

***NATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON INTERSTATE MILK SHIPMENTS***

"To Assure the Safest Possible Milk Supply for all the People"

P.O. Box 108
Monticello, IL 61856

Phone/fax: 217-762-2656
NCIMS.Bordson@gmail.com

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TO: NCIMS Conference Attendees

FROM: Dr. Stephen Beam, Conference Chairman 

SUBJECT: 2015 National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments

Please mark your calendar and make plans to attend the **35th National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments scheduled for April 24-29, 2015** at the **DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Portland, Oregon**. We are looking forward to a Conference agenda that will provide opportunities to deliberate many important issues facing the Grade "A" Milk Program. We hope you plan to attend and assist in the resolution of proposals submitted for consideration.

The Program Committee is planning an educational symposium that will provide information on topics such as: Animal drug residue risk ranking project, Appendix N Committee Update, Overview of FDA's Proposed Nutrition Labeling Changes; and Update on the Food Safety Modernization Act's (FSMA) Implementation.

For the past several Conferences, computers with overhead projection have been used in the General Sessions, and the Council and Delegate voting sessions, to assist conferees in the deliberation of individual proposals. Therefore, all proposals must be submitted electronically using **the electronic form posted on the NCIMS web page (www.ncims.org) that can be downloaded**. Information will be provided on the website and later in this mailing on how to download and complete the proposal submission form. Additional instructions will be included on the proposal form in the proposed solution section directing how to identify added and deleted text when editing the referenced documents.

Please note that the proposals must be submitted, preferably, by e-mailing the electronic submission form, or on a CD using the electronic submission form. No handwritten, typed, or faxed proposals will be accepted. **The deadline for the receipt of all proposals, including proposed changes to the Constitution or Bylaws, using the electronic submission form (mailed CD or by e-mail) is February 4, 2015.** Proposals must be received in the office of the Program Committee Chair by this date, not postmarked by this date. E-mailed proposals must be received by 11:59 pm Eastern Time on February 4, 2015. Proposals may be e-mailed, sent on CD, or hand delivered, (not faxed), to:

Cary Frye, NCIMS Program Committee Chair
International Dairy Foods Association
1250 "H" Street NW, Suite 900
Washington, DC 20005
E-mail address: cfrye@idfa.org

The National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments (NCIMS) is a voluntary organization directed and controlled by the member States and open to all persons interested in its objective of promoting the availability of a high quality milk supply. It is governed by an Executive Board whose members include representatives from state departments of health and agriculture, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and industry. Visit us at www.ncims.org.

You will receive written confirmation of receipt of your proposal sent on CD, and an e-mail reply will be sent to individuals sending proposals by e-mail. If you do not receive this confirmation, please contact Cary to ensure your proposal was received. Her phone number is 202-220-3543.

Proposals may be submitted to the 2013 PMO, the 2013 MMSR, the 2013 Procedures, the 2013 Constitution and Bylaws, the 2400 Forms and the 2013 EML. As always, a proposal may address any section of any document being considered.

Enclosed you will find registration information for the Conference. Please complete the advance registration form and mail it, with payment, to Marlena G. Bordson, at the address on the form, so that it is received no later than **March 25, 2015 to take advantage of the early registration fee.** Attendees sending in registration forms and/or registration fees after March 25, 2015 will be charged the full registration fee. The Executive Board has agreed to accept payments through PayPal. Those registrants who wish to use PayPal to submit fees must contact Marlena Bordson for instructions and will be required to submit a non-refundable electronic transaction convenience fee of \$15 per registrant. **Registration fees are not refundable after 30 days prior to the Conference. No refunds will be granted after March 25. Requests for refunds must be made in writing to the NCIMS Executive Secretary. Substitutions may be made subject to NCIMS Procedures without penalty and may be made at the door.**

Also enclosed is hotel room reservation information. Lodging arrangements must be made directly with the **DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Portland, Oregon.** The Doubletree by Hilton Hotel features 459 guest rooms. The conference rate for those on government per diem rates is \$137.00 for single or double occupancy and the rate for all other attendees is \$159.00. Room rates are exclusive of applicable state and local taxes, currently at 14.5%. A \$15.00 charge will be incurred for triple or quad guestroom occupancy. **The cut-off date to receive the special hotel room rate is April 3, 2015 at 11:59 p.m. Western Time.** Rooms and rates cannot be guaranteed after that date.

The negotiated hotel parking rates are \$9.00 daily for Self Parking for the length of the Conference. Complimentary in-room internet connection and service will be extended to all attendees.

The hotel does not provide shuttle service to and from the airport. MAX Light Rail Red Line service is available for \$2.50 from the Portland Airport baggage claim area, and stops directly outside of the hotel at the NE 11th Avenue/Lloyd Center stop. The MAX Light Rail operates 4:45 am to 11:00 pm Monday through Sunday. The number is 503-238-RIDE (7433) or you may visit their website www.trimet.org.

Radio Cab can provide taxi service from the airport. Reservations may be arranged via their website at www.radiocab.net or 503-227-1212. Taxi service is also available from a variety of providers outside the Portland Airport baggage claim area.

I look forward to meeting and working with each of you at the 2015 Conference. Please feel free to contact me, Cary or Marlena with any questions about the Conference and the proposal submission process.