THE OUTLOOK

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Arizona Environmental Health Association
http://www.azeha.org/Home.html
A Message from the President...

2019 will be an exciting year as AZEHA is set to be hosting TWO conferences- The annual AZEHA spring conference on March 6-7th, and the 2019 Pacific Region Retail Food Safety Seminar in September.

The 2019 AZEHA Spring Conference was once again held at ASU downtown campus. Dr. David Dyjack from NEHA opened the conference followed by Mario Seminara, FDA Retail Food Specialist. There were numerous other speakers. All will be highlighted in the next newsletter. The Newsletter Committee is currently busy at work preparing the newsletter, so if you want to volunteer, here is a great opportunity. David Morales was quite busy arranging for conference speakers, and the agenda was excellent. If you have any future ideas for topics or presenters, please contact him at DMorales@mail.maricopa.gov. Likewise, if you know of a business or organization that may want to donate a raffle item, advertise and/or exhibit at these conferences, please contact Tom Dominick at TDominick@mail.maricopa.gov. For future events if you want to give about 15-30 min of your time to assist in these areas, it would be greatly appreciated as conference volunteers are also always welcome! Typical assistance areas are: swag bags, registration table, snack table, general room setup prior to the conference, and cleanup at the end of each day.

Looking ahead to September, AZEHA will be providing assistance to the FDA in hosting the 2019 Pacific Region Retail Food Safety Seminar to be held at the Sheraton Mesa at Wrigleyville West. The FDA is taking care of the speakers, but AZEHA will be taking care of the conference details. We will be needing volunteers to staff the registration table and generally assist where needed. This is a great opportunity to attend a regional FDA seminar as well as volunteer to assist AZEHA. Please let me know if you are interested.

Last but nowhere near least, AZEHA needs volunteers to assist on committees. As was noted in the October message, one of my goals is to get more people involved in the various committees. This is your chance to make a difference, network and learn new things. Call or email and let me know how you would like to help out. New ideas thoughts are always needed and welcomed.

May 2nd, 2019 at 1PM, is the next scheduled AZEHA Board meeting to be held at the Flynn Center. Everyone is welcome to attend and provide input into the discussion. We will do our best to provide a call-in number so you can “attend” the meeting from a remote location. Highlights from the October Board meeting: Call-in capability was mostly successful at the October Board meeting. Ms. Jackie Reszetar, NEHA Region 2 Vice President, reviewed AZEHA and NEHA relationship. Mr. Mario Seminara, Arizona’s new FDA retail food specialist, called in and discussed the opportunity to host the Pacific Region Retail Food Safety Seminar. Logo and website designs were discussed. The first (of many, I hope) Meet and Greet was held at the Duce. Highlights from the December Board meeting included discussions on presenters, donators, vendors and securing location and food services.

This year has started off fast. Your AZEHA board members are going to need a lot of assistance with the next conference so please volunteer to help out. I know it will be a fun and exciting experience.

Cheri Dale, President
Cheri.Dale@Maricopa.gov
Office: 602-506-3476
The 2019 ACDEHSA Environmental Health Conference in Laughlin, NV was held January 30-31st and was a great success. AZEHA once again was there to manage much of the behind the scenes, so special thank you’s to Tesann Achilles and Jennifer Podulka; running it all there with me!

It has traditionally been one of the better yearly association conferences for Environmental Health, and the location has always played a big part in that. Laughlin has always been a nice host location; the weather right next to the river, and of course the casinos and associated night life is a fun distraction. Outside of the conference time, the other amenities of the area really do well to provide you with something to do (restaurants, bowling, pool, movies, dancing, etc).

The topics of the conference represented quite a wide range; having something for just about everyone. There were three different illness outbreak investigations; E. coli 0157:H7 on the UT/AZ Border by Anna Scherzer of Mohave County, Salmonella Montevideo at commercial restaurant chain by Marissa Munoz of Maricopa County, and Norovirus at a Las Vegas Casino, by Lauren DiPrete of Southern Nevada Health District. All were very interesting topics, and well-laid out outbreaks that ended with good learning points from each.

Other topics ranged from a variety of disciplines. One was a description of the correlations between irrigation water and some pathogens related to recent food recalls and outbreaks by Dr. Chuck Gerba of the U of A, Another was a well-done description of the Produce Safety Rules and how they are currently viewed and interpreted by Norman Barnett of FSMA/AZDA. There was also a presentation on the overlap and likely future use of wastewater reuse in commercial settings by Colin Bishop of ANUA. One presentation by Maricopa County managing supervisor Vas Hofer explained the new mobile food laws (that went in to effect Aug 2018), and how they are implemented in Maricopa County, and could/would likely be used across the other AZ counties.

Bianca Arriaga, manager of the AZ Food Safety and Env. Services Program also delivered a report on the building of a manufactured foods program in Arizona, and other State updates. Representatives from California (Adela Evans and Jennifer Osorio) also came and discussed many new bills/laws that have been passed over there, and how they are working to tackle and handle these new changes. Some of the new laws

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**Mike Britt, ACDEHSA 2019 Conference Chairman**

Maricopa County Environmental Services

MBritt@mail.maricopa.gov
that they must now work with and around are: Microenterprise Home Kitchens, Catering Host Permits, Limited Service Charitable Feeding Operations, Single Use Straws, Sidewalk Vending and Children’s Meals. They certainly have A LOT on their plate that they are now trying to manage with all of these new requirements, and it was great to hear their ideas and actions for how to plan and deal with them before they reach other states and jurisdictions.

Included in the mix were presentations on the power of partnerships and jurisdictional outreach with our peers by Christine Sylvis and Jason Banales of Southern Nevada. They laid out good ideas to remember to reach out to our surrounding partners in the industry of public health; even across county and state lines. Along those lines but in different vein was a discussion on leadership and communication by Suzanne Krippel and Kevin Brennan (of 334 Consulting Services, LLC), which was a very well presented message on more effective communication within work settings in all of the various levels of the work environment.

Also among the many presentations, was also one by Dr. Kirk Smith of Maricopa County Vector Control, on Aedes aegypti mosquitoes; detailing concerns with their public health implications, as well as future plans for their control. They are capable of vectoring Chikungunya, Dengue and even Zika virus and a major focus in Maricopa County, not to mention much of the southwest in attendance at the conference. Also presented was regarding the safety practices and regulation in the body art/modification industry by Wendy Maurer (of Coconino County). In this presentation, she did a very good professional job describing some historical practices that have led to our current cultural practices, and many of the various industry practices involved, including tattooing, piercing, scarification, branding, suspension, implants/stapling, tongue splitting, and chemicals.

Another couple of really good presentations were given by Amanda Bond and Michelle Chester of Maricopa County. Mrs. Bond described the efforts being made with the homeless feeding efforts, and how to educate the public on smarter feeding/sharing ways to more long-term assist them. Mrs. Chester presented on the creation of the Active Managerial Control (AMC) Toolbox.

This conference really was a good mix of topics, but one of the biggest contribution to its effectiveness was the presenters’ styles and end messages. Thank you to everyone who presented and assisted there; both time/talents and all of the expertise and experiences!
2019 FDA Pacific Region Retail Food Seminar will be in Phoenix!

Back in September of 2018 the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Pacific Region Retail Food Seminar was held in Boise, Idaho, where Arizona had great representation from Maricopa County, Pima County, and the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS).

The Arizona delegation from the 2018 FDA Pacific Region Retail Food Seminar (from left to right):
Todd Pelech (ADHS), Bianca Arriaga (ADHS), David Ludwig (Pima), Mario Seminara (AZ FDA Retail Specialist), Patti Henderson (Pima), Autumn Dopko (Pima), Mike LaGrow (Maricopa), Marissa Munoz (Maricopa), Mike Britt (Maricopa)

This year, AZEHA will host the 2019 FDA Pacific Region Retail Food Seminar here in Phoenix! This conference provides an opportunity for participants to learn about changes to regulations, policies, and recommendations that impact retail food safety, regulatory initiatives to enhance retail food safety, available funding opportunities, and more. It allows state and local retail food programs to get together and share best practices, innovations, and regulatory roadblocks.

See the flyer to the left, and there will be more information coming soon. If you are interested in assisting, please contact Cheri Dale to be placed on a contact list.

Questions? Want to help?
You may contact:
Cheri.Dale@Maricopa.gov
October 2018 — Eliminating emissions in India and China could add years to people’s lives. In a recent study, researchers wanted to know how replacing coal-fired power plants in China and India with clean, renewable energy could benefit human health and save lives in the future. The researchers found that eliminating harmful emissions from power plants could save an estimated annual 15 million years of life in China and 11 million years of life in India. Explore the report here.

November 2018 — Air Pollution being linked to autism. The study of children in Shanghai, from birth to three years, found that exposure to fine particles (PM2.5) from vehicle exhausts, industrial emissions and other sources of outdoor pollution increased the risk of developing autism spectrum disorder (ASD) by up to 78%. The study included 124 ASD children and 1240 healthy children (as control) in stages over a nine-year period, examining the association between air pollution and ASD. Read more here.

December 2018 — New houseplant can clean your home’s air. Some hazardous compounds are too small to be trapped in certain filters. Small molecules like chloroform, which is present in small amounts in chlorinated water, or benzene, which is a component of gasoline, build up in our homes when we shower or boil water, or when we store cars or lawn mowers in attached garages. Both benzene and chloroform exposure have been linked to cancer. Researchers at the University of Washington have now genetically modified a common houseplant -- pothos ivy -- to remove chloroform and benzene from the air around it. The modified plants express a protein, called 2E1, that transforms these compounds into molecules that the plants can then use to support their own growth. More here.
October 2018 — Why your organization needs standard operating procedures. If there’s one thing your employees and customers rely on, it is this: “Consistency.” This article explains how customers want consistency. They need to interact with products and services for them to work in a predictable way. Employees want consistency because it makes their jobs easier and drives efficiency. A business wants consistency because managing the unexpected can be both timely and costly.

November 2018 — Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to expand use of mandatory food recall authority. When food safety issues come to light, it is the responsibility of the FDA to exercise their authority and mandate the removal of a product from the market if necessary. While most companies do fully engage with FDA, some companies do not voluntarily agree to issue a recall of the product(s) that may pose a public health risk. In a formal statement, Scott Gottlieb, FDA Commissioner, calls this “unacceptable.” For this reason, the agency put out final guidance on the implementation of FDA’s mandatory recall authority. Read here for information.

December 2018 – U.S. food supply is among the safest in the world, says the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). This article explains how the USDA recently published the 2017 Pesticide Data Program (PDP) Annual Summary. The Summary shows more than 99 percent of the samples tested had pesticide residues well below benchmark levels established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Tests were conducted on fresh and processed foods including fruits and vegetables as well as honey, milk and bottled water. Data is collected and analyzed for pesticide residue levels on selected foods. For over 25 years, USDA has tested a variety of consumable commodities and their findings can be found in this article.
October 2018 — Is climate change causing a rise in the number of mosquito and tick-borne diseases? Life in a single-family home in suburban America, one with a quiet and spacious backyard, surrounded by natural habitats, lush green vegetation, where beautiful birds, squirrels and other small mammals come and go, is the American dream. Now, however, this once-cherished dream is being threatened by invading tick and mosquito species that are carrying emerging pathogens. Exposure to ticks and mosquitoes is the single greatest risk factor for emerging vector borne diseases, and the introduction of these vectors to new geographic areas has been a key contributing factor in the emergence of these diseases. Mounting evidence now suggests that climate change is facilitating the geographic expansion of mosquito and tick vectors of public health importance. Read more HERE.

November 2018 — Researchers have generated six Zika virus antibodies that could be used to test for and possibly treat a mosquito-borne disease that has infected more than 1.5 million people worldwide. The antibodies “may have the dual utility as diagnostics capable of recognizing Zika virus subtypes and may be further developed to treat Zika virus infection,” corresponding author Ravi Durvasula, MD and colleagues report in a study published in the journal PLOS ONE. Zika virus is a textbook example of an emerging disease that appears quickly, often in remote areas with little or no public health infrastructure. There is no effective vaccine or drug to treat the disease. Read more on this HERE.

December 2018 — Tsetse flies are a substantial obstacle to development of the livestock sector throughout sub-Saharan Africa, including in Senegal, where 80 percent of the milk consumed is imported. An interesting article on the known vector for the parasitic disease called trypanosomiasis; which causes “sleeping sickness” in humans, which can be fatal if left untreated. In cattle, the infection causes reduced fertility, weight loss and sometimes death. This could have closer applications, but in the coastal Niayes zone of Senegal, meat and dairy production is set to increase substantially in the coming years. This is a boon for the region, which is home to 80 percent of the country's population.
October 2019 — A new facility is being funded in Peoria, AZ to the tune of $2.2 million for the purposes of treating the city’s wastewater for storing underground. A number of factors including the climate change, drought, and increasing population size have brought the idea of recycling and reusing water to the forefront. This is being considered as an alternative to the otherwise unconventional idea of “toilet-to-tap,” which would technically be permissible with proper application. Peoria’s plan would insert 1 million gallons of water back into the ground daily. This recycled wastewater is used for irrigation, recharging of aquifers, and cooling the Palo Verde Power Nuclear Plant to name a few. This same water can also be used as drinking water via an indirect re-use method which refers to treated water. To read the full article, visit the link here.

November 2019 — The Colorado River Basin is becoming progressively drier with water shortages looming, making water over-allocation a growing concern. The Ten Tribe Partnership is a group of federally recognized tribes that have reserved water rights along the Colorado River. Even with the water entitlements, not all tribes are making full use of their water allocation. If tribal water comes to be leased, this could inevitably displace some of the current users, forcing them to make due with less water. The federal reserved tribal water rights afforded are a part of an Arizona Supreme Court decision, and places tribes at the top of the list when it comes to prioritization. All affected parties will benefit from taking a more active role in discussions, and cooperating in the planning of future water use along the Colorado as shortages continue to mount.

December 2019 — Arizona is one of seven southwestern states that is close to finalizing a drought contingency plan. The agreement, which is set to be entered into by Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, is one where all participants decide to use less water from the Colorado River than that which is allocated. Dams are used to generate hydropower and meter water releases. Most notably the water from the river provides drinking water to 40 million residents. The declaration of a drought-shortage would decrease Arizona’s water allocation by 11.4% beginning in 2020. To learn more about the contingency plan and pending study, read here.
Health & Wellness

October 2019 — Data for the efficacy of employee well-being programs remains unclear, as some studies cite positive gains, whereas others do not see much difference in lowering costs or health improvements. Inconsistent data may play to the idea that there are no clearly defined parameters for what defines well-being. Health factors are often assessed individually instead of looking at the comprehensive interaction of risks and evaluating these together.

WebMD Health Services decided to create a holistic model, evaluating the impacts of a telephone health coaching program. Coaching provided a significant impact on changes in acuity levels with an estimated change in medical costs of $195-$1,113 per participant. A new measurement model could really help in evaluating the true cost benefits in addition to evaluating health benefits.

November 2019 — Cannabidiol, more commonly known as CBD, is a chemical compound found in cannabis and hemp plants. CBD, however, is not psychoactive, meaning that it won’t get you high. Potential benefits and/or side effects are yet to be evaluated. Although some laud its therapeutic purposes, major health agencies maintain that additional testing is needed. The World Health Organization (WHO) suggested that there may be some therapeutic value in CBD use without having abuse potential or causing harm. At the federal level, CBD products have been declared illegal, although CBD legality is typically decided at a state level much like legal marijuana, leaving the legality of CBD largely ambiguous.

December 2019 — Researchers have developed a new test that uses gold nanoparticles to detect cancer. This is a result of the finding that cancer DNA has a strong affinity to gold. The presence of cancer is denoted by whether the gold particles change in color with a test producing results in as little as 10 minutes. The blood test employs circulating free DNA in the blood from cancer or healthy cells. So far the test has been performed on 200 samples with a 90% accuracy. The next step would be to move testing toward larger studies and compare the results with current test methods. Although the test may be useful in detecting the presence of cancer cells, at this stage it cannot determine the type of cancer, nor how high the levels of cancer DNA need to be to make a positive detection. Read the full article here.
Arizona

One of the main initiatives set for ballots with the potential for heavy environmental implications was Arizona’s Proposition 127, which addressed the state’s renewable portfolio standard. It pushed for a much more ambitious standard than that which is currently in place. Its current goal is to derive 15 percent of the state’s energy via renewable means by 2024, which is a stark difference from the goal of 30 percent by 2030, as proposed by this proposition. The large utility company Arizona Public Service (APS) spent millions campaigning against Prop 127, whereas Tom Sayer, an opponent of climate change, spent millions in support of Prop 127. The campaigning done for this Prop made it Arizona’s most expensive ballot measure in history, eventually falling flat with 31% voting in favor and 69% opposing it. Meanwhile, in Nevada, the Renewable Energy Standards Initiative echoes along the same lines as Arizona’s Prop 127.

The Ninth Circuit court has decided to uphold the decision of the Secretary of the Interior regarding the Havasupai Tribe vs. Provencio, 906 FD. 3d 1155 ruling. They have cited valid existing rights for more than one million acres of public lands around the Grand Canyon. The Havasupai Tribe, along with three other environmental groups, had sued to challenge the previous determination of the United States Forest Service that Energy Fuels Resources and EFR Arizona, LLC had a valid right to operate a uranium mine within a withdrawal area near a site used for religious and cultural significance to the tribe. To read the entire summary, refer to The National Law Review’s article. More here.

Global

In the course of the past few years, it seems that there has been more and more of a worldwide revolt against plastic due to it overwhelming waste presence on the planet. The UK-wide plastic microbead ban received 363,000 signatures in 4 months making it the largest environmental petition ever presented to government. Where politicians and celebrities alike have spoken about the issue, Theresa May of Britain, and others of India have made committed government plans where disposable packaging would be phased out by 2042 and 2022 respectively. Microplastics are found in several household and commercial products and have helped to further turn the public against plastic use. Historically, plastic bans were put into place in the US and then subsequently repealed. Less than 10% of all plastics are recycled every year in the US, with problems of unregulated business, globalization and unsustainable lifestyles. People across the globe are organizing, and pressuring governments to act. More here.
Free Webinar on How to Respond to Foodborne Illness Investigations and the Data Released on Them. April 10th, 2019

During this one hour webinar we will address:

- What to do when your company is identified as having produced product that may have caused a human illness.
- Mitigation: How to damage control for your public audience.
- How and when to fight back.
- How to help avoid being identified in the first place.

During the live event you'll get the chance to participate in the Q&A with Andrew Lorenz, President, We R Food Safety!™

For registration and more information click HERE.
Arizona Job Opportunities

State of Arizona

Apache County

Cochise County

Coconino County

Gila County

Graham County

Greenlee County

La Paz County

Maricopa County

Mohave County
  - Environmental Health Specialist II - As assigned within Mohave County, AZ
  - Local Food Specialist, Stern Produce, Phoenix, AZ - More information.

Navajo County

Pima County
  - Environmental Specialist (Air Quality Compliance Inspector) – Tucson, AZ

Pinal County

Santa Cruz County

Yavapai County

Yuma County

Outside of Arizona
  - Project Manager, Seafood Alliance for Legality and Traceability (SALT), FishWise, Santa Cruz, CA - More information.