



2026 Food Safety Leadership Award

Criteria for Nominations

Must be an employee from an active IDFA member company that processes, manufactures, markets, or distributes dairy products; or a supplier company that supports the food safety efforts of dairy processors in North America.

There is no fee to enter this nomination. Applications should be typed and must be received by the International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA) by **Friday, October 31, 2025.**

The winner will be an individual from an IDFA member company who has demonstrated outstanding leadership toward enhancing food safety within the dairy products industry.

Candidate's Name:

Candidate's Title:

Organization/Company:

Street Address:

City/State/Zip:

Telephone:

Fax:

Email:

General Qualifications and Criteria for Nominees

The winner will be an employee of an IDFA member company that processes, manufactures, markets, or distributes dairy products; or a supplier company that supports the food safety efforts of dairy processors in North America. The winning individual must demonstrate outstanding leadership and contributions to the field of food safety for the dairy foods industry. Previous recipients are not eligible to be nominated.

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Those nominating are expected to provide the following package of materials for consideration as an attachment to this nomination form:

1. **Nomination cover letter:** Submit a cover letter that includes the name, position, and company of the nominee(s), as well as a summary of the achievements of the individual.
2. **Food safety leadership achievements:** List specific activities and outcomes achieved during the past two years that would be considered significant food safety leadership achievements or accomplishments, such as developing a process or procedure that increased food safety; initiating and/or participating in the development and/or implementation of new food safety guidance and/or training for the industry; conducting research that made a specific contribution to food safety; and writing or co-authoring papers that were published in recognized peer-reviewed journals or magazines.
3. **Originality of work:** Describe the originality, creativity and quality of the contribution and note the significance and importance of the contribution to the industry. Provide documentation that supports the effectiveness of the effort.
4. **Peer assessment of nominee:** Provide at least two and no more than three letters of support from professional peers.

Nominations should be sent to Matt Herrick at mherrick@idfa.org.