



40th Annual

National Food Policy CONFERENCE

Examining key food policy issues affecting consumers, the food industry and government

APRIL 11 & 12, 2017

WASHINGTON MARRIOTT AT METRO CENTER HOTEL, WASHINGTON, DC

For 40 years, the National Food Policy Conference has been a Washington institution and a unique collaboration between consumer advocates, the food industry and government. The conference is organized by the Consumer Federation of America and is a key national gathering for those interested in agriculture, food and nutrition policy.

This year's conference will explore an array of important food policy issues facing consumers and the food industry. The conference will examine the direction in which a new Administration and Congress are moving on key food policy issues, take a closer look at the causes and consequences of hunger in America, and explore cutting-edge technologies and business models that are poised to transform the food system. Speakers and panelists will consider timely food policy topics including state and local food policy reform campaigns, immigration policy, infant nutrition, and market concentration in the food sector.

➔ **For updates and the latest information, go to www.consumerfed.org.**

Promotional Support provided by Powell Tate Food, Nutrition and Wellness Practice.

Program

TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2017

8:30 am **Welcome**

8:45 am **Keynote Address**

9:30 am **Facilitated Discussion: The New Administration's Food Policy Agenda**

As the new Administration and Congress start to identify their top priorities, how will their plans affect agriculture, nutrition and food safety? Will campaign promises to cut regulation and downsize the federal government extend to food policy? A panel of leading experts explores the emerging areas of potential food policy reform and the possible impacts on consumers and the food industry.

10:45 am **Networking Break**

11:15 am **Breakout Panels**

Panel 1: Going Local—Food Policy Reform Outside of the Beltway

On a broad range of issues, state and local governments are taking the lead on food policy, often with direct support from voters. What will be the next battlegrounds? Will the recent federal elections lead to a greater emphasis on state and local policy? Panelists discuss what to expect, and the pros and cons of setting food policy at the local level.

Panel 2: A Healthy Dose of Information

Regulators have sought to encourage healthier eating with policies like menu labeling requirements, updates to the Nutrition Facts panel, and redefining terms such as “natural” and “healthy.” Advocates argue that these policies increase transparency and empower consumers, while detractors claim that they impose unnecessary costs. A panel considers what transparency means in the context of nutrition information, and how the delivery of nutrition information affects consumer behavior and responds to consumer demand.

Panel 3: Big Data and the Future of Food Safety

Technological advances are enabling food producers to identify *Listeria monocytogenes* and other pathogens that may have once gone undetected. Public health authorities are using tools like whole-genome sequencing to trace back foodborne pathogens to their sources across vast stretches of time and space. Experts consider the promises and perils of these new technologies for food safety regulation.

12:30 pm **Lunch—Keynote Address**

2:00 pm **Facilitated Discussion: Hunger in America**

According to USDA survey data, food insecurity has declined in recent years, yet hunger still remains pervasive. In 2015, an estimated 12.7 percent of American households at some point lacked access to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members. Leaders from the front lines of the fight against hunger in America discuss the impacts of food insecurity and recent proposals to reform federal food assistance programs.

3:15 pm **Networking Break**

3:45 pm **Breakout Panels**

Panel 1: Infant Nutrition and Public Policy

Proper nutrition plays a vital role in infants' and toddlers' healthy development. According to recent research, nearly 10 percent of American toddlers are obese. How should Dietary Guidelines, marketing restrictions, and other public policies respond to the unique needs of society's youngest members? Panelists discuss upcoming policy reforms and the barriers to improving infant nutrition.

Panel 2: A Food Safety Modernization Act for Meat and Poultry?

Congress passed the Poultry Products Inspection Act in 1957. The Federal Meat Inspection Act is even older. Are federal meat and poultry inspection programs antiquated? Does the current law give USDA regulators the necessary tools and authority to address antibiotic resistant pathogens and other emerging food safety threats? A panel of experts discusses how meat and poultry inspection has evolved in the absence of new legislation, and potential areas for reform.

Panel 3: The Next Farm Bill

The federal government's primary agricultural and food policy tool, the Farm Bill, has far-reaching implications for a disparate collection of stakeholders—from family farms to families in need of food assistance, from wildlife enthusiasts to large agrichemical corporations. Competing factions have already begun drawing battle lines for the next Farm Bill. Panelists discuss the various positions and how factors like historically low commodity prices and a lagging rural economy will play out in the debate.

5:00 pm **End**

Continued on next page

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2017

8:15 am **Welcome**

8:30 am **Keynote Address**

9:15 am **Breakout Panels**

Panel 1: Consolidation in the Food Industry

Seemingly every segment of the food industry is consolidating at a rapid pace. Do market forces make concentration inevitable? At what point should regulators intervene? A panel of experts discusses the impacts of consolidation on consumers and the food industry, and government's role in structuring the marketplace.

Panel 2: Leading the Way to Less Food Waste

According to recent estimates, nearly 40 percent of food in America ends up in a landfill. The U.S. has set a goal of reducing that waste in half by 2030, and industry leaders have already made considerable progress towards achieving that objective. Panelists discuss innovative industry practices and identify the most promising strategies going forward.

Panel 3: Food and Immigration

Researchers estimate that roughly half of all U.S. farm workers are undocumented immigrants. These workers also account for much of the labor force for

dairies, meat processors, restaurants, and other entities throughout the food supply chain. How will the food system be affected by proposals to restrict immigration? Panelists discuss the role of immigrants in various segments of the food sector and the potential for adaptation to new immigration policies.

10:30 am **Break**

10:45 am **Facilitated Discussion: Food Industry Disruptors**

From online ordering to meat-free protein to gene editing, emerging technologies are changing the food industry. How are new investors and startup companies influencing the way Americans eat? What technologies pose the greatest potential to disrupt industry norms and public policy? Industry innovators discuss what they are doing to transform our food system.

12:00 pm **Keynote Address**

12:30 pm **End**

Registration

REGISTER ONLINE AT **www.consumerfed.org**

Registration Fees

Includes all sessions, conference materials, lunch on Tuesday and continental breakfast on Wednesday

Industry, trade and professional association representatives and nutritionists or dietitians employed by industry	\$425
Government, academic and non-CFA public interest groups and independent nutritionists and dietitians	\$175
Designated representatives of CFA member groups	\$120
College or graduate students	\$75

CFA will be applying for Continuing Education credits from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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