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February 22, 2011

FROM STEVE'S DESK

by Steve Taylor



MO-AG in Washington

Last week, I was in Washington D.C. where I conducted the usual "hill visits" and called upon members of Missouri's Congressional delegation and staff to discuss the issues of the day. One unusual but welcomed item on my itinerary was the Agricultural Retailers Association (ARA) Board of Directors' Dinner & Awards Ceremony, recognizing

Missouri's Congressmen Sam Graves and Blaine Luetkemeyer as ARA's Legislators of the Year. I was honored to have been asked to participate and speak at the event.

The tribute to Reps Graves and Luetkemeyer was certainly deserved. Both gentlemen have been strong proponents of our issues and have led the way on the Hours of Service (HOS) issue. Additionally, Rep Graves strongly supports many of our other issues. Recently, as Chairman of the House Committee on Small Business, Rep Graves conducted the first hearing of the Committee and focused on the burden that has been placed on small businesses, including agribusinesses, as a result of the 1099 reporting requirement which was part of the new health care law.

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Chillicothe

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St. Louis



Pictured left to right: ARA President & CEO Daren Coppock, Congressman Sam Graves, and MO-AG President Steve Taylor at the ARA Award Ceremony

In addition to his tireless efforts on the HOS issue, Rep Luetkemeyer is also a champion for many of our other issues. He understands the burden that over-regulation puts upon business and the threat posed by an over-reaching EPA. Rep Luetkemeyer put pressure on the IRS and is primarily responsible for an official investigation being conducted of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). HSUS is violating their IRS tax-exempt status by campaigning and lobbying on issues across the country, such as Missouri's Proposition B. Congressman Luetkemeyer also led the effort in the House to pull funding from a Missouri River Study that seeks to end navigation and weaken flood control on the Missouri River. Regarding the Mississippi River, I thanked Congressman Luetkemeyer and Congressman Akin for calling on the Corps of Engineers to conduct more public hearings on the Mississippi River Flood Control plan, specifically "Plan H."

Hank Thomas
Van Diest Supply
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Crop Production
Services
Sikeston

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Brunswick

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Consultant**
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A couple days after the ARA Awards Ceremony, MO-AG President Steve Taylor poses with Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer and his ARA Legislator of the Year Award.

The usual "hill visits" actually were not that usual. We are very early in the 112th Congress. Committees are not fully staffed and members are being briefed on issues. For all our visits, a top concern we expressed involves over-regulation of some form by some federal agencies. OSHA is coming to an agribusiness near you and its recent position on sweep augers makes no sense. CFTC seems to be moving incredibly fast on new rule making. We have concerns that it over-regulates, defines local elevators as swap dealers, and generally constrains economic activity. Of all the agencies, EPA seems in most need of Congressional oversight considering its positions and actions on various issues from pesticide spray drift to nutrient criteria and TMDLs. After talking to Congresswoman Hartzler, I know she understands our concerns with EPA overreach and is working to reign in the agency.

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MO-AG President/Executive Director Steve Taylor shares a light moment with Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler during a Congressional Reception on Capitol Hill sponsored by MO-AG and its sister state associations and national affiliates.

I was encouraged by discussions at Sen. Claire McCaskill's office regarding several of our positions, including passage of Free Trade Agreements and the need for more common-sense understanding from EPA. MO-AG Immediate Past-Chairman Rex Martin and I were able to have a one-on-one discussion with Senator Roy Blunt and his staff where we focused on the HOS issue. Joining Senator Blunt's efforts in the Senate with those of Reps Graves and Luetkemeyer in the House, I'm hopeful for the permanent fix on the HOS issue that we all seek.

Finally, I want to thank our national affiliates. In particular, I want to again thank Daren Coppock for allowing me to be a part of the event honoring Congressmen Graves and Luetkemeyer and for all the staff at ARA for their assistance with some of the particular issues and "hill visits." Also, thanks to Kendell Keith and the staff at National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) for all their efforts organizing the event. Other national affiliates that took part included Croplife America, Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), The Fertilizer Institute (TFI), and American Feed Industry Association (AFIA). My sincere thanks to all for sharing their expertise and knowledge of the issues. The national/state association partnership is a strong and tremendous asset for our industry.

Until

next

time,

Steve

REMINDER

2011 MO-AG Legislative Days - March 7th & 8th

MO-AG will be holding its Legislative Days on March 7th and 8th in Jefferson City. This event will provide you the chance to interact with your key legislators, members of the executive branch and agency officials. This will be a great opportunity that you won't want to miss. And, your participation will be crucial to its success. Please [click here](#), complete the registration form, and return it with payment to MO-AG by Wednesday, March 2, 2011.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Stop EPA!

That was the simple message to Congress regarding just one issue involving EPA overreach. That issue is EPA's imposition of nutrient criteria on states.

MO-AG joined several other state and national organizations in a letter to the entire 112th Congress imploring lawmakers to do whatever they can to stop EPA from going forward in developing nutrient criteria. The letter states: "It is apparent that EPA's development of nutrient criteria in Florida establishes a template for how EPA will structure and impose similar nutrient requirements nationwide. In fact, we are already seeing EPA taking steps to impose its Florida model on the six New England states in EPA Region 1 and on the states in the Mississippi River watershed, which encompasses the entire middle of the United States." The letter also states that "... the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services concludes that Florida's agricultural community will lose 14,545 full-time and part-time jobs and will lose \$1.148 billion annually." The complete letter can be seen by [clicking here](#).

On February 18th, the U.S. House voted 237 to 189 to support an amendment that would stop funding for EPA's efforts to impose nutrient criteria on states. MO-AG would like to express our sincere thanks to those members of our Congressional delegation (Representatives Akin, Emerson, Graves, Hartzler, Long, and Luetkemeyer) who supported this amendment. MO-AG also appreciates the efforts of The Fertilizer Institute (TFI) for its leadership on this issue. [*Source: MO-AG*]

Luetkemeyer's Amendment to Pull Funding from

Missouri River Study Passes

Members and allies of the Coalition to Protect the Missouri River (CPR) applaud the actions of the U.S. House of Representatives in their 245-176 decision to prohibit Fiscal Year 2011 funding for the Missouri River Authorized Purposes Study (MRAPS).

"We were very pleased that Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer's MRAPS amendment received such overwhelming support in the Continuing Resolution process," stated Randy Asbury, executive director of the CPR. "We are proud that Missouri's entire House delegation, along with Iowa Congressmen Boswell, King, Latham and Loeb sack and numerous Mississippi River Basin delegates, stood together on this non-partisan issue so important to the lower Missouri and Mississippi River Basin."

The MRAPS study was designed to enhance the economic and recreation benefits of a few upper Missouri River interests at the expense of broader interests in both the Missouri and Mississippi River basins. The MRAPS came on the heels of a comprehensive 17-year, \$35 million study that made significant changes to the Missouri River Master Manual. [*Source: CPR*]

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY, 2011

25-27 Western Farm Show; Kansas City, MO
28 - 3/1 MO Farm Bureau Commodity Conference & Legislative Briefing; Jefferson City, MO

MARCH, 2011

7-8 **MO-AG Legislative Days; Jefferson City, MO**

JULY, 2011

20-22 MO-AG Summer Meeting; Lake Ozark, MO

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

JOB OPENINGS

Agronomy/Precision Sales Representative - Marshall, MO

Central Missouri Agri Service at Marshall, MO has an opening for a Sales person experienced in Agronomy sales and current knowledge of VRT/ GIS precision equipment. This individual must have organizational & time management skills, be self motivating, self starting individual with experience and /or a B.S. Degree in Agriculture. This position would include developing a close working relationship with producers. This would include farm calls, grower meetings and other related services. If you have interest in fulfilling this position contact Gabe Ramsey at CMAS; Box 549; Marshall, MO 65340; e-mail: gabercm-as.com; or phone: 660-886-6970.

Feed Mill Manager - Kirksville, MO

MFA Incorporated, a Midwest-based agribusiness, is looking for a Feed Mill Manager located in Kirksville, MO. This position is responsible for attaining maximum operational effectiveness and efficiency from the Feed Mill. This includes quality control, maintaining proper inventory levels of ingredients and manufactured feed, directing the work of assigned employees and maintaining the mill equipment. The successful candidate is required to have a B.S. Degree in Agriculture or equivalent experience, excellent written and oral communication skills, supervisory skills, and must understand mill flow and processing. They must also have a working knowledge of OSHA, EPA, FDA, and GMP requirements, and excellent interpersonal and time management skills, mechanical ability preferred, and a background in feed production or animal production preferred and must be able to maintain quality control. Public speaking skills are required to conduct safety meetings. If you feel you have the qualifications to fulfill this position please send your resume to: Human Resources, MFA Incorporated, 201 Ray Young Drive, Columbia, MO 65201 or you may email to hr@mfa-inc.com. EOE D/V/M/F

Account Manager - Columbia, MO

MFA Incorporated, a Midwest-based agribusiness, has an opening for an Account Manager in their Plant Foods division. This position is located in

the corporate office in Columbia, MO. The successful applicant will be responsible for maintaining and increasing wholesale sales of fertilizer to MFA Retail locations as well as new and established dealers and when necessary will help coordinate delivery of product via truck, rail and barge. We are looking for an applicant with a B.S. degree or equivalent experience; someone with prior sales experience and that is comfortable having customer contact, has great customer service skills, and must be a self starter and self motivated. Please send your resume to: MFA Incorporated, Human Resources, 201 Ray Young Dr., Columbia, MO 65201. E/O/E M/F/D/V

Mid-West Fertilizer - Agronomist Job Description

Mid-West Fertilizer has an open position for an Agronomist in the southeast Kansas area. Looking for self motivated, self starting individual with experience and/or a degree in Agronomy. The position would include developing a close working relationship with producers in the area and working to develop our VRT/GIS based offerings. Contact Mid-West Fertilizer at 620-839-5251 for more details.

Butterfield & Associates Grain, Inc. & T&R Soil Service - Farm Consultant Job Description

Set up and administer seed programs for Monsanto (Dekalb and Asgrow) and Garst seed companies. This is to include sales of products, test plot planting and harvesting, yield checks, working with company reps to effectively implement programs.

Plan and administer Purina Mills and Land O' Lakes feed products and programs. This is to include sales, setting up feed trials and working with producers to customize cattle management and nutrition. Working with company rep in retail operations involving equine and pet food sales. The successful candidate will utilize resources and facilities of Butterfield & Associates Grain, Inc. and T&R Soil Service for 60% of time in seed and 40% in feed. Salary and bonus compensation based on experience and knowledge. Position open immediately. Time allotment 50% @ Butterfield & Associates Grain, Inc. and 50% at T&R Soil Service. Must be able to attend product and sales training by suppliers; some overnight stays may be required. Contact Butterfield & Associates at 660-938-4116 or T & R Soil Service at 660-646-2589 for more details.

Note: If you have a job you would like listed on our Web site's classified page and in the Missouri Agribusiness Wrap Up, please email to mo-ag@mo-ag.com.

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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