

State of Michigan



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Department of Agriculture

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Nara M. Viau

DATE: November 19, 2001

TO: All Local Health Departments
Attn.: Health Officer/Director of Environmental Health/Chief Sanitarian
MDA Food Program Staff

FROM: Thomas E. Crook, R.S.
Food Service Sanitation Section
Food and Dairy Division

SUBJECT: **2002 Great Lakes Conference on Food Protection**

The 2002 Great Lakes Conference on Food Protection will be held at the Holiday Inn - South/Convention Center in Lansing on January 29-30. The "Great Lakes Voice" has been sent to all members announcing the event.

Virtually every day conversations occur with at least one sanitarian who has a better idea on policy issues, procedures, the food law, food code, etc. The Great Lakes Conference of Food Protection is the forum at which good ideas can be presented to peers, the industry, and academia in order to determine if those ideas have statewide relevance and can be implemented in Michigan's program. I know of no other State program that has a similar forum for creating change at the grass-roots level. Unlike the MEHA Food Protection Conference that provides training through a variety of guest speakers, the Great Lakes Conference is a working body which deliberates and makes decisions on important program matters.

Forms in the newsletter were provided for your suggestions (2001 - 2002 Issue Submission, Great Lakes Conference of Food Protection). This is your chance. Good ideas conveyed to MDA through phone conversations, raised hands at meetings, and other casual conversations tend to fall through the cracks. I urge anyone who has an issue, no matter how small (or big) it may seem, to complete an issue submission form and be prepared to present it at the conference. You can submit ideas as individuals, a department, by an organization (i.e. Southwest Sanitarians Association, MEHA, etc.), a group of like-thinking friends, etc. This is an opportunity to have impact at both the state and national level. You will never know the potential for change that you can make if you do not take the chance.

TEC:NDF:khg

Attachments

cc: Retail Food Advisory Board