

The Black Pearl Award



*The Elusive Black Pearl
Sought after from Oceania
To the Orient by European Lords
And Asian Emperors Alike,
Its Rarity a Sign of Determination,
Its Luster a Sign of Quality,
Its Acquisition a Sign of Excellence*

*The Wilbur S. Feagan
F&H Food Equipment Co.*

*Black Pearl Award
of Corporate Excellence
in Food Safety and Quality*

Presented by the International Association for Food Protection

Awardees' Statements of Pride



Mondelēz International – 2021 Recipient



“At Mondelēz International, our mission is to lead the future of snacking by offering the right snack for the right moment made the right way. We call it Snacking Made Right, and making sure our consumers can enjoy safe, high-quality snacks is at the heart of everything we do. We are incredibly honored to receive the Black Pearl Award from IAFP. Food safety and quality is at the core of all that we do at Mondelēz

International, and every single one of our colleagues plays an important role in helping us achieve those high standards as we create beloved brands consumers know and love. Around the world, our operations have an unwavering commitment by every colleague to deliver safety and quality for our consumers.”

Frank Sabella, Vice President, Research, Development and Quality

Eat Well, Live Well.



Ajinomoto Foods North America, Inc. – 2020 Recipient



“Ajinomoto Foods North America is humbled to receive the 2020 Black Pearl Award. At Ajinomoto, our motto is ‘Eat Better, Live Better,’ which speaks to our commitment to quality and making great food that is better for everyone. We have proudly placed the Black Pearl Award in the lobby of our corporate headquarters as a daily reminder of our commitment to quality.”

W.C. Brodegard, Vice President, Food Safety and Quality



General Mills

General Mills – 2019 Recipient



“General Mills is proud to be the recipient of the 2019 IAFP Black Pearl Award. General Mills makes food the world loves. We have a legacy of Food Safety and Quality and are deeply committed to creating a world class food safety culture.

We take accountability that the products we make for families around the world are safe, wholesome, and delicious every day.”

Mark Fryling, Vice President, Food Safety, Quality and Regulatory



Awardees' Statements of Pride

eurofins Eurofins Scientific, Inc. – 2018 Recipient



“Eurofins is humbled to accept the 2018 Black Pearl Award. This recognition is a reflection of 30 years of leadership from Eurofins food safety experts around the world working to advance our mission of testing for life. IAFP’s espoused values of integrity,

innovation and education are shared by Eurofins and are showcased in actions and responsibility that our team members have for all of our clients. Our commitment to being the trusted advisor and service provider that the food safety industry can rely on is further emboldened by the honor of this award.”

Douglas Marshall, Chief Scientific Officer



Panda Restaurant Group, Inc. – 2017 Recipient



“Panda Restaurant Group is honored to be the recipient of the prestigious 2017 Black Pearl Award. Food safety is central to our mission to deliver exceptional dining experiences and our unwavering commitment to uphold best-in-class standards in our restaurants. As a family-owned business, we believe our guests are an extension of our family and, as such, their health and the safety of what we serve remains our number one priority. The Black Pearl Award is displayed proudly in the lobby of our Support Center as a reminder of this commitment so that we may deliver food with passion, service with heart, and ambiance with pride to our guests every day.”

Peggy Cheng, Co-Founder and Co-CEO

meijer **Meijer – 2016 Recipient**



“Receiving the Black Pearl Award was an honor for our entire organization. It let us know that we were meeting and exceeding our customers’ expectations with regard to serving only safe, high-quality food. Our award is prominently

displayed in our main lobby so that all visitors know that Meijer is committed to being a leader in food safety.”

Cory Hedman, Vice President, Food Safety & Quality



Awardees' Statements of Pride



Tyson Foods, Inc. – 2015 Recipient



“We were excited and humbled to receive this award from such a prestigious organization. We’ve built a culture that’s centered around food safety to learn, improve, and share. It’s this cycle with our team members and industry partners that will



lead to continuous progress towards safer, high-quality food around the world each and every day.”

Scott Brooks, Senior Vice President, Food Safety Quality and Assurance



Sodexo, Inc. – 2014 Recipient



“Sodexo was truly privileged and honored to receive the IAFP 2014 Black Pearl Award. This is a testament to the tremendous work of our entire food safety team and our 100,000 frontline employees serving over nine million

safe, high-quality meals each day. This demonstrates our strong food safety culture and confirms Sodexo’s commitment to making food safety not only a top priority but a firm value of the organization.”

Carlos Menes, Director, Food Safety and PQA



Publix Super Markets, Inc. – 2013 Recipient



“Since our founding in 1930, it has been our commitment to provide our customers safe, high-quality products. Receiving the IAFP Black Pearl Award was a great honor for the more than 225,000 Publix associates who work so hard to maintain that commitment throughout every area of the company – from sourcing and procurement, to our



manufacturing and distribution facilities, to our retail stores, to the home kitchens of our customers. We will continue to collaborate with other leaders in food safety on our journey of continuous quality improvement.”

Todd Jones, Chief Executive Officer

Awardees' Statements of Pride



The Kroger Co. – 2012 Recipient



“Kroger was truly honored to receive the Black Pearl Award. Every day, our associates work diligently to ensure the safety of the food products manufactured in our plants and sold in our stores. This award is a reflection of their commitment and efforts. Through strong company leadership, dedication, and values, our food safety programs

have continuously improved. We appreciate what IAFP does to raise food safety awareness in our industry through collaboration, education, and recognition.”

Rodney McMullen, President and CEO



bioMérieux, Inc. – 2011 Recipient



“The bioMérieux Industry Team is most honored to be a Black Pearl Award recipient. We are pleased that the core values used to identify Black Pearl Award recipients align with the core values that are embraced by bioMérieux. Promotion of ethical and fair business practices, attending to environmental stewardship, and adherence to regulatory requirements are not

just words, they are how we conduct business at bioMérieux. Our commitment to advancing diagnostic Microbiology has been unwavering and, as a leader in the field, we will remain steadfast in our support of global food safety, public health and the goals of the IAFP organization.”



Nicolas Cartier, Corporate Vice President, bioMérieux Industry Unit

Awardees' Statements of Pride



Fresh Express, Incorporated – 2010 Recipient

“We were honored and extremely proud to receive the prestigious Black Pearl Award in 2010 because it represented not only the dedication and hard work of our food safety professionals, but also the entire Fresh Express organization in upholding our companywide culture of food safety excellence. The challenges faced by fresh foods companies in delivering food safety across the entire supply chain are more complex than ever before. And, as a result, the rigorous tenets outlined within the Black Pearl Award process resonate even more strongly. Fresh Express salutes the leadership and vision of IAFP and all its members who remain at the forefront in the advancement of food safety technologies, strategies and practices that must comprise the centerpiece of today’s food industry corporate mandate.”



John Olivo, President



Schnuck Markets, Inc. – 2009 Recipient



“On behalf of the Schnuck family, our food safety team and nearly 15,000 teammates across the company, I thank the members of IAFP for awarding Schnucks the prestigious Black Pearl Award. With more than 75 years of serving customers, this achievement is a validation of our progress and of our

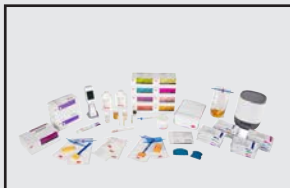
ongoing efforts to provide food safe environments, education and training for our teammates and customers. We also applaud IAFP for their efforts in bringing the importance of food safety to the global forefront, helping ensure people around the world have confidence in the food they consume.”



Todd Schnuck, Chairman and CEO



3M Food Safety – 2008 Recipient



“Receiving the Black Pearl Award distinction from IAFP is truly an honor. The award is a testament to our longstanding commitment to providing solutions that contribute to food safety and quality worldwide. As a dependable partner for risk-based, preventative food safety, we continue to innovate, creating solutions and technology platforms that simplify food safety processes for enhanced

productivity, as well as strengthen our partnerships with IAFP, our customers, and the industry.”

Srini Raman, President

Awardees' Statements of Pride



Beef Products, Inc. – 2007 Recipient

“Receipt of the IAFP Black Pearl Award was an important milestone in demonstrating BPI’s food safety culture. We are honored to be a member of this elite organization and to have been recognized in this fashion. Food quality and safety is not a department within our company. We strive each day to make it part of our focus for every single member of our team. We empower all of our team to do what’s right – and making the best, safest, highest quality lean beef possible is exactly that.”

Craig Letch, President, Beef Products, Inc.

Nick Roth, President, BPI Technology, Inc.



Ecolab Inc. – 2006 Recipient

“Ecolab is honored to receive the prestigious Black Pearl Award from IAFP for our commitment to advancing food safety throughout the world. We help companies keep food safe across the global supply chain through innovative solutions, programs, and services that protect people and businesses from the risks of illness-causing pathogens. Ecolab is proud to be recognized as an industry leader for our work to help ensure safe food.”



Lisa Robinson, Vice President, Global Food Safety and Public Health



DuPont – 2005 Recipient



“DuPont is proud to be among the recipients of the Black Pearl Award. This prestigious honor recognizes our commitment to safety, quality and innovation and our focus on improving the enjoyment and delivery of food and health solutions around the world. Safety is at the foundation of DuPont and what motivates our work at every link of the value chain. We combine in-depth knowledge with current research and expert science for the food, beverage, pharmaceutical and dietary supplement industries, and will continue to put science to work to create essential innovation for a better, safer, healthier world.”

Awardees' Statements of Pride



Jack in the Box Inc. – 2004 Recipient

“Food safety is part of the DNA of Jack in the Box. We are extremely honored that IAFP recognized the organization with the prestigious Black Pearl Award. The award recognized the commitment and efforts of Jack in the Box and all of our team members who work diligently every day to protect our guests and brand. We continue to be inspired to evolve and further enhance our food safety program. This spirit of continuous improvement enhances not only Jack in the Box’s performance but helps the industry as a whole make the food chain safer.”

Jody Johnson, Vice President, Food Safety and Regulatory Compliance



Wegmans Food Markets – 2003 Recipient



“This prestigious award is so significant to our company. It recognizes our food safety and quality commitment, which requires a massive demonstration of the company’s philosophy: ‘Good people working together can accomplish anything we set out to do.’ Almost all of our 53,000 people are touched by our food safety initiative in some way, so we’re letting them know that their efforts are worthy of the Black Pearl Award.”

Danny Wegman, CEO



Darden – 2002 Recipient

“With IAFP being the premier international food safety organization, it made us especially proud to be the recipients of the Black Pearl Award. For us, obtaining the award was the ultimate recognition and validation of our efforts to provide the safest and highest quality products to our dining guests! The award serves as a symbol of our quality and food safety expectations across our global supply chain!”

Paige Hartley, Vice President, Total Quality

Awardees' Statements of Pride



Walt Disney World Resort – 2001 Recipient

“Walt Disney World® is honored to be a Black Pearl recipient and to support IAFP’s commitment to high food safety standards. Receiving this award is especially meaningful as we are committed to building global partnerships in the ongoing pursuit of food safety excellence.”

Freg Hale, Chief Safety Officer and Vice President of Worldwide Safety Assurance



Zep Manufacturing Company – 2000 Recipient

“Since 1937, Zep’s cleaning and sanitation chemicals have helped Food and Beverage Processors mitigate risks and control costs. In 2017, Zep Inc. acquired AFCO, strengthening the presence and capabilities of two successful companies focused on continuous improvement in the quality and safety of food processing. AFCO | Zep Food Safety Specialists will partner with you to help improve your food quality and safety programs, train your team members on safe and effective sanitation procedures, and help you stay compliant with the ever-changing regulatory environment and customer audit mandates. Being recognized with the prestigious Black Pearl Award is a great honor and a testament to the high levels of service provided by everyone on the AFCO | Zep team.”



Bob Klinetob, Senior Vice President and General Manager of AFCO, a Zep Company



Caravelle Foods – 1999 Recipient



“Caravelle Foods is immensely proud to have received the Black Pearl Award. It is unquestionably one of the highest honors we have ever received. The Black Pearl Award is prominently displayed in the main foyer of our plant and is a constant reminder of our management’s commitment to excellence in food safety and quality. In addition, this recognition

has motivated us to work even harder in the pursuit of the highest possible levels of food safety and quality performance.”

Ron Osborne, Retired Vice President of Quality Assurance, Food Safety & Technical Services

Awardees' Statements of Pride

KraftHeinz Kraft Foods, Inc. – 1998 Recipient



“For more than 100 years, Kraft Heinz has been dedicated to helping people around the world eat and live better. The safety and quality of our products are central to building the trust that our consumers have in Kraft Heinz and our brands. We are very proud to have received the Black Pearl Award as recognition of our commitment and leadership in this area.”

Kurt Deibel, Vice President, Quality and Food Safety

Papetti's of Iowa Food Products, Inc. – 1997 Recipient



Silliker, Inc. (Mérieux NutriSciences) – 1996 Recipient



“At Mérieux NutriSciences, we leverage over 50 years of scientific and entrepreneurial expertise to answer food industry needs. Today’s global challenges transform the way food is produced, marketed, and consumed, which is why we know our clients need more than reliable analytical results; they need practical and innovative solutions that will contribute

to make food systems safer, healthier and more sustainable. From our initial expertise in microbiology and consulting, we have broadened our scope of scientific specialties into chemistry, education, certification, research, labeling, and sensory in order to offer a complete suite of services to meet our customers’ needs. Today, we offer comprehensive solutions to support our clients, from product development to market suitability, while contributing to consumers’ health worldwide. Presently worldwide, we are more than 100 accredited laboratories and a team of over 8,000 committed employees. We strongly believe that together, we can create solutions to offer our planet: BETTER FOOD. BETTER HEALTH. BETTER WORLD.”

Sebastien Moulard, President, Mérieux NutriSciences North America

Awardees' Statements of Pride



Albertson's, Inc. – 1995 Recipient

“At Albertsons Companies, our goal is to be ‘Your Favorite Local Supermarket.’ That limitless quest begins and ends with our customers. Food safety is a constant priority, because the quality of our products is the very foundation of our customer relationship. The commitment is a top-down priority, from our executive team through our innovation lab, manufacturing plants, distribution centers and, of course, our 2,300+ stores. The safety of the food supply, for our company and globally, demands nothing less. We are very proud to have received the prestigious Black Pearl Award and vow to uphold the high standards for consumer protection and operational excellence that the award represents.”



Jerry Noland, Group Vice President, Quality Assurance and Consumer Protection



H-E-B – 1994 Recipient



“Since 1905, Texans have come to trust H-E-B for our quality, service, value, commitment to community and heart for people. As one of the most trusted brands in the nation, H-E-B is committed to excellence in food safety and quality, and we uphold our

Bold Promise to provide the highest quality food and products to our dedicated customers every day. It is a great honor that H-E-B was the first recipient of the prestigious IAFP Black Pearl Award.”



Tammi Frederick, Vice President, Food Safety and Quality

We invite you to nominate your company

Each year, the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) honors a single company with its most prestigious award, The Black Pearl Award, in recognition of that company's efforts in advancing food safety and quality through consumer programs, employee relations, educational activities, adherence to standards and support of the goals and objectives of IAFP.

The Black Pearl Award is sponsored by F&H Food Equipment Company, located in Springfield, Missouri. It is presented annually by the International Association for Food Protection.



For nomination criteria, contact:



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Food Protection**®

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Advancing Food Safety Worldwide®

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