



December 22, 2021

To: AIMFES Members

From: Chuck Yarris, President

RE: 2021 Recap and 2022 Planning

Greetings,

As your newly elected President for 2022, I want to update our membership on our association's doings over the past year and share with you our plans going forward into 2022.

2021 was another year of uncertainty and many industry events were either cancelled or delayed. AIMFES leadership initially planned for a Spring meeting but we ended up cancelling the event because of continued Covid related restrictions.

Thankfully, we made the decision to hold a Summer meeting in August which replaced our Fall conference and included a day of golf and an evening of vendor exhibits to raise some funds. Both events were successful and we thank our faithful hole sponsors and exhibitors for their support.

Our conference covered several great and timely topics. Our IAFP affiliate representative, Wendy White, updated us on current happenings at the International level as well as provided us with some useful best practices to increase our attendance and membership. She also, gave us a good overview of the use of Blockchain technology for the traceability of products. Thank you, Wendy.

We also want to thank Brad Suhling and Charlie Mack of Prairie Farms for their very educational presentation on Food Defense and Intentional Adulteration.

During the business portion of our meeting, we recognized Brad Suhling for his years of leadership and as President in 2021. Dave Lattan was presented the Lifetime Award for his contributions.

Election results were made known with Rylee Sterrett of Prairie Farms elected as 2nd Vice President and Guy Sprouls becoming our next Secretary and replacing Steve Divincenzo who did a great job in that capacity for many years. Attached are the minutes of the business meeting listing all board members for 2022.

One of the recommendations presented as new business was to change our meetings from biannual to only an annual meeting as many IAFP affiliates have done. Those in attendance voted to go to an annual 2-day conference beginning in 2022. The annual golf outing will also be held prior to the conference.

With the above change being approved, I with consensus of your President elect, Armour Peterson, IDPH, recommend holding the 2022 conference in mid-September. A firm and final date will be determined on the next planning conference call in late January 2022.

For those on the Conference Planning Committee, let's plan to have a phone call, tentatively, on Thursday, January 27 at 10:00 AM so save that date and mark it in your planners. A reminder will be sent out after the first of the year.

For all members, please help us grow our membership. Please send me the contact information for any and all potential companies and individuals who you think could be a part of our great group. I will pass your information along to our membership committee. Use my new email address: cayconsult@gmail.com .

Finally, I wish each and every one of you're a very merry Christmas and a prosperous 2022!

Chuck Yarris

AIMFES President 2022