2018-2019 AFDO FINAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Retail Food Committee

*Chair: Angela Montalbano, NY Department of Agriculture & Markets, Brooklyn, NY
Chair: Adam Inman, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Manhattan, KS
Chair: Elizabeth Nutt, Tulsa Health Department

**Charge 1:** Maintain contact with CFP committees and identify opportunities for collaboration. Regularly request and maintain a listing of CFP committees and their members.

**Discussion:** AFDO Retail Food Committee chairs and members actively participate on the CFP board and are active committee members. A CFP link is provided for direction to the CFP website for the current list of committee and members. CFP committee participation by AFDO members:

- Steve Moris, Kansas Department of Agriculture – CFP Board
- Susan Shelton, Washington Department of Health – Guidance on Roaster Pigs (Co-Chair), Publications, Product Assessment (At-Large, non-voting member)
- Emily Hovis, Washington Department of Health – Food Recovery Committee (State Regulatory voting member)
- Joseph Graham, Washington Department of Health – Direct-to-Consumer Delivery Committee (State Regulatory voting member)
- Elizabeth Nutt, Tulsa Health Department, Vice-Chair – Strategic Planning Committee
- Adam Inman, Kansas Department of Agriculture – Food Recovery Committee (State Regulatory voting member), Food Allergen Committee (At-Large, non-voting member)
- Adam Friedlander, FMI - Direct-to-Consumer Committee (At-Large, non-voting member), Food Recovery Committee (At-Large, non-voting member)

**Program Standards Committee Roster**
http://www.foodprotect.org/administration/positions/program-standards-committee/

**Recommendations:** The Retail Food Committee will maintain a listing of current CFP committees and their rosters. All committee rosters are available on CFP’s website, link included. This charge should continue.

**Executive Committee Action:**
- Approval ☒
- Disapproval ☐
- Date: 6/17/2019

**Charge 2:** Work with other organizations involved in retail foods to develop and disseminate of information to assist state and local retail food programs. Other organization such as Conference for Food Protection (CFP), National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), and National Environmental Health Association (NEHA).

**Discussion:** AFDO retail food committee chairs (Angela Montalbano, Elizabeth Nutt, Adam Inman), in addition to committee members all actively participate in other retail organizations and groups such as IAFP, CFP – board members and Council participants, NYSAFP, IFT, FMI and Partners with a Common Purpose, NECAF (Northeast Center to Advance Food Safety – Representatives: Chris Callahan & Elizabeth Newbold.

The Committee recommends consolidating links to retail food protection resources under a Retail Food Resources page on AFDO’s website. Links that should be on the new page include existing links, such as Allergen

*Responsible for submission of reports*
2018-2019 AFDO FINAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Control at Retail, CFP, Food Code Adoption, and Retail Food Safety Consortium, as well as links to NACCHO, NEHA, and other links that may be identified in the future.

**Recommendations:**
The committee recommends adding a Retail Resource Link to the AFDO website homepage. Retail Link will include direct connection to FDA Food Code Reference System, FDA Resource Guide.

https://www.fda.gov/food/guidanceregulation/retailfoodprotection/ucm2006807.htm

The FDA link will direct the user to the following FDA Retail Resources.

- **Retail Food Protection**
  - FDA Food Code
  - Food Defense & Emergency Response for Retail Food
  - Retail Food Industry/Regulatory Assistance & Training
  - Retail Food Risk Factor Study
  - Retail Food Safety Initiative
  - Standardization of Retail Food Safety Inspection Personnel
  - Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards

CFP: http://www.foodprotect.org/guides-documents/

**Executive Committee Action:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approval</th>
<th>Disapproval</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>6/17/2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Charge 3:** Construct a 2-hour committee session during the allotted committee time spot with a final agenda for submission no later than March 1, 2019.

**Discussion:** Completed and submitted agenda for retail food committee meeting to be held at the annual conference – June 22, 2019 from 3:30pm – 5:30pm.
Committee chairs continue to participate on all Retail Program planning calls, this also ensures topics are not duplicated. The committee chairs have assisted obtaining speakers for the Retail Breakout sessions and will assist with moderating Retail Breakout sessions during the annual conference.

Discussion was to have a true update on emerging retail issues and concerns and related topics, not a review of organizational charts.
Committee members would like to have a question and answer forum at the end of the committee meeting. Questions should be solicited prior to the conference to assure answers are issued.

Robert Mancini – 45 mins. training – interactive with polling questions.
Barbara Kitay – 30 mins. Retail Standards.
David Lawrence – 30 mins. CFP Update.
Open Forum questions polling options – 15 mins.
Review of 2018 – 2019 Retail Food Committee Charges.
Review of 2019 – 2020 Retail Food Committee Charges.

**Recommendations:** Review completed work and progress from previous year’s charges, in addition to reviewing the committee’s new charges. Solicit volunteers to complete next year’s charges. Include a copy of

*Responsible for submission of reports*
committee charges with each sign in sheet with addition of a blank line for a Charge Number so a committee member can volunteer to assist working on the charge.

**Executive Committee Action:**
- Approval ✗
- Disapproval ☐
- Date 6/17/2019

**Charge 4:** Compare the current AFDO Food Code Pocket Guide which was revised June 1, 2015 and is based on the 2013 FDA Food Code to the 2017 edition. Include in the review the Supplement to the 2013 Food Code Chapters and Annexes. Make a recommendation to the AFDO Board as to what actions need to be taken that would assure the AFDO resource is providing the most current information.

**Discussion:** Christina provided electronic and hard copies of the 2015 AFDO Food Code Pocket Guide which was based on the 2013 Food Code and prepared by the AFDO Food Committee.

2015 AFDO pocket guide was based on the 2013 food code. Adam Inman and Elizabeth Nutt edited and updated the AFDO pocket guide. The document was shared with retail food committee members for comments and suggestions. Unfortunately, the committee did not receive any responses. It was decided the guide should be embellished to add information (employee illness (restriction/exclusion and “the Big 5”) and tabs for easier usage of the guide.

Angela invited Julie Henderson to review the shellfish portion, resulting no updates to changes. AFDO staff to assist with final version formatting of the guide.

**Recommendations:** Continue charge for next to year for a final completed version.

**Executive Committee Action:**
- Approval ✗
- Disapproval ☐
- Date 6/17/2019

**Charge 5:** Develop an illustrated book of scenarios demonstrating critical deficiencies and the same photo with non-critical deficiencies as a means of working with language barriers while explaining inspection results of corrective actions.

**Discussion:** Committee members see value in this project to assist those with language barriers as a means of identifying critical deficiencies and corrective actions. A sub-committee was formed with Sherri Sigwarth and Angela Montalbano to create the document. Copywrite issues for use of photos and agency restrictions were discussed. AFDO has a subscription with iStock photos for use. If photos used by a governmental agency, an agency approval form must be utilized.

A list of common critical deficiencies was created.

Sherri provided photos of critical deficiencies along with photos of corrective actions. A flicker account was created to house the photos. Adam Inman can provide additional photos. AFDO’s subscription of iStock photos will be utilized if needed for additional photos. The guide is a work in progress.

Project participants: Sherri Sigwarth & Angela Montalbano

**Recommendations:** Continue Charge for next year and complete illustrated book of scenarios 2020.
2018-2019 AFDO FINAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Executive Committee Action:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approval</th>
<th>Disapproval</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>6/17/2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Charge 6: The amount of retail food sampling for pathogens has increased significantly over the past five years. Testing performed by state departments of agriculture, consumer protection, and health have resulted in a substantial amount of recalls. These recalls are sometimes difficult to enact quickly since the testing is done at the end user (retail) and not at the supplier or distribution level. Therefore, trace back to the supplier identifying lot codes causes delays initiating the recall. How the types of foods are chosen for testing would be interesting to discover since some of the testing has been done on frozen vegetables where coking would destroy the pathogen of concern (Lm).

To better understand the motivation or purpose of this increase in retail microbiological sampling, it would be helpful if the AFDO retail committee could develop a survey that would examine and answer the following questions: We could use these questions or come up with different or additional ones.

- What states are performing pathogen testing on retail food products? For those states that respond yes to testing; What is the source of funding for the sampling program?
- How many samples are performed each year and what is the percent positive?
- What pathogens do you test for?
- Is the test always on packaged national brand items or is the store made product also tested?
- What is the purpose of the testing?
- What is the established procedures for positive tests results? Do you communicate with the relevant federal agencies, with the retailers and manufacturers, and do you communicate with the relevant state agencies where the food product was made?
- What criteria do you use to determine what foods are tested? Are the criteria a risk-ranking based assessment?
- Would you change your program for testing based on information provided by federal agencies?
- Would you consider changing your testing program to select food items that are still under the control of the manufacturers (or at least at retail distribution facilities) to allow for withdrawals of products and limit consumer exposure?

Based on the amount of states who test and the answers given on the survey, the retail committee might make recommendations to standardize the process of testing. This would provide valuable information for both the states performing the tests and retailers who have to respond to positive samples.

Discussion: A sub-committee was formed consisting of Retail Food Committee members, Adam Friedlander; FMI, Dione Crawford; McDonalds, Adam Inman, Elizabeth Nutt and Angela Montalbano. The survey objective was clarified, and the questions were edited.
Committee discussion included: determining if other committees were issuing surveys and stagger the roll out AFDO surveys.
Committee members suggest tightening up the survey questions and include Best Practices.
Angela will edit / add survey questions and discuss with Adam and Dione.
Angela will ask AFDO staff to disseminate survey.

The survey was created with the assistance of Patrick Kennelly and Jim Melvin. The survey was submitted to AFDO retail food program managers. A two-week response time was requested.

We are requesting that you complete the survey by March 4th, 2019. Your feedback is important. The link to the survey is below:

*Responsible for submission of reports*
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HBZ5H65

The survey was sent two times to assure the correct participants were targeted for accurate responses. The responses were obtained and need to be analyzed.

**Recommendations:** Committee members compile results and report results on the AFDO newsletter.

**Executive Committee Action:**
- [x] Approval
- [ ] Disapproval
- Date: 6/17/2019

*Responsible for submission of reports*