



# Data & AI in Food Safety Workshop

AFDO AEC Pre-Conference Workshop

Columbus, Ohio

Friday, June 5, 2026

# Welcome!



# Introductions

**Carrie Rigdon, AFDO**

**Jenny Pierquet, AFDO**

**Richard Todd, City of Boulder**

**Barbara Kowalczyk, George Washington Univ.**

**Jorge Hernandez, Wendy's**

**Brendan Ring, Creme Global**

**Cameron Garrison, HS GovTech**

**Christine Schindler, PathSpot**

**Andy Kennedy, iFoodDS**

**Patrick Quade, Dinesafe.com**





# Workshop Objectives

- 1) Understand key concepts and trends in data and AI for food safety
- 2) Learn best practices for data quality and governance
- 3) Examine real-world case studies from industry and government
- 4) Identify opportunities and risks in AI adoption
- 5) Gain practical experience through interactive scenarios

# Orientation



## AGENDA

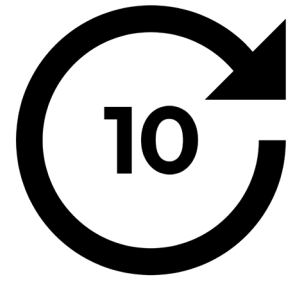
Time	Segment
9:00 am – 9:10 am 10 min.	<b>Welcome</b> <i>Carrie Rigdon &amp; Jennifer Pierquet, AFDO</i> This opening session provides an overview of the workshop’s goals, learning objectives, and logistics for the day.
9:10 am – 9:50 am 40 min.	<b>Framing &amp; Foundations</b> <i>Richard Todd, Chief Data Officer, City of Boulder, Colorado</i> What is AI? Why is it suddenly everywhere, and what does it really mean for our work? This session frames the day with a non-technical look at AI and what’s driving adoption – and the early lessons and cautionary tales are already emerging.
9:50 am – 10:30 am 40 min.	<b>Data Culture &amp; Data Quality</b> <i>Barbara Kowalczyk, Associate Professor, George Washington University</i> Effective use of data, with or without AI, requires a strong data culture and high-quality inputs. This session examines how data practices affect the credibility of information and its appropriate use. Participants will evaluate the readiness of their data environments to support rigorous, evidence-based decisions.
10:30 am – 10:40 am	<b>10 min. Break</b>
10:40 am – 11:20 am 40 min.	<b>Case Studies</b> <i>Jorge Hernandez, VP of Quality Assurance, The Wendy’s Company;</i> <i>Brendan Ring, Commercial Director, Creme Global; and</i> <i>Cameron Garrison, Executive Director, HS GovTech</i> Real stories from the field bring AI out of the abstract and into practice. Speakers share their AI journeys – what they tried, what worked, what didn’t, and what they wish they’d known – highlighting both promise and pitfalls.
11:20 am – 11:30 am	<b>10 min. Break</b>
11:30 am – 12:10 pm 40 min.	<b>Case Studies, continued</b> <i>Christine Schindler, CEO &amp; Co-Founder, PathSpot Technologies;</i> <i>Andrew Kennedy, Chief Traceability Officer, iFoodDS; and</i> <i>Patrick Quade, Founder &amp; CEO, Iwaspoisoned.com, Dinesafe.com</i>
12:10 pm – 1:10 pm	<b>Lunch (on your own)</b>
1:10 pm – 1:50 pm 40 min.	<b>From Data to Decisions: Managing Risk, Gaps, and Tradeoffs in AI-Enabled Food Safety</b> <i>Panel discussion; All speakers</i> This interactive discussion examines how risks, data gaps, decision points, and AI governance considerations emerge in real-world food safety applications, emphasizing practical judgment over technical detail. Drawing on cross-sector experience, speakers highlight where human oversight and governance matter most, setting the stage for the AI Storyboard Activity that follows.

Time	Segment
1:50 pm – 3:05 pm 75 min.	<b>AI Storyboard Activity</b> Participants work in small groups to unpack a real food safety problem or challenge and explore where AI could responsibly help – not replace – human expertise. Using a structured storyboard, tables examine the nature of the problem, data gaps, risks, decision points, and what a realistic, human-centered AI pilot might look like.
3:05 pm – 3:15 pm	<b>10 min. Break</b>
3:15 pm – 3:55 pm 40 min.	<b>Feedback Session</b> Groups share their AI Storyboards and receive focused feedback from speakers. The conversation centers on feasibility, risk, human oversight, and how ideas can be strengthened or scaled responsibly.
3:55 pm – 4:15 pm 20 min.	<b>Reflections, Lessons, and Next Steps</b> This closing discussion invites both speakers and participants to reflect on key insights from the day—what challenged assumptions, what felt transferable, and what questions remain. The session focuses on practical takeaways that participants can carry forward as they continue exploring responsible, real-world uses of data and AI in food safety.





Let's take a break!



# Panel Discussion: From Data to Decisions

- *Opening:* What usually gets **underestimated** when organizations start talking about AI?
- *Decision Points:* What makes you **hesitate** to act on an AI output—and what gives you enough **confidence** to move forward?
- *Bridge to Storyboard Activity:* As participants head into the storyboard activity, what's **one risk, data gap, or decision point** you'd encourage them to surface early rather than discover later?

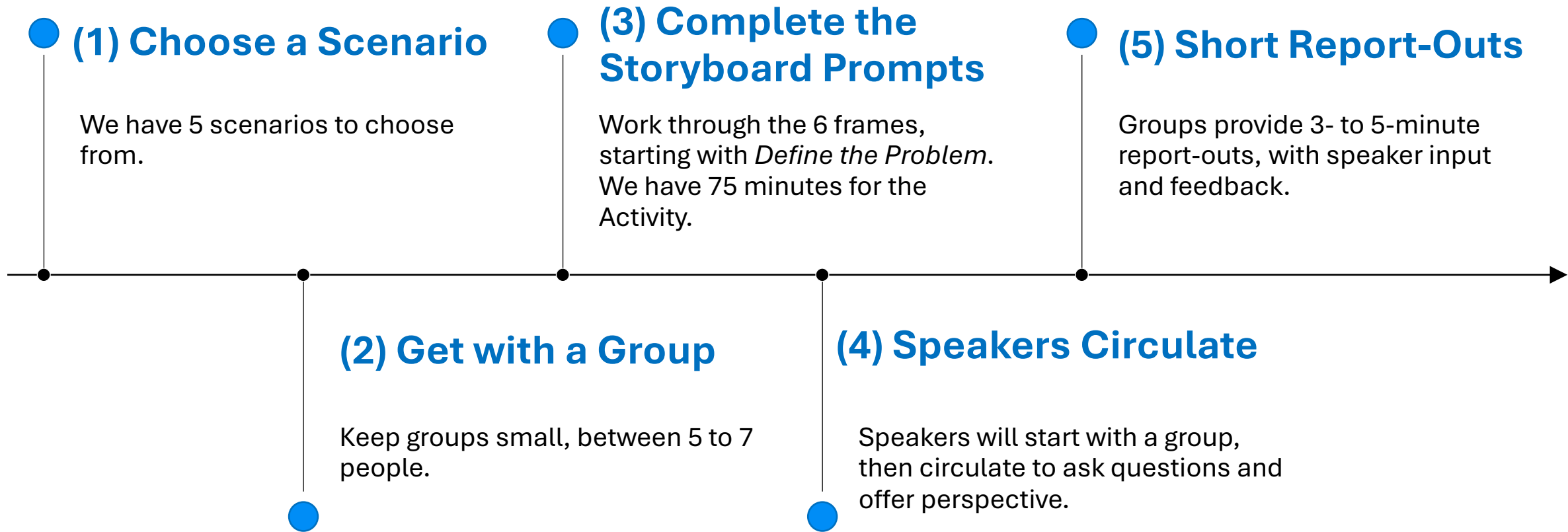


# AI Storyboard Activity





# Activity Overview





# Scenario 1: Inspection prioritization under resource constraints

A regulatory program oversees more facilities than resources allow for routine inspection. Leadership is exploring whether inspection history, violations, and complaints could better inform where to focus limited staff time.





## Scenario 2: Early signals from public-reported food safety data

Food safety concerns are reported directly by the public, such as foodborne illness complaints or product complaints, and regulators and businesses are deciding how, if at all, this information should inform action.





# Scenario 3: Using 3<sup>rd</sup>-party, self-assessment, or operational data to identify risks

Operational or self-assessment data collected between inspections by regulators, industry, or third parties may provide opportunities to identify emerging food safety risks or support prevention efforts





# Scenario 4: Identifying patterns across multiple facilities

A retailer, manufacturer, or regulatory program oversees many locations and wants to identify early signs of food safety breakdowns across sites.





# Scenario 5: Using shared or external data to inform decisions

An organization wants to anticipate where food safety risks may increase and decide where to focus attention. It's considering whether insights from shared or external data could inform prioritization or preventive action.



# Let's get started

Regroup at  
3:15 PM



Don't forget  
to take a  
break

# Group Report-Outs

1. Scenario overview
2. Key insight
3. Key risk or assumption
4. Observation or question for the group



# Reflections

- *For the panel:* What's **one insight or pattern** that you think is most important for this group to carry forward?
- *For the participants:* What's **one small action or consideration** you'd bring into your work, even if you're not ready for a full AI project?





Thank You!