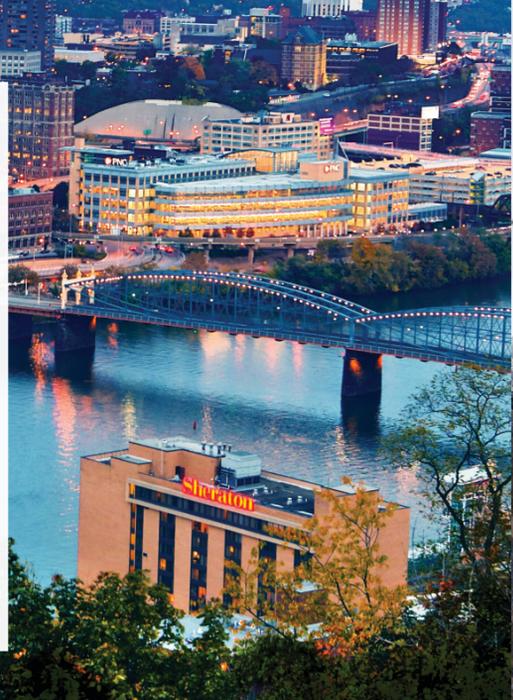


## HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Located in popular Station Square — a 52-acre shopping and entertainment experience with over 20 restaurants — the Sheraton Pittsburgh at Station Square offers plenty to do. Also, nearby is the Monongahela Incline, Gateway Clipper Fleet/Riverboat Cruises, Just Ducky Tours, Duquesne Incline, Mt. Washington (Grandview Avenue View), Rivers Casino, Carnegie Science Center, and more!

Please make your reservations directly with the Sheraton Pittsburgh by calling 800-325-3535. Mention the group, PICKLE PACKERS, to receive the preferred room rate of \$169 (single or double). Guaranteed reservations are refundable if canceled 72 hours prior to scheduled arrival.

**IMPORTANT:** The cutoff date for making discounted reservations is March 26. After this date, PPI's room block will be released, and reservations will be accepted based on availability.



Pickle Packers International, Inc.  
1101 17th Street NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20036

**I**LovePickles.org

April 17–19 | Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square

# PPI Spring Meeting '18



## REGISTRATION

**Please take advantage of advanced registration discounts!** Fees for registrations received by April 2 are \$535 for PPI members and \$795 for non-members. A \$100 discount applies to additional registrations from the same company. A fee of \$150 applies for university/government employees and spouses, and is designed to defray the cost of meals (registration is required to attend all meeting and social functions). Students may attend at no charge, but please submit a registration form.

After April 2, fees increase \$50 in each category. To register, please complete and return the enclosed form. Members may register online by logging in to the Member Center at [www.ilovepickles.org](http://www.ilovepickles.org).

## NAME BADGE REQUIRED

Registrants will receive a name badge that must be worn for entry to all speaking sessions, meals, and social functions.

## TRAVEL INFORMATION

Pittsburgh International Airport (PIT) is just 20 minutes from the hotel. Taxicab fare is approximately \$40 one way. Super Shuttle fare is \$24 one way.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Contact Samantha Lee at [slee@ilovepickles.org](mailto:slee@ilovepickles.org) or by phone (202-331-2452) if you have questions or need assistance with registration.

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Companies interested in added exposure are encouraged to show their support via sponsorships. Special recognition will be given throughout the event. Contact Brian Bursiek, PPI Executive Vice President (202-331-2465 or [bbursiek@ilovepickles.org](mailto:bbursiek@ilovepickles.org)), for sponsorship details matching your company's needs.

## MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL — PITTSBURGH PIRATES VS. COLORADO ROCKIES

We have a fantastic afternoon planned for you! Attendees will enjoy an exciting early-season match-up as the Colorado Rockies visit PNC Park to take on the Pittsburgh Pirates! Enjoy a riverboat ride aboard the Gateway Clipper Shuttle with service to the game, boarding directly from the back steps of the hotel. Return riverboat shuttles from PNC Park to Station Square depart immediately following the game.

PPI has arranged for you to enjoy the game from one of the most popular areas in PNC Park — the Iron City Skull Bar with 90-minutes of catered hospitality, located in right field; the bar offers panoramic views of both the field and the City of Pittsburgh. Following the game, network with friends at exciting Station Square.

**Cost: \$59. Please sign up when submitting your meeting registration.**

## DRESS CODE

Business casual; ties are not required.

# PPI SPRING MEETING '18 REGISTRATION

MEMBERS CAN ALSO REGISTER ONLINE AT [ILOVEPICKLES.ORG](http://ILOVEPICKLES.ORG)



Name (as it should appear on the name tag)		Email Address	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Registrant's Name		Email Address	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Registrant's Name		Email Address	
4 <sup>th</sup> Registrant's Name		Email Address	
5 <sup>th</sup> Registrant's Name		Email Address	
6 <sup>th</sup> Registrant's Name		Email Address	
Company	Phone		
Address			
City	State	ZIP	Country

REGISTRATION	By April 2	After April 2	Quantity:	\$ Amount:
Member	\$535	\$585	_____	_____
Additional Members	\$435*	\$485*	_____	_____
Non-Member	\$795	\$845	_____	_____
University/Researcher/Spouse	\$150	\$200	_____	_____
<b>Group Outing — Baseball</b>	<b>\$59</b>	<b>\$59</b>	_____	_____
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>			_____	_____

## PAYMENT OPTIONS

Check payable to: **Pickle Packers International, Inc.**, Spring Meeting '18  
1101 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20036

Credit card emailed to **Samantha Lee**, email: [slee@ilovepickle.org](mailto:slee@ilovepickle.org)

Credit Card:  American Express  Discover  Master Card  Visa

Name on Card	Card Number
Expiration Date	Security Code
	Signature

\*To qualify for a multiple-registration discount, registrants must be employees of the same member company.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** A processing fee of \$100 will apply for registrations canceled after a registration has been processed. Registrations canceled after April 2, 2018 will be charged for the cost of meals.



# SPRING MEETING '18

SHERATON PITTSBURGH HOTEL AT STATION SQUARE, PITTSBURGH, PA

Spring Meeting '18 will provide important educational information and unmatched networking opportunities.

## TUESDAY, APRIL 17

**9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Registration & Information**

**10:00 a.m. – Noon Future Leaders Committee Meeting**

**1:00 – 3:30 p.m. USDA ARS Future Research Brainstorming Session**

**3:30 – 5:00 p.m. Manufacturing & Technology Committee Meeting**

**4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Supplier Advisory Committee Meeting**

**5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Welcome Reception – Fountain View Room**

Enjoy the downtown and river views while networking with industry friends and making dinner plans at nearby Station Square.

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18

**7:30 a.m. – Noon Registration & Information**

**8:00 – 8:45 a.m. Breakfast & Opening Remarks**  
*Ron Hook, PPI President, Claussen Pickle Co. – A Division of The Kraft Heinz Company*

**9:00 – 9:30 a.m. Keeping Pennsylvania Growing**  
*Secretary Russell Redding, Pennsylvania Dept. of Agriculture*

Serving as the 26th Secretary of Agriculture for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Redding has an innate understanding of production agriculture, stemming from his youth on his family's dairy farm and time as a dairy farm operator. Secretary Redding will provide an overview of Pennsylvania agriculture and his plan for a prosperous future.

**9:30 – 10:00 a.m. Myths, Facts & Science-Based Developments to Enable the Production of Probiotic Pickles with Beneficial Effects for Consumers**

*Dr. Ilenys Perez-Diaz, USDA-ARS Food Science Research Unit, NCSU*

Probiotic foods accounted for 92.4 percent of the \$23.1 billion in global probiotic sales in 2015. The probiotic market is predicted to reach \$48 billion this year. Ilenys will discuss the facts about the presence and survival of probiotic lactic acid bacteria in cucumber fermentations,

their potential as probiotic foods and provide a research update regarding the incorporation of commercial probiotic cultures in refrigerated pickle products.

**10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Consumer Acceptability of Probiotic Pickles**

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

Incorporation of probiotics, live microbes able to confer health benefits, in pickle products would offer a non-dairy, low-calorie alternative to the predominantly dairy-based probiotic food items currently available. Two different processes for incorporating probiotic cultures into refrigerated pickles were evaluated for finished product quality and consumer acceptability. Come learn what consumers think about probiotic pickles!

**10:30 – 11:00 a.m. Balancing Soil Quality for Maximum Economic Yield**

*Meagan Kaiser, Perry Agricultural Laboratory*

Perry Agricultural Laboratory (PAL) has more than 30 years of experience working with agricultural producers in all 50 states and 12 foreign countries. PAL operates under the Albrecht model of balancing soil quality as defined by its chemical, physical, and biological properties for maximizing economic yield. PAL Farm Management helps producers take GPS coordinated soil and plant tissue samples to help growers better identify optimal fertilizer utilization, critically important for specialty crop production.

**11:15 a.m. MLB Group Outing - Riverboat Shuttle to PNC Park**

Enjoy a riverboat ride aboard the Gateway Clipper Shuttle with service to the Major League Baseball game between the Colorado Rockies and Pittsburgh Pirates! All-aboard directly from the back steps of the hotel. Return shuttles from PNC Park to Station Square depart immediately following the game.

**12:35 p.m. Major League Baseball – Colorado Rockies vs. Pittsburgh Pirates**

Enjoy the game from one of the most popular areas in PNC Park – the Iron City Skull Bar with 90-minutes of catered hospitality! – located in right field, offering panoramic views of both the field and the City of Pittsburgh. (See information box for more details)

Following the game, network with friends at exciting Station Square.

## THURSDAY, APRIL 19

**7:30 a.m. – Noon Registration & Information**

**8:00 – 8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast**

**8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Freezing Damage of Fermented Cucumbers: What is it?**

*Dr. Ilenys Perez-Diaz, USDA-ARS Food Science Research Unit, NCSU*

Determining how much salt to add in fermentation tanks to prevent freezing damage of the preserved cucumbers is often a guessing game. This presentation discusses what damage of fermented cucumbers is induced by freezing and salting and viable parameters to monitor it.

**9:00 – 9:30 a.m. Downy Mildew Resistance from Slicers to Picklers**

*Michael Mazourek, Integrated Plant Science, Cornell University*

Cornell has developed slicing cucumbers with downy mildew resistance for organic growers and released them through a rapid response approach that puts step-wise improvements in grower fields.

Following concerns about fungicide cost, efficacy and the availability of pickling cucumbers with real resistance to downy mildew by conventional cucumber growers, we transferred this resistance to pickling cucumbers. We are refining these selections for organic, conventional, hand and machine harvest through another approach we utilize in organic systems, participatory plant breeding, that puts growers in control of the new varieties that we breed for them.

**9:30 – 10:00 a.m. FSMA Implementation & FDA Inspections – Pickle Packers Prepare**

*PPI Legal Counsel, Hogan Lovells LLC*

Hogan Lovells will provide up-to-date information regarding compliance with the new Food Safety Modernization Act and what to expect during FDA inspections. While implementation has been smooth, many questions remain.

**10:00 – 10:45 a.m. Simplifying Aerial Scouting – Saving You Time & Money**

*Mark Dufau, Director of Sales - AeroVironment Commercial Information Solutions*

Quantix™ and AV DSSTM by AeroVironment quickly and accurately maps your acreage, allowing you to easily spot crop health and operational issues that might be missed by the naked eye. Drone technology with advanced GIS technology and research-based analytics can help locate potential issues before they start impacting yield.

**10:45 – 11:30 a.m. Minimizing Water-born Contamination of Produce from Farm to Processor**

*Dr. Luke LaBorde, Dept. of Food Science, Pennsylvania State University*

This session looks at potential health issues associated with contaminants that may be present in irrigation water used on specialty crops, and reviews findings when studying surface water irrigation, methods of indirect irrigation, wash water sanitization, water used during transport to the processor, and more. These may be important requirements that a processor might specify as part of supplier agreements.

**11:30 a.m. Prize Drawing & Closing Comments**

**11:45 a.m. Adjourn**

