

### In This Issue

FROM STEVE'S DESK

MEMBER NEWS

NEWS YOU CAN USE

UPCOMING EVENTS

### MO-AG Board of Directors

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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

Cargill  
Jefferson City

##### Chris Hoffman

July 9, 2009

### FROM STEVE'S DESK

by Steve Taylor



### Think Insurance - Think MO-AG

MO-AG advocates for the business of agriculture. That is our motto and the primary component of MO-AG's mission. However, MO-AG's mission also includes offering services for the agribusiness community.

In years past, MO-AG's service program included extensive assistance in obtaining the best insurance value for the premium dollar. In recent years, as various MO-AG staff members have come and gone and other priorities compete for very limited time and resources, MO-AG's insurance program has been less active. I am committed, however, to reversing that trend by reforming and reviving MO-AG's insurance program. Now, when you think insurance, think MO-AG. In the next couple of days, we will be sending out a survey asking a few short questions related to your insurance needs. It should not take much time, so I hope you will take just a few moments to respond. This survey will help us evaluate how we can best serve you. The fact of the matter is that an insurance program that is right for you is an important component to your business success.

MO-AG has a couple new team members to help us help you with your insurance needs. Mindy Gratton is now available to assist you with life and health insurance, while Joe Wilson can work with you on your property & casualty and worker's compensation needs. A special toll-free number has been set up for you to call to talk to Mindy or Joe. That number is: 877-293-4583. Mindy and Joe will be at the Thursday evening reception and banquet during the MO-AG Summer Meeting and would be glad to visit with you. Be sure to look for them.

Speaking of the Summer Meeting, this will be my last opportunity to encourage you to join your colleagues and attend the MO-AG Summer Meeting at the Lake of the Ozarks. Information on the meeting is on the MO-AG website: [www.mo-ag.com](http://www.mo-ag.com).

I hope I see you at the Lake. Until then ...  
Steve

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

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Steve Taylor

**Program Director**  
Jeff Leonard

**Legislative Consultant**  
Jim Russell

**Legal Counsel**  
Robert Brundage

**Communications Consultant**  
t  
Deborah Dickens

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## **MEMBER NEWS**

### **Registration Deadline Fast Approaching for the 2009 MO-AG Summer Meeting**

Time has almost run out. The deadline is Wednesday, July 15th to register for the 2009 MO-AG Summer Meeting. To register for meals and activities, check out the registration form for the Summer Meeting at [www.mo-ag.com](http://www.mo-ag.com) or call the MO-AG office at 573-636-6130.

### **2009 MO-AG Recycling Program Set To Begin in August**

The annual MO-AG Recycling Program for empty pesticide containers is set to begin in August. Schedules have been distributed to the program participants and bags are currently being distributed. Please contact the MO-AG office at 573-636-6130 if you have registered for the program and have not received your bags.

## **NEWS YOU CAN USE**

### **ARA President, CEO Jack Eberspacher Dies**

Jack Eberspacher, president and CEO of the Agricultural Retailers Association, died July 5 at the Inova Cameron Glen Care Center in Reston, Va. Eberspacher was out on indefinite medical leave from ARA after a diagnosis of cancer in late April of this year.

"ARA and the industry lost a dynamic leader and true visionary," said ARA Chairman Ken Manning of Wilbur-Ellis Company. "Jack worked tirelessly to build this organization into the strong voice for agricultural retailers and distributors we have today in the nation's Capitol. He always stressed the importance of ARA listening to its members and providing value to those members. Due to his efforts, we have an experienced and very capable team at ARA who are committed to seeing Jack's and the Board of Director's vision for the organization fulfilled. ARA has a solid foundation in place that will only get stronger through the active involvement of its members and the industry."

Eberspacher was appointed President of ARA in July 2001 by the Association's Board of Directors. He grew the Association by more than 100 percent, increasing the annual dues revenue from \$567,000 to over \$1.3 million. Eberspacher was born in Nebraska and received a Bachelor's degree in animal science from the University of Nebraska. He also completed coursework toward a Master's degree in Business Administration at Texas Tech University. He is survived by his wife, Jinger, and two children, Sam and Maggie. [Source: AgProfessional]

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## **USDA Help for Dairy Producers on the Way**

Some more help may be on the way for struggling dairy producers. U.S. Ag Secretary Tom Vilsack told a group of dairy farmers in New Hampshire Monday he will announce a plan in the next week or so which will help producers stay afloat until prices recover. The plan includes providing farmers with operating loans at lower interest rates, reducing the principle of outstanding loans or allowing farmers to forgo payments for a time. The Secretary said his department is also working with commercial lenders to guarantee loans to dairy farmers.

To go with that, Vilsack says he has told his staff to assemble a commission to review the federal milk pricing system as ordered by the 2008 farm bill. Producer milk prices are less than half what they were a year ago and well below the cost of production. [Source: *Brownfield*]

## **NAWG Says Climate Change Legislation is Best Route**

One of the arguments being used by proponents of climate change legislation is that, if Congress fails to act, the EPA most certainly will. The Supreme Court has ruled that the EPA has the authority to develop regulations for greenhouse gas emissions. It's anticipated that if EPA writes the regulations, they will be much tougher than what Congress might come up with.

In that case, couldn't Congress simply pass legislation preventing EPA from implementing regulations? Mark Gaede, environmental policy director for the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG), says that's a possibility. But Gaede says there's no guarantee that Congress would step in. "In the past, when regulations have passed that people have considered onerous, only in a handful of cases has Congress moved to try to modify those regulations," Gaede says. "They simply have not done that." So, relying on Congress to change the law, Gaede says, would be risky. "It would be a very risky path to take to just kind of abandon our legislative efforts," he says, "and then hope that, if the EPA regulations come into effect, that we can cling to the slender reed of hope that Congress somehow is going to modify those regulations to make them less onerous."

NAWG President Karl Scronce says the reality is that either scenario, legislation or top-down regulation, is going to be costly for farmers. But he says NAWG believes, and history suggests, that Congressional action will be much less expensive than leaving it to EPA to write the rules. He says NAWG falls on the side of giving producers the chance to mitigate their own energy costs, as well as generate new markets. [Source: *Brownfield*]

## **Senate Begins Work on Climate Change Legislation**

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The Senate Environment Committee, chaired by Barbara Boxer of California, kicked off hearings on climate change legislation on Tuesday (July 7). Boxer reportedly intends to mark up legislation modeled on the House bill, in her committee, before the August recess. Other committees that may have jurisdiction, including Agriculture, have been given a September 18th deadline to complete their markups. Capitol Hill observers say backers of climate change legislation will be focusing on key moderates whose votes are essential to get the bill through the Senate. There is a group of about 15 Democratic moderates who could determine whether the Senate successfully tackles global warming. [Source: *Brownfield*]

### **Hours of Service Exemption Threatened**

DOT exempted agricultural carriers from the hours-of-service regulations if they operated only within a 100-mile radius from their central base of operation. A study by DOT's Volpe National Transportation Systems Center found that agricultural carriers operating exclusively within a 100-mile radius had a 19 percent higher crash rate than agricultural carriers operating outside a 100-mile radius during the period of 2005-2007. The study also showed that in 2007 agricultural carriers, as a whole, had higher violation and out-of-service rates than the rest of the trucking industry in the categories of unsafe driver, driver fitness, vehicle maintenance, and improper loading. The overall average increase was 32 percent. As a result, the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) is proposing that all motor carrier safety exemptions should be sunsetted, whether provided in statute or by regulation.

Pam Guffain, vice president of The Fertilizer Institute, reported last week that the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's Subcommittee on Highways and Transit held a mark-up on the Surface Transportation Authorization Act of 2009. The 775-page bill does not have any provision that would affect the agricultural hours of service exemption at this stage; however, Committee Chairman Representative James Oberstar (D-Minn.) did express his strong opposition to "targeted" exemptions such as hours of service, citing them as obstacles to safety. [Source: *Asmark*]

### **EPA Updates SPCC Plans ... Again**

If you remember, on April 1, 2009, EPA published a final rule to further delay the effective date until January 14, 2010, for the SPCC amendments promulgated December 5, 2008. EPA was working on a final rule to extend the July 1, 2009 compliance date to provide facilities sufficient time to determine their compliance obligations under any rule amendments that become effective in 2010. On June 11, 2009, EPA again extended the compliance date for all facilities to

November 10, 2010. Facilities must amend or prepare and implement SPCC Plans by the compliance date in accordance with revisions to the SPCC rule promulgated since 2002. Farms must also amend or prepare their SPCC Plans and implement those Plans by the same date. Final copy was published in the Federal Register prior to the July 1, 2009 compliance date. [Source: Asmark]

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **JULY, 2009**

- 14 St. Charles County Golf Tournament, MCGA; Warrenton, MO
- 22 Southwest MO Golf Tournament, MCGA; Lamar, MO
- 22-24 MO-AG Summer Meeting; Country Club Hotel; Lake Ozark, MO**
- 28 Chillicothe Golf Tournament; MCGA; Chillicothe, MO
- 28-31 Crop Injury and Diagnostic Clinic, Columbia, MO

### **AUGUST, 2009**

- 2-4 Missouri Young Farmers Summer Tour, Alma, MO
- 5-7 MCGA Annual and Board of Directors Meetings; Lake Ozark, MO
- 7-8 Missouri LICA Family Weekend and Membership Meeting; Bennett Spring State Park; Lebanon, MO
- 13-23 2009 Missouri State Fair; Sedalia, MO

### **SEPTEMBER, 2009**

- 30- Oct 2 Missouri Seedmens Association Annual Meeting; Lake Ozark, MO

### **DECEMBER, 2009**

- 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**

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

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## **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](http://www.mo-ag.com)

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