



Spring Greetings

Hello Everyone,

It's still freezing cold outside. Thank goodness the big Thaw is coming. Spring is a couple weeks away and now I can't wait to warm up. This spring is going to be a welcome relief for all the grillers and walkers. The next CASA meeting is in White Haven at Sitko's. With all the green in April, the drive should be quite enjoyable. I hope to meet everyone at Sitko's. The turnout for the February meeting was wonderful. The new Hoss's looked better. This past meeting had a lot of funny stories, interesting topics, and free chocolate bars. Please mark your calendars for May 6- 9 for the 97th Annual Conference in Niagara Falls, NY. I hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Michelle LB Clarke
President, Susquehanna Conference, CASA

Send newsletter submission to :
Melissa Dauksis: melissa.dauksis@fda.hhs.gov
Ted Veresink: tveresink@easton-pa.gov

Save the date:

Upcoming Tentative CASA Training Dates for 2013: Please note these dates or locations could change.

April 11	Sitko's	White Haven, Pa
Aug 8	TBD	Bedford, Pa
Oct	TBD	Harrisburg, Pa
Dec 5	Shady Maple	East Earl, Pa

We hope to see you there and bring a friend !!

*******Attention CASA Members:*******

The Central Atlantic States Association of Food and Drug Officials (CASA) is pleased to announce that it has received a "**Small Scientific Conference Grant**" from the Food and Drug Administration. The purpose of the grant is to support scientific conferences clearly aligned with the FDA mission.

A portion of the grant will be used to provide seminar scholarships for CASA members to attend the 2013 CASA Educational and Training Seminar. The seminar will be held in Niagara Falls, New York, from May 6-9, 2013. Funding assistance for travel and lodging expenses is available for a limited number of members to attend this year's seminar.

How to Apply:

To submit a scholarship application, please visit:
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2013_Educational_and_Training_Seminar

Deadline:

All applications must be submitted no later than the close of business **on March 18, 2013.**

The CASA Scholarship Review Committee will consider each online application. In some cases, we will only be able to assist with partial funding. As a stipulation of the grant, CASA cannot assist applicants with the registration fee, or the cost of meals. We will attempt to pay for all other travel costs, and lodging to those selected recipients. Applicants should not make travel arrangements until they have received confirmation of selection. Selected recipients will be notified by **April 1, 2013.**

Criteria for receiving funding will be based upon a number of factors such as: whether or not your agency has funded participation in the past; the number of participants previously and currently funded by your agency; how active you have been in CASA; and any other sources of funding available to you, including agency reimbursement and/or local conference assistance.

Special Note:

Grant funds are limited. Please apply for funding only if you have no other option for attending the seminar.

The theme for this year's seminar is "International Partnerships in Food Safety".

Please contact me at christopher.sortino@suffolkcountyny.gov or 631-852-5839 with any questions or concerns.

Feel free to pass this announcement along to other members of your staff who you believe would benefit from attending the CASA Educational and Training Seminar. We hope to see you there!

Best regards,

Christopher Sortino
Chair, Grants Committee
Central Atlantic States Association of Food and Drug Officials www.casafdo.org

March is Women's History Month: A Reflection on How Far We Have Advanced

This Women's History Month feature highlights the careers of women in FDA who have inspired their colleagues, advanced their fields, influenced the regulatory process and protected and promoted public health. Here are some of the women who will be profiled:

Whether they, like research scientists Mary Engle Pennington and Effie Alberta Read, worked for Chief Chemist Harvey Wiley in the Bureau of Chemistry at the turn of the twentieth century, or served as FDA's first female commissioner at the turn of the twenty first, as did Jane Henney, each of the women from FDA's past that we are featuring this month shared much in common with today's FDA workforce. Each was well-educated, focused, and challenged by their work. Each forthrightly characterized and confronted important scientific, regulatory, or administrative challenges during their years in government service.

Certainly luck played a role in each of their careers, as it does in that of most people, but passion played an even larger role. Ruth Lamb launched an innovative educational campaign to change the federal food and drug statute itself; Mattie Rae Spivey Fox conducted innovative research in the field of nutrition and food fortification; Imogene Gollinger, FDA's first female investigator, initiated change throughout FDA field operations. Sharon Smith Holston, FDA's first African American deputy commissioner became a mentor to many aspiring FDA administrators.

In the drug field, it would be difficult to overestimate the importance of contributions made to drug and vaccine safety by Ruth Kirschstein who developed tests to protect the public from contaminated polio vaccines, and Frances Kelsey, whose well known refusal to license thalidomide for U.S. sale averted a serious drug crisis. Marion Finkel not only helped write the regulatory requirements for modern clinical drug trials following enactment of the 1962 Drug Amendments, she also helped implement the Orphan Drug Act, making new medicines available for neglected patient populations. Susan Ellenberg refined statistical models during the AIDS epidemic to help speed up critical new drug approvals.

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/AboutFDA/WhatWeDo/History/ucm341839.htm>

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NOMINATIONS REQUESTED FOR OFFICERS

SUSQ CASA Members --

The current term for President Michelle Clarke will be ending in May 2013. Our President-elect has changed employment positions, is no longer able to assume the office of President, and has relinquished that position.

Nominations are currently open for the following two-year

terms:

PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT-ELECT (to assume the President position in 2015)

MEMBER-AT-LARGE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD: 2 positions available. The current incumbents are KIM WARREN-PA DEPT OF HEALTH and RUSSELL DORM, retired from YORK HEALTH.

If you are interested in becoming a more-active member of the SUSQ CASA organization, please submit a nomination either for yourself or for a worthy candidate. There is a very active Executive Board that certainly will assist with the various duties and responsibilities.

Please submit your nominations to me prior to March 31, 2013. If you have any questions or would like to discuss any of the positions, please contact me or any member of the Executive Board.

ON BEHALF OF THE SUSQ CASA EXECUTIVE BOARD:
Thank you and we look forward to your participation.

TED VERESINK
610 250-6765

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CASA EDUCATIONAL & TRAINING SEMINAR

Niagara Falls, NY – May 6 – 9, 2013

Register NOW. Room Reservations before April 14, 2013.

GO TO THE CASA WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.casafdo.org

FDA: Foods Must Contain What Label Says:

As someone who cares about what your family eats, you make it a practice when shopping to read the labels on food packages. And you have the right to expect that the information on the label, including the ingredient list, is accurate.

The good news is that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has your back.

The Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act—which provides authority for FDA’s consumer-protection work—requires that labels on packaged food products in interstate commerce not be false or misleading in any way.

To that end, as resources permit, FDA monitors food products to ensure that the labels are truthful and not misleading, explains Michael W. Roosevelt, acting director of compliance at FDA’s Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN). If a product is not labeled as required by law, the agency takes appropriate action.

FDA Steps In

For example, when FDA received complaints from U.S. firms and attorneys alleging that imports of pomegranate juice concentrates were not, as labeled, 100% pomegranate, the agency took a closer look.

After conducting its own analyses, FDA found that some of the samples contained undeclared ingredients, including artificial colors, sweeteners and less expensive fruit juices, such as black currant, apple, pear or cherry juices, in place of pomegranate juice.

FDA issued an import alert for pomegranate juice exported by certain companies in Iran and Turkey, based on findings that the samples FDA analyzed were “not as they were represented to be on the labels and therefore adulterated and misbranded.” An import alert allows FDA to detain, without physical examination, imported products that appear to violate the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. When a shipment is detained, the importer has a window of opportunity to introduce evidence to overcome the appearance of a violation, during which time the product cannot be distributed.

In other circumstances, when the agency identifies a food product with labeling that is false or misleading (misbranded), it may inform the manufacturer, often in the form of a warning letter, of the violation of law and ask the firm to correct the problem. Most firms contacted by FDA about a labeling violation voluntarily comply, Roosevelt says.

Those that do not can be subject to additional legal action to remove the misbranded products from commerce. Under such circumstances, these products cannot return to the market until the manufacturers take action to correct the violations.

“In the case of the pomegranate juice,” Roosevelt says, “the burden is on the importer to show that the product labeling is accurate.” “Otherwise, the juice is not going to make it into the U.S.”

Another example: In 2012, FDA issued an import alert⁵ for shipments of honey exported from India, Malaysia, New Zealand, Turkey and Vietnam due to findings that certain honey products from these countries had been adulterated through the partial substitution of cane or corn sweeteners.

Import alerts⁶ are listed on fda.gov, and there are a number of different ways to search for firms and products. FDA also maintains an alphabetical list⁷ of warning letters by subject in which consumers can find previous examples of past warning letters citing misbranding or adulteration of food.

Regulations Set Standards

In addition, FDA regulations include formal standards of identity for many kinds of food, including milk and cream; cheese and related cheese products; frozen desserts; bakery products; cereal flours and related products; macaroni and noodle products; canned fruits; canned fruit juices; fruit butters, jellies, preserves and related products; fruit pies; canned vegetables; vegetable juices; frozen vegetables; eggs and egg products; fish and shellfish; cacao products, tree nut and peanut products; beverages; margarine; sweeteners and table syrups; and food dressings and flavorings.

These regulations help to protect consumers against the intentional substitution of ingredients without declaring those ingredients in labeling (e.g. using an unlisted, less expensive ingredient to reduce the cost of manufacturing). The standards of identity require that products contain the ingredients required by the standard.

“In other words,” says Roosevelt, “the product is what the label says it is.”

What a Consumer Can Do

FDA receives much of its information on possible product labeling violations from competitors in industry, at which point the agency often examines or tests the product to confirm or disprove the claims.

If consumers suspect a label is inaccurate, however, FDA welcomes information from them as well. Consumer complaint coordinators located in 19 FDA district offices throughout the United States and Puerto Rico will listen, document your complaint or concern, and determine the appropriate contact for follow-up. You can find the number of the complaint coordinator in your area at fda.gov⁹.

You can also report adverse events from foods, drugs and other FDA-regulated products through MedWatch¹⁰.

This article appears on FDA's Consumer Updates page¹¹, which features the latest on all FDA-regulated products.

February 4, 2013

CASA Members:

An election is being held for the CASA positions of Secretary, Treasurer, Executive Officer and AFDO Representative from the CASA Board. You must be a Regulatory or Life Member to vote. Go to the CASA website, please print out the ballot and return to the nominating member listed before **April 26, 2013**. Ballots postmarked after that date will be invalid. Ballots will be counted and the winners announced at the Annual Educational and Training Seminar in Niagara Falls this spring.

CASA website: www.casafdo.org

Thank you for your participation in the election process.

Kenneth W. Hohe, Nominating Committee

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2013 CASA DUES IS NOW DUE !!!!

Either pay by going to the CASA website:

www.casafdo.org

or

pay at our next training session

or

mail checks payable to **Susq Conf CASA** to:

Ted Veresink, Susq CASA
Easton Health Bureau
1 S. 3rd Street
Easton, PA 18042

You must be a current member in order to be eligible to hold office or to apply for our scholarship grants.

