Examining key food policy issues affecting consumers, the food industry and government

For 36 years, the National Food Policy Conference has been a Washington institution and a unique collaboration between consumer advocates, the food industry and government. The conference is organized by the Consumer Federation of America and is a key national gathering for those interested in agriculture, food and nutrition policy.

This year’s conference will explore an array of important food policy issues facing consumers and the food industry. The conference will explore how immigration reform might impact our food supply and look to the future of food shopping. Speakers and panelists will examine timely food policy topics including the debate on sugar sweetened beverages (SSBs), the impact of changing animal welfare standards, an update on implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act, the opportunities and challenges of sodium reduction, and priority setting in a time of reduced resources.

For updates and the latest information, see the CPA web site at www.consumerfed.org.

Promotional support provided by Powell Tate Food, Nutrition and Wellness Practice www.powelltate.com

MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2013

8:30 AM Welcome
9:00 AM Keynote Address
9:45 AM Facilitated Discussion: The Future of Food Shopping

The way consumers shop for food is changing rapidly as they seek diverse outlets to purchase food and employ new technologies. Meanwhile, retailers and other food sellers are developing new strategies to reach consumers and are reshaping the food aisle to meet consumer demand for healthier, safer, and more affordable food choices. A panel of experts takes a look at the rapidly changing marketplace and what the future will look like, as well as the implications of these changes for consumers and the food industry.

11:15 AM Breakout Panels

Panel 1: Is Nutrition Research Keeping Pace with Policy and Consumers?
A panel of experts explores the gaps between the latest nutrition science and dietary recommendations and the nutritional health of consumers; discusses how best to translate nutrition research into actionable steps to improve the public health; examines the importance of integrity in nutrition research; and explores how best to deal with political intervention efforts.

Panel 2: The Food Safety Modernization Act: Year Two
Two years after passage of the Food Safety Modernization Act, the FDA continues to work on implementing the biggest provisions of the law. A panel of experts discusses the progress that has been made thus far; the provisions that are most critical in the coming year; the major challenges facing FDA, the food industry and consumers in implementation; and how FDA should prioritize the remaining provisions of the law.
Panel 3: Waste Not, Want Not – Addressing the Problem of Food Waste
Experts estimate that thirty percent of all food grown worldwide may be lost or wasted before it even reaches consumers. Food waste can occur at various points along the food supply chain – on the farm, during processing, during transportation and storage, in retail environments, and at home. A panel of experts discusses the importance of addressing this problem – from reducing hunger to improving efficiency along the supply chain to better use of natural resources – and identifies programs, policies and incentives we could employ to help reduce food waste.

12:30 PM Lunch – Could Impact Our Food Supply and climate predictions anticipate more frequent summer droughts, and other natural disasters, in the future. A panel looks at the effects of these events on food availability and price instability and what a future of volatile weather means for our food supply. The panel will also identify policy approaches to help prepare for and rebound from the short-term impacts of a disaster, and will identify remedies to lessen the impact of an increasing climate on our food supply over the longer term.

Panel 3: The Impact of Changing Animal Welfare Standards
As cities and states tackle the role of sugar sweetened beverages in our diets, how these sweetened beverages are defined will determine the reach of the approach and whether beverages such as energy drinks, teas, enhanced waters, flavored milk and fruit drinks are included. A panel of experts explores how different jurisdictions define SSBs and the implications of these definitions, as well as discuss how the reform efforts at the state level have impacted food production, and how to best address the challenges of this complex problem.

3:15 PM Networking Break
3:45 PM Panel Breakouts
Panel 1: Improving the Regulation of Food Additives
The FDA regulates thousands of ingredients and substances which can be added to food, but is the regulatory system up to the challenges of today’s modern food system? A panel of experts examines FDA’s approach to assessing the safety and suitability of food additives, identifies key challenges facing the agency, industry and the public, and provides recommendations for needed changes.

Panel 2: The Debate on Sugar Sweetened Beverages
As cities and states tackle the role of sugar sweetened beverages in our diets, how these beverages are defined will determine the reach of the approach and whether beverages such as energy drinks, teas, enhanced waters, flavored milk and fruit drinks are included. A panel of experts explores how different jurisdictions define SSBs and the implications of these definitions, as well as discuss how the reform efforts at the state level have impacted food production, and how to best address the challenges of this complex problem.

5:00 PM End