

“Healthy” Definition Expected by May

Another food labeling change is in the offing. FDA is expected to issue a draft definition for comment of the term “Healthy” by mid-May, to be used by the food industry to describe the nutritional value of a food product.

More than a year ago, FDA’s Center for Food Safety & Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) issued two pages of questions on how to define “healthy.” Now, the agency is nearing a decision, which could be used by the food industry as a voluntary label message and may include an icon, which would be included for use on the front of the food package to inform consumers of the product’s status.

FDA is expected to include the food’s nutrients and food groups as part of its proposed criteria.

FDA Reorganizes On March 31

One of the last official chores by outgoing FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb is the agency’s reorganization. FDA’s food policy decisions will be moved during March to the Commissioner’s office for direct supervision.

“We are elevating the role,” Gottlieb says. FDA has formed the Office of Food Policy and Response, which will take over duties formerly handled by subordinate offices, and place food under the Commissioner’s direct role.

The move is effective on March 31. APA is evaluating what impact this move may have on apple and other food processors.

GMO Labels Required by 2022

Apple processors producing foods from a bioengineered source, such as Arctic™ apple varieties, will be required by the federal government to list the fact on retail food labels. Mandatory compliance would be required by January 1, 2022.

USDA released its final GMO rule earlier this year. The required text would be either “Bioengineered Food” or “Contains a Bioengineered Food Ingredient,” and records to be kept by the processor for two years. The proposed rule had been at OMB for final clearance and approval since this past August.

Questions can be addressed to AMS’ Arthur L. Neal, Jr., arthur.neal@usda.gov. 202-690-1300. Rule contains flexibility for insignificant GMO content in products.

Atlas Pacific Expands Business

APA member Atlas Pacific Engineering Company is combining operations with Magnuson Corporation and Luthi Machinery to form GT Manufacturing with world-wide headquarters in Denver, Colorado. The new facility will be home to a research and development center with emphasis on innovation and product development.

APA board member and CEO, Robb Morris, will move his offices from Pueblo to Denver, with expanded oversight of all Atlas Pacific products, as well as new product lines. The companies’ manufacturing headquarters will remain in Pueblo.

The new combined company will emphasize development of new product lines designed to strengthen the group’s position as global leaders in fruit, vegetable, and related processing equipment. Atlas Pacific Engineering, Magnuson, and Luthi have manufactured fruit processing equipment for more than 70 years, conducting business in over 85 countries around the world.



APA HEADS SOUTH TO SEA ISLAND, GEORGIA FOR THE 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

Warm ocean breezes and southern hospitality are in order for APA’s 2019 Annual Meeting at the five-star Cloister Resort on Sea Island, Georgia. Make plans to attend this important industry event from June 16-18.

APA is assembling a valuable and timely program encompassing an overall theme of, “Best Business Practices for a Changing World.”

A diverse speaker line up will feature Brad and Maggie Gentile, who will cover regulatory and legislative changes facing manufacturers nationally, as we transition into a Presidential election cycle.

APA will also address new threats to your facilities and how your company can proactively prevent or contain these catastrophes. Attendees will learn how to prepare employees for mass violence in the workplace and cybersecurity attacks.

The sea-side resort offers the entire family beautiful beaches, fine dining, top-quality spa services, and limitless recreational choices. Golfers will be thrilled to try their luck at one of the resort’s three 18-hole golf courses. One of which, the Seaside Course, is ranked #4 among the 75 best golf courses in the U.S.

Evening events will offer an opportunity to make new contacts and renew old friendships in a casual beach setting.

The Cloisters is a short distance from the Jacksonville, Florida and Brunswick, Georgia airports, which offers several transportation options to the resort.

We encourage you to make your reservations early, and bring the entire family to celebrate Father's Day in southern style! This is a meeting and a venue not to miss. Register by May 10th to ensure the best guest rooms and meeting rates.



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USDA Stresses Food Group Plans

USDA's Food, Nutrition & Consumer Services Center is promoting "MyPlate Plans" to consumers that stress daily menu planning using fruits, vegetables, grains, protein foods, and dairy products. The menu plans include a chart to record daily consumption of each type of food.

The fruit group recommendation includes one cup of either fresh or canned fruit, 100% vegetable or fruit juice, or a half-cup of dried fruit. Calorie content is also available.

MyPlate plans are available online at www.ChooseMyPlate.gov/StartSimple.

Dietary Guidelines

ICON FOR "HEALTHY" UNDER CONSIDERATION

To Meet March 28-29

USDA's Food, Nutrition & Consumer Services (FNCS) and the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) is holding the first meeting of the 2020 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee on March 28 and 29. The meeting is planned at USDA and is open to the public.

The federal agencies are soliciting comments from the public on how the nation's dietary guidelines might be revised and improved, and the commentary period will remain open throughout 2019, and until early 2020. Dietary guidelines set forth standards and guidance for all federal food, nutrition, and health programs, and are updated every five years. A coalition of four multinational food giants - Danone, Mars, Nestle, and Unilever - has announced that it will try to influence the government's development of the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

Advisory Committee members are selected based upon their scientific and medical knowledge, and will prepare a science-based report to help inform both USDA and HHS on best practices to use in planning and implementing federal programs. APA will be following the committee's progress throughout the year, and will report periodically to members. APA members can get full details at: DietaryGuidelines.gov.

USDA Seeks Organic Board Members

USDA is seeking nominations of qualified individuals for open seats on the National Organic Standards Board. The 15-member advisory board makes recommendations on the production, handling, and processing of USDA certified organic products. Two of the vacancies are for individuals who are knowledgeable and work for companies that process organic food products. Board members should attend two in-person meetings each year, and participate in bi-monthly conference calls. Approved travel and lodging is covered.

Nominations are due on Friday, May 17, and require a resume and an AD-755 application form. Nominations may also include an optional cover letter and letters of reference. Nominations may be emailed to Michelle.Arsenault@usda.gov at the National Organic Program.

GAO: Add Students To SNAP Program

The federal Government Accountability Office (GAO) is suggesting that USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) do more to ensure that eligible college students are enrolling in SNAP. GAO released a report that found that less than half of the 3.3 million potentially eligible students actually enrolled in the program in 2016. A group of Senators requested the report during 2018, and is hoping to build on its recommendations as Congress works to re-authorize the Higher Education Act.

If millions of students began participating in food stamps, USDA would need to ensure that additional quantities of selected nutritious foods, including apple products, are available in retail food stores.

USDA Broadens School Lunches

USDA published a final rule this past December that revises and broadens food options in the nation's school lunches. It is effective with the 2019-2020 school year. The new rule retains healthful fruits and vegetables, but requires that half of weekly grains in school breakfasts and lunches must now be whole-grain-rich, ending the need for exemptions. Milk options are broadened, allowing for flavored, low-fat milk (chocolate milk). The new rule allows more time to achieve sodium reduction by extending deadlines for lower sodium levels through the 2024-2025 school year. USDA will continue to monitor and assess the effectiveness and success of the extensive school feeding program.

Advisory Committee Rescheduled

USDA's re-established Fruit & Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee, originally slated to meet on January 30-31, has been rescheduled. New dates are Thursday and Friday, May 9 and 10. Meeting is at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Arlington, Virginia. The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), blamed the government shutdown in January for the delay. Details are available from Darrell Hughes - darrell.hughes@ams.usda.gov - 202-378-2576. APA will monitor the committee's actions and report to members.

APA Schedules Future Meetings

Put these upcoming APA meetings on your "must-attend" schedule: 2019 Washington Seminar -- APA will return to the historic Willard InterContinental Hotel in the Nation's Capital for its 2019 Washington Seminar on November 14-15.

Look for briefings on pertinent national issues and regulations of pertinence to the business and apple communities. 2020 Annual Meeting - It's back to "America's Resort," the Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, WV.

Dates are June 21-23. Since 1988, this five-diamond resort has hosted APA with the finest in ambiance, culinary, and golf. Don't miss it.

Save-the-Date! 2019 Washington Seminar November 14-15



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 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2019

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

MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2019

- 7:00 AM—8:45 AM BOARD OF DIRECTORS' BREAKFAST
- 9:00 AM - 9:15 AM "Welcome to the Annual Meeting"
Charlie Haberkorn, APA Chairman
- 9:15 AM --10:30 AM Retaining Key Employees by Creating a Self-Motivating Work Environment
Tom Hudgin, Wilmington Quality Associates
- 10:30 AM—10:45 AM COFFEE/JUICE BREAK
- 10:45 AM---11:30 AM "Evolving Consumer Trends in Eating"
Thomas Talbert, RD, CSSI
- 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 18, 2019

- 8:00 AM—9:00 AM SUPPLIERS' BREAKFAST
- 9:00 AM -10:00 AM How Transportation Regulations Will Impact your Business (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