FDA Public Meeting in Support of "New Era of Smarter Food Safety"
Monday, October 21, comments were collected at the FDA public meeting in support of a "New Era of Smarter Food Safety." AFDO Vice President Mark Sestak from Alabama Department of Health, Secretary/Treasurer Natalie Adan from Georgia Department of Agriculture, Past President Steve Moris from the Kansas Department of Agriculture, and Executive Director Steven Mandernach represented AFDO at the meeting. Sestak addressed the meeting. His comments can be found here in full. Mandernach was on a Perspectives on a New Era of Smarter Food Safety Panel. His full comments can be found here.

View Mark Sestak's comments
View Steve Mandernach's Comments
Take a look at the blog post

Kansas Professional Shares Food Safety Successes and His Musical Approach
We enjoyed visiting with AFDO members around the country during September's Food Safety Education Month so much, we kept on going. This week's podcast is with Adam Inman, Assistant Program Manager, Food Safety and Lodging, Kansas Department of Agriculture. He shares his team's successes with crossing the language barrier in food service, making a point of sharing with colleagues beyond Kansas, and sharing the Kansas approach as often as possible. Inman, pictured above with his guitar, also shared an approach he is about to launch that marries music and food safety education. Check out the podcast here!

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

AFDO Presents at NEHA
AFDO Director of Produce, Brenda Morris presented at the New Mexico Environmental Health Association annual meeting in Albuquerque, NM welcomed by William Chavex, NMED Bureau Chief, Bart Faris NMEHA President and John Rhoderick, VP NMEHA, to share about the connections and collaborations AFDO has to offer to protect the public.

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.
22, 2019

Just over twenty years ago, environmental health professionals and industry experts developed the first NEHA Body Art Model Code (BAMC). In the time since the original code was released, body art has become much more accepted, diverse, and popular.

In Spring of 2016, NEHA began working with subject matter experts and national partners to develop an updated Body Art Model Code (BAMC). The updated BAMC was created with input from environmental health and industry professionals, and addresses the ways body art impacts public health, both old and new. The BAMC is available for local and state agencies and other organizations to use as a resource to update their own body art codes and protect public health. View the NEHA Body ARt Model Code.

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 for additional details and to access the Request for Proposal.

InFORM Environmental Public Health Award is Open for Nominations!

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. The nomination deadline is December 6, 2019. To learn more about the meeting, award criteria, and available travel scholarships for local, state, tribal or federal agencies or departments, click HERE. Travel scholarship applications are due by COB October 31.

View the website
View the flyer

USP Call for Candidates
USP is looking for volunteers from a wide range of scientific, academic, and professional backgrounds.

More information
Volunteer opportunities

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

FDA News

FDA Issues Final Rule on Calorie Labeling for Glass-Front Vending Machines

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is issuing a final rule to revise the type size requirements for calorie labeling on packaged foods sold in glass-front vending machines. The changes will reduce the regulatory burden on industry while ensuring that consumers continue to have visible front-of-package (FOP) calorie information as they purchase an item.

The rule issued today finalizes the 2018 proposed rule and requires that the FOP calorie declaration type size be at least 150 percent (one and one-half times) the minimum required size of the net weight declaration on the package of the food item.

FDA previously required that the type size for calorie information be at least 50
percent of the size of the largest printed item on the label for items being sold in glass-front vending machines with FOP labeling to convey calorie information to consumers.

Following publication of a final rule in 2014, which established the previous requirements, some trade associations and food manufacturers indicated that this requirement presented significant technical difficulties to the packaged food industry. In response, FDA issued a proposed rule in July 2018 with alternative approaches for type size requirements.

Vending machine operators who own or operate 20 or more vending machines, or who voluntary register with the FDA, are required to declare calories for foods sold from vending machines. Front-of-pack labeling is one way that vending machine operators may comply with the calorie labeling rules.

More on Vending Machine Labeling Requirements

2019 Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Standards Now Available

The Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Standards (MFRPS) have been updated! The Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Alliance (MFRPA) which consists of state programs enrolled in the program standards, evaluated the existing standards, identified proposed changes, and recommended specific modifications to FDA for consideration. FDA accepted the recommended changes and recently published the new standards, which became effective on September 30, 2019. Access a copy of the 2019 MFRPS

Job Opportunities

Food Safety Compliance Specialist 2 "Animal Feed Program" - WA Department of
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 (PCQL)
Course Information

Foreign Supplier Verification Programs Course (FSVP)
Course Information

Intentional Adulteration Conducting Vulnerability Assessments (IAVA)
Course Information

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

Laws and Regulations Committee Updates

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

October 21 - 23, 2019
October 23- 24, 2019
October 25, 2019

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