



**KIRKBRAE**  
COUNTRY CLUB

**Don't Miss  
The RIFDA Cliff Johnson  
Annual Charity Golf  
Tournament August 30th  
2021!**



## Annual Convention Is Cancelled, We Still Need Your Support

With COVID still among us, the RIFDA Executive Committee has determined that the 2021 RIFDA Annual Convention scheduled for the Red Jacket Beach Resort must be a “virtual” event again this year. We are hoping that you continue to support your association by donating what you would have typically spent on the convention, and hopefully already have budgeted to the Food Dealers. This will help us significantly in moving forward this year.

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Thank you to our May Supplier of the Month -  
Chex



Thank you to our May Retailer of the Month -  
Dino's Park-N-Shop

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## May Legislative Highlights

### National Legislative Updates At A Glance:

- Over the last several weeks, pressure has been mounting in the Senate for action on the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act ([H.R. 842/S. 420](#)).
- President Biden made several announcements about the nationwide vaccination effort, including a new goal to administer at least one shot to 70% of the U.S. adult population by July 4<sup>th</sup>. Importantly, the Administration is also directing federal pharmacy partners to offer walk-in vaccinations while encouraging states to do the same.
- On April 1, USDA issued [guidance](#) on SNAP Emergency Allotments (EA) and State Emergency Declarations. In the guidance, enclosed is a [memo](#) that was issued to all state SNAP agencies, describing the EA phase-out process states may avail themselves of when their state-level emergency declaration expiration date is imminent.
- The *Faster Act*, S. 578, was [signed into law by President Biden](#) Friday night last week. As a result, sesame is the ninth major allergen that must be labeled on food packaging beginning January 1, 2023, as opposed to the previous House-passed version of the legislation that had an effective date of January 1, 2022.
- Last week, the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor (DOL) announced a new [initiative](#) aimed at educating essential workers on their rights and protections as they relate to the pandemic.
- On Monday, the White House announced their [plans for a task force](#) aimed at promoting workers' collective bargaining rights within the federal workforce
- On April 19, two additional states joined the 18 that currently prohibit cities and counties from enacting plastic bag bans and other regulations of plastic packaging, without an accompanying statewide regulatory framework.

To learn more about National Legislation, [click here](#).

[Click here to learn more about National Legislation.](#)

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### RI Legislative Updates At A Glance:

- The House Labor Committee is expected to recommend passage of S.1, the senate version of the minimum wage increase legislation.

- The House Finance Committee is scheduled to vote on an amended version of H.6249, An Act Relating to Labor and Labor Relations.
- The Revenue Estimating Conference completed its 2021 and 2022 caseload estimates last week.

#### **Make a Note - Bills Filed Recently!**

- House Bill No. [6297](#) AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT – TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT
- House Bill No. [6302](#) AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY
- House Bill No. [6310](#) AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY – TRANSPORTATION EMISSIONS AND MOBILE (TEAM) COMMUNITY ACT
- Senate Bill No. [872](#) AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY – TRANSPORTATION EMISSIONS AND MOBILE (TEAM) COMMUNITY ACT
- Senate Bill No. [874](#), AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS - CORROSION PREVENTION AND MITIGATION WORK REQUIREMENTS
- Senate Bill No. [883](#) AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS

To learn more, [click here](#).

[Click here to learn more about Rhode Island Legislation.](#)

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## **COVID-19 Information Hub: Everything your business needs to know.**

### **American Rescue Plan Extends Paid Sick and Family Leave Benefits**

Attention employers, you will want to read up on recent changes made to paid sick and family leave benefits. Under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), employers with fewer than 500 employees qualify for expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID as well as expanded food assistance, unemployment benefits and more.

Find more information [here](#).

### **How you should be communicating with employees now**

Pandemic communication needs to move beyond one-too-many channels and start prioritizing frequent one-on-one conversations, writes Harvard Business School professor Boris Groysberg. "It's on leaders to make the first move to close the distance by speaking honestly, simply, and clearly about matters at hand, and demonstrating their willingness to listen," he writes. Read the full story at [Harvard Business School Working Knowledge](#)



## COVID-19: Food Insecurity

While food banks may be a temporary food source for those facing food insecurity during the pandemic, hunger advocates say that the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is really the first line of defense against hunger. However, there are still issues that exist with SNAP accessibility. Ellen Vollinger, legal director of the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC), said that nationwide there's also an issue of people churning through the system. "People are coming on and off SNAP, not because there's no longer a need or financial qualification for SNAP — it's usually associated with a procedural glitch," she said. Read the full story [here](#).

## Impacted By The Coronavirus? Free Counseling Awaits Your Small Business!

The U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) mission is to help small businesses start, grow, expand and, in the event of a disaster, recover. Because the coronavirus pandemic has significantly impacted many small businesses, we at the SBA take this opportunity to remind you that small business training and individualized counseling services are available to you (virtually, at the moment) from experts located here in Rhode Island. To learn more, visit [here](#).

## Keep employees on the payroll with the Employee Retention Credit

Did you know that in 2021 there are bigger and better tax incentives for small businesses affected by COVID-related shutdowns and disruptions? The Biden-Harris Administration has made these benefits available NOW – these credits can hit your bottom line cash flow as soon as your next quarterly filing and are available for all four quarters of 2021.

These credits may deliver cash flow for your business as soon as you claim them. You can file for this credit for every quarter of 2021 on your form 941 filing and may also receive an advance payment of a portion of the credit. To learn more visit [here](#).

## USDA to Incentivize Purchase of Fruits and Vegetables under WIC for 4 Months with American Rescue Plan Funding

Participants in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) may soon see a temporary increase to their benefits for the purchase of fruits and vegetables. With \$490 million

provided by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, USDA has offered states, tribal nations and territories the option of boosting the cash-value voucher benefit by more than three times the current amount for up to four months to provide additional relief during this difficult time. To learn more, visit <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/04/28/usda-incentivize-purchase-fruits-and-vegetables-under-wic-4-months>

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## **Mark Your Calendar**

### **FMI Webinar: COVID-19 Litigation: A One Year Review for the Food Industry**

**Tuesday, May 25, 2021 2:00PM - 3:00PM ET**

Please join us for a conversation about COVID-19 business litigation with representatives from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Litigation Center. During the webinar we will discuss macro trends, lessons learned over the past year, and what businesses can expect going forward. Our discussion will also focus on several key areas of litigation that impact food retailers, wholesalers and suppliers, including: exposure, employment, discrimination, and securities. We hope you are able to join us for a discussion on these very important topics. [Register Here](#)

### **The Center for Produce Safety 2021 Complimentary Research Symposium**

The Center for Produce Safety (CPS) will hold their annual Research Symposium will be held virtually in a series of weekly live webinars during June and July and will be held 1-3 p.m. EDT on Tuesdays starting June 15. CPS-funded scientists will share the latest in food safety research for the produce industry. The research projects that will be presented at the 2021 CPS Research Symposium are included in the official [Agenda](#) and can be accessed on the [event website](#). Registration for the Symposium series is complimentary and is available [here](#).

### **Focus on these 4 supply chain areas now for the quickest ROI**

Supply chain resilience is important any time, but it's especially critical during times of disruption, such as the 2020 global pandemic. As much as any other industry, Aerospace and defense companies have quickly learned that investing in supply chain resiliency initiatives is not a nice-to-have, but rather a must-have. And as with any other investment, you need to see results quickly without breaking the bank.

During this webinar, industry experts will explore four areas of your supply chain, and how to best invest now for the quickest return. Register [here](#).

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## Coming Soon - Meetings & Annual Events

### June 2021:

- **CANCELLED:** Thurs. June 3rd – Sun., June 6th RIFDA Annual Convention; @ Red Jacket Beach Resort
- Thurs. June 10<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 AM: Executive Committee Meeting
- Wed. June 23<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Committee Meeting

### July 2021:

- Mon. July 5<sup>th</sup> Office Closed: Observance of 4<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday
- Thurs. July 15<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting @ 7:30 AM
- Wed. July 21<sup>st</sup> Legislative Committee Meeting (\*Legislative Wrap Up\*)

### August 2021:

- Thurs. Aug. 5<sup>th</sup> Potential WIC/SNAP Meeting
  - Mon. Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> Victory Day Holiday – Office Closed
  - Wed. Aug. 11<sup>th</sup> TENTATIVE: Legislative Committee Meeting
  - Thurs. Aug. 26<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting @ 7:30 AM
  - **Mon. Aug. 30<sup>th</sup> RIFDA – Cliff Johnson Annual Charity Golf Tournament @ Kirkbrae CC**
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**If you are a Satisfied Member, Spread the Word, Tell Your Industry Friends & Vendors.**

As a member, the benefit advantages such as our food safety renewal classes, WIC/EBT updates, legislative representation and updates, national industry affiliations and updates, networking events, energy programs and food industry camaraderie, as well as a number of other initiatives make RIFDA a great opportunity for new members.

Throughout each year there are exciting events as well as sponsorship and advertising opportunities. It is members like yourselves that make this all happen.

With new memberships RIFDA moves into the future as a stronger and more vibrant representative of the Rhode Island food community.

[Learn More](#)

