

MO-AG Weekly Wrap Up

September 28, 2007

In a Nutshell

Ginger's Snaps – letter from Ginger Berry, Weekly Wrap Up editor

Member News – MO-AG Winter Convention, MO-AG Regional Meeting October 10 (register by TODAY), Corn congratulations, Dean Warnstaff scholarships DUE, keeping up with regulations

Letters to the Editor –

Legislative/Regulatory Issues – EU ministers again deadlocked on biotech crop approvals, WRDA on its way to the President, Sen. Harkin introduces the Fresh Produce Safety Act, Johanns' resignation letter to Pres. Bush, Congress passes FDA reform bill

News You Can Use – Study predicts \$6.50/bushel corn, analyst sees no redux of 1998 hog market, how young people are being driven off the farm, NRCS EQIP sign-up deadline: October 5, MO Lunch & Learn program wrapping up, farmers are environmentalists, the role of nitrogen fertilizer in sustainability & global warming

Reminders – **MO-AG Regional Meeting**

Poll – Last week: your crops; this week: Johanns' resignation

Looking for a job? **Rabo AgriFinance, Missouri FSA County Operations Trainee**

Upcoming Events



Ginger's Snaps

A light breeze lifted the hair off my face as I dipped my feet into the gorgeous lake. Sitting on the pontoon deck, I listened to the sound of the water against the boat and just took in the absolute beauty of Horseshoe Bay. Surrounded by my association counterparts, I knew I was lucky to have the chance to gain new ideas from them as a part of Out of Focus 2007- Texas.

They say things are bigger in Texas, and after being there, I am beginning to believe them. From outlandishly huge lake houses to a sprawling UT-Austin campus, most items *are* a bit bigger in Texas, and I am not just talking about their egos. (Kidding!) This year's annual association event yielded a great amount of good information for MO-AG, and a whole lot of fun for Nathan and me.

We pontooned it with Mary Hartney from Florida and Pam Emery from California. We lunched with Pat Miller from ASTA and learned about SO many things from Ohio's Gary King. We began our first night there with Tom Tunnell & Duane Simpson from Kansas and learned about Washington agriculture from Heather Hansen. We had a grand ole time with Jarrod Kearsley from AFIA and Jean Payne and Kevin Runkle from Illinois. Ben Boerner from Texas even told us how to get back to Luckenbach, Texas, and we are so glad we did. Pictures are below for you to enjoy!

Cheers,

Ginger



Member News

MO-AG Winter Convention & Legislative Conference - Jan. 9-10

Clear your calendars for the MO-AG Winter Convention & Legislative Conference - January 9-10, 2008, at the lovely Lodge of Four Seasons in Lake Ozark, Mo. Exhibitor brochures will be available at www.mo-ag.com next week and sent at the beginning of October. For more information, call (573) 636-6130. If you attend, you could win \$2,000 and/or a TV!

MO-AG Open & Regional Meeting - October 10

Get ready for fun & an afternoon of golfing in one of Missouri's best golf courses (www.shirkeygolfclub.org). Join other members & staff for the MO-AG Open & Regional Meeting on October 10 at Shirkey Golf Club in Richmond, Mo. The activities committee meeting is at 10 a.m., lunch is at 11:30, and tee-time is 12:30 p.m. If you have questions, please e-mail me back or call (573) 636-6130. Registration has been mailed, and next week you will find the registration form at www.mo-ag.com. Deadline to register: September 28, 2007 (**TODAY**). See you there!

MU Delta Center continuing education for Certified Crop Advisors

A two-day Certified Crop Advisor program will be conducted at the University of Missouri-Delta Research Center in Portageville, Missouri on November 19 and 20, 2007. Separate classes will be taught in Soil Fertility, Pest Management, Soil and Water, and Crop Production with 4 CEU's pending per course. Classes will begin at 8 each morning. Registration will be \$25/course or \$75 for all four, which will include lunch. For more details, contact Gene Stevens (573-379-5431, stevensw@missouri.edu) or Anthony Ohmes (573-683-6129, ohmesg@missouri.edu). You can also see the agenda at the M CCA Web site calendar: <http://www.mo-ag.com/CCA%20Calendar.htm>.

Deadline quickly approaching: apply for Dean Warnstaff scholarships by October 3!

It's time again for college students around the state to apply for the Dean Warnstaff Scholarship. Last year's winners were Tera Dover, Hollie Elliott and Sarah Jackson. This year, **three \$1,500 scholarships** will be given away. For a copy of the application, download it at <http://www.mo-ag.com> or e-mail me at ginger@mo-ag.com. The scholarship deadline is **October 3, 2007**, and all applicants must be currently enrolled as a full-time college student, majoring in an agriculture field at a 4-year school in Missouri.

Lots of exciting things at the Missouri Corn Growers

Big congratulations are in order for two great gals at the Missouri Corn Growers Association. Ashley McCarty, director of membership & policy, welcomed a new baby boy, Cade Patrick, into the world on Saturday, September 22, and Becky Grisham, director of communications, got engaged to be married over the weekend. Best of luck, and thanks for all you do for Missouri agriculture!

Keeping up with regulations

Whether it be your SVA (security vulnerability assessment) or your RMP (risk management plan) or your SPCC (spill prevention, control & countermeasure) plan or facility response plan, you have to fill out a lot of paperwork to be involved in agribusiness. Since it is often hard for busy facilities to keep up-to-date on these requirements, MO-AG wants you to know about the options available to members. One of those options is working with the Asmark Institute. For more information, e-mail ginger@mo-ag.com or call 573.636.6130, and ask for Ginger.

Share your member news! E-mail me at ginger@mo-ag.com.

Letters to the Editor

Do you have a response to the Weekly Wrap Up? Let me know! ginger@mo-ag.com

Legislative & Regulatory Issues

EU ministers again deadlocked on biotech crop approvals

This week, EU farm ministers fell short of a consensus agreement to allow imports of three biotech corn varieties, which would be imported for processing for all food and feed uses. Since the ministers failed to achieve the required majority under the EU's weighted voting system, the decision now passes to the European Commission, which is expected to issue a rubberstamp authorization. Source: *BIO*, <http://www.reuters.com/article/companyNews-AndPR/idUSL2683483420070926?sp=true>



WRDA on its way to the President

It took most of the last decade – but the U.S. Senate passed the Water Resource and Development Act Conference Report (WRDA) Monday by a vote of 81 to 12. The measure already passed the House by an overwhelming margin and now goes to President Bush for his signature. Among many other things – the measure authorizes modernization of the locks and dams on the upper Mississippi and Illinois River system – which is considered critical to keeping U.S. ag exports competitive in the global marketplace. Source: *Brownfield*, <http://www.brownfieldnetwork.com/gestalt/go.cfm?objectid=3DD49E5F-F565-077F-4344F23BBB97439A>

Senator Harkin introduces The Fresh Produce Safety Act

A year ago, there was a large-scale outbreak of food-borne illness caused by a virulent strain of *E. coli* in fresh bagged spinach. More than 200 people became ill, and three died. Since then, U.S. consumers have been bombarded with news of repeated cases of contaminated food - everything from peanut butter to seafood to pet food. Source: *AgNetwork*, <http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=ckzg4ecab.0.6ymk4ecab.ifcpuyn6.34474&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.agnetwork.com%2Fcontent.asp%3Fcontentid%3D163786>

Johanns' resignation letter to President Bush

Dear Mr. President,

It has been a great honor to serve you and the American people as Secretary of Agriculture for nearly three years. After careful thought and difficult deliberation, I am writing to inform you that I have decided to pursue a new opportunity to serve this great Nation...

Source: *AgNetwork*, <http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=lur4xecab.0.gngkyecab.ifcpuyn6.34474&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.agnetwork.com%2Fcontent.asp%3Fcontentid%3D161782>

Congress passes FDA reforms bill; feed regulation also included

After wrangling for months over renewal of the Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA), which is due to expire on September 30, both houses of Congress enacted in just two days the first of what will be at least two bills "reforming" how FDA protects the nation's animal and human food supply. Congress moved with unusual speed when FDA Commissioner Andrew von Eschenbach notified Capitol Hill he would be forced to lay off nearly 2,000 FDA human drug review workers without the PDUFA law in place. The bill, 500 pages of mostly human drug and medical device changes, also contained major provisions directed at enhanced pet food safety and food/feed adulteration reporting that go into effect after FDA writes some required rules. The bill -- H.R. 3580 -- was sent to the President on September 20, the same day it passed the Senate, allowing the President the full

10 days the Constitution allows for bill signing into law. President George Bush indicated he would sign the bill. Source: *American Feed Industry Association*, <http://209.70.188.116/nlt3u/nph-csnlr.cgi?53616c7465645f5fc0a7f8efa839c0d17325e48ec07acd8dbd2433191f9d0c6ad58bc5d18b2cb5fe>

News You Can Use

Study predicts \$6.50/bushel corn

Corn could reach \$6.50 a bushel by 2025 according to a recent study by the Department of Energy. The “25 by 25” Senate proposal, if enacted, could push corn ethanol production up to 25 billion gallons by 2025, resulting in the high corn price, the study predicts. Under the proposed mandate, the projected level of about 25 billion gallons of corn ethanol production in 2025 would significantly increase U.S. corn demand. The Senate proposal also would have a significant impact on food and feed markets, according to the study, and lead to a cut, or elimination of U.S. corn exports. The study points out that impacts of these rising corn prices on the prices of other food and feed products—and ultimately on U.S. economic growth—is highly uncertain but potentially larger than the direct energy price impacts alone. Source: *Food 360*, <http://www.elabs3.com/c.html?rtr=on&s=ikv,uvgy,2vyz,7oxz,5zo7,ls0o,9a79>

Analyst sees no redux of 1998 for hog market

It's certainly no secret cash hog prices have been in a seasonal free-fall. But just how low will cash hog prices go? Some are drawing comparisons between the current situation to the hog market debacle of nine years ago, when cash hog prices bottomed in the single-digits. But according to DTN Chief Livestock Market Analyst John Harrington, he doesn't believe that bit of market history is likely to repeat itself. Source: *Brownfield*, <http://www.brownfield-network.com/gestalt/go.cfm?objectid=488AAD40-04B5-4392-8AD236185651012C>

Monsanto and Evogene collaborate on nitrogen use efficiency research

Monsanto Company and Evogene Ltd. announced a collaboration to improve nitrogen use efficiency in corn, soybeans, canola and cotton. Under the agreement, Monsanto gains exclusive rights to a number of genes discovered by Evogene that help plants maintain yield with lower applications of nitrogen. Monsanto will work to evaluate the use of those genes in its research and development pipeline. The potential candidates from Evogene are complementary to the nitrogen utilization genes already in testing in Monsanto's pipeline and could provide the opportunity to further a series of upgrades for this key target area. The financial terms of the agreement were not disclosed. Source: *Food 360*, <http://www.elabs3.com/c.html?rtr=on&s=ikv,uvgy,2vyz,9ra5,bg6r,ls0o,9a79>

How young people are being driven off the farm

When Kurtis Andrews walks into his family's barn, he can't just ask one of the employees where his dad is. He has to ask for “Mr. Andrews.” That's because few of the market staff know Kurtis anymore. They think he's another customer. Source: *AgNetwork*, <http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?t=ckzg4ecab.0.8ymk4ecab.ifcpuyn6.34474&p=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.agnetwork.com%2Fcontent.asp%3Fcontentid%3D163783>

NRCS announces EQIP sign-up (Deadline: OCTOBER 5)

Missouri landowners interested in participating in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) should apply by October 5 to be eligible for the next round of funding, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced. EQIP promotes agricultural production and environmental quality. Through EQIP, farmers and ranchers receive financial and technical assistance to help install structural conservation practices and to implement

management systems that promote conservation. There are a few changes associated with this sign up, says Roger Hansen, state conservationist. He says EQIP funds can be used to plant windbreaks for odor control around animal feeding operations, and can assist landowners with damage incurred during ice storms and spring flooding. To sign up for EQIP or to get more information about EQIP and other NRCS programs, contact the NRCS office serving your county. Look in the phone book under "U.S. Government, Department of Agriculture.". You can also get information about NRCS programs online by clicking below. Source: *MO Department of Agriculture*, <http://www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov/news/news/releases/090507.html>

Missouri Lunch & Learn program wrapping up

The agriculture Lunch & Learn program wraps up this week in Missouri. Missouri Beef Industry Council executive director John Kleiboecker says it's been a great educational experience for community decision makers about the importance of agriculture. He says those leaders, many with little if any farm experience, ask questions that those in the ag industry take for granted. Source: *Brownfield*, <http://www.brownfieldnetwork.com/gestalt/go.cfm?objectid=48D4FABB-0855-F962-B93104728094B553>

Farmers as environmentalists

"It's a commitment they take very seriously." - Iowa State Extension Agent Shawn Shouse
A responsible farming advocate in Iowa received an e-mail from a local reporter criticizing him for routinely referring to livestock farmers as environmentalists. The reporter refused to believe that families who raise livestock willingly make the extra effort to protect our natural resources. Obviously, the correspondent wasn't standing beside the responsible farming supporter to witness the nearly 50 farmers who voluntarily gathered for a beef feedlot tour on August 31 near the town of Atlantic, Iowa. Source: *Animal Agriculture Alliance*, <http://animalagalliance.org/newsletter>

The role of nitrogen fertilizer in sustainability and global warming

In an article by John Lory, University of Missouri, he explains how commercial nitrogen fixation to generate nitrogen fertilizers is an energy intensive process. It takes ~13,700 BTU to generate a pound of nitrogen in the most efficient fertilizer plants. Industry average internationally is closer to 23,600 BTU per pound of nitrogen fertilizer. To put these numbers in perspective, this amount of energy is equivalent to 1 to 2 pounds of high quality coal or 14 to 24 cubic feet of natural gas or the energy in about two to three cups of gasoline. Fertilizing a field with 100 pounds of nitrogen uses the energy equivalent of 11 to 20 gallons of gasoline. In the U.S., our surplus of agricultural production provides some opportunities for replacing fertilizer nitrogen with nitrogen fixed by legumes. For example, over seeding Missouri pastures with clover can nearly eliminate the need for nitrogen fertilizer applications. Legume forage crops can be inserted into crop rotations to provide nitrogen to subsequent grain crops while providing feed for ruminants such as dairy and beef cows. Source: *Food 360*, <http://www.elabs3.com/c.html?rtr=on&s=ikv,uvgy,2vyz,jlfv,k5x2,ls0o,9a79>

Reminders

Deadline to register for MO-AG Open: September 28 (TODAY)

MO-AG Open (Regional Meeting): October 10, Richmond, Mo.

MO-AG Winter Convention & Legislative Conference: January 9-10, 2008

Quote of the Week

"I take life one gigantic, earth-shattering crisis at a time."

~ Hallmark

Last Week's Question

How do the crops look in your area?

Comments:

- The irrigated crops look good but with very little rain during July and August the nonirrigated are very poor.
- From what I can tell crop results are a mixed bag. Must depend upon who paid the Preacher to most to get the rain! Early corn seems to be doing well with later corn not so well. The bean story is yet to be told.
- If you want to see the tomato plants in my back yard.....with the cooler weather they're starting to get little yellow flowers and hopefully more tomatoes! Ha

This Week's Question

How do you feel about Johanns' resignation?

E-mail me at ginger@mo-ag.com, or by hitting reply to the original e-mail.

Looking for a job?

Relationship Manager, Rabo AgriFinance

Due to retirement at EOY '07, opening for person to promote, analyze and submit new and service existing prime farm real estate, machinery and operating loans to farmers in North Missouri for an international agriculture bank. Work out of home. Salary & benefits, bonus and expenses paid. Contact Larry Knipp: 4000 Dublin Av, Columbia, MO 65203, LKKnipp1@CenturyTel.net or 573-445-7961

County Operations Trainee, USDA-Missouri Farm Service Agency

The USDA-Missouri Farm Service Agency is currently advertising for a County Operations Trainee (COT). The COT program is an in-depth training program which focuses on office management, farm program delivery and employee supervision. Upon completion of the COT program, candidates are eligible to apply for positions managing one of our county offices as a County Executive Director (CED). Trainees travel the state and work in various county offices throughout the training period. Applicants must agree to accept employment in a county office located in Missouri upon the completion of the program. Click on the following link to see the job announcement: <http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/getjob.asp?JobID=61768343>

If you have a job you would like listed on our Web site's classified page and in the Weekly Wrap Up, drop Ginger a note at ginger@mo-ag.com.

Upcoming Events

2007

Sept. 28	MO Agriculture's Lunch & Learn Series, Windy Hill Farms, Cedar Hill, Mo.
Sept. 29	MU South Farm Showcase, Columbia, Mo.
October 2	Mid-Missouri Agribusiness Club Luncheon, Columbia, Mo.
October 2-3	Southern Plant Nutrient Management Conf., Olive Branch, Mississippi
October 3-5	Missouri Seedmen's Annual Meeting, Resort at Port Arrowhead
October 4	Missouri Seedmen's Golf Tournament, Osage National Golf Course
October 5	MU Wurdack Field Day, Cook Station, Mo.
October 10	MO-AG Regional Meeting, Shirkey Golf Course, Richmond, Mo.

October 13	5th Annual Missouri Chestnut Roast, New Franklin, Mo.
Nov. 1-3	National Small Farm Trade Show & Conference, Columbia, Mo.
Nov. 8-11	AFA Leaders Conference, Hyatt Regency, Kansas City, Mo.
Nov. 9-10	AFA Alliance 2007 Forum, Hyatt Regency, Kansas City, Mo.
Nov. 11-12	ASTA's 53rd Annual Farm&Lawn Conf., Westin Crown Center, St. Louis
Nov. 12-13	Soya & Oilseed Summit, Chicago, IL – www.soyasummit.com
Nov. 14-15	Kansas Ag Expo & Convention, Overland Park, KS
Dec. 4-7	62nd Corn & Sorghum Research Conference, Seed Expo, Hyatt, Chicago
Dec. 5-7	Agricultural Retailers Association Conference & Expo, Las Vegas
Dec. 5-6	Missouri Crop Management Conference, Columbia, Mo.
Dec. 9-11	NGFA Country Elevator/Feed Industry Conference, Chicago, Ill.
Dec. 10-11	Fluid Technology Roundup, Adam's Mark Hotel, St. Louis, Mo.
Jan. 6-7	2008 Missouri Governor's Conference on Agriculture, St. Louis, Mo.
Jan. 9-10	MO-AG Winter Convention & Legislative Conference, Lake Ozark, Mo.
Jan. 22-25	47th Vegetable & Flower Seed Conference, Sheraton, New Orleans
Feb. 25-29	ASTA Management Academy, Purdue University, Indiana
June 21-25	125th ASTA Annual Convention, Gaylord Palms Resort, Kissimmee, FL
* Events in green are new from last week.	

The MO-AG Weekly Wrap Up is a publication of the Missouri Agribusiness Association (MO-AG). MO-AG is a member-owned association based in Jefferson City, Mo., that protects members' interests in state legislation and provides educational opportunities.

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