

**Food Regulation and Nutrition Committee
Chairman Katy Coba, Oregon**

**2005 Annual Meeting
Cooperstown, New York**

COMMITTEE REPORT

Summary of Committee Action:

Vice Chairman Charles Kuperus (NJ) presided over the committee and called the meeting to order.

Report from the States. Committee members reported on state efforts and activities related to nutrition and food safety. Many states are developing or implementing school nutrition initiatives.

Report from the Association of Food & Drug Officials (AFDO). Cameron Smoak reported that AFDO has created a new Food Defense Committee to coordinate activities on food safety and defense. Two websites are being developed to provide a resource network and strengthen communications between food laboratories, field personnel, and the food regulatory community.

Report from NASDA's Dairy Division. Mike Wiggs reported that the Dairy Division recently changed their by-laws to increase state membership by including state health agencies which have jurisdiction over dairy programs and regulation. The Dairy Division is continuing to address state regulation, labeling and sales of raw milk.

Update from the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Richard Barnes (FDA) and Karen Deasy (CDC) reported that for the first time, FDA is awarding grants to states for food security and defense. Grants are being awarded for the Food Emergency Response Network (FERN) laboratories and to state agriculture departments to address BSE and state infrastructure. FDA has been conducting on-line food safety/security courses and is developing a certification program. The agency is also creating a Council of Association Presidents to strengthen working relationships and communications between local, state and federal food regulatory officials. FDA and CDC expect to be actively involved in Hurricane Katrina relief and recovery efforts for a long term.

Report on Legislative Issues. NASDA staff reported on renewed efforts to advance interstate meat shipment legislation in Congress. NASDA is seeking a meeting with USDA's Under Secretary for Food and working with an agriculture coalition on legislative strategies. Congressional action may be taken on the Food Uniformity Act (H.R. 2699) next year. NASDA

and AFDO will continue joint efforts to oppose the bill and will hold educational briefings for congressional staff beginning in January 2006.

Discussion and Development of 2007 Farm Bill Recommendations. The committee discussed a list of topics and asked NASDA staff to develop policy options on these issues for members to review and provide additional comment. The committee expects to hold a conference call and/or meeting before NASDA's 2006 midyear conference to further discuss and finalize their proposals. Issues for the 2007 Farm Bill include: (1) Fruit & Vegetable Nutrition Program; (2) Interstate Meat Shipment; (3) Domestic and International Food Assistance Programs; (4) Food Safety Quality Assurance Block Grants; (5) Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program; (6) Food Defense Planning (technical and financial assistance); (7) National Nutrition Standards for School Food Initiatives; and (8) Research needs for new food processes (i.e. healthy oils).

Policy Amendments:

Approved an amendment (#1) offered by the Dairy Division regarding labeling for the sale of unpasteurized milk products.

Approved an amendment (#13) offered by NEASDA and Douglas Gillespie (MA) to broaden the food stamp program to include a coupon program to encourage participants to purchase local agricultural food products.

Committee Work Plan & Priority Issues:

- Draft detailed language on the 2007 Farm Bill issues for members to review and comment.
- Continue joint efforts with AFDO to oppose the Food Uniformity Act and hold educational briefings for Congress.
- Continue efforts to advance interstate meat shipment legislation and send a letter to USDA.