



Central Atlantic States Association of Food and Drug Officials

SUSQI NEWS

Susquehanna Conference –

December 2011

AFDO news: Plan to Attend the Food Safety Summit

2012 Food Safety Summit - April 17-19, 2012

Join AFDO and IFPTI at the 2012 Food Safety Summit in Washington, DC. AFDO members are entitled to a special 10% discount on registration, and AFDO President, Oscar Garrison, will be delivering the Keynote, entitled, "Building an Integrated Food System: How the Food Industry and Public Health Officials Must Collaborate to Succeed." This keynote will offer the most up-to-date information about some of the hottest food safety issues facing the industry!

The Food Safety Summit is the largest food safety and defense exposition in North America, providing useful food safety information and solutions to those responsible for assuring food safety across the food supply chain, thereby keeping the food safety platform current and relevant for today and tomorrow.

For more information, please visit the [Food Safety Summit Website](#). Early-bird registration ends March 2nd.

FDA Enlists States to Finish Egg Rule Inspections

Article is Courtesy of [Food Safety News](#)

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is going to require a big finish, but it apparently remains on target to complete new egg rule inspections of all 517 American egg producers with 50,000 or more laying hens by Dec. 31.

In a recently released summary of its progress, FDA disclosed that it has more than 100 of its own inspectors on the egg rule beat and that it has signed up 10 states that are providing additional expertise to get the job done.

When the new egg rule took effect in July 2010 with the goal of preventing Salmonella Enteritidis (SE) in table eggs, FDA's register of large producers totaled 604. However, because of large farms that went out of business or cancelled their registrations, the list was cut by 87.

Through the first three quarters of 2011, FDA has completed 41 "comprehensive" and 254 "targeted" inspections of shell egg production facilities. According to the agency, the only difference between the two types of inspections is that the targeted inspections do not include environmental sampling. With as many as 222 inspections left for the final quarter, which ends Dec. 31, it might seem like making the goal is a stretch. However, for the first time, FDA said it has inked contacts and off-loaded 136 inspections to Arkansas, California, Georgia, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance

The FDA is expected to issue proposed rules during early 2012, that would require facilities that make or handle food for people and animals to put measures in place to help prevent foodborne illness. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration in cooperation with the Illinois Institute of Technology's Institute for Food Safety and Health (IIT IFSH) has created the Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance (FSPCA) to develop training courses and materials on preventing contamination for both human and animal food during production. The materials to be developed by the alliance will help industry-particularly small- and medium-size companies-- comply with the new preventive control rules.

The alliance is composed of members from the FDA, local and state food protection agencies, the food industry, and academia. It is funded by a one-year, \$1 million grant to the Illinois Institute of Technology's Institute for Food Safety and Health (IIT IFSH), a nationally-recognized leader in food safety.

Alliance support to industry

Under the FSMA, facilities are required to develop food safety plans that evaluate food safety hazards, and identify the preventive measures to guard against those hazards. The plans must also describe how manufacturers will monitor their preventive measures to ensure they are working, and keep records of that monitoring. Manufacturers also must develop a plan of action to correct problems.

The alliance will:

- develop standardized hazard analysis and preventive controls training and distance education modules for food industry and regulatory personnel;
- design and deliver a state-of-the-art distance learning training portal at the IIT IFSH Moffett Campus in Bedford Park, Ill.;
- develop "train-the-trainer" materials and student education delivery systems
- create a technical assistance network for small- and medium-sized food companies;
- develop commodity/industry sector-specific guidelines for preventive controls;
- assess knowledge gaps and research needs for further enhancement of preventive control measures; and
- identify and prioritize the need for, and compile, critical limits for widely used preventive controls.

SUSQI People in the News...

Happy Retirement to **Howard Rabinovitch**, FDA Philadelphia, previously with the PA Department of Agriculture and long time CASA member.

Congratulations to **Susan and Kevin Polifko**, on the birth of their son, Kevin Gabriel Polifko, October 21, 2011.

Congratulations to **Grandpa and Grandma Veresink**, on the birth of their first grandchild.

Pennsylvania's Stronger Teen Driver Law, Effective December 24th

Measure Limits Passengers, Requires Additional Training

Pennsylvania's new law aimed at increasing safety for young drivers became effective December 24, 2011. The new law increases behind-the-wheel training requirements, places a limit on the number of passengers a young driver can transport and makes not wearing a seatbelt a primary offense for young drivers.

The new law adds 15 hours of supervised, behind-the-wheel training for driver's license permit holders younger than 18, bringing the total to 65 hours. Ten of the additional hours must include driving at night and five hours must occur during poor weather conditions. Current permit-holders younger than 18 who have not yet passed the driving skills test before December 24 will have to meet the requirements of the new law.

Also, as part of the law, drivers younger than 18 will not be permitted to transport more than one passenger who is under 18 and is not an immediate family member unless they are accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. After six months, the junior driver may transport up to three passengers younger than 18 who are not immediate family members without a parent or legal guardian present, but only if that driver has not been convicted of a driving violation or has not been partially or fully responsible for a reportable crash.

The law also requires that junior drivers and passengers under the age of 18 must wear a seat belt, and children under the age of eight must be fastened in a child restraint system. The seat belt provisions of the new law are primary offenses, meaning a driver can be stopped and cited solely for that violation.

More information on the changes for teen drivers can be found at <http://www.dmv.state.pa.us/> by clicking on the "New Teen Driver Law 2011" button.

For more information on young driver safety, visit PennDOT's highway safety website, www.DriveSafePA.org and select the "Young Driver" link under the Traffic Safety Information Center.

Did you know?...

511 PA Travel Info To Go

511PA provides travelers with reliable up-to-the-minute traffic, transit and weather information they need to help them reach their destination in the most efficient manner when traveling in Pennsylvania. You can also access the same information by dialing 511 on your phone and via mobile devices 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

2012 Pennsylvania Farm Show to Offer new Attractions, Time-Honored Favorites



Agriculture Secretary George Greig invites Pennsylvanians to celebrate agriculture – from farm gate to dinner plate – during the 96th Pennsylvania Farm Show, set for January 7-14, at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex an Expo Center in Harrisburg.

The eight-day show, the largest indoor agricultural exhibition in the nation, will feature 6,000 animals, 10,000 competitive exhibits and 300 commercial exhibitors.

The Pennsylvania Farm Show provides a unique opportunity to showcase the great work being done the state’s more than 63,000 farm families to produce quality and safe agricultural products. Whether it’s the thousands of animals, exciting competitions or delicious food, the Farm Show is affordable, educational and fun for the whole family.

Pre-show events on January 5th will include the unveiling of the butter sculpture and PA Preferred Reception. The reception will feature Pennsylvania-produced food and beverages. Tickets for the reception are \$30.

Many new attractions will be added to the 2012 Farm Show, including:

- ❖ Pre-show Food Court – The Farm Show’s famous Food Court will open a day early, starting at 4 p.m. on January 6th. Parking is free only on January 6th.
- ❖ New Family Living exhibitions – as part of the complex renovations, the Family Living area in the Main Hall has been renovated to better showcase homemade food items and handmade wares.
- ❖ Today’s Agriculture display – today’s Agriculture, an exhibit in a full-size barn, is a collaboration between agricultural industry groups to showcase modern production practices used to efficiently and safely produce our food supply.
- ❖ Historical Marker Scavenger Hunt – search for 22 replica historical markers throughout the complex and learn how Pennsylvania is the “Land of Penn and Plenty” as Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission markers bring history to the table.

The Pennsylvania Farm Show runs January 7-13, from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and January 14 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free and parking is \$10. For a complete schedule of Farm Show events, visit www.farmshow.state.pa.us and select tab for “2012 Show”.