This year, the annual AFDO conference will be hosted by the Northeast Food and Drug Officials Association. An extensive agenda includes sessions on outbreak investigations, produce safety, sushi, food recovery systems, internet food sales, and much more. In addition there are pre-conference workshops on improving regulator communication skills, HACCP, and environmental sampling. For information on the agenda and registration, go to http://burlington.afdo.org/

Contact hour information: Contact hours towards food inspector certification will be awarded for food track presentations, however, certified food inspectors must notify Cynthia Costa of the Food Protection Program (FPP) in advance if they intend to receive contact hours. This is to ensure that the required forms and signatures can be obtained during the conference as there is an extensive agenda and a large number of attendees that may make it difficult to confirm attendance unless advance notice is provided. Email Cynthia at: cynthia.costa@ct.gov.

CT Environmental Health Association Summer Meeting: Hammonasset State Park, Madison, CT. July 19, 2018.
This annual meeting is open to both members and non-members. For information on the agenda and registration, go to ceha.wildapricot.org

Contact hour information: One (1) Contact hour towards food inspector certification will be awarded for registration and full attendance at the CT Department of Public Health FPP presentation.

Northeast Food and Drug Official Annual Retail Food Protection Seminar: Portland, Maine September 19 -21, 2018. The FDA annual retail food agenda will include such topics as shellfish poisoning, food salvage, pest control, an update on the Food Safety Modernization Act, clean meat, zoonotic diseases, use of virtual reality by the food industry, and more. This year the 56th Annual Yankee Conference on Environmental Health will join the 2018 FDA Northeast Retail Food Protection Seminar by using the FDA seminar as their retail food education track. For information on the agenda and registration, go to 2018 FDA Northeast Retail Food Protection Seminar Update

Contact hour information: Up to twelve (12) contact hours towards food inspector certification will be awarded for attendance. CFIs who wish to receive contact hours must sign in with a FPP representative before each session.

OTHER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES [Note: Contact hours are not awarded for these training courses.]

EATS 102 is CDC’s latest course for foodborne illness outbreak investigation training. This free online course builds on introductory skills from lessons in EATS 101. Both courses provide the skills needed to investigate foodborne illness outbreaks which are different from those needed to inspect restaurants. EATS 101 and 102 address environmental assessments and the critical role of environmental health staff. With EATS 102, you can practice applying environmental assessment skills in multiple outbreak scenarios. Both are excellent free online virtual reality training courses that allow the learner to apply their skills in real life outbreak situations. Learn More

Centers of Excellence Training
New York Integrated Food Safety Center of Excellence: The New York State Department of Health and Cornell University have teamed up to strengthen foodborne illness surveillance and investigations and serve the six New England states, New York, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Many training tools, materials, and webinars are available on a variety of food safety subjects. Of particular interest are the webinars on Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS), the newest genetic outbreak investigation tool that will soon supplant Pulsed Field Gel Electrophoresis. Go to https://nyfoodsafety.cals.cornell.edu to learn more and access training.

Colorado Integrated Food Safety Center of Excellence: The Colorado Department of Health and the Colorado School of Public Health at the University of Colorado have partnered to develop model practices in foodborne disease surveillance and outbreak response. The Center provides extensive resources for foodborne outbreak investigation training with links to other sites that also provide training. Some
highlights include interactive outbreak investigation modules, short refresher type training, WGS webinars and much more. Go to Colorado CoE to learn more.

Note: There are four other Food Safety Centers of Excellence that also have excellent resources. Go to https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/centers/index.html to access these other sites.

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