

FOOD SAFETY NEWS



Welcome to **Food Safety News – October 2009** - FRLA's monthly update from the Education and Training Department. Providing food safety awareness, education and training to Florida's food service establishments is an important function of the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association. For more information about foodborne illness, food manager training, certification and food service employee training contact the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association at 866-372-7233 or at www.SAFESTAFF.org. (Please note that all links included here were active at time of publication.)

Help Your Industry Fight the Proposed Oyster Ban: Recently, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), through its internal processes, proposed to ban raw Gulf of Mexico oysters during certain months of the year due to food safety concerns. This unilateral decision by FDA will devastate small businesses and wipe out desperately needed jobs. The severe and adverse impact to several Gulf Coast communities and Florida's hospitality industry are incalculable. [Review this for more information.](#) USA Today has also reported on [this topic](#). To read the speech that delivered this message, click [here](#).

Please take a moment to contact your elected officials and let them know what will happen if such a law is enacted. Visit the FRLA.org webpage for links to sample letters and elected official contact information.

FDA Commissioner Wants to "Beef" Up Nation's Food Safety System: Food and Drug Administration Commissioner, Margaret Hamburg plans to hire 350 more employees and encourages lawmakers to strengthen legislation requiring overhaul of program. For more information [read this](#).

New York Times "Stirs the Pot" in the Beef Industry: Earlier this month, the New York Times published a story about a woman who was sickened with Hemorrhagic colitis from ingesting shiga- toxin producing *E.coli* O157: H7 and its aftereffects. This investigation and report created an outcry around the Nation about the cleaning up the beef industry. To catch up on this issue read: [The New York Times](#), [New York Times Opinion](#), and the [Lincoln Journal-Star](#).

Florida Division of Hotels and Restaurants Releases 2008 - 2009 Annual Report: Each year on September 30th, the Department of Business and Professional Regulation, Division of Hotels and Restaurants publishes its Annual Report. The Report compiles licensing and inspection statistics for the public food and lodging program in the State of Florida. To view the report, [click here](#).

Raw Milk Proponents Fuel Food Safety Concerns: Consumption of raw milk is becoming more prevalent in "healthy choice" circles, however, food safety advocates do not recommend this choice of dairy product. [Read this article](#).