

Dear Colleagues,

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) is excited to announce that the agenda for the 2025 Food Protection Task Force (FPTF) Annual Meeting is now available! This year's theme is: *Strengthening Michigan's Food System: Safety, Sustainability, and Resilience: Farm to Fork: United for Food Safety*. This **in-person meeting** brings together food safety professionals, industry leaders, and regulatory officials from across Michigan to share insights, build partnerships, and address emerging food safety challenges.



### Event Details

- **Date: Wednesday, May 7, 2025**
- Time: Meeting begins at **9:30 a.m.**
  - Arrive early at 9:00 a.m. for a casual meet and greet
- **Location:** MSU Federal Credit Union Headquarters 2  
3899 Coolidge Rd, Room 2055, East Lansing, MI



### Registration

Please register by Close of Business on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, to reserve your spot. Seating is limited:

[Register Here](#)



### Agenda Highlights

- Opening Keynote: *Farm to Family – Strengthening Michigan's Food and Farming Sectors* with Dr. Tim Boring, MDARD Director
- Panel Discussion: *21 CFR 112 Subpart E – Agricultural Water Standards*
- Fluoroscope Demo: *Lead Detection in Spices* by MDARD Laboratory Services
- Food Bank Insights: *Challenges & Community Partnerships* with Dr. Phil Knight
- Closing Keynote: *Food Fraud Prevention – Global and Local Threats* with Dr. John Spink, MSU
- Plus: Updates from MDARD, Rapid Response Team case studies, and plenty of networking moments!



### Food & Amenities

- Lunch and break refreshments provided
- Coffee, tea, and water available throughout the day
- Fresh fruit at breaks
- Water bottle filling station on-site
- Please notify us of any accommodations you may need



### Networking Opportunities

Bring your business cards! Ample time is built into the agenda to connect with fellow attendees and strengthen cross-sector collaboration.

**Michigan Food Protection Task Force Annual Meeting**  
***Strengthening Michigan's Food System: Safety, Sustainability, and Resilience***

Hosted by the  
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development  
Bureau of Food Safety and Animal Health

**Wednesday, May 7, 2025**

**9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

**MSU Federal Credit Union Headquarters 2 Building, Room 2055**  
**3899 Coolidge Rd, East Lansing, MI**

**Moderator:** Nick Babcock, Produce Safety Inspector,  
MDARD Dairy, Feed, and Produce Division

**9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.**

**Meet, Greet, and Network**

**9:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.**

**Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Jennifer Bonsky, Director, MDARD Human Food Division

**9:45 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.**

**Opening Keynote Address: Farm to Family:  
Strengthening Michigan's Food and Farming Sectors  
and Agricultural Systems throughout Michigan**

Tim Boring, PhD, Director, MDARD

Dr. Boring will provide an in-depth look at Michigan's Farm to Family Program, highlighting its role in connecting local farmers with consumers to promote access to fresh, nutritious food. This initiative supports regenerative agriculture practices that enhance soil health, boost biodiversity, and strengthen Michigan's agricultural sector. By fostering direct farm-to-table connections, the program not only improves public health but also drives economic prosperity, ensuring that communities benefit from sustainable and resilient food systems.

**10:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**

**Morning Break**

**10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

**Michigan's Rapid Response Team: Recalls and  
Foodborne Illness Outbreaks**

MDARD Emergency Response Unit/  
Rapid Response Team

This session will provide an overview of significant food recalls and foodborne illness outbreaks investigated in Michigan over the past year, highlighting case studies, coordination between state and federal agencies, and industry collaboration for rapid response and public health protection.

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**11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

**Panel Discussion: 21 CFR 112 Subpart E: From Farm to Consumer – Ensuring Safe Agricultural Water**

Facilitator: Kim Galloup, Produce Safety Unit Manager,  
MDARD Dairy, Feed, and Produce Division

Panelists: Bridget Swift; Lakeside Pic-N-Pak  
Chris Schrock: Cass City Plain Grower Community

This panel discussion will explore the implementation, challenges, and industry impact of the implementation of 21 CFR 112 Subpart E, which sets regulatory standards for agricultural water safety. Panelists will address key concerns, including the biggest challenges for farmers; the impact on small-scale and resource-limited farms; potential economic implications; and strategies for collaboration between regulatory agencies and industry stakeholders to ensure smooth implementation and compliance. The discussion aims to provide practical insights and solutions to support Michigan's agricultural community in meeting food safety requirements while maintaining economic viability.

**11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.**

**State of the MDARD Bureau of Food Safety and Animal Health**

Tim Slawinski, Bureau Director, MDARD

Tim will provide key updates on the latest food safety initiatives, regulatory developments, and emerging trends in food safety and animal health.

**11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.**

**Networking Lunch**

**1:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.**

**Laboratory Demonstration: Handheld Fluoroscope Testing for Lead Contamination in Spices**

Ashley Baker, Chemical Analyst  
MDARD William C. Geagley Laboratory

Ashley will provide an overview and demonstrate the use of a handheld fluoroscope as a field screening device to detect lead contamination in spices in the field. The fluoroscope helps the sampler quickly assess potential contamination, guiding decisions on which samples require further laboratory analysis.

**1:45 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.**

**Michigan Food Banks: Challenges and Community Partnerships**

Dr. Phil Knight, Executive Director  
Food Bank Council of Michigan

Dr. Knight will share the challenges and opportunities facing Michigan's food banks and the critical role of

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community partnerships in addressing food insecurity. Key discussion areas include strategies to eliminate food deserts, enhancing collaboration between food banks, farmers, and businesses, and expanding access to food assistance programs like SNAP, WIC, and school meal initiatives. The session will also highlight ways to encourage food donations and volunteer support to strengthen Michigan's food distribution network.

**2:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

**Afternoon Break**

**2:30 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.**

**Keynote Address: Food Protection - Global and Local Threats of Food Fraud and Strategies for Prevention**

John Spink, PhD, Director, Food Fraud Prevention Think Tank and Assistant Professor Michigan State University

Dr. Spink will build on food protection principles to focus on food fraud prevention. Food fraud is intentional deception for economic gain, and recent market trends have led this to be an increasing vulnerability. This presentation will include an update on the state of food fraud prevention and, specifically, global trends that impact food consumption in Michigan and trade out of the state. Free education and training resources, including the MDARD-led, FDA-funded "Food Fraud Tabletop eXercise (FFTTX)", will also be reviewed.

**3:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

**Closing Remarks and Adjournment**

Jennifer Bonsky

**Thank you for attending and safe travels**

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## **Directions to MSU Federal Credit Union Headquarters Building 2**

- The MSU Federal Credit Union Headquarters Building 2 is easily accessible from US-127 Lake Lansing Road exit. Proceed East to Coolidge Road.
- Turn North on Coolidge Road and proceed until you reach MSU Federal Credit Union Headquarters 2 Building 3899 Coolidge Rd, East Lansing, MI.
- Parking is no cost. Please Park in the designated areas.
- Please enter and leave the building through the main entrance at the front center of the building.
- We will be meeting in the Community Conference Room 2055. Please note guests are not allowed in the MSUFCU employee cafeteria or the patio areas around the building.

