



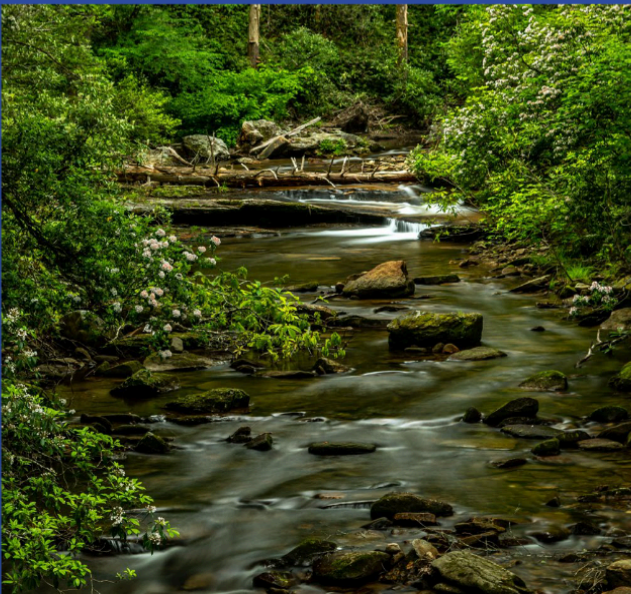
**2026 Annual  
Gatlinburg, TN**



**Conference  
August 23-26, 2026**



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



**SATURDAY AUGUST 22, 2026**

2:00 PM – 5:00 PM	<b>EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING</b>
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**SUNDAY AUGUST 23, 2026**

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM	<b>REGISTRATION - PREFUNCTION AREA MAIN FLOOR</b>
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM	<b>AFDOSS 2026 AEC WELCOME RECEPTION - PREFUNCTION AREA MAIN FLOOR</b>

**MONDAY AUGUST 24, 2026**

<b>Location: Mountainview Ballroom A, B &amp; C</b>	
<b>Moderator: Minoo Mehrotra, NC Department of Agriculture</b>	
7:00 am - 8:00 am	<b>REGISTRATION</b>
8:00 am – 8:05 am	<b>Call to Order &amp; President’s Welcome</b> – AFDOSS President Amy Zimmerman
8:05 am - 8:15 am	<b>Tennessee Welcome</b> – Mark Tenpenny, REHS, Tennessee Department of Health
8:15 am – 8:45 am	<b>AFDO President’s Update</b> – Brad Deacon, Michigan Dept. of Agriculture & Rural Development
8:45 am – 9:30 am	<b>FDA Update</b> - Scott Watson, DDPCI FDA
9:30 am – 10:00 am	<b>BREAK (AUCTION AND EXHIBITOR TABLES OPEN)</b>

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	<b>Produce Safety in the Supply Chain</b> - Dr. Laurel Dunn, University of Georgia
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	<b>***need to fill*** (was Virginia’s spot)</b>
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	<b>LUNCH (ON YOUR OWN)</b>
<b>Moderator: Sam Bohn, TN Department of Agriculture</b>	
1:30 pm – 2:15pm	<b>Juice HACCP Today: Updates, Exemptions, and Ensuring Valid Training</b> - Dr. Alexis Hamilton, Virginia Tech
2:15 pm - 3:15 pm	<b>Evolution of Corrective Action Plans</b> – Jamie DeMent, The Walt Disney Company
3:30 pm – 3:45 pm	<b>BREAK- SPONSORED BY *****</b>
3:45 pm - 5:00 pm	<b>Stop Repeat Violations: Root Cause Analysis for Fixes That Stick</b> - Steve Mandernach, Association of Food and Drug Officials
5:00 pm	<b>CLOSING REMARKS &amp; DAILY ADJOURN</b>
6:30 pm - 7:00 pm	<b>AFDOSS MEMBER RECEPTION - *****</b>
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	<b>HOLEMAN AWARDS BANQUET (INCLUDED WITH REGISTRATION) FOLLOWED BY THE LIVE AUCTION! - *****</b>

**TUESDAY AUGUST 25, 2026**

Location: ***** Moderator: *****	
8:00 am – 9:00 am	<b>Dollywood: Allergen Management</b> - Patrice Mendes
9:00 am – 9:45 am	<b>The pH Effect: How Low-Acid Components Influence Acidified Foods</b> - Melissa Wright, Virginia Tech
9:45 am - 10:15 am	<b>BREAK- SPONSORED BY *****</b>
10:15 am – 11:00 am	<b>Mental Health Panel</b> – 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
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	<b>Food/Ag Emergencies</b> - Dr. Kathryn MacDonald, Clemson University <b>** need a new one**</b>
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	<b>BUSINESS LUNCHEON (INCLUDED WITH REGISTRATION)</b> - *****
1:30 pm – 2:45 pm	<b>Quality Assurance and Food Safety</b> – Bush’s Baked Beans
2:45 pm – 3:15 pm	<b>BREAK- SPONSORED BY *****</b>
3:15 pm - 4:15 pm	<b>A Swamp Story: The Alligator Industry’s Evolution from Recovery to Added Value and Food Safety</b> - Dr. Evelyn Watts, Louisiana State University
4:15 pm – 5:00 pm	<b>Non-Alcoholic/Low-Alcohol Beer Safety</b> - Dr. Alex Thompson, Clemson University
5:00 pm	<b>CLOSING REMARKS &amp; DAILY ADJOURN</b>

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