

Speakers Bios



Rob Atwill is the director of the Western Institute for Food Safety and Security (WIFSS) at the University of California, Davis. His major research focus is on the epidemiology and medical ecology of infectious diseases potentially transferred between livestock, wildlife and humans. Dr. Atwill has worked on assessing microbial contamination of the environment by livestock and wildlife with special emphasis on microbial contamination of surface and groundwater from watersheds.



Henry L. (Hank) Giclas serves as Senior Vice President Strategic Planning, Science and Technology for Western Growers. Hank focuses on the areas of agricultural technology innovation, sustainability, food safety, food security, crop production and protection as well as assisting in the implementation of the association's strategic plan. Hank serves on many industry advisory boards and technical committees including for the Center for Produce Safety, Western Institute for Food Safety and Security, Coalition for Urban and Rural Environmental Stewardship, and the Specialty Crop Committee serving the National Agricultural Research Education, Extension and Economics Advisory Board.



Michele Jay-Russell is the program manager of the Western Center for Food Safety and Security (WCFS) at UC Davis. Her research interests are in food safety and veterinary public health with an emphasis on the molecular epidemiology of enteric zoonotic foodborne pathogens. Her recent work aims to understand the role of wildlife and domestic animals in the environmental dissemination of *Campylobacter* and *E. coli* O157 on dairy and produce farms. She is co-investigator on a large, multi-institutional study of the ecology and epidemiology of *E. coli* O157:H7 in a major produce production region in the central California coast. One of her key outreach goals is to work with stakeholders to develop co-management approaches to protect leafy green vegetables from microbial contamination while at the same time promoting environmental stewardship on farms.

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Natalie Krout-Greenberg currently serves as the Director for the Division of Inspection Services at the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). In that role she and her team support and contribute to a safe, abundant, quality food supply, environmentally sound agricultural practices, and an equitable marketplace for California agriculture. During her time at CDFA, she has worked closely with California's agriculture industry leading several specialized working groups and initiatives in the areas of: Food Safety; Direct Marketing; Organic; Livestock Feed and Drugs; and, Food Access.



Gabriele Maier is the UC Davis Assistant Specialist in Cooperative Extension, specializing in beef cattle herd health and welfare. Her research focus includes association of management factors with incidence and prevalence of disease, development of on-farm measures and plans for disease prevention, scoring systems for diagnosis of bovine respiratory disease, risk assessment and economics for preventive measures in beef cattle production systems, and judicious use of antimicrobials and anti-parasitic drugs in cattle.



Paul Moyer is the owner of Moyer's Apple Products and is a fruit farmer from the Niagara Peninsula in Southern Ontario. His family has been farming in the area since 1799. Paul brings the grassroots understanding of the produce business and the drive to solve real-world problems for the industry. Moyer's Apple Products was recognized as an innovator when the team was awarded the 2017 Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence from the Government of Ontario.

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Michael D. Needham is Chief of the California Department of Public Health Emergency Response Unit where he has oversight of multiple investigators, environmental scientists, and research scientists throughout California. During his tenure with the Food and Drug Branch, Michael has directed and overseen numerous complex food-borne illness outbreak investigations and recalls.



Justin Oldfield, Vice President-Government Affairs of the California Cattleman's Association serves as CCA's lead lobbyist at the State Capitol, and before Congress, as well as federal and state regulatory agencies. He works closely with the CCA officer team and the Executive Vice President to coordinate CCA's federal and state government affairs efforts. The CCA government relations team provides California ranchers and beef producers with a clear and decisive voice in national, state and local legislative and regulatory affairs. Justin also advocates for CCA's Feeder Council and addresses legislative and regulatory issues important to California's cattle feeders.



Steve Patton is the current Chief of California Department of Food and Agriculture's Inspection and Compliance Branch. With over 40 years of agricultural experience, Steve oversees a multitude of programs including the Avocado Inspection Program, the Standardization Program, the Organic Program, the Citrus Program, Direct Marketing, the Produce Safety Program and Shipping Point Inspection (including food safety audits).

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Michael Payne serves as a faculty researcher at the University of California, Davis. Holding degrees as both a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and a PhD in Comparative Pathology, he has served the dairy industry in private practice, as an extension veterinarian and as a dairy researcher. He is the director of the California Dairy Quality Assurance Program (CDQAP) the university, industry, regulatory collaboration that for 20 years has provided California dairy producers with educational and third party evaluations promoting environmental health, consumer health and animal care.



Paul Sousa is the Director of Environmental Services & Regulatory Affairs for the Western United Dairyman. He worked with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board as an associate land and water use scientist, inspecting dairies to determine their compliance with state and federal water quality regulations. Mr. Sousa now uses that insider knowledge to assist WUD members with air and water quality regulations, climate change, and endangered species issues. Speaking English, Portuguese and Spanish, Mr. Sousa is particularly effective in helping diverse groups of dairy producers and employees promote environmental health and safety.



Trevor Suslow devoted his 23-year career at the University of California, Davis to safeguarding and enhancing the quality and safety of whole and fresh-cut produce. As an extension research specialist, he has advised and educated industry and other stakeholders on post-harvest food safety and quality. His work has focused on science-based solutions to food safety problems. In 2018, Dr. Suslow was appointed as vice-president of food safety for the Produce Marketing Association (PMA) where he works with industry, regulators and the food safety community to educate and advocate for risk- and science-based approaches to produce safety. He also works with researchers to facilitate produce safety studies that can be translated into industry best practices.

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Dan Sutton serves as the General Manager for Pismo Oceano Vegetable Exchange (POVE), a grower owned cooperative overseeing day-to-day operations, including sales, marketing, accounting, food safety, occupational safety, and production. As a graduate of the California Ag Leadership program, Dan serves in various positions in the California Farm Bureau, including as President for San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau. He is the current Chairman of the California Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement Advisory Board and was recently appointed to a two-year term on the USDA Fruit & Vegetable Advisory Committee.



Mike Villaneva is Technical Director for California Leafy Green Marketing Agreement, LGMA. He manages the LGMA's technical programs, including industry technical outreach, involvement with food safety research, and data analysis. He comes to the organization with over twenty years of experience in the public and private agriculture sectors working with food safety training and regulatory inspections.



Keith Warriner is a professor with the Department of Food Science at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada. Dr. Warriner's research revolves around food safety and food microbiology, allowing him to work closely with industry and apply his research findings in a practical way. His research generated methods that have contributed to improvements in the candy-apple retail market. His work has also contributed to the development and implementation of cooking instructions for poultry products in Ontario, and to the creation of decontamination methods for dry ingredients such as flour and chia seeds. Specific research areas include post-harvest treatment for pathogens in produce, differences in pathogen strains grown in the laboratory and found in "wild" in the environment, mitigating antibiotic resistance by increasing drug efficacy in livestock, and understanding how pathogens interact with plants and survive in the environment.