For 37 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 look at the latest consumer trends and discuss how technology is transforming the consumer right to know. Speakers and panelists will examine timely food policy topics including meat and poultry safety, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the local food movement, reducing obesity among infants and young children, seafood safety, updating the Nutrition Facts Panel, and the impact of sequestration on food and agriculture programs.

For updates and the latest information, see the CFA web site at www.consumerfed.org.
Panel 3: The Impact of Sequestration on Food Programs
Efforts to reduce the federal deficit have impacted food assistance, nutrition, food safety and food and agricultural research programs across the government. A panel looks at the effects of sequestration and other budget cuts on these programs, discusses whether last year’s budget deal provides any relief, explores how gaps are being addressed, and identifies issues policymakers must consider as they make future funding and program decisions.

Panel 3: A Discussion on Consumer Behavior and Nutrition
A panel of experts will explore the cultural and economic contexts in which decisions about food are made; what drives consumers to choose certain foods over others; and the impact of food product innovation and reformulation. The panel will engage in a wide-ranging discussion on the most effective approaches for improving the nutrition of the American public.

Panel 2: The Ripple Effect: Pressures on a Global Food Supply
Changing food consumption patterns in some countries can have an impact across the globe, as can new food laws or policies. Experts explore how demand for certain foods can affect food production and local economies around the world and the implications for safety, nutrition, labor, the environment and global agriculture, and analyze the role that trade policy plays in a global food supply.

Panel 1: Meat and Poultry Safety: 20 Years After Jack in the Box
Twenty years ago a nationwide outbreak of E. coli O157:H7 linked to ground beef from Jack in the Box fundamentally changed the meat industry and the government’s approach to regulation of meat and poultry. A panel of experts examines what these changes have meant for consumers, the meat industry, and the government; how meat and poultry production and regulation has changed over the past twenty years; and what more needs to be done to ensure the safety of meat and poultry products.

Panel 2: Updating the Nutrition Facts Panel
In 1994, Congress required food companies to provide consumers with nutrition information via a standardized label on all packaged foods. Twenty years later, FDA is seeking to revise and update the label. An expert panel looks at how the Nutrition Facts panel has changed how consumers make decisions about food purchases, identifies the most important information to include on the label, and discusses how the Facts Panel should be revised to provide consumers with accurate, useful information.

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