

**Business, Merchandising and Operations Committee**  
**Report to the NGFA Board of Directors**  
**March 2024**

**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 will help identify program topics and speakers for the Dec. 10-12, 2024, conference at the Sheraton Kansas City Hotel.
- B. Summer Fly-in:** In June, the committee will hold a committee meeting at NGFA’s Arlington, Virginia office and will meet with federal agency officials and 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).

**III. Issues for Discussion/Input:**

1. What types of Country Elevator Conference presentations and program format would provide the greatest benefit to your employees?
2. What issues affecting industry managers should the committee address?

**IV. Other Actions:**

The committee and NGFA staff also were engaged in the following activities during the September 2023 – March 2024 period:

- A.** The committee advised the NGFA Rail Shipper/Receiver Committee on rail service challenges and proposed rail policy.

- B.** The committee advised the NGFA Risk Management Committee on potential impacts of the federal banking regulators' proposal to increase capital reserve requirements on futures commission merchants.
  
- C.** The committee proposed and was authorized to change its name from the Country Elevator Committee to the Business, Merchandising and Operations Committee. The committee also updated its mission statement to focus more on the business interests of grain merchandising and handling.