



Chicago Section IFT the First Section



February Dinner Meeting Speaker: Matthew Botos

Safety, Security and Sustainability and the Food Safety Modernization Act



Matthew Botos is CEO of ConnectFood. and a sought after innovator, entrepreneur and manager in the food and bio-science field. He is Founder, and former Director, of the Illinois Center for Food Safety and Technology, and previous Executive Director of the Illinois Biotechnology Industry Organization (IBIO).

Matt's 15 years of worldwide experience have made him a recognized spokesperson for the importance of education and outreach in the food industry and a proven "door opener" for commerce and businesses.

Abstract: Food companies and all of their various components are going to be affected by and responding to the Food Safety Modernization Act; this includes such diverse industries as manufacturing and sales from the farm to the fork. What does this mean for your company? It has been estimated that up to 80% of all food companies have less than fifty employees and these small to medium size companies supply some of the largest companies in the world.

We will be discussing the importance of working together to assure the safety and the quality of the food chain. Many different tools are available that tie industry, academia and government together in an efficient and synergistic manner. The greatest challenge will be in the standardization of these tools so that companies can supply safe products in the most well-organized fashion.

The food industry is one of the largest and most established in the world and we are starting to learn and share information across many different mediums. We will also focus on how to use the Internet and other knowledge platforms to assist in manufacturing, sales and consumer education concerning the products that we represent.