

2026 WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION FOR FOOD PROTECTION CONFERENCE – AGENDA

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

9:00am – 3:00 pm Golf Tournament at Bear Mountain, Chelan, WA:
Four-person best ball scramble

Thursday, September 17, 2026

Morning Sessions Moderator:
Kent Dowding, WAFFP President

7:15 – 8:00 am *Check-in / Breakfast*

8:00 – 8:15 am **Welcome**
Kent Dowding, WAFFP President

8:15 – 8:50 am **Development of an Optimized FDA Method for Detection of Cyclospora Catagenesis in Different Water Sources Using New Generation Detection Methods**
Mauricio Durigan, FDA

8:50 – 9:15 am **WSDA: Food Safety Program Updates**
Katy Webb, WSDA

9:15 – 9:40 am **USDA-FSIS on the Move: Advancing Public Health**
Jaime Wasilenko, USDA-FSIS

9:40 – 9:50 am *Supplier Presentation*

9:50 – 10:05 am *Break*

10:05 – 10:50 am **Practical Applications of AI in Food Production**
Kang Huang, Washington State University

10:50 – 11:20 am **From Soccer to Shellfish: A Snapshot of Retail Food Safety in Washington**
Susan Shelton, WADOH

11:20 – 12:00 pm **Journey to Robust Environmental Monitoring in Food Manufacturing**
Kiley Mulholland, Global Laboratory Manager – Microbiology & Chemistry, Simplot Global Food

12:00 - 12:10 *Supplier Presentation*

12:10 - 1:15 pm *Lunch*

Afternoon Sessions Moderator: Kent Dowding, WAFFP President

1:15 – 2:00 pm **Why Safe Products Still Fail: Rethinking Food Safety Assumptions**
Dr. Zachary Cartwright, Aqualab

2:00 – 2:45 pm **Digital Tools and AI in Food Safety**
Krupashri Ravindranath Reddy, MS, CP-FS

2:45 – 2:55 pm *Supplier Presentation*

2:55 – 3:05 pm

Break

3:05 – 3:50 pm

Managing Agricultural Water Risks in Produce Production
Claire Murphy, Washington State University

3:50 – 4:00 pm

Luedecke Fellowship Winners
Dr. Stephanie Smith, WSU

4:00 – 4:15 pm

Grad Student Presentation #1

4:15 – 4:30 pm

Grad Student Presentation #2

4:30 – 5:30 pm

Business Meeting

6:00 – 6:45 pm

Science and Cocktails Happy Hour with the Students

7:00 – 8:00 pm

Dinner & Awards Banquet

Friday, September 18, 2026

Morning Sessions Moderator:
Dr. Claire Murphy, WAFFP President Elect

7:15 – 8:00 am

Breakfast

8:00 – 8:15 am

Welcome
Claire Murphy, President Elect

8:15 – 9:00 am

AI in Food Production
Dr. Luke Qian, Cornell University

9:00 – 9:45 am

A series of Fortunate and Less Fortunate Events: Attempts to Control Vibrio, Staph, and Listeria in Seafood Processing Operations
Sam Kilgore, Oregon State University

9:45 – 10:00 am

IAFP Update
Pamela Wilger, IAFP

10:00 – 10:10 am

Supplier Presentation

10:10 – 10:25 am

Break

10:25 – 11:10 am

Case Study of Emerging Pathogens and Diagnostic Tools
Dr. Nidal Kahl, Biogen

11:10 – 12:00 pm

Impact of Cleaning and Sanitation on Biofilm Control
Pamela Wilger, Post Consumer Brands

12:00 – 1:00 pm

Lunch and “Passing of the Gavel” to the incoming WAFFP President

1:00 pm

Adjourn – Safe travels home and see you next year!