

Panelist Biographies

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Honorable J. Randy Babbitt, Babbitt & Associates

Randy Babbitt is the Principal of Babbitt & Associates, LLC. This follows his retirement as Senior Vice President of Labor Relations for Southwest Airlines. Prior to joining Southwest and after confirmation by the U.S. Senate, Randy Babbitt served as the FAA's sixteenth administrator from June of 2009 through December 2011. Babbitt came to the FAA from Oliver Wyman, an international management consulting firm where he served as partner.

Babbitt began his aviation career as a pilot, flying 25 years for Eastern Airlines. Later, he served as President and CEO for US ALPA, the world's largest professional organization of airline pilots.

He was recognized by Aviation Week & Space Technology magazine with the Laurels Award for outstanding achievement in the Commercial Air Transport and more recently was presented the Aero Club of Washington's prestigious Donald D. Engen Aero Club Trophy for Aviation Excellence.

Jim Brennan, SmartWash

Mr. Brennan is currently President of SmartWash Solutions, LLC (SWS), a food safety company founded by Taylor Fresh Foods, the parent of the Taylor Farms family of companies. SWS was established to commercialize revolutionary wash aid technology to the fresh food segment of the food industry. Before joining SWS, Mr. Brennan started a technical consulting firm, The Alliance of Technical Professionals (ATP), the focus of which is on helping small- and medium-size companies develop new food business while navigating operational, food safety and regulatory issues. Prior to establishing ATP, he has held domestic and international management positions with Gallo Winery, Dole Food Company and PepsiCo. Mr. Brennan has over three decades of experience in new business development within the food industry, and has been intimately involved in launching product lines that today contribute over \$3 billion in annual revenue to their respective companies. Many of these products established completely new categories such as 100% blended fruit juices, frozen fruit novelties and ready-to-eat salads.

Donna Lynn Browne, Naturipe

Donna Lynn is the Director of Food Safety and Social Responsibility for Naturipe Farms, LLC. Browne began her career in produce food safety after graduating from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 1989. Her first job was as research microbiologist at the Dole R&D Technical Center in San Jose, CA. She then moved on to positions with Safeway Manufacturing and Dole Fresh Vegetables as a Quality Supervisor, and then Manager.

She then operated, for 8 years, a very successful business as a food safety consultant; her main clients were Taylor Farms and River Point Farms. She has always enjoyed working with farmers, directly helping them understand what is needed for true food safety.

Browne holds a degree in Microbiology, MS in international food law, and has numerous food safety certifications (SQF, HACCP, GLOBALG.A.P, PCQI, FVSP etc.). She serves on the Center for Produce Safety Technical Committee, on the PMA and United Fresh Food Safety and Technology councils, and most recently has joined the Consumer Goods Forums where she works on the steering committee for the Sustainable Supply Chain Initiative (SSCI).

DeAnn Davis, Western Growers

De Ann Davis, PhD, serves as Senior Vice President, Science, at Western Growers. Davis brings extensive expertise to the WG leadership team with more than 25 years of experience in the development and execution of technical global programs, including food safety, quality assurance and regulatory compliance.

Following an impressive run in consumer products safety, Davis transitioned to packaged and fresh produce safety nearly a decade ago. She most recently served as Food Safety Director for Commercial Food Sanitation,

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a provider of strategic consulting services, expertise and training that addresses food safety and sanitation challenges for food processing plants.

Previously, Davis was Vice President of Food Safety and Quality for both Church Brothers Farms and Earthbound Farm, and earlier as Chief Food Safety Officer for Kraft Foods Group, where she was engaged in the development of the regulatory framework for Food Safety Modernization Act.

Davis holds several committee appointments within the food industry, including having been recently appointed to the Oversight Committee for Baby Food Standard and Certification supporting the FDA's Closer to Zero Action Plan for Baby Food. In 2018, Davis was appointed to the USDA National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Food.

Suresh DeCosta, Lipman Farms

Suresh DeCosta joined Lipman Family Farms as Director of Food Safety in April 2016. Prior to joining Lipman, he worked as food safety lead for agricultural products at McDonalds, national FSQA manager for Chiquita/Fresh Express, and product application scientist for SureBeam. Suresh is a recognized subject matter expert with the ability to lead cross-functional groups of suppliers, customers and produce industry representatives. His broad food science industry experience includes product development, beverage formulation, food irradiation, coffee blend management, good agricultural practices, and fresh cut processing. He leverages his holistic understanding of supply chain from farm to fork to mitigate food safety risks at each stage of the supply chain. Suresh uses his interpersonal skills to build consensus in technical and non-technical environments, which helps drive industry change.

Suresh has served as the chairman of United Fresh Produce Association Food Safety and Technology Council and as a member of its board of directors, and is a member of the Center for Produce Safety Technical Committee. He has received multiple industry awards, including the UFPA technical award for his leadership in helping standardize agricultural food safety practices. Suresh received an M.S. in Food Science from Chapman University and a B.S. in Environmental Science from Slippery Rock University.

Tony DiMare, The DiMare Co.

Tony DiMare serves as vice president of The DiMare Company, an 90-year-old family produce business with growing, packing, and repacking operations, operating in Florida, California, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Texas. Mr. DiMare began working for the family business in 1983 and is among the third generation of DiMares to do so. The DiMare Company believes strongly in industry organizations. Mr. DiMare is active in the industry and serves on several volunteer boards and committees. He is Chairman of the Florida Specialty Crop Foundation and is currently serving on the Board of Directors of the Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association, the Florida Tomato Committee, Florida Tomato Exchange, Florida Tomato Growers Exchange, and is Co-Chair of the University of Florida–Gulf Coast Research and Education Center (GREC) Advisory Council. In 2002, he was appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture to the Inaugural USDA Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee. Also that year, he served on the Florida Agriculture Trade Advisory Committee for Congressman Adam Putnam. In addition to serving the ag community, Mr. DiMare also co-chairs the YMCA's South Shore Leadership and Advisory Council, is the co-founder and coordinator of the inaugural Florida Ag Expo, and serves on the board of directors for Farm Share, Inc., a not-for-profit organization working to fight poverty and alleviate hunger.

Natalie Dyenson, Dole Food Company

Ms. Dyenson joined Dole as Vice President, Food Safety and Quality in October 2016. She has responsibility for food safety and quality programs globally for all divisions of Dole. Prior to Dole, she spent eight years in various senior director positions with Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., most recently leading food safety across 6,500 retail stores, 48 company-owned manufacturing facilities and 220 fresh distribution centers in 26 countries for Walmart's international division. Prior to Walmart, Ms. Dyenson spent eight years with Walt Disney Parks and Resorts, based

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out of Orlando, Florida, where she held various roles in food safety and public health supporting Walt Disney World, Disney Regional Entertainment, Disney Cruise Line and the Parks and Resorts business globally. Ms. Dyenson holds a B.S. in Microbiology from the University of Iowa and a M.P.H. in Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Biostatistics from the University of South Florida.

Bret Erickson, Little Bear Produce

Bret Erickson grew up in the Rio Grande Valley in McAllen, TX. He obtained his B.S. from Texas Tech in Agricultural & Applied Economics in 1997. Upon graduation, Bret returned to South Texas and went to work for DuPont Pioneer Hi-Bred in Weslaco, TX where he was involved in the growing and shipping of seed corn for the Latin American market. In 2008, Bret relocated to Kauai, Hawaii where he served as the Plant Operations Manager for the Kekaha DuPont Pioneer foundation seed facility.

In 2011, Bret returned home to the Rio Grande Valley and began working for Texas Citrus Mutual and the Texas Vegetable Association in Mission, TX. In 2012 Bret joined the Texas International Produce Association (TIPA) as President and CEO where he focused on pursuing the economic and political interests of the domestic and imported fresh fruit and vegetable industries in Texas.

In July of 2017, Bret joined his friend and mentor, Jimmy Bassetti, at Little Bear Produce where he remains highly engaged in a number of industry boards and committees including TIPA, IFPA, CPS, Canadian Fruit & Vegetable DRC, USDA Fruit & Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee, South Texas Onion Committee, Border Trade Alliance and others.

Bonnie Fernandez-Fenaroli, Center for Produce Safety

Ms. Bonnie Fernandez-Fenaroli received her Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Business Management at California Poly State University, San Luis Obispo and her Masters of Business Administration from Sacramento State University. After fifteen years as Executive Director at the California Wheat Commission, she joined the Center for Produce Safety (CPS) in 2008 as its Executive Director working to leverage public and private expertise and research dollars to address critical risk management issues in the growth, harvest, processing and distribution of fresh produce. As Executive Director she focuses the CPC's attention on critical food safety issues affecting the fresh produce industry and establishes collaborations among public agencies and private industry to maximize the impact of research budgets.

Tim Jackson, U.S. Food & Drug Administration

In 2022, Tim joined the FDA Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition as a Senior Science Advisor for Food Safety, supporting programs in outbreak investigation, root cause analysis and preventive control strategies.

From 2017 to 2021, as Vice President of Food Safety, Regulatory and Social Compliance, he led the Driscoll's team in North and South America responsibility for Food Safety, Regulatory (including organic) compliance and compliance in worker welfare. Driscoll's is the global market leader in fresh strawberries, blueberries, raspberries and blackberries.

Prior to starting at Driscoll's Tim Jackson was the Director of Food Safety for Nestlé US and Nestlé Canada, with responsibility for thermal processing and food safety programs in hygiene, microbiology, allergens and chemical contaminants. He held this position since 2009. Tim has worked for Nestlé as a research and industrial microbiologist since 1995 as a research associate, head of the microbiology department of Nestlé's reference laboratory for the US and Canada and from 2004 to 2008 as Microbiology Advisor to Corporate Quality Management for Nestlé world-wide.

Tim received his Bachelor of Science in Biology from Abilene Christian University and his Master of Science and Ph.D. in Food Microbiology from Texas A&M University. While at the University, he led the university administered training program for USDA-FSIS inspectors at the Agency's newly established training center.

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He has been co-chair of the Grocery Manufacturers' Association working group on the Preventive Controls Rule and has been part of the GMA FSMA Steering Group interacting with Agency leadership on the FSMA rules. He has led Nestlé's internal review and preparation for FMSA, and is currently Vice President of the International Association for Food Protection.

Gillian Kelleher, Kelleher Consultants

Gillian Kelleher is President and CEO of Kelleher Consultants, a consulting firm that helps food companies build sustainable food safety and quality programs with a focus on prevention. Gillian possesses vast, global leadership experience in the food industry and in food safety and quality, having lived and worked in Ireland, the UK, France, and the U.S. She has worked in diverse sectors including manufacturing, foodservice, retail, and distribution.

Gillian was formerly Vice President of Food Safety and Quality Assurance for Wegmans Food Markets, a major US regional supermarket chain and one of Fortune's "Top 100 Companies to Work For". Her scope of responsibility included all aspects of food safety and quality for stores, self-manufacturing, distribution and Wegmans' private label program.

Prior to her tenure at Wegmans, Gillian also worked at Häagen Dazs, Burger King, Express Foods, and Pillsbury. In addition, she has led the development of food safety and quality programs for many large and small private-label suppliers and distributors.

Gillian earned her B.S degree in Dairy and Food Science from University College Cork, Ireland. She is a member of several professional organizations, including the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT), International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), and the American Society for Quality (ASQ). She is a past co-Vice Chair of the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) Board of Directors, a member of the Board of Directors of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), a member of the Board of Directors of Stop Foodborne Illness and a longstanding member of Harvard's Private and Public Scientific, Academic, and Consumer Food Policy Committee (PAPSAC). Gillian is also actively involved in the Leafy Greens Safety Coalition (LGSC) and serves as Chairperson for the Editorial Advisory Board for the 2023 Food Safety Summit.

Paul Kneeland, Gelson's

Paul Kneeland is Vice President of Fresh Operations at Gelson's Markets. While the start of his career was all in the Northeast United States, prior to moving west and joining Gelson's Paul worked for Ahold-Delhaize on their small store format project, responsible for all Fresh Operations. Prior to that Paul worked for family-owned Roche Bros. Supermarkets in Boston and Kings Super Markets in New Jersey. He has served on boards of directors for three different regional produce associations and was president of the Eastern Produce Council. Paul also served on the PMA board, reaching the position of vice-chair before his term ended.

Drew McDonald, Taylor Fresh Foods

Drew is the Vice President Quality & Food Safety at Taylor Farms, Salinas, California. He has over 20 years' experience in fresh produce and fresh foods. He oversees the quality and food safety programs across the food service, retail, and deli operations. Drew works with an impressive team developing and managing appropriate and practical quality and food safety programs for fresh food and produce products. Over the course of his career he has worked with growers and processors of fresh produce items all over the world. He currently serves on numerous food safety-related technical committees and has participated in the authorship of many produce food safety guidelines. Drew received his education from Lawrence University in Wisconsin.

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Joe Pezzini, Taylor Farms

Joe is currently the Senior Director of Ag Operations at Taylor Farms. He is responsible for their farming and harvesting operations, covering 42,000 crop acres for Mission Ranches, Seco Packing and Big Valley Labor.

Joe is a native of Salinas and from a third-generation farming family. He grew up on their family artichoke farm with his brothers and sisters. He began his career with the Ocean Mist Farms group of companies in 1983 as a farm manager for Boutonnet Farms. Along with two partners Joe started Valley Pride Custom Harvesting in 1987. In 2001, Joe became Vice President of Operations at Ocean Mist Farms where he was responsible for Cooling Operations, Food Safety, Quality Assurance and Human Resources. Joe became the Chief Operating Officer in 2009 and was appointed to the CEO role in 2015. He served as CEO until June 2021.

Joe has served on many industry boards including Central California Grower-Shipper Association and Foundation, California Leafy Greens Product Handler Marketing Agreement (LGMA), Ag Against Hunger, Produce Marketing Association, and the Center for Produce Safety. Joe has been a leading advocate for produce food safety and was instrumental in forming the LGMA following the spinach crisis in 2006. Joe is a Hartnell College alum, UC Davis graduate and has an MBA from the University of Santa Clara.

Kinsey Porter, North Bay Produce

Kinsey Porter is the Food Safety Manager for North Bay Produce, Inc., headquartered in Traverse City, MI. At North Bay, Kinsey is responsible for Food Safety Modernization Act compliance, partnering with growers to implement good food safety practices, and communicating North Bay's food safety commitment with customers. She serves on the Center for Produce Safety Technical Committee, was selected to be in the inaugural class of the International Fresh Produce Association Produce Safety Immersion Program, and is the current Immersion Program alumni liaison. Kinsey is a Preventive Controls Qualified Individual and holds a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point certificate. Kinsey obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Food Science from North Carolina State University where she initially developed her passion for food safety and a Master of Science degree in Food, Nutrition, and Culinary Sciences from Clemson University.

Dave Puglia, Western Growers

Dave Puglia was selected President and CEO of Western Growers in 2019. Since joining the organization in 2005, he has focused on leading public policy initiatives affecting the agriculture industry in California and other western states. Puglia has been at the forefront of major legislative and regulatory issues involving water supply, water quality, energy, air quality and labor. His work has included negotiating statewide water bond provisions to enhance storage capacity, advocating for a comprehensive safe drinking water solution in partnership with environmental justice leaders, and negotiating the nation's first state regulatory standard for prevention of heat illness in agricultural settings. Before joining Western Growers, Puglia served for seven years in the California Attorney General's Office, first as Press Secretary and then as Director of Public Affairs and Communications. He has also worked as a public affairs consultant to numerous corporations and industry groups in addition to serving in senior roles on several statewide political campaigns. Puglia is currently Vice Chair of the Public Policy Institute of California's Water Policy Center Advisory Council and has served on several industry-related boards and advisory councils. A Sacramento native, Puglia earned a bachelor's degree in Government-Journalism from Sacramento State University.

Joan Rosen, JC Rosen Resources

Ms. Rosen is the founder of JC Rosen Resources, a consulting firm that provides services globally with expertise in food safety, quality systems, postharvest technology, and regulatory affairs for the fresh produce and food industries. Previously, Ms. Rosen was Director of Global Food Safety and Quality for Chiquita Brands International/ Fresh Express, where for over 22 years she had increasing responsibilities in key management leadership positions. Her role ensured standardized quality and food safety systems across growing, packing, processing and distribution operations in North America, Europe, Latin America and Asia including compliance with customer, brand and regulatory standards throughout the supply chain. She received her M.S. in Food

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Science and Postharvest Physiology from the University of California, Davis, and her B.S. in Food Science from Cornell University. Ms. Rosen is a recipient of the International Fresh-Cut Produce Association's Technical Excellence Award for her achievements in advancing the common good of the freshcut industry, enhancing food safety and quality initiatives and supporting innovative technological advancements. She serves on the Technical Committees for the Center for Produce Safety, Produce Marketing Association and United Fresh Produce Association. Ms. Rosen is a lead instructor for FSMA's Preventive Controls for Human Foods and a trainer for the Produce Rule. Previously, she led postharvest research programs at Campbell Soup Company, and also worked in flavor development and application at Florasynth Inc.

Karen Ross, California Department of Food and Agriculture

Karen Ross was appointed Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture in 2019 by Governor Gavin Newsom who cited her unmatched leadership experience in agricultural issues nationally, internationally, and here in California; including environmental stewardship, climate change adaptation, and trade. Before joining CDFA, Secretary Ross was chief of staff for U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, a position she accepted in 2009. Prior to that appointment, she served as President of the California Association of Winegrape Growers from 1996-2009, and as Vice-President of the Agricultural Council of California from 1989-1996. Secretary Ross is passionate about fostering the reconnection of consumers to the land and the people who produce their food, and improving the access of all California citizens to healthy, nutritious California-grown agricultural products.

Secretary Ross has strengthened partnerships across government, academia and the non-profit sector in the drive to maintain and improve environmental stewardship and to develop adaptation strategies for the specific impacts of climate change. She has initiated programs to provide greater opportunities for farmers and ranchers to engage in sustainable environmental stewardship practices through water conservation, energy efficiency, nutrient management, and ecosystem services; and she has worked to provide greater access to farm-fresh foods at school cafeterias through CDFA's Farm to Fork Program.

Secretary Ross grew up as a 4-H kid on a farm in western Nebraska. The Secretary has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and is a graduate of the Nebraska Ag Leadership Program. She has served on numerous boards and committees in California agriculture and with various academic institutions.

Vic Smith, JV Smith Companies

Mr. Smith is President and CEO of JV Smith Companies, a diverse group of operations with farming, cooling, and distribution facilities and shipping capacities in Arizona, California, Colorado, and Baja, Mexico. Skyview Cooling was the company's first operation, formed in 1970 as a cooling company in Colorado and New Mexico. By 1977, it had expanded to Yuma, and then in 1982 it began operations in northern Mexico. Today, JV Smith Companies farm a number of commodities including conventional romaine, iceberg lettuce, spinach, potatoes, mixed leaf, and organic spring mix, carrots, celery, romaine, and green onions. Mr. Smith studied Economics and Business Law at the University of Colorado from 1970-1974. He went on to study Finance at Arizona State University in 1975. Since 1991, he has overseen all the companies' farming, packing, and cooling operations, including 30,000 acres of vegetable production annually. Smith is currently the Chair of the CPS Board of Directors and also serves on the Board of Directors for Western Growers. He is also a member and previously served on the boards of both United Fresh Produce Association and Produce Marketing Association.

Stacy Stoltenberg, Hygiene

Ms. Stacy Stoltenberg is a Western Territory Technical Sales Manager for Hygiene, a life sciences company that delivers rapid microbial detection, monitoring, and identification solutions to improve food safety. For the past 8 years, she has been dedicated to working with food companies and third-party laboratories to help make faster release decisions while testing their food products for harmful pathogens. Prior to her work with Hygiene and Qualicon Diagnostics, Ms. Stoltenberg worked in business development/ sales and as the lead Microbiologist at PrimusLabs for 9 years. Ms. Stoltenberg received her B.S. and M.S. degrees from Kansas State University in Food Science and Microbiology.

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Trevor Suslow Ph.D., Trevor Suslow Consulting, LLC

Trevor Suslow has formed Trevor Suslow Consulting, LLC and retains his Emeritus faculty position at UC Davis with a revised title of Professor of Cooperative Extension recently extended to all campus-based Extension Specialists. His former full-time position at UCD included statewide responsibilities in quality and safety of perishable horticultural commodities. Dr. Suslow's program spanned preharvest to postharvest research and outreach education on diverse whole fresh and minimally processed horticultural foods from annual row crops to tree and vine commodities. He served on the Center for Produce Safety Board of Directors from 2008 to 2014 and the CPS Technical Committee since its creation in 2008 to 2021 and has transitioned to a CPS technical advisory role to the CPS Executive Director. Trevor received the United Fresh Produce Association Technical Award in 2012 and received The Packer 25 *Profiles in Leadership* award in 2014. He was named to Food Safety News list of *The Best of Food Safety in Education* and honored with the National Steinbeck Center's Valley of the World Award in Education in 2017. He is a Lead Instructor and Trainer of Trainers for the FDA FSMA Produce Safety Alliance, Lead Trainer for the Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance, and the Lead Instructor and Trainer of Trainers Sprout Safety Alliance. Trevor served as Faculty Director for the UC Postharvest Technology Center from 2016 to October 2018. Dr. Suslow was recognized by the International Association of Food Protection (IAFP) with the 2018 Elmer Marth Educator Award and in 2019 the IAFP President's Award for extension and outreach to the food safety community.

Tim York, CLGMA

Tim York is the CEO of the California Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement, York was formerly the President of Markon Cooperative, a produce procurement operation with members throughout North America and Canada. Throughout his tenure as a produce industry leader, he has held several prominent positions including serving as chair of the Center for Produce Safety (twice), the Produce Marketing Association and the Alliance for Food and Farming. He continues to serve on the Board of the Center for Produce Safety as well Co-Chair of the Produce Traceability Initiative. York also represented the buyer community on the Romaine Task Force in 2019 serving on the Steering Committee as well as Chair of the Traceability Sub-Committee. York has been honored with numerous awards including The Packer's Foodservice Achievement Award and Produce Marketer of the Year, the Perishable Pundit's Single Step Award, and the Produce Marketing Association's Bryan Silbermann Collaboration Award. He was also the recipient of the LGMA's Golden Checkmark award in 2009.