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December 16, 2009

FROM STEVE'S DESK

by Steve Taylor



MO-AG Convention 2010

If you haven't registered for the MO-AG Convention, I hope you will, as soon as you finish reading this. In fact, I'd encourage you to stop reading this and register now.

B

ut if you are still "on the fence" about coming this year, let me offer you some encouragement. What better setting is there than the beautiful Lake of the Ozarks and what better way to kick off the New Year than to spend some time with colleagues, customers, clients, and friends? Many have already registered for the Convention and we have a great number of exhibitors signed up. Over two days, we will have speakers to inform you and a reception and banquet to entertain you. And if that isn't entertaining enough, after the banquet, come to the hospitality room where MO-AG karaoke has been known to break out.

We have a very informative and timely speaker who will give our keynote luncheon presentation. In several of the meetings and conferences I have attended this past year, many speakers have presented thoughts on the current state of the economy and the various policies being considered in Washington DC. But, we truly have an expert on the agricultural economy as our lunch speaker this year with Dr. Pat Westhoff from the Food and Agricultural Policy Institute (FAPRI) coming to share his thoughts with us. As this Wrap-Up goes to press, the FAPRI team is in Washington DC fine-tuning their 2010 baseline projections for the economy. During our luncheon, you will get the chance to hear from Dr. Westhoff just before those projections go public. Should be fascinating to hear!

So for you "fence-sitters," I hope I have enticed you to fill out that registration form and join us for the MO-AG Convention 2010. For registration material, [click here](#).

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Wayne Orey
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See you at the Lake!
Steve

REMINDERS

2010 MSDS Books Available

The Asmark Institute now has the 2010 MSDS Books available for purchase for \$42.40 each (plus tax and freight) by [clicking on this link](#) .

2010 MO-AG Winter Convention Room Block Deadline Fast Approaching

In order to get the discounted room rate, please call reservations at 888-265-5500 and mention MO-AG by December 21st. The attendee brochures have been mailed, but you can also download the brochure by [clicking here](#). After December 30, 2009, you must register at the Convention.

2010 MO-AG Sponsorship

At this time, we are accepting sponsorships for the 2010 MO-AG programs. Please [click here](#) for more information. Thanks again for everyone who was a 2009 MO-AG Sponsor.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Vilsack Discusses Link Between Climate Change and Global Food Security

Last Thursday, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack spoke to a packed house of 300 attendees at the "Food Security and Climate Change: Unifying Commitment and Action" at the climate change talks in Copenhagen, Denmark. "There is an important link between global climate change and food insecurity, both daunting challenges that will require shared vision and efforts if we are to make progress in addressing them", said Vilsack.

Recent estimates from the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization suggest that for the first time ever, more than 1 billion people around the world are chronically hungry. Global food demand is expected to grow by more than 50% between 2005 and 2030. And as the world population expands towards 9 billion, it will be even more difficult to supply enough food. This expanded population will lead to competition for natural resources, environmental degradation and,

potentially, the increased release of green house gasses. Agriculture is highly vulnerable to climate variability, and climate change -- higher temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, and more frequent extreme events like droughts and flooding -- threatens to reduce yields and increase the occurrence of crop failure.

Climatic stresses could have real consequences on food production, dramatically affecting the yields of staple food crops, resulting in scarcity and threatening people's livelihoods particularly in developing countries. A study by the International Food Policy Research Institute showed that rice and wheat yields in developing nations could decrease as much as 19% and 34% respectively by 2050 due to the effects of climate change. The same study showed that, as a consequence, child malnutrition rates are expected to rise 20% worldwide in the next 40 years compared to a situation with no climate change.

"We are working to take action to address the impacts of climate change and have made a long-term commitment to eliminating food insecurity," said Vilsack. "If we can now put our global commitments into action at the national, village and farm level, we are confident we will succeed in making agriculture an important tool in eliminating the devastation caused by hunger and in combating global climate change." In the last year, there has been a renewed international interest in agricultural development from partners across the globe. Nations of the world have begun to agree that the past practice of relying on food aid has not solved the problem. At the G-8 Summit, leaders responded to this international consensus by committing to increase international assistance for agricultural development to \$20 billion over the next three years. President Obama and the U.S. committed to providing at least \$3.5 billion over that period. [*Source: AgProfessional*]

Showdown for Ammonium Nitrate

As the facilities that handle bagged ammonium nitrate start receiving their final tier notification letters from DHS, management is faced with the tough decision whether or not to continue handling the product. Upon receiving notification from DHS of a Tier 4 assignment, a facility can expect to expend 100+ man-hours to develop the Site Security Plan (SSP). The SSP must be submitted to DHS for review and expect a visit from DHS to "test" your plan. DHS cannot mandate a specific security measure, and if the facility cannot obtain approval from DHS, the facility must keep submitting the plan until DHS agrees (approves) the SSP.

SSP Tip: Be very careful what you print (agree to) in your SSP. Inspections will be based on the facility's SSP. Any security measure written and agreed to in the SSP between the facility and DHS, must be provided for, implemented, maintained and tested in accordance

with the SSP. Essentially, the facility is writing the standard for which their facility will be judged against. Detail will be crucial! If you say in your approved SSP that you have a chain link security fence with a tamper-proof cable top and bottom, barb wire on top, a sensing device that alarms if cut and maintained in good condition by a contractor, the DHS inspectors will look for each specific aspect to be present and fully operational onsite at the time of the inspection. If the fence is rusted, or any security measure absent or not fully operational, it will result in a violation. A maintenance plan must be in place to ensure the fence is always in good condition and this type of detail will be expected for each component of the SSP. **Be advised!** CFATS compliance is not just another paperwork exercise as DHS warned they will be able to detect "pencil-whipping" and if the site views it in that way, by reviewing the SSP document. Expect inspectors to bring a copy of your SSP to substantiate your level of security. The inspectors may make 2-4 visits to the site, including one at night during the inspection. Facility personnel will be asked to demonstrate their thought process behind their SSP and security effort. [*Source: Asmark Institute*]

House Seeks New Rule to Improve Visibility of Ag Equipment

HR 3720 is proposed legislation to direct the Secretary of Transportation to promulgate a rule to improve the daytime and nighttime visibility of agricultural equipment that may be operated on a public road. The bill was introduced on October 6 and has gained support. The rulemaking seeks to accomplish: "Not later than two years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation, after consultation with the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers, other appropriate Federal agencies and other appropriate persons, shall promulgate a rule to improve the daytime and nighttime visibility of agricultural equipment that may be operated on a public road. Such rule shall establish minimum lighting and marking standards for applicable agricultural equipment manufactured one year or more subsequent to the effective date of the rule. Such rule shall provide for methods, materials, specifications, or equipment employed, equivalent to the standard set in ANSI/ASAE S279.14 published in July 2008 by the American Society of Agriculture and Biological Engineers and entitled "Lighting and Marking of Agricultural Equipment on Highways," or any successor standard.

No retrofitting will be required according to this provision of the bill: "No provision of any rule promulgated pursuant to this section shall require the retrofitting of agricultural equipment that was manufactured prior to one year after the date on which a final rule is promulgated pursuant to subsection (a)." The term "agricultural equipment" means "agricultural field equipment" as defined under the standard ANSI/ASABE S390.4 published by the American Society of Agriculture and Biological Engineers, or any successor standard. [*Source: Asmark Institute*]

NCBA: EPA Greenhouse Gas Ruling Could be Devastating to Agriculture

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association is extremely concerned about the potential impacts that the EPA's recent greenhouse gas ruling could have on agriculture operations. EPA's decision, announced last week, claims that GHG emissions are an endangerment to public health and the environment. This sets the stage for greenhouse regulation under the Clean Air Act and would give the EPA unprecedented control over every sector of the U.S. economy. "It's premature to issue this kind of finding, especially given the recent controversy surrounding the scientific validity of alleged human contributions to climate change," said Tamara Thies, NCBA chief environmental counsel. "Regulation of greenhouse gases should be based on science, and it should be thoughtfully considered and voted on by Congress through a democratic process, not dictated by the EPA."

The endangerment finding does not itself regulate GHGs; but unless Congress acts, it sets in motion EPA regulation of GHGs from stationary sources and the setting of new source performance standards for GHGs. On October 27, 2009, EPA proposed a rule designed to regulate GHG emissions from sources that emit 25,000 tons per year or more, instead of the statutory 250 tons per year threshold for pollutants which is included in the Clean Air Act. The extent to which EPA can change statutory permitting requirements, however, is unclear. Only time will tell how our federal courts will address citizen suits to force regulation of all sources that emit GHGs in excess of the statutory thresholds. EPA indicated that it also would be developing an approach to regulate GHGs from hundreds of thousands of small operations, including farms and buildings.

While agricultural sources are currently generally not required to obtain permits for greenhouse gas emissions, regulation of GHGs under the CAA may for the first time trigger such regulation. Given the fact that America currently has over 2,000,000 farms, it would be virtually impossible to permit a majority of them. It would also impose massive regulatory compliance costs on producers, which could force many operations out of business. "Congress never intended for the Clean Air Act to be used for greenhouse gas regulation," said Thies. "While the Act has done a good job of cleaning up pollutants, it is not adequately equipped to address global climate change. Any attempts to use it for this purpose would be devastating to U.S. agriculture."

According to the EPA, in 2007, GHG emissions from the entire agriculture sector represented less than 6% of total U.S. GHG emissions in Tg CO₂ Eq. At the same time, land use, land use change, and forestry activities resulted in a net carbon soil sequestration of approximately 17.4% of total U.S. CO₂ emissions, or 14.9% of total

U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. "Agriculture actually provides a significant net benefit to the climate change equation," said Thies. "Rather than being subject to overly-burdensome regulations, agriculture should be rewarded for the carbon reductions we provide." [Source: *AgProfessional*]

Serious HazMat Spills Not Reported

Peter Eisler, writer with *USA Today*, reports that according to federal records, nearly half of all "serious" hazardous materials spills on roads, rails, airstrips and waterways go unreported to the government, leaving investigators without data used to identify unsafe carriers and containers. From 2006 through 2008, hazmat carriers failed to report 1,199 "serious" incidents, such as larger spills that cause substantial evacuations, major road closures, serious injuries, or releases of especially dangerous materials. The number of serious incidents that were reported: 1,403.

The DOT's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration began identifying unreported incidents in 2005 using news accounts and logs from emergency response agencies. *USA Today* requested the previously unreleased data and analyzed it for their report. Hazmat carriers are required to report spills to DOT, and the data "are directly related to the department's ability ... protect the public from the inherent hazards associated with (hazmat) transportation," the safety administration said in a statement. Besides being used to spot unsafe haulers and containers that are prone to failure, the data also helps "identify precursors to potential high consequence incidents." However, since Jan. 1, 2006, the agency has sanctioned just seven carriers for not reporting serious hazmat spills; four were fined up to \$2,750 each. All other cases were handled with warnings.

"It is DOT's responsibility to take some type of enforcement action," said **Representative Jim Oberstar**, D-MN., and chairman of the House Transportation Committee. Without accurate data, the agency "cannot put together a strategic plan for reducing hazardous materials transportation incidents, fatalities, and injuries," added Oberstar. Smaller hazmat carriers may not know the reporting rules, said **Rich Moskowitz**, Vice President of the American Trucking Association (ATA). "There needs to be better outreach to the industry and if that fails, then ... stepped up enforcement." [Source: *Asmark Institute*]

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY, 2010

6-7 MO-AG Winter Convention; Lodge of Four

Seasons; Lake Ozark, MO

- 7-9 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
24 MU Agricultural and Life Sciences Career Fair 2010; Reynolds Alumni Center; Columbia, MO

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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