



Coming Down From On High

Julie Adams, Moderator





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Coming Down From On High

Presenters:

Barbara Cassens, FDA, Pacific
Region

Cathy Enright, Federal Government
Affairs, Western Growers



Food Safety – FDA Now and in the Future

Barbara Cassens, FDA District Director



Current challenges to ensuring a safe food supply ...

- **Globalization**
- **Economic adulteration / intentional contamination**
- **Shifting demographics**
- **Changing consumption patterns**





Current challenges for the food safety system

- **Lack of resources**
- **Outdated laws**
- **Insufficient strategic planning**
- **Inadequate coordination across multiple agencies and jurisdictions**



Change is Coming

- Supported by President Obama and White House Food Safety Working Group
- Industry, consumers and experts are aligned like never before
- New Legislation

“...there are certain things that we can’t do on our own. There are certain things that only a government can do. And one of those things is ensuring that the foods we eat...are safe and don’t cause us harm.”



President Barack Obama
March 2009





President's Food Safety Working Group



- ***Principle 1: Preventing harm to consumers is our first priority.***
- ***Principle 2: Effective food safety inspections and enforcement depend upon good data and analysis.***
- ***Principle 3: Outbreaks of food-borne illness should be identified quickly and stopped.***





Food Safety Legislation Pending



- **Food Safety Enhancement Act of 2009**
 - H.R. 2749 passed by the House in July
 - Statement of Administrative Position (SAP)

- **Food Safety Modernization Act**
 - S. 510 under discussion in Senate
 - Statement of Administrative Position (SAP)





A few findings...

- Need a true risk-based approach
- Enforcement rigor
- New approach to inspections
- FDA structure – how to achieve collaboration
- The right skill sets in field
- Need for modern tools
- Collecting/analyzing the right data
- Leveraging work with others

New leadership at FDA

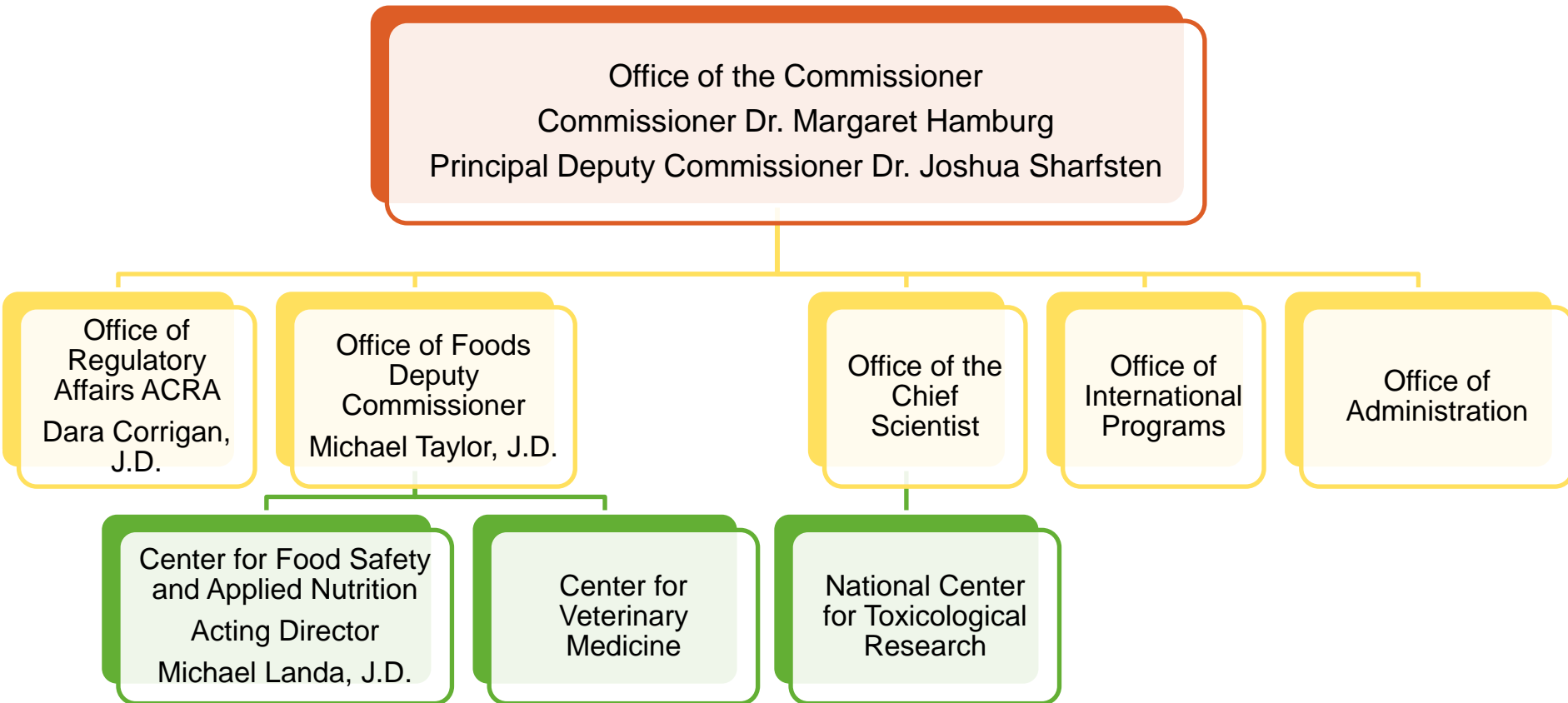
- **Created overarching foods leader at deputy commissioner level**
- **Charged with elevating food safety; unifying FDA foods program**
- **Career appointment**



Michael R. Taylor



Food and Drug Administration





One Mission/One Foods Program

- **Kick-off December 2009**
- **Design: 3 to 12 months, depending on core group charges**





A Few Core Group Charges...



- **Preventive Controls**

Develop overarching principles and policies for implementing the anticipated mandate for preventive controls in all food facilities

- **Inspection & Compliance Strategy**

Design the Operating Principles and Inspection and Compliance Strategies for the foods/feeds program





A Few Core Group Charges...



- **Import Safety**

Design an import food safety program, applicable to both human and animal food, centered on public health outcomes, taking into consideration anticipated new legal authorities, and that includes strategies and goals for implementation

- **Federal/State Integration**

Continue and complete the planning for an integrated national food safety system





Vision for the Future...

Focus on preventing **food-borne illness** by:

- Developing prevention-oriented standards
- Responding rapidly and effectively
- Ensuring optimal use of all available resources, which means:

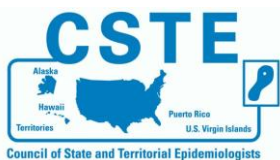
**Building an integrated national
food safety system**



Integrated Food Safety System...



Federal, State and Local partners are joining forces to refine and implement a shared vision for an integrated food safety system



United States Animal Health Association





Support Goals to...

- Prevent food safety problems in the first place
- More quickly to identify and stop outbreaks
- Coordinate better with federal, state and local food safety agencies
- Collect better data; analyze, trend, share
- Prioritize inspection and enforcement worldwide



Conclusion...

A fully integrated national food safety system is a critical component to the President's overall public health focused food safety framework





Thank You



What the New Congress Means for Almonds

Cathleen Enright, Vice President, Federal Government Affairs





Overview



November elections

Impact on Specialty Crop representation

Forecast for Key Issues

- Farm Bill
- Cap-and-trade
- Estate Tax
- Trade policy
- Environmental Regulation
- Food safety
- Conclusion



The Elephants in the Room

House	Democrats	192	(before 256)
	Republicans	242	(before 179)
	(1 race has not been decided) <i>Blue Dog Losses (29/54, 23 by defeat)</i>		

Senate	Democrats	53	(before 59)
	Republicans	47	(before 41)

Governors	Democrats	20	(before 26)
	Republicans	29	(before 24)
	Independents	1	(before 0)



112th Congress Specialty Crop Representation?



House Agricultural Committee

- Urban, Tea Party influence

Horticultural Subcommittee

House Oversight and Government Reform

Senate Agricultural Committee

Need for education



2008 Farm Bill



Guides most U.S. farm and food policies

Supports program crops, horticulture, livestock, conservation, trade and food aid, ag research, farm credit, rural development, energy and forestry

\$3B for Specialty Crop priorities



2008 Farm Bill Specialty Crop Programs



Block Grants (\$466M)

Support local efforts to enhance industry competitiveness. Projects awarded include:

- **Promotion of almond exports**
- **Research in soil carbon and nitrogen dynamics for development of a comparison between applied pruning and burning**
- **Expansion of almond industry sustainability efforts**



2008 Farm Bill Specialty Crop Programs



Market Access Program (\$1B)

- Increased consumer product awareness and food industry demand in China, South Korea and Dubai

Pest and Disease Program (\$377M)

Specialty Crop Research Initiative (\$230M)

Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (\$59M)

National Clean Plant Network (\$20M)



2012 Farm Bill



Budget reality

Nutrition climate

Specialty Crop programs—intelligent spending

Industry message



Federal Cap-and-Trade Legislation



**Restrictions on greenhouse gas emissions/
issuance of carbon credits to “capped”
industries; agricultural exempted from cap**

**Agricultural Offset and Supplemental Incentive
Programs (H.R. 2454)**



H.R. 2454 Offsets Program



Achieves emissions reductions from uncapped sources by participation in eligible projects/ practices, e.g.,

- CH4 collection
- Aforestation
- NO2 reduction
- No-till
- Cover cropping

Offset credit issued



H.R. 2454 Offsets Program



Generally not commenced before January 1, 2009 except approved early offset program established after January 1, 2001

Measureable, additional, voluntary, verifiable, enforceable



H.R. 2454

USDA Supplemental Incentive Program



Incentives to agriculture/forestry to reduce GHG emissions available to those ineligible to participate in offsets program

Credits for:

- **Early adopters**
- **Continuation of GHG reduction practices**
- **Development of new technologies/methodologies**



Offset/Incentive Programs Likely Unavailable for Specialty Crop Producers



Specialty Crops represent ~44 % U.S. Ag crop production value

Produced 3.2 % of the farmland

Production costs per acre far out-pace other crop production. Compete effectively?

Cannot meet program criteria

Capped industries seeking “permanent” carbon credits

Specialty Crops largely ineligible under AB 32





Estate Tax



Status

Resolution and Tea Party Influence

A case for agriculture



Trade Policy



Shift from trade promotion to national building

KORUS and TPP FTAs

Mexican Trucking



Environmental Regulations



NPDES permitting

Nutrient management regulation

Particulate matter

Greenhouse gases

Water



Food Safety



House passed H.R. 2749 July 2009

Senate S. 510 stalled, Tester-Hagan language

Senate passed November 30, 2010

S. 510 “blue-slipped” by House

House expected to adopt S. 510 as H.R. bill

Send back to Senate unchanged

Impact on Specialty Crop industry



New Elephants, Old Tricks



Thank You



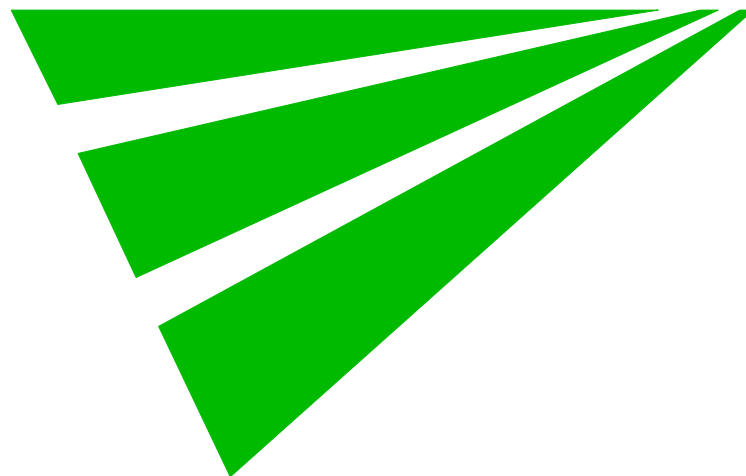
Wrap-Up, Discussion and Q&A



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**The Economics of Growing
Almonds in Arbor Theater**

**Insect + Mite Management
Updates in Grand Ballroom**



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