USDA Releases Interim Rule for Establishment of Hemp Production Program for Public Comments

This rule establishes a new part specifying the rules and regulations to produce hemp. This action is mandated by the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, which amended the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946. This rule outlines provisions for the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to approve plans submitted by States and Indian Tribes for the domestic production of hemp. It also establishes a Federal plan for producers in States or territories of Indian Tribes that do not have their own USDA-approved plan. The program includes provisions for maintaining information on the land where hemp is produced,
testing the levels of delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol, disposing of plants not meeting necessary requirements, licensing requirements, and ensuring compliance with the requirements of the new part. Read more and/or submit comments

FDA Makes Available Testing Method for PFAS in Foods and Final Results from Recent Surveys

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is making available a scientifically validated method for testing for 16 types of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in a variety of food groups. The FDA continues to lead national efforts to estimate overall dietary exposure to PFAS and this is an important step in furthering collaboration between the FDA and states in assessing the safety of human and animal food from specific areas potentially affected by environmental contamination.

Today, we are also sharing final results from our limited food sample testing in three surveys released in June, based on the application of the validated method, which established a method detection limit (MDL) for each food group tested. These three surveys included a general sampling of foods collected as part of FDA's Total Diet Study (TDS), as well as a survey of produce and a survey of dairy products, both from specific areas affected by PFAS environmental contamination.

The final results show reductions in the number of positive samples compared to our initial results. These reductions stem in part from the application of the newly established MDL, the level at which PFAS can be reliably measured over repeated testing. In our initial testing, we reported very low levels of certain PFAS chemicals in certain foods and as we validated the method and finalized our results, some of those concentrations are below the MDL and therefore are no longer reported as having detectable levels of PFAS.

**Total Diet Study:** The final results confirm and strengthen our initial finding that the specific PFAS chemicals we tested for were not detected in most of the food samples that had been collected in 2017 as part the FDA's Total Diet Study. TDS is a sample of foods representative of the broad range of foods that the average consumer might eat and that are not associated with known environmental contamination.
many cases at very low levels) in 14 out of 91 samples. The results released today show detectable levels of certain PFAS chemicals in only two of 91 samples.

In addition, the final results include updated data for a single chocolate cake sample and a single chocolate milk sample tested as part of the sampling of foods from the Total Diet Study. With additional research, we were able to determine that chocolate appears to produce false-positives in the method, affecting results for both of these foods. Though initially the chocolate cake sample showed a high value for one type of PFAS, we have determined that there is no detectable PFAS in either chocolate-containing food. To prevent similar types of false positives, the analytical method now includes an additional step in the procedures to confirm measurements are accurate.

**Produce Survey**: For the survey of 20 produce samples from a specific geographic area affected by environmental PFAS contamination, the number of samples with a detectable level of at least one PFAS has gone down from 19 to 16 samples. The concentrations of the PFAS chemicals found in the 16 produce samples were so low that we affirm our determination that these substances, at the levels found in the samples, are not a human health concern.

**Dairy Survey**: For the survey of dairy samples analyzed from two farms with PFAS contamination of groundwater, the final results indicate that the milk samples that were previously determined to be a health concern still had high levels of at least one PFAS, with our conclusions unchanged. All milk samples that were determined to be a potential human health concern were discarded and did not enter into the food supply.

The FDA is currently analyzing additional TDS samples to increase our baseline knowledge of PFAS occurrence in foods and expects to release those results later this year. As new information becomes available, we will continue to share updates on fda.gov.

Federal and state partners each have important roles to play to better understand PFAS exposures and potential health effects, and the FDA will continue to work with our partners to help inform appropriate next steps to protect and promote public health. FDA is available to provide technical
For More Information:

- FDA's PFAS webpage, including final data tables: Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)
- FDA's Constituent Update: FDA Makes Available Testing Method for PFAS in Foods and Final Results from Recent Surveys
- Scientific method: Determination of 16 Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in Food using Liquid Chromatography-Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) (Version 2019)

FDA's Statement: Statement on FDA's scientific work to understand per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in food, and findings from recent FDA surveys

FDA Publishes Proposed Rule To Establish Laboratory Accreditation Program for Food Testing

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is proposing to establish a program for the testing of food by accredited laboratories as required by the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) as part of a proposed rule published today. The laboratory accreditation program, once established, will require testing of human and animal food in certain circumstances by accredited laboratories. Accredited laboratories would be required to follow model standards and would be subject to oversight by FDA-recognized accreditation bodies to help ensure consistently reliable testing results. Currently, the FDA requires certain food testing, including environmental testing, to be conducted to help determine safety. The testing is largely completed by private laboratories that may conform to a variety of standards and be subject to various levels of oversight. Under the new proposed program, only laboratories accredited by an Accreditation Body (AB) recognized by the FDA will be able to conduct food testing in certain circumstances, which are outlined in the proposed rule. Further, the results will be required to be sent directly to the FDA by the accredited laboratories.

Please see the link below for more information,
https://www.fda.gov/food/cfsan-constituent-updates/fda-publishes-proposed-
FDA, CDC and other health partners investigated outbreak of E. coli O157:H7 possibly linked to romaine lettuce, outbreak appears to be over

Today, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is sharing news of a recent E. coli O157:H7 outbreak, involving 23 illnesses, that was likely associated with romaine lettuce. No deaths were reported. The active investigation has reached its end and the outbreak appears to be over. The FDA and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control did not identify actionable information for consumers during this investigation. Additionally, when romaine lettuce was identified as the likely source of the outbreak, the available data at the time indicated that the outbreak was not ongoing and romaine lettuce eaten by sick people was past its shelf life and no longer available for sale. The FDA is communicating details about the outbreak at this time to help ensure full awareness by the public and to highlight the ongoing importance of industry actions to help ensure the safety of leafy greens. Federal health officials do not believe there is a current or ongoing risk to public health. Read more...

AFDO participates in Food Incubation Summit

The annual Food Incubation Summit was held in Austin, Texas, October 23 and 24, complete with education sessions, tours and networking. AFDO's own at-large board member Angela Montalbano participated in a panel that included Ned Klien, Mile Rock; Cathy Davies, Food Industry Employment Program; and moderator Jennifer Underwood, Crossroads food network. Kitchens as a service (KAAS) are spreading around the country, propelled by America’s changing tastes and an expanding market for healthy, fresh, local, and sustainable specialty foods. By providing entrepreneurs, producers, and food access programs with affordable commercial kitchen space, KAAS can help strengthen local food systems and build community prosperity.
The week before Montalbano presented information on AFDO's Shared/Incubator Kitchen Guidance Document at the TEHA (Texas Environmental Health Association) 64th Annual Educational Conference held in Austin, Texas

The conference focused on regulating incubator kitchens.

The Rapid Road to Cannabis and Hemp at the State Level
There has been increased legislative activity at the state level on both cannabis and hemp. We sat down with Doug Farquhar, Program Director for Environmental Health for the National Conference of State Legislatures and discussed how legislation is being developed and often passed across the country. Farquhar also shares ideas for working with representatives who make these key decisions. You can access the 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.

Recording Available: Food Service Risk-Factor Violation Trends

Wonder what's happening with risk factor violations across the country? EcoSure Health Department Intelligence has collected public health department inspection data for more than 1.75 million facilities encompassing 2300 or 82% of the total jurisdictions in the US and Canada and analyzed the data. Learn
AFDO Retail Webinar Series

Norovirus: Just-In Time Refresher for Retail Food Industry and Regulatory

Date: November 8, 2019
Time: 2:00PM ET

Winter is coming, and that means norovirus associated with retail food establishments.

This webinar will include the following:

- 101 about norovirus and why it is often associated with retail food establishment outbreaks;
- Prevention strategies for norovirus; and
- Best practices in norovirus investigation.

Presenters include:

- Dr. Laura Brown, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Dr. Aron Hall, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- DJ Irving, Tennessee Department of Health

Register

Electronic Cigarettes/Vaping Updates
E-Cigarettes have dominated major news headlines. #NCSL looks at recent laws and regulations on lung disease outbreak related to #vaping.

FDA and CD Resources Related to Vaping:


https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/severe-lung-disease.html

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**National Environmental Assessment Reporting System (NEARS) Funding Opportunity**

The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is offering a new funding opportunity to support state, tribal, local or territorial governmental food safety agencies not yet participating in NEARS. The purpose of the grant is to expand participation in NEARS, which is a surveillance system that captures environmental assessment data from foodborne illness outbreak investigations to improve your food safety program. Deadline to submit is **November 22, 2019**. Click [here](https://www.fda.gov/news-events/public-health-focus/lung-illnesses-associated-use-vaping-products) for additional details and to access the Request for Proposal.
Announcement: InFORM 2020 Conference: Registration is Now Open!

Dates: March 9 - 12, 2020
Location: Atlanta, GA

The Integrated Foodborne Outbreak Response and Management (InFORM) Conference will take place March 9-12, 2020, in Atlanta, GA. This meeting will bring together laboratorians, epidemiologists, and environmental health specialists involved with foodborne and enteric disease outbreak response. The John J. Guzewich Environmental Public Health Award is for EH professionals with responsibility for response and management of foodborne illness outbreaks.

View the Flyer
Visit the website

InFORM 2020: Travel Scholarship Award Requests:

Dates: March 9 - 12, 2020
Location: Atlanta, GA

Participants from local/state public health departments are expected to use ELC funding awards to attend this conference. However, there are a small number of travel scholarships which will be available to participants who work on a regular basis with foodborne disease surveillance and outbreak response activities. Please fill out the Travel Sponsorship Request Form by November 30, 2019.

View the Flyer
Visit the website
Announcement: NEW TEXTBOOK – Food Fraud Prevention, A Textbook to Support Introduction, Implementation and Management

Announcing the first textbook on Food Fraud Prevention, based on ten years of research, outreach, and teaching effort. Ten years after the 2009 journal article “Introduction to the Public Health Threat of Food Fraud,” the discipline has grown from “what is it?” and “is it really a problem?” through to “how to start?” and “how much is enough?” This textbook provides a one-stop guide for the introduction to the topic, implementation of the food fraud vulnerability assessments and prevention strategy, through to management of the ongoing strategy. Read more and/or ordering details...

Laws and Regulations Committee Survey

The Laws and Regulations Committee would like your feedback on educational webinars that were arranged through the Laws and Regulations Committee. The Committee would like to focus on webinars and content that would best serve the AFDO membership. Please take the short survey below to provide your feedback.

Take Survey

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

**MCAFDO Save the Date**

Save the Date for the 2020 MCAFDO Conference!

**When: February 25-26, 2019**
When: Embassy Suites Northwest Arkansas, Rogers AR

Stay tuned for details!

View the Flyer
MCAFDO Website
Call for Nominations - FMI Food Safety Innovation Award

The FMI Food Safety Innovation Award presented annually in conjunction with the International Food Protection Training Institute (IFPTI) to a company or organization for demonstrating a commitment to the advancement of food protection through performance, practice, creation, sustainment, or leadership.

Download Nomination Form

Job Opportunities

Food Safety Compliance Specialist 2 "Animal Feed Program" - WA Department of Agriculture

This position serves the Animal Feed Program in carrying out objectives and tasks in its strategic action plan by performing feed inspections, investigations, and sample collection at any facility within the state in which commercial feeds are manufactured, transloaded, processed, packed, distributed, or held for distribution, or vehicles being used to transport or hold such feedsto protect animals and humans from misbranded or adulterated food. In addition, this position serves as the primary liaison between industry partners and the Animal Feed Program for technical assistance related to animal feed. Read more and/or apply...

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

Dietary Supplement GMP Enforcement - A Look at Recent FDA Conversations and Warning Letters
November 7, 2019
Cutting Edge Technologies & Analytical Methods for Detecting Food Fraud
November 12, 2019
Dietary Supplement Labeling Compliance Review Seminar
November 12-13 2019, Irvine, CA
Food Labeling Compliance Seminar
November 14-15, 2019, Irvine, CA
Dietary Supplement Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) Compliance Seminar
November 14-15, 2019, Irvine, CA