



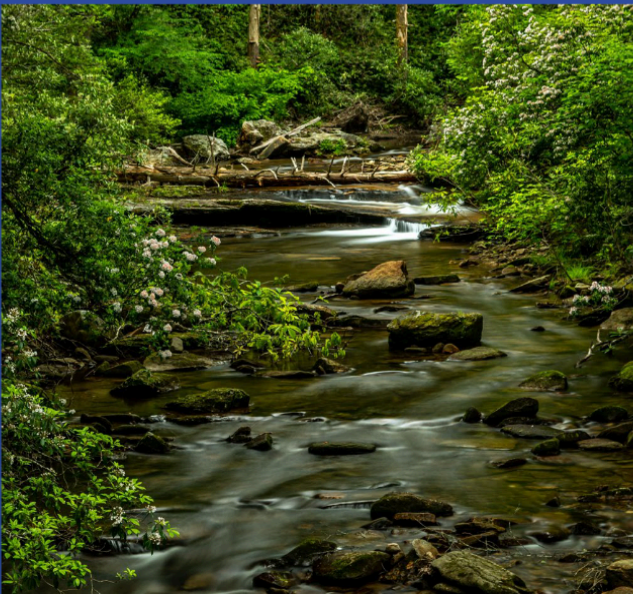
**2026 Annual
Gatlinburg, TN**



**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, NC Department of Agriculture	
7:00 am - 8:00 am	REGISTRATION
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!"*

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, TN 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
3:30 pm – 3:45 pm	BREAK- SPONSORED BY *****
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 - 9:00 pm	HOLEMAN AWARDS BANQUET (INCLUDED WITH REGISTRATION) FOLLOWED BY THE LIVE AUCTION! - PREFUNCTION MAIN AREA AND MOUNTAINVIEW BALLROOM A, B & C

TUESDAY AUGUST 25, 2026	
Location: *****	
Moderator: *****	
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- SPONSORED BY *****
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) - *****
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 *****
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 - Dr. Alex Thompson, Clemson University
5:00 pm	CLOSING REMARKS & DAILY ADJOURN

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 26, 2026	
Location: *****	
Moderator: *****	
8:00 am – 9:30 am	Ozone Cleaning of Produce - Dr. Al Baroudi, The Cheesecake Factory
9:30 am - 10:15 am	BREAK- SPONSORED BY *****
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 <i>SAFE TRIP HOME TO EVERYONE! SEE YOU NEXT YEAR...</i>