

2024 Annual Meeting of University Consortium for Health, Food, and Agriculture Resilience (UC HFAR)

Monday, Feb 5th and Tuesday, Feb 6th, 2024

Beck Agricultural Center
Purdue University
4550 U.S. 52 W
West Lafayette, IN 47906

Annual Meeting Objectives

Our annual meeting is designed to create a collaborative environment where academic institutions, government agencies, and industry partners can work synergistically to identify, contemplate, and deliberate on solutions to address critical challenges affecting our nation's health, food, and agricultural infrastructure, systems and processes to enhance sectoral and national resilience. Through shared efforts, we strive to achieve the following key objectives:

1. Develop a research agenda that helps bolster preparedness and improve the resilience of the health, public health, food, and agriculture sectors.
 - a. It should be cognizant of partners and stakeholders in communities at all levels – local, regional, and national.
 - b. We want to make sure we include those populations that may be traditionally overlooked (e.g. rural communities, underserved and minority populations, indigenous people).
 - c. The agenda should, where appropriate incorporate One Health principles.
2. Bridge knowledge gaps, i.e. translate rigorous academic research topics into actionable insights and recommendations, guiding effective policies and programs across all levels of government.
 - a. By leveraging subject matter expertise, we can inform policy across all levels through evidence-based insights on critical issues like invasive species, foreign animal diseases, and other emerging challenges.
3. Forge connections by developing a robust framework between federal/state/local/Tribal/territorial governments, industry stakeholders, and academia for fostering open communication and knowledge exchange.
 - a. This should allow for the development of joint initiatives and platforms that leverage collective strengths to improve preparedness and resilience across health, public health, food, and agriculture sectors.
 - b. Collaborate with government agencies and industry partners to develop proactive strategies for preventing mitigating and recovering from potential threats to health, food safety, and agricultural security in order to more effectively anticipate and enhance preparedness against the most crucial threats and hazards.

Schedule

Monday, Feb 5th, 2024,

Time	Topic	Presenters / Facilitators
8:00 AM-8:30 AM	Registration and Networking Breakfast	
<p>Block 1: Setting the Table How Universities Serve as Catalysts for Industry-Government Collaboration in Health, Food, and Agriculture</p> <p>Objective: To explore the unique role universities, play in facilitating collaboration between industry and government to safeguard essential sectors like health, food, and agriculture.</p> <p>Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universities as Trusted Advisors: Examining the crucial role universities play in providing expertise and guidance to industry, trade associations, and government agencies. Leveraging Research, Education, and Extension: Understanding how universities can utilize their research capabilities, educational programs, and extension services to inform funding priorities and develop policy solutions for mitigating threats and hazards in health, food, and agriculture. 		
8:30 AM-9:00 AM	Welcome and Opening Remarks Introduction to the UCHFAR Consortium and Objectives for the Meeting	Karen Plaut, Ph.D. Executive Vice President for Research at Purdue University & Josh Detre, Ph.D. UCHFAR Director
<p>Block 2: Navigating the Policy Landscape: Insights on Food and Agriculture Security from Key Stakeholders</p> <p>Objective: To unpack how federal and state policies can impact food and agriculture security, explore emerging legislative debates, and government response mechanisms.</p> <p>Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy Landscape Overview: Gain insight into key federal and state policies shaping food and agriculture resilience. Funding Implications: Explore how existing and potential policies influence grant funding priorities within health, food, and agriculture, highlighting opportunities for collaboration. Legislative Debates: Delve into ongoing discussions and proposed policies that could significantly impact food security and resilience, particularly concerning food and agricultural economies. Government Response and Risk Assessment: Understand how the federal government assesses and responds to threats and risks affecting food and agriculture, including emergency preparedness measures 		
9:00 AM-10:00 AM	DHS OHS (Office of Health Security) will provide a glimpse into policy views and emerging trends, DHS R&D perspective and efforts: and DHS S&T Innovation, Research, and Development Strategy and Food/Ag Intersects. Followed by a Q&A session	Micheal Burke, DVM, Division Director for Planning and Risk for DHS OHS
10:00 AM-10:15 AM	Refreshments and Networking Break	
10:15 AM-11:15 AM	Discussion on legislative policies that directly affect food and ag systems security and resilience including but not limited to foreign ownership in farmland and agribusinesses	Danny Munch, PhD, American Farm Bureau Andy Tauer Indiana Farm Bureau

11:15 AM-12:00 PM	Risk Analysis in the Context of Health, Food, and Agriculture Resilience: Including a discussion of why and key issues and gaps identified in Year 1 of the NSM effort, such as the need for improved vulnerability assessment methodologies. Why as academics we should consider strategies and research topics for mapping key data gaps, enhancing information and data sharing between government and industry, and developing mitigation strategies based on improved risk understanding.	Ben Brodsky and Nate Clough, Sandia National Laboratories
12:00 PM-1:00 PM	Lunch is provided on-site. Participants are encouraged to use this time to network.	
<p>Block 3: Four concurrent breakout sessions (Round Robin Format) (we will use a pre-conference survey to provide some breakout-specific questions to help spur discussion)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Animals and Vertebrates (livestock, poultry, wildlife, companion animals, and aquatic relevant species such as fish and crustaceans) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Discussions should consider the impact on Food Manufacturing and Distribution the fourth domain of NSM-16 2. Plants and Crops (fruits, vegetables, non-edible crops, culturally/medicinally significant plants, forestry, and fresh/saltwater aquatic species) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Discussions should consider the impact on Food Manufacturing and Distribution the fourth domain of NSM-16 3. Communication and Collaboration between Academia and Government. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Discussion should focus on communication as a two-way street and consider all levels of government and government agencies that influence public health, food, and agriculture. 4. Strategies for increasing industry collaboration and participation. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Discussion should focus on strategies and adopting a collaborative approach, academic institutions, and industry can break down traditional silos, leverage each other's strengths, and accelerate research and innovation for the benefit of society. 		
1:00 PM-1:30 PM	Round Robin Breakout Session 1	
1:30 PM-1:40 PM	10-minute break	
1:40 PM-2:10 PM	Round Robin Breakout Session 2	
2:10 PM-2:20 PM	10-minute break	
2:20 PM-2:50 PM	Round Robin Breakout Session 3	
2:50 PM-3:00 PM	10-minute break	

Block 4: Securing our Food Landscape

Objective: To delve into the crucial roles industry plays in food and agriculture resilience, featuring insights from The Food and Ag-ISAC and industry leader Brad Fruth.

Content:

- Cybersecurity Food and Ag-ISAC serves as the food and ag sector's key source for information sharing and threat mitigation as it relates to cyber security. Understand how companies access cyber and physical threat intelligence, alerts, analysis, and best practices to strengthen their defenses.
- Industry Perspective: Hear from Brad Fruth, Director of Innovation at Beck's Hybrids and current Food & Agriculture Sector Chief for InfraGard Indiana. Gain insights into his efforts to improve how the food and ag sector works with federal law enforcement and learn about how Beck's Hybrids thinks about improving the resilience of the ag sector.

3:00 PM-3:45 PM	The future of agribusiness depends on our ability to adapt and conquer the challenges of the digital age. By embracing collaboration, information sharing, and best practice exchange, the food and ag systems can outline actionable steps for achieving a more secure agri-business ecosystem	Ag-ISAC Staff
3:45 PM-4:30 PM	Business Perspective on how industry is working to address threats and hazards to our food and agricultural sectors.	Brad Fruth Director of Innovation, Beck's Hybrids and current Food & Agriculture Sector Chief for InfraGard Indiana
4:30 PM-4:45 PM	Day One Wrap-Up	Josh Detre
4:45 PM-6:00 PM	Break	
6:00 PM	Optional Evening Get Together at Walt's Pub & Grill 1050 Kalberer Rd, West Lafayette, IN 47906	

Tuesday, Feb 6th, 2024

Time	Topic	Presenters /
8:00 AM-8:30 AM	Distribution of Notes and Continental Breakfast	
<p>Block 5: Deep Dives: Unpacking Challenges and Opportunities</p> <p>Objective: To explore the specific needs and potential research avenues within the critical domains of plants and animals. Participants will leverage the insights from this block, combined with knowledge gained from previous sessions, to formulate actionable research agendas in the following breakout sessions.</p> <p>Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on the crucial role of plant health and resilience in ensuring food security and environmental sustainability. Explore challenges like climate change, pest and disease control, and innovative agricultural practices. • Dive deeper into the unique challenges and opportunities facing animal health, production, and supply chain. 		
8:30 AM-9:15 AM	This panel discussion presents a unique opportunity to delve into the vulnerabilities and research needs of the plant domain within the larger context of agricultural and food system security. It will help identify key research priorities, examine ways to foster collaborative projects and relationships, and explore effective partnership strategies between the plant domain and government agencies.	Jim Stack Ph.D., Kansas State University, KSU Jacqueline Fletcher, Ph.D., Oklahoma State University Jonathan Jacobs, Ph.D. Ohio State University
9:15 AM-10:00 AM	Dr. Newcom's unique perspective on the swine industry, shaped by years of experience, delves into how the industry manages disease outbreaks within supply chains.	Doug Newcom, Ph.D., National Swine Registry and Board of Directors Indiana Pork Producers
10:00 AM-10:15 AM	Refreshments and Networking Break	
<p>Block 6: Four concurrent breakout sessions (Round Robin Format) with the same themes as Monday (all participants will have a copy of the previous day's discussions).</p> <p>Remember:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on actionable strategies and tangible outcomes. • Encourage open dialogue and active participation from all attendees. • Build upon the work of the previous days to solidify a collaborative path forward. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research Agenda Needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify specific vulnerabilities and challenges within food, agriculture, and public health, and prioritize research topics, resources, and expertise to address them. ○ Consider the differential impact on rural communities compared to urban areas. ○ Ensure research addresses the unique needs of minority groups, low-income communities, and other marginalized populations. ○ Discuss how universities can tailor research agendas to meet local, state, and federal needs, provide relevant education and training, and strengthen extension and community partnerships. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is needed to do this? 2. Collaboration and Communication Strategies with DHS OHS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Explore mechanisms like joint research projects, technology transfer programs, and community outreach initiatives. ○ Discuss how universities and DHS OHS can collaborate on rural preparedness, disaster response, and sustainability. ○ Identify approaches for DHS OHS to coordinate research, disseminate findings, advocate for supportive policies, and encourage universities to share research for informed decision-making on grant funding and program development, and to shape public policy. 3. Successful Collaborations and Application with Industry and Government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Share examples of successful collaborations between academia, industry, and government in addressing agricultural challenges. 		

10:15 AM- 11:00 AM	Round Robin Breakout Session 4	
11:00 AM- 11:45 AM	Round Robin Breakout Session 5	
Block 7: Conference Wrap-up		
11:45 AM- 12:15 PM	Conference Wrap-up and Closing Remarks	Josh Detre, Ph.D., UCHFAR Director and DHS OHS Representatives
12:15 PM - 12:30 PM	Boxed lunches for take-home	