



SKIPJACK



NEWSLETTER OF THE BALTIMORE CONFERENCE OF CASA

WINTER EDITION

VOL 2006-2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings everyone and welcome to the latest edition of *The Skipjack*! We're hopeful you'll find this issue most informative. If you missed the Annual CASA Meeting in Gettysburg it was THE place to be last May 16-19. "Mama CASA" held it's 90th Annual CASA Conference in this historic town and it was exceptional! If you've never been to the Annual Conference I highly recommend it. The 91st Annual Conference will be hosted by our comrades in the Virginia Conference in Virginia Beach. Please visit the CASA website at www.casafdo.com for program and registration information as it becomes available.

The Baltimore Conference continues to provide our membership affordable and informative training through Quarterly Meetings. Please note our upcoming 296th Quarterly Meeting on December 7th in Westminster. Another excellent training opportunity! I want to take this chance to remind all of our Baltimore Conference members to renew their CASA Membership for 2007 early. Hope everyone has a GREAT Holiday Season and I look forward to seeing EVERYONE in Westminster on December 7, 2006.

Richard R. Nordeck, President

FDA CELEBRATES IT'S 100 BIRTHDAY

The modern FDA dates its origin to June 1906, when President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Food and Drugs Act and Congress embarked on a policy of continuous strengthening of public health protections and of their enforcement, first by the Bureau of Chemistry, and later by the FDA. Since then, Americans have benefited from increasingly comprehensive, science-based safeguards for a myriad of products essential for health, survival and high quality of life.

Today, these products represent almost 25% of all U.S. consumer spending and include 80% of the national food supply as well as all human drugs, vaccines, blood products, medical devices, tissues for transplantation, radiation-emitting equipment, and animal drugs and feed.

The FDA's centennial celebration, which includes conferences and special forums in cities from coast to coast, have the following aims:

- Observe FDA's role -- past, present and future -- domestically and internationally in protecting and promoting the health of the public;
- Inspire future efforts to advance science, innovation, and public health through partnerships and alliances with key FDA stakeholders;
- Attract new generations of regulatory scientists; and
- Salute the contributions of FDA employees, alumni, legislators, academicians, industry, consumer groups, and public health leaders to fulfilling FDA's mission

2007 RENEWAL APPLICATION FOUND ON Page 4

FDA/EPA Advisory on Seafood Consumption Still Current

In response to recent inquiries about the FDA/EPA consumer advisory, "What You Need to Know About Mercury in Fish and Shellfish," FDA and EPA want to assure consumers that the advice contained in the 2004 advisory remains current and that FDA and EPA stand behind it. The advisory's recommendations are specific to women who might become pregnant, women who are pregnant, nursing mothers, and young children.

Fish and shellfish are an important part of a healthy diet and can contribute to heart health and children's proper growth and development. Because of their many healthy benefits we recommend that women and young children include them as a regular part of their diet. However, nearly all fish and shellfish contain traces of mercury.

By following 3 recommendations for selecting and eating fish or shellfish, women and young children will receive the benefits of eating fish and shellfish and be confident that they have reduced their exposure to the harmful effects of mercury.

1. Do not eat Shark, Swordfish, King Mackerel, or Tilefish because they contain high levels of mercury.
2. Eat up to 12 ounces (2 average meals) a week of a variety of fish and shellfish that are lower in mercury.
 - Five of the most commonly eaten fish that are low in mercury are shrimp, canned light tuna, salmon, pollock, and catfish.
 - Another commonly eaten fish, albacore ("white") tuna has more mercury than canned light tuna. So, when choosing your two meals of fish and shellfish, you may eat up to 6 ounces (one average meal) of albacore tuna per week.
3. Check local advisories about the safety of fish caught by family and friends in your local lakes, rivers, and coastal areas. If no advice is available eat up to 6 ounces (one average meal) per week of fish you catch from local waters, but don't consume any other fish during that week.

Follow these same recommendations when feeding fish and shellfish to your young children but serve smaller portions. FDA continues to test fish and shellfish for mercury. Should there be a significant change in the underlying science regarding the risks from methylmercury or the benefits from fish, FDA and EPA will update the advisory to ensure that the public is informed when making choices about the amounts and types of fish to eat. The complete 2004 FDA/EPA advisory, "What You Need to Know About Mercury in Fish and Shellfish," can be found at www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/admehg3.html.

AVIAN FLU VIRUS

The U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Interior announced final test results, which confirm that an H5N1 avian influenza virus detected in fecal samples collected last month from resident wild mallard ducks in Maryland is a low pathogenic subtype. This strain has been detected several times in wild birds in North America and poses no threat to human health.

The USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) confirmed the presence of the "North American strain" of low pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza through virus isolation in samples collected from the resident wild mallards in Queen Anne's County, Maryland. Test results announced on September 1 indicated that an H5N1 avian influenza subtype was present in nine of the collected samples, but further testing was necessary to confirm pathogenicity. As previously announced, genetic testing ruled out the possibility that the samples carried the specific highly pathogenic strain of H5N1 avian influenza that is circulating overseas.

Low pathogenic strains of avian influenza commonly occur in wild birds and typically cause only minor sickness or no noticeable signs of disease in birds. Low pathogenic H5N1 is very different from the more severe highly pathogenic H5N1 circulating in parts of Asia, Europe and Africa. Highly pathogenic strains of avian influenza spread rapidly and are often fatal to chickens and turkeys.

The Departments of Agriculture and Interior are working collaboratively with States and academic institutions to sample wild birds throughout the United States for the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza. More than 21,000 wild birds have been tested so far this year and none have been infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza.

For more information about the collaborative avian influenza efforts go to www.usda.gov/birdflu, www.doi.gov/issues/avianflu

Mark your calendars

The CASA Annual Conference will be held on May15-18, 2007 at the Ramada Plaza Resort Oceanfront in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Complete information will be posted on CASA's Web-Site: www.casafdo.org

297th Quarterly Meeting of the BALTIMORE CONFERENCE will be held on MARCH 8, 2007 at Fort Meade

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

All CASA 2006 memberships expire on **December 31, 2006**. Renewal can be made either by completing the **Renewal** form, attached for your convenience and mailing it, along with a payment, to the **CASA Treasurer**, or by mailing it to Alexander A. Ondis, 4625 Wards Chapel Rd. Owings Mills, MD 21117, or by paying for membership at our next quarterly meeting on 12/7/2006. The Renewal form is found on CASA Web-Site, www.casafdo.org , click on "Renew/Join"

CASA Membership Dues Information
and Application

Please complete today and return to:

Bill Kinder, Treasurer/CASA FOOD & DRUG OFFICIALS
PO Box 488
Abington, PA 19001-0488

- Regulatory \$15 Annual Dues
- Associate \$35 Annual Dues
- Academic \$10 Annual Dues
- Student \$10 Annual Dues
- Retired \$10 Annual Dues

(Make checks payable to CASA – FID#56-6136694)

Local Conference Membership is included with payment of dues in all categories: check appropriate conference below:

- Baltimore Philadelphia
- New York Pittsburgh
- Niagara Frontier Susquehanna
- Northeastern N.Y. Virginia

Name _____
Agency _____
Address _____
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CASA is a regional affiliate of the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO)

If you would also like to become a member of AFDO go to www.afdo.org