

**FAFP**

# **ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE 2025**



**Tampa, FL**

**May 20-22, 2025**

Embassy Suites - Near USF





## President's Welcome Letter

Fellow FAFP Members and Friends,

Welcome to the 2025 Annual Education Conference (AEC)!

We're thrilled to bring together a fantastic group of speakers from across Florida and the U.S., representing academia, regulatory agencies, and industry. This year's sessions will explore timely research and practical strategies for implementing leading food safety systems.

During breaks and lunches, we encourage you to spend time in the exhibit area. Please visit our valued sponsors and exhibitors—they play a crucial role in supporting this event and the work we do as a community.

A vital part of the FAFP mission is fostering the next generation of food safety professionals. Be sure to check out the student posters and engage with students from Florida's universities as they share their latest research and insights.

We'll kick things off Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. with the President's Reception—an ideal time to catch up with colleagues and make new connections. Then on Wednesday evening, join us for our Networking Event featuring Food Safety Trivia and Bingo—a fun and relaxed way to mingle, test your knowledge, and win some great prizes!

I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to our Board members, officers, sponsors, exhibitors, and speakers for their dedication in bringing this event to life. Most importantly, thank you to our members and attendees for your continued support and, especially, for your flexibility as we adjusted locations in response to the hurricanes that impacted the Gulf Coast in 2024. Your resilience and commitment are truly appreciated.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the AEC!

Warm regards,

**Taylor O'Bannon**  
**2025 FAFP President**



# Conference Agenda

FAFP AEC 2025

## TUESDAY | MAY 20 | 2025

1:00 pm - 3:30 pm  
**Volunteer Event**  
**Feeding Tampa Bay**

3:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
**Registration**

2:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
**Exhibitor Set-Up**

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
**President's Reception**

## WEDNESDAY | MAY 21 | 2025

8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
**Exhibitor Area Open**

8:15 am  
**President's Welcome and**  
**Opening Comments**

**Morning Session Moderator:**  
**Morgan Madison, FFVA**

8:25 am  
**Matt Friese**  
Solving the Foreign Material  
Contamination Challenge Through  
External Inspection

9:10 am

**Robin Eychaner**

Florida Department of Health  
Jurisdiction and Highly Susceptible  
Populations

9:55 am - 10:40 am  
**Networking Break**

10:45 am

**Dr. Gary Butcher**

Avian Influenza H5N1: A Catastrophic  
Animal and Human Disease or Media  
Hype?

11:30 am

**Student Rapid Presentations**

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm  
**Lunch (included) - enjoyed in**  
**Exhibit Area**

**Afternoon Session Moderator:**  
**Jamie Irwin, Whole Foods Markets**

1:05 pm

**Christina Morton**

Tales from the Field: Food Safety and  
Reputation Management

1:50 pm

**Mark Wadsworth**

Pest Control- Technologies and  
Strategies for the Food Environment  
Management

## WEDNESDAY | MAY 21 | 2025

**2:35 pm**

**Nancy President**

The Culture Code: What Spoiled the Soup?

**3:30 pm - 3:55 pm**

**Networking Break**

**4:00 pm**

**Yvonne Masters**

Beyond the Surface: Advanced Methods for Microbial and Allergen-Level Cleanliness in Low-Moisture Food Manufacturing

**4:45 pm**

**FAFP Awards**

**6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

**Networking Event-  
Celebrating 80 Years of FAFP!**

## THURSDAY | MAY 22 | 2025

**8:00 am - 3:00 pm**

**Exhibitor Area Open**

**8:15 am**

**Welcome**

**Morning Session Moderator:  
Stephanie Brown, UF**

**8:20 am**

**Jack Burnett**

Microbial Ecology of Listeria: Metabolic Interactions and Survival Mechanisms in Food Processing Facilities

**9:05 am**

**Michelle Danyluk  
and Channah Rock**

How clean is clean? Tools for verifying your cleaning and sanitation programs

**9:50 am - 10:25 am**

**Networking Break**

**10:30 am**

**Channah Rock**

Collaboration in the Desert - A Research Model for Advancing Fresh Produce Safety

**11:15 am**

**Debby Newslow**

Overview of Proposed Changes to SQF10

**12:00 pm - 1:00 pm**

**Lunch (included) - enjoyed in  
Exhibit Area**

**Afternoon Session Moderator:  
LaTaunya Tillman, UF**

**1:00 pm**

**Mark Carter (IAFP Speaker)**

Statistical Sampling Plans and Development

**1:45 pm**

**Tess Gordon**

Restaurant-Associated Listeria Outbreak in Lake County

**2:30 pm**

**Closing Remarks,  
Silent Auction winners**

**3:30pm - 4:30pm**

**FAFP Business Meeting  
(Open to All)**

CEUs are available for this conference. Please send request to [executive.board@fafp.net](mailto:executive.board@fafp.net) if printable document is needed.



# Board of Directors

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LaTaunya Tillman, University of Florida

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# 2025 AEC Speakers



**MATT FRIESE**  
FlexXray



Matt Freise helps food and beverage customers resolve foreign material contamination events through accurate inspection. Prior to FlexXray Matt spent 9 years managing quality assurance, as well as microbiology labs between Brew Hub and PrimusLabs, bringing deep expertise in food safety and product quality.

# 2025 AEC Speakers



## **ROBIN EYCHANER**

Florida Department of Health

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Robin Eychaner is the Food and Group Care Program Supervisor for the Florida Department of Health in Tallahassee and has 31 years of experience in Environmental Public Health. She specializes in food safety and institutional sanitation. She is passionate about food safety and can be reached at email [Robin.Eychaner@FLHealth.gov](mailto:Robin.Eychaner@FLHealth.gov) for inquiries.



## **GARY BUTCHER, DVM, PHD**

University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine/IFAS

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Dr. Gary Butcher is a professor at the University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine, and an expert in poultry diseases and management. He holds a B.S. in Biomedical Science, a DVM, and a PhD in Avian Virology from Texas A&M University, as well as an M.S. in Avian Pathology from Purdue University. A board-certified Diplomate of the American College of Poultry Veterinarians, his research focuses on recombinant poultry vaccines and transgenic chicken production. He also serves as the Honey Bee veterinarian for the University of Florida and has consulted for the commercial poultry industry in over 60 countries worldwide.



## **CHRISTINA MORTON**

Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association

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Christina Morton is the director of communications for the Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association whose membership represents the vast majority of fruit and vegetable production in Florida. In this role, she serves as a voice for Florida agriculture; oversees strategic communications for the organization and some of its subsidiaries; and manages the planning and coordination of FFVA's annual convention. Specializing in media relations and crisis communication, she is nationally accredited in public relations. She also serves on the communications committee for the Alliance for Food & Farming and on the National Board of Directors for the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA). Christina holds a bachelor's degree in public relations and political science from the University of Florida.

# 2025 AEC Speakers



**MARK WADSWORTH**  
IFC

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Mark is the Southeast Account Manager for the Industrial Fumigant Company (IFC), a company focused on Pest Management and Sanitation Solutions dedicated to the food industry and related businesses. Mark's ability to work with both well-known national brands and smaller, emerging ones across various product categories shows his versatility and expertise in addressing diverse pest-related challenges.



**NANCY PRESIDENT**  
CQAFSS

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Nancy Gail President is the Owner and CEO of Commercial Quality and Food Safety Solutions (CQAFSS) - a trusted consulting partner for the food, beverage, and personal care manufacturing industries. Based in Atlanta and serving clients globally, CQAFSS is powered by 50+ seasoned professionals known for their hands-on expertise in regulatory compliance, sanitation, operations, food safety and quality. Originally from Cross, South Carolina, and a proud University of South Carolina Gamecock, Nancy partners with companies that package products in bags, boxes, bottles, or cans - helping them produce safe, high- quality goods and build strong product safety cultures. Since acquiring the company in 2021, she's been committed to CQAFSS earning its place as the boots-on-the-ground go-to choice in the industry.



**JACK BURNETT, PHD**  
Vikan

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Dr. Jack Burnett serves as the North American Hygiene Specialist for Vikan North America, a manufacturer of hygienic cleaning tools. He earned both his Master's and PhD in Food Science from Purdue University, where his research contributed to advancing the understanding of persisting *Listeria* in food processing environments. His diverse background, from managing an apple orchard to studying pollination in bumblebees, informs his unique perspective on the intersection of ecology, microbiology, and food safety.



# 2025 AEC Speakers



**YVONNE MASTERS, PHD**

John B. Sanfilippo & Son, Inc.

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Dr. Yvonne Masters is the Director of Food Safety and Quality Policy at John B. Sanfilippo & Son, Inc. in Elgin, Illinois. She leads strategic initiatives to enhance food safety culture, process validations, environmental monitoring, food defense, and foreign material reduction.

With nearly two decades of experience in food safety and microbiology, Dr. Masters has developed and overseen comprehensive food safety programs in the nut, dairy, and snack food industries. Previously, she worked at Kraft Foods as a Senior Microbiologist in Food Safety and as a Supplier & Co-Manufacturing Quality Leader in the Cheese & Dairy division. Dr. Masters holds a B.S. in Microbiology and an M.S. in Food Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a Ph.D. in Food Science from Cornell University. Her doctoral research focused on *Listeria monocytogenes* cold adaptation and growth. Dr. Masters received the 2022 Harold Barnum Industry Award for her exceptional service to the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), the public, and the food industry. She was recently featured in Quality Assurance & Food Safety Magazine's "The Food Safety Set: 21 People Who Have Shaped the Last 30 Years of Food Safety." Dr. Masters continues to be a leading figure in food safety, contributing her expertise and passion to advancing industry standards and practices.



**MICHELLE DANYLUK, PHD**

University of Florida

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Dr. Michelle Danyluk is a Professor and Extension Specialist of Food Safety and Microbiology at the University of Florida (UF). Michelle's research and extension programs focus on microbial food safety and quality, emphasizing the microbiology of fresh fruits and vegetables. Her primary

research focuses on bacterial pathogens in produce, including production, packing and processing environments, their movement and mitigation within these environments, and the subsequent implications for public health. Over her career, she has published more than 100 peer reviewed publications in scientific journals. Michelle's extension program includes teaching programs related to FSMA, HACCP, GAPs and other food safety programs. She is a Past President of the International Association for Food Protection, a member of the International Commission on Microbiological Specifications for Food (ICMSF), and one of the leads of the Southern Center for FSMA training.

# 2025 AEC Speakers



**CHANNAH ROCK, PHD**

University of Arizona

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Dr. Channah Rock is a Professor and Water Quality Specialist with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension in the department of Environmental Science. Her research-driven Extension program focuses on the intersection of water quality and sustainability, food safety and public health protection. Dr. Rock is PI on several projects relating to microbiological evaluation of water quality and the environment for the protection of public health. Dr. Rock supports the CA and AZ Leafy Greens Marketing Agreements' by providing science-based recommendations for agricultural water treatment and other best management practices for the fresh produce industry. She currently serves as a subject matter expert to the Western Growers Food Safety, Science and Technology Committee, the Desert Food Safety Coalition, and the Yuma Safe Produce Council. In addition to extension industry driven research, Dr. Rock also works alongside the Arizona Department of Agriculture as a Produce Safety Rule trainer to facilitate grower compliance with the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act, Produce Safety Rule. She holds a BS in Microbiology from New Mexico State University and an MS and PhD in Environmental Engineering from Arizona State University.



**DEBBY NEWSLOW**

D.L. Newslow & Associates, Inc

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Debby, President of D. L. Newslow & Associates, Inc. has over 40 years of experience in the food, chemical, and packaging industries. She has served and been a member of several food safety and quality organizations, currently being an active member of the Food Safety Tech Advisory Board. She is also a successful author of published articles and has authored two textbooks based on management systems. Her latest book, Food Safety Management Programs: Applications, Best Practices and Compliance has been identified as a best seller in the world of Food Safety and GFSI compliance guidance.

# 2025 AEC Speakers



**MARK CARTER**

MC Squared (IAFP President)

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Mark is the Senior Product Manager for Software at Hygiena and currently serves as the President of the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP). He also owns MC Squared (MC2) an independent consulting firm with in-depth expertise in technology development, deployment and business. MC2 works with companies and organizations that are focused on improving public health. Mark has extensive international business and technical experience. He recently served as COO of Matrix Sciences as well as the Executive Vice President of Corporate Development where he was responsible for Matrix Sciences M&A activity. Mark previously held positions as CEO of QCL and Corporate Vice-President of R&D at Merieux Nutrisciences, a global life sciences company. Mark has experience in various technical, quality and business functions and is an active member of IAFP, AOAC and ASM (American Society for Microbiology). He serves on the AOAC Expert Review Panel for Food and Environmental Methods. Mark has served on the advisory boards of the food science and nutrition departments at both Cornell and Tuskegee University. He also spent time on the board of Safe Tables Our Priority (S.T.O.P.) an advocacy group dedicated to serving those affected by foodborne illness. Mark is a graduate of University of Georgia with a B.S. in Microbiology and also holds an M.S.A. from Columbus State University. He is also a registered clinical and public health microbiologist (RM AAM) with the American Academy of Microbiologists. He has extensive training in statistics, epidemiology, and diagnostic development.



**TESS GORDON**

Florida Department of Health

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Tess Gordon is a Regional Environmental Epidemiologist with the Florida Department of Health. She assists the Central Florida county health departments with food and waterborne disease investigations. Prior to working with the Florida Department of Health, Tess was an Enteric Epidemiologist at the Indiana State Department of Health. She earned her Masters of Public Health from the University of Michigan and attended Ball State University for her undergraduate degree.

# 2025 FAFP Student Presenters

Full abstracts available: <https://bit.ly/4jPevU2>

## ADEEL MANZOOR

Department of Animal Sciences,  
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL  
Professor: Dr. Jason Scheffler  
“Control of Staphylococcus aureus  
During Biltong Production”

## ASHTYN VANDIVER

Citrus Research and Education  
Center-Department of Food Science  
and Human Nutrition, University of  
Florida, Lake Alfred, FL  
Professor: Dr. Michelle Danyluk  
“Reduction and cross-contamination  
of norovirus on tomatoes in an  
overhead spray and brush roller  
system”

## EMMA HOLLIDAY

Department of Food Science and  
Human Nutrition, University of  
Florida, Gainesville, FL  
Professor: Dr. Boce Zhang  
“Nondestructive foodborne pathogen  
detection using a colorimetric sensor  
enabled by machine learning and  
non-toxic dyes”

## JUAN GAO

Department of Health, Nutrition,  
and Food Sciences, Florida State  
University, Tallahassee, FL  
Professor: Dr. Qinchun Rao  
“In Vitro Assessment of Allergenic  
Proteins in Almond Hull”

## LATAUNYA TILLMAN

Citrus Research and Education  
Center-Department of Food Science  
and Human Nutrition, University of  
Florida, Lake Alfred, FL  
Professor: Dr. Michelle Danyluk  
“A Data-Focused Analysis of Leafy  
Green Harvest Equipment Cleaning &  
Sanitation Practices”

## NURADEEN YUSUF

Department of Food Science and  
Human Nutrition, University of  
Florida, Gainesville, FL  
Professor: Dr. Naim Montazeri  
“Inactivation of norovirus and  
Escherichia coli in soil and plant  
decaying materials”

## RAZIEH SADAT MIRMAHDI

Department of Food Science and  
Human Nutrition, University of  
Florida, Gainesville, FL  
Professor: Dr. Naim Montazeri  
“Surveillance of oyster cooking  
practices in the United States-based  
restaurants”

## SAMANTHA DICKER

Department of Food Science and  
Human Nutrition, University of  
Florida, Gainesville, FL  
Professor: Dr. Naim Montazeri  
“Impact of Food Matrix on the  
Inactivation of Norovirus During Heat  
Treatment Using Tulane Virus as a  
Surrogate”

## SHERRY BANSAL

Department of Food Science and  
Human Nutrition, University of  
Florida, Gainesville, FL  
Professor: Dr. Boce Zhang  
“Implications of Nanoscale  
Agrochemicals on Microbiome  
Evolution in Agri-Food Systems”

# 2025 FAFP Student Presenters

## TINGTING GU

Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL  
Professor: Dr. Boce Zhang  
“Implications of surface topography, substrate chemistry, and microbial symbiosis on *Listeria monocytogenes* biofilm on food contact substances”

## YAQI ZHAO

Department of Health, Nutrition, and Food Sciences, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL  
Professor: Dr. Qinchun Rao  
“Immunodetection of two shrimp allergens”

## VICTOR AKAO

College of Agriculture and Food Sciences, Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, FL  
Professor: Dr. Vijay Chhetri  
“Survival and Persistence of *Escherichia coli* in NFT Hydroponic Systems Using Organic and Synthetic Fertilizers for Mint Cultivation”

## 2025 FAFP Award Winners

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### PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Jamie Irwin, Whole Foods Markets

### SANITARIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

John Beckett, Publix

### LABORATORIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Boce Zhang, University of Florida

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

Adeel Manzoor, University of Florida

### PAST PRESIDENT

Rachel McEgan, McEgan Food Safety





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## Exhibitors

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# *Florida Association for* **Food Protection**

**Stay tuned for exciting  
announcements**

For more information, visit [www.fafp.net](http://www.fafp.net)

Or follow us on LinkedIn



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