



WEHA NEWSLETTER

WEHA Newsletter

April 2012

WYOMING ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

President's Message: by Neal Bloomenrader

The executive board has been meeting often these past few months. The main task is planning the annual education conference for the coming year. What is planned is quite a departure from the past conferences due to the concerns of the budgets. Therefore, this will be a combination of an FDA class and the last day will be environmental health presentations.

The conference is to be held in Gillette the 18th and 19th of September 2012 for the FDA class and the the 20th for a coal mine tour at the Best Western hotel. The 17th and 20th of September will be a travel days for CHS. A block of rooms has been reserved for WEHA so please make your reservations early.

The two day class will be presented by Mario Seminara, the regional FDA food specialist. The course is titled "Risk Based Inspections" and this is a new course that is now being presented across the country. I think you will find this course very applicable to what we do as inspectors.

This AEC is very important because of elections and the general business meeting. Both will be held at noon on Tuesday. At the last AEC meeting, there were some very interesting ideas on the banquet. Right now this is still in the planning stages.

The AEC planning is going well, so please make your reservations now. Despite the concerns of the budgets, this planned



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Save the Date!!

2012 AEC: Risky Business

- September 18-20, 2012
- Gillette, Wyoming
- Best Western Tower West Lodge

**** Official Save the Date with contact information to follow.**



FDA Standardization Information for Standard 2: Trained Regulatory Staff

The FDA is responsible for the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards. Standard 2 covers a structured training process that can be adopted by regulatory departments. This means that any employee who conducts inspections at retail food and/or foodservice establishments with the knowledge and skills necessary to conduct quality inspections. The elements included in this standard list classes that should be taken, joint inspections with a certified trainer, and completion of individual inspections. Any department interested in participating in the Standard 2 process can contact Mario Seminara with the FDA at (303) 236-3026 or via email mario.seminara@fda.hhs.gov.

WEHA Scholarship Fund

PURPOSE: To provide stipends for WEHA Members to attend conferences, meetings, seminars, symposiums etc. which are beneficial to WEHA.

POLICY: \$1000 in scholarship funding for the purpose of stipends is available per year, with a maximum stipend of \$250.00, per WEHA member per calendar.

PROCEDURE:

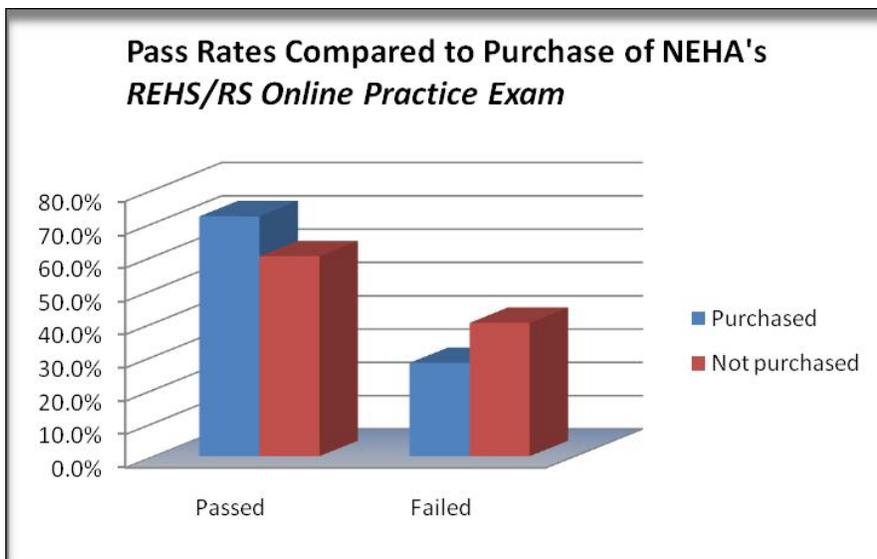
1. Applicants must include a meeting agenda, registration form, and a written explanation of how WEHA and the member attending will benefit.
2. All applications will be reviewed by the Executive Board prior to approval.
3. Following the conference etc. a written report must be submitted for publication in the WEHA Newsletter.



NEHA Resource Shown to Help Increase REHS/RS Pass Rates

Originally published in the *Journal of Environmental Health*, December 2011, (Volume 74, Number 5, pp 46–47), a publication of the National Environmental Health Association, www.neha.org.

During the past year NEHA tracked how people performed on the Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian (REHS/RS) credential exam and whether they purchased NEHA's *REHS/RS Online Practice Exam*. The *Practice Exam* contains over 1,000 practice questions on 13 environmental health disciplines covered within the scope of the REHS/RS credential. It helps individuals understand the expected depth of knowledge and the nature of the REHS/RS credential exam questions. Once the *Practice Exam* is purchased, individuals may revisit the practice questions and continue preparing for up to six months. Questions are randomly selected for each category. Incorrect answers are marked as such, but the correct response is also provided.



The results appear to demonstrate the effectiveness of the *Practice Exam*. Of the individuals who purchased the *REHS/RS Online Practice Exam* and then took the REHS/RS credential exam:

- 72% passed the exam, and
- 28% failed the exam.

Of the individuals who did NOT purchase the *REHS/RS Online Practice Exam* and then took the REHS/RS credential exam:

- 60% passed the exam, and
- 40% failed the exam.

These figures do not include individuals who took NEHA's REHS/RS credential exam through their state organization. It only includes individuals who applied directly to NEHA for the exam. Purchase of *NEHA's REHS/RS Online Practice Exam* does not guarantee passing of the REHS/RS credential exam. NEHA highly encourages REHS/RS credential exam candidates to purchase the *Practice Exam*, however, to improve their chances of successfully passing the REHS/RS credential exam. NEHA also offers other resources that can assist individuals in preparing for the REHS/RS credential exam such as the

- *REHS/RS Study Guide (Third Edition)*,
- Three different REHS/RS Study Guide Packages,
- 13 different recommended study references covering specific and generalized areas of environmental health, and
- An REHS/RS Review Course held yearly at NEHA's Annual Educational Conference (AEC) & Exhibition.

Visit the Credential Study References section of NEHA's online Bookstore (www.neha.org/store/index.html) for title and ordering information regarding the *REHS/RS Online Practice Exam* and the other resources listed above. Information about the REHS/RS Review Course being held at the 2012 AEC in San Diego, California, will be posted after the New Year at www.neha2012aec.org.

Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response Course offered by the Center for Domestic Preparedness

By Beth Wood

Receiving training in this economy is more difficult than ever with prices going up and budgets being cut. There is one place though where all the training and travel expenses are paid for! I was fortunate to be able to take advantage of this free training towards the end of February at the Centers for Domestic Preparedness in Aniston, AL. Your travel plans are arranged for you, the room that you stay in is on the training center property, shuttles are provided to take you anywhere within a reasonable distance for shopping, eating, etc., and you are also given the opportunity to network with others from around the country. The class is Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response (EHTER). It is a four day class that is a basic introduction into the many different areas of Environmental Health and how they relate to the challenges faced during an emergency response. Throughout the course, there are several examples of the importance of partnerships between federal, state, local, and tribal agencies both prior to and during an emergency so that the public's needs can be met. This class is great because you have hands on exercises; the teachers have an extensive resume in the subject area that they teach, the people attending are not all from an environmental health background, and you learn how other professionals in areas around the country may operate within their jurisdictions.

The CDP training campus is located on the historic Fort McClellan US Army base, also known as Camp McClellan. It has been used for many different assignments dating back to the Spanish-American War. During both WWI and WWII, the base was used for basic training purposes for new recruits. WWII changed the base in that it was expanded to a larger complex for training and even became a POW camp for enemy soldiers. Other uses of the

facility and grounds continued to focus on training including the Chemical Corps School (CCS), Military Police Corps, Women's Army Corps, and during the Vietnam War the Infantry Training Brigade. The campus is full of history that any employees would be happy to talk to you about.

Although EHTER is the primary course for Environmental Specialists to attend, there are other informative classes available. The primary focus for all of these classes is training in emergencies for responders and can be applied to many of the different areas we deal with on a regular basis in Environmental Health at one time or another. If you would like to see a listing of their courses and register for one, visit their website at <https://cdp.dhs.gov/schedules/program/s.html>.

Photo courtesy of CDP <http://cdp.dhs.gov/news/photos/cdp.html>



The Noble Training Facility (NTF) is a functional hospital converted into a training site for health and medical education in disasters, to include both acts of terrorism and manmade disasters. The NTF is the only hospital in the United States dedicated to training hospital and healthcare professionals in disaster preparedness and response.

A Coordinated Response to Food Emergencies: Practice and Execution

By Tiffany Gaertner

At the end of January, the Cheyenne Laramie County Health Department hosted “A Coordinated Response to Food Emergencies: Practice and Execution.” Attendees were from different agencies that would be involved in an actual emergency including emergency management, lab technicians, bioterrorism coordinators, environmental health specialists, and public health nursing.

The class provided participants with the opportunity to see what different agencies would do in an emergency and gave them to opportunity to work through possible food emergency scenarios from identifica-

tion to cleanup. Different levels of government including local, state, and federal were involved depending on the scope of the emergency.

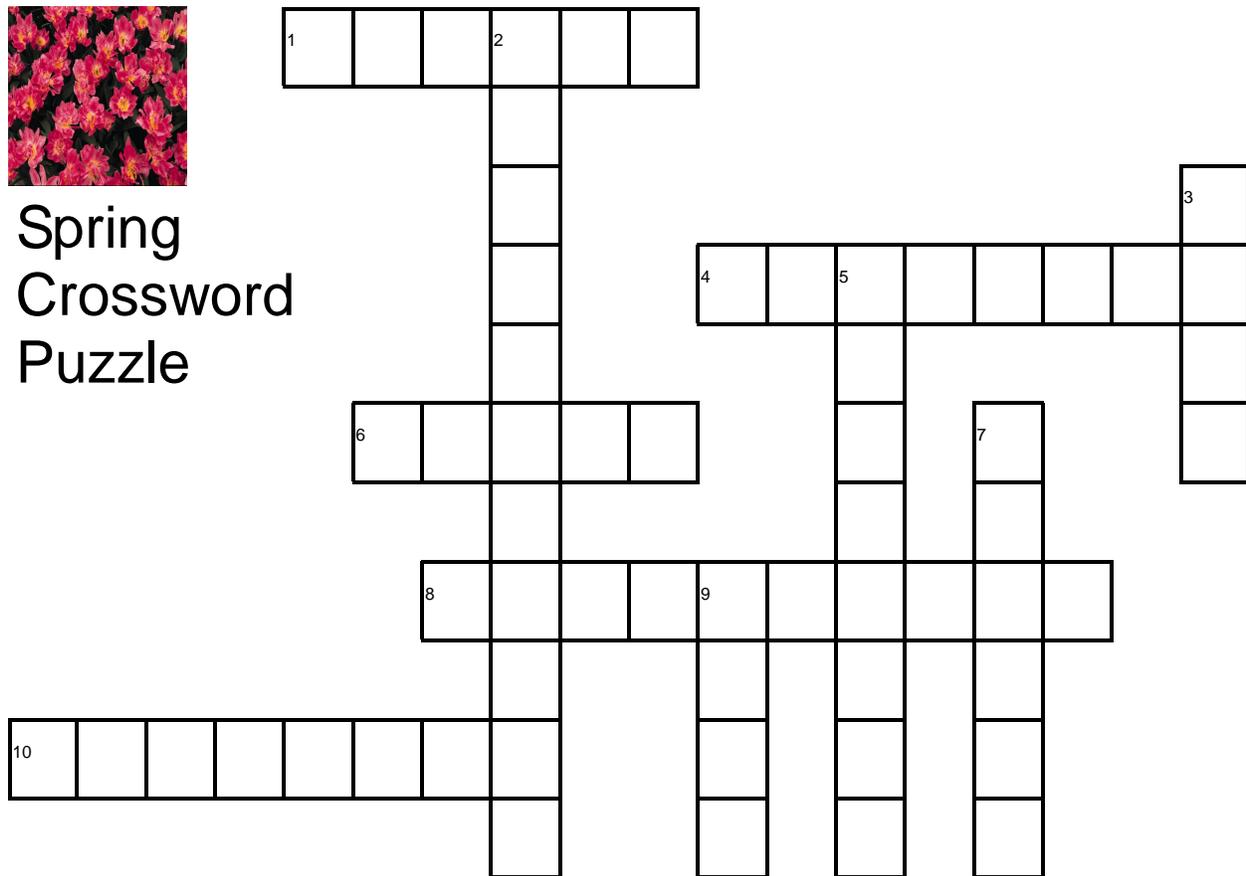
Food emergencies could be caused by natural occurrences, terrorism, or accidents. Communication and coordination are the key to handling food emergencies successfully. Information sharing through various networks helps in indentifying possible sources and in containing the spread of the outbreak. After the emergency is over the contaminated areas must be mitigated and hopefully consumer confidence can be restored.



A Coordinated Response to
Food Emergencies:
Practice and Execution



Spring Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. Type of pool training course done at home.
4. Location of this year's WEHA AEC.
6. A free training in Alabama by the Center for Domestic Preparedness.
8. Responsible for millions of cases involving foodborne illness every year.
10. Location of this year's NEHA AEC.

Down

2. One of our sustaining members.
3. NEHA credential that covers all areas of Environmental Health.
5. Involved in a foodborne illness outbreak this past year concerning cantaloupe.
7. One of our sustaining members.
9. The FDA's online university

Created by Puzzlemaker at DiscoveryEducation.com



Answers found on page 11



It is that time again to submit nominations for the WEHA awards to be presented at the Annual Education Conference in September. Complete the application form on the following page for colleagues or associates that you feel meet the following qualifications for one of the three awards below. Thank you in advance for all nominations.

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.



Rocky Mountain FOOD SAFETY CONFERENCE

DATE: May 15 & 16

Location: Colorado School of Mines



The 2012 conference includes presentations on the cantaloupe Listeria outbreak and melon safety, retail industry best practices, third-party auditors and liability, national retail food initiative, technical seminars, low-acid and acidified canned food, and non-0157 STECs. There will also be a cottage food industry panel.

Scholarships are available for students. <http://www.rmfoodsafety.org/scholarships.php>

Online registration is available. <http://www.rmfoodsafety.org/registration.php>

Pre-conference Workshops on May 14, 2012: Special Processes at Retail and Seafood HACCP Certification—Segment Two



Hotel Information: <http://www.rmfoodsafety.org/hotel.php>

Wyoming CPO Training Schedule

City	Start Date	End Date	Course Type	Contact	Email	Phone
Buffalo	05/03/2012	05/03/2012	Fusion Course	Pat Kirk	patkirk67@yahoo.com	307-680-7946
Buffalo	05/07/2012	05/08/2012	2-day class	Rick Stewart	www.pooltrainingacademy.com/	719-371-8443
Casper	05/16/2012	05/17/2012	2-day class	Pat Kirk	patkirk67@yahoo.com	307-680-7946
Evanston	04/25/2012	04/25/2012	Fusion Course	Pat Kirk	patkirk67@yahoo.com	307-680-7946
Green River	04/26/2012	04/26/2012	Fusion Course	Pat Kirk	patkirk67@yahoo.com	307-680-7946
Lander	04/27/2012	04/27/2012	Fusion Course	Pat Kirk	patkirk67@yahoo.com	307-680-7946
Rock Springs	05/21/2012	05/22/2012	2-day class	Nancy Lutje	nlutje@aol.com	505-228-9465

Fusion courses are one day only and allows the student to work at home on the computer to complete the 18 chapters. When completed, the student prints out the letter of completion and brings it to a fusion course or to the second day of a traditional course.



Commercial Applicator Re-certification - Pesticides

Commercial licenses are only valid for the balance of the year in which the license was obtained plus 24 months and expire on January 31st. To re-certify in order to maintain your license from the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, one of the following requirements must be met:

- 24 hours of pesticide related courses or workshop credits obtained during the time in which the license is valid. These credit hours must be validated with an agenda and proof of attendance. The Department determines if the coursework applies toward re-certification.
- Attendance at the Commercial Applicator Re-certification School held during January in Casper of each year.
- Re-take the exams for the categories in which you want to be re-certified.



Please contact Hank Uhden at 307.777.6574, if you have any questions.

The above information can be found on the Wyoming Department of Agriculture website under the Frequently Asked Questions at this web address:

http://wyagric.state.wy.us/images/stories/pdf/techserv/comm_applicator_recert.pdf

Study manuals may also be found at:

<http://wyagric.state.wy.us/divisions/ts/sections-a-programs/pesticide/210#applicatorstudymanuals>

Other Training Opportunities:

- **NEHA's AEC** June 26-30, 2012 in San Diego, California: <http://www.neha2012aec.org/schedule.html>
- **2012 World Aquatic Health Conference** October 10-12 Norfolk, Virginia: conference@nspf.org
- **CDC Environmental Public Health Leadership Institute** website: <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/ephli/>
- **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.nwcphp.org/training/courses>
- **FDA's Office of Regulatory Affairs University (ORAU)**—website: <http://www.fda.gov/Training/ForStateLocalTribalRegulators/ucm119016.htm>
- **NSPF Instructor Class** website: <http://www.nspf.org/CPO/CPOInstructorTraining.aspx>

WEHA Board

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- Past President [Joe Martinez; 2219 Carey Ave, Cheyenne, WY 82002](#)
- President - Elect [Terri Leichtweis; 100 Central Ave, Cheyenne, WY 82007](#)
- Treasurer [Tiffany Gaertner; 100 Central Ave, Cheyenne, WY 82007](#)
- Secretary [Todd Denny; PO Box 148, Greybull, WY 82426](#)

Wyoming Environmental Health Association

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 Cheyenne, WY 82002-0100

Visit us on the web at:

<http://www.wehaonline.net/>



Thanks to our sustaining members!

INFILTRATOR SYSTEMS INC.
 Environmental Health Association Sustaining Member

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Answers:

1. Fusion 2. Infiltrator 3. REHS 4. Gillette 5. Listeria 6. EHTER 7. Valent 8. Salmonella 9. ORAU 10. San Diego