



Korea to Implement 3 Percent Biotech Labeling Tolerance

...European Parliament Approves Changes to Biotech Rule; Traceability Aspects Onerous...

The Republic of Korea's Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has announced that effective March 1, it will require shipments of unprocessed soybeans and corn, as well as soybean sprouts, to be labeled if it contains a 3 percent or greater presence of biotech-enhanced commodities.

To qualify as complying with the 3 percent threshold – and thereby to avoid labeling – the Koreans will require that the exporter has utilized segregation or identity-preservation systems, and will issue a certificate to those who provide such

assurances. The Korean threshold level has been set at 3 percent to allow for unintentional mixing of biotech-enhanced commodities with non-biotech-enhanced commodities, it said.

Further, the U.S. embassy in Korea reports that the 3 percent tolerance is subject to a further reduction to 1 percent at some unspecified future date, depending upon the availability of sufficiently precise verification techniques and “international trends.”

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NGFA Feed Industry Committee Addressing BSE Issues

The NGFA's Feed Industry Committee is actively reviewing different policy options to proactively address recent developments concerning bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), commonly referred to as “mad cow disease.”

Active surveillance in the United States since 1990 has not detected a single case of BSE.

The NGFA was extensively involved in the development of the Food and Drug Administration's regulations, finalized in 1997, that prohibit the feeding of prohibited mammalian protein to ruminant animals as an additional safeguard to protect against BSE. Subsequently, the NGFA has been engaged in extensive education and information activities to inform the feed manufacturing industry about FDA's BSE-prevention rules and compliance measures. More recently, the NGFA participated in a Jan. 29 meeting organized by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association that resulted in the issuance of a joint statement reaffirming the commitment of a broad array of feed, animal agriculture, rendering and other groups in support of sound, science-based measures as barriers to BSE – including import restrictions on animal and animal proteins from Europe, FDA's BSE-prevention rule, and active education, surveillance and enforcement.

The NGFA has been in active dialogue over the last several weeks with representatives of FDA, the Association of American Feed Control Officials, and the rendering, cattle and meat industries. As the Feed Industry Committee develops policy recommendations for consideration by the NGFA Board of Directors, the committee welcomes input from NGFA members interested or involved in the feed and

feeding industries. Please contact Randy Gordon at the NGFA's staff at (202) 289-0873, or via e-mail at rgordon@ngfa.org.

Major Speakers Added to NGFA Convention Program

The NGFA is pleased to announce the addition of four new speakers to its program for the 105th annual convention on March 14-16 in New Orleans.

During the March 15 general session, one of the most important topics facing the feed and animal agriculture industry – “*Preventing BSE: The Food Safety and Economic Implications*” – will be addressed by **Brad J. Kerbs**, president of Purina Mills Inc., St. Louis, Mo.; and **Dr. Lester M. Crawford**, director of the Georgetown University Center for Food and Nutrition Policy, Washington, D.C. Kerbs was in Europe when BSE incidents first occurred in the United Kingdom, while Dr. Crawford is a world-renowned food scientist who is former director of the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Veterinary Medicine (which oversees the animal feed industry) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service.

Meanwhile, the March 16 general session will feature a discussion of “*Biotechnology – A Strategic Assessment*” – featuring perspectives from the biotechnology industry by **Dr. Terry Medley** (*invited*), vice president, biotechnology, regulatory and external affairs for DuPont, Wilmington, Del., and from the food industry by **Austin Sullivan**, senior vice president for General Mills Inc., Minneapolis, Minn., who chairs the Biotechnology Committee for the Grocery Manufacturers Association.

Rooms still are available at the Fairmont Hotel at the NGFA convention rate – but **ACT NOW** by making your reservations by calling **1-800-635-4440**. To register for the convention on-line, access the convention registration form on the NGFA's web site at www.ngfa.org. Or see the enclosed convention flyer.



Newsletter

by Randall C. Gordon
V.P., Communications/Gov't. Relations

("Biotech Labeling" continued from page 1)

The Korean regulations, contained in Article 27 of a presidential decree, requires that raw corn and soybean shipments containing biotech-enhanced products must be labeled with a statement "*containing genetically modified (soybeans or corn).*" For shipments that **may** contain biotech-enhanced products, the label is required to state: "*may contain genetically modified (soybeans or corn).*" Under the Korean rules, sellers at each stage of the distribution channel, such as producers, importers, intermediaries, wholesalers, retailers, repackers, etc., are required to comply with the labeling requirement.

The Korean regulations also permit voluntary labeling of non-biotech shipments – "*Non-GMO*" or "*GMO-Free*" – but only if the shipment contains 100 percent non-biotech-enhanced products (a zero tolerance).

Effective July 13, Korea also is scheduled to require labeling of processed food products containing biotech-enhanced ingredients.

EU Parliament Action: Meanwhile, the European Parliament by a 338-52 vote (with 85 abstentions) on Feb. 15 approved a new regulatory directive for testing and monitoring the safety of biotech crops, which eventually may mean an end to Europe's two-year moratorium on the planting of commodities containing new biotech events.

But as part of the package, the EU is considering onerous traceability requirements for both food and feed containing biotechnology-enhanced ingredients that are imported by or shipped within the 15-nation trading block.

The next step is for the European Council of Ministers to formally adopt the regulatory framework text, which contains new rules for issuing permits for growing biotech-enhanced commodities in the EU. The legislation updates a 1990 law [*Directive 90/220/EEC*] on biotechnology that was faulted for not specifying a clear regulatory system for biotechnology. The legislation's sponsor said he expected permits for new biotech-enhanced crops to be approved in time to allow them to be planted in the spring of 2002.

If adopted by the European Council of Ministers, EU member states would have 18 months to institute national policies consistent with the directive. Six member states – Austria, Denmark, France, Greece, Italy and Luxembourg – already have indicated their intention not to lift their nation's moratoriums on planting and approval of biotech crops until additional legislation is enacted by the EC that addresses biotech food labeling, traceability and so-called environmental liability.

EU Traceability Provisions: The traceability provisions being considered by the EU would apply to **any food or feed** products derived from biotechnology that are imported to, or shipped within, the EU. Specifically, operators would be required to implement systems and procedures to: 1) identify to whom and from whom products are shipped; 2) transmit the specified information to establish the identity of a product containing individual biotech ingredients; and 3) retain the information for five years and make it available to governmental authorities upon demand.

"The requirement for operators to transmit and retain this information from the stage when GMOs are developed and first placed on the market through their final use as a food or feed or for processing will enable competent authorities to trace GMOs back through the production and distribution chains," according to an EU description of the plan. "This will facilitate withdrawals should an unforeseen effect come to light. Operators importing products into the (EU) will, therefore, have to specify the identity of the GMOs contained in the product." The document also said the proposal is consistent with the EC food law's general principles and requirements, "which establish the principle of traceability at all stages of the production and distribution chain in the food and feed sectors."

The traceability regime could greatly expand the scope of Europe's labeling requirements to include all food and feed products sourced from, as well as containing, biotech commodities, and not just those that testing finds contain biotech commodities exceeding 1 percent – the current labeling threshold. Under the new traceability regime under consideration, any processed or refined foods or feeds derived from biotech commodities where the DNA/protein is not detectable would need to be labeled with documentation from suppliers.

ASTA Seeks 1 Percent Biotech Tolerance for Conventional Seed: In a related development, the American Seed Trade Association is renewing its call for an international standard setting a 1 percent tolerance for the unintentional presence of biotech-enhanced events in conventional seed stock.

ASTA and the International Seed Trade Federation have submitted the proposal to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development – an organization created to foster U.S.-European Union dialogue. The EU has sought a 0.5 percent tolerance for EU-approved varieties and a zero tolerance for EU-unapproved biotech events.



Ag Committees to Resume Farm Bill Hearings

The House and Senate Agriculture Committees have announced new hearings in their ongoing examinations of farm policy.

On Feb. 28 and March 1, the Senate Agriculture Committee will conduct a hearing focusing on the conservation programs in the current farm bill, and proposals to create new ones. Also on Feb. 28, the House Agriculture Committee will continue its series of hearings on specific farm commodity policy proposals when it receives testimony from the American Farm Bureau Federation. The National Cotton Council began the process with its testimony on Feb. 15, in which it called for a continuation of marketing loans, the enactment of a combination of coupled and decoupled payments, retention of planting flexibility and elimination of the payment limits.

Meanwhile, the House Agriculture Committee on Feb. 14 reviewed the condition of the U.S. farm economy. U.S. Department of Agriculture Chief Economist Dr. Keith Collins projected that under current law (without supplemental income payments), net cash farm income in 2001 would be at its lowest level since 1994 and about \$4 billion less than the average of the 1990s. However, Collins provided cautious optimism on several fronts, including projections for slowly increasing commodity prices and exports, which should be strengthened by a weakening dollar.

Collins and Dr. Bruce Gardner of the University of Maryland's Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics both faulted the current commodity loan rate structure and government payment levels for encouraging production, distorting trade, and raising land values and rental rates. Collins said large government payments insulated producers from making sound business decisions on crop production. Gardner also termed acreage-reduction programs of previous farm bills "a major mistake," and urged Congress to reshape farm programs to assist primarily low-income producers rather than attempting to increase commodity market prices through artificial means. He said it was "hopeless" to think that raising commodity prices would meet the needs of low-income producers. Gardner also called the trend toward increased off-farm income by farm families a positive development.

Presenting a contrary view, Dr. Daryll Ray of the University of Tennessee's Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology testified that producers were uniquely unable to adjust acreage in response to market price signals. Ray also maintained that foreign farmers made production decisions without regard to U.S. policy developments.

Farm Legislation in the 107th Congress

The following table summarizes farm legislation introduced thus far in the Senate and House in the 107th Congress.

Number	Sponsor	Provisions
S. 130	Sen. Tim Johnson, D-S.D.	Creates flexible fallow land-idling program
S. 165	Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D.	Proposes increase in commodity loan rates
S. 280	Sen. Tim Johnson, D-S.D.	Would mandate country-of-origin labeling on livestock and perishable agricultural products
S. 333	Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind.	Proposes tax and regulatory relief and trade expansion for producers
H.R. 115	Rep. Rush Holt, D-N.J.	Would create education program on biotechnology
H.R. 230	Rep. Marcy Kaptur, D-Ohio	Would provide for creation of producer bargaining associations
H.R. 338	Rep. Jo Ann H. Emerson, R-Mo.	Would increase payment limit to \$150,000 for 2001 and 2002 crop years for marketing loan gains and loan deficiency payments
H.R. 627	Rep. John Boehner, R-Ohio	Proposes tax and regulatory relief and trade expansion for producers (identical to S. 333)
H.R. 713	Rep. John F. Tierney, D-Mass.	Would require secretary of agriculture to report on safety and regulation of biotech foods

Congressional Budget Debate Begins

While awaiting the scheduled Feb. 27 arrival of President Bush's proposed budget for fiscal year 2002, Congress has begun identifying some of the tough choices it will have to make in the months ahead given the demands on the projected surplus.

Each year, Congress debates the president's budget request and formulates a "budget resolution" – legislation that sets the parameters for government spending. The latest projections put the total 10-year surplus at \$5.6 trillion. Of that, \$2.4 trillion is derived from excess Social Security receipts, and \$392 billion comes from Medicare surpluses. All of the proposals being discussed on Capitol Hill would isolate the surplus funds derived from Social Security, and many would do the same for Medicare. That would leave \$2.4 trillion over 10 years for tax cuts, debt reduction and additional government spending. President Bush is supporting a \$1.6 trillion tax cut over 10 years, but some Republicans are seeking more. Meanwhile, many congressional Democrats are coalescing around a \$900 billion tax cut, while dividing the remainder between debt reduction and more spending.

On the spending side, priorities include increased funds for defense, education and a prescription drug benefit for seniors. Some agriculture groups have called upon Congress to use some of the surplus for a substantial increase in the budget baseline for agriculture spending.



FDA to Repropose Rule on Electronic Records, Electronic Signatures

The Food and Drug Administration plans to repropose sometime next year a new rule on electronic records and electronic signatures to gather input from the food and animal feed manufacturing sectors on the application of such requirements to their respective industries.

That was a major beneficial outcome of a meeting conducted Feb. 13 between FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine and feed industry representatives, including the NGFA. The meeting addressed concerns of the feed industry on whether the agency's rules that contain technical and procedural requirements for businesses that maintain electronic records or that use electronic signatures apply to the feed industry.

Dr. Linda Tollefson, FDA/CVM deputy director, confirmed the agency last October had changed its interpretation concerning the application of the electronic records/electronic signatures rule on the feed industry at the direction of the agency's Office of Regulatory Affairs, which determined that such rules applied to all industries regulated by FDA. However, she said, the agency received complaints from the food and feed industries that the original rulemaking appeared to be directed at the pharmaceutical industry, and that the rules had been developed without adequate input. Tollefson indicated she agreed with an NGFA suggestion

that FDA district offices be notified that the agency plans to repropose its electronic recordkeeping/electronic signatures rule, thereby reducing the possibility that enforcement action would be brought against firms for violating the existing rules.

The NGFA developed talking points for use by the industry delegation that cited several major flaws with the FDA rules as applied to the feed manufacturing industry, including the following: 1) They could discourage mills from using electronic systems by requiring redundant paper records, complex procedures and manual signatures as backup documentation; 2) They could have a disproportionate impact on licensed feed manufacturers that are more likely to use electronic systems and be inspected; 3) They would create additional complexity, time and costs for FDA's already overburdened regulatory inspection activities; 4) They potentially would divert attention away from FDA's more pressing inspection needs, including completing inspections for compliance with the agency's BSE rule; and 5) They would not result in perceptible benefits, since there have been no allegations impugning the integrity of the feed manufacturing industry's electronic records or demonstrating that feed safety or purity has been compromised.

FDA Issues Letter to Industry on Foods Containing Novel Ingredients

The Food and Drug Administration on Feb. 10 issued a notice advising that it had issued a letter to the food industry pertaining to the legal use and marketing of conventional foods containing novel ingredients, including botanicals.

The letter has potential relevance to animal feed, since certain novel ingredients that have not undergone an FDA review for safety and functionality – and have not been classified as generally recognized as safe (GRAS) – are being promoted by some for inclusion in feed for food-producing animals and pet food. The Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO), the professional organization of state and federal feed control agencies, recently established an "Enforcement Strategy for Marketed Ingredients Work Group" to focus on enforcement-related issues concerning novel ingredient that have not been reviewed under AAFCO's ingredient-definition process, which includes an FDA safety review.

In its recent letter to food companies, FDA said it was "concerned that some botanical and other novel ingredients that are being added to conventional foods are neither approved food additives nor generally recognized as having been safe for these uses," in violation of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act.

FDA also said the letter "reminded" manufacturers about legal requirements regarding claims on conventional foods. Under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, certain claims are allowed, such as: 1) health claims (characterizing the relationship between a food substance and a disease or health-related condition); 2) nutrient content claims (characterizing the level of a nutrient in a food); and 3) structure/function claims (characterizing the effect of a food on a structure or function of the body. "FDA must review health claims and nutrient-content claims prior to marketing, unless the claim has been authorized by regulation or by statute under the authoritative-statement-notification procedure," the agency said.



New TRI Reporting Rule on Lead Delayed for 60 Days

The Environmental Protection Agency announced Feb. 16 that it is delaying for 60 days – to **April 17** – the effective date of its rule that would reduce the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) reporting threshold for lead and lead compounds.

The new reporting thresholds were intended to apply to 2001 emissions, which are to be reported in 2002. The latest action is part of the Bush administration's moratorium to provide opportunity for review of certain regulations issued in the waning days of the Clinton administration.

EPA on Jan. 8 had announced it was reducing the TRI reporting threshold for lead and lead compounds to 100 pounds for reports submitted under Section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act. The previous threshold had been 25,000 pounds for manu-

facturing and processing, and 10,000 pounds for other use categories. EPA originally had proposed changing the reporting threshold in August 1999 to 10 pounds because it believed lead and lead compounds were "highly bioaccumulative." However, data submitted to EPA during the rulemaking process indicated that its proposed 10-pound level would negatively affect virtually all feed mills. The agency plans to convene a special review panel to consider whether lead and lead compounds are highly bioaccumulative, leaving open the possibility that it subsequently could reduce the threshold further. Lead is a naturally occurring contaminant that may be present at trace levels in minerals and nutrients commonly used in manufacturing animal feed. Removing these minute levels from ingredients would be cost-prohibitive and infeasible.

USDA Announces 2000-Crop Oilseed Payments

The U.S. Department of Agriculture on Feb. 20 announced it will make about \$500 million in payments to 590,000 oilseed producers as authorized under the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000.

yield is based on planted acres in 1997, 1998 or 1999, except that for new producers the payment acres are based on 2000-crop-year plantings. The payment rates, by state, are depicted in the accompanying chart.

Eligible for the payments are producers who planted soybeans, sunflowers, flaxseed, canola, rapeseed, safflowerseed, mustard, crambe and sesame in 2000. Payments are calculated based on the five-year average price for each oilseed, after dropping the high and low years, and are adjusted to keep spending within the \$500 million authorized level. The final payment rates are 1.8 percent more than the projected rates announced prior to the Oct. 16-Jan. 12 signup period. The producer's payment

2000-Crop Oilseed Program Payments					
State	Number of Producers	Amount (1,000 \$)	State	Number of Producers	Amount (1,000 \$)
Alabama	1,718	\$952	Nebraska	43,658	\$31,358
Arizona	14	\$10	Nevada	4	\$1
Arkansas	16,219	\$17,204	New Hampshire	2	\$1
California	947	\$983	New Jersey	425	\$499
Colorado	1,449	\$916	New Mexico	18	\$10
Connecticut	6	\$1	New York	953	\$789
Delaware	891	\$1,028	North Carolina	10,436	\$6,498
Florida	124	\$80	North Dakota	18,395	\$22,485
Georgia	1,502	\$783	Ohio	38,272	\$31,634
Idaho	578	\$209	Oklahoma	3,574	\$1,836
Illinois	101,678	\$73,160	Oregon	152	\$90
Indiana	47,036	\$37,978	Pennsylvania	3,384	\$1,766
Iowa	80,618	\$80,127	Rhode Island	0	\$0
Kansas	37,592	\$17,805	South Carolina	2,109	\$1,676
Kentucky	11,814	\$6,677	South Dakota	24,606	\$30,181
Louisiana	6,750	\$5,131	Tennessee	10,632	\$6,250
Maine	43	\$13	Texas	3,212	\$1,822
Maryland	2,948	\$2,642	Utah	169	\$168
Massachusetts	17	\$2	Vermont	16	\$6
Michigan	14,961	\$13,050	Virginia	2,644	\$2,156
Minnesota	38,571	\$51,049	Washington	317	\$96
Mississippi	5,659	\$9,455	West Virginia	126	\$118
Missouri	40,131	\$28,861	Wisconsin	15,880	\$10,478
Montana	880	\$613	Wyoming	91	\$38





EPA Announces Agreement on Phosphine

The Environmental Protection Agency has announced that it has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the registrants of aluminum/magnesium phosphide (which produces the fumigant phosphine gas) that will permit its continued use in grain handling and processing operations.

The agency is seeking comment on the MOA through March 5. As reported in the Nov. 30 edition of the *NGFA Newsletter*, the MOA contains several key provisions:

- ▶ A requirement that the product registrants submit a fumigation management plan to the agency that contains procedures for monitoring fumigated areas, notifying local emergency responders prior to fumigation, notification of local residents in case of an emergency and documentation of the plan's development and monitoring results. EPA said each of the product registrants had submitted draft plans by Jan. 1;
- ▶ Submit draft label revisions to EPA by June 1; and
- ▶ Submit the first annual incident analysis report and draft protocols and feasibility studies for collecting fumigation monitoring data by April 1. EPA said the product registrants also are to begin conducting applicator training and certification programs during 2001.

In exchange, EPA has dropped its previous proposal to prohibit fumigation within 500 feet of a residence, as well as its earlier proposal to require advance notification of businesses and residences within a 750-foot radius of a planned fumigation. In addition, the current 0.3-part-per-million exposure limit will remain in effect while EPA evaluates data on the health effects of phosphine submitted to the agency by Sciences International, a group retained by the product registrants and users to collect such data. The MOA commits the agency to provide an opportunity for public comment before taking any action to reduce the exposure limit to less than 0.3 p.p.m.

USDA Sets Meeting on Reldan™ for March 29: In another agricultural pest control development, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Pest Management Policy has scheduled a March 29 meeting in Kansas City to discuss a strategy for phasing out the use of Reldan™ and to develop a viable alternative for use on wheat and other grains. The meeting is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Hilton Kansas City Airport Hotel, located at 8801 N.W. 112th St. Those interested in attending should contact Ted Rogers of USDA's Office of Pest Management Policy at (202) 720-3846 or via e-mail at trogers@ars.usda.gov.

Hotel rooms are available by contacting the Hilton by March 7 at (816) 891-8900.

EPA has indicated it plans to phase out the use of Reldan (Chlorpyrifos-methyl) by Dec. 31, 2004. While EPA does not think the product poses a food safety or ecological problem, it believes it may pose an unacceptable occupational risk to those involved in mixing and handling the chemical. The manufacturer of Reldan decided not to pursue the additional scientific studies needed to address the agency's concerns with potential occupational exposure.

Under EPA's current plan, the chemical could be manufactured and sold until Dec. 31, 2003 and existing stocks could be used through Dec. 31, 2004. In addition, tolerances for the chemical's residue would be retained for an additional four years – until Dec. 31, 2008 – to allow raw material and finished food products that may have been treated with the pesticide to clear market channels. EPA estimates that 80,000 pounds of Reldan currently are used annually, with approximately 80 percent applied to wheat and other grains. EPA has agreed to work closely with USDA, manufacturers and the industry to ensure that its regulatory review process does not unduly delay the introduction of new alternative products to replace Reldan.

Tech Tidbit

▶ **U.S. Replies to EU on Proposed Ochratoxin Limits:** The United States has submitted a formal response to the European Union's proposed maximum limits for ochratoxin A in imports of cereal grains, cereal products and dried vine fruit. The EU has proposed, effective July 2001, to set a limit of 5 parts per billion for ochratoxin A in raw cereal grains, 3 p.p.b. in cereal products and 10 p.p.b. in dried vine fruit. In addition, the EU proposed an official method for sampling and analyzing for ochratoxin A in bulk shipments of such products.

The U.S. response, submitted to the World Trade Organization's Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, called the EU action premature, noting that the Codex Alimentarius Committee on Food Additives and Contaminants has asked that the Codex Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives study the health risks posed by the toxin. In addition, work is underway on establishing good agricultural and manufacturing practices to minimize dietary exposure to ochratoxin A. The U.S. response also said that more objective data are needed on the distribution and occurrence of ochratoxin A before it is possible to set scientifically sound, achievable maximum limits for the substance.





Changes Considered to National Fire Code for Grain, Feed Facilities

The National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Technical Committee on Agricultural Dusts met on Feb. 6-8 in Boston, Mass., to consider a series of changes to its standard designed to protect personnel from injury and property from damage caused by fires and explosions at grain elevators, feed manufacturing plants, mills and applicable portions of processing plants.

The standard (NFPA 61) was developed in 1923 and originally consisted of four separate standards, which in 1995 were combined into one. The standard was last updated in 1999, at which time the technical committee decided to place it on a three-year review cycle that is scheduled for completion in 2002.

NFPA is an independent, voluntary nonprofit organization founded in 1896 to develop scientifically based consensus codes and standards, as well as to conduct research and education on fire and related safety issues. NGFA Safety, Health and Environmental Quality Committee Chairman James E. Maness, assistant vice president, Bunge Corp., St. Louis, Mo., serves on the NFPA 61 technical committee, while NGFA Director of Technical Services Thomas C. O'Connor serves as an alternate. Both represent the Grain Elevator and Processing Society, with which the NGFA has a strategic alliance.

Major Actions: During the meeting, the NFPA technical committee **approved** a major reorganization of the code, including:

- ▶ a proposal clarifying that floor sweeps are allowed provided they are on a separate dust collection system with the fan downstream of the filter. The use of floor sweeps currently is prohibited under NFPA 61; and
- ▶ a reorganization the code's provisions that apply to elevator legs. In so doing, the committee rejected proposals that would have mandated additional alarms and equipment shutdown when legs slowed to less than 90 percent of normal operating speed. The committee also debated, but did not approve, a proposal to provide special firefighting access doors to leg areas with combustible lining material, since the standard already requires access doors to the leg and boot sections of the leg. But the committee added a provision to the standard to allow the use of combustible lining in high-wear areas of spouts and handling equipment, with advisory language indicating that the use of non-combustible lining is preferred and adequate access should be considered for firefighting in spouts and equipment lined with combustible lining.

The committee **rejected** a proposal to prohibit structural openings between storage areas of bulk grain silos and tanks

because it would not materially improve safety and could contribute to an explosion hazard where separate dust control is not provided in each bin. It also rejected a proposal to require lightning protection on all structures higher than 50 feet above grade because such an arbitrary standard would not be justified in many locations and would unnecessarily burden the industry. Also rejected was a proposal to prohibit dust collected by a dust-control system to be returned to the grain stream inside the facility unless the dust had been treated with a dust suppressant. The committee concluded that dust could be returned to the grain stream without materially increasing the explosion hazard, provided the dust is handled in a manner that does not cause excessive airborne dust (e.g., mixed with grain or placed under a layer of grain).

During the meeting, concerns also were raised over whether NFPA's standardized language on retroactive application of the standard to existing facilities could result in local fire officials applying the new code's requirements in the absence of an unacceptable risk. However, the committee approved the change based upon a NFPA staff recommendation that such wording has been adopted by other NFPA committees and has not posed problems.

Next Steps: The NFPA next will publish a report on the committee's actions by early Spring for public review and comment. Those comments will be reviewed at the committee's next scheduled meeting in October 2001. The changes are required to be passed by a two-thirds majority vote before they are forwarded to NFPA for final approval. The newly revised standard is scheduled for publication in July 2002 after being reviewed and approved by NFPA membership at its annual meeting in Spring 2002.

Convention to End with a Bang!

The NGFA's 105th annual convention next month will end, fittingly, with a New Orleans' style Mardi Gras evening during the March 16 banquet.

Featured entertainment is the Second City Improv Troupe from Ontario, Canada. Many of the original cast members from the "Saturday Night Live" television show got their start with this troupe, and today's group of actors and comedians keeps Second City's reputation alive with their hilarious comedy routines.

But that's not all we've planned! What would a trip to New Orleans be without a parade? So, put on your masks and join us for an authentic Second Line Mardi Gras Parade. We'll even crown our own King and Queen of the Ball! Mardi Gras costumes are optional (and we'll provide the masks); dress for the banquet is suit or coat and tie for the men, cocktail dress for the women, and lots of Mardi Gras fun for everyone!



Membership Matters

by Todd Kemp
Director of Marketing

Membership in Final Drive to Convention!

...Fabulous Prizes Await Recruiters in New Orleans...

With the NGFA's 105th annual convention looming, membership recruiters are working overtime to sign new members and qualify for fabulous cash and membership prizes to be awarded in New Orleans.

At the Grand Opening Breakfast on March 15, here are some of the prizes that will be presented:

- ▶ **1st Prize:** Weekend in Hilton Head – Travel sponsored by **John P. Stewart Inc.**, Albuquerque, N.M.; accommodations provided by **Westin Hilton Head Resort**, site of the 2002 NGFA annual convention.
- ▶ **2nd Prize:** NGFA/GE Railcar – One year's rent-free use of the specially painted railcar, a symbol of the support provided by **GE Capital Rail Services**, Chicago, Ill., to the NGFA's membership program.
- ▶ **3rd Prize:** Three months of free DTN services – Sponsored by **DTN**, Omaha, Neb.
- ▶ **Rookie of the Year Award:** A special prize awarded to the first-time recruiter compiling the most recruiting points – A free upgrade at next year's convention in Hilton Head.

▶ **Affiliate Competition – Individual:** The executive of an NGFA affiliate member compiling the most points receives two free nights at next year's Hilton Head convention.

▶ **The Nootbaar Award:** An endowment created by former NGFA Chairman Herb Nootbaar funds an annual cash prize for which all sponsors are eligible. A random drawing will determine this year's winner, who receives a **\$500 cash prize!**

How Do You Qualify? Get on the phone, talk to that prospect you've been thinking about recently, and invite them to join the NGFA! If your prospect joins and selects you as the sponsor, your name is in the hat for these prizes.

Where Do We Stand? At press time, 76 new member companies have been recruited since last year's convention. Currently, 29 new members still are needed to reach our 105-new member goal. Challenging? No doubt. Doable? Yes, but we need your help today! Call your prospects now, and contact the NGFA staff if you need membership materials or talking points.



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TIME SENSITIVE



NGFA's 105th Annual Convention
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