

NEW FARM BILL DELAYED BY SNAP

Food stamps (SNAP) and social welfare programs have become the most controversial issues in a new federal Farm Bill, and are delaying replacement of the expiring 2014 legislation. Chairs of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees initially pushed for an early March completion date, but the current feeding programs, amounting to more than \$75 billion annually, for SNAP, school meals, child nutrition, and WIC for families has posed a hang-up.

The House Agriculture Committee released its bill on April 12, but sufficient votes in the full House are questionable due to the SNAP opposition. These programs purchase processed apple products, benefitting more than 45 million Americans. Few major changes are expected in other sections of the multi-year farm and food legislation, which would take effect on October 1. Current farm legislation expires on September 30.

USDA UNDER SECRETARY PRAISES CODEX

Under Secretary of Agriculture Ted McKinney told APA on April 10 that the U.S. food industry's adherence to Codex is a healthy and beneficial endeavor. The recently confirmed USDA official handles U.S. agricultural trade matters.

Codex is an internationally recognized code of standards for foods, food production, and food safety. It is maintained and moderated by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for food in international trade.

McKinney said that Codex protects food being imported and exported by the U.S., and is a valuable tool in stimulating and protecting food trade.

AGRICULTURE RECEIVES \$65 PER TAX PAYER

TIME Magazine estimates that the average U.S. federal income tax payment is about \$10,000.00, and of that amount, \$65.00 goes to agriculture. Federal feeding programs, SNAP, WIC, and school lunch, although part of the Farm Bill, are extra.

SNAP (food stamps), for example, receives \$241.00 of the tax payment. This contrasts with \$2,983.00 going to the military and \$2,981.00 for health programs. The latter programs break down to \$1,289 for Medicaid and \$1,145 for Medicare.

APA MEMBERS LIST MEETING PREFERENCES



In a recent membership survey, APA members provided personal preferences for association meetings and services. They preferred meeting sites alternating between mountain and beach resort venues; speakers and topics on a variety of issues, including legislation, regulations, consumer trends, food and nutrition items, and general communications; and political insiders when in Washington.

Non-golfers expressed an interest in organized outside activity during free afternoons, to include historical tours and sight-seeing. In general, APA members were in favor of the current format of both Annual Meetings and the Washington Seminar, but supported a separate session for just Supplier members to discuss issues and concerns. APA will continue future surveys to gather member feedback.



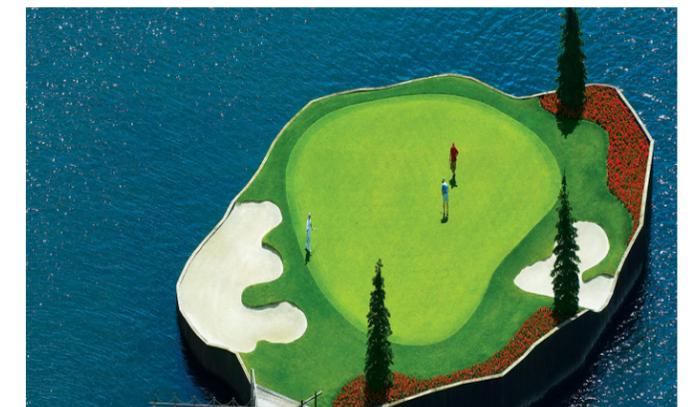
APA RETURNS TO LAKE COEUR D'ALENE FOR 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

APA's 2018 Annual Meeting returns to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho on June 17-19. The luxurious 338-room Coeur d'Alene Resort hosts APA members in totally renovated guest accommodations in a magnificent western setting.

nient to national parks and scenic tourist venues for family enjoyment. The attractive town main street lies just outside the resort's front door with boutiques, wine tasting, and fine dining.

A timely program of business and industry presentations is being assembled to benefit all segments of the apple processing and supplier industry. Networking will also be a key component of the event and will feature a cocktail cruise around Lake Coeur d'Alene, a lakeside dinner at the new Hagadone Event Center, and a golf tournament, complete with the world-famous floating 14th green, and plenty of free time to explore mountain trails and quaint downtown, just steps from the hotel.

Plan to register now to ensure the best guest rooms and meeting rates. Registration deadline is May 18.



The five-diamond resort is an easy 45-minute drive from the Spokane, Washington Airport, and conve-



On the shores of Lake Coeur d'Alene, this upscale resort is a 5-minute walk from City Park & Beach. Play Coeur d'Alene golf courses that provide the ultimate golfing experience and land a shot on the Famous Floating Green at Coeur d'Alene

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APA logo and statistics: The average U.S. consumer consumes an estimated 33.3 pounds of processed apples annually.

APA contact information: 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

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION TO REDUCE REGULATIONS

President Trump has issued an executive order stating that two standing federal regulations will have to be eliminated for every new federal regulation issued.

APA members are invited to suggest which FDA and USDA regulations to eliminate. Suggestions can be sent to APA for compilation and delivery on behalf of the apple processing industry.

FDA TARGETS FOOD SALT CONTENT

FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb has announced that FDA will move swiftly to reduce salt in retail foods, a decision that runs counter to President Trump's deregulation push. Goal is to reduce daily salt intake from 3,400 mg to 2,300 mg per adult per day.

The U.S. food industry has opposed and delayed FDA's efforts to reduce salt content in prepared foods. Congress has gone along with industry, mandating in recent appropriations legislation that FDA hold off its efforts until the National Academy of Medicine completes its studies in January, 2019.

But FDA is moving ahead to update its short-term sodium targets to take effect when the NAM releases its report. The targets will be voluntary, but FDA intends to put considerable pressure on food processors.

ICON FOR "HEALTHY" UNDER CONSIDERATION

During early 2017, FDA's Center for Food Safety & Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) issued two pages of questions on how they should define "healthy." Now, the agency is working on an appropriate icon to be placed on the front of the food package to inform consumers of the product's healthy status.

Action on both projects is expected during 2018. Public suggestions included combining nutrient criteria with type of product criteria to determine whether the food product is considered healthy. FDA also announced that it would reactivate its efforts to update nutrition facts labels on retail foods as part of the process. However, final label regulations are not expected until 2019.

SPECIALTY CROP GROUPS PUSH FOR SUPPORT

A coalition of 120 specialty crop groups are pushing hard for Congress to protect \$120 million annually in current specialty crops programs, including fruit and vegetables, and to increase support for new initiatives. Support would be part of the 2018 Farm Bill. The Specialty Crop Farm Bill Alliance lists programs that enhance consumer nutrition information, increase consumption, combat pests and diseases, increase access to foreign markets, fund new research, and provide block grants to the industry.

Coalition members estimate that specialty crops account for \$66 billion in farm gate value and represent 33 percent of all U.S. farm cash receipts.

FDA SEEKS NOMINEES FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

APA members can apply to serve on FDA's Food Advisory Committee to review and comment on the agency's proposed regulations on the food industry. FDA is accepting nominations for both companies and individuals. Qualifications include companies and persons directly involved in food processing and related endeavors. Deadline for applications is May 10.

Full details on qualifications, responsibilities, and term of service are at: <http://www.fda.gov/AdvisoryCommittees/AboutAdvisoryCommittees/CommitteeMembership/Applying-forMembership/default.htm>.

APPLES TARGETED IN CHINA TRADE RETALIATION

Apples are part of 106 U.S. product exports targeted by China in retaliation for President Trump's threats of tariffs on \$50 billion worth of Chinese imports. China is a lucrative market for fresh apples, mainly from the U.S. west coast, and part of \$3 billion worth of U.S. agricultural commodity exports already targeted. The U.S. Trade Representative Office (USTR) plans to unveil a detailed list of Chinese imports on May 15, which is expected to include up to 1,300 specific commodities. Each could be hit with a 25 percent tariff.

White House officials announced that its plan is to reduce the annual U.S. trade deficit by \$100 billion by the end of 2018. Chinese investments in the U.S. economy could also be restricted, according to the White House.

FDA COMMISSIONER UNVEILS "FOOD INNOVATION STRATEGY"

FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb unveiled his "Food Innovation Strategy" at an early April speech to a major consumers group. He outlined the following plans:

- Convene a public meeting this summer with the food industry
- Modernize food label claims
- Implement the Nutrition Facts Label
- Define "healthy" and include a label icon
- Define "natural" and include a label icon
- Simplify names of label ingredients
- Better educate the public
- Modernize Standards of Identity
- Reduce sodium in prepared foods

Goal of FDA is to have these initiatives implemented by January 1, 2020. Major work will be done by FDA's Center for Food Safety & Applied Nutrition (CFSAN). APA is closely monitoring the plans and progress

APA WASHINGTON SEMINAR SET FOR NOVEMBER 8-9

APA convenes its 2018 Washington Seminar just days after the critically important mid-term national elections, on Thursday and Friday, November 8 and 9. Seminar headquarters is the historic Willard InterContinental Hotel a block from the White House.

Timely industry updates from FDA, USDA, and political experts are being planned. Mark your calendars for another informative meeting with lots of personal industry networking. 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 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JUNE 17, 2018

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

MONDAY, JUNE 18, 2018

- 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 19, 2018

- 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