



Advisory Board Forms Task Force to Examine Allocation of GIPSA Costs as Precursor to Planned Changes in Export Tonnage Fees

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection Advisory Committee has established a task force to examine how the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is allocating its administrative costs for official grain inspection and weighing services as a precursor to the agency's finalization of a plan to increase export tonnage fees later this year.

The task force, which will be chaired by Warren Duffy, vice president, export operations for ADM Grain in Ama, La., plans to conduct a conference call within a month and has been asked to provide recommendations to GIPSA officials prior to the advisory committee's next meeting in November. Duffy also serves as a member of the NGFA's Grain Grades and Weights Committee.

Specifically, the four-member task force will review allocation of export tonnage user fees and provide recommendations on how the agency can potentially modify the allocation of fees from the export to the domestic accounts. The results of the task force's review are expected to shape the outcome of GIPSA's plan to change the way it calculates future increases in export tonnage fees, which agency officials say they hope to announce by the end of December.

The advisory committee took the action during its June 16-17 meeting in Kansas City, Mo.

As reported in the Nov. 5, 2009 *NGFA Newsletter*, GIPSA plans to unveil potential increases in the tonnage fees that apply to official sampling, inspection, weighing and certification of grain at export facilities. The tonnage-fee increase initially contemplated by GIPSA could have exceeded 50 percent, and would be in addition to the hourly rate paid by exporters to have official inspectors on-site to perform the actual inspection and

weighing services. The NGFA and North American Export Grain Association joined forces last October to submit several specific recommendations designed to limit potential increases in export tonnage fees, and the agency has since identified other potential ways to make its services more cost-effective.

There were these other developments at the advisory committee meeting:

Potential Changes to U.S. Wheat Standards: GIPSA officials reported that they have compiled an analysis of the 14 comments submitted in response to its Nov. 27 advance notice of proposed rulemaking concerning potential changes to the official U.S. standards for wheat. GIPSA said 11 of the submitted comments were "germane" to the rulemaking, and that it would determine by the end of this year whether to propose changes to the standard.

Sorghum Odor Determination: GIPSA officials said they expect to receive a final report by Sept. 30 from Kansas State University, with which the agency contracted to conduct a study on whether a chemical process could be developed to improve the determination of sorghum odor. Testing of the technology by K-State is expected to conclude by the end of July. Once GIPSA receives the report, it will be circulated for review by a new sorghum odor task force established by the agency. Current projections are that the new task force will make its final recommendations to USDA concerning the K-State study by Sept. 2012.

These and other issues will be considered by the NGFA's Grain Grades and Weights Committee during its July 14 meeting in Kansas City, Mo.

OSHA Schedules "Web Chat" on Combustible Dust Standard

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has scheduled a June 28 "web chat" on the "workplace hazards of combustible dust" as it continues to develop a combustible dust standard.

The "web chat" is scheduled to last one hour – from 1 to 2 p.m. Eastern time – and is intended to "gather additional information beyond that" provided to the agency during a series of three stakeholder meetings conducted thus far. During the "web chat," the agency said it would pose questions and interact with

participants. Participants may register up to an hour before the "web chat," and will be asked at that time to provide their names, email addresses, organizations they represent and stakeholder category (such as industry, government, union, trade association, etc.).

The "web chat" will be accessible by [clicking here](#). In addition, OSHA said it will post additional information and questions following the "web chat" on the same site that will remain accessible through July 7.



'You Mean They're Not an NGFA Member?'

Membership recruiters for the NGFA often ask the question, "Who should I go after?"

Often, these same recruiters are surprised when they see a list of companies that are **not** yet NGFA members.

At a recent meeting of the NGFA Country Elevator Committee in Washington, D.C., the committee set aside some time to review a list of about 25 of their country elevator brethren (and a few others) that are not current members. The list follows; surprised by any of these names? They're all excellent prospects; many have received personal visits from NGFA staff members.

- Ag Valley Cooperative, Edison, Neb.
- All Points Cooperative, Gothenburg, Neb.
- Apex Grain Co., Hillsboro, Texas
- Bottineau Farmers Elevator, Bottineau, N.D.
- Co-Mark, Cheney, Kan.
- East Central Iowa Cooperative, Hudson, Iowa
- Farmers Cooperative Elevator, Lidgerwood, N.D.
- Farmers Grain Co. of Central Illinois, Chestnut, Ill.
- First Cooperative Association, Cherokee, Iowa
- Frenchman Valley Farmers Cooperative, Imperial, Neb.
- Friona Industries, Amarillo, Texas
- Frontier Cooperative, Brainard, Neb.
- Glacial Plains Cooperative, Murdock, Minn.
- Grain Processing Corp., Muscatine, Iowa
- Harvest Land Cooperative, Morgan, Minn.
- Hi Pro Feeds, Friona, Texas
- J.E. Mueret Grain Co., Brunswick, Neb.
- Knappen Milling, Augusta, Mich.
- New Vision Cooperative, Worthington, Minn.
- North Central Grain Cooperative, Bisbee, N.D.
- Scranton Equity, Scranton, N.D.
- Thompson Farmers Elevator, Thompson, N.D.
- United Farmers Cooperative, York, Neb.
- United Harvest LLC, Portland, Ore.
- Western Iowa Cooperative, Hornick, Iowa

By the way, this list is by no means comprehensive. Contact NGFA Director of Marketing/Treasurer Todd Kemp at tkemp@ngfa.org or 202-289-0873 to add your prospect to the list or to convey information about a prospect.



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