

SANITARIANS' NEWS



WVAS SANITARIANS MID-YEAR CONFERENCE FALL 2023

Canaan Valley Resort

Sept. 26-28, 2023

Will Coincide with the WV PHA Conference



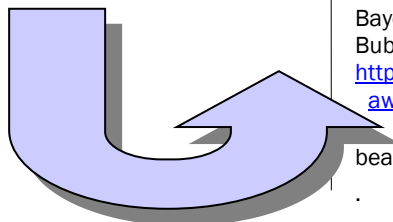
INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Lab Grown Meat Approval- 2
- New RFFM Grant- 2
- Legislative Update- 2
- Mobile Permit Reciprocity- 3
- EPI , Board of Sanitarians- 4
- Training Opportunities - 5
- Threat Prep News- 4
- Mid-Year Conference - 1, 8
- Mid-Year Event Schedule- 8
- Credits- 8
- WVAS Information- 8
- Mis-Year Elections- 6-7

Any photos, stories, or any good news? Share in the next issue by reaching out to Nick King,

Nicholas.B.King@wv.gov

GET INVOLVED WITH WVAS!



Nominate!

Know anyone that deserves recognition for their contributions to environmental health? Nominate them for the Steve Bayer, Recognition, Citizen, or Bubba Award. Info is found at <http://www.wvdhhr.org/wvas/awards.asp> or contact Awards Committee Chair, Gillian beach (Gillian.R.Beach@wv.gov),

Run for Office!

Elections of Executive Council occur once a year during WV Public Health Conference in the Fall. Serve your fellow sanitarians for a two year term as Member at Larger or run for Vice President and serve a year as VP and a year as President. If you are interested in running reach out to Cara Harding at charding@berkeleywv.org.

Join the AOS (or Renew Membership)!

Register before April 1, 2024 for the \$15 membership due. Membership dues the rest of the year are \$20.

Visit <https://wvaos.org/membership> for more info.

News Liaison Committee

The purpose of the Sanitarian Liaison Committee is to provide a forum for issues to be discussed by Local Health Department and Bureau for Public Health representatives.

St. Albans District needs to elect a new Sanitarian Liaison Committee representative. Any one interested should send an email to Judy Vallandingham, PHS Division Director at judy.e.vallandingham@wv.gov. Any candidate must also provide an email from their Administrator's with an approval for their participation on the committee.

The Committee at their May 2023 meeting discussed the changes made to the permitting of Mobile Food Establishments by HB3902- In-state Mobile Food Establishment Reciprocity Permits. 3 new permits were created and Environmental Health Procedure F- 15 Mobile Food Establishments was modified.

The Committee also discussed Environmental Health Procedure H-28 Recovery Residences and these stand alone residences are defined in WV Code as single dwellings and exempt from any permit requirements in 64 CSR 17 Food Establishment Rule and 64 CSR 18 General Sanitation Rule.

District Representatives

JJ Rose—Beckley District

Steve Hinerman—Fairmont District

Gillian Beach—Kearneysville District

Vacant—St. Albans District

Lock Johnson— Wheeling District

If you have an issue you wish to have addressed by this committee, please send that information to your District Representatives.

Sanitarian Liaison Committee webpage:

<https://oehs.wvdhhr.org/phs/public-health-sanitation/state-local-environmental-health-liaison-group/>

New Enteric Disease Investigation Processes

OEPS has implemented new changes to enteric disease investigations and have uploaded them to their website at OEPS.WV.gov. These changes include:

1. NEW Enteric Disease Case Report Form
2. NEW Legionella Case Report Form
3. Legionella Outbreaks
4. STEC Case Ascertainment Algorithm
5. Lost to Follow Up and No Public Health Action
6. General Investigation Reminders

It is strongly advised that all LHD's review these new processes on OEPS's website to familiarize themselves with the new processes before these outbreaks occur.

FDA and USDA Approve Lab Grown Meat

In June. Less than a year after the FDA's approval, the USDA had given final approval to California based companies GOOD Meat and UPSIDE Foods to sell chicken meat cultivated from real animal cells without the need to slaughter. The cultivation of chicken meat is performed by taking stem cells from fertilized chicken eggs, then test the cell lines to determine and preserve the lines that produce the highest quality meat. After the best cell lines have been selected, the cells are then submerged in a broth with the nutrients they need to start cultivating muscle proteins which then bind together to create the meat, which is then harvested and molded to whatever cut of the meat the manufacturer wants to make.

From a food safety perspective, this process would greatly reduce the risk of fecal-oral contamination of the meat from a farm setting and also the risk of the development of super bugs from the use of antibiotics in livestock. Other food safety risk factors such as sanitation of utensils and vats will still be a concern.

The infrastructure to mass produce lab grown meat for retail sale will likely still take many years to develop. At the time of this writing, UPSIDE and GOOD can only produce enough meat to feature on the menus of a select handful of restaurants in California and Washington DC.

MOBILE FOOD PERMIT RECIPROCITY IN EFFECT

As of June 9, 2023, in-state mobile food permit reciprocity is now effective. The new law can be viewed directly in this link <https://casetext.com/statute/west-virginia-code/chapter-16-public-health/article-2-local-boards-of-health/section-16-2-18-in-state-food-service-permit-reciprocity>.

Local Health Departments can no longer charge permit fees to mobile food establishments as long as they:

- 1) Are permitted as a Mobile Food Establishment in the business's county of Residence.
- 2) Formally notify the counties/regions they will operate in at least 14 days before the events.

If there is enough interest, the next edition of the newsletter will have a larger Q&A section regarding reciprocity permits.

NEHA-FDA RFFM Grant Program Portal Opens August 11th to Oct. 11

On August 11th, local health departments who are currently enrolled or are interested in enrolling in the FDA's Voluntary National Retail Food Program Standards can apply for potentially \$26,500 to \$100,000 in funding to support their food program. Programs will need to enroll with the FDA as they are in the process of applying for these grants if they are not already. The grant portal can be accessed through this link <https://www.neha.org/retail-grants>.

Besides WV OEHS, Upshur-Buckhannon, Putnam, Monongalia, Jefferson, Kanawha-Charleston, and Mid-Ohio Valley are enrolled in the Program Standards. Workshops for the Program Standards are available through the FDA on this website. <https://www.fda.gov/food/retail-food-protection/fda-retail-food-regulatory-program-standards-self-assessment-and-verification-audit-workshops>.

FIND US ONLINE

WVAS now has a closed group on Facebook to share news and information with members. Request to join at www.facebook.com/groups/263384244100903/

WVAS also has a website at <https://wvaos.org/>

The WV Public Health Association also has a website. <https://wvpublichealthassociation.org/>

Our email is wvaos@outlook.com.



WV Board of Sanitarians News

1. Dave Thornton recently retired as the Executive Director of the State Board of Sanitarians. Dave has spent several years in this capacity and has been an asset to the Board. Thanks for your service Dave!
2. Michelle Cochran has been appointed Interim Executive Director through December of this year. The Board will also be seeking a permanent Executive Director as well.
3. The Board website has been updated to include CEHs for the S.I.T. , Sanitarian, and R.S. classifications for 2023. Michelle has been working hard to assure all CEHs that have been awarded are posted. If you have questions or concerns about your CEH totals, please contact her at: Michelle.L.Cochran@wv.gov Please remember that all active Sanitarians are required to obtain 15 CEHs by December 31, 2023.
4. The Board is working to provide rosters of all Licensed Sanitarians on our website. This is now a requirement based on Legislation passed during the 2023 Legislative Session. We hope to have these posted in the next few weeks.
5. The Board is also seeking a candidate to serve as a Citizen Member. This person cannot have ever been a Sanitarian in any capacity. Should you know someone who might be interested, please provide me with their contact information (Brad.R.Cochran@wv.gov).

Brad Cochran, R.S.
Board Chair

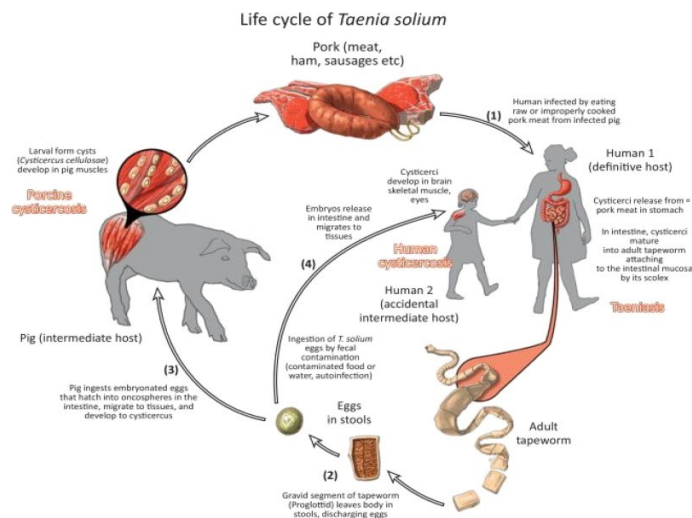
EPI News

Taeniasis/Cysticercosis: Rare in the US, One of the major Foodborne Illnesses Worldwide

The FDA Food Code does not list any parasitic infections among the major foodborne illnesses. However, amongst the world's countries that have been devastated the most by foodborne illness, the pork tapeworm *taenia solium* is so prevalent it has joined their ranks. *Taenia solium* is a tapeworm endemic among pigs. Humans contract the tapeworm from raw or undercooked pork infected with the parasite. But the parasite can also be contracted through the fecal oral route since because both humans and pigs shed eggs when infected with the tapeworm. Water contaminated with the eggs can cause infection too. When a person is infected with the worm, the worms can not only infect the intestines (which usually is asymptomatic), they are often able to cross into our circulation and nervous system, and bore out muscles and even the brain. When the intestine is infected, the disease is referred to as taeniasis; when other parts of the body are infected, it is called cysticercosis. When the brain is infected, this is called neurocysticercosis.

According to WHO, in the two regions that have the highest foodborne illness burdens, Africa and Southeast Asia, cysticercosis has not only cause a large proportion of foodborne illness deaths in young children, but is also the leading cause of epilepsy and seizures in these countries due to the permanent brain damage caused by neurocysticercosis. Many of the most endemic communities in these regions up to 25 percent of the population has tested seropositive for *taenia solium*.

If this disease is endemic enough in these regions to be among the Big 6, why is it so rare in the US at only over 1000 cases a year? The main public health intervention that has prevented the rise of *taenia solium* in the US is ensuring pork in food establishments comes from approved sources inspected for parasites by the USDA. Almost every case of taeniasis in the US comes from consuming food from unapproved sources or travel abroad; this is why food from unapproved sources is one of the five major foodborne illness risk factors. Furthermore antiparasitic drugs that kill the tapeworms are much more easily available in the US than in these poorer countries with weaker public health programs, so deaths among Americans with taeniasis are rare as well. As long as neglected tropical diseases such as cysticercosis continue to be unaddressed, especially during and after COVID, these tapeworms will continue to cause death, disability, and permanent brain damage in poorer countries.



Mid-Year Conference Schedule Highlights

9/27

8:30 AM: Food and Waterborne Disease Investigations: Katherine Guinther.

10:30-11:30 AM: Foodborne Outbreaks: Environmental Health Response. Jennifer Hutson.

11:30 AM-1 PM: WVAS Luncheon and Awards Ceremony.

1-2:30 PM: County Fair Chocolate Scare: Tabletop exercise with Katherine Guinther and Jennifer Hutson.

3-4 PM. Onsite wastewater updates. Rick Hertges.

4-4:30 PM. Public Health Sanitation Division Updates. Judy Val-landingham.

THREAT PREP NEWS

Canada's Worst Ever Recorded Wildfire Season Causes Air Quality Crisis in Midwest.



On June, Canada experienced the worst wildfire season in its recorded history. The provinces of Ontario (where Toronto is) peaked at over 200 uncontrolled fires, causing many midwestern cities to have the worst air quality in the world, most notably Chicago. Across these, cities, virtually all outdoor events were cancelled. All residents were recommended to stay inside, and N95s were recommended to be worn outdoors. Air quality indexed in Chicago peaked at 209 while Grand Rapids, MI later peaked at 255. Smoke at these levels are especially dangerous to highly susceptible populations with respiratory illnesses. Emergency services in multiple jurisdictions in this region have noted that as this decade has passed, the warming climate has increased the frequency of both wildfires and these air quality alerts; hazier summers are becoming the norm.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Fall/Winter District Meetings

Beckley District: 11/3/2023

Fairmont District: 11/17/2023

St. Albans District: 12/1/2023

Virtual: 1/12 and 1/18/2024. 9-11:30 AM.

The 2023 Interstate Environmental Health Seminar (IEHS)

Sept. 20-23 in Jekyll Island, Georgia, the Georgia Environmental Health Association will host the 77th annual Seminar. More info can be found at

<https://geha-online.wildapricot.org/>

EPI and Threat Prep Training.

Center for Threat Preparedness

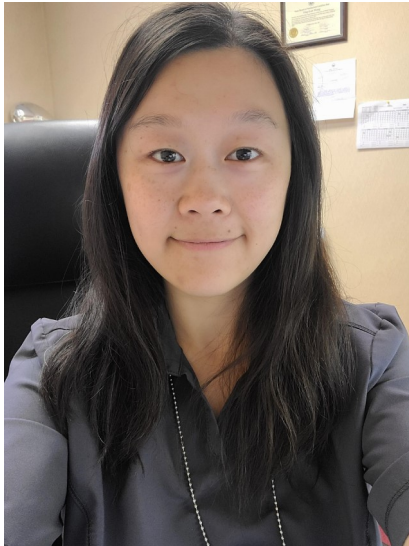
<https://dhhr.wv.gov/health-prep/eventsandannouncements/Pages/Trainings.aspx>

DIDE

<https://oeps.wv.gov/>

WVAS Elections: Vice President Candidates

Ying-Lun (Irene) Wang



Hello, I'm Ying-Lun Wang, but everyone calls me Irene. I currently serve as a Sanitarian II at the Harrison – Clarksburg Health Department. My journey began after graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics in 2013. I started my career as an Office Assistant II at the Department of Environmental Protection – the Mining and Reclamation Division. In 2019, I joined the Harrison County Health Department as an Office Assistant II in the clinical section and was later offered the role of Sanitarian II in 2020.

As a Sanitarian II, my main responsibility is conducting inspections to ensure establishments in our community comply with health regulations. What sets me apart is my unwavering determination to give my best and make a positive difference in people's lives. I firmly believe in the power of hard work to impact the community's well-being positively. Working alongside my dedicated colleagues at the Harrison-Clarksburg Health Department, our shared goal is to foster a healthier and safer community.

Looking back on my remarkable journey, I'm excited about the future and the opportunities to make an even greater difference in public health. Being a Sanitarian II is not just a job; it's a fulfilling calling, and I take the responsibility seriously to ensure a healthier and safer environment for everyone in our state.

Samantha Beaudoin



My name is Samantha Beaudoin, and I am a Registered Sanitarian for Randolph-Elkins Health Department. I have been a sanitarian for five years. I grew up in Lewis County, WV. Completed my undergraduate at Alderson Broaddus University, and obtained my Master's in Public Administration from West Virginia State University. I started my public health career at the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department in 2017. After two years there I left the field for another job, when Covid started in early 2020 I felt the need to come back to public health, and started with the Randolph-Elkins Health Department. In my spare time I enjoy hanging out with my family, traveling, and reading.

WVAS ELECTIONS: MEMBER AT LARGE

David M. Abbott III (Trey Abbott)



Trey Abbott Bio: Howdy, my name is Trey Abbott and I am a Sanitarian for Kanawha Charleston Health Department. Graduated from Glenville State College for Natural Resource Management in 2018. Happily married and living in Ripley WV. My hobbies are powerlifting, fishing, and gardening.

Gillian Beach



Gillian Beach is the Environmental Health Manager at the Jefferson County Health Department (JCHD) in West Virginia. She has worked in Jefferson County since 2018. From July 2020 until October 2021, Gillian was also the Acting Administrator for JCHD and helped to manage the COVID response in Jefferson County. Prior to working in Jefferson County, Gillian served as an Environmental Health Specialist in Loudoun County Virginia for 10 years.

Gillian is a graduate of the first Cohort of NEHA's Environmental Health Leadership Academy. She is serving on the Executive Council of the West Virginia Association of Sanitarians and has been a member of WVAS since 2019. She is also a member of the West Virginia Public Health Association and NEHA. Gillian is a graduate of Old Dominion University with a B.S. in Environmental Health.

Jennifer Costolo-Michael



Jennifer Costolo-Michael is a Lead Sanitarian at Monongalia County Health Department in Morgantown, West Virginia. A native of Lemont Furnace, Pennsylvania, Jennifer has worked in MCHD's Environmental Health program for more than 14 years. Jennifer heads up MCHD Environmental Health's mentoree grant from the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA). Jennifer is also a member of the WV Food Safety Task Force and the Variance Review Committee.

She obtained her Undergraduate degree from Penn State University- Fayette Campus and a Master of Science degree in biology from California University of Pennsylvania. At home, she enjoys spending time with her husband, Tommy, and their golden-doodles and labradoodle, Bella, Parker and Chase.



West Virginia Association of Sanitarians

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Email: WVAOS@Outlook.com

We're on the Web
<https://wvaos.org/>

WVAS Executive Council

Elected Officers

President: Jennifer Hutson

Vice-President: Stanley Mills

Elected Members at Large: Jimmy Casdorff, David Whittaker

Appointed Members

Secretary-Treasurer: VJ Davis

Newsletter: Nick King

Legislative Committee: Brad Cochran

Nominating Committee: Cara Harding

Awards: Gillian Beach

By Laws: Mike Bolen

IEHS: Bill Nestor

Media: AJ Root

Membership: Robert Custard

Credits

Editor

Nick King

News Liaison

Stacy King

WV Board of Sanitarians

News:

Brad Cochran

Additional

Assistance

Jennifer Hutson

Judy Vallandingham

President's Farewell

In 2018 I ran uncontested for Vice President of WVAS. In September of 2018 I took office and began the very unexpected 5-year journey to where we are now. Five years ago I was a District Sanitarian, my supervisor was Judy Ashcraft and I had no idea that I would be the next Food Program Manager of Public Health Sanitation. We planned a good Mid-Year meeting in 2019 working with the Food Safety Taskforce to present changes to the WV Food Establishment Rule.

September of 2019, I took up the mantle of President of WVAS. Then the COVID Pandemic hit in March of 2020. The pandemic canceled Mid-Year and Public Health Conference. The WVAS Executive Council got together and started offering virtual in-service meetings, we purchased a Zoom account and began holding executive council meetings there, and we held virtual mixers.

We tabled elections for 2020 which kept me as President through 2021. In 2021 we held a mini conference and kept holding virtual in-service meetings. In September 2021 Vice President, Keith Allison requested to move to President so that he could be finish his term of service in September 2022. I went back to serving as Vice President. In 2022 WVAS moved forward with holding Mid-Year and our success was pivotal in promoting the resumption of Public Health Conference. In September we held elections and as Keith left as President, Stan Mills stepped into the role of Vice President.

During my time serving on the WVAS Executive Committee we were able to wave dues during the pandemic, offer virtual in-services and sanitarian mixers, and fund break food for our new sanitarians attending Top Notch Sanitarian Orientation. We also held discussions on how to help young sanitarians prepare for taking the NEHA RS exam and we are assessing the long term need to require dues for membership versus granting membership to those serving as Sanitarians in West Virginia.

I have to thank all of the members of the Executive Committee for their dedication to WVAS. They are unsung heroes with the love and devotion they bring to WVAS. They move mountains with what they do behind the scenes. Many of them have served for more than 5 years in various roles. Their knowledge and experience was essential, but getting to know them better was an unexpected gift. I leave the role of President with the gift of being able to call each of them "Friend." Thank you all for being my partners and helping do all the things, even some of the crazier ideas.

I feel blessed to have been your VP and President during this time. It has been an honor to serve you to the best of my ability. I have learned and gained more than I can even explain to you. This experience will serve me for many years to come. I encourage each of you to consider running for office or serving as an executive council committee chair in the future. If you have any interest, just do it. You won't regret it. I hope to see you at conference as I pass the gavel to Stan Mills!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hutson, RS,

WVAS President, 2019-2021 & 2022-2023