

Start planning for the 2014 IEHA Annual Educational Conference March 19th & 20th.



GREETINGS!

# *Idaho Environmental Health Association*

## Coming Soon!

Idaho Environmental Health Association's Annual Educational Conference is coming up on March 19 & 20, 2014, at Boise State University's Student Union Building. The Idaho Solid Waste Association will be holding another 2 day session and the Onsite Wastewater Association of Idaho will also be joining us. The website will be updated as new information is added.

If you are interested in nominating someone for EHS of the Year or are a student who would like to apply for the \$500 Student Scholarship, you can contact Susie Simmons at [ssimmons@cdhd.idaho.gov](mailto:ssimmons@cdhd.idaho.gov) or check out [www.ieha.wildapricot.org](http://www.ieha.wildapricot.org).

The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) and the International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) are joining up in 2014 to bring their two annual conferences together in Las Vegas on July 7-10, 2014. To see more details go to [www.neha2014aec.org](http://www.neha2014aec.org).

## **January Is National Radon Action Month**

EPA has designated January as National Radon Action Month. Learn more [here](#) about the national effort to take action against radon.

## **National Ground Water Association**

The NGWA has started a private well owner training and technical assistance tool. Anyone interested in private well issues can subscribe to the free monthly tip sheet at [www.WellOwner.org](http://www.WellOwner.org).

## **National Sanitation Foundation**

The Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs, in partnership with NSF International, is offering a [paid internship project](#) to students from the National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council. The NSF International Scholarship Program is an opportunity for an undergraduate student to gain valuable experience in the environmental health field. Applications are due by January 17, 2014.

## **Environmental Protection Agency**

EPA has released a new exposure toolbox called [EPA-Expo-Box](#). This web-based resource serves as a one-stop shop for the latest tools, techniques, and information for conducting exposure assessments.

## **US Food and Drug Administration**

FDA has recently announced the availability of funds for completion of projects and training to enhance conformance with the voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards (Retail Standards). [Funds are available](#) for state, local, territorial, and tribal regulatory retail food programs who have enrolled in the Retail Standards. The application process is anticipated to begin in February.

Remember that FDA has the [Holiday Food Safety Website](#) that has helpful tips on cleaning, preparing, and storing food during the holiday season.

FDA has released a [draft risk profile](#) to assess contamination found in imported spices. The study found that about twelve percent of shipments were contaminated with pathogens such as *Salmonella* or filth, including insect parts or animal hair. The study was prompted in part by the large *Salmonella* outbreak in the U.S. in 2008-2009 that was linked to ground white pepper.

FDA is taking a closer look at antibacterial soaps and the potential risk of creating more antibiotic resistant strains of bacteria. Click [here](#) to read more about it.

## **National Potato Council**

A new commodity-specific [food safety guide](#) is now available from the National Potato Council. The 67 page set of guidelines for the production, harvest, storage, and packing of potatoes is broken down into four sections, each one listing a set of best practices to address potential food safety issues associated with those specific operations.

## **Baby News!**

Congratulations to Jamie Barton (PHD1) and Brigitta Gruenberg (PHD4) on their new babies. Jamie had a baby boy and Brigitta had a baby girl.

Sincerely, IEHA

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