



Missouri Agribusiness Association Wrap-Up

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- First Vice Chairman**
Rex Martin
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- Second Vice Chairman**
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Mexico
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- Jerry Foster**
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Jefferson City
- Chris Hoffman**
Hoffman and Reed
Trenton
- Rex Meyr**
Shawtee Feed and Seed
Jackson

October 7, 2009

MEMBER NEWS

MO-AG Board Nominations Due October 16, 2009

Nominations are now being accepted for members of the MO-AG Board of Directors. Anyone wishing to serve or submit a name of a potential candidate should submit the nomination to the MO-AG office by October 16, 2009. The term of office will be for three years and run January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2012.

NH3 Nurse Tank Testing Workshop to Be Held on December 10-11 in Columbia, MO

Missouri Agribusiness Association (MO-AG), in partnership with the Agricultural Retailers Association (ARA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), will be offering a workshop to provide you with the training your company needs to test NH3 nurse tanks and comply with U.S. DOT regulations. The workshop will be held on December 10-11 at Stoney Creek Inn in Columbia, MO. The brochures have been mailed and can also be accessed by [clicking here](#). Please register by December 1, 2009 to participate in the workshop.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

USDA Pours \$320 Million into Efforts to Improve Water Quality

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced in a videotaped speech last Thursday that he is creating the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative. The initiative will fund efforts in 12 states along the 2,350-mile long Mississippi River. Over four years, the funding will be used to improve water quality and remove pollutants. Vilsack's message was delivered by video to the Gulf Hypoxia Task Force, which is meeting in Des Moines, Iowa. The task force, with members from five federal agencies and ten state agencies, was formed in 1997 to develop a plan to reduce the size of the so-called dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico.

The dead zone is an area in the gulf that lacks oxygen for much of the summer and, as a result, cannot support sea life. It varies in size each year, but its primary cause is excess nutrients from farm fertilizer runoff

Mike Nordwald
Ray-Carroll Co. Grain
Growers
Richmond

Wayne Orey
Riggins R-Co, LLC
Marshall

Brian Parman
Fertilizer Dealer Supply
Boonville

Aaron Wade
Crop Production Services
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**Communications Consultan
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in the Mississippi River. The nutrients cause algae blooms and after the algae dies, bacteria on the bottom of the sea eat the algae, removing vital oxygen from the water. The size of the dead zone in 2009 was 3,000 square miles, one of the smallest on record. But scientists and environmental groups who are worried about the gulf's ecosystem have advocated doing more to limit the chemicals entering the Mississippi, which feeds into the Gulf of Mexico.

Vilsack said the effort was "a bold new approach" for USDA, which has already funded efforts to improve water quality in the Mississippi. "We've already seen how conservation practices can improve water quality within the basin ..." Vilsack said in the video. "Today's announcement will accelerate our investments." Craig Cox, the Midwest president of the Environmental Working Group, an environmental advocacy organization, said the increased funding, along with better enforcement of conservation compliance "will go a long way to solving the dead zone problem." Vilsack said USDA plans to partner with farmers to improve conservation and prevent water pollution.

The funding will go to efforts in 12 states that are either along the Mississippi River or have tributaries that feed into it: Arkansas, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee and Wisconsin. [*Source: Associated Press*]

U.S. EPA Finalizes Greenhouse Gas Reporting System

On January 1, 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) will, for the first time, require large emitters of heat-trapping emissions to begin collecting greenhouse gas data under a new reporting system. This new program will cover approximately 85 percent of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions and apply to roughly 10,000 facilities. EPA's new reporting system will provide a better understanding of where greenhouse gases are coming from and will guide development of the best possible policies and programs to reduce emissions. The data will also allow businesses to track their own emissions, compare them to similar facilities, and provide assistance in identifying cost effective ways to reduce emissions in the future. This comprehensive, nationwide emissions data will help in the fight against climate change. [Click here](#) for more information on the new reporting system and requirements.

EPA Administrator Jackson Unveils New Administration Framework for Chemical Management Reform in the United States

In a speech given last Tuesday, September 29th, at the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco, U.S. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson announced core principles that outline the Obama

Administration's goals for legislative reform of this country's chemical management law, the 1976 Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). In parallel with this legislative initiative, Administrator Jackson also announced plans for a major effort to strengthen EPA's current chemical management program and increase the pace of the agency's efforts to address chemicals that pose a risk to the public. In her remarks at the Commonwealth Club, Administrator Jackson said:

"... as more and more chemicals are found in our bodies and the environment, the public is understandably anxious and confused. Many are turning to government for assurance that chemicals have been assessed using the best available science and that unacceptable risks haven't been ignored. Our oversight of the 21st century chemical industry is based on the 1976 Toxic Substances Control Act over the years, not only has TSCA fallen behind the industry it's supposed to regulate - it's been proven an inadequate tool for providing the protection against chemical risks that the public rightfully expects. Today I'm announcing clear Administration principles to guide Congress in writing a new chemical risk management law that will fix the weaknesses in TSCA."

With the leadership of Senators Barbara Boxer and Frank Lautenberg and Representatives Henry Waxman and Bobby Rush, legislation strengthening TSCA is expected to be introduced shortly. The Obama Administration's "Essential Principles for Reform of Chemicals Management Legislation" are intended to aid Congress during the legislative process. The principles, listed below, present the administration's goals for legislation that will give EPA the mechanisms and authorities to expeditiously target chemicals of concern and promptly assess and regulate new and existing chemicals in commerce:

- Chemicals should be reviewed against risk-based safety standards based on sound science and protective of human health and the environment.
- Manufacturers should provide EPA with the necessary information to conclude that new and existing chemicals are safe and do not endanger public health or the environment.
- EPA should have clear authority to take risk management actions when chemicals do not meet the safety standard, with flexibility to take into account sensitive subpopulations, costs, social benefits, equity and other relevant considerations.
- Manufacturers and EPA should assess and act on priority chemicals, both existing and new, in a timely manner.
- Green Chemistry should be encouraged and provisions assuring Transparency and Public Access to Information should be strengthened.
- EPA should be given a sustained source of funding for implementation.

Prioritizing chemicals for future risk management action is the final component of this effort and EPA intends to formally engage stakeholders and the public in this discussion in the coming months. The "Essential Principles for Reform of Chemicals Management Legislation" can be found by [clicking here](#).

Detailed information on EPA's enhanced chemical management program, including information on specific components of this effort, an initial list of chemicals under consideration for Action Plan development, new hazard characterization for 100 chemicals, and risk management actions recently announced on lead and EPA's plans for banning the use of mercury in certain products, can be found by [clicking here](#). [Source: EPA]

Nixon Signs Grain Agreement with Taiwanese Delegation

Governor Nixon has signed a joint communiqué with the 2009 Taiwan Agricultural Goodwill Mission, a letter of intent to buy millions of metric tons of corn and soybeans from Missouri and other Midwestern states over the next two years. Nixon welcomed the 2009 Taiwan Agricultural Goodwill Mission to his Capitol office to discuss trade. The Taiwanese trade mission actually began in Washington, D.C. last week when the trade delegation met with the United States Department of Agriculture to confirm current agreements and pledge additional purchases of grain from the United States.

While in Missouri, the Taiwanese signed a Letter of Intent to purchase between 303 and 413 million bushels of American corn and up to 750,000 metric tons of corn by-products, with an estimated value of between \$1.69 and \$2.37 billion. The Taiwanese delegation has also signed similar agreements with officials in Iowa, Indiana and Illinois. Taiwan is a major purchaser of American grain. The Letter of Intent states that Taiwan is the seventh largest export market for U.S. farm products, generating in excess of \$3.5 billion of trade revenue for American farmers in 2008. [Source: *Missourinet*]

Grassley Says Leadership Harkens Back to '60s/'70s

Arkansas Senator Blanche Lincoln officially took over the reins of the Senate Agriculture Committee last week from Iowa Tom Harkin. Ag Committee member Chuck Grassley of Iowa says there'll be more of a southern influence on the committee now, "Whereas Midwestern and Southern agriculture had some balance between Harkin from the Midwest and Chambliss from the South, we're going to have more dominance for rice and cotton than I think we've probably had for a long time." Grassley says it harkens back to agriculture policies of the '60s and '70s, "where southern agriculture totally dominated policy through the leadership of committee chairman at that particular time."

When asked if the committee chairmanship will change enforcement of payment limits, Grassley said probably not. But, he says, "It's going to make it more difficult changing policy to get the \$250,000 (payment)

cap that I've always fought to get. And, I've always had Harkin - Senator Harkin was always helping me on that." Senator Harkin is now Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, replacing the late Ted Kennedy. [Source: *Brownfield*]

NAWG CEO to Lead Ag Retailers Association

National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) CEO Daren Coppock is leaving that organization to become President and CEO of the Agricultural Retailers Association (ARA). Coppock has been with NAWG since 2001. He will begin his new duties with ARA on January 1st. [Source: *Brownfield*]

Ag Officials Propose Rescue Plan for Producers

Missouri's Director of Agriculture Jon Hagler has joined agriculture officials from across the U.S. in proposing a national agriculture rescue plan called "Meat the Need" to immediately help the nation's dairy, pork and poultry industries that have been adversely affected by economic downturns. Director Hagler attended the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture Conference (NASDA) last month, where agriculture directors, secretaries and commissioners met for four days discussing a plan to overcome the economic crisis that so many farmers are facing in Missouri and across the U.S. The "Meat the Need" plan, proposed by Director Hagler and other NASDA members, would not only take extra dairy and pork supplies off of the market but would provide low income families with more dairy and protein.

"Every day, a call or a letter comes to my desk from another Missouri farm family running the risk of losing everything they have. These families are clearly facing dire circumstances where, over a sustained period of time, prices are not meeting the cost of production," Hagler said. "Meat the Need" is a vital first step to help keep these farmers from losing their farms and their livelihoods." "Meat the Need" calls for the federal government to purchase cheese and other dairy products in up to three installments of 75 million pounds each over 120 days. If the target price of \$16 per hundred-weight of milk, the average cost of production for milk producers, were reached before the second or third installment, the purchases would stop. Likewise, the federal government would purchase up to three installments of 100 million pounds of pork products over 180 days until the target price of 49 cents per pound is reached. The plan also includes a one-time purchase of 100 million pounds of turkey.

The purchased dairy, pork and poultry products would be distributed to food banks, school lunch programs, foreign military food assistance programs and through a SNAP-PLUS program. The SNAP-PLUS component would allow USDA to increase allocations to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and require SNAP recipients to spend the new allocations only on meat and dairy products available through their local commercial grocers. Participants in the program would use separate electronic benefit transfer cards dedicated to the "Meat the Need" proposal to purchase the meat and

dairy products.

"When food is produced locally, consumers get a high quality product at a low cost. We all have a stake in preserving agricultural production in Missouri," Hagler said. "The agricultural industry is in desperate need of immediate assistance and we hope everyone will pitch in to support this important 'Meat the Need' initiative." [Source: *Missouri Ruralist*]

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER, 2009

19 ALOT Annual Meeting and Seminar
Courtyard by Marriott, Columbia, MO

DECEMBER, 2009

6-8 Missouri Farm Bureau Annual Meeting; Tan Tar A;
Camdenton, MO

**10-11 NH3 Nurse Tank Testing Clinic, Stoney Creek Inn,
Columbia, MO**

11-12 Missouri Cattlemen's Association Annual Meeting and
Convention; Springfield, MO

JANUARY, 2010

**6-7 MO-AG Winter Convention; Lodge of Four
Seasons; Lake Ozark, MO**

7-8 Missouri Governor's Conference on Agriculture; Hyatt
Regency; St. Louis, MO

8-9 Missouri Land Improvement Contractors Winter
Convention; Isle of Capri Hotel; Boonville, MO

FEBRUARY, 2010

10-11 Missouri Pork Expo

Note: Items in **red** are new postings since the last Wrap-Up issue.

Letters to the Editor

Do you have a response to the Missouri Agribusiness Wrap Up? Let us know! The Missouri Agribusiness Wrap Up is a bi-weekly publication of

the Missouri Agribusiness Association (MO-AG). MO-AG is a member-owned association based in Jefferson City, Mo. which protects members' interests in state legislation and provides educational opportunities.

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