

Illinois Farmers Market Task Force



Speaker Panel

Pat Stieren, Executive Director, IFMA and Chair of the FM Task Force

Patricia Welch, Food Program Manager Illinois Department of Public Health

Marjorie A. Sawicki, Assistant Professor Department of Nutrition & Dietetics – DCHS (HELP Grant) School of Public Health - (Men on the Move Grant)

Laura Erickson, IFMA Treasurer, Chicago Botanical Garden - Green Youth Farm

Will Hayes, L.E.H.P. Director of Environmental Health Peoria City/County Health Department

Farmers Markets keep growing

- **Farmers markets have become popular economic development and public health improvement strategies in many Illinois communities.**
- **In some areas, they are the only avenue for small business incubation, and the only source of fresh, locally produced food**

Farmers Market Task Force

The Farmers Market Taskforce (SB 1852)

- **Sponsored by Senator David Luechtefeld**
- **Unanimous Approval by General Assembly**
- **Signed into law August 16, 2011**
- **Represented by farmers, market managers and representatives of the Departments of Public Health, Agriculture, Commerce and Economic Opportunity & the Lt Governor's office.**

Farmers Market Task Force

- **Advise and assist the IL Dept of Public Health in developing consistent statewide administrative regulations for farmers markets.**
- **By streamlining the regulation process, farmers, market managers, health officials and the public will be better informed about food safety requirements and will result in better informed, managed and successful farmers markets.**

Farmers Market Task Force

- The first meeting of the Task for was held June 28, 2012 at the Illinois Department of Agriculture Building in Springfield.
- At this meeting, the task force elected a chair and co-chair.

Pat Steiren, Chair

Roxanne Junge, Co-Chair

Work plan for 2013

Objective/Task

- **Provide food safety and food safety education for task force members**
- **Review and provide recommendations for changes on Technical Information Bulletin #30**
- **Learn more about Food Hubs**
- **Create a Farmers Market Education Brochure**
- **Review in depth first survey and develop a revised survey**
- **Send out revised survey**
- **Review information from revised survey**

Requirements in the Act

- In P.A. 097-0394 – “In order to facilitate the orderly and uniform statewide interpretation of the Department of Public Health’s Technical Information Bulletin/Food #30, the Farmers’ Market Task Force shall be formed by the Director to assist the Department in implementing statewide administrative regulations for farmers’ markets”.
- The Task Force has been reviewing and making recommendations on changes to TIB 30.

Surveys

- **Local Health Departments**
- **Farmers**
- **Farmers Market Management**

Local Health Departments

- Survey sent to 96
- 76 Health Departments responded
- The questions were on a variety of topics.
- Health Departments were split on many issues.

Local Health Departments

Main Concerns

- Handwashing
- Labeling
- Temperature abuse
- Storage Practices
- Wholesome approved foods for sale (Home Canned)
- Sampling

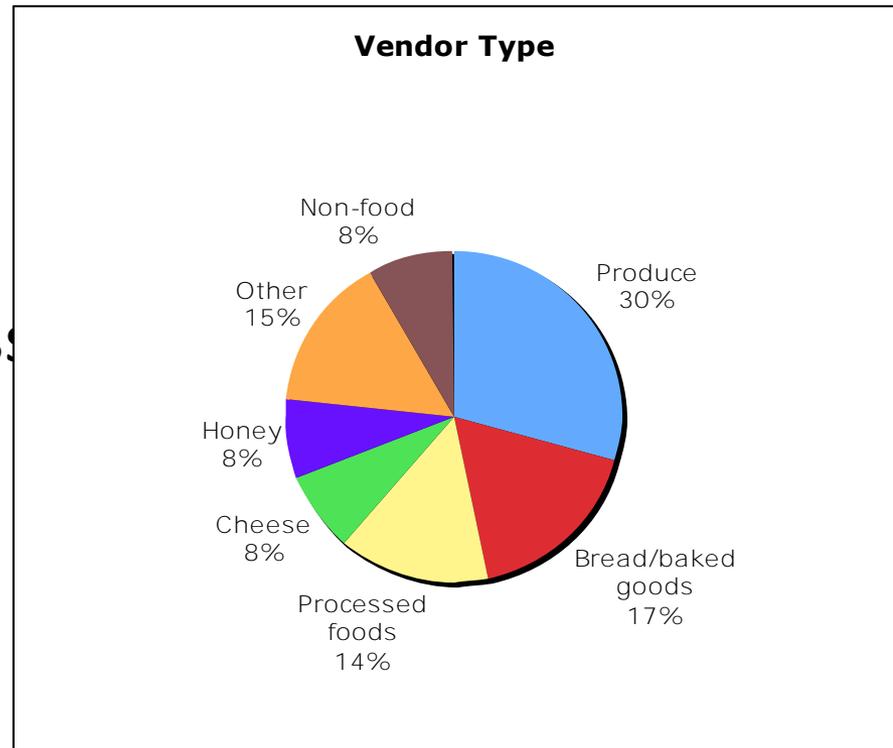
Local Health Departments

Common Themes

- Uniformity and consistency of rules
- More Education
 - Vendor
 - Health department

Farmer/Vendor Survey

- Surveys sent out in October 2012
- 60 respondents
- 13 questions to assess attitudes towards health dep't, food safety & educational opportunities



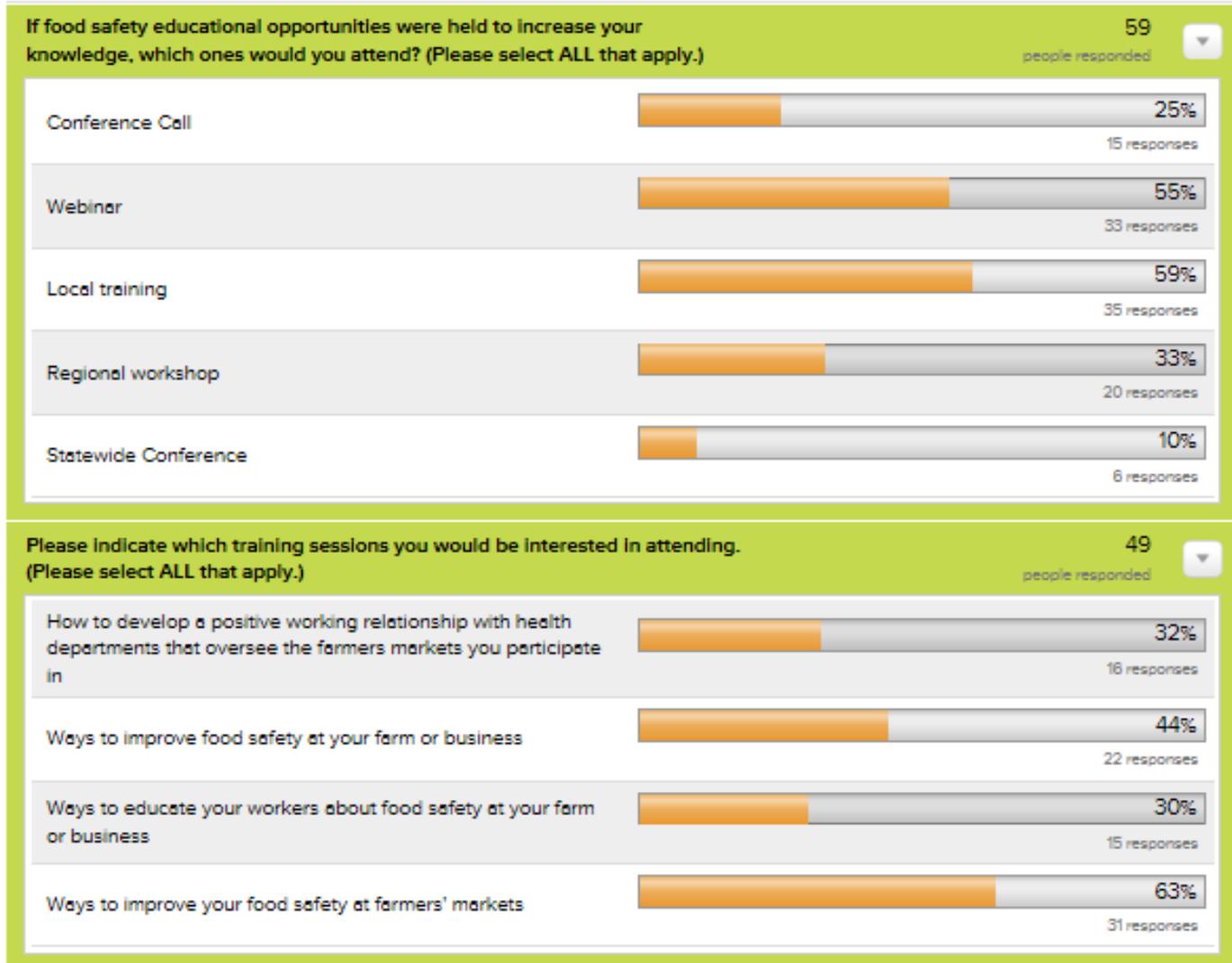
Vendor Attitudes

- Positive outlook on relationship with health dep't & market mgmt
- 95% of vendors rated their food safety knowledge as good to excellent
- View health regulations (e.g. sampling, hand washing stations, refrigeration) as fairly easy to adhere to at market.



Educational Opportunities:

Vendors were asked what type of training they would attend & preferred topic of training



Market Manager Surveys

- 55 Market Managers responded (~18%)
- Nearly half were volunteer positions
- ~ 70% managers had 5 or less years on the job
- Suggests that on-going market manager training is a good idea



Food Safety Role of Managers

- 40 of 56 managers indicated that they had access to mechanical refrigeration at their market
- Nearly half of the managers reported that their farmers sold farm products from other sources than their own farm – implications for future



Sampling & Cooking Demos

- 35 of 57 responding markets reported that vendors did sampling or demos of farm products.
- Highlights the need for a practical, feasible approach to sampling and handwashing stations
- 90% of market managers reported a good working relationship with the Local Health Dept



We Need Your Input

- Market Manager Food Safety Regulation Survey
- Go online to complete:
<https://app.e2ma.net/app2/survey/1361275/213006943/41d97f7ed0/>
- Farmers' Market Vendor Food Safety Survey
- Go online to complete:
<https://app.e2ma.net/app2/survey/1361275/213008631/adfb844d79/>

Or provide your address and we can send you a survey by email or traditional mail

TIB #30 – Sanitation Guidelines for Farmers' Markets

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
OFFICE OF HEALTH PROTECTION
DIVISION OF FOOD, DRUGS AND DAIRIES

TECHNICAL INFORMATION BULLETIN

NUMBER: Technical Information Bulletin/ Food #30
SUBJECT: Sanitation Guidelines for Farmers' Markets
EFFECTIVE:
SUPERCEDES: May 1, 2010
April 30, 1999 Technical Information Bulletin/ Food #30
AUTHORIZED: _____
Molly Lamb, Chief
Division of Food, Drugs and Dairies

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

This technical information bulletin provides regulatory guidelines for foods often found at farmers' markets. It also provides information regarding some of the risks involved with various foods often distributed at farmers' markets and similar venues, and contains basic guidance regarding safe transportation, delivery and display of foods.

The guidance and clarification regarding farmers' markets is needed as the number of farmers' markets in Illinois has increased 3-fold in the past decade. In addition, the range of food products sold at these venues has expanded from fresh, uncut, unprocessed fruits and vegetables, to include meats, poultry, eggs, dairy products, and processed foods from baked goods to jams and salsas. This guidance document, originally written in 1999, has been revised to clarify several areas of confusion, such as foods that are allowed, but only when certain regulations are met. Given that certain foods pose potential risks to public health, local health departments need to be aware of the Illinois statutes and rules, and must be able to verify the source of foods distributed.

An appendix listing the Illinois' statutes and rules that provide the legal basis for regulating farmers' markets can be found at the end of this document.

This technical information bulletin is not all inclusive. Other regulations may apply including local, city or county food ordinances. You can obtain contact information for other local health departments at the following website <http://www.idah.state.il.us/local/home.htm>.

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