

Payton Pruett
Vice President of Corporate Food Technology and Regulatory Compliance
THE KROGER CO., USA



Dr. W. Payton Pruett is Vice President of Corporate Food Technology and Regulatory Compliance for The Kroger Co. Payton joined Kroger in 2005 from ConAgra Foods in Omaha where he served as Senior Director of Food Safety and Laboratory Services. During his career, Payton also managed food safety, quality, and laboratory services at ConAgra Refrigerated Foods and Silliker Laboratories.

Payton earned his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Food Science and Technology from Virginia Tech. He received his B.S. in Microbiology and minor in Chemistry from East Tennessee State University.

Payton has written and presented extensively on the microbiological safety and quality of foods. He has served on a number of scientific committees and has been a member of several professional organizations including the International Association of Food Protection, the Institute of Food Technologists, and the American Society of Microbiology. Through the National Registry of Microbiology, Payton was certified as a Specialist Microbiologist from 1997-2002. He currently serves as an adjunct professor at Purdue University and is on the editorial board of the *Journal of Food Protection*.

THE KROGER CO.

The Kroger Co. is an American retail supermarket chain and parent company established in Cincinnati, Ohio. As one of America's largest grocery retail companies, The Kroger Co. operates more than 2,500 grocery stores, nearly 800 convenience stores, 400-plus jewelry stores, nearly 500 supermarket fuel centers and 42 manufacturing facilities in 32 states.

