



**Message from the President:**

For those who were able to attend, the annual CASA Training Seminar was a great success. Excellent topics were presented, and of course it is always good to see our counterparts from the other CASA conferences. Once again, Susquehanna Conference made a great showing for the past year's activities. This was evident by our conference receiving the maximum monetary awards for most performance categories (newsletter, training meetings, etc.). One area where we could use a boost is in our membership renewals. Recognizing that renewals were down last year due to state-wide budgetary restraints, hopefully we can still reverse the trend this year. That being said, if you have not yet renewed for 2010, please do so now. We depend on your loyal support to keep Susquehanna conference a vital entity.

It almost seems too quiet on the national food borne outbreak scene. What's a summer without a huge tomato or peanut scare? A good summer, that's what. Join us for the July 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting at Susquehanna Township and we'll find out what is on the surveillance radar at the PA DOH. We've got a good line up of topics for you so I hope we'll see you there. And mark your calendars for our 2-day training October 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at Sysco. It is shaping up to be well worth the while to be there both days.

Enjoy your summer but remember to take Sue Polifko's sunscreen advice! Don't know what I'm talking about? You would if you were at the April training meeting! Make sure you don't miss any more really important information – see you on July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

*Garry*

**Send newsletter submission to :**

**Garry Ritter:** [ritter@allentowncity.org](mailto:ritter@allentowncity.org)

**Ann Marie Karnick:** [annmarie.karnick@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:annmarie.karnick@fda.hhs.gov)

**Ted Veresink:** [tveresink@easton-pa.gov](mailto:tveresink@easton-pa.gov)

**Did you hear ????**

**Food Science Wins ITF approval**

The institute of Food Technologists (ITF) recognized Penn State's Department of Food Science undergraduate program as one of the nation's best when it certified the program in January for the next five years. ITF, a nonprofit scientific society with a membership of 20,000 food science and technology professionals, promotes the use of food science in industry, academia, and government. Its blessing verifies that the program delivers core competencies to help prepare students for food science professions and works toward continuous improvement of its curriculum and student learning. "ITF approval signifies that our students are well equipped with the scientific, technical, problem-solving, and communication skills, as well as other interpersonal and leadership qualities, required to excel after their graduation from Penn State," says John Floros, professor and head of the food science department.

From The Penn State Ag Science Magazine, Winter/Spring 2010  
Submitted by Kenneth W. Hohe

## SUMMARY OF 94th CASA ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING SEMINAR

The 94th CASA Annual Educational and Training Seminar was held from May 16-20, 2010 at the Hyatt Regency Long Island in Hauppauge, NY. Christopher Sortino, CASA President, and the New York Conference hosted the event in fine fashion, from the "Kick-Off" Buffet Reception Monday evening to the CASA Business Meeting on Thursday morning, when the gavel was turned over to Veronica Moore from the Baltimore Conference, host of the 95th CASA Annual ETS in 2011.

The speakers included Beverly Kent (FDA) as the Keynote Speaker who provided a wonderful talk that highlighted our nation and our national pride. Her talk ended with the singing of our national anthem and the playing of the Canadian national anthem. Various commissioners from the local jurisdictions on Long Island and New York City as well as Dr. Bill Teeter, Executive Director of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, provided updates on their respective health and safety programs.

There were many great speakers, providing information and updates on various topics of interest, including: Pest Management and Food Safety, National Voluntary Environmental Assessment Information System, Modifying Food Employee Behaviors, CIFOR (Council to Improve Foodborne Outbreak Response), Private Brand Labeling Regulatory Compliance Challenges, and Egg Safety and Best Practices. Joe Corby, past CASA President and now Executive Director of AFDO, discussed Food Safety Legislation and the International Food Protection Training Institute (IFPTI). There were many other great topics, too many to mention in this report.

This year's Associate Rep to the CASA Executive Board, Tara Paster, was very involved and active in promoting partnerships between regulators and industry. Exhibitors and sponsors included: Paster Training, Inc, Suffolk County Association of Municipal Employees, AFDO, Wawa, IFPTI, Davidson's Pasteurized Shell Eggs, FDA, Steritech, NSF, Summerwood Corporation, RK Environmental Services, Metropolitan Association for Food Protection, Instant-Off Water Saver, and NYS Dep't of Ag & Markets.

The Gordon K. Brown Silent Auction was again very successful, with a wide variety of many items available to be bid on. As usual, the last 5 minutes before the end was the most hectic time with last minute bids. Proceeds exceeded any other year's auction, for a total of \$2300.

The CASA Scholarship was awarded to Emily Johnson, a very deserving young person, who is the daughter of Bruce Johnson, a member the NY Conference. Emily has been home schooled and been active in many outside activities and projects. She plans to attend Sarah Lawrence College. This year's CASA Award winner was Howard Rabinovitch from the Philadelphia Conference. Howard had worked for the PA Dep't of Ag and been involved with the Susquehanna Conference before moving on to FDA. He has been very active in CASA and was President last year. Both Susquehanna and Philadelphia were very proud and pleased. What a great choice for this award! This year's Annual ETS, as usual, seemed to fly by. All too soon it was Thursday and we all were preparing to close the conference with our business meeting. Nadine Roe, Chair of the Nominations Committee, presented the election results: Megan Lauff was elected as Treasurer and Ted Veresink as Executive Officer. The C&BL's were unanimously changed to eliminate the printed newsletter and replace it with the CASA website.

There were 2 resolutions this year. The first, presented by the Susquehanna Conference, deals with the FDA's need to increase the number of field specialists assisting the states and locals by sufficient numbers so that the Integrated Food Safety System can be staffed with highly trained and competent food safety inspectors, and that CASA forward this Resolution to AFDO for their consideration and endorsement, and then forward it to FDA. This resolution was approved. The second was a resolution of thanks to the NY Conference and their hard-working Local Arrangements Committee and President. This resolution was also approved.

All too soon, it seemed, we were saying good by to our friends. But we look forward to next year and the Annual ETS to be held by the Baltimore Conference at the Sheraton Baltimore North Hotel in Towson, MD from May 17-19, 2011.

Sue Yeager

## Food Safety News: Foodborne Illness Not Budging Much

According to a new report from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), rate of foodborne illness has not changed much since 2004. This is according to data collected through the CDC's program, FoodNet. FoodNet aggregates actual foodborne (bacterial) illness data from 10 states. Says the CDC report, for the nine foodborne illnesses that are tracked through FoodNet, "Most have shown little change since 2004." Progress has been made with reductions in E. coli-related illness, says the CDC. Salmonella, however, "is furthest from meeting the goal. One possible reason for the slow progress in fighting Salmonella is that it is spread through a wide variety of foods, and also through non-foodborne routes. Salmonella can be spread by poultry, meat, eggs, produce and processed foods, as well as by contact with animals like baby chicks, small turtles, reptiles and frogs," notes the report. Age-related trends continue as well. Children under age 4 had the highest rate of infection. On the other end of the spectrum, "People over 50 years old had the highest rates of hospitalizations and deaths from most foodborne illnesses, emphasizing the need for those over 50 to get diagnosed and get treatment quickly after becoming ill," according to the CDC. Learn more about [Salmonella on the CDC website](#).

## Fresh from the Culinary Team: Smooth Nutrition!

What better way to welcome spring weather than with a scrumptious fruit smoothie? The popular Sunshine Berry Smoothie from the Safe Eggs culinary team is sure to hit the spot! Strawberries, orange juice, and bananas give it plenty of vitamins, antioxidants, and fiber. The addition of Safest Choice™ eggs adds protein and makes it a hearty snack or special treat for your clients. Explore more smoothie recipes, HACCP facts, taste-testing tools, and other resources at [SafeEggs.com/smooth](http://SafeEggs.com/smooth).

## **Membership Renewal:**

Go to [www.casafdo.org](http://www.casafdo.org) Print the membership form and mail to the address on the form or Renewals are also accepted via the Susquehanna conference, send to :

Ted Veresink

Susq Conf CASA

Easton Health Bureau, 1 S. 3rd Street, Easton, PA 18042

More information is available by contacting: [tveresink@easton-pa.gov](mailto:tveresink@easton-pa.gov)

## REASONS TO RENEW:

- OPPORTUNITY FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
  - OPPORTUNITY TO NETWORK WITH OTHERS IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC HEALTH
  - BEING ELIGIBLE FOR THE H. THOMPSON PRICE SCHOLARSHIP
  - MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE EXTREMELY REASONABLE
  - ALLOWS YOU TO ENHANCE THE FIELD OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND FINALLY ---
  - PARTICIPATION IN CASA LOOKS GOOD ON YOUR RESUME
- REGULARLY CHECK THE CASA WEBSITE FOR ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:  
[www.casafdo.org](http://www.casafdo.org)

### Magic Power Coffee: You may want to skip this Magic

Consumers should not use an instant coffee being sold online as a dietary supplement for sexual enhancement, warns the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The product, Magic Power Coffee, contains a potentially dangerous ingredient. The product is sold in a two-serving box as well as in a carton that contains six two-serving boxes.

FDA's lab analysis determined that Magic Power Coffee contains a chemical similar to the active ingredient in the prescription drug Viagra to treat erectile dysfunction. The chemical may interact with prescription drugs known as nitrates, including nitroglycerin, and cause dangerously low blood pressure.

Although Magic Power Coffee is labeled as an "all natural dietary supplement," it can cause serious harm. Sexual enhancement products that claim to work as well as prescription products are likely to expose consumers to unpredictable risks and the potential for injury or even death.

#### Advice for Consumers

- Stop using Magic Power Coffee immediately.
- If you have experienced any bad side effects from Magic Power Coffee or any sexual enhancement products, talk to a health care professional.
- Report any side effects with the use of any sexual enhancement products to FDA's [MedWatch Adverse Event Reporting Program](#)<sup>4</sup> either online, by regular mail, by fax, or by phone.
  - [Online](#)<sup>5</sup>
  - Regular Mail: Use postage-paid, pre-addressed [FDA form 3500](#)<sup>6</sup>
  - Fax: 1-800-FDA-0178
  - Phone: 1-800-332-1088

#### Mark your Calendar :

Wednesday, August 11, 2010 : Harrisburg University of Science & Technology  
Ticket Price : \$35

The Food Safety & Quality Summit will provide timely information to food industry leaders and managers regarding the impact of the pending Federal Food Safety Modernization Act

**Order tickets online at [www.centralpennbusiness.com/events](http://www.centralpennbusiness.com/events) or call the Events Department at 717-236-4300**

# Susquehanna Conference of CASA Quarterly Training Program

DATE: **Thursday, July 22, 2010**  
LOCATION: **Susquehanna Township Building**  
**1900 Linglestown Road**  
**Harrisburg, PA 17110**  
Phone: 717 909-9257

Agenda  
8:30AM

- **REGISTRATION & WELCOME**  
Garry Ritter, Susquehanna Conf President

**Pasteurized Whole Eggs and Egg Safety**  
George Zameska, Paster Training

**Current Outbreaks and Food Safety Events**  
Dr. Andre Weltman, PA Dept of Health

Announcements/Business Meeting/Lunch (on your own)

**Dish Machine Operation & Dishwashing**  
George Farrell, III, Ecolab, Dist Sales Mgr, Institutional Div

**Virginia Graham Baker Act Swimming Pool Compliance**  
Garry Ritter, Allentown Health Bureau/ Susquehanna Conference President

Q&A/Critiques/Summary/Wrap Up

The meeting site is just north of Harrisburg. Linglestown Road is also PA Route 39. Please use GPS, Mapquest, etc. to verify location. You may also contact Lynn Roche, Susquehanna Twp Health Officer at the above number for specific directions, if needed.

Pre-registration Susq CASA Quarterly Training

Deadline: July 20, 2010 - to arrange for adequate seats and refreshments. Please register early.  
YOUR COOPERATION IS SINCERELY APPRECIATED.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ AGENCY/FIRM \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE BRING A FRIEND OR ASSOCIATE WITH YOU!!

FIRST TIME ATTENDEES ARE ALWAYS WELCOME : MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS CAN BE PAID AT TRAINING.

Registration fee: \$5.00, payable at training. Make checks payable to: CASA, Susq Conf  
Register by email: [tveresink@easton-pa.gov](mailto:tveresink@easton-pa.gov)  
Register by mail: CASA, Susq Conf, c/o Easton Health Bureau, 1 S 3rd  
St., Easton, PA 18042 Questions: contact TED VERESINK @ 610 250-6765