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## NEWS

### NGFA to USDA: NASS reports are critical to agribusiness operations

In a [letter](#) to U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, NGFA said the county estimates for crops and livestock recently discontinued by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) are critical to the business operations of the grain, feed and processing industry.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) NASS announced on April 9 that it would discontinue all county estimates for crops and livestock beginning with the 2024 production year.

"NGFA members use the county estimates to build supply and demand estimates for their businesses, which help determine commodity sourcing plans to keep their facilities operational. Without county estimates our members believe there will be supply chain ramifications," noted NGFA President and CEO Mike Seyfert in an April 16 letter to Secretary Vilsack.

"For example, it would become more difficult for an exporter to participate in the export sales market without an accurate knowledge of how much grain is in their draw area. Also, processors and livestock feeders would have problems making appropriate purchase decisions to keep their operations continuously supplied."

NGFA added that it would like to engage with the USDA to find a solution to budgetary pressures while preserving the county estimates.

"U.S. agriculture needs county estimates for local supply chains to efficiently operate, and we are open-minded on the collection methods with the end goal of preserving the data while saving USDA funds," the letter concluded.

## Detailed review of OSHA's Worker Walkaround Rule available

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) on April 1 published its Final Worker Walkaround Representative Designation Process Rule (the “Worker Walkaround Rule”), which will affect employers’ legal risk in OSHA inspections when it goes into effect on May 31.

A [six-page document](#), written for NGFA members by Eric Conn, Mark Trapp, and Darius Rohani-Shukla of Conn Maciel Carey LLP, covers the controversial history of this rulemaking and includes a detailed review of what the final rule says and means, along with an analysis of the implications for employers, expected legal challenges to the rule, and tips and strategies for managing OSHA inspections.

Access the “[Detailed Review of OSHA’s New Worker Walkaround Rule.](#)”

## USDA updates information related to H5N1 detections in dairy

*By David Fairfield, Senior Vice President, Feed*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) this week made a revised [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document available related to detections of highly pathogenic avian influenza (H5N1) in dairy cows. Among other topics, the document provides information on potential vectors for virus transmission, recommendations for cattle movement, signs of illness, and recommended biosecurity practices.

As of April 18, USDA has confirmed the detection of H5N1 in dairy cattle in eight states - South Dakota, North Carolina, Texas, Michigan, New Mexico, Idaho, Kansas and Ohio. In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on April 1 [reported](#) that a person in Texas has tested positive for H5N1 virus, but also expressed in the report that the health risk for H5N1 for the general public is low.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) continues to affirm the safety of the milk supply. The agency on its website states, “The FDA does not currently have concerns about the safety or availability of pasteurized milk products nationwide. Pasteurization has continually proven to inactivate bacteria and viruses, like influenza viruses, in milk and is required for any milk entering interstate commerce. We are continuing to monitor the situation and will provide updates on our website if necessary.”

USDA, CDC and FDA have made available the following information and resources related to the H5N1 outbreak and biosecurity practices.

- [USDA APHIS Website on H5N1 Detections in Livestock](#)
- CDC - [H5N1 Bird Flu: Current Situation Summary](#)
- [APHIS Recommendations for HPAI H5N1 Virus in Livestock](#)
- FDA - [Questions and Answers Regarding Milk Safety During Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza](#)

## USTR testifies on Biden trade policy

U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai testified before the House Ways and Means and the Senate Finance Committee this week about President Biden’s trade policy.

Before the hearings, NGFA urged the administration to “recommit to an aggressive trade agenda to meaningfully expand export opportunities for U.S. food and agricultural products.”

In the [April 15 letter](#) to Ambassador Tai, NGFA and 32 other agricultural stakeholders also called on USTR to “stringently and effectively” enforce existing trade agreements.

“Comprehensive trade agreements and elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers help ensure that U.S. agriculture can compete on an even playing field in our export markets,” the groups stated. “It is critical the U.S. press international trading partners to implement objective science and risk-based regulatory measures, and that those obligations are upheld when threatened.”

During the hearings, Ambassador Tai focused on China, supply chain concerns and several agricultural trade barriers, including Mexico’s ban on biotech corn.

House Republicans said the Biden administration is hurting farmers by not pursuing new trade agreements. Senate Republicans highlighted China’s failure to meet its 2020 commitments to buy U.S. agricultural products; however, Ambassador Tai said the Biden administration has kept pressure on the Chinese leadership by maintaining Trump-era tariffs.

## EVENTS

### Trade Rules Seminar is May 8-9

NGFA’s [2024 Trade Rules Seminar](#) is May 8-9 at the Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark in St. Louis, Mo. More than 200 attendees are registered to boost their merchandising and contracting expertise! Join them by [registering here](#).

This biennial seminar on trading, trade rules and arbitration provides attendees with a primer on contracting principles and trading practices to minimize costly trade disputes and contract non-performance. It is designed for those involved in trading operations or responsible for merchandising grains, feed and feed ingredients, but everyone involved in contract execution should attend. WATCH: [What is the NGFA Trade Rules Seminar?](#)

### Save the Date: CONVEY‘24 is July 24-25

[CONVEY‘24](#), an annual conference jointly hosted by NGFA, Grain Journal, and the Grain and Elevator Processing Society (GEAPS), is July 24-25 in Omaha, Neb.

Each year, NGFA, GEAPS and Grain Journal present this unique opportunity for grain handling employees and leaders to gain practical knowledge and training on real-world compliance issues, best practices and emerging industry trends. This year’s focus will be on new technology and automation.

**New this year:** Degesch will host a pesticide state-certification workshop on the afternoon of July 23 (additional registration is required). Registration opens soon!

## SUPPLEMENTS

### CISA investigates Sisense breach

The U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) is investigating a breach at business intelligence company Sisense, whose products are designed to allow companies to view the status of

multiple third-party online services in a single dashboard. CISA urged all Sisense customers to reset any credentials and secrets that may have been shared with the company.

Read more: [Why CISA is Warning CISOs About a Breach at Sisense – Krebs on Security](#)

**Note to NGFA members:** DroneDeploy, an advanced aerial mapping and 3D modeling software used by some agricultural companies, [uses Sisense as a subprocessor](#).

## Next leadership training deadline is TODAY, April 19

The deadline to register for the May 2024 leadership program hosted by People Spark Consulting is **April 19**.

NGFA and People Spark Consulting have partnered to further the mission to provide education and training to members at all levels in the agriculture industry. The [People Spark Leadership Transformation Program](#)® is a year-long course that focuses on practical application of leadership skills and tools. It starts with an 8-week intensive training, followed by 10 months of ongoing support to reinforce and sustain the learned skills. NGFA members receive a bonus private coaching session with their Leadership Transformation Program® registration. New cohorts begin monthly throughout 2024.



[Click here for information!](#)

The investment for the 12-month People Spark Leadership Transformation Program® is \$2,500. Use reference code: NGFA

## Extra Supplements

NGFA in the news:

The Waterways Journal: [Horizons—At, On And Over The Horizon](#)

Virginia Tech News: [Virginia Tech's Edward A. Bouchet Honor Society chapter inducts five new members](#)

POET: [People of POET: Gabby Marti - Vital | A news & media resource published by POET](#)

American Ag Network: [NGFA Says NASS Reports are Critical to Agribusiness Operations](#)

Grain Journal: [NGFA says NASS Reports Are Critical to Agribusiness Operations](#)

Feed & Grain: [NGFA says NASS reports are critical to agribusiness](#)

Other news:

Reuters: [US wheat farmers face bleak crop economics as grain oversupply hits](#)

Brownfield Ag News: [USTR Tai criticized during House Ways and Means Committee hearing on trade](#)

Agri-Pulse: [Biden administration taps CCC for \\$1B in foreign food aid \(log in\)](#)

USA Today: [Heat protections for outdoor workers banned in Florida with new law](#)

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