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# CEC 2023

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## NEWS

### NGFA announces no change to dues in 2024

NGFA Chairman Greg Beck, chief administrative officer and senior vice president at CGB Enterprises Inc., and NGFA President and CEO Mike Seyfert sent the following letter to all NGFA members in an emailed alert on Nov. 29:

Happy Holidays! We write today with good news as the National Grain and Feed Association's (NGFA) Executive Committee recently voted to maintain our current dues structure with no increase in 2024. Our members are the backbone of NGFA, and we appreciate the investment you choose to make in the association and its efforts on behalf of the industry each year.

Last year the Board of Directors voted unanimously to raise dues in 2023 for all NGFA members for the first time in 22 years. This decision was not taken lightly but was due to financial and cash concerns that were threatening to impact the association's ability to continue to deliver the same level of programming and staff expertise that members had come to expect.

As part of the dues increase approved last year, the Board also enacted an annual inflation adjustment of four percent. This adjustment is to be reviewed annually by the Executive Committee, and it can be adjusted or suspended as needed. After careful review and determination of an improved financial and cash flow position for NGFA, the committee determined the inflation adjustment was not necessary in 2024 and we will still remain able to provide a high level of services to our membership. This adjustment will continue to be reviewed by the Executive Committee on an annual basis.

We thank you again for your commitment and investment to NGFA and this industry we are privileged to serve each day as

we work at “Transforming America’s Harvest” to feed and fuel North America and the world. Our sincere best wishes to you and your families for a joyous holiday season.

Sincerely,

Greg Beck



Mike Seyfert



## Lawmakers seek answers on Lower Snake River dams

In a [letter](#) to President Joe Biden, a group of Northwest lawmakers asked for clarification regarding a leaked mediation document detailing U.S. government commitments in the Columbia-Snake River Basin.

Read more about the document [here](#) as reported by the Tri-City Herald.

“As best we can tell, this document reflects the negotiating positions of the U.S. Government (USG) in the long-standing mediation concerning the Columbia River System Operations (CRSO). Due to the document’s use of vague and imprecise language, it appears susceptible to misinterpretation,” wrote Reps. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-Wash.; Dan Newhouse, R-Wash.; Cliff Bentz, R-Ore.; and Russ Fulcher, R-Idaho.

“It is imperative that our constituents, whose livelihoods depend on the Columbia River System, have a comprehensive understanding of this document’s contents so they can anticipate and prepare for the wide-ranging impacts that will inevitably be felt across the region should the commitments detailed in this document be realized,” they continue. “Additionally...we must ensure any actions committed to as part of this agreement do not circumvent by any means the congressional authorization that would be required to execute certain proposed provisions, such as the removal of certain dams.”

The leaked draft document says the U.S. government is “committed to exploring restoration of the lower Snake River, including dam breach.” However, Congress has exclusive authority over decisions to breach the dams.

Throughout the letter, the lawmakers raise numerous questions about provisions in the document, including:

- Is there any scenario that would lead your administration to proceed with breaching without express authorization from Congress?
- Is it your official position at this point in time that these dams should ultimately be breached?
- Does the government seek to advance efforts to breach the Lower Snake River dams after securing the “Pacific Northwest Tribal Energy Program”?
- Did the USG rely on any additional scientific reports or studies, other than the NOAA report, which show categorically the science on salmon recovery in the Columbia River basin is clear? If so, why is this the only report cited by the USG in this document?

- According to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), salmon face several health impacts from impaired water quality in the Puget Sound. Why is the USG relying on a report that does not take this and other factors that impact salmon runs into account?
- What is the plan to fund the \$200,000,000 commitment for the Phase 2 Implementation Plan for salmon reintroduction?
- Have there been consultations with any Members of Congress in drafting either this section or any of the other commitments made in the document? If so, have written assurances of authorizing appropriations of these funds been made?

“We respectfully request that a list of groups and individual voices that were included in the development of this package be provided,” the lawmakers concluded, adding that clarity and certainty must be provided “so we can achieve our common goal of a durable, long-term strategy for the future of the CRSO.”

## USDA to award \$300 million from new export promotion program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced this week it will award \$300 million during the first year of its new \$1.2 billion Regional Agricultural Promotion Program (RAPP).

Farm groups, cooperatives, state agencies and other entities can apply for the funds beginning Feb. 2, 2024. They will have five years to use the funds to promote U.S. agricultural exports in any foreign markets except China, Mexico, Canada and the European Union. Those are already the largest foreign markets for U.S. farm goods, and USDA said it wants to focus on expanding markets in Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia and Latin America.

## EVENTS

### See you in Louisville: CEC begins Dec. 3

NGFA’s 52<sup>nd</sup> annual Country Elevator Conference and Trade Show (CEC) takes place Dec. 3-5 at the Omni Louisville in Louisville, Ky. NGFA’s flagship conference for grain merchants, elevator operators, feed manufacturers, processors, and grain industry suppliers will include sessions on agricultural policy, insurance and labor issues affecting grain handling companies, artificial intelligence, and more.

Review the full agenda and speaker list at [ngfa.org/cec](https://ngfa.org/cec).

View the latest list of registered attendees.

**Registration:** NGFA members receive a 20 percent discount on registration. [Register here.](#)

## SUPPLEMENTS

### NGFF Spotlight: MANRRS Scholarships

The [National Grain and Feed Foundation](#) is committed to preparing, supporting, and empowering the next generation of promising leaders as they pursue careers in agriculture. Since 2021, NGFF has partnered with the **Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS)** national society to provide competitive scholarships to exceptional undergraduate and graduate students pursuing careers in agriculture or a closely related field. In addition to financial support, the scholarship

provides networking and mentorship opportunities for the selected student scholars at NGFA's yearly convention and annual Summer Legislative Fly-In. Scholars have gone on to work with several NGFA member companies, including Ernest Dixon III who recently graduated from Alcorn State University.

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*Experience and exposure are two essential components lacking today for future agriculturalists.*

*When people think of agriculture, they typically envision fruits and vegetables or spending all day in the fields. My experience at the NGFA Conference ignited my desire to learn more and find ways to contribute to feeding the world, one grain at a time.*

*The information I acquired significantly contributed to my ability to secure a job with Cargill after graduating.*



**ERNEST DIXON III**  
'22, ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY

**NATIONAL GRAIN & FEED  
FOUNDATION**  
Research. Education. Innovation.

**Support the education efforts of the Foundation by making a gift this year-end.  
Your generosity will assist future scholars like Ernest.**

[Click Here to Donate Now](#)

## Extra Supplements

NGFA in the news:

Feed Strategy: [Regulations, sustainability demand attention of US feed industry in 2024](#)

Agri-Pulse: ['Reciprocal switching' rule offers shippers new tool for improving rail service](#) (log in)

Agri-Pulse: [Agri-Pulse Newsmakers: Nov. 24, 2023: Focus on fertilizer supply, transportation](#) (video)

Brownfield: [River transportation delays have different impacts on ag sector](#)

World Grain: [Grain Operations: Grain dust explosion prevention tips](#)

Other news:

Tri-City Herald: [Draft federal plan prepares for Snake River dam breaching](#)

Reuters: [US ag chief seeking 'creative' ways to sell dairy in Canada after trade dispute loss](#)

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