

## FDA HOLDS STANDARDS OF IDENTITY MEETING

FDA held an all-day public meeting on September 27 to discuss modernizing food Standards of Identity. It continues to be FDA's goal to reach a consensus among food manufacturers and consumers to simplify and standardize types of common foods. Representatives from both FDA and USDA were present at the meeting, and oral comments were given from a range of stakeholders from industry, trade associations, consumer and public health advocacy groups and academia. The groups presented overarching themes highlighting the need for diversity, flexibility, engagement, and transparency in foods. The agency will continue to work to modernize the current Food Standards of Identity. No target date or deadline was announced.

## NIFA INVESTS \$77.8 MILLION IN FOOD/AG RESEARCH

USDA's National Institute of Food & Agriculture (NIFA) has invested \$77.8 million in eight new research projects. The projects in this latest series of grants will be headquartered at eight Land Grant colleges across the U.S. The research projects will focus on sustaining a more abundant, nutritious, and accessible food supply, and apply to all facets of food production, processing, and consumer food safety. NIFA is USDA's independent agency chartered to select, award, and monitor agricultural research funds to improve the nation's food production. NIFA has been directed by USDA to move its primary staff and headquarters from Washington, D.C. to Kansas City this fall. The directive lists cost-savings and a closer working relationship to constituents as reasons for the move.

## WHITE HOUSE LOOKS AT "HEALTHY"

What is the real definition of "healthy"? The White House Office of Management & Budget (OMB) intends to find out. In its efforts to clean up and modernize food labels, FDA asked the food industry and consumer groups last year to define their own definition of "healthy." FDA then worked on finding a consensus among hundreds of submissions. The consensus definition was sent to OMB for critique and clearance on August 27. Once reviewed and approved, FDA plans to include the "official" definition of "healthy" as part of its newly sanctioned food labels. No schedule has been announced.

The APAGram newsletter is published by the  
APPLE PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION  
1750 K Street, NW, Ste. 700 - Washington, D.C. 20006  
202-785-6715  
www.appleprocessors.org

### APA STAFF

Andrea Ball, President  
Paul S. Weller Jr., President Emeritus  
Maggie Gentile, VP of Nutrition  
Jacquie Ball, VP of Administration

## CONGRESS RECESSES UNTIL OCTOBER 15

The 116th Congress went on recess until mid-October, leaving behind several key legislative issues, including appropriations for FY2020 (which began on October 1). Before the fall recess, the Senate Appropriations Committee voted unanimously on an appropriations bill to support federal agriculture and nutrition programs (\$23.1 billion) through September 30, 2020 (FY2020). It will take up the House-passed bill in joint conference when Congress reconvenes.

Also before recess, the House passed a continuing resolution to extend federal funding through November 21, to avoid a government shutdown. The House had passed a similar resolution in August. USDA and FDA budgets are involved.

## KNOUSE FOODS APPOINTS BINKLEY TO APA BOARD

Knouse Foods Cooperative, Inc. board chairman and interim CEO, Ken Guise, has appointed Michael Binkley as its member of the APA Board of Directors. Binkley is Knouse Foods' vice-president and general manager, and son of veteran Knouse former technical director Dr. Bob Binkley.

Knouse Foods, a Pennsylvania-based grower cooperative, was one of three major apple processors that formed the Apple Processors Association in 1987. APA processor members are companies that produce quality apple products originating from at least 50 percent fresh apples. It is celebrating its 32nd year representing the apple processing industry.

## APA OFFERS DISCOUNT ON WASHINGTON SEMINAR

APA is offering members an "Early Bird" discount on registrations for its 2019 Washington Seminar. As politics continue to heat up with major impact on apple processors and their suppliers, APA strives to maximize Seminar attendance in the Nation's Capital. Dates are November 14-15 at the historic Willard InterContinental Hotel.

Register online or download and mail by October 14 to save 15 percent for all members. Hotel reservations by **October 21** will also guarantee reduced group-rate rooms. Credit cards are welcome. Please visit APA's web site at [www.appleprocessors.org](http://www.appleprocessors.org).

# APAgram

The Newsletter of the Apple Processors Association

## U.S. TRADE AMBASSADOR TO BRIEF APA SEMINAR

The Apple Processors Association will once again convene at the Willard Inter-Continental Hotel in November to get updates from federal legislative and regulatory government officials, while enjoying fall in Washington DC and networking with industry colleagues.

Speakers will include Ambassador Gregg Doud, Chief Agricultural Negotiator with the Office of U.S. Trade Representative, to brief APA members on current trade negotiations and tariffs at the APA Washington Seminar. Ambassador Doud will highlight the APA program session on Friday morning, November 15.

Key issues for Ambassador Doud include the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) and U.S.-China trade talks. His major professional thrust is to adjust U.S. policies and terms of trade with world markets, many of which impact APA members. Also on his schedule is crafting a trade agreement with the European Union to include food and agricultural products. He was confirmed as the nation's chief agricultural trade negotiator on March 1, 2018.

Trade negotiations with Canada and Mexico are moving along, "Reaching the sixth inning," according to one knowledgeable Member of Congress. The Trump Administration expects completion and contractual signing of the USMCA agreement by the end of the year.

Ambassador Doud may have a final report at the APA Washington Seminar, including announcement of new tariffs on \$7.5 billion of European ag products, which could include apple juice and/or concentrate.

Politics play a part in APA's Washington Seminar. Invitations have gone out to several political experts to share their experience and insight with APA members.

APA's program also includes Joe Tvrdy, a USDA official. He will advise USDA top management on its major food programs. He will provide updates on current industry issues to APA members.



The Willard InterContinental Hotel is one of the most historic hotels in Washington, DC.

An issue of great interest to the food industry is the CBD derivative of the ancient crop of hemp. As FDA moves closer to approval of the nutraceutical for use in processed food products, APA has invited the newly formed National Industrial Hemp Council to provide an up-date analysis of the controversial food additive.

Washington Seminar attendees will also receive a current briefing on food industry issues from new Food Directions team member Allie Graham, MS, RD.

Before coming to Food Directions, Allie worked at Grocery Manufacturers Association where she assisted members in food labeling for FDA and USDA products. She also helped develop international and domestic nutrition and food policy positions, focusing on new technology in the food space. Allie earned an MS in Nutrition through the University of New Haven, and trained as a Registered Dietitian at Yale New Haven Hospital.

Finally, Apple Processors Association members and guests will enjoy a delicious dinner in the Willard's famed Crystal Ballroom, where they can network with colleagues and friends. For more information or to register for the meeting, visit [www.AppleProcessors.org](http://www.AppleProcessors.org).

**APA Washington Seminar  
The Willard InterContinental Hotel**

**Thursday, November 14, 2019**

- 12:00 Noon-2:30 PM    APA Board Meeting
- 1:30 PM-3:00 PM        Registration
- 3:00 PM-3:10 PM        "APA Welcome"  
                                  Malfred Shaw, APA Chairman
- 3:10 PM-4:15 PM        TBD
- 4:15 PM-5:00 PM        The Washington Political Update
- 6:30 PM-7:15 PM        Chairman's Reception
- 7:15 PM-9:00 PM        APA Dinner

**Friday, November 15, 2019**

- 8:00 AM-9:00 AM        Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 AM-10:00 AM      Joe Trvdy, USDA Food & Nutrition
- 10:00 AM-10:45 AM     Ambassador Greg Doud  
                                  Office of the US Trade Representative
- 10:45 AM-11:00 AM     Coffee/Apple Juice Break
- 10:45 AM-11:45 AM     Allison (Ali) Webster, PhD, RD  
                                  Food Directions
- 11:45 AM                 Adjournment

For schedule changes or e-registration forms, visit  
[www.appleprocessors.org/meetings](http://www.appleprocessors.org/meetings).



**USDA ADDS APPLES TO PESTICIDE PROGRAM**

USDA has added apple juice to its Pesticide Data Program (PDP). The program was established in 1991 as a food safety initiative to check dietary pesticide exposure. Apple juice will be sampled, beginning on January 1, 2020, and throughout the year. Samples of apple juice will be collected at USDA sampling sites in ten states, including Maryland, Michigan, New York, and Washington State.

USDA officials call the sampling a "routine rotation of foods analyzed by PDP," with an emphasis on those commodities consumed by infants and children. Orange juice will begin to be sampled on October 1, 2019. PDP data will be available and shared with food processors, environmental groups, and all interested parties.

PDP is managed by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), in conjunction with EPA, to ensure that foods remain at safe levels. Both fresh and processed foods are sampled. Information is available from Brenda Foos, PDP's monitoring director, at 202-572-8167. Data will be posted on PDP's web site at: [www.ams.usda.gov/pdp](http://www.ams.usda.gov/pdp).

**APA STUDIES ROLE OF CBD IN FOOD**

The recently enacted 2018 Farm Bill opened a new role for the ancient crop of hemp as a cash crop and its offshoot CBD, a nutraceutical, possibly for use in foods. APA met recently with Dr. Steve Groff, co-founder of the newly formed National Industrial Hemp Council, for a status report and update. Dr. Groff noted that hemp is a new cash crop that is legal and planted in 33 states, and is a ready source of a wide variety of products, from fine fibers, to cooking oils and cosmetics, to food additives known as CBD. The CBD-infused products offer treatment for health issues, from anxiety to muscle pain, and are being evaluated by food processors. FDA would have jurisdiction over any food use of CBD, and is expected to issue a proposed rule for its use by the end of 2019 if safety data are satisfactory. APA has added Hemp/CBD to its list of industry issues to monitor.

**AMS ISSUES FINAL APPLE GRADE RULE**

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is amending the U.S. Standards for Grades of Apples by removing smooth net-like russeting as a grade-determining factor in the U.S. Extra Fancy, U.S. Fancy, and U.S. No. 1 grades for Fuji apples. AMS is also removing obsolete references to the location where color standards may be examined and purchased. The changes modernize the standards and meet consumer demand by providing greater marketing flexibility. The rule takes effect on October 31, 2019. Details and questions are available from David G. Horner at 540-361-1120. E-mail: [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).



**Apple Processors Association  
2019 Washington Seminar**

The Willard Inter-Continental Hotel  
November 14-15, 2019  
Washington, DC

**Registration Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name for Badge \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse/Guest \_\_\_\_\_ Name for Badge \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

		Early Bird	Regular (applies Sept. 1, 2019)
<b>REGISTRATION FEES:</b>	Member	\$ 595	\$ 625
	Non-Member	\$ 695	\$ 725
	Spouse/Guest	\$ 195	\$ 225
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED</b>		\$	

Please return this form via email ([info@appleprocessors.org](mailto:info@appleprocessors.org)) fax (202.449.8560) or mail.  
 Pay by credit card (you will be emailed an invoice to pay online. A 4% fee will apply to credit card payments).  
 Pay by check by sending this form and payment to:  
**Apple Processors Association**  
**1750 K Street, NW, Ste. 700**  
**Washington, D.C. 20006**

Visit [www.appleprocessors.org](http://www.appleprocessors.org) for more information,  
 email us, [info@appleprocessors.org](mailto:info@appleprocessors.org) or call 202.785.6715  
 Rooms are available in a special block at the Willard Hotel.  
**Deluxe Room \$399 Premier Room \$474 Willard Room \$549 Executive Suite \$799**  
 To reserve your room, please call (202) 628-9100 and indicate you are with the **Apple Processors Association. THE GROUP RATE WILL NOT BE GUARANTEED AFTER OCTOBER 21, 2019.**