



NGFA

Newsletter[®]

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EU to Require 'Certification' that U.S. Corn Gluten Feed, Brewers Grains Free of Bt10 Biotech Corn Event

European Union member states today (April 15) approved a European Commission (EC) temporary "emergency measure" requiring starting early next week that imports of U.S. corn gluten feed and brewers grains be "certified" as free of the unapproved Bt10 biotech corn event inadvertently distributed by Syngenta AG.

Specifically, the EC's procedures require that U.S. corn gluten feed and brewers grains exported to the EU be accompanied by an "analytical report by an accredited laboratory that demonstrates, based on a suitable and validated method, that the product does not contain Bt10." Individual EU member states will be responsible for implementing the procedures, as well as for conducting random sampling and analysis of products already on the market. The EU said importers of U.S. corn gluten feed and brewers grains will be responsible for "ensuring that they are certified as free of Bt10." Corn intended for food products in the EU were exempted from the "emergency measure" for the time being based upon information indicating that EU food products are not affected by the Bt10 trait. "However, the measure...requires the member states to monitor whether (biotech) food products are present on their market, whether these have been contaminated by Bt10 and to inform the commission," said the EC notice. "The commission...will consider additional measures on food if the evidence requires it."

The "emergency measure" was approved by the EU's Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health, comprised of representatives of each of the EU member states and the EC. The measure is to be reviewed by the EC by the end of October to see if it still is needed. EU Health and Consumer Protection Commissioner Markos Kypriano is scheduled to visit U.S. government officials starting April 18 to discuss the matter further.

Syngenta, in an April 7 letter, informed the NGFA that it has contracted with GeneScan USA to develop and validate a specific PCR detection system for the Bt10 field corn event. The company said it had provided GeneScan with pertinent DNA sequences and authentic reference material to expedite the development and validation of the analytical method specific to the Bt10 trait. Syngenta added that "[n]one of the commercially DNA-based assays currently available have authentic Bt10 reference material to validate a test that will identify Bt10...necessary to mitigate false positives in testing results."

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) on April 12 issued a statement saying that the "assertion" that Bt10 corn is similar to Bt11 "has yet to be confirmed." EFSA said that both it and the EC "have therefore requested that Syngenta release full information about the safety characteristics of Bt10 and its distinction from Bt11 for further evaluation."

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Battle Lines Drawn at Senate Hearing on CAFTA-DR Trade Deal

The arguments of both advocates and opponents of the Central American-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) were on full display April 13 during a hearing conducted by the Senate Finance Committee.

While the hearing presented a convincing case of the benefits of the accord overall for U.S. agriculture and other economic sectors, opposing interests used it to display the lobbying prowess they have employed in the last several months in an effort to defeat the measure and demonstrated the lobbying challenges that lie ahead for pro-CAFTA-DR interests.

Committee Chairman Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, a strong proponent of the CAFTA-DR agreement, opened the hearing by noting the broad benefits to such diverse sectors as microchips and industrial machinery manufacturing, as well as to major U.S.

grain, oilseed and meat sectors. Grassley further noted that many people don't understand that for most of agriculture, "CAFTA-DR levels the playing field. It takes one-way trade and makes it a two-way street." Acting U.S. Trade Representative Peter Allgeier, testifying on behalf of the Bush administration, amplified that because of past preferential agreements with Central American countries implemented by bipartisan supporters under the Reagan and Clinton administrations, "...99 percent of Central America's and the Dominican Republic's farm exports to the United States are duty-free (already)." Allgeier concurred that the primary impact of the CAFTA-DR agreement would be to provide more unimpeded access for U.S. exports into these markets and a more level playing field for trade. But Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., the ranking member of the committee, called the CAFTA-DR accord the "most divisive since NAFTA."

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("Bt10" continued from page 1)

However, the EFSA statement generally supported Syngenta's previous assertion that the antibiotic marker gene present in the Bt10 (but not the Bt11) corn trait is unlikely to represent a concern over contributing to antibiotic resistance in humans. EFSA noted that an April 2004 decision by its Panel on Genetically Modified Foods had found that while the ampicillin-resistant marker gene should not be present in future biotech plants commercialized in the EU, it also concluded that its presence in a biotech-enhanced crop "is unlikely to alter the existing pool of bacteria resistant to this antibiotic significantly..." Syngenta had said earlier that the marker gene is not active in the plant and hence has no impact on the safety profile of the corn.

Japan and South Korea Evaluating Next Steps: Meanwhile, a joint USDA-Food and Drug Administration delegation also met this week with Japanese and South Korean government officials in Tokyo and Seoul to discuss the Bt10 corn incident and the U.S. government's findings that the Bt10 corn event does not pose a safety concern to human or animal health, or to the environment. As the *NGFA's Newsletter* went to press, these discussions still were ongoing and the final outcome was uncertain.

Syngenta Fined for Inadvertent Release of Bt11 Biotech Corn: Meanwhile, Syngenta on April 8 announced it had agreed to a settlement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture involving a \$375,000 fine and a requirement that it conduct compliance training in response to its inadvertent distribution of the unapproved Bt10 biotech corn event. In its statement, Syngenta said it welcomed the settlement and said that USDA and the Environmental Protection Agency had reviewed scientific information and "concluded that there are no human or animal health or environmental concerns with Bt10 corn." Syngenta's statement said that the Bt10 event was found in

five Bt corn breeding lines in the United States, three of which were used between 2001 and 2004 primarily for "pre-commercial development." The seeds produced using the Bt10 lines potentially could have been planted on an estimated 37,000 acres in the United States in as many as eight states, Syngenta has said. The inadvertent release was announced publicly for the first time on March 21.

Syngenta has notified U.S. government officials that the Bt10 trait was not introduced into its waxy corn, sweet corn or white corn breeding lines. In addition, no Bt10-containing hybrids were marketed as high oil, nutritionally dense or high-extractable starch products, it said. Syngenta also said that "with the exception of one hybrid that was commercialized in small quantities, seed products containing Bt10 did not reach a commercial numbering stage... (and) therefore were not proposed for or placed on approved product lists for hard endosperm identity-preserved use."

Syngenta maintains that the Bt protein spectrum produced by Bt10 is identical to the protein produced by the Bt11 variety resistant to the European corn borer that has been approved for food and feed use, as well as for cultivation, in the United States, Canada, Argentina, Japan, South Africa and Uruguay. In addition, Bt11 corn is approved for import for food and feed in the European Union, Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan, the Philippines, China, Russia and Korea. Bt11 corn was approved for cultivation and human consumption in the United States in 1996, for food and feed use in Japan in 1996, and for human consumption in the EU in 1998. Syngenta officials said that the Bt10 corn differs from Bt11 by only a handful of nucleotides on a section of the gene that does not code for the protein toxin. The NGFA and the North American Export Grain Association continue to be actively engaged with U.S. government officials in efforts to address concerns of U.S. corn export markets.

Japanese Approve Stacked Biotech Corn Event

Dow AgroSciences LLC, based in Indianapolis, Ind., and Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc., headquartered in Des Moines, Iowa, announced April 4 that Japan has approved for import the biotechnology-enhanced corn event that contains the stacked trait combination of Herculex I Insect Protection and Roundup Ready corn 2.

The Japanese action completes the full food, feed and environmental approvals required within its regulatory system. The Herculex I and Roundup Ready traits previously had received individual approvals for biotech corn imported by

Japan. But the Japanese regulatory system requires that the stacked traits complete a separate regulatory review, even though the traits have been approved individually. Both traits also have been fully approved individually in the United States and Canada, which do not require separate regulatory approval for stacked insect-resistant and herbicide-resistant traits. But the companies noted that since approval has not been granted in all major export markets, corn hybrids containing the stacked trait will continue to be subject to their "market-channeling and export restriction" programs.



("CAFTA-DR" continued from page 1)

Most of the questions during the hearing focused on whether the accord might be renegotiated to exclude sugar and how the administration might use its authority to make payments to CAFTA sugar producers rather than permit the full use of the increased quotas, a provision that is part of the CAFTA-DR agreement as written. Allgeier responded that there was no doubt that if the United States were to pursue a sugar exclusion, virtually all the other areas of agricultural trade of benefit to U.S. interests would also be back on the table for renegotiation. Regarding the administration's plans for using the emergency relief provision (paying CAFTA sugar producers, rather than permitting imports that might inhibit the operation of the U.S. sugar program), Allgeier offered few specifics, but pledged to work with senators to ensure that use of the provision was effective in the prevention of disruption to markets.

Lochiel Edwards, a wheat farmer from Montana representing all major national U.S. wheat organizations, noted that wheat and barley are the second and third most important agricultural commodities in Baucus' home state, and that beef ranked first – each of which stands to benefit from CAFTA-DR approval. Edwards noted his disappointment in the precedents set by trade negotiators in the long phase-in period for free trade and the exemption of white corn from

complete tariff elimination, but stated that the agreement remains "a positive one for U.S. agriculture" and has adequate protection for sugar interests.

CAFTA-DR supporters opened the week with an April 11 press briefing featuring Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns, USTR Special Agriculture Negotiator Allen Johnson and former Rep. Cal Dooley, D-Calif., who now heads the Food Products Association (formerly National Food Processors Association). The U.S. Agriculture for CAFTA-DR Coalition includes more than 50 agricultural organizations, including the NGFA, North American Export Grain Association and the Pet Food Institute.

Next Steps: Despite strong support from U.S. agriculture and business interests, the treaty is encountering stiff resistance on Capitol Hill primarily over sugar and textile issues. The NGFA and NAEGA will be lobbying actively in support of the measure, both individually and through the broader coalition, and will be soliciting members' support to contact your senators and congressman.

A House Ways and Means Committee hearing is scheduled for April 21. Supporters hope that a May vote can be taken in the House followed closely by the Senate. Concern remains that Republican leaders do not have sufficient votes in either chamber to pass the measure yet.

Hill Highlights

Inland Waterways Construction Bill Passed by Senate

Committee: In a significant development, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on April 13 approved by voice vote the 2005 version of the water resources development Act (S. 728) that, among other things, would authorize federal funding for long-overdue lock extensions and other projects on the Upper Mississippi-Illinois River System. The bill includes authorization of \$2.475 billion in federal funds for the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway and includes \$1.58 billion for ecosystem restoration. New locks would be authorized for 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, LaGrange and Peoria, mooring facilities for 12, 14, 18, 20, 22, 24 and LaGrange, and switchboats at 20-25. The measure was introduced by Sen. Kit Bond, R-Mo., and a bipartisan group of 16 cosponsors. [See enclosed *Issues and Actions* for more information.]

In addition to passing the measure, the committee also rejected an onerous U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reform amendment introduced by the committee's ranking member, Sen. James Jeffords, I-Vt. The Jeffords amendment was identical to the Corps' reform provisions included in last year's version of the bill, which Bond noted would result in the same outcome – no action on the WRDA bill – if it were

included in this year's version. Of particular concern was the Jeffords amendment's unrealistic "standard for mitigation," which would have: 1) imposed a planning provision that would have required the secretary of the Army to collaborate with a new "Water Resources Planning Council" in evaluating potential projects; 2) required the Corps to contract for independent peer reviews of all of its studies, no matter how non-controversial, **after** they are completed; and 3) created a Corps' River Stewardship Commission consisting of political employees to "investigate" the Corps on a variety of issues, including compliance with environmental and cultural resources laws, its cooperation with other federal agencies, its ability to balance the multipurpose uses of a river, and ultimately, whether the Corps should be trusted with managing the inland waterways system.

Instead, the committee adopted the bipartisan compromise of Corps reform measures drafted by Sens. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., and Mary Landrieu, D-La., that would improve the Corps' operations while not overburdening the agency with additional reviews and regulations.

The bill's supporters are calling for quick Senate passage before Congress begins its Memorial Day recess. The

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On Capitol Hill

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more onerous Corps reform measures are expected to be reintroduced when the bill reaches the Senate floor for consideration. A comparable bill is expected to be introduced soon in the House, which passed a WRDA bill in 2003.

Bush Administration Nominees Approved by Senate Committees; Hold Continues on Crawford Nomination to FDA: The Senate Agriculture Committee approved by a 20-0 vote the nomination of **Charles F. Conner** to become deputy secretary of agriculture. Meanwhile, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on April 13 approved the nominations of **John Paul Woodley** to become assistant secretary of the army for civil works, the position that oversees the U.S. Army of Corps of Engineers and has considerable responsibilities in the Corps' project-approval process. It also approved, by a 17-1 vote, the nomination of **Stephen Johnson** to become the new administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. The lone dissenting vote was cast by Sen. Thomas Carper, D-Del., who complained the Bush administration still was blocking his request for studies on how to cut pollution from power plants. Johnson, who currently serves as acting

administrator, has been with EPA for 24 years and if confirmed would become the first scientist to head the agency. And it unanimously approved the nomination of Major General **Don Riley** to become a member and president of the Mississippi River Commission (MRC). The MRC makes policy recommendation and conducts studies and reports on the necessity for modifications or additions to the flood control and navigation projects on the Mississippi River. Its work is carried out by the six Army Engineer Districts at St. Paul, Minn., Rock Island, Ill., St. Louis, Mo., Memphis, Tenn., Vicksburg, Miss., and New Orleans, La.

Meanwhile, the nomination of **Dr. Lester M. Crawford** to be commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration remained in limbo, after the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions launched an "investigation" based upon unspecified allegations leveled by an "anonymous FDA employee." Earlier, Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., and Patty Murray, D-Wash., had delayed Crawford's confirmation because of the agency's delay in announcing whether it will approve over-the-counter distribution of a so-called "morning-after" contraceptive medication.



Feed Facts

by Randall C. Gordon
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FDA Urged to Ban Subtherapeutic Use of Antibiotics in Feed

A consortium of five organizations that oppose the subtherapeutic use of seven antibiotics in animal feed filed a citizen's petition with the Food and Drug Administration on April 7 seeking to ban such use.

The 20-page petition, which is available by clicking here for members receiving the *NGFA Newsletter* electronically, urges FDA to withdraw approvals for herd-wide or flock-wide subtherapeutic uses of the antibiotics in chicken, swine and beef cattle for purposes of growth promotion and disease control unless bacterial infection has been diagnosed within specific animals within a herd or flock. The seven antibiotics for which the groups are urging FDA to impose restrictions are: penicillins, tetracyclines, aminoglycosides, streptogramins, macrolides, lincomycin and sulfonamides. FDA is required to respond to citizen's petitions, but its response can be that it is studying the submission.

The organizations maintain that prohibiting the routine subtherapeutic use of the antibiotics is required to comply with previously issued FDA guidance (Guidance for Industry #152) issued on Oct. 23, 2003, which addresses the agency's process for evaluating the safety of antimicrobial new animal drugs with respect to their potential to contribute to the buildup of human resistance when such drugs are

used to treat bacterial infections. The groups urge that FDA amend its approvals for the seven antibiotic drugs to permit their use only to control or prevent disease that involves administration to an individual animal, or to select groups or pens of animals, or in response to a diagnosed outbreak of bacterial disease within a confinement building, house or feedlot. The five advocacy groups submitting the citizen's petition were: the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Public Health Association, Environmental Defense, Food Animal Concerns Trust and the Union of Concerned Scientists.

The filing of the citizen's petition was timed to coincide with the reintroduction of legislation in Congress that would phase out within two years the subtherapeutic uses of the seven antibiotics in livestock and poultry production unless FDA determines that continued use does not contribute to resistance to the antibiotics in humans. The bill was introduced in the Senate by Sens. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass.; Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins, both R-Maine; Mary Landrieu, D-La.; and Jack Reed, D-R.I. The House bill was reintroduced by Rep. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio., ranking member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Health Subcommittee.





USDA Nears Completion of Emerson Trust SWW Sales

The U.S. Department of Agriculture told the NGFA that as of April 14, it had entered into transactions to sell 3,560,486 bushels of soft white wheat in response to its second invitation (BCD-91), issued on Feb. 10, to purchase 100,000 metric tons (approximately 3,674,333 bushels) of soft white wheat from the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust.

That leaves only 113,865 bushels of soft white wheat previously released from the Emerson Trust still available for sale. USDA said nine of the 18 sales made thus far in response to its Feb. 10 purchase invitation have been made to third-party buyers.

Total Emerson Trust Sales: Cumulatively, USDA said that as of April 14 in response to both Emerson Trust buy/sell transaction invitations, CCC had sold 7,234,801 bushels of soft white wheat – 3,096,343 bushels to six different storing warehouse operators, and 4,138,458 bushels to five third-party buyers. USDA said that leaves 113,865 bushels of soft white still available for purchase under the total 7,348,666 bushels released from the Emerson Trust.

For both invitations, USDA utilized buy/sell transactions. Storing warehouse operators had exclusive rights to enter

into negotiated sales with CCC to purchase any or all CCC-owned soft white wheat stored in their locations until Feb. 16, at which time the purchase rights were opened to all interested bidders, including third parties. For both invitations, third-party buyers were restricted to purchasing a total of no more than 35 percent of the quantity of soft white wheat stored at a given location as of Dec. 3, 2004, based upon the CCC warehouse code. That 35 percent limit includes any quantity previously purchased by the storing warehouse operator. **USDA said thus far, sales involving eight warehouses have reached the 35 percent maximum allowed; stocks still remain available at 26 other warehouses.** CCC allows storing warehouse operators to purchase a quantity in excess of the 35 percent maximum level, provided the bid does not result in CCC exceeding the 200,000 metric ton maximum release authorized from the Emerson Trust.

The release of up to 200,000 metric tons (approximately 7.35 million bushels) from the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust was announced on Dec. 3 by then-Secretary of Agriculture Ann M. Veneman. All CCC-owned soft white wheat grading U.S. No. 2 or better is considered to be Emerson Trust stocks and is being made available for the transactions.

NGFA Saddened by Death of Former President C.B. “Jack” Felts Jr.

The NGFA was saddened to learn of the death on April 5 of long-time industry leader C.B. “Jack” Felts, 77, who served as the NGFA’s 52nd president from 1988-90.

A native of Kansas City, Mo., Felts worked for more than 30 years with Garvey Elevators Inc., Fort Worth, Texas, where he served as its president. At the time, Garvey consisted of more than 40 country and terminal elevators in Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado and Texas. He also served as vice chairman of JaGee Corp. and its three subsidiaries, which were involved in rural and urban investment and development, oil jobbing and ranch management.

Felts also served as chairman of the NGFA’s Safety and Health Committee from its inception in 1976 until 1987. He also served as a member of the NGFA’s Board of Directors; Executive Committee; and Fire and Explosion Research Council, including as the first chairman of its Education and Information Committee.

“Jack was a strong, principled and courageous leader who always had the industry’s best interests at heart,” said NGFA President Kendell W. Keith. “He also had a deep and fervent devotion to the cause of developing scientifically sound and practical ways to enhance the safety and health of employees working in grain, feed and processing facilities, and was a leader in the industry’s efforts through the NGFA to reduce

and eliminate fires and explosions. He had a very positive, lasting impact on both the NGFA and those fortunate enough to be associated with him. He was a joy to be with, and we extend our deepest sympathies to his wife of 57 years, Jeannine, and all of the Felts family.”



Felts was a graduate of the University of Missouri and a certified public accountant. He also served as president of the Texas Grain and Feed Association and the Fort Worth Chapter of the Financial Executive Institute, and was a member of the Chicago and Kansas City Boards of Trade.





BNSF Initiates Temporary Adjustment to Wheat Fuel Surcharge

The BNSF Railway announced April 13 that effective May 1 it will reduce many of its wheat transportation rates by \$115 per car to "reflect the disproportional difference" between the current revenue-based fuel surcharge and the mileage-based fuel surcharge on grain that the carrier intends to implement starting Jan. 1.

BNSF on March 29 announced that it would become the first railroad to begin assessing fuel surcharges on a mileage basis. In that notice, BNSF said the implementation period was necessary to make the required changes to its computer systems and to those of some of its customers, as well as to provide time to review the market-spread relationships and trading rules affected by a change to a mileage-based fuel surcharge.

"However, our review raised a concern that our wheat shippers will be disproportionately affected between now and the end of 2005 compared with shippers of other grains," BNSF said in its April 13 statement. "Thus, the

purpose of the temporary rate reduction is to make total transportation costs for the affected wheat shippers roughly the same as when the mileage-based fuel surcharge implementation begins."

BNSF said it would post specific temporary tariff changes on its ACRES web site starting April 20. The rates will be applicable only for BNSF direct business, and will not apply to interline- and short-line shipments.

BNSF Alters Policy on Hauling Animal Proteins in Railroad-Controlled Cars: In a separate development, the BNSF announced April 6 that effective July 1, it no longer would provide railroad- owned or leased covered hopper cars to transport non-ruminant derived animal proteins. The carrier said it was taking the action because of "inconsistent utilization" of railroad-owned or leased cars for transporting such animal proteins, as well as "overall equipment demands."



Newsletter

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NGFA Arbitration Rules Changes for 2005 Included in Insert

This edition of the *NGFA Newsletter* includes an insert containing the changes to the NGFA's Arbitration Rules and Rail Arbitration Rules ratified by the membership on April 1 during the annual business meeting at NGFA's 109th annual convention in San Diego, Calif.

As reported in the April 4 edition of the *NGFA Newsletter*, these changes affected the arbitration service fee schedule and procedures for oral hearings. The changes to the NGFA Rail Arbitration Rules added ethanol to the list of arbitrable commodities and clarified that interest and legal costs are not included in the \$200,000-per-case limit.

In addition, the NGFA's Board of Directors on April 1, subsequent to the annual business meeting, approved a change recommended by the NGFA Trade Rules Committee to clarify NGFA Barge Freight Trading Rule 18(I) ["Opening of the Mid-Mississippi"].

Given the relatively minor changes made this year, the NGFA does **not** intend to publish a new *Trade Rules and Arbitration Rules Booklet* this year. Instead, it is suggested that you staple the enclosed insert into your existing copy of the booklet, the most recent of which has a yellow/gold cover and is dated April 2004. Or, insert the sheet in your new copy of the *NGFA's 2005 Directory/Yearbook*, where the Trade Rules and Arbitration Rules are found starting on page 295.

A complete and current version of the Trade Rules and Arbitration Rules remains available at no charge for downloading and printing via the NGFA website (<http://www.ngfa.org/trbook.asp>). For those interested in the *2004 Trade Rules and Arbitration Rules Booklet* with the 2005 changes inserted, please contact Jackie Congress at the NGFA at 202-289-0873, or send an e-mail to NGFA Arbitration and Mediation Specialist Loell Palomo at lpalomo@ngfa.org. The booklet also may be ordered from the NGFA website at www.ngfa.org.





GIPSA Schedules Grain Inspection Advisory Committee Meeting

...Gibson Selected as New Alternate Member...

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has scheduled the next meeting of its Grain Inspection Advisory Committee for May 3-4 at the Embassy Suites Hotel on the Plaza in Kansas City, Mo.

Agenda topics are to include: 1) the status of legislation to reauthorize the U.S. Grain Standards Act, under whose authority the agency operates; 2) a financial update of official grain inspection user fee programs; 3) next steps for potential "outsourcing" of rice inspections; 4) restructuring GIPSA oversight of official designated private and delegated state agencies that perform official inspection and weighing services; 5) a preliminary review of revised quality-assurance procedures; 6) new requirements for inspecting grain exported in containers; 7) a review of the pros and cons of using a single instrument to measure both moisture and test weight; and 8) the

status of the agency's efforts to designate private companies in South Texas and California to perform official inspection services.

Copies of the agenda are available by contacting Terri Henry at GIPSA by phone (202-205-8281) or e-mail (Terri.L.Henry@usda.gov).

Gibson Appointed as Alternate to Advisory Committee: In a separate USDA notice, Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns announced the appointment of five new alternate members to the GIPSA advisory committee, including **Jerry D. Gibson**, regional manager for Bunge North America Inc., in Destrehan, La. Gibson is a long-time member of the NGFA/GEAPS Joint Grain Grades and Weights Committee, as well as the North American Export Grain Association's Grades and Inspection Committee, and was nominated to the post by NGFA, GEAPS and NAEGA.

Web-Based Seminar on Asian Soybean Rust Scheduled for April 20

A free, web-based seminar designed to assist agricultural retailers and custom applicators in better managing potential incidents of Asian soybean rust has been scheduled for April 20 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Topics to be addressed include identification, detection and management of soybean rust. Topics will include: 1) how to properly identify Asian soybean rust and distinguish it from similar-appearing diseases; 2) the latest indicators of where soybean rust may occur, based upon predictive computer modeling systems; and 3) the latest management techniques and treatment options. To register for the free seminar, click here or contact Jackie Congress at the NGFA at 202-289-0873.

In a related development, it was announced April 11 that the Asian strain of soybean rust has been confirmed on the host plant kudzu in a third county in Florida. The detection was made in Marion County, which is northeast of the previously identified Florida counties – Pasco and Hernando – where Asian soybean rust had overwintered.

In addition, the Environmental Protection Agency announced on March 28 that soybean producers now will be able to use up to three applications of approved so-called "Section 18" fungicides to treat against soybean rust in a season, an increase from the maximum of two treatments previously allowed. However, no more than two applications can be made with any given Section 18 active ingredient,

EPA said. Section 18 fungicides – propiconazole, tebuconazole, trifloxystrobin, mylobutanil and tetraconazole – are those granted a time-limited emergency approval for soybean rust. While EPA's approval was granted specifically for Minnesota, its approval provides the template for other soybean-growing states to request similar treatment.



Calendar

- April 27-28, 2005: NGFA Feed Quality Assurance Workshop**
(Joint workshop with California Grain & Feed Association and California Department of Food & Agriculture), Tulare, Calif.
- May 3, 2005: NGFA Legal Council**
NGFA Conference Room, Washington, D.C.
- May 10-11, 2005: NGFA Rail Shipper Receiver Committee**
NGFA Conference Room, Washington, D.C.
- June 7-8, 2005: NGFA Executive Committee**
The American Club, Kohler, Wis.
- June 8-9, 2005: NGFA Country Elevator Committee**
NGFA Conference Room, Washington, D.C.
- July 27-28, 2005: Operations, Management & Technology Seminar - "Grain Quality Management"**
Airport Marriott Hotel, Kansas City, Mo.
(Joint Seminar Series with the Grain Elevator and Processing Society)





Membership Matters

by Todd Kemp
Director of Marketing/Treasurer

NGFA, GEAPS Offer New Grain Quality Management Seminar

On July 26-27 in Kansas City, Mo., the NGFA and its strategic partner, the Grain Elevator and Processing Society (GEAPS), will present an outstanding new day-and-a-half professional seminar on grain quality management.

Plans are for this grain-quality focused seminar series to be conducted every two years, in rotation with a second seminar series focusing on safety, health and environmental compliance, also jointly developed by the NGFA and GEAPS.

Developed through the two organizations' Joint Grain Grades & Weights Committee, the seminar program will feature in-depth sessions on critically important grain quality management issues. Here is a sampling of session topics:

- **Grain Quality Management as An Integrated Operations Strategy**, which will include discussion of the grain quality management environment, official prohibited practices, biotech issues and elements of GQM as an integrated operations process.
- **Grain Quality Definition and Determination**, including physical properties affecting quality grain handling and storage and end-use value; inspection procedures, equipment calibration and maintenance, and sampling methods; and practical applications of official grain standards.

- **Quality Grain Storage Management**, featuring detailed discussion of drying and aeration (including how to optimize capacity and efficiency) and pest control as an integrated GQM critical practice.
- **Quality Grain Handling Management**, including management of ground piles and temporary storage.
- **Developing and Emerging Grain Quality Management Issues**, including end-user/processor priorities and preferences; identity preservation; traceability; food and feed safety and security; and biotech opportunities, challenges and roadblocks.

Faculty for the seminar include not only a roster of highly experienced industry professionals, but also senior managers from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, and Agricultural Research Service. For a detailed look at the seminar program and faculty, and for registration information, see the flyer attached to or inserted in this *NGFA Newsletter*. The seminar also will feature a tabletop show of related equipment and services.

Members of either the NGFA or GEAPS are eligible for an early-bird registration fee of \$295 if registration is received by June 20. Thereafter, the registration fee increases to \$340 for pre-registrants and \$375 on site in Kansas City. So don't wait! Sign up yourself and your employees responsible for grain quality management right away.



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TIME SENSITIVE

