



# NGFA's 113th Annual Convention

## Walt Disney World Swan Resort Orlando, Florida March 29-31, 2009

Sunshine...lots of great golf opportunities...outdoor pursuits for the entire family...and Mickey! All these and more come together in Orlando, site of the NGFA's 113<sup>th</sup> annual convention! Read on for details – and look inside for great program and event information.

The NGFA convention brings to Orlando a star-studded program, featuring top policymakers, substantive open forums and outstanding general sessions exploring the most important issues facing the industry in the year ahead. The convention's program sessions will provide the information you need to operate and strategically position your business for success.

The NGFA convention also is an ideal opportunity for you and your colleagues to interact and exchange ideas. Schedule a side meeting with suppliers, customers or clients. Develop new business opportunities with other convention attendees. Reward key employees and give them the opportunity for professional development. See old friends and make new acquaintances, all in a great family location with plenty of attractions for all.

Invest in your business and your professional success – and reward yourself for a successful year of hard work. Register today for the NGFA's 113<sup>th</sup> annual convention!

### "The Unexpected Orlando"

Orlando was first settled during the Seminole Wars about 150 years ago. Raising cattle was the primary way to make a living in Orlando's early days; the town looked more like Dodge City, Kan., than its neighboring southern states. There were Indian wars, cattle rustling, gun fights, gambling and other evening pursuits.

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the railroad came to Orlando, and the city became a hub of business and commerce. This period also saw the introduction of the citrus industry to the Orlando area. A number of area museums, exhibits and special events continue to celebrate Orlando's short but colorful history.

Today, the greater Orlando area is home to a thriving cultural arts community, numerous entertainment options and, of course, tourism is an economic engine. Orlando welcomes more than 48 million visitors annually, making it the top tourist destination in the world. Add yourself and your family to those statistics by registering now for the NGFA annual convention!

### When to Arrive and Depart

A detailed convention "Schedule-At-A-Glance" appears on page 2. Here are suggested arrival and departure dates for your travel planning purposes:

#### Suggested Arrival Date:

**Saturday, March 28 or Sunday morning,  
March 29**

On Sunday, beginning at 1 p.m., NGFA committees will conduct substantive work sessions and open forums to which all convention registrants are invited.

Committee meetings and major open forums continue at 3:15 p.m., on rail issues. There's no better way to get current on the most important issues confronting your business, and to share your views on how NGFA committees should address these matters.



#### Suggested Departure Date:

**On or After Wednesday, April 1**

Plan to stay for the Tuesday evening departure banquet, a lavish sit-down dinner followed by an unforgettable evening of entertainment. It's an evening of fun and frivolity with your friends that shouldn't be missed!



### Hotel Alert!

Pre-registration is extremely heavy for the NGFA 113<sup>th</sup> annual convention. The Walt Disney World Swan Resort is sold out. But the NGFA has arranged for additional nearby hotel rooms within the Walt Disney World Resort. These include the Disney Yacht Club Resort, a deluxe property next door to the Swan, which will honor the NGFA rate. Call the hotel **immediately** at (800) 227-1500 and reference the NGFA to obtain the special \$225 rate. If you have difficulty obtaining a room, please contact NGFA Meetings Manager Rachel Kudelko at [rkudelko@ngfa.org](mailto:rkudelko@ngfa.org), or call her at 202-289-0873.

# Convention Schedule At-A-Glance

## Sunday, March 29

10 a.m. – Noon	Executive Committee ( <i>closed</i> )
1– 3 p.m.	<b>Committee Meetings</b> ( <i>Open to all unless otherwise noted.</i> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country Elevator</li> <li>• Grain Grades and Weights</li> <li>• Membership &amp; Marketing</li> <li>• Trade Rules</li> <li>• Waterborne Commerce</li> </ul>
1:30 – 3 p.m.	• Rail Shipper/Receiver ( <i>closed</i> )
2 – 3 p.m.	• Open Forum on Impact of Bankruptcy Law on Grain Contracting ( <i>Hosted by Country Elevator Committee</i> )
3:15 – 5:15 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biofuels</li> <li>• International Trade/Agricultural Policy</li> <li>• Joint Agroterrorism/Facility Security</li> <li>• Risk Management</li> <li>• Rail Open Forum (<i>Hosted by Rail Shipper/Receiver Committee</i>)</li> </ul>
6 – 7:30 p.m.	CME Group Welcome Reception ( <i>Sponsored by CME Group</i> )
<b>Monday, March 30</b>	
6:30 – 8 a.m.	Idea-Exchange Continental Breakfast
7 – 8 a.m.	Rail Arbitration Rules Committee

8 – 11:30 a.m.	Grand Opening General Session
Noon – 6 p.m.	NGFF Classic Golf Tournament Grand Cypress Golf Club
Afternoon	Disney Parks/Tour
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Reception ( <i>Hosted by Bunge North America Inc.</i> )
Evening:	Open for Private Receptions and Dinners
<b>Tuesday, March 31</b>	
6:30 – 8 a.m.	Arbitration Appeals Panel ( <i>closed</i> )
6:30 – 8 a.m.	Idea-Exchange Breakfast
6:30 – 8 a.m.	Feed Legislative/Regulatory Affairs Committee & Feed Manufacturing & Technology Committee & Feed & Animal Agriculture Strategic Issues Committee
8 a.m. – Noon	General Session
Afternoon	Disney Parks/Tour
Noon – 3:30 p.m.	Board of Directors Lunch/Meeting
3:30 – 4 p.m.	Executive Committee
6 – 7 p.m.	Reception
7 – 10 p.m.	Departure Banquet & Entertainment

## Convention Program Highlights

### Sunday, March 29

#### NGFA Committee Meetings/Open Forums

In addition to committee meetings, two of the NGFA's most active committees will host industry Open Forums on key issues: The Country Elevator Committee will host an important open forum on Sunday, March 29 from 2-3 pm. The session will focus on **"Impacts of Bankruptcy Law on Grain Contracting"** featuring a presentation by **Chris Giaimo**, a bankruptcy attorney with the NGFA's outside law firm of Arent Fox, Washington, D.C. Giaimo specializes in bankruptcy law, and authored the informative *FOCUS* article that accompanied the Dec. 4, 2008 *NGFA Newsletter*.



Robert Szabo

The Rail Shipper/Receiver Committee will host an Open Forum from 3:15 – 5:15 pm to present a range of perspectives on major anticipated rail-related legislative and other initiatives. Forum headliners include **Edward R. Hamberger** (*confirmed*), president and CEO of the Association of American Railroads, and **Robert G. Szabo** (*confirmed*), Executive Director and Counsel of Consumers United for Rail Equity (CURE).

#### CME Group Welcome Reception

The CME Group again will host the convention's signature opening event – a fabulous reception welcoming participants, this year held beachfront on the beautiful Lake Terrace on the resort grounds. Don't miss it!

### Monday, March 30

#### Opening General Session

The Honorable **Tom Vilsack** (*invited*), U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, has been invited to keynote the Grand Opening General Session. Formerly governor of Iowa, Vilsack was tapped by President Obama to serve as the point person for USDA's many disparate functions, including farm programs, grain warehousing, agricultural trade, food safety and nutrition programs. Vilsack has been invited to address the Obama administration's policies and priorities for the nation, as well as his own goals for USDA and U.S. agriculture.



Tom Vilsack



Jerry Moran

The Honorable **Jerry Moran** (*confirmed*), R-Kan., will discuss the congressional agenda. Moran is a key member of two congressional committees of keen interest to NGFA members: the House Agriculture Committee, where he serves as ranking member of the General Farm Commodities and Risk Management Subcommittee; and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

*(Monday program continued on page 3)*

## Monday, March 30 (Cont'd)



Charles Carey

In keeping with long-standing tradition, **Charles Carey** (*confirmed*), vice chairman of the CME Group, will address key issues at the Chicago Board of Trade during the Monday morning general session. Among issues Carey is expected to address are key priorities of the CME Group as it serves its critically important price-discovery and risk-management functions for agriculture; and performance of the CBOT wheat contract.

The NGFA convention regularly serves as an important forum for discussion of major rail transportation policy issues among carriers and their customers. This year, in keeping with that tradition, **Jim Young** (*confirmed*), chairman, president and CEO of the Union Pacific Railroad Co. will conclude the morning session with a major address on business conditions in the rail sector and issues important to rail shippers and receivers.



Jim Young

## Tuesday, March 31

The Tuesday general session will kick off with two well-known and highly-respected voices to address current economic and financial situation.

**Dennis Gartman** (*confirmed*), editor and publisher, *The Gartman Letter*, will lead off the morning session. His daily commentary on global capital markets deals with political,



Dennis Gartman

**Andrew Busch** (*confirmed*), global finance strategist, BMO Capital Markets, will continue the economic/financial theme with a CEO-level analysis of current financial and political conditions and what it will take to get the economy back on track. A prolific author and well-known analyst, Busch is a dynamic presenter and a regular contributor on MSNBC-TV.



Andrew Busch

**“Will the Funds Come Back?”** For some time, the NGFA has contended that investment capital has been a significant contributor to a disconnect between cash and futures prices. While experts still debate whether funds were the culprit for a commodity bubble last summer, there is no doubt that large sums of capital flowed into agricultural futures and then ebbed dramatically as the financial outlook soured. This session will examine whether (or when) non-traditional participants will return to agricultural futures markets – or did they ever actually leave? Panelists are **Eric Kolts** (*confirmed*), vice president, commodity indices, Standard & Poors Index Services; and **Tom Fernandes** (*confirmed*), Manager of Operations, Green Haven LLC.

*(Tuesday program continued on page 3)*

## *Spouse Program, Tours and Family Activities*

As is customary at the NGFA convention, an informative and entertaining program awaits spouses and guests (see below). In addition, two tours perfect for families are planned. Use the registration form to sign up.

### Monday, March 30

**Special Spouse/Guest Event:** Enjoy “A Morning in Paris” with breakfast in Epcot’s World Showcase. Through the magic of Disney, you will be transported to the heart of France for a private event before the park opens. Enjoy a lovely breakfast in the setting of a French sidewalk cafe while surrounded by the sights and sounds of this delightful country. This will be an event you will not forget! *[Cost included in Spouse/Guest registration fee.]*



**Florida Estuary Tour:** Take a relaxing cruise on a pontoon boat down the Banana River, where you will see Florida wildlife, including bottlenose dolphins and manatees up close! *[Additional fee; see registration form.]*

### Tuesday, March 31

**Winter Park Cultural Tour:** Visit charming Winter Park, where you can visit one-of-a-kind boutiques, sidewalk cafés, and visit art museums. This tour also includes a one-hour scenic boat tour through the area lakes and canals. *[Additional fee; see registration form.]*

**Disney Parks:** Of course, the ultimate attractions in Orlando are the Disney theme parks. Visit [www.ngfa.org](http://www.ngfa.org) to purchase reduced-price park tickets.



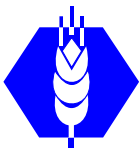
## **Tuesday, March 31 (Cont'd)**

### **“Assessing the Biotech Pipeline: Challenges and Opportunities Facing the Grain and Feed Industry”**

– This session will focus on new ag biotech traits expected to be commercialized over the next several years. The pipeline for new events is growing rapidly, with several new output traits focusing on nutritional benefits and others that may be functionally different than their conventional counterparts, such as “ethanol” corn. In addition, companies again are looking at commercializing a biotech wheat. While the innovation provides exciting opportunities, it also is fraught with risk for grain and oilseed handlers that may be unprepared for the challenges of future generations of agricultural biotechnology.

### **Departure Banquet and Entertainment**

Bring the whole family to the convention’s signature closing event! This year, the banquet will be a fun-filled party featuring a reception, a lavish sit-down dinner and special Disney entertainment that will be fun for all ages. The banquet will conclude convention with a flourish — Disney-style! A Disney DJ will spin records with your favorite tunes for dancing, and a cast of very familiar Disney characters will be on hand to mix and mingle with kids of all ages. Rumor is that a “very special character” will make a magical, mystery appearance with assistance from his Disney helpers. Don’t miss it!



**National Grain and Feed Association**  
1250 Eye St., N.W., Suite 1003  
Washington, D.C. 20005

## **Grand Cypress Golf Club**

### **...Another Memorable Golf Experience...**

Golfers at the NGFA annual convention have come to expect a memorable golf experience during the annual benefit tournament for the National Grain and Feed Foundation. But this year has something extra-special to offer: We’ll be playing the Jack Nicklaus-designed “New Course” at Grand Cypress Golf Club, just 15 minutes from the hotel. What’s so special? Here is how the Grand Cypress web site puts it:

*“Set in the midst of an open meadow, the New Course is Jack Nicklaus’ tribute and homage to the famed Old Course at St. Andrews, Scotland. This Scottish links masterpiece is complete with double greens, stone bridges and walls, gorse mounds, burns, and pot bunkers as deep as 12 feet... all in the spirit of true Scottish original.”*



**Registration for the NGFF Classic is limited to the first 144 players**, so register to play today! Players will be given the opportunity to assemble playing groups as the event nears. The cost is \$185, \$89 of which represents a tax-deductible contribution to the Foundation. The entry fee includes bus transportation, a deli box lunch at the course, range balls, greens fees, carts and all contests. Once again, NGFA-member sponsors will provide fabulous prizes to the low-scoring foursome, longest-drive winner, closest-to-the-pin winner, longest putt winner, and hole-in-one on a designated hole. Rental clubs are available for \$31.95. *Grand Cypress is a spikeless facility; no metal spikes allowed.*