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September 9, 2009

MEMBER NEWS

Governor Nixon Appoints Past Chairman Gary Vandiver

The Governor has appointed Gary Vandiver of Richmond, MO to the State Soil and Water Districts Commission. The Missouri Soil and Water Districts Commission formulates policies and general programs for saving Missouri soil and water by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Vandiver is the General Manager and Co-Owner of Orrick Farm Service, President and Co-Owner of Horizon Grain of Hopkins, Co-Owner of Bob Vandiver Cattle Co., and Co-Owner of Cottonwood Trading. He is a founding member of the Ray County Cattlemen's Association and Immediate Past Chairman of the Missouri Agribusiness Association. The Governor has appointed Vandiver to a term ending Aug. 15, 2011. [Source: Office of Governor Nixon]

2009 MO-AG Regional Meeting to Be Held October 6th at the Country Club of Missouri

Don't miss this opportunity to golf at one of the best golf courses in Mid-Missouri and meet with some fellow MO-AG members. The registrations for the 2009 MO-AG Regional Meeting at the Country Club of Missouri in Columbia, MO are due by October 1. The registration brochure has been mailed or you can [click here](#) for a copy.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

NPDES Rehearing Denied

The Sixth Circuit Court has denied CropLife America's petition to rehear a three-judge panel's decision striking down EPA's Final NPDES Rule. CropLife's petition, filed after the panel's decision in January, requested that the full court re-examine and overturn the decision. The panel had earlier granted EPA's request to stay the mandate until April 2011 so that the government could develop a general permitting program. Petitioners have 90 days to file a petition with the Supreme Court. Failure by the court to strike down this rule puts our industry one step closer to the challenge of how to comply. The ramifications of this rule will range from merely challenging, at the least, to possibly devastating, based on the retailer, their resources, and the overall health of their business. [Source: Asmark Institute]

Mike Nordwald
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Growers
Richmond

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Riggins R-Co, LLC
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TFI Climate Change Update

Last week, Senate Democrats announced they will delay the introduction of climate change legislation until later this month. Previously, it appeared that the Senate would address "cap and trade" legislation beginning this week when Congress returns from its August recess. However, Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), the chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and primary author of the climate change bill that will eventually be taken up in the Senate, along with Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.), released a statement explaining that focus on health care policy by Congress had slowed progress in crafting the climate and energy legislation.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) still anticipates that the Senate will reach a vote on climate change legislation before the end of the year, but Senate Democrats will be under intense pressure to meet that deadline. The Obama Administration has made it clear that it would like to go into the United Nation's climate change summit, which will be held in December in Copenhagen, Denmark, with a clear plan as to how the United States plans to address the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. It is yet to be determined if that plan will include the passage of climate change legislation in the House and Senate. [Source: TFI]

TFI Responds to CSB Recommendation on Large Tanks

On June 17, The Fertilizer Institute (TFI) received a letter from the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) containing a recommendation as a result of its investigation into the UAN large tank failure at Allied Terminal, Inc., in Chesapeake, Va. CSB recommended that TFI "formally recommend to all member companies the incorporation of the TFI tank inspection guidelines into contracts for the storage of liquid fertilizer at terminals." A copy of the CSB's letter, final report and recommendations to TFI are available by visiting TFI's homepage at www.tfi.org. [Source: Asmark Institute]

Farmers Finding Aphids in Soybean Fields

Farmers are finding aphids in their soybean fields across Missouri, especially along Interstate 70 east of Columbia. "Don't panic. Scout your fields before you spray," says Wayne Bailey, University of Missouri Extension entomologist. While aphids can be devastating, few of the infestations this year are at economic thresholds. "Spraying too early could be a waste of money."

Economic infestations of aphids have been found in east-central Missouri around Montgomery City, in central Missouri around Fulton and, to a lesser extent, in southwest Missouri, south of Nevada. Most fields are below the economic threshold, 250 aphids per plant, Bailey notes. The level at which aphids cause yield loss is more than 1,000 aphids per plant. The aphids, which can fly in from soybeans fields in northern states, usually cause little problem in Missouri late in the season. "Scouting fields before spraying is always recommended, but especially now," Bailey says.

Most seasons, beneficial insects such as ladybugs keep aphids under control. The weather this year has reduced the beneficial insects and cool summer temperatures have proven favorable for aphid survival. Pay attention to the growth stage of the soybean plants, Bailey advises. Late-planted beans that are blooming are at risk. If the beans are at pod-filling stage, the threat of economic loss is much less. In many of the areas without problems, soybean plants already have passed the R5 (partial pod fill) stage of growth. "No U.S. study shows an economic gain from spraying aphids on plants past pod fill," Bailey says. "We've scouted lots of fields across central Missouri without finding aphids at economic-threshold levels," he adds. "We find aphids, but heavy infestations are highly localized." One thing the MU Extension scouts noted is that infestations are more likely to appear in fields with soils low in potassium. Bailey speculates that applying more potassium might help prevent problems in soybean fields next year. [Source: *Missouri Ruralist*]

Missouri Auditor Reviewing Rules for Grain Deals

The Missouri Auditor's office said last Wednesday that it will examine state rules governing grain deals after two alleged grain fraud schemes cost farmers tens of millions of dollars this year. State Auditor Susan Montee, a Democrat, said the audit will focus on the Missouri Department of Agriculture's Grain Regulatory Services program and will include recommendations about how state officials could spot fraud sooner and help farmers recover more of their financial losses. Agriculture Department officials requested the review. "It was a huge impact and if there is a way to prevent some of this from happening in the future, we should fix it now," Montee said.

Montee said auditors have already determined that the Agriculture Department has followed its procedures and complied with state laws. She said the review will examine what other states have done. One possibility is to allow the Department to hire more grain inspectors, but state budget constraints make that difficult. The review comes after two high-profile alleged grain fraud schemes on opposite sides of the state. In Gallatin in the northwest part of the state, the owner of a Daviess County grain elevator is facing 22 count counts of grain theft. More than 100 farmers who lost \$3.5 million are expected to get about 12 cents on the dollar.

In Martinsburg in northeast Missouri, the owner of a trucking company and grain elevator was charged in July with 15 state and federal felonies and accused of operating a grain fraud scheme that prosecutors say could cost farmers up to \$50 million. Agriculture officials say farmers can expect to receive about 2 percent of their claims. An attorney representing the grain elevator in Martinsburg has denied there was a fraud scheme.

State Agriculture Director Jon Hagler said last Wednesday that he wants the state auditor's office to recommend policy changes. "This year, Missouri has been faced with the two largest grain failures in state history, along with farmers facing economic challenges across all sectors," Hagler said in a written statement. "Our Grain Regulatory staff has done a tremendous job uncovering irregularities and assisting farmers across Missouri with filing claims and answering questions during their times of need. Auditor Montee and her staff have the expertise to thoroughly review and recommend additional tools we may need to protect farm families." [Source: *Jefferson City News Tribune*]

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER, 2009

- 11 18th Annual Tiger Ag Classic
 L.A. Nickell Golf Course; Columbia, MO
- 30- Oct 2 Missouri Seedmens Association Annual Meeting
 Lake Ozark, MO

OCTOBER, 2009

- 6 2009 MO-AG Regional Meeting
 Country Club of Missouri; Columbia, MO

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
- 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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