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**RHODE ISLAND FOOD DEALERS ASSOCIATIONS 2013 TRADE DAY: A Series of Informative and Entertaining Events of Interest to the RI Food Industry**

East Providence Rhode Island – February 8, 2013 -- The Rhode Island Food Dealers Association (RIFDA) will host their Annual Trade Day on Thursday, March 7th, from 2:30PM to 9:00PM at the Providence Marriott Hotel (One Orms Street Providence, RI). We are pleased to offer an exciting day long program. This year we will be introducing some of our newer members to the industry by way of information tables set up near the daylong event meeting area from 2:30pm-7:00pm.

Our industry seminar will open the Trade Day's events. This year's topic will be "Sustainability and the RI Food Industry" moderated by Peter Cooke of the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences. Peter is widely recognized for his seminars regarding conservation. He is engaging, he will provide an overall rewarding experience and the future of conservation and what it will mean to the food industry. This will serve as a very practical and worthwhile experience. .

The RI Food Dealer's Trade Day is also the setting for the state Best Bagger Competition where we will chose the Rhode Island representative to the annual National Grocers Association "National Best Bagger Contest" held during their convention in Las Vega. This event has been featured in recent years on the David Letterman Show on CBS. "The Best Bagger contest is an exciting, vibrant and fun-filled event where Rhode Island's best grocery bagger's can show off their speed and compete for a shot at the national competition", said Steve Arthurs, President & CEO, Rhode Island Food Dealers Association.

The evening will also feature a great networking opportunity at our cocktail reception followed by our annual industry dinner. Among the guests at the reception will be many members of the RI General Assembly who stop by to meet their constituents and business leaders. This year's dinner will provide the setting for honoring our Best Bagger winners as well as the 2013 Rhode Island Food Honoree of the Year; James Saia Vice President of Sales, C&S Wholesale Grocers.

We are excited with the program we are offering and we think this event will serve the food industry of RI well from an educational, informational and entertainment perspective.

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**About Rhode Island Food Dealer's Association:**

The Rhode Island Food Dealers Association represents over 300 food organizations throughout the state including grocery and specialty retailers, wholesalers, distributors, manufacturers, suppliers and brokers. Combined the food industry in RI represents the largest source of revenue generators within the state and with exception employs more people than other industries in the region.

With its size and scope the food industry in Rhode Island has developed and evolved over time to be a large complex and diverse group of organizations. RIFDA has and will continue to provide the services and functions needed that help its members successfully compete and grow by acting as a resource that understands their needs and provides them with information, education, representation and other efficient and effective programs.

RIFDA

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