AFDO STRIVES TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH...

124th AFDO Annual Educational Conference - Early Bird Registration Now OPEN!

This year's annual educational conference will be co-hosted by the Western Association of Food and Drug Officials and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The Conference will take place in Phoenix, AZ from June 27 - July 1, 2020
and find out how they are managing common challenges.

In addition, several training opportunities will be offered the Friday before the conference, June 26th, including an active managerial train the trainer session and a workshop for new program managers among others. If you have interest in the additional learning opportunities, announcements will be out shortly so don't make your travel plans just yet.

Early Bird registration is open until March 15, so register ASAP to get the discounted rate!

REGISTER

CDC Meeting Outlines Retail Foodborne Outbreak Work

Last Friday AFDO Board member Natalie Adan, Food Safety Division Director at Georgia Department of Agriculture, and Executive Director Steven Mandernach visited the CDC in Atlanta to discuss work in foodborne illness outbreaks at the retail level. This is a priority for both the CDC and AFDO this year. Meetings with Dr. Laura Brown, Behavioral Scientist at the CDC (pictured with Mandernach above) as well as Adam
You Too Can Estimate the Cost of Environmental Sampling

Thanks to the work of brothers Charlie and Michael Kalish, you have access to a handy tool that will help you accurately forecast the investment in environmental sampling. Michael Kalish is Director of Food Safety & Compliance for Zume Forward, Zume Inc and Charlie Kalish, Food Safety & Compliance Consultant, SQF Trainer, FSPCA Lead Instructor (PCHF, PCAF, FSVP, IAVA) and Owner of Food Safety Guides

They share the why of sampling and why understanding the costs are important in this podcast. You can access the calculator on the AFDO website.


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.

IFPTI Fellowship Program Continues to Gain Awareness (and Students)
One of the highlights of the 2019 AFDO Education Conference in Atlanta where the poster presentations done by the IFPTI Fellows. This event is just one part of this unique program offered by the International Food Protection Training Institute (IFPTI) and funded by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Individuals who perform food protection regulatory functions at the federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial level, with at least 4 years of experience in the food regulatory field are eligible. The program is the subject of an extensive feature in the current issue of Food Safety Magazine.

**Deadline Extended: Scholarship Program Seeks Applicants**
Maybe you have had an intern or you know a college student who has interest in the professional. Yi could be their hero by telling them about this scholarship opportunity. The Association of Food and Drug officials offers three $2,500 undergraduate scholarships each spring. To be eligible, students should be a junior with a 3.0 grade average during first two years of undergraduate study with demonstrated leadership capabilities and a desire to serve in a career of research, regulatory work, quality control, or teaching in an area related to some aspect of foods, drugs, or consumer product safety. Apply by March 15, 2020. Application info may be found at: http://www.afdo.org/awards under scholarship.

Food Safety and Inspection Service Plan Unveiled

USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service rolled out a new annual plan at a meeting in Austin with small meat and poultry operators. Mindy Brashears, USDA’s deputy undersecretary for food safety, described a sort of stream of consciousness in producing the new plan. Read the article
Become a sponsor for the AFDO Annual Educational Conference

Is there something that you want to see at the AFDO conference? Or do you want to be recognized for assisting at the conference? Consider being a sponsor of the AFDO conference!

Sponsorship offers

- Visibility to both the regulatory and industry communities
- Positions your organization as a supporter of AFDO, a nationally recognized nonprofit

We offer several levels of sponsorship, and your company name and logo will appear on signage displayed during your sponsored event. A list of Sponsors will also be posted on the AFDO website conference pages, with links to their organizations’ website. Please visit the AFDO Conference website to learn how to become a sponsor.

Reducing Risk for Expectant Mothers

Immune system changes in pregnant women place the women themselves, their unborn children, and their newborns at increased risk of foodborne illness. For pregnant women, basic home food safety is critical.

CDC estimates that Listeria is the third leading cause of death from food poisoning in the United States. As Trissi’s story shows, Listeria infection can cause life-threatening complications for mother and baby.

According to the CDC:

1. Pregnant women are **10 times more likely** than other people to get Listeria infection.
2. Pregnant Hispanic women are **24 times more likely** than other people to get Listeria infection.
3. Pregnant women with a Listeria infection can **pass the infection** to their unborn babies.
4. Listeria infection can cause **miscarriages, stillbirths, and preterm labor**.

Listeria infection can cause **serious illness and even death in newborns**.

**These resources will help you support the good health of moms-to-be:**
Stop Being Busy, Start Being Productive

We all suffer from the "busyness disease." Over 60% of working Americans say they don’t have enough time to do the things they want to do. And 40% of full-time working moms say they Always feel rushed!

The scarcest resource professionals and leaders have is their time (not money or people or influence). Time. And it's why the top frustrations of leaders are typically not having enough time, struggling to balance priorities, not being proactive enough and reacting to everyone else’s priorities, and spending too much time doing work that someone else should be doing.

But there is good news...we have a lot more time than we think we do. One study found that people who say they work 75-hours per week overestimated their working time by about 25 hours!

There are 4 kinds of work that consume our time: Green Light, Yellow Light, Orange Light and Red Light Work. But only Green Light Work will give you a successful career.

AFDO Continuing Education Tuition Reimbursement Awards

In 2017, AFDO established a non-traditional continuing education tuition reimbursement fund to be awarded annually to worthy officials who are currently employed at a state, local, tribal, or territorial government agency and are returning to college or continuing their education to seek better career and work opportunities. Each award amount is not to exceed $1500 and is not renewable. This scholarship is coordinated for AFDO by the Professional Development Committee.

All applications must be received by April 15 of the current year to be considered for the current year’s award.

Exhibit at the AFDO Annual Educational Conference

The Conference will give you the opportunity to network and market your products/services to approximately 300 top-level decision-makers, representing Federal and State health and agriculture departments, as well as industry members representing the food and drug markets. A list of Exhibitors will be posted on the AFDO
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

U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Office of Regulatory Affairs

Strategic Plan Development

FDA's Office of Regulatory Affairs is in the process of developing a 10-year strategic plan. FDA is interested in stakeholder input and would appreciate your feedback. Please take a few minutes and respond to FDA's short three question survey: https://www.fda.gov/federal-state-local-tribal-and-territorial-officials/ora-strategic-planning-initiative/ora-strategic-plan-development-survey. The survey responses will help FDA refine the objectives for their strategic plan and ensure that issues important to its stakeholders are incorporated and addressed. Please complete the survey by March 13th.
Last Installment of Draft Guidance for the IA Rule has been released

The Food and Drug Administration issued the third and last installment of draft guidance designed to support compliance with the Intentional Adulteration (IA) Rule under the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA).

This Supplemental Draft Guidance adds to the previously published draft guidance with chapters covering topics focusing on food defense corrective actions, food defense verification, reanalysis, and recordkeeping. The installment also includes appendices on FDA’s online Mitigation Strategies Database and how businesses can determine their status as a small or very small businesses under the rule.

Compliance requirements for large facilities began in July 2019; inspections will begin in March 2020.

FDA Food Defense

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
Dietary Supplement Labeling Compliance Seminar
April 14 - 15, 2020 - Long Island, NY

Food 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 Individuals (IAVA-QI) Certificate Training.

- April 1, 2020: New Orleans, LA
- June 9, 2020: San Juan, P.R.
- October 14, 2020: Grand Prairie
- Date TBD: Singapore

https://thefoodsafetydoctorllc.com/fspca-iava-qio-course-sc

FSPCA Preventive Controls for Human Foods Qualified Individuals (PCQI) Certificate Training. & International HACCP Alliance (HACCP) Deep Dive Training

- April 21-23, 2020: PCQI: Grand Prairie, Texas
- June 16-18, 2020: HACCP Deep Dive Grand Prairie, Texas
- September 8-9, 2020: HACCP Deep Dive Grand Prairie, Texas

https://thefoodsafetydoctorllc.com/fspca-pcqi-training-1

FSPCA Foreign Supplier Verification Program Qualified Individuals (FSVP-QI) Certificate Training.

- August 11-12, 2020: FSVP-QI: Grand Prairie, Texas

https://thefoodsafetydoctorllc.com/fspca-fsvp-qio-training

Back to top
Laws and Regulations Committee Update
A collection of current food, drug, device, and consumer product regulatory issues and news

February 14 - 18, 2020
February 19 - 20, 2020