For 37 years, the National Food Policy Conference has been a Washington institution and a unique collaboration between consumer advocates, the food industry and government. The conference is organized by the Consumer Federation of America and is a key national gathering for those interested in agriculture, food and nutrition policy.

This year’s conference will explore an array of important food policy issues facing consumers and the food industry. The conference will look at the latest consumer trends and discuss how technology is transforming the consumer right to know. Speakers and panelists will examine timely food policy topics including meat and poultry safety, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the local food movement, reducing obesity among infants and young children, seafood safety, updating the Nutrition Facts Panel, and the impact of sequestration on food and agriculture programs.

For updates and the latest information, see the CFA web site at www.consumerfed.org.

Promotional support provided by Powell Tate Food, Nutrition and Wellness Practice www.powelltate.com

TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2014

8:45 AM Welcome
9:00 AM Keynote Address
9:45 AM Facilitated Discussion: Consumer Trends: How are Millennials Shaping Our Food System?

A panel explores how consumer trends on food and nutrition have changed over the past twenty years, looks at current trends driving consumer purchasing today, and explores what will be important for consumers in the future. In particular, panelists will discuss how the shopping habits, diets and values of Millennials are shaping our food system and the implications for public policy.

11:15 AM Breakout Panels
Panel 1: The Future of SNAP
The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is the largest USDA entitlement program, providing monthly cash assistance to low-income participants to purchase food. In recent years, the program has sought to improve nutrition for SNAP participants through improved access to healthy foods at retail stores and farmers markets, development of pilot programs to incentivize fruit and vegetable purchases, and restructuring of USDA’s nutrition education program. A panel of experts looks at the results of these efforts and explores whether and how nutrition should be more fully incorporated into the SNAP program.

Panel 2: Ensuring the Safety of Imported Seafood
Approximately eighty percent of the seafood we eat in the U.S. is imported. A panel of experts looks at the safety of seafood, what more needs to be done to protect consumers, and how FDA’s proposed import safety requirements under the Food Safety Modernization Act will better ensure the safety of imported seafood.
Panel 3: How the Local Food Movement is Impacting National Policy
The local food movement is changing how some consumers think about and interact with the food system. Farmers markets, CSAs, farm to school programs, and local food policy councils are providing consumers with new markets for food and new avenues to become engaged in food policy. A panel explores the ways these grassroots efforts are changing our food system and looks at their impact on national policy.

12:30 PM Lunch – Keynote Address
Consumers are increasingly seeking more information about their food, including information about nutrition, safety, fair labor practices, environmental sustainability, animal welfare, origin, whether the food has been genetically modified, and more. A panel looks at how the food industry can use technology to provide it, the role of smart phones in providing access to greater information, and what policymakers have to know to make the most of technology as a means of providing fast, accurate, reliable information.

3:15 PM Networking Break

3:45 PM Panel Breakouts
Panel 1: Meat and Poultry Safety: 20 Years After Jack in the Box
Twenty years ago a nationwide outbreak of E. coli 0157:H7 linked to ground beef from Jack in the Box fundamentally changed the meat industry and the government’s approach to regulation of meat and poultry. A panel of experts examines what these changes have meant for consumers, the meat industry, and the government; how meat and poultry production and regulation has changed over the past twenty years; and what more needs to be done to ensure the safety of meat and poultry products.

Panel 2: Updating the Nutrition Facts Panel
In 1994, Congress required food companies to provide consumers with nutrition information via a standardized label on all packaged foods. Twenty years later, FDA is seeking to revise and update the label. An expert panel looks at how the Nutrition Facts Panel has changed how consumers make decisions about food purchases, identifies the most important information to include on the label, and discusses how the Facts Panel should be revised to provide consumers with accurate, useful information.

Panel 3: The Impact of Sequestration on Food Programs
Panelists will discuss: the federal deficit, how the local food movement is impacting food assistance programs, and what more needs to be done to make the most of technology as a means of providing fast, accurate, reliable information.

5:00 PM End