the MDA is working on getting notifications out to recipients. There should be more data to share at the next FSDTF meeting. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) also recently shared updated guidance documents with recommendations for critical sectors including food and agriculture. The updated guidance specifically talks about testing, isolation, close contact definition and quarantine strategies.

Carolyn Warren (United States Food and Drug Association (FDA)): Carolyn shared that there are no updates from an inspectional standpoint at this time. They are still following the risk-based approach to inspections with pre-announcing as noted in the latest July announcement. There is a new Employee Health Food Safety Checklist for Human and Animal Food Processors guidance document up on their website (link provided above). This document was put together by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the FDA and includes lots of helpful resources.

Jane Jewett (Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture (MISA)): Jane shared that they have been busy working with farmers and farmers' markets helping them set up a website and be able to receive online sales. This has been quite the market shift due to the COVID-19 pandemic. They also recently received an extension on their Blazing Trails Food Regulation project and will be working on completing training modules that can be shared virtually.

Jan Kelly (MDA): Jan is the Manufactured Food Program (MFP) Manager within the FFSD within MDA. Inspection work picked back up in early June with all inspections now being pre-announced. The program is still conducting FDA contract inspections and estimate being about to complete about 80% of contracted inspections, despite the 3-month lapse. Inspectors are handing out a resources document with every inspection that they do which includes many helpful links.

Joe Scimeca (International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA)): Joe shared that the Food Allergy Research and Education (FARE) organization has an initiative to harmonize the use of cautionary allergen labeling information. Utilization of the language is not uniform across the industry and can be very confusing to consumer. FARE is working with trade organizations and has started a conversation with FDA.

Ruth Petran (Ecolab): Ecolab continues to respond to customer needs in response to COVID-19 as they reopen. We are coming up on conference season and wanted to mention a few that are upcoming: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is hosting a meeting next week related to salmonella in poultry. The Institute for Food Safety and Health annual meeting is also next week. International Association of Food Protection (IAFP) meeting is scheduled for 10/26-10/28 and will be held virtually.

Shaun Kennedy (Food Systems Institute/U of M): Shaun shared that the Ecosystems Health group is presenting at the American Association of Colleges and Universities 2020 Virtual Conference on Global Learning. The conference will take place 10/8 - 10/10. If you have a ".umn" email address you can register for free. If interested, reach out to Shaun. A new freshman seminar series will be beginning in the spring on ecosystems and will be case study based. Looking for anyone from government/private sector that may have ecosystem case studies to share. Work has also started with

non-profits regarding developing a COVID-19 case study on what could we have known when (not what we did wrong).

Joe Jurusik (Hennepin County Public Health): Joe mentioned that their staff has been busy working on COVID-19 complaint response.

Courtney Bidney (General Mills): Courtney shared that through their trade association, Consumer Brands Association (CBA) they have been working with the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO), regarding establishing principles for virtual audits. Patrick Kennelly, Program Director of the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO), will be sharing a system demo in today's meeting.

Jennifer van de Ligt (Food Protection and Defense Institute (FPDI)): During the summer they conducted research and issued situation updates and ideas for response primarily related to the system disruption that occurred in the meat sector. Those have stopped but one of the recent updates includes information on the OSHA fines are going out to some of those facilities. For those in food manufacturing facilities still struggling with COVID-19 and workplace infection, understanding what happened at some of the larger facilities may be instructive for how they choose to respond. On the training side they've worked closely with the Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance (FSPCA) and FDA to pilot online Intentional Adulteration Standardized curriculum in an online format. They recently received approval to offer the training consistently in online format. They will providing an online course 10/26 – 10/30 which they hope to have up their website, next week.

Angie Cyr (Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)): Angie mentioned that they have been working on enforcement activities in partnership with other agencies. This enforcement is being driven by the Governor's office and has been targeted based on complaints received and community outbreak numbers. MDH hasn't issued any enforcement from this. They are providing a lot of educational outreach reminding business about the executive orders.

Chris Gindorff (Lund's and Byerly's): Working on getting their manufacturing group prepared for next SQF inspection coming up. Despite all the challenges of this year they are moving forward on store development, builds and involvement in diversity, equity and inclusion meetings.

4. Food Innovation Team (FIT) Updates

Jane Jewett, FIT co-chair, provided an update on the two cases that were reviewed at the FIT meeting this morning. Case business models and key issues were discussed at length during the FIT meeting and options for moving forward were identified. Recommendation reports will be distributed once they are finalized. The FIT also announced new members who will be serving two-year terms.

New FIT Membership:

Position	Name
Local/Regional Food System Expert – College/University Based	Jane Jewett, Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture (MISA)
Local Food Farming Community	Noelle Harden, White Rabbit Urban Farm
Non-Regulatory Food System Expert	Lolly Occhino, Agriculture Utilization Research Institute

MDH Delegated Agency Representative	Jane Knott, Sterns County Environmental Services
MDA Delegated Agency Representative	Joe Jurusik, Hennepin County Environmental Health
MDH Representative	Blake Nordin, Food, Pools and Lodging Services, MDH
MDA Representative	Vacant – to be filled by incoming Licensing Liaison
Local Food Maker Community	Vacant

5. Training Discussion – Grant Year 3

Natasha Hedin, Outreach Coordinator for the FFSD within MDA reviewed potential training options for the current grant year that were mentioned at the July meeting. In previous years the FSDTF focused efforts on FSMA training however, the group has started the conversation of pivoting towards what’s needed currently and considerations around what can be done in a virtual environment.

Topics discussed included key components and best practices of traceability, teaming up with Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom on integrating basic food safety curriculum into the classroom (if there is a need), a deeper dive into food safety culture, and translation of FIT documents into Spanish. Providing an Intentional Adulteration webinar or Q&A refresher geared towards small to medium firms was added to list. As routine food-safety inspections pick back up, firms will start to see those questions and may not be ready considering all that’s been happening with COVID-19.

A decision was made to move forward with translation of the FIT documents. Shaun Kennedy, Annalisa Hultberg, and Jamie Pfuhl volunteered to team up with the FSDTF chairs and Natasha Hedin to revisit the remaining topics, narrow the scope, determine costs and bring recommendations to the November meeting with the intention of voting.

5. COVID-19 Pandemic Impacts Survey

Lolly Occhino, Food Scientist with the Agriculture Utilization Research Institute provided a presentation on the COVID-19 Pandemic Impact Survey that they partnered with AgriGrowth, College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS) at the University of Minnesota, GreenSeam, and the MDA on. The survey results and data are still being finalized. A webinar to share the results with the survey respondents will be held in September and one for the general public in November.

7. Virtual Audit Framework

Patrick Kennelly, Program Director of the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) provided background on virtual audit framework and a demo of the application that was developed for secure sharing of documents. Throughout the process the company retains control of their document(s) (timeframe available, amount of reviews, downloadable) and can set various controls that will allow for remote access. Emphasized that it’s not a communication replacement, simply a tool for remote access.

8. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

1. Food Safety Culture basics
2. COVID-19 debrief from a crisis management perspective, e.g. what have we learned, what would we do differently, what communication protocols need to be in place, and clarification on roles & responsibilities.
3. High Risk Foods document overview

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Attachment 1
September Meeting Slides

September Minnesota Food Safety and Defense Task Force Meeting

September 15, 2020



Reminders

- This meeting is being recorded
- Use mute
- Utilize the chat box for general questions
- WebEx questions other issues email alida.sorenson@state.mn.us

AGENDA

Food Safety and Defense Task Force

September 15, 2020

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

WebEx

1:30 p.m. – 2:10 p.m.	Welcome & Around the Room <ul style="list-style-type: none">Approval of July minutes	Courtney Bidney, General Mills
2:10 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Food Innovation Team Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">Case ReviewAnnounce new members	FIT co-chair/member
2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Training Discussion – Grant Year 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Prioritize training options	
2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	COVID Pandemic Impacts Survey Results <ul style="list-style-type: none">preliminary data	Lolly Occhino, Agriculture Utilization Research Institute
3:00 p.m. – 3:25 p.m.	AFDO Virtual Audit Framework	Patrick Kennelly, Association of Food and Drug Officials
3:25 p.m. – 3:30	Solicit Agenda Items for November	

Next Meeting: Location TBD, November 17, 2020, 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Welcome and Around the Room

- Approval of July Meeting Minutes
- Around the Room
 - Please type your name into the meeting chat box
 - Individuals will be called on to share updates

Food Innovation Team Update

- Case Review Updates

Food Innovation Team – New Membership

- New and re-appointed members serving two-year terms expiring September 2022
 - **Re-appointed:**
 - Local/regional food systems expert college/university based: Jane Jewett
 - Minnesota Department of Health Representative: Blake Nordin
 - Food Safety Expert – non agency: Lolly Occhino
 - **New:**
 - MDA Delegated Agency: Joe Jurusik
 - MDH Delegated Agency: Jane Knott
 - Local Food Farming Community: Noelle Harden
 - Local Food Maker Community: Vacant
 - Minnesota Department of Agriculture Representative: Incoming Licensing Liaison

Training Discussion – Grant Year 3

- **Traceability Training**
 - Fundamentals using information that is already available
 - Virtual Webinar - IFT Global Food Traceability Center
- **Food Safety Culture 101**
- **MN Agriculture in the Classroom** - provide activities around the effects of COVID-19 on the local food supply and the impacts seen by children and food safety.
- **Translating Food Innovation Team (FIT) Documents**
 - Pre-Screening Intake Form
 - Group flyer

COVID-19 Pandemic Impacts Survey

Lolly Occhino, Scientist of Food & Nutrition, Agriculture Utilization
Research Institute (AURI)

Virtual Audit Framework

Patrick Kennelly, Program Director, Association of Food and
Drug Officials (AFDO)

Potential Agenda Items for November Meeting

- COVID-19 reflection/lessons learned
 - Enhanced safety practices
 - How are we evolving our programs with new thinking
- Food Safety Culture
 - Discussion within FSDTF of what it looks like within organizations

Thank you!

