

Central Atlantic States Association of Food and Drug Officials

SUSQI NEWS

Susquehanna Conference

September 2008



Greetings!

I hope you all are having a great summer! We have a great training planned for September 24 and 25th at SYSCO's office in Harrisburg. Some of the highlights include a tour of the Capitol Dairy Farm (please bring walking shoes for the afternoon) and lots of interesting speakers including an update on CASA from our current CASA President, Howard Rabinovitch; the directors of the Office of Communications for the Department of Health and Agriculture, Claudine Battisti and Chris Ryder; what's new at the FDA and FDA recalls by Captain Calvin Edwards and Megan Lauff; an update on raw milk by William Chirdon, Director of Food Safety and Laboratory Services at the PA Department of Agriculture; and in addition, Eric Naguski from the Dauphin County Conservation District will speak on West Nile in PA. In addition, we always appreciate the nice venue and great hospitality that SYSCO's provides for our meetings.

Barbara Allerton
President

Pre-registration CASA Quarterly Training Meeting, Wednesday, September 24, 2008, and Thursday, September 25, 2008

Deadline: SEPTEMBER 22, 2008

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. NO EXCEPTIONS. REQUIRED BY SYSCO FOR SECURITY!! PLEASE COOPERATE.

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

Registration fee: **\$10**, payable at training, Check payable to: CASA, Susquehanna Conference

REGISTRATION CHOICES:

Email to: tveresink@easton-pa.gov Fax to: 610 250-6607

Mail to: CASA, Susq Conference c/o Easton Health Bureau
1 S Third Street, Easton, PA 18042

Questions – contact Ted Veresink @ 610 250-6765

Membership Renewal – IF YOU HAVEN'T RENEWED FOR 2008, GO TO: www.casafdo.org, print a renewal form, mail as instructed, or bring to the 9/24 - 9/25 meeting.

WE NEED YOU AND YOU NEED CASA !!!

SUSQUEHANNA CONFERENCE OF CASA QUARTERLY TRAINING MEETING
A GREAT TRAINING, AT A REASONABLE COST, AT A GREAT SITE!!

Wednesday, September 24, and Thursday, September 25, 2008

Training Site: Sysco Food Services of Central PA, LLC
3905 Corey Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109
717 561-3265 www.syscocentralpa.com

To reach Sysco take the Union Deposit Road exit from I-83. If going north on I-83, turn left at exit. If going south on I-83, turn right at exit. Turn left at the traffic light at the McDonald's Restaurant – Briarsdale Road. Go appx. 3 blocks, turn right onto Corey Road. Continue on Corey Rd to "3905" Sysco will be on your left. A photo ID is required for visitor sign-in at Sysco.

Agenda: Wednesday, September 24, 2008

- 8:30 – 9:00 Registration/ Welcome
Barbara Allerton, President, Susquehanna Conference of CASA
- 9:00 – 10:00 Role of Communications in Department of Health
Claudine Battisti, Director of Communications
- 10:00 – 10:15 Break
- 10:15 – 11:15 Role of Communications in Department of Agriculture
Chris Ryder, Director, Press Office
- 11:15 - 12:00 FDA Recall Information
Megan Lauff, FDA Recall Coordinator, Philadelphia
- 12:00 – 1:00 LUNCH - provided by Sysco
- 1:00 – 2:00 Update on West Nile Virus in PA
Eric Naguski, Dauphin County Conservation District
- 2:00 – 2:15 Break
- 2:15 – 3:30 Communication, Do's and Don'ts on Inspection/
Group Communication Exercise
Howard Rabinovitch, FDA Regional Retail Food Specialist
(also 2008-2009 CASA President)
- 3:30 Critiques/Closure

Agenda: Thursday, September 25, 2008

- 8:30 – 9:00 Registration/ Welcome
Barbara Allerton, President, Susquehanna Conference CASA
- 9:00 – 10:00 Presentation from: St Andrew Development, Inc.
Susan K. Godfrey, Senior Project Manager
Touching Lives Through Knowledge Delivery Systems
- 10:00 – 10:15 Break
- 10:15 – 11:15 Raw Milk Update in PA
William Chirdon, Director, Food Safety & Lab Services, PDA
- 11:15 – 12:00 What's New at FDA
Captain Calvin Edwards, US Public Health Service, FDA
- 12:00 – 1:00 LUNCH - provided by Sysco
- 1:00 – 3:30 Travel to and tour of the Capitol Dairy Farm (Bring sneakers or shoes)
Tour the newest in Workforce Development at the Capitol Dairy Farm, located on the grounds of the State Hospital. We will learn first-hand how a Dairy Farm is operated and how the commonwealth is providing a chance for new farmers to prosper.

Statewide Food Safety Certification Training

The Penn State Cooperative Extension, Division of Continuing Education, has scheduled a number of Food Safety Certification training courses for September-November 2008. The locations, dates, contact persons, phone numbers and e-mail addresses are listed below.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Carlisle	10-20, 31	Karen Karnes	717-948-6536	ksk1@psu.edu
Chambersburg	11-10, 21	Judy Yohn	717-709-0778	je114@psu.edu
Gettysburg	09-29, 10-17	Judy Yohn	717-709-0778	je114@psu.edu
Lancaster	09-22, 23, 29	Debbie Robin	717-299-7667	dpr5@psu.edu
“ “	10-22,29; 11-5	“ “	“ “ “	“ “
“ “	11-12, 19	“ “	“ “ “	“ “
Lebanon	11-18, 25	Karen Karnes	717-948-6536	ksk1@psu.edu
Middletown	10-8, 15, 23	Karen Karnes	717-948-6536	ksk1@psu.edu
Middletown (Chinese Language)	10-7, 8	“ “	“ “ “	“ “
New Bloomfield		Karen Karnes	717-948-6536	ksk1@psu.edu
	10-27; 11-3, 10			
Schuylkill Haven		David Holden	570-385-6221	deh18@psu.edu
	10-10, 11			
York	09-18, 25	Annie Haines	717-771-4197	azh2@psu.edu
“	10-22; 11-5	“ “	“ “ “	“ “
“	12-3, 10, 17	“ “	“ “ “	“ “

CASA MEMBERS

As Chairman of the Nominations Committee for the Susquehanna Conference of CASA, it is time to think about a candidate for vice-president for May 2009-2011. It would be a four year commitment, two as vice-president and then an automatic succession to president for two years.

If any one is interested, please contact Kenneth Hohe at 4731 Count Street, Harrisburg, PA 17109, phone 717-652-5325, or by e-mail at Kenhohe@aol.com. The Board would like to get possible candidates for a ballot by early 2009.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Kenneth W. Hohe, Chairman
Nominations Committee

FDA's Strategic Plan: Charting Our Course for the Future

Leading an organization is like navigating a white-water raft, according to FDA Commissioner Andrew C. von Eschenbach, M.D. "Both tasks involve dealing with day-to-day crises or getting through the toughest rapids on the river," he says. "At the same time, we must chart a strategic course that allows us to fulfill our mission over the long haul to reach our chosen destination."

In support of the agency's mission to promote and protect the public health, FDA's Strategic Plan focuses on four strategic goals:

- Strengthen FDA for today and tomorrow
- Improve patient and consumer safety
- Increase access to new medical and food products
- Improve the quality and safety of manufactured products and the supply chain

Goal 1: Strengthen FDA for Today and Tomorrow

FDA is committed to strengthening the scientific foundation of its regulatory mission. This involves bringing in new scientific fellows through the FDA Fellowship Program, an initiative that will build and maintain the agency's workforce for the 21st century. Specific actions, such as enhancing FDA's Advisory Committees and applying consistent methods of scientific analysis, will help cultivate a culture that promotes transparency, effective teamwork, and mutual respect. These steps will also ensure integrity and accountability in regulatory decision-making.

FDA is also taking significant steps to enhance partnerships with other organizations and bolster its base of operations. It takes modernized facilities and information systems to support efficient operations. One example is the consolidation of FDA headquarters at the White Oak site in Silver Spring, Md. The new FDA campus includes new laboratories and up-to-date facilities to support scientific computing and electronic document management.

Goal 2: Improve Patient and Consumer Safety

The safety of drugs and other medical products regulated by FDA continues to be a priority. The agency is working to strengthen the science that supports product safety—from upgrading methods of benefit and risk analysis, to improving information systems used to detect and communicate safety problems. FDA has established a Risk Communication Advisory Committee to better understand the needs and priorities of the public, and has launched an electronic newsletter on post-market drug safety findings.

In addition to giving consumers better access to clear and timely risk-benefit information for medical products, FDA also has formulated strategic objectives for informing consumers about better nutrition and foodborne illness prevention. Through three core elements—prevention, intervention, and response—the agency's comprehensive Food Protection Plan offers food protection along the entire production chain.

Goal 3: Increase Access to New Medical and Food Products

One avenue for increasing access to safe and effective medical products is FDA's Critical Path Initiative. This effort spurs modernization of the scientific process—the Critical Path—through which FDA-regulated products are developed, evaluated, and manufactured. Improving the Critical Path will help move medical discoveries from the laboratory to consumers more efficiently while maintaining FDA's standards for safety and effectiveness.

Another example is an agency initiative to better understand drug-induced liver injury, one of the most common and severe problems associated with prescription drugs. Through scientific collaborations, researchers will be able to better identify early signs of liver toxicity so that unsafe drugs can be detected early.

As for increasing access to safe and nutritious new food products, FDA is exploring new scientific approaches to better understand how the unique attributes of individuals affect the safety of food ingredients, nutrients, and dietary supplements.

Goal 4: Improve the Quality and Safety of Manufactured Products and the Supply Chain

FDA is dedicated to preventing safety problems by modernizing science-based standards and tools that ensure the manufacturing, processing, and distribution of high-quality products. Developing standards and guidance for industry to promote best practices will help prevent problems in the supply chain.

Detecting safety problems earlier and better targeting interventions are critical for preventing harm to consumers. With emphasis on more advanced risk-based targeting of inspections and faster analysis methods, FDA is working to respond more quickly and effectively to emerging safety problems. The agency is also improving the way it coordinates responses with other government agencies and communicates with the public during incidents.

Toward Healthier and Safer Lives

FDA has celebrated more than 100 years of service as a science-based and science-led regulatory agency that provides global leadership in promoting and protecting public health.

"The agency's strategic plan is about trust," says Dr. von Eschenbach. "It is about establishing trust by doing the right thing, and by doing it in the right way.

All of FDA's strategic goals and objectives aim to build a future that holds promise for healthier and safer lives for all Americans."

For More Information

FDA Strategic Action Plan

www.fda.gov/ope/stratplan07/stratplan07.htm

Overview of Pennsylvania's Dairy Industry



In 2007 Pennsylvania ranked 5th nationally in total milk production, coming in behind California, Wisconsin, New York and Idaho. The Commonwealth's 550,000 cows produce 10.68 billion pounds of milk, with the state's annual production per cow at 19,422 pounds. The state ranks 15th in milk production per cow. The dairy industry is the key economic driver in Pennsylvania's agriculture industry, the Commonwealth's leading economic enterprise. Dairy generates \$1.6 billion in

cash receipts each year, contributing to 42 percent of the state's agricultural receipts. The dairy industry also generates 40,000 jobs in the commonwealth. Research estimates that roughly 85% of the dairy farmer's total income is spent locally, making dairy farms a significant contributor to the local economy.

The nation's dairy herd has shrunk by 2.8 percent in the past 10 years, while the U.S.'s total milk production has grown by more than 15 percent. At the same time, Pennsylvania's dairy herd has decreased by 15 percent, while the state's total milk production has grown by 3.5 percent. Much of the growth nationally has come from the west, with California up 48% and New Mexico up 82% during the same time period.

Pennsylvania has shown significant increases in milk production per cow. However, the state hasn't kept pace with the national increase in milk production per cow. In the past 10 years, the U.S.'s annual average has increased by 21 percent to 19,949 pounds in 2006, while the commonwealth's milk production per cow has grown by 15 percent to 19,390 pounds. In 1996, Pennsylvania's milk production per cow was actually above of the national average by 103 pounds annually.

The number of dairy farms in the nation continues to decline at roughly 6 percent per year, while cow numbers decline at just 0.5 percent per year. That's largely due to the fact that herd sizes continue to grow, with dairy farms with more than 500 cows now having 44 percent of all of the cows in the U.S.

Less than 25 percent of the U.S. dairy herd lives in herds less than 100 cows. In Pennsylvania, herd sizes are also increasing, at 63 head per farm in the state in 2006, although the state still has one of the smallest herd size averages in the nation. Pennsylvania is second next to Wisconsin in the number of dairy farms, with the commonwealth home to more than 8,500 dairies.

2008 Center for Dairy Excellence

National Food Safety Education Month®



The Partnership for Food Safety Education (PFSE) and its Federal partners—the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food Safety and Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)—are pleased to provide you with this compilation of consumer food safety education resources in time for National Food Safety Education Month® 2008.

The Partnership created the Fight BAC!® campaign, with the four core food safety messages of Clean, Separate, Cook and Chill that remain the solid foundation of consumer food safety education in the United States. The updated Fight BAC!® brochure is among the materials you will find. USDA worked in cooperation with FDA, the CDC and the Partnership to develop the *Be Food Safe* campaign providing new and exciting resources for your outreach efforts. These materials are featured in English and Spanish.

The FDA contributed resource materials in English and Spanish on some of the agency regulated products—produce, seafood, milk, and bottled water—as well as food safety for pregnant women and individuals with food allergies.

Be sure to check out these Web-based resources throughout the year!

- U.S. Food and Drug Administration Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) at www.cfsan.fda.gov
- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at www.cdc.gov/foodsafety
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) at www.fsis.usda.gov
- Be Food Safe consumer materials at befoodsafe.gov
- Be Food Safe retailer initiative materials at www.befoodsafe.org
- Fight BAC!® curriculum and other materials at www.fightbac.org

