

# Food Safety Task Force

## Department of Inspections and Appeals

### Update

**MARK SPELTZ**

February 9, 2023

Iowa Department of  
**INSPECTIONS & APPEALS**

### Staffing Update

Since our last meeting we have hired two new Food Safety Specialists the last one starts next week.

Food Bureau will be fully staffed on February 17.

In addition, we have two student interns that have contributed significantly to the bureau over the last 9 months. Shout out to Lexi and Zach.

Long time Retail Standardization Officer Tina Mickish retired in 2022. The Department is beginning the process of training a new Retail Standardization Officer.

Over the past two years we have added three inspectors to the manufactured food program.

Iowa Department of  
**INSPECTIONS & APPEALS**

## Home Food Processing Establishments Where are we now?

### DATA

- ▶ Rules became effective on November 9, 2022
- ▶ 453 Licensed Home Food Processing Establishments.
- ▶ 90% are former Home Bakeries.
- ▶ 40% of pre-operational inspections have been conducted virtually.
- ▶ DIA has reached out to 100% of former Home Bakeries that now have a Home Food Processing Establishment license.

### WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED

- ▶ With the expansion of cottage food, many former home bakeries have chosen to produce unregulated cottage food instead of pursuing a Home Food Processing Establishment license.
- ▶ Applicants are typically not familiar with the regulations and have not visited DIA website to view resources. This delays inspections and license approval.
- ▶ Operators are preparing a wide range of foods (baked goods, roasted coffee, freeze dried candies, take and bake casseroles).
- ▶ Templates provided by DIA have been very helpful for those that pursue licensing.

## 2023 Legislation Watch

### **HF80 & SF134** - Farmers Market and Annual Temporary Event Licenses

- ▶ Changes these licenses from countywide to statewide

### **HSB126 & SSB1123** – State government realignment

- ▶ Moves the Consumable Hemp Program from DIA to HHS

# SAFHER

SYSTEM FOR AGRICULTURE, FOOD, HEALTH,  
E-INSPECTIONS AND REGISTRATION

DIA is working with the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) and 20 other states to develop a new inspection and licensing system.

For more information about SAFHER can be found on The AFDO Website and the AFDO YouTube channel:

[https://www.afdo.org/resources\\_category/safher/](https://www.afdo.org/resources_category/safher/)

<https://www.youtube.com/user/afdo1896/videos>

# GovConnectIowa

GOVCONNECTIOWA WAS DEVELOPED WITH IOWANS IN MIND. THE NEW SYSTEM ALLOWS USERS TO APPLY FOR AND RENEW LICENSES, FILE FOR PERMITS, AND PERFORM VARIOUS OTHER TASKS.

- IOWA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
- IOWA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES DIVISION
- **IOWA DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONS AND APPEALS**
- IOWA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
- IOWA FINANCE AUTHORITY
- IOWA LOTTERY AUTHORITY
- IOWA UTILITIES BOARD

As of November 15, 2022 all food and lodging licenses are available for renewal on GovConnectIowa.

January 2023 webinar is posted on Iowa Source Link

<https://www.iasourcelink.com/iowa-tax-webinars/>