

# **Business, Merchandising and Operations Committee**

## **Report to the NGFA Board of Directors**

### **March 2025**

#### **I. Key Issues:**

- Developing and executing the Country Elevator Conference program.
- Delivering NGFA's policy messages to U.S. congressional offices and federal agencies as part of NGFA's summer fly-in.
- Engaging with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Association of Grain Regulatory Organizations (AGRO) to enhance the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of both federal and state grain warehouse regulatory programs to protect depositors and maintain the integrity of the grain warehouse system.
- Address impactful topics during the three annual committee meetings and provide feedback to NGFA subject-matter committees.

#### **II. Committee Activities:**

- A. Country Elevator Conference:** Increasing education, training and professional development opportunities for employees of NGFA-member companies is a committee priority. The committee helped identify program topics and speakers for the Dec. 10-12, 2024, conference at the Sheraton Kansas City Hotel.
- B. Summer Fly-in:** From June 3 – June 5, 2025, committee members will meet in Washington, DC and will serve as advocates for the industry in meetings with federal agency officials and their congressional members.
- C. Federal and State Grain Warehouse Issues:** The committee interacts with USDA on federal licensing fees for grain warehouses licensed under the U.S. Warehouse Act (USWA). In 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2025, the committee has been reviewing and providing feedback to USDA on proposed fee increases for warehouse licensing and examination functions. USDA's proposed fee increases originally were 20-40%, but after several warehouse examiners accepted the Trump Administration's buyout to retire, USDA's expenses are reduced and USDA is reassessing its fee increase needs.