

SNAP PROGRAM UNDER REVIEW

The House of Representatives' Agriculture Committee has begun hearings on the \$70 billion SNAP (Food Stamp) program. SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) currently puts food on the table for 43 million Americans, and is the nation's largest domestic "hunger safety net." It's part of Congress' efforts to approve a FY2018 operating budget for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The SNAP program comprises nearly 80 percent of USDA's human feeding programs that, in turn, comprise 80 percent of the agency's total \$165 billion annual operating budget. The SNAP program has grown from \$15 billion in 1990 to five times that amount in 2017.

The average recipient receives \$125.00 per month in food assistance. SNAP is responsible for millions of dollars in purchases of fresh and processed fruits and vegetables by qualifying program recipients, through certified retail food outlets across the U.S. APA members participate in the program.

INFORMATION ON GMO'S AVAILABLE FROM IFIC

A wealth of information on genetically modified organisms (GMO's) has been identified and gathered by the International Food Information Council (IFIC) for industry use.

Included are answers to questions about human safety, GMO development and benefits, affects on infants, impact of a GMO ban, and the difference between GMO-content and "natural" foods.

IFIC's library includes videos, scientific reports, media articles, and academic fact sheets. Contact IFIC at 202-296-6540 or e-mail at: info@foodinsight.org

SONNY PERDUE CONFIRMED AS 31ST USDA SECRETARY



The U.S. Senate confirmed George Ervin "Sonny" Perdue III as America's 31st Secretary of Agriculture on April 24. The former Georgia governor was the last member of the Trump cabinet to be nominated due to his extensive personal and business conflicts, and of the 13 USDA positions requiring Senate confirmation, the only one to be nominated.

The veterinarian and businessman brings both food safety and business credentials to the office, both helpful to APA interests. His major challenges will be USDA's \$120 billion human feeding programs (80 percent of USDA's total annual budget), and the development of a 2018 Farm Bill.

Perdue is well liked by the agricultural community, and is the first southerner in the post in more than 20 years. He also faces a White House-proposed 21 percent cut in USDA's operating budget.

R.A. JONES COMPANY REJOINS AS APA SUPPLIER

Major packaging firm, R.A. Jones Company, has rejoined APA as an industry supplier member. The 112-year-old manufacturer was founded in 1905 in Covington, Kentucky, and was family-owned until 1998, when it was purchased by a British packaging group.

Jones' food packaging operations began moving to Davenport, Iowa in 1952, and is now one of the food industry's most innovative suppliers of packaging technology. Major products include fast-filling and sealing packaging technology, to include cartoning, multi-packing, and robotics.

Steve Martin will be APA's official representative, working out of the Davenport office.



POLITICS, PERSONNEL, AND INDUSTRY ISSUES ON TAP FOR APA'S 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

A full array of industry issues is being planned for APA's 2017 Annual Meeting on June 18-20 at the renowned Greenbrier Resort in the West Virginia mountains.

It will be APA's 30th anniversary as trade association for the apple industry's processors and suppliers – and the 11th time to enjoy "America's Resort."

APA will take full advantage of a momentous political and business year, with expert presentations on Capitol Hill politics, internal company morale and employee retention, and the latest national issues challenging American business. Coupled with daily business session discussions are APA's highly anticipated annual golf tournament, elegant receptions and dinners, and the opportunity to renew valued industry friendships.

Headlining Monday's program is award-winning strategist, Lisa Ryan, MBA, star of the award-winning film "The Keeper of the Keys," story of cementing long-

time valued relationships with both employees and clients. Ms. Ryan has been reported to be keeper of the secret of the "Power of Gratitude," holding the keys to being happier, healthier, and wealthier.

APA has invited Helena Bottemiller Evich, noted food writer of Capitol Hill's Politico report, one of the nation's most informed observers of food policy plans and programs in the 115th U.S. Congress and Trump Administration. It's no secret that 2017 will be a critically important year for national initiatives on food and nutrition, not the least of which will be the multi-billion dollar 2018 Farm Bill.

Maggie Sommers Gentile, MS, RD, LD, APA's nutritionist consultant, will bring a detailed update and progress report on national issues impacting the apple processing and food industry. Under her direction, APA is a major player in a variety of key programs and initiatives.

Plan to register now for this rewarding three-day event at one of America's finest resort venues. Both guest room and registration deadlines are fast approaching on May 19th.



The Greenbrier Resort has hosted celebrities, presidents and is home to a bunker where 1,000 government officials could survive a nuclear apocalypse.

In June of 2017, it will host the Apple Processors Association Annual Meeting for the 11th time.

The average U.S. consumer consumes an estimated 33.3 pounds of processed apples annually.

The Apple Processors Association represents the companies that make these products and the suppliers who support their efforts. From orchard to table, APA members are committed to quality production and "appealing" apple products.

Research Processing Facts » Jobs Today » Attend a Meeting »

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PRESIDENT TRUMP APPOINTS AG ASSISTANT

President Donald Trump has appointed a Special Assistant to the President for Agriculture, Agricultural Trade, and Food Assistance, the first such White House-assigned aide in more than a decade.

He's Ray Starling, former chief of staff to Sen. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.), raised on an eastern North Carolina farm, and a specialist in both agricultural policy and trade. He'll be a member of the prestigious National Economic Council, charged with bringing food and agricultural issues to the President and his senior staff.

It's the earliest that any U.S. President has appointed anyone to the position. Starling began work at the beginning of March, with trade, farm labor, and environmental issues at the top of his priority list. APA will coordinate with him on selected issues.

SENATE EXPECTED TO CONFIRM FDA COMMISSIONER

The U.S. Senate is scheduled to vote on April 26 to confirm Dr. Scott Gottlieb as FDA Commissioner. The 44-year-old physician had previously served as FDA Deputy Commissioner, and has close ties to both the pharmaceutical and finance industries. He was most recently a senior fellow at the conservative American Enterprise Institute. Although APA works most closely with FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN), the overall commissioner sets the agency's general policy and direction. Dr. Gottlieb is expected to reduce FDA bureaucracy and speed up drug approvals.

CONGRESS BEGINS 2018 FARM BILL HEARINGS

Hearings began on March 9 to develop a new Farm Bill to update and replace 2014 legislation that added \$100 million including increased fruit and vegetable purchases, and also placed a greater emphasis on human nutrition. If successful, a 2018 Farm Bill would continue USDA's transition away from farm and agricultural supports, and more toward such areas as school meals, human nutrition guidelines, and consumer education. It would go into effect on October 1, 2017. Congress appropriated \$165 billion for the current 2014 Farm Bill, 80 percent of which is for human nutrition programs, such as food stamps and school lunches. APA has taken an active role in ensuring that federal nutritional guidelines include processed as well as fresh fruits, such as apples.

FRUIT ADVISORY MEETING SET FOR MAY 9-10

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) will convene its Fruit & Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee on May 9 and 10 in Arlington, Virginia.

The federally sanctioned committee meets annually to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on issues affecting the nation's fruit and vegetable industries.

Although heavily slanted toward fresh issues, it does provide apple processors with a public forum to express concerns and to request government actions on behalf of the industry.

The 24-member group serves two-year terms. Information and an agenda is available from Marlene Betts at 202-720-5057. Marlene.Betts@AMS.USDA.gov.

HOUSE PASSES EPA SCIENCE ACT

As part of Republican efforts to "clean up" U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations, the House of Representatives passed HR-1430 "Honest Act" on March 29, requiring EPA to base all regulations on publicly available science.

The legislation would require all new EPA actions to be assessed and proven to be science-based. It now goes to the Senate for consideration: Details available online at: www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1430

FDA PLANS TO DEFINE "HEALTHY FOODS"

FDA is asking the public to help the agency define the term "healthy" for its new nutrition labels. The agency recently extended its original deadline for comments until April 26, 2017 to take advantage of wide public interest.

A public meeting on March 9 in Rockville, Maryland produced volumes of ideas and comments. A transcript will be published in late April or early May.

It was agreed that the definition of "healthy" on food labels was important, and that FDA/CFSAN should begin immediately to properly define the term. Details are available by calling Vincent de Jesus with FDA's CFSAN center at: 240-402-1450. Vincent.deJesus@FDA.HHS.gov.

FEDS STUDYING DIETARY GUIDELINES

The federal government continues its efforts to further update its Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Official recommendations are issued every five years, providing guidance and direction for foods served in the public realm.

Plans are to update the current 2015 guidelines for re-issuance in 2020. Following a top-level meeting held in Washington in early January, government experts have begun reaching out to the public for ideas to improve nutrition and diet for Americans.

The federal dietary guidelines provide voluntary ground rules for commercial food service, school meals, and public cafeterias. Safety and nutritious value are stressed.

APA WASHINGTON SEMINAR SET FOR NOVEMBER 9-10

Mark your calendars for Thursday and Friday, November 9-10, 2017. APA will hold its 2017 Washington Seminar at the Willard InterContinental Hotel in the Nation's Capital.

A fact-filled agenda will include a look at the Trump Administration's first ten months in office, along with an opportunity to personally meet some of its major players.

A Thursday evening reception and dinner provides a relaxing visit with APA members and allied industry representatives. Watch for registration materials in September.



Located on Pennsylvania Avenue and just 2 blocks from the White House, this historic luxury hotel contains some of the finest meeting rooms, lodging accommodations and staff in DC.



Apple Processors Association PRELIMINARY AGENDA 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 2017

4:00 PM—6:00 PM	REGISTRATION
6:00 PM—7:30 PM	WELCOME RECEPTION
7:30 PM—9:00 PM	DINNER

MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2017

7:00 AM—8:45 AM	BOARD OF DIRECTORS' BREAKFAST
9:00 AM—9:15 AM	"Welcome to the Annual Meeting" Tim Proctor, APA Chairman
9:15 AM—10:30 AM	Manufacturing Engagement: Smart Strategies to Keep Your Top Talent from Becoming Someone Else's" Lisa Ryan, Grategy
10:30 AM—10:45 AM	COFFEE/JUICE BREAK
10:45 AM—11:30 AM	"TBD"
12:30 PM—5:00 PM	APA GOLF TOURNAMENT
6:00 PM—7:00 PM	RECEPTION
7:00 PM—9:30 PM	DINNER

TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2017

8:00 AM—9:00 AM	SUPPLIERS' BREAKFAST
9:00 AM—10:00 AM	"The Media and Food Policy" Helena Bottemiller Evich, Politico (TBD)
10:00 AM—10:15 AM	COFFEE/JUICE BREAK
10:15 AM—11:15 AM	"Food Industry Update" Maggie Gentile, MS, RD, Food Directions LLC
6:00 PM—7:00 PM	CHAIRMAN'S RECEPTION
7:00 PM—10:00 PM	GALA DINNER