



Central Atlantic States Association of Food and Drug Officials

SUSQI NEWS

Susquehanna Conference

November 2004

President's Message

I hope everyone had a great Trick or Treat and is adjusting to the change in season and change in time. This is the time of year we all start to get busy at home, while the winter blues are looking us in the face. Take some time to get out of your routine and come to a CASA conference. These meetings are not only educational but a chance to network and relax. **Our next meeting is on December 9th at the Susquehanna Township Building in Harrisburg. At this meeting we will discuss Pediatric Issues and Water/Food Vulnerabilities.**

I wanted to take the time to thank Garry Orner for organizing our October meeting at Josephine's Restaurant and Nissley Winery. Our accommodations were wonderful and our speakers were very informative. Those in attendance gave excellent comments. We all now have a better appreciation for the wine industry and know what "terroir" is all about (you'll have to ask someone who was there).

The executive board chose the 2005 meeting dates, tentative locations and topics for next year's meetings. They are as follows:

- **February 17**-Shartsville
"Conventions, Inaugurations and Working for a Presidential or Govonitorial Event" and
"Food Employee Certification Update"
- **April 13 and 14** –Harrisburg
"Cultural Diversity"
- **May 17-20**- CASA Annual Conference in Niagara Falls, NY
- **July 21**- State College
"Nutrition, Fad Diets, Obesity"
- **October 6**-Sunbury
"Retail Food Issues"
- **December 8**-Elizabethtown area
"Dealing with Highly Susceptible Populations"

I hope you can take the time to join us for some of these meetings.

Best of wishes to you, your families and loved ones throughout the Holiday Season. Take the time to appreciate those things that *really* matter in your life!

Melissa Vaccaro, President

PS - May of 2006 is Susquehanna's time to hold the annual conference of CASA. We are beginning to make arrangements and will definitely need volunteers from the conference to help out. We are planning to hold the conference in Gettysburg, PA.



Veteran's Day

November 11

Give a salute to war veterans! It's Veterans Day, when thousands of people visited the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia. At 11 a.m., a color guard representing all military services executed "Present Arms" at the tomb. A presidential wreath was placed on the tomb, symbolizing the nation's remembrance of all those who died fighting for their country. A bugler stepped up and played "Taps." This event takes place every year on November 11, the official holiday in the United States honoring veterans of the armed forces and the men and women who have served in the country's wars. How do you observe Veterans Day? Do you go to a parade? Listen to a speech? Take flowers to a cemetery? As Americans, we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to our veterans and Veteran's Day is our opportunity to express our thanks. Take a moment from your busy day and remember those who paid the highest price to defend and protect our freedom.

Well Water... What You Should Know

EPA has launched a comprehensive new Web site to answer all your questions on private drinking water wells. There you can find links to local resources, answers to frequent questions, health-related information, publications, etc. Check it out at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/privatewells/index2.html>.

Our **Water & Wastewater Tip of the Week** is courtesy of the **American Water Works Association**. With Thanksgiving just around the corner, AWWA offers some simple ideas for conserving water on turkey day.

- Clean vegetables in a sink or pan partially filled with water rather than running water from the tap.
 - If you wash dishes by hand, rinse them in a sink partially filled with clean water instead of running water.
 - Cut down on the amount of rinsing you do before loading the dishwasher. Most modern dishwashers do an excellent job of cleaning dishes, pots and pans all by themselves.
 - Thaw your turkey in the refrigerator instead of running it under tap water.
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[Marketplace for the Mind](#)

PA is home to hundreds of agriculture organizations representing more than 25 commodities from aquaculture to turf. Use this list of [ag organizations](#) (grouped by product or organization type) to access contact information for agriculture's many industry groups.

Real Progress in Food Code Adoptions Quarterly update September 2004

The Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO), under contract to the Food and Drug Administration, is gathering data on the progress of FDA Food Code adoptions by States, Territories, Local and Tribal Nation agencies. Adoption of the Food Code represents a successful federal/state/local partnership in improving food safety. FDA and AFDO's goal is the prevention and reduction of foodborne illness and death from food produced at the retail level. Adoption of the Food Code by all food safety agencies at the federal, state, local and tribal levels establishes a sound regulatory foundation and legal framework for uniformity in achieving such a reduction.

Since the last quarterly report, the state and territorial retail food agencies were resurveyed in order to gather more detailed information pertaining to obstacles encountered during rulemaking, determining whether state agency codes are lacking FDA Model Code elements, and soliciting feedback on assistance that FDA can provide in order to support state rulemaking processes. Sixty-seven (67) of the seventy-one (71) surveyed agencies have completed the 2004 survey, for a 94% response rate. AFDO reports that 45 of 56 States and territories (80%) have adopted codes patterned after the 1993, '95, '97, '99, or 2001 versions of the Food Code. Those 45 states and territories represent 75.6% of the US population. In Virginia, one of their two agencies has a pre-1993 code and is in the rule-making process to adopt the 2001 edition of the Food Code. Of the remaining 11 States and Territories: 7 States, Guam, and the Virgin Islands are actively pursuing Food Code adoption Rulemaking; American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands did not respond to the survey.

Twenty-three of the 56 States and Territories have adopted the 1999 Food Code, representing 38.1% of the US population.

Eleven of the states and territories (Mississippi, Florida, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Wyoming, Colorado, New Hampshire, Vermont, North Dakota, Nebraska and Puerto Rico) have adopted the 2001 Food Code, representing 18.2% of the US population.

Department of Health Influenza Update 11/8/04

The CDC is finalizing a plan for the national distribution of the final unobligated doses of Aventis influenza vaccine to meet the needs of high risk populations but will not necessarily meet all vaccine needs. The remaining doses will be allocated to all 50 states, 8 territories and 4 cities.

Orders placed directly or indirectly by nursing homes and hospitals with Aventis, the US CDC is reporting that Aventis is now in the process of filling these orders. Orders placed directly or indirectly by nursing homes and hospitals with Chiron, the US CDC is unclear on whether or not these orders are being filled, and if they are being filled, at what level.

For more information about the flu, visit the Pennsylvania Department of Health website at www.health.state.pa.us or call 1-877-PA HEALTH. Also, information can be found on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.

Susquehanna Conference of CASA
presents on
Thursday, December 9th, 2004
“Pediatric Issues and Water/Food Vulnerabilities”
to be held at
Susquehanna Township Supervisor's Meeting Room
1900 Linglestown Rd, Harrisburg, PA
(717) 545-4751

Registration: 8:30A.M. – 9:00 A.M.

9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. *“Emerging Issues in Pediatric Environmental Health”*
Dr Benjamin Gitterman
Co-Director of the Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health and the
Environment

11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. Lunch – on your own
Business Meeting

1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M. *“Food and Water Vulnerabilities to Terrorism”*
Dr Keith Burkhart,
Distinguished Consultant,
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
Regional Medical Toxicologist,
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

Directions: Traveling South on I-81, take exit 67B towards Lewistown/ (US-322 W) onto
US-22 West. Take the PA-39 East exit towards Linglestown. The Susquehanna
Township Building will be on the left at 1900 Linglestown Road, Harrisburg.

Pre-registration	Pediatric/Water/Food Issues	December 7, 2004
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Name _____ Agency/Firm _____
Address _____

Fee: **\$5.00**, payable to CASA, Susquehanna Conference
Mail to: **CASA c/o Wilson Health Bureau, 2040 Hay Terrace, Easton, PA 18042**
FAX to: **610-250-6607**
EMAIL to: tveresink@easton-pa.gov

CONGRATULATIONS

We are pleased to announce that **Melissa White**, from PDA, and her husband, Wil, are the proud parents of a new daughter, **Kelly White**. Kelly was born on November 5, 2004, weighing in at 8 lbs., 0.5 oz. and 20.5" long. Mother and daughter are doing fine.

We also would like to announce that Jessica Lucas, from the Bethlehem Health Bureau, and her husband, Jeff, are the proud parents of a new daughter, Sarah Lucas, born on October 13, 2004. Everyone is doing fine.

On behalf of everyone at CASA, we congratulate the White's and the Lucas' on the new additions to their families !!

CALENDAR BOOKS

This year we will be ordering a limited number of calendar booklets (100), a month-at-a-glance-type booklets, rather than the pocket-type from previous years. If you would like one, please request one. We hope to distribute them at the December 9th meeting. If necessary, we will mail your calendar. ***First come, first served.***

Contact: tveresink@easton-pa.gov

MEMBERSHIP

On or about December 1, 2004, **renewal notices** for CASA membership for the year **2005** will hit your mail box. Please renew promptly. There are several delinquent members that will be receiving a notice to fulfill your membership requirement for 2004. ***Your cooperation will be appreciated.***

Any membership updates, including e-mail address, should be forwarded to me at either: fax 610 250-6607 or e-mail at: tveresink@easton-pa.gov