



Food Manufacture Excellence Awards

Judging Criteria

Best Newcomer

- Innovation and creativity
- Business growth and traction
- Resilience and adaptability
- Market potential and vision
- Sustainability and social impact

Business Leader of the Year

- Evidence of how the business has grown and thrived under their leadership, including innovation, resilience and strategic direction
- Financial performance of the business
- Standout accomplishments during their tenure, such as market expansion or operational improvements
- Clarity and ambition of plans for the future – expansion, innovation and sustainability
- How they drive strong, ethical values and workplace culture
- Their involvement in wider industry activities and the community

Collaboration and Partnership Award

The entrant must have benefited from the results of the partnership within the past 18 months.

- Innovation and impact of the collaboration
- The benefits realised by all parties involved
- The effectiveness of the collaboration including communication, knowledge-sharing and trust-building

Employer of the Year

- Workplace culture: Initiatives that create a positive, engaging, and inclusive work environment.
- Progression: Programmes and opportunities for professional growth and career advancement.
- Well-being: Measures taken to ensure the physical, mental and emotional well-being of employees.



- Engagement and retention: Creative and effective strategies that improve employee satisfaction and retention.
- Diversity and inclusion: Commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive workplace.

Engineer of the Year

- Technical excellence
- Impact (e.g. on efficiency, uptime, food safety etc)
- Customer focus
- Communication
- Resilience under pressure
- Continuous improvement

Factory Manager of the Year

- Leadership and management
- Operational excellence
- Quality and safety
- Innovation and continuous improvement
- Sustainability and environmental stewardship
- Employee engagement and development

Future Talent Award

- Professional achievements: Notable accomplishments and contributions in their current role.
- Innovation and creativity: Implementation of innovative ideas and solutions.
- Leadership potential: Evidence of leadership skills and potential for future growth.
- Commitment to development: Active pursuit of learning and professional growth opportunities.
- Industry impact: Positive influence on their organisation, colleagues, or the industry at large.
- Personal drive: How well the candidate has driven their own development

Health Hero Award

- Attitude and commitment
- Strategic vision
- Consumer impact
- Innovation



Manufacturer of the Year

- Integrity: Consistently high standards in product quality and safety.
- Innovation: Implementation of innovative processes, technologies, or products that enhance the business and industry.
- ESG: Commitment to sustainable, ethical practices and policies, alongside efforts made to foster a happy and inclusive workplace.
- Business performance: Strong financial performance, market growth, and overall business success.

Outstanding Community Engagement

- Community impact
- Innovation and creativity
- Commitment and consistency
- Employee involvement

Site Team of the Year

- Significant improvements in production efficiency, quality and safety or team culture.
- Team collaboration: Demonstrated ability to work effectively as a cohesive unit, with strong communication and support for team members.
- Innovation: Introduction of innovative processes, technologies, or practices that enhance site performance.
- Project success: Successful completion of projects or initiatives that positively impact the site's operations.
- Commitment to improvement

Sustainability Manufacturer of the Year

- Core sustainability goals and integration
- Environmental footprint reduction
- Food packaging and waste reduction
- Sustainable sourcing
- Measurement and reporting



The Food Integrity Champion

- Food safety and quality: Rigorous standards and practices to ensure the safety and quality of food products, including compliance with industry regulations and certifications.
- Ethical sourcing: Commitment to sourcing ingredients ethically, including fair trade practices, support for local farmers and communities, and animal wellbeing.
- Transparency and traceability: Implementation of systems and technologies that enhance transparency and traceability throughout the supply chain, ensuring consumers can trust the origins and handling of their food.
- Consumer trust: Initiatives that build and maintain consumer trust, including clear labelling, honest marketing practices, and responsiveness to consumer concerns.
- Sustainability: Efforts to promote environmental sustainability in sourcing, production and packaging.
- Nutrition and accessibility: Commitment to making nutritious food available to all.
- Supply chain resilience: Exceptional ability to withstand, adapt to, and recover from disruptions in the supply chain, and ensuring delivery of products to customers.

The Innovation Award

- Innovation and creativity: Introduction of a unique and imaginative solution that has the potential to fill a gap in the market or solve a big challenge.
- Scalability and industry influence: Potential for the innovation to be scaled and adopted across the industry, and/or make a big difference on an area such as sustainability, health, productivity, efficiency, costs.
- Market and consumer impact: Positive impact on the market and consumers.