

President's Message

by Gary Gay



How quickly this year has gone by for my term as President for this great organization. I have thoroughly enjoyed my term as President, and I'm looking forward to our upcoming conference in Orlando. I want to take this time to invite you to attend our annual ACDA Conference. This year the conference will be held in Orlando, Florida at the Caribe Royal Resort. This is a beautiful facility and they will do a great job of hosting our group. Annemarie

has planned a conference that is filled with good information that will be useful for all attendees.

I would like to take this time to thank the ACDA Board for supporting me and working with me this year. We have worked on many tasks this year, and I feel we have accomplished a great deal. I look forward to seeing everyone in Orlando.

Gary Gay

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been an exciting and rewarding year for everyone in ACDA. I have learned so much from my first year on the ACDA Board. I am looking forward to seeing everyone in a few weeks at our Annual Conference. Please let me know if you are interested in serving on the planning committee for the 2011 Annual Conference in New Orleans. See everyone in Orlando!

Mike Birkmeyer

PRESIDENT ELECT'S MESSAGE

It is hard to believe that the 2010 Annual Conference in Orlando is just around the corner! A lot of hard work has gone into the preparations for this year's conference. "Teamwork in Action," this year's conference theme, will definitely be on display as state agency representatives, USDA representatives, recipient agencies, and industry gather at the "Caribe Royale" to discuss issues that are critical to the overall improvements that can potentially be realized in the administering of the USDA feeding programs.

We're extremely excited about this year's agenda. While it is an ambitious schedule, I feel the many informative sessions that are planned will prove to be beneficial to our diverse membership.

I am very excited about this year's conference, and I'm looking forward to seeing you all in Orlando!

Annemarie Garceau

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Vice President-Elect Candidate Statements

Craig W. Brooks

Craig Brooks grew up as a “Army Brat” due to his father being a career soldier. He traveled from coast to coast in the United States and throughout Europe due to his father’s change in duty stations. As a result of his military upbringing, Craig chose a Military College to attend and graduated from The Citadel located in Charleston, South Carolina with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business. After graduation he received a two-year Army contract but served for four years as an officer in the Army as an Airborne/Pathfinder in Korea and Germany.

After a honorable discharge, Craig attended the University of South Carolina in Columbia, South Carolina and concentrated on courses in Computer Science and Mathematics. Later, while working at the Department of Education and attending night school, he received a Master of Arts degree in Management from Webster University.

In 1983 Craig began working for the South Carolina Department of Education, Food Distribution Section, Office of School Food

Services as an Education Associate. In 1993, he assumed the position of Administrator of the Food Distribution Program. Craig began the Processing Program in South Carolina in 1994, which now has 34 active contracts with participating processors.

Craig has actively participated in ACDA, having attended the last 23 National Conferences, and previously serving as President in 1997-1998. He has served in many capacities within ACDA, including Chair of the Processing Committee, Chair of the Nominating Committee and Chair of the By-Laws Committee. Hobbies include a lot of golf and very little yard work.

Pricilla Ammerman

I am the Director of Purchasing and Food Distribution for the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), Office of Child Nutrition. I have held this position since 2005. Prior to my appointment as director, I served as the bids and contracts specialist with MDE.

I am a graduate of Mississippi

State University and have worked with educational institutions, both university and K-12 public schools for more than 30 years. As director of Mississippi’s statewide purchasing program, I have the opportunity to assist school nutrition programs to bring in foods and supplies at the lowest costs possible through a system of full-line distribution and national, direct-to-manufacturer contracts. These duties complement my duties as director of food distribution. Our statewide purchasing program and its full-line distribution contracts allow our schools to receive USDA donated foods at the lowest cost, most efficient manner possible.

I have been a member of ACDA since 2005 and look forward to working with the association to assist its members in making the commodity food distribution system as responsive to the needs of school nutrition programs as possible.

Bylaws Changes

Communications Committee Bylaw

Article IV Organizational Structure

Section B Committees of the Association

Sub Section 12 Communication Committee

- A. The Communication Committee will develop and deliver to the membership new educational tools which are accessible to all membership categories.
- B. The SNA Relations and WEB Page Committees will be merged into this committee.
- C. The Communication Committee will function as editor of the Commodity Key and Commodity Keynotes and coordinates their publication and distribution with the Executive Secretary.
- D. The Communications Committee Chair will be a permanent member of the Conference Planning Committee.
- E. The Communications Committee chair will be appointed to serve for a minimum of a two year term.

Article V Association Officers

Section A Elected Officers

Sub Section 3 Vice President

Eliminate e “functions as editor of the Commodity Key and Commodity Keynotes and coordinates their publication and distribution with the Executive Secretary”, as these duties will be assumed by the Communications Committee.

Procedure Notification Bylaw

Article XI Resolutions and Bylaws Amendments

Section B Procedure For Resolutions And Bylaw Amendments

Propose changing “provided all members were mailed printed notice”

To “provided all members were mailed and/or emailed printed notice”

Commodity Key FNS Food Distribution Director's Column



We are looking forward to the April 2010 ACDA conference in Orlando, Florida.

ACDA is the only national conference where most food distribution program partners and stakeholders come together in one place. This makes it a valuable forum for discussing program issues, obtaining feedback, and sharing best practices. Several staff from FNS's Food Distribution Division, including myself, will be there to make presentations. Staff from the Agricultural Marketing Service and the Farm Service Agency will also be providing updates. I am particularly pleased that Dr. Janey Thornton, our Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services, will be speaking at a general session. It should be a great and information packed conference. Here is an update on what's been happening at USDA to hold you over until then.

Web Based Supply Chain Management (WBSCM)

The WBSCM development phase is moving toward completion in March 2010. WBSCM is currently

scheduled to go live June 30, 2010, with all USDA agencies, USAID, State agency and industry stakeholders migrating to the new system on that date. Next steps include State agency & industry interface testing, user acceptance testing, and State agency training. We are posting WBSCM presentations and project documents related to data conversions, training, and project schedules on our Food Distribution Division website at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fdd/WBSCM/default.htm>.

Department of Defense (DoD) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

DoD has implemented its new system of prime vendor contracts in the majority of States. Prime vendor contracts were awarded this past year in South Carolina, Nebraska, Washington, and Wyoming. DoD's goal is to have the remaining contracts awarded in time for school year 2010/2011. As a result of the additional fruit and vegetable spending that was mandated by the 2008 Farm Bill, USDA lifted the \$50 million cap on DoD Fresh orders during the past two School Years. Requests for product continue to grow. States have requested \$63.5 million in

DoD allocations for School Year 2011. As things move forward, DoD Customer Representatives remain available in the field to provide assistance. Direct assistance through the Defense Supply Center in Philadelphia is also available at patricia.scott@dla.mil.

DoD has established a web-link Customer Survey to evaluate vendor performance under the prime vendor contracts. The survey can be filled out at any time during the contract performance period. It will be used to help support future contract option decisions. If you receive a survey email from a Defense Supply Center Philadelphia Customer Rep, please take time to answer it. You can access the electronic survey on DoD's website at <http://www.dscp.dla.mil/subs/produce/prolinks.asp>.

USDA Foods Communications Initiative

We continue to move forward with the USDA Foods Communications Initiative, which will improve the perception of USDA Foods and its programs. USDA awarded a contract to Fleishman-Hillard, a public relations firm, to conduct focus

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testing and surveys of our partners, parents, and school administrators among others. The findings from the research, conducted from late November 2009 through mid-January 2010, will help us address misperceptions about USDA Foods, identify program barriers, and develop strategies that raise awareness about the benefits and improvements that have been made to USDA Foods and its programs. We are pleased that ACDA has agreed to be a partner with us on the Initiative, and we are in the process of recruiting ACDA members for a “USDA Foods ACDA Task Force.” When everything is said and done, we envision a wealth of resources being made available to help all of us “spread the word” about the benefits of USDA Foods and its programs.

Low-Sodium Vegetables

For the past several years, we have been working with the Agricultural Marketing Service and the vegetable canning industry to purchase low-sodium canned vegetables with a sodium range of 36-140 milligrams (mg) of sodium per serving (a serving is defined as 1/2 cup). We now require all of our vegetables to be low-sodium. Updated fact sheets reflecting this have been

posted on our Food Distribution Program website.

We are making every effort to supply our programs with all the canned low-sodium vegetables they need. The transition to low-sodium has been slower with some products than others. TEFAP may experience limited availability of some canned vegetables until low-sodium versions become available. We don’t intend to purchase “regular sodium” products to temporarily fill the gap. That would run contrary to our commitment to healthier offerings, and to the Dietary Guidelines and Institute of Medicine recommendations for lower sodium. The Agricultural Marketing Service fully expects to be able to purchase low-sodium versions of all canned vegetable products this upcoming year.

USDA Foods Improvements

In response to numerous complaints citing bland taste and pale orange or pink color in salsa and spaghetti sauce, we have modified specifications for those products. We have reduced the amount of starch, and made color requirements more stringent. Some schools should start seeing improvements in these products with deliveries scheduled for the second half of March 2010.

Complaint Guidance Updated

After many months of collaboration and redesign, we have posted an updated USDA Foods Complaints webpage on our website. We want to make it easier for program participants and partners to obtain clear instructions about how and when to file a complaint about USDA Foods. The new webpage may be accessed through the USDA Commodity Foods Network home page at www.commodityfoods.usda.gov by clicking on the “commodity complaints” link located on the left hand side of the home page.

Processing Sessions at the ACDA Conference

The amount of USDA Foods going to further processing has increased over the years and that is reflected in the large number of processing sessions planned for the annual conference. We look forward to assisting with many of these sessions including a Processing 101 training session for industry, and sessions addressing carry-over inventory, transfers, net off invoice, fee for service, processor holds and recalls, and procurements. I am sure you will consider these, and the other topics addressed

ACDA INDUSTRY UPDATE

Over the last 9 months, there have been various topics that affect Industry that have been debated and discussed with all interested parties. We have had many conference calls in regards to the new CN labeling program, the increase in the number of commodity transfers and Virtual commodity Food shows to name a few. These topics and many more will be discussed in greater detail in April at the upcoming ACDA conference in Orlando.

Industry members are very excited to learn that there will be a dedicated Industry Training Session on the new USDA Web Supply Chain System (WBSCM). This session will be in Orlando at the ACDA conference on Saturday April 17th from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. This session will be a training session administered by USDA with the point of the training being focused on the processor or raw supplier point of view. USDA will also attend one of the Industry Member breakout sessions to answer additional questions. Our understanding is the USDA will also conduct Webinar type training for Industry in the month of May in preparation for the anticipated enactment of the system on July 1, 2010.

If any industry member wishes to receive updates on ACDA business and are not currently receiving this information, please forward your email address and request to jack.crawford@colemannatural.com. If you have changed your email address due to company mergers, etc. please provide these changes to Carolyn or Ken Shifflett.

TEFAP / CFSP Committee Report By Ty Morris

I would like to begin by thanking the past Committee Chair Ron Hamilton for his hard work and dedication to ACDA and the TEFAP / CFSP Committee. Ron's knowledge and commitment to representing committee issues has been appreciated by all those who have had the opportunity to work with him.

Current committee members are Kim Eads representing the Western Region; Kim Jones, Mountain Plains Region; Ty Morris, Midwest Region; Susan Wilder, Southeast Region; Dori Baldwin,

Northeast Region; and Sam Varela representing the Southwest Region.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) has taken over the majority of committee discussions recently. Discussions have focused on the increased levels of funding for entitlement products, bonus products and the increased support from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA). Specific areas of discussion have included ARRA quarterly reporting, advanced commodity ordering through 2011, and cancelled orders or orders that are required to have delivery dates adjusted.

As a result of the current economic conditions, more Americans have to rely on food assistance programs to meet their basic nutritional needs. The increased support of TEFAP has had a tremendous impact on providing more food to families and individuals who are most in need. However, many food banks and food pantries across the country continue to struggle to keep up with the demand for services.

MARO Regional News Report

Virginia is meeting with several 'potato companies' to see encourage a rebate system for potatoes in the state. Virginia does not have NOI so to offer potatoes for processing we need a rebate system. Virginia schools ordered 5 truck loads of the fresh potatoes, even with the delivery date changes.

Virginia has also met with the DOD vendor to encourage more Virginia Agricultural Products be added to the product catalog. Also the vendor, Produce Source, is entertaining the suggestion to flash freeze Virginia fresh produce and offer it to all schools interested in buying local. They hope to showcase some of these products at the SNA-VA supervisor conference in October.

Virginia has disbursed all ARRA Funds for 2010 and will enter our final report in April or July depending on receiving the back up documentation from our 6 food banks on how the money was spent.

Maryland is having success with the fresh sliced apple program and will be trying the baby carrots later in the year.

Maryland is working with DHR to modify warehouse contracts for all of the extra food that the stimulus program is providing TEFAP.

SNA RELATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

The SNA Relations committee is pleased to report that ACDA members will again be working with USDA's Food Distribution Division (FDD) to be involved in several of the education sessions to be presented at SNA's annual conference in Dallas this summer. SNA has decided to change the focus of its education tracks this year to focus on the qualifying areas of the Keys to Excellence. This change will eliminate a "USDA" track, but will not eliminate or reduce USDA's participation. The USDA education sessions will be spread among tracks dedicated to Keys to Excellence focus areas, so FDD sessions will be placed in those respective Keys areas, depending on session content. Additionally, Patricia Phillips and Barry Sackin, both ACDA Associate members will present a session specifically focused on CN Labeling. We urge all ACDA members going to Dallas to attend and actively participate.

ACDA was also represented at SNA's LAC conference. Dr. Jean Harris, Co-chair of the Processing committee served as a panelist in the breakout session "Commodities, A World of Change." This was the first time ACDA was formally invited to participate in a program at this conference. Great strides for communication and cooperation between the two organizations have been made.

The current members of the SNA Relations Committee are: Sandy Fisher, Chair; Cathy Quick, SDA ; Pavel Mustik, RA; Mimi Ford, Industry, Barry Sackin, Associate and Mary Beth Flowers, FDD liaison.



American Commodity Distribution Association

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