



International Association for  
**Food Protection**®

# Food Safety Innovation Award

The Food Safety Innovation Award is presented to an IAFP Member or organization for creating a new idea, practice, or product that has had a positive impact on food safety, thus, improving public health and the quality of life. The purpose of this award is to recognize individuals or teams that have made an innovative contribution to food safety and to encourage other professionals to search for creative solutions. Change that promotes or improves food safety is the foundation of this award. The award consists of a plaque and a \$2,500 honorarium sponsored by **Walmart**.

## Qualifications for nominees

- The primary inventor or at least one team member of the invention team must be an IAFP Member in good standing at the time of nomination and during the IAFP Annual Meeting (when receiving the award)
- The individual or organization being recognized must be the primary contributor or sole developer of the innovation
- The individual or organization must have a demonstrable record of high personal standards and professional ethics
- Previous recipients of the Food Safety Innovation Award, IAFP Executive Board Members, and IAFP Awards Committee Members are not eligible.

## Criteria for nominations

Please provide *specific information* on the following:

- The **innovation** (new idea, practice, or product) that promotes or improves food safety. Provide a thorough description of the innovation, an explanation of its benefits and how the innovation is used or applied.
- The **uniqueness** of the innovation or the significance of the change. Provide an understanding of the uniqueness of the innovation by explaining how it has filled a particular void or changed thinking, practices, processes, or procedures.
- The **impact** (results) the innovation has had on food safety. Provide an explanation with examples of how the innovation has advanced or is advancing food safety and public health.
- The **adoption** or adaptation of the innovation by other professionals or organizations. Provide specific examples of how other professionals, organizations, and institutions have adopted or endorsed the innovation.
- The **recognition** of the innovation by peers or in industry publications. Provide examples of how the benefits of the innovation have been recognized by peers and industry publications.

## Additional points to consider under the criteria for evaluating nominee

- **Participation in IAFP Activities**  
Provide membership history and listing of past and present involvement in IAFP committees and PDGs, Annual Meeting attendance and program participation (e.g. speaker, symposium organizer, etc.) and other IAFP activities.
- **Timeliness of innovation**  
The innovation must be considered new or current having been created within the past 3 years.
- **Peer assessment**  
Provide no less than two and no more than three letters of support\* from professional peers **in addition to a nomination cover letter.**\*

## Submitting nominations

**Nominations must be submitted as one PDF to [awards@foodprotection.org](mailto:awards@foodprotection.org) by Tuesday, February 13, 2024.** Please follow directions carefully to avoid errors. **Nominations received by email directly to the IAFP office or by mail will not be accepted.** If you have any questions about this award or the required documents, please contact Susan Smith at [ssmith@foodprotection.org](mailto:ssmith@foodprotection.org).

Once you have submitted your **complete** nomination, you will receive an acknowledgment of receipt from Susan within 48 hours. (If you do not, please contact Susan.)

*\*Nomination letter and letters of support cannot be from a current IAFP Board Member*

**Note:** *The award winner and/or their employer cannot use the Food Safety Innovation Award in any advertising, packaging, or promotional material in connection with the innovation except with written permission by IAFP.*

# IAFP Food Safety Innovation Award Judging Procedure

## Procedure for evaluation of each nominee

This procedure was designed with the intention of providing a matrix to help the award jury select a winner with a relatively equitable, semi-quantitative method. Nominators have been instructed to provide specific information on the nominee that reflects the expectations and specific intent of the Food Safety Innovation Award: *To recognize individuals or teams that have made an innovative contribution to food safety.* Each criterion listed in the next section has a weight factor that is considered to reflect its importance relative to the specific intent of the Food Safety Innovation Award.

The jury's task is to evaluate the nominee by measuring performance against the criteria listed and applying the 1-10 Rating Scale given below. To obtain each criterion's \*weighted score, multiply the criterion's % weight (in decimal format) times the score that was assigned from the 1-10 Rating Scale. Nominees should be ranked for each criterion on their own merit and should also be ranked in relation to other nominees. The table provided on the next page should be used to organize the evaluation data. Add the weighted scores in order to obtain the overall ranking of the candidate.

## Rating Scale

9.0 – 10.0	<b>Outstanding:</b> performance exceeds <i>judge's</i> expectations for criterion
8.0 – 8.9	<b>Above average:</b> performance is above average expectation level for criterion.
7.0 – 7.9	<b>Average:</b> performance meets average criterion expectations
6.0 – 6.9	<b>Below average:</b> performance below expectations
5.9 or less	<b>Unsatisfactory or not applicable:</b> performance does not meet criterion expectations or the criterion does not apply to the candidate

The following is an example showing a nominee receiving a perfect score (10 in each criterion).

Award Criteria	Criterion % Weight (x Factor)	Judge's Score	Weighted Score
Innovation	20 % (0.20)	10.0	2.0
Uniqueness	20 % (0.10)	10.0	2.0
Impact	20 % (0.20)	10.0	2.0
Adoption	20 % (0.20)	10.0	2.0
Recognition	10% (0.10)	10.0	1.0
Participation in IAFP	5% (0.05)	10.0	0.5
Peer Assessment	<u>5 % (0.05)</u>	10.0	<u>0.5</u>
	100 %		10.0

\*Weighted score = criteria score given based on rating guideline times criteria weight factor.