



MO-AG Wrap-Up

In This Issue

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

MEMBER NEWS

NEWS YOU CAN USE

UPCOMING EVENTS

MO-AG Board of Directors

Chairman

Seth Ricketts

Ricketts Farm Service
Salisbury

First Vice Chairman

Rex Martin

Syngenta Crop Protection
Springfield

Second Vice Chairman

Don Houston

MFA, Inc.
Mexico

Immediate Past Chairman

Gary Vandiver

Orrick Farm Service
Orrick

Board Members

Jonathan Cooper

T&R Soil Service
Chillicothe

Charlie Cott

MFA Incorporated
Columbia

Jerry Foster

Carroll

February 25, 2009

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

by

Jim Russell

As the Missouri Legislature enters its eighth week of the session, there have been over 1,000 bills filed in both chambers. But thankfully, the Senate deadline to file legislation is Thursday and the House will stop allowing new bills to be introduced on April 1. And even more thankfully, a very small percentage of these measures will become law.

Centralized filing was the topic of discussion in the House Ag Committee as chair Rep. Tom Loehner and the Missouri Bankers presented testimony on HB 594. This bill would change the current system of prior notification by the lender to a centralized electronic system located in the Secretary of State's office. One big difference this would make is the change in the liability of responsibility. Currently, the lender is responsible for notifying the potential buyer of its lien. Under the proposed standard, the purchaser would be required to determine if a lien existed prior to making payment for the product. In essence, the purchaser will have to go to the centralized electronic system to ascertain the information. Obviously, the Bankers are trying to shift the responsibility to purchasers.

MO-AG testified in opposition and suggested that there are several items in Article 9 of the UCC that need to be addressed. The meeting was adjourned; no vote was taken, but the issue is far from over. A similar proposal, SB 209, is awaiting a hearing in the Senate.

SB 143, the grain pricing bill, has had its hearing moved up from Wednesday, April 1 to

Jefferson City

Chris Hoffman
Hoffman and Reed
Trenton

Rex Meyr
Shawntee Feed and Seed
Jackson

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
Sikeston

Jerry Young
Agriservices of Brunswick
Brunswick

MO-AG Staff

Executive Director
Steve Taylor

Program Director
Jeff Leonard

Legislative Consultant
Jim Russell

Legal Counsel
Robert Brundage

Communications Consultant
Deborah Dickens

Join Our List

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Tuesday, March 4 in the Senate Ag Committee.

This coming week, the issues that will be front and center are the bonding of grain dealers, centralized filing, changes to the county planning and zoning laws, and hand fishing.

MEMBER NEWS

Watch for Fake DOT Letters

The USDOT has issued a warning to motor carriers that fraudulent letters are being issued pretending to represent the USDOT. The letters ask for the carrier to authorize the release of financial information. The USDOT does not solicit financial information to do business with USDOT. Do not respond to these letters.

Nurse Tank Workshop March 11th in Chillicothe

Due to some nurse tank failures within the past few years, the USDOT has stepped up its inspections of nurse tanks and has taken some tanks with the missing ASME data plates out of service. In response, the Missouri Agribusiness Association is working with United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration (FMCSA) and The Fertilizer Institute (TFI) to provide you with a Nurse Tank Workshop that will assist you in making sure that you are ready when USDOT comes to inspect your nurse tanks. The Nurse Tank Workshop will be held on March 11, 2009 at the Grand River Inn in Chillicothe, MO. Please contact the MO-AG office at 573-636-6130 or go to the website www.mo-ag.com to register.

Conservation Contractor Training Sessions Planned

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) has once again partnered with the Missouri Agribusiness Association (MO-AG) and we welcome our new partner, the Missouri Small Business and Technology Development Centers, to deliver Conservation Contractor Training workshops. The workshops are

designed only for existing businesses and contractors or those individuals interested in providing services to landowners. Please contact the MO-AG office at 573-636-6130 or go to the website www.mo-ag.com to register.

Missouri Agriculture Outlook Conference - March 11, 2009 in Jefferson City, MO

This Conference will discuss the drivers of Missouri agricultural and bio-fuel markets, with implications for the financial risk of Missouri farms and the rural economy in the long and intermediate terms. Presenters include senior-level FAPRI analysts. To register please visit muconf.missouri.edu/FAPRIOutlook/.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

COOL Will Be Implemented March 16

U.S. Ag Secretary Tom Vilsack says Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) will take effect on March 16th. The Final Rule was published in the Federal Register on January 15th then put on "hold" by the Obama Administration on January 20th pending review. During the review, Vilsack determined, "allowing the rule to go into effect and carefully monitoring implementation and compliance by retailers and their suppliers would provide the best avenue to evaluate the program."

COOL requires country of origin labeling for muscle cuts and ground beef (including veal), pork, lamb, goat, and chicken; wild and farm-raised fish and shellfish; fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables; peanuts, pecans, macadamia nuts, and ginseng sold by designated retailers. These commodities must be labeled at retail to indicate the country of origin. Secretary Vilsack describes COOL as, "A critical step toward providing consumers with additional information about the origin of their food." [*Source: Brownfield*]

Harkin Says Rural Development Gets Boost in Stimulus Bill

The economic stimulus package passed by

Congress targets some specific rural development initiatives. Senate Ag Committee Chairman Tom Harkin says the largest portion for Rural America goes toward increasing high-speed internet through \$2.5 billion in broadband grants, loans and guarantees. Senator Harkin says the stimulus bill also includes money to support rural water and waste disposal, infrastructure improvements of Agriculture Research Buildings such as the aging Animal Disease Lab in Ames, Iowa, and rural housing. For towns with fewer than 20,000 residents, a portion goes to support loans and grants for day care and elder care facilities, hospitals, health clinics and public safety. And, he says there's extra funding for existing food and nutrition programs such as WIC, and emergency and supplemental food assistance programs.

The stimulus bill also provides \$290 million for the watershed flood and prevention operations to help clear debris which Harkin says will put "real money in the pockets of farmers who will spend it locally" and "help create well-paying construction jobs" in rural areas. Harkin says the bill accomplishes two of the best economic stimulators - the creation of jobs and putting "food into the hands of those who need it most."
[Source: *Brownfield*]

USDA: King Corn Will Stay on its Throne

The USDA has released its annual update of 10-year Agricultural Projections and predicts that corn (maize) continues its reign as the largest crop in the U.S. Looking ahead to 2018, USDA says it expects planted corn area to increase gradually from its current level of 36 million to 37 million hectares in response to increased domestic use, with a corresponding decline in planted area for both wheat and soybeans.

Ethanol production still drives the corn predictions, although USDA expects the demand pace to slow from recent rapid gains. The projections reflect only moderate expected increases in overall gasoline usage in the U.S. Producers have been able to keep up with such demand for corn largely because hybrids and biotechnology traits have fueled remarkable

yield increases and allowed corn production to move West into more arid regions taking planted area away from wheat (temperate crop land area in the U.S. is relatively constant). At the same time, producer returns from wheat are falling again. That reduces wheat's competitiveness for land relative to other crops and, USDA said, pushes expected U.S. wheat production below 25 million hectares over the ten-year period.

At the USW board meeting Feb. 9, President Alan Tracy discussed how wheat futures prices will reflect the balance or imbalance between demand growth and productivity. "I wanted to show some indication whether or not we will see demand-driven prices for commodities by comparing the productivity growth of the three main temperate food crops against possible demand," Tracy says. "The story is mixed. Corn productivity is in good shape for now, but wheat needs some help from both biotechnology and higher prices relative to corn. A return to increased global trade and prosperity would also help boost prices."

USDA's annual projections cover agricultural commodities, agricultural trade, and aggregate indicators of the sector, such as farm income and food prices. [*Source: Ag Professional*]

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY, 2009

- 25 MU Agriculture and Life Sciences
Career Fair;
Columbia, MO
- 25 Conservation Contractor Training;
University Forest, MO

MARCH, 2009

- 3 Conservation Contractor Training;
Hannibal, MO
- 5 Conservation Contractor Training;
Columbia, MO
- 10 Conservation Contractor Training;
Warrensburg, MO
- 11 Missouri Agriculture Outlook

Conference;

Jefferson City, MO
26 Conservation Contractor Training;
Warrenton, MO

APRIL, 2009

15 Conservation Contractor Training;
Chillicothe, MO

JUNE, 2009

10 Conservation Contractor
Training; Macon, MO
20 Missouri Department of Agriculture
Golf Classic,
Holts Summit, MO

JULY, 2009

22-24 **MO-AG Summer Meeting; Country
Club Hotel;
Lake Ozark, MO**
28 Conservation Contractor Training; St.
Louis, MO

AUGUST, 2009

25 Conservation Contractor Training;
Park Hills, MO

SEPTEMBER, 2009

15 Conservation Contractor Training;
West Plains, MO

OCTOBER, 2009

28 Conservation Contractor Training; St.
Joseph, MO

DECEMBER, 2009

2-3 Conservation Contractor Training;

West Plains, MO

JANUARY, 2010

**5-6 MO-AG Winter Convention; Lodge
of Four Seasons;
Lake Ozark, 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.

Missouri Agribusiness Association
PO Box 1728, 410 Madison Street
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 636-6130
Fax: (573) 636-3299
www.mo-ag.com

Forward email

✉ **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to jleonard@mo-ag.com by mo-ag@mo-ag.com.

[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Missouri Agribusiness Association | P.O. Box 1728 | 410 Madison Street | Jefferson City | MO | 65102

Email Marketing by

