

SAVE THE DATE



GLOBAL MIDWEST ALLIANCE FOOD INDUSTRY PROGRAM

sponsored by



FEDERAL RESERVE BANK
OF CHICAGO

The Crucial Role of Information Technology in Food Trade

May 18, 2022

8:30 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.

Wintrust Financial Corporation

Lower Level Conference Room

231 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, IL 60604

[**REGISTER**](#)

Global Midwest Alliance invites you to its first program in the Alliance's 2021 Innovation, Growth and Globalization Industry-Focused Series. Past food industry programs have focused on a number of topics, including food safety, policy changes, global food production and sustainability, food supply chain management, packaging innovations, reducing food waste, the impact of food, nutrition and technology on our health and wellbeing, and the regulation, sustainability and growth of the food industry.

U.S. trade in food and agricultural products looks likely to set a new record this year, even though the global pandemic still lingers. However, food trade must overcome numerous obstacles as logistical challenges and broken supply chains continue to stress the sector. In addition, cybersecurity has come to the forefront as a primary focus for food companies, given hacking incidents and the potential exposure of business data. Ongoing developments in information technologies shift the playing field, providing both new opportunities and challenges for firms as they move forward in this evolving environment. Digital technology will play an ever more crucial part in the future of global trade, especially for food and agriculture.

Innovations in information technology could provide fixes to backlogs and choke points in the global trade system through the implementation of blockchain, electronic data interchange, and other new applications. Sensors and the Internet of Things also have parts in this story as well. Moreover, changes in international food safety standards and priorities of global regulators could present a prime opportunity for digital technologies to shine. Besides food safety, digital tools can help improve people's health, boost immunities and the traceability of ingredients. A safer and more sustainable food industry can benefit from new information technologies, while lowering the costs of production and transportation (boosting profitability).

Food and agriculture is an important sector for the Midwest economy, especially as a generator of new markets and employment. World trade connects Midwestern companies to distant markets—ever more so as information technologies close the distance and enable enhanced responses to changing governmental policies and consumer desires.

Join Global Midwest Alliance and leaders from industry, government, and other organizations as we some of the key issues regarding information technology and the future of food trade.

Seating is limited. The cost to attend this industry program is \$95 per person, payable at the time of registration. **Please register on or before May 17, 2022.**

AGENDA

SESSION 1:

8:30 a.m.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

[David Oppedahl](#), Senior Business Economist, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

8:35 a.m.

Keynote: A Fireside Chat

[Wes Frierson](#), Vice President of Strategy, FoodChainID
[David Oppedahl](#), Senior Business Economist, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

9:05 a.m.

20-Minute Break

SESSION 2:

9:25 a.m.

Innovation and Technology Panel

Moderator: [Dave Donnan](#), President, Silvertip Management

Panelists:

[Steven Hobbs](#), Partner, Lighthouse Visibility Partners LLC
Matthew Osegard, Supervisory Special Agent, FBI
[Dan Wallace](#), Vice President of Retail Partnerships, Shelf Engine

10:25 a.m.

20-Minute Break

SESSION 3:

10:45 a.m.

Growth and Global Opportunities Panel

Moderator: [Robert Brackett](#), Senior Vice President and Dean, IEH Academy,
IEH laboratories & Consulting Group

Panelists:

To be Announced

11:45 a.m.

Questions and Closing Remarks

[Christopher A. Bloom](#), Partner, K&L Gates

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Kerry is dedicated to making the world of food and beverage better for everyone. Every day, millions of people throughout the world consume foods and beverages containing Kerry's taste and nutrition solutions. The focus on changing lifestyles, the globalisation of food tastes and ever-evolving consumer needs has brought us to a market-leading global position. Today, we are firmly established as a world leader in the food, beverage and pharma industries, with 23,000 staff and 100+ innovation and manufacturing centres across six continents.

The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago is one of 12 regional Reserve Banks that, along with the Board of Governors in Washington, D.C., make up the nation's central bank. The Chicago Fed serves the Seventh Federal Reserve District, which encompasses the northern portions of Illinois and Indiana, southern Wisconsin, the Lower Peninsula of Michigan, and the state of Iowa. In addition to participation in the formulation of monetary policy, each Reserve Bank supervises member banks and bank holding companies, provides financial services to depository institutions and the U.S. government, and monitors economic conditions in its District.

Global Midwest Alliance is a business-led, region-wide not-for-profit educational organization dedicated to transforming the Midwest into an internationally recognized leader in innovation and business growth. The Alliance aligns and integrates resources throughout the Midwest helping businesses to grow by leveraging existing resources to develop new products and find customers throughout the world. The Alliance is the Private Sector Liaison Office for the World Bank and a member of Global CONNECT. Through these and other affiliations, the Alliance facilitates access to global business opportunities for Midwest business through 155 groups in 98 countries around the world. The Alliance offers educational and networking opportunities through a variety of programs and resources designed to promote innovation, technology development and access to global opportunities in the clean technology, energy, food, logistics, manufacturing and water industries.