

Preventive Controls Showcase - Recap

The November 11th Suppliers' Night Pre-Show events were well attended and well received. Thank you to everyone that showed up early and joined us for some really great topical content.

The Preventive Controls Showcase was an insightful and interactive discussion focused on FSMA's Final Rule on Preventive Controls. The panel consisted of several well qualified experts in their given fields:

- **Robert E. Brackett** Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) Vice President & Director of the Institute for Food Safety and Health (IFSH)
- **Dr. Purnendu Vasavada** Professor Emeritus of Food Science, University of Wisconsin-River Falls and Principal of the PCV & Associates, LLC
- **Janet Raddatz** VP of Regulatory Quality and Food Safety, Sargento Foods Inc.
- **Don Jones** VP of QA, Atkins Nutritionals, Inc.
- Moderator: **Tim Stubbs**, CFS Vice President Product Research, Dairy Management Inc



The moderated discussion was led by Tim Stubbs with expert timing and insight. Mr. Stubbs directed the panelists to their areas of expertise as they discussed the nuances and challenges of the final rule. Each panelist offered unique insight on where companies should start - if they haven't already - and how to move forward from a baseline of a GFSI program.

Dr. Bob Brackett and Dr. Vasavada led discussions on regulatory requirements, training programs, and what the FDA will be looking for. With the voice of the Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance (FSPCA) through IIT - both panelists were poised to answer questions on Qualified Individuals and Preventive Controls Qualified Individuals (PCQI) and how these designations are best attained. Philosophies and strategies on implementation and review of food safety and defense teams were also discussed, with the overall message - do what works



best for your facility, products, and risk that can be justified and documented - and do something now.

Janet Raddatz and Don Jones represented the industry sector and have deep knowledge on a variety of commodities including dairy, RTE and snack foods, and frozen foods. They offered valuable insight on supplier verification programs, record keeping practices, and policies that should be reviewed and updated to bring to the appropriate level of compliance. They also spent a fair amount of time discussing liability and corporate culture, offering advice on how to communicate with corporate leaders and suppliers on resource needs and buy-in for a next-level food safety values.

The audience asked several questions surrounding liability and import programs - stressing the need for industry conversation and guidance on best practices and transparency with all agencies in the food chain from brokers to manufacturers and co-manufacturers. The panel also discussed the changes in FDA jurisdiction and what they are now allowed access to. They assert that companies should take a look at all documents in their food safety plan to ensure proprietary information is labeled and protected, since all associated records are now accessible by right to the FDA.



Overall, the session was incredibly informative and covered a broad range of very timely topics within the Preventive Controls rules. Back on the expo floor, attendees were still buzzing hours later over the great content and information presented. On behalf of the Chicago Section IFT we thank both the panelists and the audience for making this session a great value-added pre-expo event.

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