



The Food Industry Center
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Fact Sheet

Our Mission

The Food Industry Center will develop leaders for tomorrow's food industry. Through research, educational programs, and industry collaboration, The Food Industry Center is a leading source of knowledge on how food reaches consumers efficiently and contributes to safe and healthy lives.

Who We Are

The Retail Food Industry Center was established in 1995 as the ninth Sloan Industry Study Center, the only one to concentrate its study specifically on the food industry. In 2001, in order to better represent the scope of the Center's activities, the Center changed its name to The Food Industry Center (TFIC) and has become a global collaboration of scholars comprised of faculty, students, and industry leaders who address the issues of an efficient, ethical, healthy, and safe food system. The Center is led by two Co-Directors, Professors of Applied Economics Jean Kinsey and Ben Senauer. We have an internal staff of four professionals plus faculty affiliates and graduate student assistants.

What We Do

In our first decade, we collected four years of panel data on supermarket operations and technology adoption and funded more than a dozen research projects in various academic disciplines – economics, marketing and business, and food science and nutrition. We presented public educational seminars that featured contemporary industry topics and industry speakers.

In our second decade, we are focusing our research and educational programs around three strategic initiatives:

- 1) Food Defense; Food Safety
- 2) Healthy Foods, Healthy Business
- 3) Educating Future Food Industry Leaders

We fund our activities with research grants from organizations such as the Economic Research Service, USDA, the National Institutes of Health, and the Department of Homeland Security, along with private sponsorships and donations.

Sponsors

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Nash Finch

National Grocers Association

Old Dutch Foods

Rich Products

Sturm Foods

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Where We Are Located

TFIC is a multidisciplinary education and research center located at the University of Minnesota and is housed in the Department of Applied Economics in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences on the St. Paul Campus.

Visit The Food Industry Center's website for more information at <http://foodindustrycenter.umn.edu>.