AFDO STRIVES TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH...

'Tis the Season -- AFDO Staff Wishes You The Best
No matter how you are celebrating the season this year, the staff of AFDO wants to wish you the very best this holiday, and in the coming year.

There will not be an edition of eNews next Monday, December 30. Enews will return to your inbox on January 6.

The AFDO offices will be closed from December 24th until January 2, 2020 due to staff leave and the holidays. In the event you need assistance during this time, please contact Executive Director Steven Mandernach at smandernach@afdo.org or by calling 515-494-6808. For communications needs, please contact Brooke Benschoter at bbenschoter@afdo.org or 515-202-1396.

5 Tips to Consider When Preparing Recommendations to Change Retail Food Policy

The FDA’s Retail Food Protection Staff has announced the posting of “5 Tips to Consider When Preparing Recommendations to Change Retail Food Policy.”

Developing recommended changes for the most effective, efficient, and feasible policy for retail food is challenging. This tip sheet provides information individuals
alternative solutions and outlining potential consequences.

In addition to the 5 Tips, a poster is also available for display on the FDA’s website.

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**Hahn Confirmed as 24th FDA Commissioner; Full Agenda Ahead**

Dr. Stephen M. Hahn, a radiation oncologist at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas has been confirmed as the 24th commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration. Commissioner Scott Gottlieb left the FDA in April. Read more about the new commissioner:

- Senate Confirms Dr. Stephen Hahn as New FDA Commissioner
- Hahn Confirmed as New FDA Chief

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**Key to Working with Legislators is Attention**
Legislators both national and state are packing up their bags and heading home. A new session of most starts in January. In this week’s AFDO podcast, we look at ways to make your work with legislators more effective in 2020. We sat down with Doug Farquhar, Program Director for Environmental Health for the National Conference of State Legislatures, as he shared tips for helping state representatives as knowledgeable as they can be when they address issues that impact AFDO members.

You can access the AFDO podcast catalog at the following links. Videos can be found at https://afdo.podbean.com/ and audio podcasts at https://afdoaudio.podbean.com/. Or download the AFDO app (IT’S FREE) so you can listen or watch on the go. The app is available for iPhone and Android.

**Midwest Environmental Sample Training Workshop Opportunity February 2020**

Register now for this unique and effective training held February 4th and 6th. Environmental samples can often link an illness to an establishment for a period of time after food is no longer available. Learn the basics and more about how to conduct environmental sampling in retail food (restaurants, grocery, etc.) for outbreak investigations including practical exercises. A day-long training for those who will be training others will be held after the first session on February 4th – that session is a requirement for the train the trainer session on February 5th. Learn how to train your staff to properly conduct an environmental sampling in retail food establishments for outbreak investigations including practical exercises.

These sessions will be held at Iowa State University’s Hansen Agricultural Student Learning Center from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day. Registration is open at the links below.
Environmental Sampling Training Train the Trainer

Thursday, February 6 - http://www.afdo.org/event-3636700

Wednesday, February 5 - http://www.afdo.org/event-3636751 (Note you must have completed the training session on February 4th to participate in this train the trainer session.)

PFP IT WG Winter Newsletter

PFP’s IT workgroup recently released the first issue of their newsletter. Readers can
Conference for Food Protection - Issue Submission Now Open!

Do you have a burning retail food protection issue that you want the Conference for Food Protection to address? Do you wonder if you're the only one?

AFDO is here to help. Submit your idea for an issue to the AFDO Retail Food Committee. We will compile all the ideas and facilitate a coordinated issue submission on consensus issues.

You may submit your issues directly to AFDO afdo@afdo.org

Angela Montalbano angela.montalbano@agriculture.ny.gov, Elizabeth Nutt eanutt@tulsa-health.org
Adam Inman adam.inman@ks.gov

2020 Crumbine Award Application Is Open

The Samuel J. Crumbine Consumer Protection Award is a prestigious award given annually to local environmental health jurisdictions that demonstrate unsurpassed achievement in providing outstanding food protection services to their communities. The purpose of the award is to encourage innovative programs and methods that reduce or eliminate the occurrence of foodborne illnesses, recognize the importance of food protection at the local level and stimulate public interest in foodservice sanitation. Often, winning programs offer "best practices" that may be used by others to advance their own food protection programs. See guidelines and apply....
It's time to start thinking about AFDO Awards...

Do you know of someone that deserves recognition? AFDO's awards are presented annually at the Annual Educational Conference during the Wiley Award banquet. The awards are administered by the Awards Committee Chair, with subcommittees for the Wiley and Associate Member that are chaired by the immediate past recipient.

Here's a list of each AFDO Award:

- Achievement
- Industry Associate Member
  - Elliot O. Grosvenor
- Scholarship

FDA News

Trump Administration takes historic steps to lower U.S. prescription drug prices

Proposed rule could allow certain prescription drugs to be imported from Canada; draft guidance explains how manufacturers could import drugs, biological products originally intended for sale in another country

Today, President Trump, along with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) that, if finalized, would allow for the importation of certain prescription drugs from Canada. In addition, the Administration is announcing the availability of a new draft guidance for industry that describes procedures drug
The NPRM issued today is the first step in implementing a provision of federal law that would allow for the importation of certain prescription drugs from Canada under specific conditions that ensure the...Read more...

Texas Manager Pleads Guilty to Pet Food Fraud, Company Pays $4.5 Million Restitution

The manager of a Wilbur-Ellis Company processing facility in Texas pleaded guilty in federal court today to his role in a multi-million dollar conspiracy to sell adulterated ingredients to pet food manufacturers, for which the company has already paid more than $4.5 million in restitution.

William Douglas Haning, 48, pleaded guilty before U.S. Chief District Judge Rodney Sippel in the Eastern District of Missouri to one count of conspiracy to introduce adulterated and/or misbranded food into interstate commerce and one count of money laundering. Read more...

FDA Makes Available Results from Second Round of Testing for PFAS in Foods from the General Food Supply

Today the FDA is posting results from the second round of testing for 16 types of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in foods collected for the Total Diet Study (TDS). These findings, along with the first round of testing results posted in October 2019, will inform our continued work to understand the occurrence of PFAS in the general food supply. TDS foods represent a broad range of foods, including breads, cakes, fruits, dairy vegetables, meats, poultry, fish, and bottled water, that the average consumer might eat and that were not specifically collected from areas of known environmental PFAS contamination. Read more...
Opportunity Announcement for the Laboratory Flexible Funding Model (LFFM) (U18) Clinical Trial Not Allowed

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Office of Regulatory Affairs (ORA), Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) and Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) intends to publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) to solicit applications for a new laboratory flexible funding model cooperative agreement. This cooperative agreement is intended to enhance the capacity and capabilities of eligible human and animal food testing laboratories in support of an integrated food safety system, specifically, through sample testing in the areas of microbiology, chemistry, and radiochemistry, and the development of special projects that would support and expand that testing. This project will strengthen and improve the collaboration of surveillance and emergency response testing activities between the FDA and our laboratory partners to continue building a nationally integrated laboratory science system.

This Notice is being provided to allow potential applicants sufficient time to develop meaningful collaborations and responsive projects.

The FOA is expected to be published in early 2020 with an expected application due date sixty days (60) after publication. Read more...

(Updated) NACCHO and FDA Announce the Ninth Year of the Retail Program Standards Mentorship Program

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) and Office of Regulatory Affairs (ORA) are pleased to announce the ninth cohort of a mentorship program for retail food regulatory programs.

The Mentorship Program is funded through a Cooperative Agreement between FDA and NACCHO. The peer mentorship program provides opportunities to learn, share experiences, and acquire tools and resources related to the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards (Retail Program Standards).
program pairs retail food regulatory program practitioners who are experienced in applying the Retail Program Standards with those newly enrolled and/or looking for assistance, guidance, tools, resources, and recommendations for continued success. Participants design plans for reaching program milestones, conduct self-assessments, develop improvement plans, and conduct verification audits, among other learning activities. The Mentorship Program has helped participants from the first eight cohorts improve their inspection programs, train more inspection staff, enhance customer service, and implement innovative strategies to reduce risk factors at retail that may cause or contribute to foodborne illness outbreaks. Funding from the program has also helped participants purchase equipment needed for conducting inspections.

This year’s cohort is the largest ever and consists of 37 participants, including 12 mentors and 25 mentees, from across the nation. For the first time, we have a participant from Saipan, the largest island of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in the western Pacific Ocean! In addition to assistance and guidance provided by the peer mentors, staff from NACCHO, FDA’s Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition’s (CFSAN), Retail Food Protection Staff and Retail Food Specialists from the Office of Regulatory Affairs’ Office of State Cooperative Programs will provide technical assistance to all participants in the Mentorship Program.

The 37 participants began the Mentorship Program with a kick off meeting in December 2019 and will complete it at the end of August 2020. A highlight of the program is a site visit by the mentees to meet and work with their mentors and an end of program year meeting in the Washington, DC area for all participants to report on progress and share experiences. Throughout the program year, resources and tools developed by program participants will be shared with other regulatory programs and two “sharing session” webinars on retail food topics will be scheduled and made available to all jurisdictions on the NACCHO web site.

For more information on the Mentorship Program and the NACCHO-FDA Cooperative agreement, contact the Project Officer, Pete Salsbury (Peter.Salsbury@fda.hhs.gov) or visit Mentorship Program for the Retail Program Standards or FDA’s Retail Program Standards websites.

The following are the Mentor and Mentee teams that will be working together for the 2019-2020 mentorship year:

**Mentor: Boulder County Public Health, CO**
Mentees: Marion Public Health, OH and City of Plano Environmental Health and
Mentor: Fairfax County Health Department, VA
Mentees: Prince William Health District, VA; Peninsula Health District, VA; Rappahannock Rapidan Health District, VA; Henrico County Health District, VA; and Fairhaven, MA

Mentor: Gwinnett, Newton, and Rockdale Health Departments, GA
Mentee: Lenowisco Health District, VA

Mentor: Harris County Public Health, TX
Mentees: Hardin County Health Department, TX; Jasper Newton County Public Health District, TX; and Gasconade County Health Department, MO

Mentor: New River Health District, VA
Mentees: Hampton Health Department, VA; Lord Fairfax Health District, VA; and Three Rivers Health District, VA

Mentor: Oakland County Health Division, VA
Mentees: Hennepin County Public Health, MN and Portage County Health District, OH

Mentor: Richmond County Health Department, NC
Mentees: Randolph County Health Department, NC

Mentor: Riverstone Health, MT
Mentee: Trempealeau Health Department, WI

Mentor: Southern Nevada Health District, NV
Mentees: Union County Health Department, OH and Mecklenburg County Public Health Department, NC

Mentor: Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, WA
Mentee: Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (Saipan), MP

Mentor: Vineland Health Department, NJ
Mentees: Chatham Health District, CT; Jefferson County Health Department, WV and West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District, CT
Other Training Opportunities

Preventive Controls for Human Foods and Foreign Supplier Verification Programs

Preventive Controls for Human Foods Course (PCQI)
Course Information

Foreign Supplier Verification Programs Course (FSVP)
Course Information

Intentional Adulteration Conducting Vulnerability Assessments (IAVA)
Course Information

EAS Consulting Group Training

Codex Opportunities for Food Manufacturers
January 16 at 1:00PM ET

Hygienic Equipment Sanitation - Best Practices for Food Safety
Three-part series - January 29, February 5, and February 12, 2020

Tips to Streamlining the Drug Master File Process
February 12, 2020

Dietary Supplement Labeling Compliance Seminar
April 16 - 17, 2020 - Long Island, NY
EAS Complimentary On-Demand Webinar Understanding GRAS Submissions and Avoiding Data Pitfalls

The Food Safety Doctor LLC
Promoting Public Health and Food Safety through Training and FSMA Awareness

FSPCA Intentional Adulteration Vulnerability Assessments Qualified Individual (IAVA-QI) Training

- January 29, 2020: Tampa, Florida
- February 5, 2020: Grand Rapids, Michigan
- February 26, 2020: San Juan (Dorado) Puerto Rico
- March 17, 2020: Singapore, Singapore
- April 1, 2020: New Orleans Louisiana

Register here

FSPCA Preventive Controls For Human Foods Qualified Individuals (PCQI)

- January 14-16, 2020: Online training; no travel required

Back to top

Laws and Regulations Committee Updates

Laws and Regulations Committee Update
product regulatory issues and news

December 16 - 17, 2019
December 18 - 19, 2019
December 20, 2019

Back to top

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