



WEHA NEWSLETTER

Fall 2010

WYOMING ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

President's Message: by Joe Martinez

Summer has come and gone. The primaries have past, and we have candidates to watch and see how they plan to continue Wyoming Government.

This has been an interesting year thus far. Egg recalls, meat recalls and other types of recalls. Those who are in the regulatory industry struggle with finding the time to get into facilities to educate industry on food safety. How do we as regulators also help educate the public on food safety without seeming like we are "in their personal business"? That is very difficult. We see and hear about outbreaks of E. Coli or Salmonella. How much of that is minimal knowledge of proper food safety? It seems that it all comes back to being the industry's fault and then the government's fault for not properly enforcing the regulations.

All we can really do is our jobs. We are here to help people serve the safest food possible. There is always risk. We risk our lives every day by getting into a vehicle and driving down the road, riding a bicycle, going for a walk or even taking a shower. Have you ever heard of someone slipping in the shower? There are risks involved in everything we do. The key is to minimize the risk.

My question to you as a WEHA member, and for myself, is: "What have you done to help educate someone on food safety?" Just the other day someone asked me if I was stressed over the egg recall issue. My response was no. I informed him that it is a raw product, and it should be handled and cooked properly to prevent illness and cross contamination. I also told him that you should wash your hands after handling raw eggs, or any other raw products to help prevent the spread of harmful bacteria. This was all within a one to two minute conversation. He was actually very receptive to the information, and I think I put his mind at ease.

A short quick informative conversation is all it takes. Don't make it a thirty minute seminar when it can take two minutes to make a big point. We have so much information to pass along that we get caught up in our own thoughts sometimes. At least, that has happened to me, and then we lose their interest.

Get involved in your community, and people will come to you without you seeking them out. Have a great rest of the summer, and I look forward to seeing everyone at the AEC in Yellowstone.

Joe Martinez, WEHA President

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Presidents points of Interest:

- 2010 AEC
- Community Involvement
- Education

NEHA Update, by Roy Kroeger

2010 AEC in Albuquerque

Recently environmental health specialists and professionals alike converged on Albuquerque, NM. Attendees were looking for the latest environmental health information and technology. They were seeking an opportunity to network with other environmental and public health professionals.

This year, NEHA's 74th Annual Educational Conference (AEC) & Exhibition was held June 6-9, 2010, in Albuquerque and hosted over 940 attendees, including professionals from many other nations. Attendees had a plethora of educational sessions to choose from on twenty plus topics ranging from food safety to onsite wastewater to sustainability. They could also choose from eight pre-conference workshops, hear from preeminent experts on several topics, and attend an impressive poster session or numerous networking and social events.

For many of the attendees, highlights of their conference experience included meeting new colleagues, seeing old friends, sharing research with professionals from around the world, gathering new ideas, and receiving cutting-edge education. NEHA focused on providing a Return on Investment (RoI) this year, which simply means that you would be able to return to your workplace after the conference with the ability to implement program improvements and help create bottom line results for your organization.

I hope many of you have the opportunity to make it to the next NEHA AEC and exhibit in Columbus, OH in June, 2011.

AEC Scholarships

During the past AEC, NEHA was able to secure \$35,000 of funding from FDA and Decade Software to provide scholarships to the AEC. In 2011, NEHA will continue to work to receive even more funding for more scholarships. FDA has already signed on to help next year, and there is

even a possibility of a Hilton/Doubletree Hotels Scholarship.

Work with ASHTO on workforce services

NEHA was recently asked to join forces with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) on a workforce services project. The State Environmental Health Directors (SEHDs) within ASHTO have made workforce challenges a priority focus area for the coming years. ASHTO recognizes that our workforce has no uniform national credential requirement and is also facing the increased concerns of retaining quality staff and recruiting quality candidates.

What has NEHA done for me!

Over the past nine months NEHA has been active in the support of local environmental health positions in state legislative sessions. NEHA has supported the state environmental health position on: food safety issues in Wyoming and Iowa, radon certification in Missouri, workforce retention in New Jersey and recently a body art regulation in California. NEHA has also supported passing Senate Bill 510 also known as the "FDA Food Safety Modernization Act."

Online CEUs Available

Two New Courses on NEHA's E-Learning Site Available and you can attend the AEC Virtually. Two new courses are now available on NEHA's e-Learning site brought to you by NEHA and CDC. **Biology and Control of Vectors and Public Health Pests** is a 2-1/2 day workshop from New Orleans with an emphasis on the biology and control of rodents and bedbugs. **Biology and Control of Insects and Rodents** is the two-day pre-conference AEC & Exhibition workshop that

covers a host of topics from integrated management (IPM) to vectorborne diseases as possible bioterrorism agents.

If you missed the AEC in Albuquerque you can experience it virtually instead! You can access videos from your computer for over 30 educational sessions; download speaker presentations and other materials; connect and hold discussions with other environmental health professionals, conference speakers, and exhibitors; and get continuing education credits! Registration and pricing information is available at www.NEHA.org

Merit Award

Congratulations go out to Jennifer Escobedo from Laramie County Environmental Health on receiving the NEHA Certificate of Merit award. Each affiliate is invited to designate one of its members to receive a Certificate of Merit from NEHA, thereby nationally recognizing one of their own for outstanding contributions to the profession of environmental health. Jennifer will also be honored in the upcoming AEC edition of the *Journal of Environmental Health*.

Roy Kroeger, R.E.H.S.
Region 3 Vice President
Representing Colorado, Utah,
Montana and Wyoming



Photo by Tiffany Gaertner

Model Aquatic Health Code:

Operator Training Draft Module Posted for Comment

CDC has posted the Operator Training Draft Module of the Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC) for public comment. This first all-stakeholder Technical Committee-completed draft module focuses on qualified operator training standards and course delivery. **The deadline for submission of comments on the MAHC 6.1 Operator Training Module is 5 p.m. ET, September 30, 2010.** Comments should be submitted on the MAHC comment form. More information on the MAHC is available here: <http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/pools/mahc/> or email MAHC@cdc.gov.

Rocky Mountain Food Safety Conference 2010

By Amie Merwin, WEHA Scholarship Recipient

The Rocky Mountain Food Safety conference was held at beautiful Red Rocks Amphitheater Visitor Center on May 18 and 19th, 2010. A major highlight of this year's event was the Reduced Oxygen Packaging (ROP)/Cook-chill and Sous Vide preconference workshop led by Mario Seminara on May 17th.

These ROP methods are becoming increasingly popular in the food industry and offer great benefits, especially in regards to food quality. Cook-chill is a process in which cooked foods are portioned into plastic pouches, sealed and cooled for later consumption. Sous vide is a process where foods are placed in plastic pouches, then cooked at constant temperatures for longer periods of time prior to serving. While more of our local establishments are beginning to use these methods, we may not even realize that they are doing so. When we see reduced oxygen packaging, additional inquiries are necessary to ensure compliance with the FDA Food Code.

Moldy Food – Throw it Away?

Christine Pasley, University Extension Educator



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Moldy Food – Throw it Away?

What are you growing in the back of your refrigerator? A fluffy little treat? Some mold?

What is the concern about mold?

Mold can be dangerous, causing allergic reactions and respiratory problems in some people. A few molds create mycotoxins, toxins which can make you sick.

Mold causes great economic losses, worldwide, in crops. It also affects and shortens food storage times in the home. Molds are microscopic fungi that live on plant and animal matter. Most molds have threadlike parts that extend into the food. The spores are transported by air, water or insects.

How can you tell if mold is dangerous?

You can't. There is such a variety of molds. Some mold toxins are dangerous even in small doses. Some survive for a long time in food. Some aren't even destroyed by cooking. So you can't always safely cut mold off food. The USDA Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS), however, does suggest cutting one inch around mold on hard cheeses and firm fruits and vegetables, prior to using. Avoid getting the knife into the mold, which could contaminate the remaining food. Soft foods with mold should be discarded except for cheeses made with mold as a part of the manufacturing process, e.g. Roquefort, blue, Gorgonzola, Stilton, Brie, and Camembert cheeses.

How can I prevent mold on foods?

Cleanliness is something that can help prevent mold, just as it can reduce the risk of micro-organisms and pests in the kitchen.

Avoid buying moldy food unintentionally. Look foods over closely before purchasing—the bottom and sides of packaged fruit, and baked items. Watch the pull-by and the expiration dates, if applicable.

Protect food from contamination of mold spores in the air. Seal up the package and keep the foods refrigerated, if needed.

Buy smaller amounts of food or freeze part of the food until needed.

Freeze foods that might mold, until needed. Some foods can be frozen until needed. Refrigeration also retards mold growth.

Mold may be a “fun-gi”—but it's not fun to bite into it, and some types of molds can cause serious illness. The good news is—you can see the mold and avoid it. It may appear as grey fur on meats, fuzzy green dots on breads, white dust on cheese, coin-size velvety circles on fruit, or furry growth on the surface of jellies.

Have additional questions about specific moldy foods? Check the USDA-FSIS factsheet: www.fsis.usda.gov/Fact_Sheets/Molds_On_Food/index.asp or call your Nutrition and Food Safety Extension Educator at your county Extension office.

The Wyoming Food Safety Coalition (WFSC) is dedicated to preventing food borne illness. This collaborative program is sponsored by the University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service, Wyoming Beef Council, Department of Agriculture (WDA), Department of Health, Environmental Health Association, and Lodging and Restaurant Association. For information about food safety or the WFSC, please contact your local county Extension office, WDA Consumer Health Specialist, or City-County Health Department.

Source: *Oregon State University Extension*, <http://food.oregonstate.edu/misc/mold.html>, September 2010.

United States Department of Agriculture – Food Safety Inspection Service, www.fsis.usda.gov/Fact_Sheets/Molds_On_Food/index.asp.

Christine Pasley, University Extension Educator, chrisp@uwyo.edu



New Employee for Wyoming Environmental Health:

The City of Laramie welcomes Mary Murrieta as their new Environmental Health Specialist. She graduated from Cheyenne East High School. She received her BA in Criminal Justice and her MS in Entomology from the University of Wyoming. Her husband, Charles, has his PhD in Animal Science (mammalian lipid metabolism). They have a son, Robert, who will turn 4 on Halloween. She plays ice hockey and enjoys curling; she likes to hike and hunt pheasant, geese, and ducks.

**“The future depends on what we do in the present.”
Mahatma Ghandi**

Needed ! WEHA Award Nominations

It is that time again to submit nominations for the WEHA awards to be presented at the Annual Education Conference in October. There are 3 different awards complete the application form

Outstanding Environmental Health Professional – Nomination can include the following

- Performance of assigned duties and job description
- Cooperation with fellow workers and peers
 - Willingness to take constructive criticism and offer the same to others in a tactful manner
- Educational background including special training or education
- Published or articles written or presented by the nominee relating to his/her profession
- Outline the areas in which the candidate has made a significant recognizable contribution to WEHA
- Recommendations should be signed by the individual or individuals recommending the candidate

Arthur Williamson

Arthur Williamson was director of water quality before the Department of Environmental Quality became an agency. He did outstanding work in the State of Wyoming from 1960 throughout the 1970's. He was a well educated and versed engineer working worldwide in the Centers of Disease Control on catastrophes in foreign countries, while always promoting public health.

- The criteria for a nomination can include the same outline as the Outstanding Environmental Health Professional except:

Recipient need not be a member of our organization

Candidate must be a person who has performed exemplary accomplishments in the Environmental Health field

Donkey—Tail

This is a humorous award presented to any member of the association who is recommended in writing on the award form by another member. The written recommendation should include an account of an actual humorous incident which occurred during the year while in the line of duty.

Wyoming Environmental Health Association

Award Nomination Form

Nomination of the award of:

Outstanding Environmental Health Professional Arthur Williamson Donkey Tail

Date of nomination: _____ For the year: _____

Candidates full name: _____

Title: _____

Immediate organization: _____

Agency: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone (office) _____ Home: _____

Years on the job: _____

Descriptions of Duties: _____

Describe the one or more specific achievement's or sustained high level of performance for which this candidate is being nominated. (If needed, add one page only.)

Nominated by: _____ Signature: _____

Nominations must reach Awards Committee a minimum of 60 days prior to the AEC.

*For award information refer to WEHA Procedures Manual, Section 5.

Forward nominations To Linda Stratton, 2219 Carey Ave., Cheyenne, WY 82002



Photo by Roy Kroeger

NEHA Delegate Report: by Terri Leichtweis, WEHA Treasurer

The National Environmental Health Association's Annual AEC was held in beautiful downtown Albuquerque, New Mexico this past June. By sending a representative for WEHA, we learned what is happening with the other affiliates at the local level and with NEHA at the national level.

Some concerns that were brought up at the affiliate presidents meeting were the issues of increasing membership and getting people involved with the association. Some suggestions for increasing membership were to have an exciting location for the local AEC to draw more interest in the association, and to offer a reduced membership fee for the first year. Getting people involved seemed a bigger challenge for some states. There have been so many budget cuts that some local health departments cannot allow any extra travel. This makes it difficult to be on the local association's board. Some associations have switched over to having their meetings via conference calls to compensate for the budget cuts and to keep members involved. Colorado has an industry member on their board as well as a way to keep the community involved. NEHA director Nelson Fabian suggested making the AEC more attractive to the younger generation by having half lectures and half learning labs with more hands on learning. Another suggestion was to partner with other associations for the AEC which is something Wyoming is currently doing with MEHA for the upcoming AEC and have also done in the past with WYPHA and FDA.

During our regional caucus meeting, the major concern was trying to educate younger generations about the Environmental Health field. Most of the people in our profession are approaching retirement age, and there is a concern over who will replace them. There is little known about environmental health by the younger generations and it is important to educate students about this field. Environmental health kits were another idea for NEHA to provide to affiliates so they could distribute them to the teachers and counselors in their areas. Another suggestion was to contact the IB programs because these students need to have volunteer hours to fulfill the requirements of their program. It was also suggested to have the school districts involved with the local associations as sustaining members. I think that this would be a great opportunity for us to reach out to our communities and educate our youth about environmental health and its opportunities.

Nelson Fabian held an informal meeting for all the Affiliate Presidents where we could voice our concerns and ask him questions. He suggested what information to include in a hotel/conference room contract in case there is an emergency and a majority of the attendees have to cancel. He suggested that our publications go out digitally as most people now prefer this form, and it is the greener way to do things. He also cautioned us on social media sites like Facebook and Twitter. He stated that they are a good way to communicate information but that they need to be carefully and constantly monitored as to what is being posted as they are a representation of the group. This type of informal meeting will be done at future NEHA AEC's as everyone there felt that they had benefited from attending.

Training Opportunities:

- WEHA AEC “Conference on the Caldera” October 18-21, 2010 in Mammoth Springs, Wyoming— website registration: www.mehaweb.org
- NEHA’s 75th AEC June 18-20 2011 in Columbus, Ohio
- IAFP AEC July 31-August 3, 2010 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- 2010 World Aquatic Health Conference October 8-10 in Colorado Springs, Colorado
- NSPF Instructor Class website: <http://www.nspf.org/Instructor.html>
- CDC Environmental Public Health Leadership Institute website: <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/ephli/>

CPO Classes for Wyoming

Casper	October 13 & 14, 2010	Shauna Butler	406-539-5122 406-539-2899	elkring@AOL.com
Casper	November 12 & 13, 2010	Pat Kirk	307-680-7946	pkirk@ccsd.k12.wy.us
Cheyenne	November 19 & 20, 2010	Pat Kirk	307-680-7946	pkirk@ccsd.k12.wy.us

****FREE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES****

- Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response (EHTER) September 26-October 2, 2010; November 7-12, 2010; December 12-17, 2010. website: <https://cdp.dhs.gov/schedules/program/s.html>
- Basic Agricultural Emergency Response Training for CBRNE Incidents (AgERT-B) September 19-24, 2010; October 3-8, 2010; November 14-19, 2010. website: <https://cdp.dhs.gov/resident/agert.html>
- Environmental Public Health Online Courses—website: <http://lms.southcentralpartnership.org/scphp>
- NEHA online learning— website: <http://www.nehacert.org/moodle/>
- Northwest Center for Public Health Practice— website: <http://www.nwcp.org/training/courses>
- FDA’s Office of Regulatory Affairs University (ORAU)—website: <http://www.fda.gov/Training/ForStateLocalTribalRegulators/ucm119016.htm>
- University of Albany Center for Public Health Preparedness—website: <http://www.ualbanycph.org/learning/default.cfm>

WEHA Board

- President: [Joe Martinez; 2219 Carey Ave, Cheyenne, WY 82002](#)
- Past President: [Doug Evans; 2219 Carey Ave, Cheyenne, WY 82002](#)
- President - Elect: [Neal Bloomenrader; 2219 Carey Ave, Cheyenne, WY 82002](#)
- Treasurer: [Terri Leichtweis; 100 Central Ave, Cheyenne, WY 82007](#)
- Secretary: [Tiffany Gaertner; 100 Central Ave, Cheyenne, WY 82007](#)

Thanks to our sustaining members!



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