

## Message from the President

Hello NCAFD0 Members,

While we await the first days of spring, I bring you a warm hello from a very cold Winnipeg, Manitoba! I am very pleased to be your president this year.

Firstly, I would like to thank Kenan, his team and all the presenters for a great annual conference. Secondly, thank you to our ever faithful and present sponsors -- without you our conference would not be the same! And last but not least, thanks to NCAFD0 members for attending our conference in October 2009.

For those of you who could not come we hope that this year's conference will be one you can attend. To help with your planning we are looking at the week of October 18-21, 2010, in the Chicago area.

Should you have any ideas for conference themes or topics please let anyone on the Board know and we will do our best to incorporate your input!

Here are some of the activities that we plan to be involved in for the remainder of the year:

- Updating the web site in order for you to have easier access to our conference agendas, registration forms and related information.
- Helping out with the planning of the cGMP 2010 Drugs Conference in conjunction with the University of Illinois in Chicago.
- Continuing to support AFDO initiatives.

We look forward to communicating with you again next fall either at our conference or through the next edition of the newsletter! If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact me at [Alexis.Grolla@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:Alexis.Grolla@hc-sc.gc.ca).

Regards,

Alexis Grolla



*A snowy scene outside the Health Canada building at 510 Lagimodiere Blvd in Winnipeg. Several programs, including the Health Products and Food Program are housed at this location.*

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# 2009 Update from the Illinois Department of Public Health, Division of Food, Drugs and Dairies

Submitted by Jayne Nosari



## **Peanut Products Recall B Salmonella typhimurium**

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Division of Food, Drugs and Dairies (FDD) was given four FDA retail assignments and two FDA wholesale assignments related to the recall of peanuts associated with the Peanut Corporation of America.

During the wholesale assignments completed by FDD, 6,702 cases of recalled products were destroyed. IDPH

delegates its authority for retail food protection to the local health jurisdiction. The retail assignments resulted in approximately 952 recall audit checks conducted.

IDPH sent out more than 25 daily notices since January 14 regarding the recall of products related to the Peanut Corporation of America. The recall lists pertaining to the PCA recall contained a compiled list of daily recalls affecting Illinois. These recall notices go to IDPH emergency response coordinators, IDPH FDD, local health department directors of environmental health, IDPH FDD Regional Supervisors, and IDPH Regional Health Officers.

These recall notifications were also sent to Illinois Department of Health Care & Family Services, Illinois State Boards of Education, Illinois Department of Human Services, Illinois Department of Corrections, Illinois Retail Merchants Association, Illinois Food Retailers Association, Illinois Food Safety Advisory Committee, state university food services, VA hospitals, America's Second Harvest, IL and the Illinois Restaurant Association.

## **Illinois Food Safety Advisory Committee**

The Illinois Food Safety Advisory Committee (IFSAC) met three of the four scheduled dates during 2009. Agency reports are delivered by representative of the US FDA, USDA, Illinois Department of Agriculture and IDPH FDD. Other issues on the agenda in 2009 included IDPH new sanitarian training, NIMS training of FDD staff, Illinois State Fair, food code revisions, H1N1 information for food service operators, update about retail sampling for E.coli 0157:H7, Food Emergency Response Plan activities, conference for food protection manager training, testing and certification committee and proposed changes.

## **Food Service Sanitation Code/Training, document development**

In the first quarter, designated item numbers and interpretations were sent to the local health departments on the 2008 Food Code amendments. During the second quarter, FDA and IDPH provided three trainings on code interpretations to local health departments. The item interpretations were put into a field guide for inspectors and emailed to LHD's in November.

## **Food Emergency Tabletop Exercise to test the Illinois Food Emergency Response Plan (FERP)**

On October 5, 2009, the Illinois Department of Public Health conducted a Liquid Food and Crop Contamination tabletop exercise. There were 41 participants who included representatives from the following agencies: Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois Department of Agriculture, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Food and Drug Administration, Illinois Emergency Management Agency, industry representatives, local health departments and law enforcement. The purpose of the exercise was to improve interagency collaboration during an event involving an attack on the food system. The exercise was designed to provide participants with an opportunity to assess their current capabilities, response plans, command structure and procedures in response to an intentional food contamination in Illinois.

## **Food Service Sanitation Manager Certification (FSSMC) Exam**

In May of 2009, new examinations were introduced for the Food Service Sanitation Manager Certification program. The exam covered the new revision of the food code that was adopted in July 2008.

## **Tenth Annual Illinois Food Safety Symposium**

IDPH FDD hosted the 10th Annual Illinois Food Safety Symposium in September 2009. Approximately 200 public health professionals attended.

## **Agriculture & Food Vulnerability Assessment Training Course, September 8-10, 2009 in Des Plaines, IL**

This course was brought to Illinois through a grant and cooperation of Department of Homeland Security and the University of Tennessee. The goal of this course is to assist communities and industry to prevent and deter criminal and terrorist acts that target the agriculture and food sectors.

## **Illinois State Board of Education/Illinois Department of Agriculture Quarterly Meeting**

FDD met with the Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois Department of Agriculture several times in 2009 as part of their agreement to meet regarding food safety and the school commodity program.

## **Farmer's Markets**

Jayne Nosari met with members of the Illinois Farmers Markets Planning Committee Meeting on December 7, 2009 to provide information about what IDPH has been doing to increase the understanding of rules and regulations pertaining to farmer's markets among local health department and for local farmers, as well. Farmer's market managers were present from five Chicago markets, Urbana, Bloomington, and SIU. This committee meeting is collaborating to create an Illinois Farmers Market Association.

## **Lead in Venison Fact Sheet**

A meeting to discuss lead in venison reported in studies from several Midwestern states was held with representatives of the following agencies: Illinois Department of Public Health FDD and the Division of Environmental Health, Illinois Department of Agriculture, and Illinois Department of Natural Resources. A fact sheet discussing ways to minimize lead in venison was created to distribute to meat processors, hunters, and pregnant women/ children.



### Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and Good Handling Practices Workshop

An FDD staff member attended a Good Agricultural Workshop organized by the University of Illinois Extension, Kankakee County, in partnership with Cornell University (New York) and Kankakee Community College on Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and Good Handling Practices (GHPs) on November 5, 2009 in Kankakee, IL. The

guest speaker was Ms. Elizabeth (Betsy) Bihn, National GAPs coordinator for 10 years and a Senior Extension Associate in the Department of Food Science, Cornell University. Extension educators will co-present at the workshop, as well as a third party USDA GAPs inspector and a grocery retailer who will talk about expected food safety practices by producers.

This workshop was of benefit to specialty/vegetable producers. Recent produce-associated foodborne illness outbreaks have heightened public awareness of produce food safety and have increased the demand by fresh produce buyers to have third party auditors verify farm food safety practices. The Food Safety Bill currently before Congress is proposing tougher standards to ensure food safety. The GAPs/GHPs Workshop will cover produce safety impacts, retailer food safety concerns, auditing farms for food safety, and crisis/risk management.

### Food Allergen Guidelines for Schools — Public Act 096-0349

As required by the Act, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) along with the Illinois Department of Health (IDPH) have selected members of this committee from a host of recommendations. The major focus of this committee will be to develop guidelines for the management of students with life-threatening food allergies. The guidelines must be developed and made available to school districts by July 1, 2010 and address:

- Education and training for school personnel\* who interact with students with life-threatening food allergies, including training related to the administration of medication with an auto-injector;
- Procedures for responding to life-threatening allergic reactions to food;
- Process for implementation of individualized health care and food allergy action plans for every student with life-threatening food allergy; and
- Protocols to prevent exposure to food allergens.

\* Personnel include school and district administrators, teachers, school advisors and counsellors, school health staff, and school nurses.

Schools are then required to develop and implement policies based on these guidelines no later than January 2, 2010.

### Illinois and DuQuoin State Fairs Food Program and Inspections for 2009

The data and information collected from the 2009 fairs are as follows:

FDD staff had responsibility for training, educating and inspecting the 283 temporary food vendors at the Illinois State Fairs in August (Springfield) and September (DuQuoin) 2009. The person in charge of each food concession is required to attend a one-hour training class covering food safety, food security and temporary food requirements. Attendance at these classes is required before vendors are allowed to open. Each food establishment is classified by risk as either a high or low risk depending upon the types of foods prepared and how the foods are served.

**Concessionaire Training:** More than 322 operators and food handlers from food concessions at the two state fairs attended a one-hour training session on food safety practices and food security before the operators were allowed to open (271 from the Illinois State Fair and 51 from the DuQuoin State Fair). Seven separate training sessions were held. Some operators sent all of their staff to the training sessions, even though only one owner/operator per food stand was required.

**Food Concessionaires:** 283 food concessions were inspected at the two fairs (210 at the Illinois State Fair and 73 at the DuQuoin State Fair).

**Regulatory Inspections:** 481 routine inspections were conducted (388 at the Illinois State Fair and 143 at the DuQuoin State Fair). 349 follow-up or temperature inspections were conducted (257 inspections at the Illinois State Fair and 92 inspections at the DuQuoin State Fair). Therefore, the 283 food concessions received a total of 830 inspections.

**Enforcement Actions:** No official compliance hearings were held during the two fairs but several unofficial hearings were held. One foodborne complaint was reported.

**Voluntary Destruction:** Approximately 195 pounds of food items were discarded.



# News from North Dakota

Submitted by Kenan Bullinger

No legislative session this year as North Dakota's legislature only meets every two years. Many of us feel that it is a blessing. Our last legislative session ended in late April 2009 and North Dakota is in the enviable position of operating with a current \$1 billion surplus. Because of that surplus, which is tied mainly to increased oil extraction revenue, there were no agency budget reductions mandated.

In addition, the legislature blessed us with four per cent salary increases each of the next two years of our biennium. However, there were no shortages of bills introduced to provide income or property tax relief to get this surplus money back into the hands of the tax-paying, consuming public.

The Division of Food and Lodging did not introduce any legislation so we had a fairly quiet legislative session.

There were a few pieces of legislation introduced by legislators that would have relaxed the current requirement of having tanning facility operators present during all hours tanning is available to the public. Those bills failed. Another bill introduced and subsequently passed, set forth some CEU requirements for assisted living administrators in addition to having those facilities conduct consumer satisfaction surveys every 24 months.

Our division, in conjunction with the Department of Human Services, jointly regulates assisted-living facilities in North Dakota. Our annual license fees for all establishments are set by administrative rule and there is no talk at this time of raising those fees. This is surprising with the large state budget surplus.



*A scene from the recent NCAFDO conference in Fargo, North Dakota in October 2009. Photo credit: Suzanne Kidder.*

# News from Minnesota

Submitted by Jan Kelly

## Dairy and Food Inspection Division (DFID):

- Minnesota Department of Agriculture along with Minnesota Department of Health is moving forward on adoption of new rules that will update the Minnesota Food Code to be more reflective of FDA's 2009 food code.
- The Minnesota Rapid Response Team, consisting of MDA and FDA, Minneapolis District Office, continues to make progress with the application of the Incident Command Systems (ICS) during joint investigations at food manufacturing facilities.
- DFID is just wrapping up a Listeria investigation in a Minnesota manufacturing firm; Listeria monocytogenes was found in samples of cheese food, cheese spread, bagel spreads and peanut butter, in addition to multiple environmental samples, resulting in a recall.
- In 2009, MDA and FDA had multiple joint investigations in MN firms where there was contamination of food and the environment with Listeria monocytogenes or Salmonella.
- The DFID has initiated strategic planning sessions to guide our division into the future. The initial session identified key issues and new work groups that will develop goals and strategies to improve DFID's ability to fulfill their part of MDA's mission of ensuring the integrity of the food supply in Minnesota.

## Great Lakes cGMP and Regulatory Science Forum

The first annual Great Lakes cGMP and Regulatory Science Forum was a tremendous success. The event, held October 20-21, 2009, was co-sponsored by the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), College of Pharmacy and the North Central Association of Food and Drug Officials. Participant evaluations indicate that the conference was very well received. The feedback will be helpful as we begin to plan for next year's conference.

The first conference was a pilot to determine the feasibility of future conferences of this type using this venue. The conference was planned by members of NCAFDO, FDA, and a number of Midwest pharmaceutical firms including Abbott and Baxter. Primary logistics and administrative support was obtained through UIC's Office of Continuing Education and Meeting Services.

The conference had about 250 attendees and was held at the UIC Forum, a new conference center on the southwest corner of downtown Chicago. The conference ran for a day-and-a-half and featured noted speakers from industry, academia and FDA.

The conference also featured a nighttime social mixer event, allowing government, industry, and academia to meet in a neutral setting. Food was provided for this as well as lunches and breaks.

This initial event centered on pharma GMP and related topics. A new planning committee is being formed and will be considering extending this into the subject of medical devices and a longer duration for the 2010 event. The 2010 event is tentatively scheduled for October 12-13, 2010.

# News from Indiana

Submitted by George Jones

During July 2008, the Food Protection Program began a consolidation process to combine the functions of the retail and wholesale sections. This resulted from a realignment of services at the Indiana State Department of Health that moved the Food Protection Program from the Healthcare Regulatory Services Commission. The Food Protection Program now reports directly to James Howell, D.V.M., Assistant Commissioner for Public Health and Preparedness rather than to the management of the Epi Resource Center.

The retail and wholesale inspection duties have been combined to allow for more efficient operations and to provide cost savings in travel. Geographic territories for field staff have been reduced and the program now has ten distinct areas. Staff members will also be responsible for providing training and technical assistance to the local health departments within their areas.

The consolidation efforts resulted in a major internal cross-training effort to bring all staff up to a level of proficiency to conduct inspections in both types of facilities. The Food Defense Section will remain unaffected by these changes.

Mr. Scott Gilliam continues to serve as Director for the Food Protection Program. Any questions relating to the above mentioned changes may be directed to our office at 317-233-7332.

## Professional Development Opportunities

The International Food Protection Training Institute (IFPTI) in collaboration with the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO), and NSF International is hosting two upcoming courses:

- *Plan Review for Food Establishments*, April 28-29, 2010, Battle Creek, Michigan
- *Food Equipment Standards*, April 30, 2010, Battle Creek, Michigan

Application Deadline: March 12, 2010.

Because these courses can accommodate a limited number of students, participants will be selected to create classes that are geographically and disciplinarily diverse, and include students from federal, state, and local agencies.

Please contact Patty Myers at the AFDO office (717-757-2888 or [pmyers@afdo.org](mailto:pmyers@afdo.org)), or Jerry Wojtala ([jerry.wojtala@ifpti.org](mailto:jerry.wojtala@ifpti.org)), for course descriptions and application forms.



**Please join us!**  
The NCAFD0 2010 Annual Conference will take place October 18-21, 2010 in Chicago, Illinois. More information will follow on our web site: [www.ncafd0.org](http://www.ncafd0.org)

## A NOTE FROM MORGAN FONTAINE

If there are still some people who might remember me, please let them know that I completed my transition to retirement on November 19, 2009 and have moved on to other life priorities.

I was enormously privileged to serve NCAFD0 through the Media and Public Affairs Committee. I found amazing colleagues and friends at NCAFD0 and was blessed with opportunities to grow and learn. The leadership and commitment I witnessed over my years with NCAFD0 energized my spirit and renewed my own belief and commitment to the standards, values and ethics that are the foundation of public service.

An incredible and outstanding benefit of my role with NCAFD0 has been the opportunity to explore people and places across the United States. A highlight of my life was the 100th anniversary AFDO conference in San Francisco where we paid tribute to Harvey Wiley and the rich history of food and drug regulation. My life is filled with wonderful memories of NCAFD0 and AFDO meetings. I have loved the historic events re-enacted at Burditt Luncheons, the evening events to experience the beauty of the country, as well as the hard work in conference sessions and committees. Working with federal and state colleagues in NCAFD0 has been inspiring, challenging and rewarding, and I have made many friends who have enriched my personal and professional life.

I would like to thank NCAFD0 members and leadership for this rewarding experience.

# Introducing our new Board of Directors

## 2010 NCAFDO Board of Directors

### President

Alexis Grolla, Health Canada

### Vice President

Clark Hepper, South Dakota Department of Public Health

### Secretary

Suzanne Kidder, Michigan Department of Agriculture

### Treasurer

Arlyn Baumgarten, FDA retired

### AFDO Representative

Dave Read, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

### Immediate Past President

Sue Brace, Michigan Department of Agriculture

### Past President

Terri Wenger, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection

### At-Large Member

Dave Read, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

### Indiana Representative

George Jones, Indiana State Department of Health

### North Dakota Representative

Kenan Bullinger, North Dakota Department of Health

### Ohio Representative

Terri Gerhardt, Ohio Department of Agriculture

### South Dakota Representative

Clark Hepper, South Dakota Department of Public Health

### Illinois Representative

Elizabeth Watkins, Illinois Department of Public Health

### Associate Section President

Sarah Geisert, General Mills

### Inspection Section President

Jan Kelly, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

### Administrative Section President

Alexis Grolla, Health Canada

### Laboratory Section President

Mark Stenske, Michigan Department of Agriculture

## Committee Chairs

### Awards

Jerry Wojtala, Michigan Department of Agriculture

### Conference Planning

Clark Hepper, South Dakota Department of Public Health

### Constitution/Bylaws

Kenan Bullinger, North Dakota Dept. of Health

### Drugs & Medical Products

Vacant

### Media & Public Affairs

Adele Novak, Health Canada

### Membership

Sue Brace, Michigan Department of Agriculture

### Nominations

Clark Hepper, South Dakota Department of Public Health

### Resolutions

Jasmine Linicome, Michigan Department of Agriculture

### Training and Education

Shelley Watkins, Illinois Dept. of Health & Tyra Wisecup, FDA, Minneapolis District



*Alexis Grolla receives the ceremonial NCAFDO gavel from outgoing president Sue Brace, Regional Food Supervisor with Michigan's Department of Agriculture.*

*A scene from the recent NCAFDO conference in Fargo, North Dakota in October 2009. Photo credit: Suzanne Kidder.*



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