NGFA Newsletter

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Glickman Fails to Announce LDP Decision

Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman kept producers and the grain elevator and marketing industry waiting when he failed to use two opportunities this week to announce a decision on whether the U.S. Department of Agriculture will implement a "uniform national loan deficiency payment rate" system for 1999 crops.

Instead, Glickman used his testimony on June 16 before the House Agriculture Committee and a June 15 speech to the Commodity Club of Washington to make USDA's case for the new rate system. But he said that the administration "continues to examine this and other reforms, as well as the process for handling the potential program changes," implying that negotiations with the White House Office of Management and Budget and Congress to address concerns over the uniform national LDP rate approach were continuing. Because of its potential cost and significant change, OMB has urged USDA to seek public comment on a uniform national LDP rate, which would delay its implementation until at least the 2000-crop year. In response to questions, Glickman refused to provide a timetable on when a decision may be reached.

In both appearances, Glickman said the goal of a uniform national LDP rate was to address what he termed the "four Es": equity, efficiency, ease of understanding and enhanced income. He said a uniform national LDP rate would "provide equity to all producers" and reduce transportation and warehousing inefficiencies caused by producers transporting grain across county and state lines to secure a higher LDP rate under the current posted county price-based system, and would be easier to understand and to explain than the current PCP-based formula. He also implied that since the new approach would cost more than the current system — $400 million more for 1999 crops by USDA's calculation – it would have the side effect of "pumping more dollars into the farm economy at a time that they are sorely needed."

In his remarks to the Commodity Club of Washington – comprised of representatives of producer and agribusiness groups – Glickman asserted that USDA staff and OMB were attempting to resolve their differences over the cost and operation of the new approach. There were unsubstantiated reports that OMB has estimated the costs of switching to a uniform national LDP rate for 1999 crops to be as high as $1.5 billion.

Under the new approach, USDA would announce a single national uniform LDP rate on a daily basis that would apply to each class of wheat, feed grain and soybeans. A national rate would be announced weekly for minor oilseeds, such as canola and sunflower. The national LDP rate would be based off the same major terminal markets used under the current PCP-based system. The adjusted price at each terminal for the preceding day and the loan rate in the county where the terminal is located would be calculated and then averaged, dropping the high and low values, to determine the daily LDP rate that would apply to all counties equally. *[See chart on page 5 of **NGFA Newsletter**, June 3.]*

Glickman said that under a uniform national LDP rate, USDA would "retain the authority to make additional adjustments to the LDP rate," but he did not elaborate on how such adjustments would be made.

Members of the House Agriculture Committee reacted with some skepticism to the uniform national LDP rate concept. Chairman Larry Combest, R-Texas, said the plan needs to be structured so that "winners and losers" are identified in advance so that revisions can be made before the program is implemented. But Rep. Earl Pomeroy, D-N.D., said USDA should devise the uniform national LDP rate to ensure that "everyone will be winners," adding that costs should not be a concern for the administration given current depressed farm prices. Ranking minority member Charles W. Stenholm, D-

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3 Easy Steps for Using NGFA's Web Site:

1. **Access the Web Site by Typing the NGFA's Web Site Address:** http://www.ngfa.org

2. **Enter the User Name:** ngfa

3. **Enter the Password:** soybean

[Note: Type all letters in lower case. Any problems or ideas? Call Alison Bawek at (202) 289-0873.]

by david c. lindsay
director of legislative affairs

House Approves Agriculture Spending Bill

...Senate Subcommittee Rejects $6.5 Billion for Farm Aid...

The House on June 8, by a 246-183 vote, approved legislation (H.R. 1906) allocating about $60.7 billion in funds for fiscal year 2000 (which begins on Oct. 1) for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration and related agencies.

More than half of the spending — $35 billion-plus – would be earmarked for USDA food and nutrition programs, such as food stamps, child nutrition and the women, infants and children programs. But the bill also would earmark about $20 billion for agricultural programs, a 38 percent increase from fiscal 1999. Most of the increase reflects higher mandatory allocations to the Commodity Credit Corporation for commodity price support programs and agricultural export subsidies.

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee Rejects Farm Aid – For Now: Meanwhile, the Senate Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittee on June 15 rejected, by a narrow 6-5 vote, an amendment offered by Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, that would have provided $6.5 billion in additional aid for producers to compensate for low prices. But several senators voting against the measure said they believed Congress would enact a supplemental spending bill later in the year, noting that it was too early to tell yet how much aid would be needed. As this Newsletter was going to press, the full Senate Appropriations Committee was considering the measure. Sen. Harkin was expected to offer his amendment again.

House Action Averts Republican Impasse Over Spending Caps – For Now: The action brought to an end – at least temporarily – the dispute between moderate and conservative factions of the Republican Party over government spending levels. In 1997, Congress and the White House agreed to establish specific caps on federal government spending. However, the caps were set before the emergence of the budget surplus, which has been derived from Social Security Trust Fund receipts. Since the "discovery" of this surplus, pressure to increase spending and break the caps has been building steadily.

In an effort to demonstrate party unity and fiscal discipline, the Republicans passed a budget blueprint for fiscal 2000 that adhered to the 1997 agreement. To remain within the caps, the blueprint required significant reductions in spending for certain agencies from fiscal 1999 levels, including a 17 percent reduction in USDA's spending. But on May 19, the House Appropriations Committee sent a spending bill to the floor that would have allocated $253 million ***more*** than last year.

House conservatives, led by Rep. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., responded by conducting a *de facto* filibuster of the bill by submitting more than 115 amendments, one at a time. On May 26, the Republican leadership, unable to move the measure, removed it from consideration and Congress recessed for Memorial Day without passing the bill.

Following the congressional recess, House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., formulated a plan to pass the agriculture spending bill and other fiscal year 2000 spending measures by redistributing funding from less-controversial areas to bills that will be harder to pass given the spending caps. On June 8, House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rep. Bill Young, R-Fla., amended the bill to reduce its authorized spending level by $102.5 million. The "savings" were extracted largely from administrative accounts. In response, Coburn and others agreed to withdraw their amendments, and the House passed the bill. Most Democrats voted against the measure because of their stated belief that it did not allocate sufficient funds to compensate producers confronting adverse prices and depressed markets.

The acrimonious debate over the agricultural spending measure may be a harbinger of disputes to come over the 12 other fiscal 2000 appropriations bills awaiting consideration. Those disputes may occur not only between the White House, Democrats, and Republicans, but also among those Republicans who want to maintain the budget caps and others who fear such a stance will lead to gridlock and another year-end budget showdown with the Clinton administration.

The major highlights of the fiscal 2000 agriculture and FDA spending bill, as adopted by the House, are depicted in the accompanying box. The sponsor of each amendment is italicized in brackets.

Hill Highlight

➧ **USDA, USTR Hold Public Hearings On Trade Negotiations:** The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and the U.S. Department of Agriculture have scheduled a series of public hearings on U.S. agricultural priorities for the upcoming round of World Trade Organization negotiations, which are scheduled to begin in December in Seattle. A list of the hearing dates and sites, which began June 4 and continue through July 23, can be found on NGFA's web site at: http://www.ngfa.org. Click on the "News & Info" icon.

Highlights House Agriculture, FDA and Related Agencies Fiscal 2000 Appropriations Bill

Major Provisions of Interest to the Grain, Feed and Processing Industry:

- **Farm Service Agency** salaries and expenses are increased by $80.3 million (compared to fiscal 1999) to continue delivery of the farm ownership, farm operating, and disaster loan programs. Total funding is $794.8 million, which is the same as the Clinton administration's budget request.

- Total loan authorization levels for **agricultural credit programs** are increased by $723.8 million over last year *[excluding supplemental spending for fiscal 1999]*. Total loan authorization funding is $3.009 billion, which is the same as the Clinton administration's request.

- **Agricultural research** activities are increased by $38 million (compared to fiscal 1999). Total funding is $1.643 billion, which is $37.2 million less than the administration's request.

- **Conservation Operations** activities are increased by $13 million (compared to fiscal 1999), bringing fiscal 2000 funding to $654 million, which is $26 million below the President's request.

- The **Food Safety Inspection Service** is increased by $36 million (compared to fiscal 1999). The resulting total – $653 million – is identical to the Clinton administration's budget proposal.

- The **Food and Drug Administration** is funded at $1.149 billion, a 10 percent increase compared to fiscal 1999 but $57 million less than requested by the Clinton administration.

- The **Food for Peace Program (P.L. 480)** is funded at $1.1 billion, $114 million more than the administration's request and $30 million less than fiscal 1999.

Major Amendments Adopted on the House Floor:

- Cut $102.5 million from four accounts at the USDA and FDA, including the Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (Integrated Activities); Agricultural Research Service (Buildings and Facilities); Rural Housing Service (Administrative Expenses), and the Food and Drug Administration (Salaries and Expenses). *[Rep. C.W. Bill Young, R-Fla.]*:

- Cut the Agriculture Research Service budget by $13 million, and adds $10 million to the Commodity Assistance Program. *[Rep. Bernard Sanders, I-Vt.]*

- Adds $3 million to the Rural Community Advancement Program and decreases by $3 million funds for ocean freight differential for USDA food assistance shipments. *[Rep. Sanders]*

- After March 1, 2000, prohibits funds for the importation of meat or poultry products from any foreign country whose health and safety standards are not equivalent to U.S. standards. *[Rep. Carrie Meek, D-Fla.]*

- A non-binding resolution that urges that any government entity receiving funds under the spending bill should purchase only American-made equipment and products. *[Rep. James A. Traficant, D-Ohio]*

- Cuts the budget for the Office of the Chief Information Officer by $500,000. *[Rep. Tom Coburn, R-Okla.]*

House Approves Sanctions Reform Bill

...Administration Seeks Broader Measure...

The House on June 15 approved a sanctions-reform bill (H.R. 17) introduced by Rep. Tom Ewing, R-Ill.

The action came after the bill was approved by both the House International Relations Committee and House Agriculture Committee. The bill would require the president to report to Congress within five days of imposing agricultural sanctions that are not part of a comprehensive embargo. Under the bill, Congress then would be accorded the right to pass a joint resolution of approval or disapproval of the sanctions. If disapproved, the sanctions would have to be rescinded within 100 days after they were imposed. Sanctions imposed on grounds of national emergency or during a state of war would be exempt from these restrictions.

But during a House Agriculture Committee hearing on June 9, Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat said the

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("House Ag" continued from page 3)

administration would not support bills that have been introduced whose scope is limited to reform of agricultural sanctions. He said the administration also preferred a bill that contained fewer procedural hurdles in drafting sanctions, citing Ewing's bill as an example of an approach the administration did not support. He also said current law prohibits the imposition of agricultural sanctions unless they are part of a comprehensive embargo, a feature duplicated in the Ewing bill. Therefore, Eizenstat said, the Ewing bill would be superfluous and its requirement that Congress vote on a joint resolution of approval or disapproval would infringe upon the president's constitutional authority.

Eizenstat said the administration preferred legislation that would grant broad authority to the president to waive sanctions. He specifically cited bills introduced by Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Richard G. Lugar, R-Ind., and Rep. Phil Crane, R-Ill. (S. 566 and H.R. 1244, respectively), which he said contained the core elements sought by the administration and would be good starting points for arriving at a final bill.

At the House Agriculture Committee hearing, which focused on economic sanctions reform and its effect on U.S. agriculture, House Agriculture Committee Chairman Larry Combest, R-Texas, and others also urged the administration to expand its sanctions policy to apply to credit guarantees and other export assistance.

President Clinton on April 28 announced that he would use his executive authority to exempt commercial sales of food, medicine and equipment from all future unilateral sanctions, except in extraordinary circumstances. The new policy also extends to existing across-the-board sanctions imposed on six countries – Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, Cuba, and the Sudan – permitting a case-by-case review of specific proposals for commercial sales. But the administration has yet to issue regulations to implement the president's action. And the administration does not support the use of U.S. government funding, credit guarantees or other support to assist sales of commodities to countries against which embargoes currently exist.

A U.S. Department of Agriculture analysis found that these sanctions reduced U.S. agricultural exports by an estimated $500 million in 1996. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman said the president's action should help the United States regain its market share in those countries, resulting in additional sales of 500,000 to 1 million metric tons of wheat and corn.

Senate Votes to Suspend India-Pakistan Sanctions for Five Years: In a related action, the Senate voted on June 9 to suspend for five years economic sanctions imposed on India and Pakistan, while keeping in place a ban on military and nuclear technology sales. The sanctions provision was attached to a defense appropriations bill that was approved the same day.

The bill still requires action by the House.

The sanctions against India and Pakistan were imposed automatically after each nation conducted nuclear tests in 1998. A U.S. law passed in 1994 requires the application of broad U.S. sanctions on any "non-nuclear" nation that tests nuclear weapons. President Clinton waived the sanctions against Pakistan and India, but that waiver expires in October.

Hill Highlights

USDA, USTR Name Agricultural Trade Advisory Committee Members: On June 8, Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman and U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barchefsky appointed 146 agricultural experts to serve on the Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee for Trade (APAC) and the five Agricultural Technical Advisory Committees for Trade (ATACs).

The advisory committees were created by Congress in 1974 to provide private-sector input to ensure that U.S. trade policy and trade negotiation objectives reflected U.S. commercial and economic interests. The committees provide information and advice on negotating objectives, bargaining positions and other issues related to the development, implementation and administration of U.S. agricultural trade policy. The advisory committees will be involved in this capacity in advance and during the World Trade Organization negotiations scheduled to begin late this year in Seattle.

Among the appointees is **NGFA President Kendell W. Keith**, who was named for a second term to the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Grains, Feed and Oilseeds. A complete list of the committees and their members is available on the USDA web site at www.usda.gov/news/releases/1999.

Roberts Reintroduces Food Safety Uniformity Bill: Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., on May 27 reintroduced legislation (S. 1155) that generally would preempt state law to provide for national uniformity in food safety warning labels to prevent states from enforcing differing food safety labeling requirements.

States would be permitted to petition the Food and Drug Administration for an exception from the uniformity requirement if they could demonstrate an imminent public harm or a local need to protect an important public interest while not causing any food to be considered adulterated and not unduly burden interstate commerce. The bill is an attempt to preclude states from establishing and enforcing separate, more stringent food safety standards and labels governing the adulteration of food and feed than imposed by FDA.

FEED FACTS

by randall c. gordon
v.p., communications/gov't relations

FDA Issues Import Alert on European Products Resulting from Dioxin Contamination

The Food and Drug Administration on June 11 issued an alert to its import program managers stating that FDA districts may detain "without physical examination" shipments of animal feed, feed ingredients, meats, egg and egg products, and pet food imported from various countries in Europe in response to the dioxin contamination of feed in Belgium.

The Belgium incident occurred in January and involved the contamination of animal fat with dioxins and/or polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) compounds supplied by a rendering company. The product allegedly was shipped to animal feed manufacturers that subsequently was used as an animal feed ingredient. Contaminated feed reportedly was fed to chickens, which resulted in contaminated eggs, and may have been fed to other domestic animals. FDA said any animals fed contaminated feed and which subsequently were slaughtered may have levels of dioxin or PCBs that exceed acceptable levels.

FDA said that before releasing European products detained by the agency, the importer should provide laboratory test results for dioxin and/or PCBs. FDA instructed its district offices not to accept a government or industry certificate of compliance as evidence for allowing entry of a detained product unless it is accompanied by a laboratory test.

FDA Alert Available on NGFA Web Site: A copy of the FDA alert, which specifies the European countries and the products affected, is available on the NGFA's web site at: http://www.ngfa.org. Click on the Reference Desk icon. Then click on the "Feed" section to access the FDA document. NGFA members without Internet access may obtain a copy by calling Jackie Congress at the NGFA at (202) 289-0873.

RAILS, RIVERS AND ROADS

by randall c. gordon
v.p., communications/gov't relations

Conrail Transaction Council to Meet June 23 – Your Input Encouraged

The NGFA is seeking input from members served by the Norfolk Southern and CSX Transportation Co. concerning their experiences in the aftermath of the transfer of operations of the former Conrail to both carriers on June 1.

The input will be helpful when the NGFA participates in the next meeting of the Conrail Transaction Council, scheduled for **June 23** in Washington. The meeting comes amid reports of delays and disrupted shipments in the aftermath of the Conrail acquisition. The council is comprised of representatives of both carriers, as well as organizations representing shippers and receivers served by the former Conrail. The NGFA is a member of the Conrail Transaction Council.

The agenda will be devoted to receiving reports from the Norfolk Southern and CSX concerning measurements of their performance following the June 1 "split date" that transferred operations of Conrail to the two carriers, as well as the experiences of shippers and receivers served by the railroads.

If you have experiences you wish to share with the NGFA, please contact Kendell Keith or Randy Gordon at the NGFA **prior to June 23** by calling (202) 289-0873, or by e-mail at kkeith@ngfa.org or rgordon@ngfa.org, or by fax at (202) 289-5388.

USDA/STB Task Force Issues Fourth Report on Grain Transportation

The joint task force comprised of representatives of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Surface Transportation Board have issued the fourth in an ongoing series of reports on grain transportation prospects.

Among other things, the report projected a "general increase" in grain transportation demand for the next several months in response to "continuing strong domestic demand and expected increases in exports for 1999/2000."

The report noted that U.S. grain and soybean utilization for 1999/2000 is projected to reach a record 15.686 billion bushels, a 2 percent increase from 1998/99 and 367 million bushels greater than the previous record set in 1994/95. Domestic use is projected at 11.534 billion bushels, only 32 million bushels less than the anticipated record domestic use in 1998/99. Export use is projected to increase 8 percent from 1998/99 levels – to 4.152 billion bushels, the highest level since 1995/96.

Obtaining Copies: The report, entitled ***"Grain Transportation Prospects,"*** is available via the Internet at: http://www.stb.gov/Publications/gtp0699.pdf.

by randall c. gordon
v.p., communications/gov't relations

("LDP Rate" continued from page 1)

Texas, said he was unsure whether using all existing terminal markets on which to base a national LDP rate is a prudent approach. And Rep. Tom Ewing, R-Ill., said a change to a national LDP rate might permanently affect Illinois corn and soybean values, lowering land values for producers.

Retroactive Application: USDA officials have told the NGFA previously that **if** USDA implements its uniform national LDP rate system, it will compensate producers who have harvested their crops and obtained an LDP under the PCP-based approach with an extra payment if the national rate would have been higher on the date the producer obtained the LDP. If the LDP rate paid to the producer would have been lower under a uniform national rate, no repayment of the excess LDP will be requested, USDA has said.

Other LDP-Related Remarks: During his testimony, Glickman made these other remarks about LDP-related issues:

- LDP and marketing loan gains have exceeded $3 billion for 1998 crops and are projected to exceed $5 billion for 1999 crops.

- The current system of county loan rates "admittedly" has exacerbated problems with the current PCP-based system for determining LDPs. As previously reported by the NGFA, Glickman said county loan rates for 1998- and 1999-crop wheat and feed grains are essentially identical to those in effect for 1995 crops, which at the time were deemed to be in need of substantial revision to better reflect local market prices. But he said USDA was unwilling to adjust loan rates downward in the current "farm crisis," adding that such action would have reduced loan rates in 69 percent of wheat-producing counties (with a maximum decrease of 68 cents per bushel) and in 35 percent of corn-producing counties (with a maximum decrease of 25 cents per bushel. Glickman also maintained that disparities in LDP rates between counties and states under the current PCP-based system also could not be entirely explained by outdated loan rates, noting that such problems existed in some cases for soybeans, whose loan rates have been adjusted on an ongoing basis since 1995.

- There is "no reason to expect increased forfeitures with a national LDP rate," Glickman said, noting that USDA's analysis showed that if a national rate had been in place for 1998 crops, forfeitures would have been slightly lower.

- A uniform national LDP rate would be consistent with the original intent of Congress because it would resemble the production option payments (POPs) originally introduced for cotton and rice in 1986. POPs were derived by subtracting an adjusted world price estimate from the national average loan rate, then applied to all producers nationwide.

USDA Seeking Nominees for Ag Biotechnology Advisory Committee

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is seeking nominations by July 7 for qualified individuals to serve on a newly established 25-member Agricultural Biotechnology Advisory Committee.

The advisory committee will be responsible for providing counsel to USDA on the broad array of issues related to the expanding "dimensions and importance of agricultural biotechnology." USDA said the advisory group's initial focus will be on: 1) the effects of industry concentration and consolidation on farmers; 2) intellectual property rights and grower autonomy; 3) effects of biotechnology on small farmers; 4) ways to maximize or encourage potential benefits of biotechnology in different agricultural sectors; and 5) USDA's role in ensuring that farmers have an array of choices for future agricultural technology and practices.

USDA said it is seeking a wide array of skills and expertise among the 25-member advisory committee; up to five of the advisory committee members can be federal employees. USDA is proposing that advisory committee members serve one- or two-year terms, and no more than three consecutive terms. Advisory committee members will be reimbursed for travel and per-diem expenses.

NGFA members interested in being nominated to the advisory committee may obtain more information by contacting NGFA Director of Technical Services Tom O'Connor at (202) 289-0873, or by e-mail at toconnor@ngfa.org.

USDA Submits Phosphine Recommendations to EPA

The U.S. Department of Agriculture on May 13 submitted its suggested alternatives to the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed "risk-mitigation measures" for aluminum and magnesium phosphide, which produce the fumigant phosphine gas.

In its letter to EPA, Dr. Allen Jennings, director of USDA's Office of Pest Management Policy, said that "magnesium and aluminum phosphide have a long history of safe use as post-harvest and storage fumigants for agricultural commodities.…" The letter also said that EPA's proposed restrictions on the future use of these chemicals likely would increase pre- and post-harvest use of other pesticides – some of which leave residues – in an effort to comply with the quality limits in the U.S. grain standards. USDA said "a strong justification is needed for a strategy likely to increase residues in lieu of a non-residual technique [i.e., phosphine gas]."

USDA also said that EPA's proposed 500-foot ban and 750-foot notification requirements for those applying aluminum and magnesium phosphide are "impractical." USDA also recommended that the exposure limit for the two chemicals be set at 0.3 parts per million on an eight-hour time-weighted average during application and aeration, and 0.3 p.p.m. ceiling limit at other times. That recommendation is similar to NGFA's, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's current standard; EPA has proposed a much more stringent 0.03 p.p.m. exposure limit. USDA also recommended that EPA focus enhanced safety measures on intensified training of certified applicators; reinforced requirements for placarding of containers, structures and vehicles; and improved enforcement and compliance activities.

USDA's Recommendations: In its letter to EPA, USDA proposed:

- prohibiting gas concentrations exceeding the proposed exposure limit from crossing the property line;
- notifying emergency responders prior to fumigation (intermittent fumigation) and monthly (for routine fumigation);
- sealing doors of fumigated structures, containers and vehicles. USDA further recommended that only certified applicators be allowed to break the seal;
- that EPA study the need for an annual incident-reporting system for phosphine accidents;
- requiring a "fumigator-specific" certification program; and
- requiring that the certified applicator be physically present on the site or premises, and that he/she maintain voice communication with all fumigation workers during all fumigation and aeration activities.

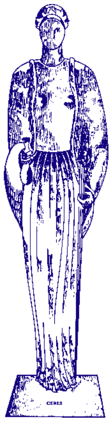
EPA Proposes Technical Change for Residue Tolerances for Phosphine: In a related development, EPA has proposed a technical change in acceptable phosphine residue tolerances to remove any reference to whether the gas was generated by aluminum or magnesium phosphide. Importantly, however, the agency said the change will **not** affect the acceptable level of phosphine on fumigated crops, such as corn, wheat, soybeans, sorghum, oats and barley. In fact, EPA said that no detectable level of phosphine gas is expected on any crops fumigated with these chemicals, provided the product is properly aerated.

EPA Provides Guidance on Propane Risk-Management Plans

In the aftermath of a recent U.S. appellate court decision, the NGFA has learned that the Environmental Protection Agency will provide two options to facilities that previously submitted a risk-management plan for propane exceeding the 10,000-pound limit.

EPA previously announced on May 28 that it was delaying – until Dec. 21 – the effective date for complying with its risk-management plan rule for processes containing no more than 67,000 pounds of covered flammable fuels, including propane. Importantly, the U.S. Court of Appeals for D.C. Circuit stayed the effective date for propane users to submit risk-management plans pending further review by the Court. *[See **NGFA Newsletter**, May 6, 1999 and June 3, 1999.]*

But for facilities that already have submitted risk-management plans for propane to EPA, the agency said it would allow them to either withdraw the plan or leave the plan with EPA as a voluntary submission. If a facility submitted a plan covering both propane and another chemical for which a risk-management plan is required *(e.g., anhydrous ammonia)*, the current plan may be withdrawn and a new plan submitted with propane deleted, EPA said.



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

by todd kemp
director of marketing

Time to Crank Up the Membership Machine!

Attention, all membership recruiters!

Following the predictable post-convention lull in membership recruiting, it's time to pull out your stock of membership applications again.

NGFA Membership Recruiter Network Chair **JoAnn Brouillette**, Demeter Commodities LP, Fowler, Ind., has set a goal to enroll 104 new members by the NGFA's 104th annual convention in San Diego, Calif., next March. The goal is challenging, but achievable; but to meet it, **we need your active involvement**.

JoAnn has identified the following items as centerpieces of the 1999-2000 membership campaign:

- Stressing that only NGFA members are assured of access to arbitration, including the NGFA's new rail arbitration and mediation services.
- Focusing on the NGFA's roster of Top 250 prospects, drawn from every industry sector.
- Providing fun and valuable incentives and prizes to spur competition and motivate recruiters – watch this space for details throughout the year.
- Membership Month: Asking each NGFA recruiter to commit a certain amount of time/effort to recruiting.

Again, watch this space for an announcement of Membership Month soon.

Start laying the groundwork now with your prospects. Contact Todd Kemp or Rhonda Warren at the NGFA at (202) 289-0873 for information or additional materials. Or e-mail either of us at tkemp@ngfa.org or rwarren@ngfa.org.

NGFA Calendar

June 24: **Food and Feed Safety Committee**
NGFA Library/Conference Room, Washington, D.C.

July 15: **Grain Grades and Weights Committee**
NGFA Library/Conference Room, Washington, D.C.

July 21-22: **Country Elevator Committee Meeting**, Holiday Inn, KCI Airport, Kansas City, Mo.

Aug. 2-3: **Feed Industry Committee Meeting,**
Doubletree Downtown Hotel, Omaha, Neb.

Sept. 12-13: **NGFA Board of Directors Meeting**,
Eldorado Hotel, Santa Fe, N.M.

Sept. 14-15: **Feed Quality Assurance Workshop**,
Mankato, Minn.