

2018 Annual Meeting & Product Showcase

Nashville, Tennessee

Come celebrate PPI's 125th anniversary of representing the pickled vegetable industry! The 2018 Annual Meeting & Product Showcase in Nashville promises outstanding educational and unmatched networking opportunities.

Annual Meeting Program

Tuesday, October 16

8AM – 6PM	Registration
9AM – 12PM	Agricultural Research Committee Meeting
9AM – 2PM	Manufacturing & Technology Committee Meeting
12 – 1:30PM	Executive Committee Meeting
1 – 5PM	Product Showcase Set-up
2 – 5PM	Board of Directors Meeting

5:30 – 7PM



Welcome Reception – Honky Tonk Central, 329 Broadway

Let's get the party started! Honky Tonk Central is Nashville's latest and greatest honky tonk on world famous "Lower Broadway" in downtown Nashville. With three full stories of live music, good food and great times, this is a must-stop destination where well-known country stars frequently visit – you never know who will walk through the door!

Wednesday, October 17

7AM – 6PM	Registration
7:30 – 8:45AM	Continental Breakfast – <i>Product Showcase</i>
8:15AM – 12PM	 Spouse Program – Grand Ole Opry House There's nothing like a backstage tour of the Grand Ole Opry House; it's a must-see for everyone in Music City! Sign up when completing your meeting registration form.
9 – 11:45AM	Concurrent Technical Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none">Agricultural Research & EducationManufacturing & Technology
12 – 3PM	 President's Luncheon – Nashville Star Chip Esten Let's celebrate Nashville with Nashville star Charles "Chip" Esten! Esten is an American singer and comedian, best known for his lead role as country singer Deacon Claybourne on the ABC/CMT drama Nashville, which he has played since 2012. Esten also contributes to the show's soundtracks as singer and songwriter, co-writing "I Know How to Love You Now" with Deanna Carter featured in the season 3 premiere. Esten previously appeared on the improvisation show <i>Whose Line Is It Anyway?</i> and appeared as a guest star in various TV series, including <i>Married... with Children</i> , <i>The New Adventures of Old Christine</i> , <i>Star Trek: The Next Generation</i> , <i>Star Trek: Voyager</i> , <i>ER</i> , <i>NCIS: Los Angeles</i> , <i>Jessie</i> , <i>The Mentalist</i> , and <i>The Office</i> . In 2013, Esten appeared as a celebrity contestant on <i>Who Wants to Be a Millionaire</i> winning \$500,000 for charity.
3 – 4PM	Future Leaders Committee Meeting
4 – 5PM	Supplier Advisory Committee Meeting
5:30 – 7PM	Grand Reception – <i>Product Showcase</i> Join the fun, country music, and good food while networking with your fellow industry friends!

Thursday, October 18

7:30AM – 12PM	Registration/Information
7:30 – 8:45AM	Continental Breakfast – <i>Product Showcase</i>



Product Showcase

2018 PRODUCT SHOWCASE

Connect with Industry!

A special display area will be set up for companies to showcase their products and services. Two breakfasts, the Grand Reception, and refreshment breaks will be served in the Product Showcase hall, allowing ample time to network with members. Attendees will interact with displayed products, pick up literature and company information, and enjoy raffles for exciting prizes. The showcasing companies will be provided with six-foot skirted tables, chairs, signage, and access to other services.

Indicate your participation when completing your meeting registration form.

2019 PRODUCT SHOWCASE

Contract Prime Exhibit Space Now!

More than 250 industry professionals – manufacturers, salters, green shippers, suppliers, and researchers – will attend the 2019 Product Showcase held in conjunction with next year's Annual Meeting at **The Vinoy® Renaissance Resort & Golf Club in St. Petersburg, Florida**. PPI staff will assist interested exhibitors to pre-contract prime table space. Discounted rentals will be offered to those that sign contracts during this year's Annual Meeting.

SIGN UP NOW!

CONCURRENT TECHNICAL SESSIONS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17

Agricultural Research & Education

9 – 9:45AM

Current Challenges for the Trucking Industry

Don Jerrell II, HNI Risk Advisors

2018 is proving to be one of the toughest years for shippers to get their freight to market. As a shipping/traffic manager, you need to be aware of what is driving costs and how that is impacting today's truckers. This session will discuss the biggest challenges faced by the trucking industry and you, the shipper.

9:45 – 10:15 AM **Searching for Sources of Pickleworm Resistance in the USDA-ARS Cucumber Germplasm Collection**

Dr. Livy Williams III, USDA-ARS U.S. Vegetable Laboratory

Dr. Williams will review what is currently known about pickleworm biology and management, and host plant resistance. The results of a multi-year study conducted to search for and characterize pickleworm resistance traits in the USDA-ARS cucumber germplasm collection will be presented and discussed.

10:15 – 10:45 AM **Organic – Transitioning to Certification**

Jackie Keller, Organic Crop Improvement Association

Organic Agriculture is one of the brightest and fastest-growing sectors of American agriculture. Organic production holds many opportunities for those willing to transition. While some fruit and vegetable producers see no reason to certify, others enjoy the added steps in their production practices. Jackie represents an organic certifying agency and been a certified crop farmer for the past fourteen years.

10:45 – 11:30AM **Immigration Reform: Is Relief for Agriculture on the Horizon?**

Mary Nowak, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives

In this session, Mary will discuss the labor challenges being experienced throughout the agriculture sector, and detail various legislative and administrative actions designed to address the crisis, along with the political dynamics influencing immigration reform.

11:30 – 11:45AM **Pickle Packers Voice is Heard on Capitol Hill**

John Cates, Addis Cates Co., Inc.

In late February every year, PPI members converge on Washington, D.C. in support of continuing federal funding for four very important USDA ARS vegetable laboratories. Organized by PPI, they meet with the ARS Administrator and National Program Leaders and call on over 50 congressional offices on Capitol Hill. John will explain the process and encourage you to participate next year.

Manufacturing & Technology

9 – 9:30 AM

Pickle Shrinkage, Expansion and Elimination of De-salting

Dr. Ron Buescher, Pickle Improvement Center

The objective of this presentation is to provide information from studies that examined physical changes and the amount of pickle shrinkage and plumping (yield) during brining, fermentation and processing. In addition, the potential for eliminating pickle de-salting without making major modifications in operations will be discussed.

9:30 – 10:15AM **Brief Blanching – an Effective Sanitizing Treatment for Minimally Processed Cucumber Products**

Drs. Fred Breidt and Suzanne Johanningsmeier, USDA-ARS Food Science Research Unit

Brief blanching treatments (at 176 °F, up to 90 sec.) may be an effective alternative to using sanitizing agents for fresh cucumbers to reduce microbial load and improve safety without impacting product quality or shelf life. Data from one year of the shelf life study will be presented. The potential application of this technology as relates to the safety and quality of refrigerated pickles will be discussed.

10:15 – 10:45AM

Building Expertise to Sustain Performance

John Demo, John Demo Consulting

Making an organization better begins by making employees better. John will outline some key features of a learning organization and how expertise can be developed and maintained, translating into performance improvement. While this specifically relates to technical expertise, it can also be applied to other fields.

10:45 – 11:30AM

FDA and FSMA Inspections – What We Have Learned and How to Prepare

Fletcher Arritt, Mt. Olive Pickle Company

This session will review compliance and inspection under FDA's new Food Safety Modernization Act – with insight on preparing for and passing an inspection, how inspectors have been trained, inspection guidelines, hazard analysis, current versus future requirements, Food Fraud Vulnerability and Production Site assessments, and much more.

11:30 – 11:45AM

PPI and USDA ARS Future Research Brainstorming Ideas Revealed

Dr. Suzanne Johanningsmeier, USDA-ARS Food Science Research Unit

Earlier this year, PPI and USDA-ARS jointly conducted a special future research brainstorming session. Seventy-five unique ideas were generated, leading to priority research in functionality and safety of clean label ingredients; improved product quality and measurement; control of pathogens and low-salt fermentation safety; new packaging technologies; and advanced health promoting products. Suzanne will share details leading to future industry benefit.