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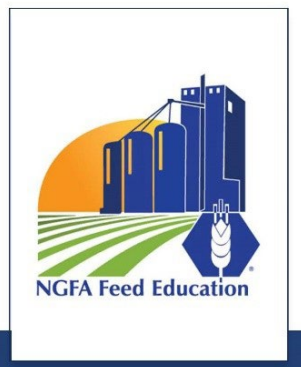
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NEWS

NGFA announces election and ballot results

By Charlie Delacruz, Senior Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary

NGFA is pleased to announce the results of the ballot distributed to voting NGFA member companies on Feb. 20 for the election of NGFA's directors and industry officers and the ratification of amendments to NGFA's Bylaws, Rail Arbitration Rules and Trade Rules.

The vote by electronic ballot was in lieu of conducting elections and ratification of amendments during a general business meeting of the membership. Ballots were due back by Thursday, Feb. 29. By the deadline, the responses received exceeded the minimum necessary to meet quorum requirements and the number of affirmative votes required to complete the elections and ratify the amendments.

Election of NGFA Officers and Directors

Congratulations to NGFA's elected industry officers who will serve one-year terms:

- **NGFA Chairman: Chris Boerm**, president of global transportation at Archer Daniels Midland Co. in Decatur, Ill.
- **NGFA First Vice Chairman: Brian Schouvieller**, senior vice president of global grain marketing at CHS Inc. in Saint Paul, Minn.
- **NGFA Second Vice Chairman: Augusto Bassanini**, president and CEO at United Grain Corporation in Vancouver, Wash.

Congratulations to NGFA's elected directors who will serve three-year terms:

- **Jeff Bechard**, senior vice president of grain at Central Valley Ag in York, Neb.
- **JoAnn Brouillette**, managing partner at Demeter LP in Fowler, Ind.
- **Patrick Coyle**, commercial director of grains and oilseeds North America at COFCO in Chicago, Ill.
- **Jim Dell**, president and CEO at ALCIVIA in Cottage Grove, Wisc.
- **Scott Docherty**, general manager of Western Grain Marketing LLC in Rushville, Ill.
- **Chris Faust**, managing director and country manager at Viserion Grain, LLC in Boulder, Colo.
- **Tom Fernandes**, director of commodity finance at Grain Service Corporation in Atlanta, Ga.
- **Beau Hepler**, general manager at Ray-Carroll Grain Growers Inc. in Richmond, Mo.
- **Roger Hugenberg**, general manager at Ursa Farmers Cooperative Co. in Ursa, Ill.
- **Corey Jorgenson**, CEO of Shell Rock Soy Processing LLC in Shell Rock, Iowa
- **Joe Kapraun**, manager of the grain marketing division at GROWMARK Inc. in Bloomington, Ill.
- **Bill Krueger**, COO of The Andersons Inc. in Overland Park, Kan.
- **Ron Seeber**, president and CEO of the Kansas Grain and Feed Association in Topeka, Kan.
- **Curt Strubhar**, chairman at Advance Trading Inc. in Bloomington, Ill.
- **Mike Tate**, director of origination at Bunge North America Inc. in Chesterfield, Mo.
- **Jeff Van Pevenage**, president and CEO at Columbia Grain International LLC in Portland, Ore.

*Special thanks for the efforts of NGFA's Nominations Committee: **Benjamin Smith**, (Nominations Committee Chairman), vice president of grain at Attebury Grain, LLC; **Gary Beachner**, president and CEO at Beachner Grain Inc.; **Jean Bratton**, chief executive officer at Centerra Cooperative; **Kevin Gray**, CEO and general manager at Morrow County Grain Growers Inc.; **Jarvis Haugeberg**, vice president operations at Form-A-Feed; and **Todd Lafferty**, co-chief executive officer at Wheeler Brothers Grain Co.*

Ratification of Amendments to NGFA's Bylaws, Rail Arbitration Rules and Trade Rules

The ratified amendments can be found [here](#). *Special thanks to NGFA's Rail Arbitration Rules Committee and Trade Rules Committee for their work on these proposals.*

Congress averts shutdown

By Stephanie See, Vice President, Legislative and Public Affairs

Congressional leadership on Feb. 28 announced a deal to avert a government shutdown and address the 12 appropriations bills that will fund the government for fiscal 2024.

The 2024 fiscal year began Oct. 1, 2023. Since then, the government has been funded through a series of continuing resolutions. Under the debt limit deal passed last spring, if all 12 appropriations bills are not passed by April 1, 2024, fiscal 2024 will be funded through a year-long continuing resolution with funding recissions.

The leadership deal will give Congress until March 8 to pass the first six FY24 bills, including the one funding the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Food and Drug Administration. The bills are Agriculture-FDA; Commerce-Justice and Science; Energy and Water Development; Interior; Military Construction-VA; and Transportation-HUD. The text of the legislation has not yet been released.

The remaining six bills will be passed by March 22.

The House passed a short-term continuing resolution on Thursday afternoon, extending funding through March 8 and March 22. The Senate passed the measure later in the evening.

Next week, House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., plans to put the first six bills on the floor. It is unclear if these bills will be considered individually or in a package.

Notably, Speaker Johnson is going against the wishes of the hardline conservatives in the House Republican Conference by putting these bills on the floor and potentially packaging them into a “minibus.” Former Speaker Kevin McCarthy lost his job last October for compromising with opponents to keep the government open. Also, President Joe Biden will deliver his State of the Union Address on Thursday, March 7—the night before the deadline for the first tranche of bills expires.

FDA issues guidance for gene-edited crops

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) last week issued a [22-page guidance document](#) providing recommendations for biotech companies and plant breeders that want to bring new gene-edited crop traits to market.

For crops that pose no food safety questions, FDA says a voluntary premarket meeting with the agency is enough. For other crops, FDA recommends a premarket consultation process similar to the current standard practice for new biotech traits. Under current provisions, the public is not mandatorily required to be notified by the FDA, Environmental Protection Agency, or U.S. Department of Agriculture if a company has formally submitted an application for a new product.

In 2023, NGFA, the North American Grain Export Association and several other industry trade groups said in comments to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) that the government should require companies commercializing new biotechnology products to notify the FDA and that this information should be made public.

FDA is accepting comments on the guidance document.

USDA announces progress on newly authorized climate programs

By David Fairfield, Senior Vice President, Feed

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on Feb. 27 published the report, [Intent to Establish the Greenhouse Gas Technical Assistance Provider and Third-Party Verifier Program](#), authorized under the Growing Climate Solutions Act (GCSA).

As directed by the GCSA, the report explains how the Greenhouse Gas Technical Assistance Provider and Third-Party Verifier Program would or would not further the following purposes as prescribed by the Act:

- **Facilitating the participation of farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners in voluntary environmental credit markets.** USDA states in the report that the program will facilitate participation in voluntary markets by: 1) evaluating and listing widely accepted protocols that are used to generate carbon credits; 2) providing contact information for Technical Assistance (TA) Providers to interested farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners; and 3) listing qualified Third-Party Verifiers who can assess whether carbon projects correctly follow carbon-related protocols.
- **Facilitating the provision of technical assistance, through covered entities, to farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners to help overcome barriers to entry into voluntary environmental credit markets.** USDA states the agency will list TA Providers on its website

that have demonstrated they meet specified qualifications as determined necessary by the agency. USDA will seek public input to determine TA Provider qualifications.

- **Ensuring that participating farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners receive fair distribution of revenues derived from the sale of an agriculture or forestry credit.** USDA acknowledges in the report that it has limited ability to ensure participating farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners receive fair distribution of revenues derived from the sale of an agriculture or forestry carbon credit. However, the agency states it can review protocols to assess their efficiency in producing carbon credits, and potentially reduce transaction costs by providing transparent and comprehensive information on TA Providers and Third-Party Verifiers.
- **Increasing access for farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners to resources relating to existing voluntary environmental credit markets, including information relating to the basic market structure and the various roles and qualifications of different parties.** USDA states it will provide information about carbon programs, registries, and protocols that can help producers navigate options, find qualified TA Providers, and overcome barriers to participation. In addition, USDA will seek input from stakeholders, including producers on its Advisory Committee, to ensure that information and resources provided are useful to addressing farmer, rancher, and private forest landowner needs.

USDA will work towards formal establishment of the program in 2024. As a first step, USDA will soon solicit information on protocols to be evaluated for inclusion in the list to be published as part of the program. Concurrently to seeking public input, USDA will establish the charter for the program's advisory council and seek membership nominations in Summer 2024.

NGFA endorses Fuchs for STB

NGFA led 24 other agricultural groups to endorse the confirmation of Patrick Fuchs for another term at the Surface Transportation Board (STB) in a letter to leaders of the Senate Commerce Committee.

In the [Feb. 29 letter](#) to Chairwoman Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., and Ranking Member Ted Cruz, R-Texas, the groups praised Fuchs' "deep understanding of the vital role the STB serves in the American supply chain." As a board member since 2019, "he has intelligently shaped many rulemakings to help the rail industry better serve its customers and the American public," the letter added.

Before his time at STB, Fuchs served as a senior professional staff member for surface transportation and merchant marine for the Senate Commerce Committee and was instrumental in drafting the STB Reauthorization Act of 2015, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act of 2015, and the Positive Train Control Enforcement and Implementation Act of 2015.

Mersinger reconfirmed as CFTC commissioner

The Senate on Feb. 26 confirmed Summer Mersinger for another term as a commissioner at the Commodities Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) until April 2028.

President Joe Biden re-nominated Mersinger in June 2023. She currently serves as one of two Republican CFTC commissioners in the seat formerly held by Dawn Stump, to whom she served as chief of staff during Stump's tenure at CFTC. As a commissioner, Mersinger has been responsive and open to the futures market concerns of the grain, feed and processing industry. Previously, she served as a senior staffer for Sen. John Thune, R-S.D.

EVENTS

PepsiCo's Christenson confirmed for convention

Dan Christenson, senior director for government affairs at PepsiCo, will join NGFA members in Orlando, Fla., during the closing general session of [NGFA's 128th annual convention](#).

Christenson, who joined PepsiCo in 2016, leads the company's overall policy engagement with the federal government and has primary responsibility for PepsiCo's advocacy strategy on agriculture issues. He also leads a large portfolio of external engagement and corporate reputation work with farmers and other organizations in the agricultural value chain. Previously, he served at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in multiple roles including deputy chief of staff to Secretary Tom Vilsack. Before joining USDA, he served for many years as a senior professional staff member on the Senate Agriculture Committee.

Previously confirmed convention speakers include Foreign Agricultural Service Administrator Daniel Whitley; Scoular CEO Paul Maass; Norfolk Southern CEO Alan Shaw; and Nathan Gonzales, the publisher and editor of Inside Elections; as well as the Transportation Open Forum that includes a Class I rail panel and Anthony Peña, government relations manager at the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association, on the Lower Snake River Dams.

Hundreds of grain industry members will gather at the Omni Orlando Resort at Championsgate for NGFA's annual convention on March 17-19. View more information about the schedule and networking opportunities, including the [National Grain and Feed Foundation Golf Tournament](#), at ngfa.org/annual-convention.

SUPPLEMENTS

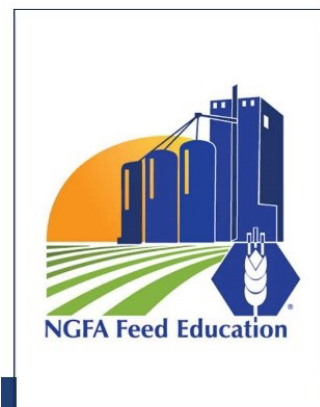
Feed training courses available on NGFA website

Five feed distance learning courses that address animal food safety and operations issues are now available on the [Training section](#) of NGFA's website.

The five courses are web-based, self-paced, interactive, and accessible anytime. Topics addressed by the courses are: 1) medicated feed current good manufacturing practices (CGMPs); 2) Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)-related animal food CGMPs; 3) FSMA-related animal food hazard analysis and preventive controls; 4) FSMA-related sanitary transportation requirements; and 5) feed pelleting operations.

More details about each course are provided on NGFA's website.

The course fee for NGFA members is \$75. Members should contact NGFA Vice President of Feed [David Fairfield](#) or ngfa@ngfa.org to receive a coupon code for use during course registration.



National Grain and
Feed Association

**Medicated Feed
Current Good
Manufacturing
Practices Course**

Extra Supplements

NGFA in the news:

Feed & Grain: [OSHA and NFPA grain facility update](#)

Meat & Poultry: [FDA decision will help novel feed ingredients development](#)

Cleveland.com: [Ohio farmers need a strong, long-term Farm Bill now: Jean Bratton](#)

Other news:

FreightWaves: [Threat of strike looms large over East, Gulf Coast ports](#)

Agri-Pulse: [Congressional leaders reach spending deal to avert USDA shutdown](#) *(log in)*

Politico: [Stabenow threatens to block new farm bill this year over GOP demands](#)

DTN: [Looking for Rays of Sunshine at Commodity Classic](#)

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