

# **Proceedings of the Conference for Food Protection Meeting**

**April 19 – 24, 2002  
Nashville, TN**

**Conference for Food Protection  
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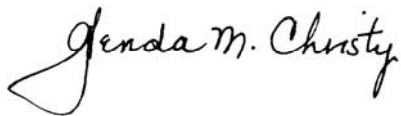
Dear Colleagues:

Greetings to all Conference of Food Protection members! The conference meeting in Nashville this past April was a resounding success and I would like to thank all of the people who worked so hard. I would like to give special thanks to our past Chair, Lydia Strayer, our Conference Secretary and his partner, Trevor and Linda Hayes and the seemingly tireless work that was done by the Local Arrangements Committee led by Jerry Rowland and Opal Fritscher. Also, all of the Council Chairs, Vice-Chairs, members of the Councils, the Committee Chairs and their members and every single person attending, deserve to be recognized in making the Conference so successful.

These next few years promise to be critical to food safety everywhere. The issues that have arisen and continue to surface pose monumental challenges for those of us working in the field. How can we respond to these challenges? I feel that we can respond by staying on course with the Conference's mission of bringing together representatives from the food industry, government, academia and consumer groups to identify and address emerging problems of food safety and to formulate recommendations. In support of the Conference's mission, all members, regardless of affiliation, have a responsibility to bring food safety issues of concern to the Conference. Then partnerships and collaborations can be developed, agreements can be reached and those things that may get in the way of our achieving our goal can be addressed and resolved.

Communication, between and within the Conference's varied groups, is of paramount importance and I would like to acquaint you with the new members of the Executive Board. This year we are welcoming several new members who represent many of the various groups that make up our Conference. The newly elected members representing State Regulatory Agencies are Howard Reid (Montana Department of Health), Barbara Gerzonich (New York Department of Health), Bud Anderson (Virginia Department of Agriculture), and Debbie Williams (Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services). Representing Local Regulatory Agencies are Petrona Lee (City of Bloomington), Ben Gale (Santa Clara County Department of Environmental Health), Thomas Coffill (City of Boston Health Department), and Elizabeth Nutt (Tulsa City/County Health Department). Richard Linton (Purdue University) is the new member who represents Academia and, returning to the Board as the Industry representative, is Chester England (Burger King Corporation). I would encourage you to visit the Conference's website at [www.foodprotect.org](http://www.foodprotect.org) to research who on the Executive Board represents your interests. If you are not already acquainted with that person, I would challenge you to make contact, introduce yourself and discuss issues of concern.

Finally, I would like to remind you that the next Conference will be held in Chandler, Arizona in 2004. Please think about joining us at that time. I am looking forward to all of the various issues that will be discussed as the committee work unfolds during 2003 and at the Conference meeting in 2004. I am confident that we can reach consensus on many of them thereby moving us closer to our goal of food safety for all.



Glenda M. Christy, Chair  
Conference for Food Protection

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## **THE CONFERENCE FOR FOOD PROTECTION**

### **Mission**

Though the federal, state, and local governments are primarily responsible for setting food safety standards, many other organizations share a stake in carrying out enforcement of the standards. The Conference for Food Protection brings together representatives from the food industry, government, academia, and consumer organizations to identify and address emerging problems of food safety and to formulate recommendations.

The Conference seeks to balance the interests of regulatory and industry people while providing an open forum for the consideration of ideas from any source. The Conference meets at least biennially to provide this forum. Though the Conference has no formal regulatory authority, it is a powerful organization that profoundly influences model laws and regulations among all government agencies and minimizes disparate interpretations and implementation.

### **History**

In 1971, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the American Public Health Association sponsored the first Conference for Food Protection in Denver, Colorado. The purpose of this meeting was to provide an interprofessional dialogue on the microbiological aspects of food safety for individuals representing industry, government, and consumers. Not until 1984 did the Conference assume a more permanent role in promoting the formulation and use of uniform model laws and regulations among all government agencies. In that year, the scope was expanded to include toxicological concerns, and a constitution and bylaws document was developed. The Conference was incorporated in 1985. To assist the Conference in its further development, NSF International agreed to provide office services and staff assistance to handle the routine activities of the Conference. Shortly after the 1990 Conference meeting, the Executive Board hired its first executive secretary and began operating on its own, marking the beginning of a new era for the Conference.

### **Objectives**

The Conference for Food Protection promotes food safety and consumer protection by the following:

1. Identifying and addressing problems in the production, processing, packaging, distribution, sale, and service of foods;
2. Focusing on and facilitating the food protection programs governing the foodservice, retail food store, and food vending segments of the food industry;
3. Adopting sound, uniform procedures which will be accepted by food regulatory agencies and industry;
4. Promoting mutual respect and trust by establishing a working liaison among governmental agencies, industry, academic institutions, professional associations, and consumer groups concerned with food safety;

5. Promoting uniformity among states, territories, and the District of Columbia. Territories including American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, The Trust Territory, and the U.S. Virgin Islands; and
6. Utilizing the following as the primary channels for dissemination of information:
  - a. The U.S. Department of Agriculture/Food Safety and Inspection Service in matters under its purview, such as food production, meat and poultry processing, and consumer information; and
  - b. The U.S. Public Health Service/Food and Drug Administration in matters under its purview, such as food processing and assistance to food regulatory agencies based on the model food codes and related documents.

### **Current Organization**

The Conference is managed by an Executive Board that includes 22 voting members who represent state food regulatory agencies from each of the CFP regions, local food regulatory agencies from each of the CFP regions, the FDA, USDA/FSIS, the food industry, an academic institution, and consumers. In addition, the Board includes non-voting members as follows: the Chair and Vice-Chair of each of the three Councils; the Program Chair; the Issue Chair; international advisors; and the Executive Secretary.

Three Councils provide a balance between deliberating the impact of food-related laws and regulations (Council I); developing various administrative, education and certification guidelines and procedures (Council II); and discussing the science and technology of food safety issues (Council III). Separate committees in each discipline may be appointed to deliberate and review issues and make recommendations to each Council. Membership provides for participation by regulatory, industry, consumer, academic, and professional organizations. Non-voting academic and other professional consultants are available to each Council to offer needed advice. Councils deliberate Issues and recommend actions to the Assembly of State Delegates.

### **Presentation of Issues**

The Conference deliberates food safety issues submitted by interested persons on approved forms and within specified time frames. Issues are assigned by the Issues Committee to one of the three Councils for consideration.

(See Appendix J for sample form.)

## **Assembly of State Delegates**

A delegate is a registrant at a Conference meeting who represents a state, territory, or District of Columbia food regulatory agency responsible for the enforcement of food laws and regulations for food processing, food service, vending, and food stores. The Assembly considers and votes on actions recommended by the Councils.

## **Future Activities**

The Conference has reached consensus on many difficult Food Code issues and a variety of other matters dealing with food safety. The committees established as the result of CFP 2002 are reflected in Appendix I. Some committees are continuing and some are newly created. The ongoing business of the Conference can be found by accessing the organizational website at “<http://www.foodprotect.org>” The electronic age has improved communications and provided opportunity for Issues to be submitted electronically and issue packets to be made available on compact disk.

## **Registration and Affiliation Procedures**

If you would like more specific information about the Conference for Food Protection, its Councils or working committees, or are interested in promoting the objectives of the Conference, you may obtain forms to register or become affiliated by downloading the appropriate form(s) from the Conference website or by contacting:

Conference for Food Protection  
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Trevor Hayes, Executive Secretary

## 2002 CONFERENCE ISSUES

Following are the Issues addressed by the 2002 Conference for Food Protection. These Issues were assigned to one of three Councils for deliberation. The three Councils of the Conference are as follows:

- Council I           Laws and Regulations
- Council II          Administration, Education and Certification
- Council III         Science and Technology

Recommendations of the Councils were passed on to the Assembly of Voting Delegates. A Council recommendation of “No Action” reflects the fact that the Issue was deliberated at the Council level but, for a variety of reasons, it was determined that no action was recommended. A “No Action” recommendation could relate to the fact that a particular Issue was combined with another Issue, was determined to be better addressed by another Issue or that it was the wisdom of the Council members that a particular recommendation was not warranted at this time.

As the result of extensive discussion and consensus agreement, it is now standard procedure that the Assembly of Voting Delegates hears all Council recommendations including those recommending “No Action”. As with other Council recommendations, the Assembly members can “accept,” “reject” or “abstain” on a Council recommendation, **but cannot change it**. Accordingly, the effect of a vote to reject a “No Action” Issue by the Assembly of Voting Delegates is to refer the matter back to the Executive Board for disposition.

Although there were a number of Assembly votes to reject Council recommendations this past meeting, only one such Issue was a “No Action” recommendation: 02-01-32. As a result, this Issue will now be considered by the Executive Board for further disposition.

For those Issues pertaining to the FDA Model Food Code, the Conference Board has 45 days from the meeting’s conclusion to submit Assembly-approved recommendations to the Food and Drug Administration. FDA has agreed to review these recommendations and respond to the Conference Board within 60 days of receipt. Recommendations with which FDA concurs will then be included in the text of the forthcoming edition of the Food Code. Those Issues with which FDA does not concur will be brought back to the Executive Board for further discussion and possible resubmission as Issues at the next conference meeting.