

IAFP Dairy PDG Conference Call

The conference call was held on March 13, 2012.

Update from IAFP from Don Shafner –

- Abstract submissions were up 11% over last year, and last year was a good year too!
- Exhibitor registration are tracking ahead of last year
- Conference attendee registration is also tracking ahead of last year.

Update on symposia proposals

- Dawn Terrell's proposal with the student PDG "*Tales from the Food Safety World: a Collection of Extraordinary Stories from Our Profession*" was approved. Dawn had proposed an interactive audience participation that will require additional funding. She is soliciting donations to help offset the costs of this equipment.
- A short symposium was approved "Drug Residues in Milk and Milk Products Risk Assessment"
- No other symposia were approved but two poster sessions were approved

Raw Milk

Steve Murphy was unable to make the call. He indicated several states have legislation on the books:

Kentucky
Wisconsin
New Jersey
Indiana
Iowa
Maine
Idaho

He referred to <http://www.realrawmilkfacts.com/> for the information.

A discussion was held on raw milk and what our committee's response should be in educating the public. Educating the public is out of the scope of IAFP. Our mission is "To provide food safety professionals worldwide with a forum to exchange information on protecting the food supply." Quoting from our board liaison, Don Shaffner, had this to add "... we can do all we want to help food safety professionals exchange information on raw milk, or even help food safety professionals exchange information on how best to educate the public on the dangers of raw milk, it's just that direct outreach to the public is out of scope."

The recent article in Food Protection Trends "Motivation for Unpasteurized Milk Consumption in Michigan, 2011" was discussed.

The question was raised if the white paper on raw milk needs revision. This will be discussed further in Providence.

Student Liaison

Three students have applied for the Student Liaison position in the Dairy PDG. This position currently has no defined role and while it was felt the position would improve development of new professionals in the dairy industry. We will ask for guidance from the executive committee on what they are expecting from this position. Another way to reach out to student members is to attend the Student Luncheon (Held Sunday at noon) where attendees are encouraged to mix and meet people they do not yet know.

Update – Here is what I received from IAFP:

The Student Liaison position was set up based on your PDG's 2011 recommendation for IAFP "to develop a program to have one student liaison from the Student PDG assigned to each PDG to build interest for the future."

This is a recognized position that will appear on your committee listing and the student's membership record; it is not a required position. We would prefer the position be limited to one person per year or whatever term of service your group chooses. You could select the student by an E-mail vote, election at your meeting in Providence or by appointment.

We leave it to the PDGs to determine how they wish to utilize their Student Liaison and how long they will serve. The position could be used by the student on their resume to help further their career. They could be given an opportunity to report to the group on university activities pertaining to the PDG's topic or they can bring up issues pertaining to students in the topic area. This is totally up to each PDG.

Currently only two PDGs have added a Student Liaison to their rosters: Pre Harvest and Viral & Parasitic Foodborne Disease. Several others are waiting to discuss it at IAFP 2012.

I suggest we have a vote on this at our meeting in Providence in July.

Other subjects discussed

- **FSMA**

Dennis Bogart told the group that FSMA has a provision that includes prevention of radiological hazards. No explanation of this requirement has yet been given. (Note: Several symposia at the 2012 meeting in Providence will deal with FSMA).

- **Hispanic Style cheeses**

Erin Headley asked about food safety in Hispanic cheeses and industry efforts on standardization. No one had any new information but it may be a topic for a symposium to be proposed for 2013. The chair will investigate some research being done at the University of Minnesota and report back to the group.

- **Potential use of hurdle technologies for design of more sustainable dairy products**

Oscar Rodriguez Gonzalez asked if there was interest in this topic or if anyone had any interest in this area.

- **Webinar subject proposals:**
 - Reduced sodium
 - Safe milk supply initiative

Discussion of 2012 guest speakers for the PDG meeting

There was a discussion of possible speakers at the meeting in Providence. Several speakers on the subject of raw milk were proposed including someone from Bill Marler's office as well as two speakers on the subject from last year's IAFP meeting on the subject Ralph Weber and Sean Stevens.

If there are other suggestions for speakers or topics, please let us know.