

FEBRUARY 2026



NEW JERSEY
FOOD PROCESSORS
ASSOCIATION

NJFPFA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

KEEPING FOOD SAFE

Harrah's, Atlantic City, NJ
March 5th-6th 2026

Panelists will join to discuss issues around food additives, colors, dyes, labelling etc.

Scan the QR code

Attendee & Exhibitor Registration

Interested in sponsorship?
Email: info@njfoodprocessors.org

NJFPFA NEW JERSEY FOOD PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION

The poster features a background image of a food processing facility with workers in blue uniforms and yellow hairnets. In the foreground, there is a close-up of fresh produce, including red tomatoes and green leafy vegetables. The text is overlaid on a dark, semi-transparent background.

NJFPFA's biggest event of the year, the [2026 Annual Conference](#), is just around the corner.

From timely industry sessions to valued sponsor partnerships, this year's conference is shaping up to be one you won't want to miss.

Take a preview of the program below and see [what awaits you](#) at Harrah's in Atlantic City on March 5.

[Learn more about the conference and speakers](#)

Conference Sponsorship Highlights



Lead Sponsor

Hoffman's Exterminating

Experience matters, especially when your facility's reputation and compliance are on the line.

[Hoffman's Exterminating](#) has spent over 35 years protecting New Jersey communities. For the last 20 years, they have specifically pioneered food safety excellence, providing specialized pest control solutions that prioritize high-level compliance.

They don't just provide a service. They provide peace of mind.

As a QualityPro-certified organization with ACE-led teams and PCQI-trained experts, they speak the language of FSMA and GFSI. Hoffman's works side-by-side with NJFPA members to navigate complex documentation and proactive Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies.

Whether you are prepping for a third-party audit or optimizing your current plan, Hoffman's brings three decades of local trust and 20 years of food safety leadership to your facility floor.

NJFPA thanks Hoffman's for its leadership and support for this year's conference.

[Learn more about the conference and speakers](#)

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Conference Program Highlights



Closing General Session: Keynote Panel with PepsiCo Rep Brian Song
Friday, March 6 | 1:30–2:30 p.m.

PepsiCo Scientist to Lead Closing Discussion on Clean-Label Innovation

As demand for transparency and clean-label products accelerates, the conference will conclude with a keynote panel led by **Brian J. Song, Ph.D., Principal Scientist in PepsiCo's Global Research and Development Department.**

Song leads research on clean-label ingredient solutions, preservation strategies and shelf-life optimization for global food and beverage applications.

He will be joined by **Mary Ellen Peppard, Vice President of the New Jersey Food Council**, who directs government affairs and policy strategy for the retail sector, and **Zhixin Wang, Ph.D., food tech innovation leader for Puratos North America.**

The panel will explore how science, regulation and consumer expectations are shaping the next generation of safe, compliant and trusted food products.

[See More Programs Here](#)

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Conference Program Highlights

General Session 1: Industry Response Panel

Friday, March 6 | 8:30–9:30 a.m.

Ingredient and Innovation Leaders to Discuss How Manufacturers Are Adapting

As companies respond to shifting consumer expectations and heightened scrutiny of ingredients, General Session 1 will bring together speakers working directly in formulation and product strategy.

Dana Trull, Product Manager at Vivify, joins **Jason Giordano** and **Michael Schwartz of the Organic Food Incubator** to discuss how manufacturers are navigating market and regulatory change.

Trull oversees portfolios covering food colors, flavors and specialty ingredients, while Schwartz supports emerging brands developing minimally processed products.

Together, the panel is expected to explore how processors can balance innovation, compliance and performance while staying competitive.

[See More Programs Here](#)

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Conference Program Highlights

General Session 2: Compliance & Regulation Panel

Friday, March 6 | 10:00–11:00 a.m.

Regulatory Experts to Address Labeling, Allergens and Compliance Risks

As food safety regulations tighten and labeling requirements grow more complex, NJFPA's upcoming compliance panel will bring together three seasoned experts to help companies navigate the changing landscape.

The session will feature **Ralph Simmons, Counsel at Foster Garvey PC**, **Betsy Craig, Founder and CEO of MenuTrinfo** and **Ron Tanner, President of Tanner Food Group**.

Simmons offers more than four decades of FDA advisory experience, while **Craig** leads a nationally recognized organization focused on allergen safety and certification. **Tanner** brings deep expertise in international regulatory strategy.

Together, they will examine how food companies can remain compliant while continuing to innovate and meet shifting consumer expectations.

[See More Programs Here](#)

Conference Sponsor Highlights

Registration Bag Sponsor

**B&B POULTRY
CO. INC.**
B&B Poultry Co. Inc.

Lanyard Sponsor

FHHP FABIETTI, HALE,
HAMMERSTEDT & POWERS, PA
FHHP

Emerging Processor Spotlight

SmithBrothers.
Be sure.
Sponsor - SmithBrothers Insurance



Featured Processor - Hank's Sauce

Friday Luncheon Sponsor

M&T Bank
M&T Bank

NJFPA Conference and Regional Food Network Supporters

In addition to lead sponsor Hoffman's Exterminating, several valued industry partners are supporting this year's conference, helping make the program, networking opportunities and educational sessions possible.

- **FHHP (Fabietti, Hale, Hammerstedt & Powers, PA)** provides legal counsel and regulatory guidance to food and beverage companies navigating compliance, labeling and operational risk.
- **B&B Poultry Co. Inc.**, a long-established regional processor, continues its support of NJFPA and the broader food manufacturing community.
- **Hank Sauce**, a fast-growing specialty food brand known for its craft hot sauces, represents the entrepreneurial and emerging processor segment that continues to expand across the region.
- **SmithBrothers Insurance** offers commercial insurance and risk management for food processors and manufacturers, helping protect their operations, employees and growth.
- **M&T Bank** supports manufacturers with financial services and industry-focused expertise, helping companies manage growth, investment and operational planning.

These organizations play a significant role in advancing NJFPA's mission to connect, support and strengthen the regional food industry.

[Learn more about the conference and speakers](#)

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Conference Program Highlights

Set-Up Exhibits

Thursday, March 5 | 4:00–5:30 p.m.

Exhibitors and NJFPA Prepare Show Floor as Conference Begins

As the NJFPA Annual Conference gets underway, activity will begin behind the scenes as exhibitors and event staff prepare the Exhibit Hall for attendees.

During this dedicated setup window, vendors and NJFPA teams will finalize booths, signage and materials in advance of the evening reception.

The preparation helps **ensure the exhibit hall is fully ready for attendees and set the stage for productive conversations and solution-focused networking** that will continue throughout the conference.

[See More Programs Here](#)

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Member News

Equipment - Co-Packers – Space

Are you looking for a wash and chop? Single-serving packaging? Commercial kitchen space? A particular piece of equipment?

Hands down, one of the most frequent questions we get at NJFPA is where to find a local processor business, especially a NEW JERSEY co-packer.

Contact us at info@njfoodprocessors.com and get involved in the [NJMEP Made in NJ program](#).

[Join Us](#)