

AFSAC
Aug 16, 2011

Ron Klein
Kristine Rogers
Dale Yamnik
Dr. Brian Himmelbloom
Dr. Bob Gerlach
Kimberly Stryker
Randall Pfeuffer
Franci Havemeister
Ginger Provo
Bryce Wrigley
Kate
Kristin Ryan
Sue Lampert
George Mayberry

Program Overview – Ron Klein

FDA Contract

- Extended from June 30 to September 30
- Making good progress
- Preparing for next year's contract – funding increased for standards work, funding for lab work toward ISO Accreditation

Retail

- FSS has been working closely with Division of Ag and Cooperative Extension to address and promote safe local food production in AK
- Risk factor study – 2nd study, possible trending over time, FDA has done its own studies, has done trend analysis -
<http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodSafety/RetailFoodProtection/FoodbornellnessandRiskFactorReduction/RetailFoodRiskFactorStudies/default.htm>

Ron's Transition

- Last full day at end of August

Staff

- Created new management level – Lorinda Lhotka, Amy Hill, vacant Anchorage
- Current staff are well-trained in technical and communication
- Mike Gentry has transferred to Robert Pressley's position as Seafood Section Chief, effective August 16
- Will be recruiting for new program manager to replace Gentry
- Morgan Poloni formerly of Tillamook County, OR has accepted QA/QC position. Is auditing reports, working on standards, developing guidance
- We are recruiting for lead EHO in Wasilla office. Process is almost complete.

Mat-Su Milk Contamination – Dr. Bob Gerlach, OSV

- Dr. Bob Gerlach, Office of the State Veterinarian (OSV) on the call. OSV regulates production of cheese, milk & other dairy products, and reindeer slaughter/processing in Alaska.
- Provided information on recent campylobacter outbreak associated with consumption of raw milk.

Exemptions in 18 AAC 31 – Kim Stryker

- The regulations went to notice, and the comment period has been extended until September 6, 2011. 18 AAC 31.012, the section of the Alaska Food Code dealing with exemptions. We hope to broaden the scope of activities that are exempt (do not require a permit to operate) and make the section easier to read. FSS held workshops in Juneau, Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Soldotna to explain the regulations.

Governor’s Picnic – Randy Pfeuffer

- FSS’s first booth at the Governor’s picnic was a great success! The goal was to provide fun activities that promoted basic food safety knowledge, and it worked out better than hoped for. We gave out over 300 prizes, mostly to kids, and only had about 15 prizes left when we closed up shop in the afternoon. We had well over 500 visitors for the day, beginning with a good number who showed up at least half an hour before the picnic even officially began. At several times later in the day, we had a line of 10-15 people waiting to spin the wheel and answer a food safety question in order to win a prize. We had so many people learning about germs on their hands that we had to close the UVA station around 2:30 when both sides of the portable handwashing station ran out of water.

Open Comments, Discussion – Group

Kate, Cooperative Extension

- The Fairbanks “seed kitchen” is up and running. They just received their batch pasteurizer and are in the process of setting it up.
- Announced release of Small Egg Producers publication - http://www.dec.state.ak.us/eh/fss/consumers/egg_handling_2011.pdf

Dale Yamnik, Yum Brands

- Busy year, working on crisis management manual and employee illness manual updates

Bryce Wrigley, Farm Bureau

- Whole wheat and barley flour milling operation in production by December
- Thanks to DEC for efforts to ag community
- Suggested that application form be revised to be more relevant to low risk operations.

- There is an upcoming statewide Farm Bureau meeting in Homer in November. More information at: <http://akfb.fb.org>

Kristin Ryan, Environmental Health Division

- Thanks to Ron for his years of service.
- Hopes to have replacement manager hired by end of August
- Expects a smooth transition

Bob Gerlach, State Veterinarian

- Busy working on import/export issues and upcoming Alaska State Fair in Palmer

Ginger Provo, Section of Epidemiology

- Dr. Beth Funk and Sue Ann Jenkerson have retired
- New addition to Section is Michael Cooper
- CIFOR training held in August attracted 50 attendees

Franci Havemeister, Division of Agriculture

- Busy conducting inspections for harvest
- Amy Petit and Johanna Herron collaborating with DEC
- Division certifies farms in GIP and GAP –so far, 2 large scale producers voluntarily follow GIP/GAP

Dr. Brian Himmelbloom, UAF Fishery Industrial Technology Center

- Evaluations conducted to improve communications, website, and gather comments on performance.
- Based on review, moving forward with new initiatives
- Expect new faculty in food processing.
- For more information, see <http://www.sfos.uaf.edu/fitc>

Upcoming Conferences

- Global Food Collaborative is hosting Global Food Alaska in Kenai June 8-10, 2011. This event brings all aspects of the food industry together. <http://www.gfc-connect.com/?page=GlobalFoodAlaska>
- Alaska Farm Bureau is having its annual meeting at Land's End Hotel in Homer November 11-12, 2011. For more information, <http://akfb.fb.org>

Next Meeting October 4, 2011 at 1:30 pm at DEC office on Cordova and via Teleconference.