



The Food Defense Professional Development Group

The Food Defense Professional Development Group provides a forum for professionals to discuss the threats posed by malicious, intentional contamination of the food supply and ways to prevent, detect, or mitigate them. With approximately 200 members, the PDG brings together diverse disciplines including toxicology, microbiology, engineering, process control, law enforcement, criminal investigation, physical security, cybersecurity, risk assessment, behavioral science, and others. As such, the members of this PDG are producers, researchers, regulators, engineers, and analysts representing industry, government, and academia.

The Food Defense PDG shares the expertise of its members through symposia and roundtables at the IAFP Annual Meetings. Some of the past and upcoming sessions the PDG has sponsored include:

- *International Food Defense Preparation for FSMA and Beyond*
- *One Size Does Not Fit All: Food Defense Planning for FSMA Compliance*
- *Interdisciplinary Teams Protecting Nachos at a Concert Near You – Food defense at large events (like the Super Bowl!)*
- *Are We Running with Two Food Safety Systems? Transitioning Corporate Food Safety Plans to the Operations Level*
- *When Crime Threatens Food Safety – Criminology as it relates to food defense and food safety*

Over the past several years, the Food Defense PDG has been a tremendous resource for sharing information on the implementation of the Intentional Adulteration (IA) Rule of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). The IA Rule requires facilities to have a food defense plan as well as comply with rules on training and record keeping. The rule is rolling out in stages, with large businesses beginning compliance in 2019 and small businesses in 2020. To assist businesses in preparing for these new regulations, the PDG has connected members to information and tools to help them prepare food defense plans and has served as a place for discussion where members can share experiences and learn best practices in food defense. Because of the value this provides, membership in the PDG has grown many times over since the publication of the IA Rule.

Conveying to producers and other professionals the importance of food defense is a constant challenge of the Food Defense PDG. For future symposia, the PDG is looking to partner with other PDGs to highlight the many areas in which food defense is relevant and to draw parallels to the issues faced daily by food and beverage professionals. To get involved with the Food Defense PDG or to share ideas for future symposia, contact the chair or vice chair.

Mark Kazmierczak, Chairperson
mark@gryphonscientific.com

Neal Fredrickson, Vice Chairperson
neal_fredrickson@cargill.com