



Affiliate Annual Report for Calendar Year 2024

(Complete Attachment B to be considered for one or more 2025 Affiliate Awards.)

To maintain compliance with IAFP Constitution and Bylaws, Affiliates must return this completed report. Please send by email to Susan Smith at: ssmith@foodprotection.org.

Please return the following items **electronically** by **Tuesday, March 4, 2025** (late reports will not be considered for awards):

REQUIRED:

- This completed form (*in English*).
- Your Association's list of current term officers (complete Attachment A).

OPTIONAL:

- Attachment B: Completion required **only** if your Association requests to be considered for one or more Affiliate Awards.
- IAFP now accepts **all** Affiliate Annual Reports electronically, including those vying for one or more of the Affiliate Awards. *Affiliates seeking to present the highest quality visual presentation are encouraged to present their Annual Report in the highest quality possible for review by the Selection Committee. To avoid errors and omissions, please limit your submission to ONE email with all attachments.*
- Digital photos (with names and descriptions) to appear in the *Affiliate View* quarterly newsletter.

Name of Affiliate

1. Your Official Delegate to IAFP Affiliate Council and Contact

Enter in the fields below the information requested for your Association's official Delegate to the IAFP Affiliate Council and your official Contact for IAFP correspondence. **Delegate must be an IAFP Member.**

Official Delegate to IAFP Affiliate Council

Name of Official Delegate

Wendy Wade White

1771 Indian Woods Dr.

Greensboro, GA

30642 770-294-9637

wwhite@gatech.edu

IAFP Member? Y ☒ N ☐

Official Contact for IAFP Correspondence (indicate “same” if person also serves as Delegate)

Name of official Contact for IAFP Correspondence
Same

IAFP Member? Y ☒ N ☐

2. Membership List

- a. Indicate the current total number of members in your Association: 542 Active: 122
Prospective 92
- b. How many NEW members joined your Association in 2024? 46 between Jan 1, 2024
and Dec 31, 2024

3. Meetings: Annual Meeting/Conference, Educational, Workshops, Webinars, etc.

- a. On what date(s) was your most recent general membership or major meeting (i.e., Annual Meeting/Conference) during the past year? Please list number of attendees.
64 Attendees. 2024 GAFP Fall Meeting on Sept 19, 2024
- b. Please provide the date(s) and location of your next scheduled major meeting (i.e., Annual Meeting/Conference):
GAFP Spring Meeting on March 4th, 2025 at DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Atlanta - Northlake
- c. List all other general membership meetings held in 2024 (excluding board meetings). Include title, dates and attendance numbers.

2024 GAFP Fall Meeting	19 SEPT 2024	64
2024 GAFP Spring Meeting	04 APR 2024	70

4. Awards and Scholarships

a. List members honored with an award from your Association and/or IAFP during 2024. Include name of award and qualification for award.

Rawane Raad	J. Mac Goepfert Developing Scientist Award - 3 rd place - Excellence in technical presentation of their graduate research
Georgia Association for Food Protection	Affiliate Communication Award - awarded for excellence in communication by Georgia affiliate and its membership
Harsimran Kapoor	The 2024 IAFP Student Travel Scholarship
Abby Pollock	The 2024 IAFP Student Travel Scholarship
Jared Christopher Smith	The 2024 IAFP Student Travel Scholarship
Daniel L. Weller	The 2024 IAFP Larry Beuchat Young Researcher

b. List scholarships awarded during 2024; include recipient and qualification for scholarship.

Scholarship Name/Amount Recipient Name How did recipient qualify for scholarship?

GAFF Jim Ayres Young Investigator Award – 1 st place	Minji Hur, PhD Candidate	Minji presented her research on the systematic comparison of susceptibility of seven arterial genera to blue light treatment
GAFF Jim Ayres Young Investigator Award – 2 nd place	Marco Reina Antillon	Marco presented his research on an interactive approach to identify gold standard method for assessing <i>Salmonella</i> load and prevalence in broiler house
GAFF Jim Ayres Young Investigator Award – 3 rd place	Tongzhou Hu	Tongzhou presented his research on the inhibition of shiga toxin-producing <i>E.coli</i> by <i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i> on romaine lettuce

5. Web Communication

Please be sure to keep the IAFP office on your mailing list for newsletters, email, and other communications to your general membership.

Please provide your existing Affiliate's Web site address AND date last updated:

<https://www.gafoodprotection.org/>

Last Updated: February 6th, 2025

Did you launch a new Affiliate Website in 2023? Y ☐ N ☒

Attachment A (completion required)

Association Officers List

Provide the contact information requested below for all current officers of your Association. **Please indicate if each officer is an IAFP Member (reminder: Your President and Delegate are required to be IAFP Members).** The information you provide here is published on our website and in select membership materials. The information may be typed in the fields below or may be sent to our office by email, fax or regular mail.

Indicate the term dates (e.g., 2024–2025) for your current Executive Board:

enter term dates

Executive Board for 2024 to 2025

Officer Title	Past-President
Name	Charles Otto, III
Address 1	
Address 2	
City, State ZIP Country	Suwanee, GA
Phone Number	
Email address	gaftp.secretary@gmail.com
IAFP Member? Y or N	Y

Officer Title	President
Name	Anna Townsend Burner
Address 1	

Address 2	
City, State ZIP Country	Athens, GA
Phone Number	
Email address	gafp.secretary@gmail.com
IAFP Member? Y or N	Y

Officer Title	President-Elect
Name	Aaron Huckabee
Address 1	
Address 2	
City, State ZIP Country	Seminole, FL
Phone Number	
Email address	gafp.secretary@gmail.com
IAFP Member? Y or N	Y

Officer Title	Vice President
---------------	----------------

Name	Faith Critzer
Address 1	
Address 2	
City, State ZIP Country	Athens, GA
Phone Number	
Email address	gaftp.secretary@gmail.com
IAFP Member? Y or N	Y

Officer Title	Secretary
Name	Sofia Feng
Address 1	
Address 2	
City, State ZIP Country	Atlanta, GA
Phone Number	
Email address	gaftp.secretary@gmail.com
IAFP Member? Y or N	Y

Officer Title	Treasurer
Name	Steven Fuller
Address 1	1091 Hilltop Rd
Address 2	
City, State ZIP Country	Watkinsville, GA 30677
Phone Number	
Email address	gafp.secretary@gmail.com
IAFP Member? Y or N	Y

Officer Title	IAFP Delegate
Name	Wendy Wade White
Address 1	
Address 2	
City, State ZIP Country	Greensboro, GA
Phone Number	
Email address	gafp.secretary@gmail.com

IAFP Member? Y or N	Y
---------------------	---

Officer Title	Student Liaison
Name	Rawane Raad
Address 1	100 Cedar St.
Address 2	
City, State ZIP Country	Athens, GA 30602
Phone Number	
Email address	gafp.secretary@gmail.com
IAFP Member? Y or N	Y

Before continuing, please check one of the boxes below:

☒ **CHECK HERE and return electronically by 3/4/25 IF YOUR AFFILIATE REQUESTS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ONE OR MORE 2025 AFFILIATE AWARDS. (You are required to complete Attachment B.)**

☐ **CHECK HERE IF YOUR AFFILIATE DOES NOT WANT TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A 2025 AWARD. (You are done! It is not necessary to complete Attachment B.)**

Attachment B (optional)

Affiliate Award Considerations

*To be considered for one or more of the five Affiliate Awards to be presented at IAFP 2025, Affiliates are **required** to check the box next to the award(s) for which you wish to be considered and provide the related criteria (in English). (REMINDER: Please confirm IAFP Membership of your Affiliate President and Delegate **before** completing Attachment B to avoid award disqualification.) Submit your Annual Report and any attachments in **ONE** email to avoid errors and omissions.*

☒ Affiliate Membership Achievement Award

How did your Affiliate grow **AND** retain members during the past year? Please provide details on:

- how new members were recruited throughout the year;
- the number of new members joining the Affiliate;
- the percent increase in membership from 2023 to 2024;
- specific efforts on how you retained existing members; and
- other methods related to helping grow and maintain your membership.

You may cut and paste copy in the space below or use a separate page if necessary; please limit your explanation to 500 words or less in 12-point type.

☑ Affiliate Communication Award

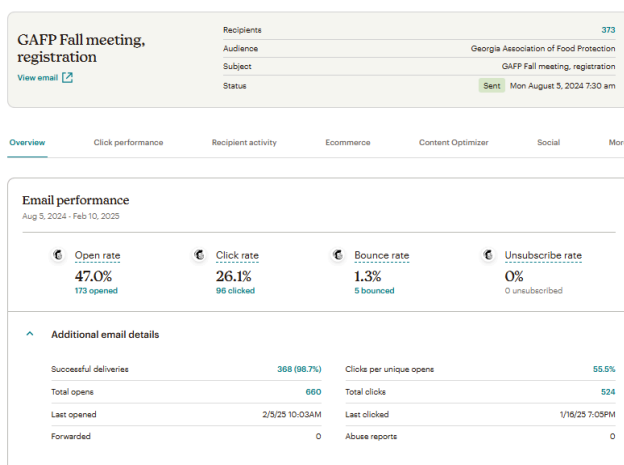
How did your Affiliate communicate information to your Members during the past year? Please provide a description of the types of communication sent to your general membership and include samples with your Annual Report. Samples can be printed copies/screen shots of blast emails, Web site (include frequency of updating), electronic/print newsletters, brochures, etc., along with respective dates sent. If available, provide how effective specific communication was toward meeting your goals. You may cut and paste copy in the space below or use a separate page if necessary; please limit your explanation to 500 words or less in 12-point type.

Providing Georgia food safety professionals with a forum to exchange information on protecting the food supply is the mission of the Georgia Association for Food Protection. This target group of over 500 affiliated members and their respective food production, processing, distribution, retail sales and support industries; local, state and federal regulatory and research programs; and academia consisting of faculty, researchers, and students at more than a half dozen institutions. Multiple communication channels are engaged to get our GAFP messages to this diverse group of food safety professionals and reach future members as well. The following highlights the various platforms and strategies used to communicate with our members in 2024, including a brief description.

GAFP Email Outreach

GAFP utilized Mailchimp to send emails to our database of almost 600 affiliated members about upcoming meetings, elections, awards, and Georgia food safety news and events. We also encouraged membership and sponsorship renewals through the 6,352 emails in the twenty-six email campaigns.

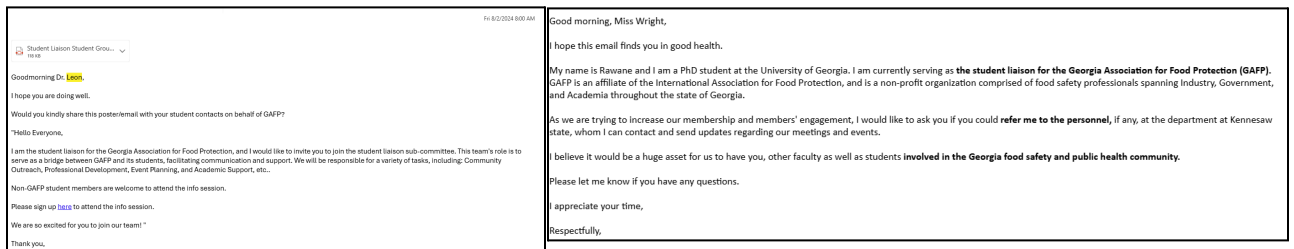
Below are the metrics for this example of the campaign sent on Monday, August 5th, 2024 at 7:30AM ET, and examples of Mailchimp campaigns.



2024 GAFP EMAIL CAMPAIGN EXAMPLES

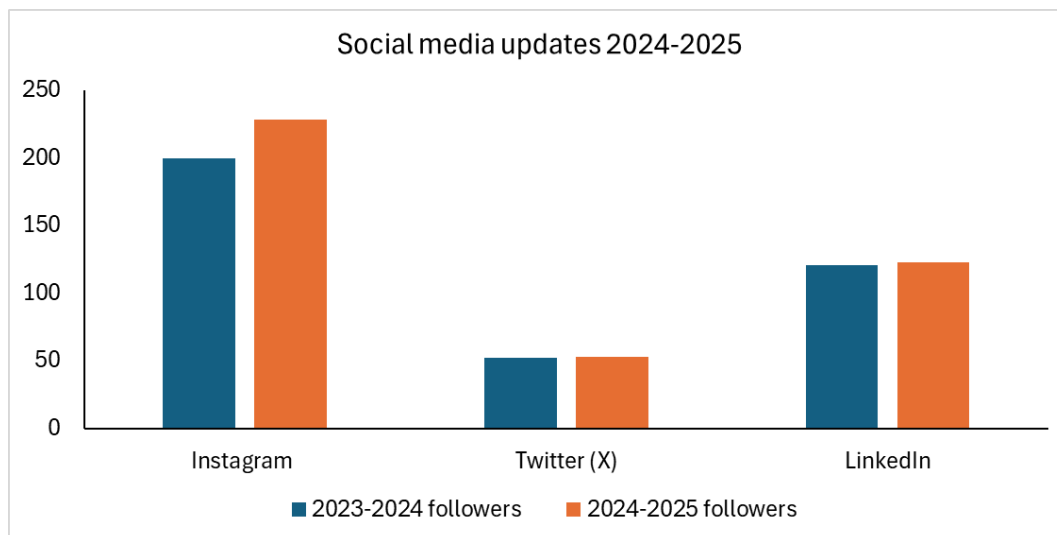


The board also focused on expanding its reach by connecting with other communities through **personal email contacts** and **recruitment efforts**, including introducing them to IAFP and both IAFP and GAFP's mission.



Social Media

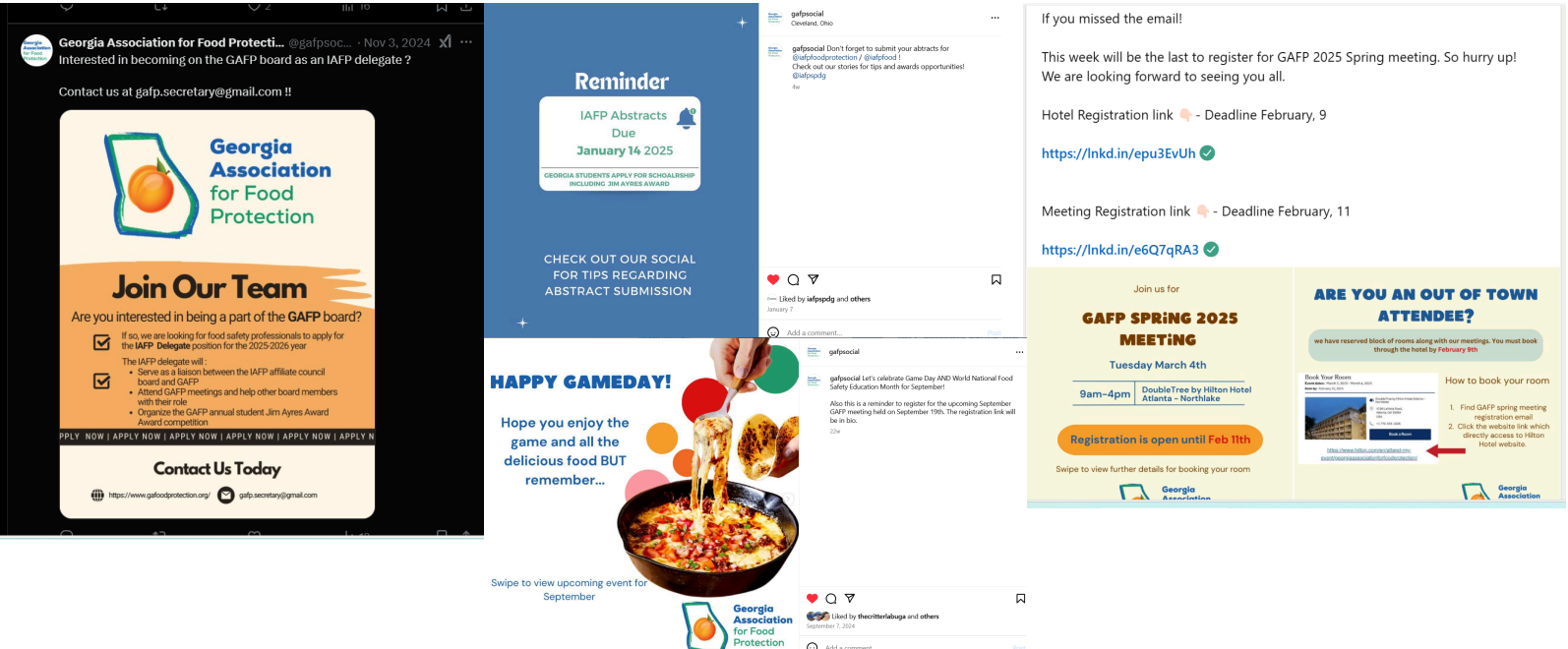
GAFP actively uses [Linktree](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter \(X\)](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#) to reach a total of 404 followers and members. An increase of 8.31% from last year.



We are continuously using and improving our social media accounts to promote updates on the following:

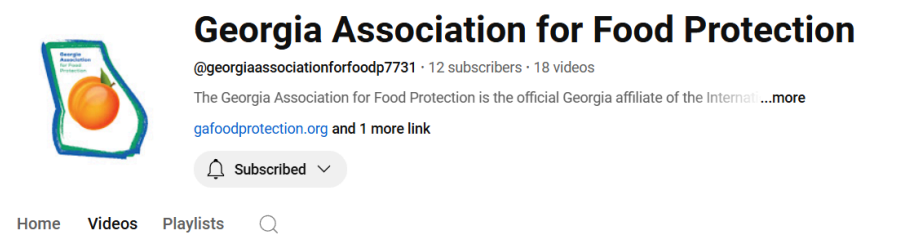
- Events
- Awards and Scholarships
- GAFP Updates / Meetings
- Board Member Updates

- Interactive Food Safety Quizzes and Holiday Tips



YouTube Channel

GAFP is still using and updating its [YouTube Channel](#) to its communication suite with links back to its website and related websites and other social media connections. The meetings are the primary focus to date to highlight the events and educational sessions. To date, the 18 videos, totaling more than 8 hours of content have been viewed over 400 times. These archived videos over time not only have valuable professional food safety content for members but also serve as a marketing tool for GAFP.



Website

[Georgia Association for Food Protection \(gafoodprotection.org\)](https://gafoodprotection.org)

Our website boasts a seamless user experience. Users can access event information, register for events, and join/renew their membership simply. The website also provides an up-to-date calendar regarding upcoming meetings and events.










About the Georgia Association for Food Protection

The Georgia Association for Food Protection (GAFP), an affiliate of the [International Association for Food Protection](#), is a non-profit organization comprised of over 400 food safety professionals spanning Industry, Government, and Academia throughout the state of Georgia. It is the organization's mission to provide food safety professionals with a forum to exchange information on protecting the food supply. The Association is dedicated to the education and service of its members, and the communities we serve, by keeping members informed of the latest scientific, technical, and practical developments in food safety, environmental hygiene, and regulatory updates. The Association provides information to our Members through our biannual educational meetings, opportunities to network with food safety professionals, and newsletters which include updates about workshops, training courses, and job postings.

Educational sessions are dedicated to the timely coverage of key issues or hot topics that cater to a broad mix of attendees. Quality Assurance, FSMA Compliance, HACCP, Sanitation, Food Safety Education, Bio-terrorism, Food Processing Advancements, Risk Assessments, Food Formulation, Microbiological Concerns, Foodborne Illness Outbreak Investigation, and Epidemiology are just some of the topics presented at meetings. GAFP is able to provide members certificates of attendance to be used to validate Continuing Education hours.

[JOIN OR RENEW GAFP MEMBERSHIP](#)

February 2025

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	GAFP 2025 Spring Meeting - REGISTRATION OPEN UNTIL FEB. 14TH → Sat, Feb 1, 12:00 AM - Fri, Feb 14, 12:00 PM DoubleTree by Hilton		21	22

Events

In addition to our meetings, and to further engage students, we established a student squad team divided into three groups: recruitment, social media, and mentorship. This initiative aimed to increase student involvement in the board's activities.

Questions
Responses 15
Settings

Section 1 of 2

GAFP Student Squad Sign Up!

B
I
U
Link

🌟 **Welcome Aboard the GAFP Student Liaison Squad!** 🌟

A **hearty welcome** to our community of food safety enthusiasts! Your journey with the Georgia Association for Food Protection Student Liaison Squad begins here, and we're thrilled to have you join our mission.

To kick things off, we've prepared a quick survey that's your first step towards active participation. Your responses will help us tailor a **meet and greet info session** just for the team!

☒ **Affiliate Education Award**

What types of food safety education did your Affiliate provide to its members during the past year? Please provide the following details on all technical meetings, educational conferences, webinars, workshops, classes, and other methods pertinent to the interests of the membership:

- Background;
- Objectives;
- Agenda;
- Target audience;
- Dates held; and
- Numbers of attendees.

You may cut and paste copy in the space below or use a separate page if necessary; please limit your explanation to 500 words or less in 12-point type. *(Do not submit copies of speaker Power Point slide presentations.)*

Every year, the GAFFP executive board strives to hold two meetings focusing on any new breakthroughs, findings, regulations, guidance, and best practices related to food safety among our peers. These meetings provide a platform for our regulatory, industry, and academic partners to engage in open dialogue and feedback to steer continuous improvement of food safety. The selection and representation of speakers from industry, government, and academia demonstrated GAFFP's commitment for increasing food safety education across levels of expertise and across technical and non-specialized approaches to food safety.

GAFFP's 2024 Fall Meeting continued these efforts with a dynamic agenda emphasizing restaurant food safety, poultry food safety, and student research presentations. The meeting took place on **Thursday, September 19, 2024 at Waffle House Corporate Offices in Atlanta, Georgia.** Detailed agenda ([video recap](#)):

Time	Title	Speaker	
9:00	Welcome	WH Leadership	
9:15	Networking kick-off	Faith Critzer & Rawan Raad	
10:00	Natural Disaster Management- the Waffle House Index	Larry Sigler	Vice President of Food Safety Waffle House
11:00	<i>Salmonella</i> Framework for Raw Poultry Products: Industry Perspective	David Vargas	Quality Assurance & Food Safety Analyst Wayne Sanderson Farms
12:00	Networking Lunch		
1:00	IAFP Updates and GAFFP Business Meeting	Manpreet Singh and Anna Burner	IAFP President and UGA Food Science Dept Head Del Monte Fresh Produce
1:30	The Evolution of Food Safety Practices on the Farm	Faith Critzer	Professor and Undergraduate Coordinator, Department of Food Science and Technology, University of Georgia

2:30	Break		
2:50	Ayres Award Winners Showcase <i>Systematic Comparison of Susceptibility of Seven Bacterial Genera to Blue Light Treatment</i>	Minji Hur	Graduate Student, University of Georgia
3:05	Ayres Award Winners Showcase <i>An Iterative Approach to Identify a Gold-Standard Method for Assessing Salmonella Load and Prevalence in Broiler Houses.</i>	Marco Reina Antillon	Graduate Student, University of Georgia
3:20	Ayres Award Winners Showcase <i>Inhibition of Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli strain MD41 by Pseudomonas fluorescens strain A506 on romaine lettuce</i>	Tongzhou Xu	Graduate Student, University of Georgia
3:35	Networking session wrap up	Faith Critzer/Rawan Raad	
4:00	Adjourn		

There were **64 attendees for the meeting representing academia** (3; 4.7%), industry (30; 46.9%), government (19; 29.7%), students (12; 18.8%), and NGOs (0). Government affiliations included the CDC, USDA, and Georgia Dept. of Agriculture, and Georgia Dept. of Public Health. Industry members spanned several companies, including Coca-Cola, Eurofins, Fresh Del Monte, Grimmway Farms, Mars, Publix, Waffle House, Wayne Sanderson Farms, Wendy's, Zaxby's.



(Left) Georgia Department of Agriculture and GAFFP members. (Right) Mars Chocolate North America employees and GAFFP members at the 2024 Fall meeting.

☒ **Best Overall Affiliate Meeting Award**

Did your Affiliate hold an outstanding self-sustainable (***not sponsored/co-sponsored by IAFP***) food protection meeting which you consider 'over and above' those normally held? If so, provide the following details, if applicable, on what led to a highly successful meeting:

- Type of meeting and the value it brought to Affiliate Members/attendees (does not need to be your Annual Meeting);
- Mission statement for meeting (if relevant);
- Content;
- Numbers of attendees:
 - o Number of and overall percentage of Affiliate Members (for example, 100 total attendees with 75 of them being Affiliate Members = 75%)
 - o Number of Guests (non-dues-paying Affiliate Members) and their affiliation to the Affiliate Chapter and/or meeting's topic(s)
- Audience participation (through roundtable discussions, exercises, etc.);
- Topics:
 - o Agenda (you may include a printed copy with your award application)
- Speakers and their employer affiliations (if available);
- Sponsors;
- Diversity of meeting participants (range of sectors represented, i.e., students, academia, extension, government, NGO, industry representatives, etc., which can be broken down into services, i.e., retail, education, research, manufacturing, etc., if available); and
- Other information.

You may cut and paste copy in the space below or use a separate page if necessary; please limit your explanation to 500 words or less in 12-point type. (*Do not submit copies of speaker Power Point slide presentations.*)

Our Fall 2024 meeting was held **September 19, 2024 at Waffle House Corporate Offices** in Atlanta, Georgia. This meeting showcased six speakers who discussed a diverse array of topics ranging from:

- the Waffle House Index and management of natural disasters;
- the proposed *Salmonella* framework for raw poultry products and industry control strategies;
- the evolution of food safety practices on the farm;
- and original research from each of the three Ayres award winners.

One goal of this meeting was to facilitate networking among attendees. This goal was identified based on member feedback at the Spring 2024 meeting. To help accomplish this goal, members participated in an attendee scavenger hunt, where they sought out other participants who could sign off on a specific attribute in order to fill their card. This activity took part at the beginning of the meeting and really helped people strike up discussions that they wouldn't have otherwise had. At the end of the meeting, participants who had successfully filled their card were entered to win door prizes donated by GAFF member companies. Based on the positive feedback, we have incorporated another networking event for the upcoming Spring 2025 meeting.

The Business Meeting featured an address by GAFF president Anna Burner and a financial report by Treasurer Steven Fuller. Manpreet Singh, IAFP President-Elect, provided an update on IAFP, along with upcoming deadlines for abstract submissions and proposed sessions for the IAFP Annual Meeting. Corporate sponsors for this meeting included Waffle House, Publix, the Georgia Tech Manufacturing Extension Partnership, Georgia Food Safety and Defense Taskforce, Sugar Bowl Bakery, Interpest, and Eurofins.

There were 64 attendees for the meeting representing academia (3; 4.7%), industry (30; 46.9%), government (19; 29.7%), students (12; 18.8%), and NGOs (0). Government affiliations included the CDC, USDA, and Georgia Dept. of Agriculture, and Georgia Dept. of Public Health. Industry

members spanned several companies including Coca-Cola, Eurofins, Fresh Del Monte, Grimmway Farms, Mars, Publix, Waffle House, Wayne Sanderson Farms, Wendy's, Zaxby's.



(Left) Members during the GAFP 2024 Fall meeting listening to the *Salmonella* Framework for Raw Poultry Products: Industry Perspective by David Vargas - Quality Assurance & Food Safety Analyst Wayne Sanderson Farm. (Right). Georgia Department of Agriculture and GAFP members at the 2024 Fall meeting.

☒ **C.B. Shogren Memorial Award**

NOTE: Applying for the Shogren Memorial Award does not automatically include your application for any of the other Affiliate awards. If applying for this award, please consider applying separately for one or more of the other Affiliate awards which may have contributed toward meeting the criteria of the Shogren Award.

How did your Affiliate demonstrate exceptional overall achievement during the past year in promoting the mission of IAFP (*"To provide food safety professionals worldwide with a forum to exchange information on protecting the food supply"*)? "Overall achievement" should encompass at least several of the following activities/accomplishments of your Affiliate during 2024:

- Exceptional achievement in membership;
- Types and effectiveness of communication and education;
- Awards and scholarships presented;
- Attendance numbers at meetings;
- Collaboration with other professional organizations;
- donations to the IAFP Foundation; and
- Representation at the IAFP Affiliate Council Meeting (held July 14, 2024); and
- Other pertinent information.

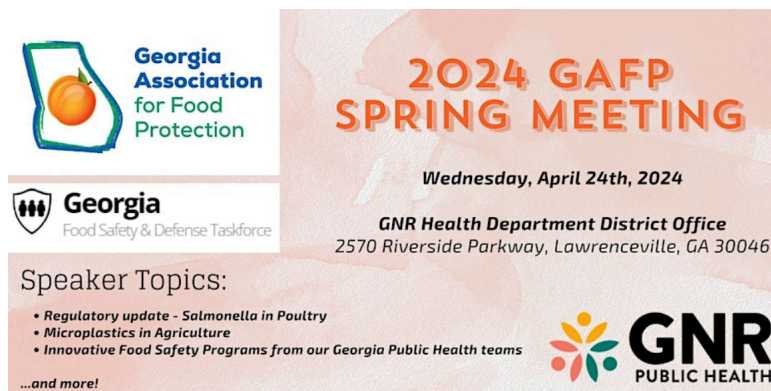
While not a requirement, strong consideration will be given to an Affiliate whose officers (beyond the requirement for the President and Delegate) are also IAFP Members. Provide a description and include any supporting documents. You may cut and paste copy in the space below or use separate pages if necessary; please limit your explanation to 1,000 words or less in 12-point type.

We have kicked off the 2024-2025 affiliate year with a strong start, featuring exceptional meetings, continuous member achievements, and numerous awards. At the 2024 IAFP annual meeting, there were many Georgia IAFP members involved in research presentations and events. These are listed below:

- Abstracts(72)
- Roundtables(4)
- Special Events(1)
- Symposia(18)
- Workshops(1)

Outreach, Collaboration, and Communications:

In early 2024, GAFFP partnered with the Gwinnett, Newton, and Rockdale health departments to host a meeting that attracted approximately 60+ members. This event focused on discussing innovative **food safety programs from Georgia public health teams** and providing food regulatory updates.



We also **leveraged social media** (LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube) to communicate with members in new ways and encourage engagement. This social media presence was also used to **spread the word about IAFP activities** and others, such as **the University of Georgia**, to food safety professionals as well as students across the state.



We formed **new outreach partnerships**, such as the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Georgia Food Safety and Defense Taskforce. Looking ahead to our 2025 Fall Meeting, GAFP will be partnering with the Georgia Manufacturing Extension Partnership (GaMEP) at Georgia Tech. GaMEP will hold its Georgia Regulatory Breakfast in November, where food safety professionals can hear the newest regulatory updates directly from GDA, USDA FSIS, FDA, and others.

GAFP's new initiative to engage more students with food safety professionals involves increasing their participation in board activities. To achieve this, a **student squad** of approximately six students from various educational levels and majors has been invited to take part in social media management, start a mentorship program, and launch an outreach program to connect with other students and universities across the state.

Finally, we continue to **support our sister affiliates** by sharing their news and events, including those from the Florida Association for Food Protection. GAFP actively engages globally with the other IAFP affiliates through the three virtual 2024 meetings and the in-person **IAFP Affiliate Council** meeting in Long Beach, CA. Notes from each of the virtual meetings were shared with the GAFP Leadership Team. GAFP members who attended the in-person Affiliate Council meeting included: Wendy White - IAFP Delegate; Aaron Huckabee - President Elect; Faith Critzer - Vice President; and Rawane Raad - Student Liaison.

MORE OPPORTUNITIES !
Check out meeting details for our sister affiliate!!

FAFP 2024 Annual Education Conference
CEUs are available

Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront
from May 14-16th 2024

Housing: A room block has been arranged. The group rate is \$179 (parking & taxes not included). Rooms can be booked using the link available on our website: <https://hiltonstpet.com/2024-ages/>, or by calling 1-800-HILTONS (1-800-445-8667) and identifying as being with FAFP 2024 AEC. Room block closes April 21, and is limited...book early!

Registration Fees:
✔ Member AEC Registration Early - \$280
✔ Member AEC Registration, after 21 April 2024 - \$300
✔ Non-member Registration - \$330

Educational talks, networking, fellowship, with your food safety professionals from industry, academia, and government



STUDENT SQUAD

Are you a GAFP Student member who wants to be more involved with the organization?
Do you have creative ideas that you want to share with the GAFP social media?
then **SIGN UP FOR THE GAFP STUDENT SQUAD**



Link

 **MONTHLY MEETINGS**  **BECOME INVOLVED WITH THE STUDENT LIAISON**

 **ZOOM OR IN PERSON**  **SHARE FOOD SAFETY KNOWLEDGE WITH PROFESSIONALS**

**IAFP Affiliate Council Meeting
July 14, 2024 - Long Beach, California**

