



## 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

Funding for Task Force activities are made possible in part through grant 1U18FD006411-01 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.

*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](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).