



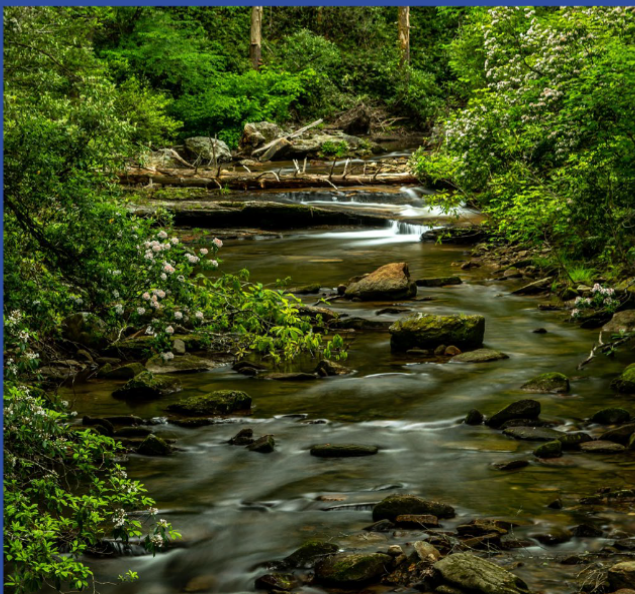
**2026 Annual
Gatlinburg, TN**



**Conference
August 23-26, 2026**



**The Park Vista
705 Cherokee Orchard Rd, Gatlinburg, TN**



SATURDAY AUGUST 22, 2026	
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM	EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

SUNDAY AUGUST 23, 2026	
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM	REGISTRATION - PREFUNCTION AREA MAIN FLOOR
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM	AFDOSS 2026 AEC WELCOME RECEPTION - PREFUNCTION AREA MAIN FLOOR

MONDAY AUGUST 24, 2026	
Location: Mountainview Ballroom A, B & C Moderator: Minoo Mehrotra, North Carolina Department of Agriculture	
7:00 am - 8:00 am	REGISTRATION
7:00 am - 8:00 am	BREAKFAST - SPONSORED BY CASEY'S (VOUCHERS AT REGISTRATION DESK)
8:00 am – 8:05 am	Call to Order & President's Welcome – AFDOSS President Amy Zimmerman
8:05 am - 8:15 am	Tennessee Welcome – Mark Tenpenny, REHS, Tennessee Department of Health
8:15 am – 8:45 am	AFDO President's Update – Brad Deacon, Michigan Dept. of Agriculture & Rural Development
8:45 am – 9:30 am	FDA Update - Scott Watson, DDPCI FDA
9:30 am – 10:00 am	BREAK (AUCTION AND EXHIBITOR TABLES OPEN)

Don't forget to visit the tables with auction items and see what's available this year! All funds raised through the auction go to the AFDOSS Scholarship Fund. Remember, "It's for the kids!"	
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10:00 am – 11:00 am	Produce Safety in the Supply Chain - Dr. Laurel Dunn, University of Georgia
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Mental Health Panel – Venessa Sims, Director of Outreach Law Enforcement and Emergency Management, Georgia Dept of Agriculture and Jennifer Dunn, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Ga Dept of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	LUNCH (ON YOUR OWN)
Moderator: Sam Bohn, Tennessee Department of Agriculture	
1:30 pm – 2:15pm	Juice HACCP Today: Updates, Exemptions, and Ensuring Valid Training - Dr. Alexis Hamilton, Virginia Tech
2:15 pm - 3:15 pm	Evolution of Corrective Action Plans – Jamie DeMent, The Walt Disney Company
3:15 pm – 3:45 pm	BREAK- SPONSORED BY WINWAM
3:45 pm - 5:00 pm	Stop Repeat Violations: Root Cause Analysis for Fixes That Stick - Steve Mandernach, Association of Food and Drug Officials
5:00 pm	CLOSING REMARKS & DAILY ADJOURN
6:30 pm - 7:00 pm	AFDOSS MEMBER RECEPTION - PREFUNCTION MAIN AREA
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	HOLEMAN AWARD BANQUET - PREFUNCTION MAIN AREA
8:00 pm - until	LIVE AUCTION! - MOUNTAINVIEW BALLROOM A, B & C

TUESDAY AUGUST 25, 2026	
Location: Mountainview Ballroom A, B & C Moderator: CP Kanwat, South Carolina Department of Agriculture	
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Dollywood: Allergen Management - Patrice Mendes
9:00 am – 9:45 am	The pH Effect: How Low-Acid Components Influence Acidified Foods - Melissa Wright, Virginia Tech
9:45 am - 10:15 am	BREAK
10:15 am – 11:00 am	The Volunteer State Food Protectors: Excellence, Readiness, and Collaboration- Katie Garman, MPH, CPM and Claire Umstead, MPH, Tennessee Department of Health
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Food Safety ConnectED Workforce Development Initiative - Dr. Clint Stevenson, NC State University
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	BUSINESS LUNCHEON (INCLUDED WITH REGISTRATION) - PREFUNCTION AREA
Moderator: Chris Peasley, Georgia Department of Agriculture	
1:30 pm – 2:45 pm	Quality Assurance and Food Safety – Bush’s Baked Beans
2:45 pm – 3:15 pm	BREAK- SPONSORED BY THE FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (FMI)
3:15 pm - 4:15 pm	A Swamp Story: The Alligator Industry’s Evolution from Recovery to Added Value and Food Safety - Dr. Evelyn Watts, Louisiana State University
4:15 pm – 5:00 pm	Non-Alcoholic/Low-Alcohol Beer Safety - Alex Thompson, Clemson University
5:00 pm	CLOSING REMARKS & DAILY ADJOURN

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 26, 2026	
Location: Mountainview Ballroom A, B & C Moderator: Shanta Hamilton, Louisiana Department of Health	
8:00 am – 9:30 am	Ozone Cleaning of Produce - Dr. Al Baroudi, The Cheesecake Factory
9:30 am - 10:15 am	BREAK
10:15 am – 11:15 am	Produce Safety Rule Equivalent Curriculum - Sara Runkel, Carolina Farm Stewardship Association
11:15 am - 12:00 pm	A Public Health Challenge: Salmonella in Dry Food and Feed Processing Environments - Jon Wheeler, South Carolina Department of Agriculture
12:00 pm	PRESIDENT’S CLOSING REMARKS & MEETING ADJOURN - AFDOSS PRESIDENT RASHELLY BLAND SAFE TRIP HOME TO EVERYONE! SEE YOU NEXT YEAR...

Thank you for attending the AFDOSS 2026 AEC



Our sponsors make this possible!



THE FOOD
INDUSTRY
ASSOCIATION



Dutch Bros. *Office*



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Thank you for your ongoing support of AFDOSS

Check out the new AFDOSS website! www.afdoss.org

Visit to view conference presentations and photos, update your membership and see how you can become involved

Connect through Facebook: facebook.com/afdoss

Explore recent news from AFDOSS members, browse job and training opportunities, and stay engaged with the community

News from HQ (AFDO):

Visit www.afdo.org to connect with food and drug officials across the country

**See you next year
in Chattanooga, TN**



**September
11-15, 2027**