



Central Atlantic States Association of Food and Drug Officials

SUSQI NEWS

Susquehanna Conference

July 2008

Greetings!

As I write this message for the July newsletter, the news is filled with headlines such as: How do tomatoes get salmonella?, Tainted Tomatoes? Not Ours, Almost Every State Claims, The Tomato Pickle, Why it takes so long to trace a bad tomato, Why Tomatoes Hate America, The Trouble With Tracing Fruits and Veggies, Rooting Out the Rotten Tomatoes, Food safety on back burner, Salmonella scare forces US restaurants and supermarkets to withdraw tomatoes, and Tomatoes rolling again. Maybe I missed them but I read just one article on educating the public on washing and handling fresh produce. It emphasized to me the importance of our jobs and the need to educate the public and food handlers. To find out the answers to these and other important questions, come to the next Susquehanna Conference CASA meeting on July 17th at the Cabela's Store in Hamburg!

Results of the recent election for the Susquehanna Conference include: Suzanne Yeager was elected Secretary ; Ted Veresink was re-elected Treasurer; and Melissa Vaccaro was re-elected as Susquehanna's Representative to the CASA Board.

Barbara Allerton
President

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

OCTOBER 14, 2008

SEAFOOD HACCP SEGMENT II

OCTOBER 15 - 17, 2008

2008 INTERSTATE SEAFOOD SEMINAR

**PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA
LOOK FOR MORE DETAILS TO COME**



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BLOCK OF ROOMS UNDER "CASA"

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & CASA PRESENT...



2008 Interstate Seafood Seminar

October 15, 16, 17, 2008

*Pre-Seminar Training
"Seafood HACCP Segment II"
October 14, 2008*

INTERSTATE SEAFOOD SEMINAR

What is it...

The ISS is a seminar that has its focus on the seafood industry in the United States. From harvest to consumer, from ocean bound states to inland states, all topics are discussed.

Who should attend...

Government regulators, academia, industry, or anyone who regulates, distributes, sells, produces or processes seafood in the United States.

Why should you attend...

In this ever growing industry, there is an overabundance of regulations to assure the consumers that seafood is safe to consume. Keep yourself and your company in the loop. Find out about new and innovative technology, Country of Origin Labeling requirements, pathogens of concern, seafood at retail initiatives, updates on new regulations, FDA initiatives and much, much more.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 14TH - 8am to 5 pm

"Seafood HACCP Segment II"

OCTOBER 14th - evening 7pm - 9pm

Hospitality suite, Meet and Greet

OCTOBER 15TH 8am to 5pm

VARIOUS SEAFOOD SEMINARS**

OCTOBER 16TH 8am to 5pm

VARIOUS SEAFOOD SEMINARS

OCTOBER 16TH -EVENING 6pm to 8pm

ANNUAL SURF AND TURF BANQUET

OCTOBER 17TH 8am to NOON

VARIOUS SEAFOOD SEMINARS

** Schedule/speakers/registration fee to be provided at a later date.

Seminar contact: **Rachael Weinblum**, Environmental Health Specialist II
Allegheny County Health Department 3333 Forbes Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 (412) 578-7923
rweinblum@achd.net

SUSQUEHANNA CONFERENCE OF CASA QUARTERLY TRAINING MEETING

THURSDAY, July 17, 2008

Cabela's - 2nd Floor Meeting Room
100 Cabela Drive, Hamburg, PA 19526
(610) 929-7000 www.cabelas.com

Cabela's is located at the intersection of I-78 (exit 29) and PA 61

8:30 - 9:00 REGISTRATION/WELCOME –
Barbara Allerton, Susquehanna Conference President

9:00 - 10:00 **PEST CONTROL UPDATE: BEDBUGS, ROACHES, GOING GREEN**
Orkin Pest Control, Technical Staff Representative

10:00 - 10:15 BREAK

10:15 - 11:15 **NEW TECHNOLOGY: USE OF CHEMICALS, CLEANING, SANITIZING, GOING GREEN**
Ecolab, Technical Staff Representative

11:15 - 12:15 **EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATES: INCLUDING-NOW TOMATOES???**
Andre Weltman, MD, Infectious Disease Epidemiologist,
PA Department of Health

12:15 - 1:00 LUNCH @ CABELA'S (on your own)

1:00 - 1:15 BUSINESS MEETING

1:15 – 2:15 **HEALTH ISSUES RELATED TO SWIMMING POOLS**
Chris Sanderson, Environmental Health Specialist
PA Department of Health

2:15 – 3:15 **FOLLOW-UP TO CRYPTOSPORIDIUM OUTBREAK AT A SWIMMING POOL**
Chester County Health Department, Technical Staff

3:15 – 3:45 CRITIQUES & ADJOURNMENT

Pre-registration CASA Quarterly Training Meeting

Deadline: July 14, 2008 - to arrange for adequate seats, refreshments, and to adjust our minimum guarantee for continental breakfast. Cabela's is a very popular site, with a lot to see and do, both before and after our training. Last year, we were filled to capacity. Please register early. YOUR COOPERATION IS SINCERELY REQUESTED.

NAME _____ Agency/Firm _____
Address _____
Email _____ Phone _____

PLEASE BRING A FRIEND OR ASSOCIATE WITH YOU!!

Registration fee: \$10, payable to: CASA, Susquehanna Conference

REGISTRATION CHOICES:

Email to: tveresink@easton-pa.gov or Fax to: 610-250-6607 or
Mail to: CASA, Susq Conference, c/o Easton Health Bureau, 1 S Third Street, Easton, PA 18042

Questions – contact Ted Veresink @ 610 250-6765

SUMMARY OF 92nd CASA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 92nd Annual CASA Conference was held from May 6-9, 2008 at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs, NY. The Northeast NY (NENY) Conference hosted the event in fine fashion, from the "Kick-Off" Reception Tuesday evening to the CASA Business Meeting on Friday morning, when the gavel was turned over to Howard Rabinovitch from the Philadelphia Conference, host of the 93rd Annual Conference in 2009.

Christopher Sortino from the New York Conference served as the Education Chair, and with the help of other CASA members, provided an excellent roster of speakers. Joe Corby, Director of the Division of Food Safety and Inspection for the NYS Department of Ag & Markets, provided the Keynote Address. Joe is a loyal and active member of the NENY Conference of CASA and will soon take on the responsibility part-time as Executive Director of AFDO.

Dr. W. G. Teeter, Executive Director of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency provided the Canadian Keynote Address, and Bruce Skolnick, Deputy Regional Food and Drug Director for FDA provided the FDA Keynote Address.

Other speakers discussed Hand Hygiene – The News on Noro, Reduced Oxygen Packaging, the Castleberry Recall, Vending Machine Terror, Ethnic Foods in Retail Food Establishments, MRSA: Epidemiology and Prevention, as well as many other topics. We were pleased that Bill Chirdon from the PA Department of Agriculture was asked to speak on raw milk. Bill is a member of our Susquehanna Conference and is in the "thick" of this issue here in PA.

The AFDO Address was presented by CASA's own Steve Steingart, President of AFDO this year. This was a "feather in the cap" for CASA. There were several exhibitors that provided excellent information including: AFDO, Albany, NY office of the FBI, Buffalo Office of FDA, NYS Ag & Markets, NYS Dep't of Health, Paster Training, Inc., and WinWam Inspection Software.

The Gordon K. Brown Silent Auction was again very successful, with a wide variety of many items available to be bid on. As usual, the last 5 minutes before the end was the most hectic time with last minute bids. Proceeds totaled \$1756.

During the Thursday evening banquet, our own Ken Hohe was honored with the CASA Special Recognition Award given by Andrew Sufilita, President of CASA. Ken has done much over the years to assist in all aspects of CASA. Susquehanna Conference members were very proud that night! We all knew that the award was much deserved.

The CASA Scholarship was awarded to a very deserving young person from the NENY Conference. According to Melissa Vaccaro, who served on that committee, the applicants this year all were very deserving of this award. The decision was extremely difficult.

This year's CASA Award winner was Glenda Christie from the Pittsburgh Conference. Glenda had served as Director of Food Safety for the Allegheny County Health Department for many years and had been President of CASA several years ago. Glenda now is in the retail food industry, but continues to influence decisions regarding food safety. What a great choice for this award!

All-in-all the conference was excellent. Saratoga Springs, NY provided a lovely background for all to enjoy, including great restaurants, great shopping, the Racino, and a generally great atmosphere.

Next year's conference will be sponsored by the Philadelphia Conference and will be held at the Hilton Philadelphia Airport Hotel. Mark your calendars now for May 12-15, 2009.

Submitted by Suzanne Yeager

NEWS RELEASE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

TO ELIMINATE MOSQUITOES AT HOME: DUMP IT, DRAIN IT, TREAT IT

Simple Measures Can Help Homeowners Prevent Spread of West Nile Virus

After discovering the first positive mosquito sample of the year in neighboring Luzerne County, the Department of Environmental Protection and representatives of Lackawanna County's West Nile program reminded area residents of simple steps they can take to control mosquitoes in their own yards—an important effort in combating the spread of the West Nile virus.

DEP and local coordinators are working to keep mosquito populations under control, but residents can also play a big role in managing these insects. **Remember: dump it if it has water in it; drain it if it can be drained; and treat it if it has standing water.**

These are easy measures that everyone can take in their own back yards to help protect themselves and their family from the West Nile virus.

DEP offers the following tips to eliminate mosquito-breeding sites around the home:

- Identify and eliminate standing water that collects on your property. Mosquitoes will breed in any puddle that lasts for more than four days.
- Dispose of tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots or similar water holding containers, including those that have become overgrown by aquatic vegetation.
- Empty water that may accumulate in discarded tires.
- Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers that are left outside.
- Have clogged roof gutters cleaned annually, particularly if the leaves from surrounding trees tend to block the drains.
- Turn over plastic wading pools when not in use.
- Turn over wheelbarrows and do not allow water to stagnate in birdbaths.
- Aerate ornamental pools or stock them with fish.
- Keep swimming pools clean and chlorinated, and prevent water from collecting on swimming pool covers.

DEP and county West Nile coordinators monitor the type, location and population of immature (larvae and pupae) and adult mosquitoes. This information is then used to treat those areas where high populations of mosquitoes that are known West Nile carriers are found.

Pennsylvania's aggressive approach has contributed to a drop in the number of human West Nile virus cases. The West Nile virus can cause West Nile fever and encephalitis—an infection that can cause inflammation of the brain and death—when transmitted to people.

Last year, the West Nile virus was found in 25 Pennsylvania counties. Ten state residents contracted the virus, but no deaths were reported. In 2006, two of the nine Pennsylvanians who contracted West Nile virus died and in 2005, 25 residents contracted the disease, with no deaths attributed to the virus.

Most people bitten by an infected mosquito will never develop any symptoms, and only one in 150 with symptoms will develop the more serious West Nile encephalitis.

Because mosquitoes acquire the virus from infected birds, residents are reminded to report dead crows, blue jays and hawks. Residents who discover dead birds and would like to submit them for testing should call the local West Nile county coordinator.

When handling dead birds, use rubber gloves. If you do not have gloves, insert your hand into a plastic bag, grasp the bird carefully and invert the bag over the bird. Each bird should be placed in a tied plastic bag and then placed inside a second tied bag.

If you are not submitting the bird for testing, place the bagged bird in the trash. Wash your hands with soap and water.

For more information about West Nile virus, and register for updates via e-mail, visit www.westnile.state.pa.us. People can also call 1-877-PA-HEALTH for information

The Silent Auction--A History

In 1990, during the planning for the annual educational conference of CASA, to be hosted by the Susquehanna Conference, a Susquehanna member suggested that a silent auction be held, with the proceeds used to help fund the Scholarship Fund. Although the president, Gary German, was hesitant about this venture, he told the member who suggested the idea that it could be done, but if it failed, it would be that person's "cross to bear".

The first silent auction held during the annual conference at York, PA raised **\$683.00** for the scholarship fund. Many of the attendees thought it was a novel idea, and seemed to enjoy this event. Gordon K. Brown, an FDA employee, actively participated in the event. Many attendees said they hoped it would continue.

It did continue the next year at Virginia Beach, VA. Gordon Brown contributed many items for the auction, as did a number of other members. The auction in 1991 netted **\$842.00**. After two successful auctions, it was decided to make it an annual event. Since Gordon Brown helped to make it a success, upon his death, the event was named The Gordon K. Brown Silent Auction to benefit the H. Thompson Price Scholarship Fund. To date the event has been held for **19** continuous years, generating a total of **\$26,039.36** for the scholarship fund. Listed below is a year by year total of receipts.

1990-York, PA	\$ 683.00	2000- Saratoga Springs, NY	\$1653.00
1991-VA Beach, VA	842.00	2001- Valley Forge, PA	1859.00
1992-Lake Placid, NY	667.00	2002-Atlantic City,NJ	1280.00
1993-Valley Forge, PA	1339.00	2003- Timonium, MD	1649.00
1994-Long Island, NY	823.50	2004-Pittsburgh, PA	2163.00
1995-Baltimore, MD	1111.11	2005-Niagara Falls, NY	1905.00
1996-Pittsburgh, PA	1151.00	2006-Gettysburg, PA	1896.00
1997-Niagara Falls,NY	1041.00	2007-VA Beach, VA	1633.00
1998-Harrisburg, PA	1493.00	2008-Saratoga Springs, NY	1756.00
1999-VA Beach, VA	1094.00		

Submitted by Ken Hohe