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## **2009 Crumbine Award Guidelines Released**

*FALLS CHURCH, VA – (November 12, 2008)* The Foodservice Packaging Institute (FPI) released the guidelines for the **2009 Samuel J. Crumbine Award for Excellence in Food Protection at the Local Level**, which annually recognizes excellence in food protection services by local environmental health jurisdictions in the United States and Canada.

Named for one of America's most renowned health officers and health educators – Samuel J. Crumbine, M.D. (1862-1954) – the award has elevated the importance of food protection programs within government departments and agencies and has inspired excellence in the planning and delivery of those services.

Entries for the Crumbine Award competition are limited to U.S. and Canadian local environmental health jurisdictions (county, district, city, town or township) that provide food protection services to their communities under authority of a statute or ordinance. The U.S. Uniformed Services and U.S. Indian Health Service area programs are also invited to compete, if they are not monitored by a state, county or city health unit. Past winners may apply five years after receiving the award.

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The guidelines are the basis for all Crumbine Award applications and must be followed in order to be considered for the award. The basic award criteria, by which achievement is measured, are:

- Sustained improvements and excellence, as documented by specific outcomes and achievements, over the preceding four to six years, as evidenced by continual improvements in the basic components of a comprehensive program;
- Innovative and effective use of program methods and problem solving to identify and reduce risk factors that are known to cause foodborne illness;
- Demonstrated improvements in planning, managing and evaluating a comprehensive program; and
- Targeted outreach; forming partnerships; and participating in forums that foster communication and information exchange among the regulators, industry and consumer representatives.

The winner of the award is selected by an independent panel of food protection practitioners who are qualified by education and experience to discern excellence in a program of food and beverage sanitation. They represent various interests, including leading public health and environmental health associations, past Crumbine Award winners, consumer advocates and the food industry. The jury makes its award selection each spring in a judging process administered by FPI. The application deadline for the award is March 13, 2009.

The Crumbine Award is supported by the Conference for Food Protection in cooperation with the American Academy of Sanitarians, American Public Health Association, Association of Food & Drug Officials, Foodservice Packaging Institute, International Association for Food Protection, International Food Safety Council, National Association of County and City Health Officials, National Environmental Health Association, NSF International and Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.

*For more information about the Crumbine Award, including the 2009 award guidelines, go to FPI's Web site at [www.fpi.org](http://www.fpi.org) (in the "Awards" section); or contact Lynn Dyer at FPI by phone at (703) 538-2800 or by e-mail at [ldyer@fpi.org](mailto:ldyer@fpi.org).*