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# CEC 2023

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## NEWS

### NGFA comments on STB's reciprocal switching proposal

NGFA [submitted comments](#) on Nov. 7 in response to the Surface Transportation Board's (STB) most recent proposal on reciprocal switching rules for inadequate service.

In its comments, NGFA supported the Board's data-sharing proposal that has the potential to both inform and incentivize railroad performance if the service data is regularly shared with shippers.

However, the Association recommended the Board incorporate "competition-enhancing concepts" considered in previous competitive and reciprocal switching proposals that would facilitate more rail-on-rail competition.

NGFA also suggested several other actions the Board could take to improve railroad service, including finalizing the petition for rules that govern rail carriers' use of private railcars. This petition would establish financial incentives for the efficient use of railcars owned or leased by shippers.

"The financial incentives to improve the Class I railroads' inefficient use of private railcars proposed by NGFA and several other shipper organizations in (the petition) would...result in achieving the service improvements the Board is seeking to encourage," NGFA noted.

Through this rulemaking and other means NGFA is committed to working with STB and railroads as much as possible to improve the performance and efficiency of the network.

The Board's notice, EP 711 (Sub-No. 2), may be viewed and downloaded [here](#). Reply comments are due Dec. 6.

## Moist grain poses safety hazards during storage

NGFA members in the Midwest are reporting high levels of moisture in this year's corn harvest. This is an important reason for industry members to share and be aware of resources regarding the connection between grain quality and safety in grain handling.

Entrapment in grain bins and dryer fires are two potential hazards related to high moisture levels.

### Entrapment

The most common cause of entrapment in grain bins is trying to dislodge out-of-condition grain that is hung up or crusted in a bin.

According to Purdue University, approximately half of grain entrapments lead to engulfment which in turn are almost always fatal. Suffocation from engulfment is the leading cause of death in grain bins.

The best way to avoid entering grain bins in the first place is by maintaining grain quality in storage. Moisture is the most important factor to measure and maintain grain storability. When grain is stored at the wrong moisture level or without proper aeration it is prone to crusting or clumping.



Watch NGFA's [Safety and Grain Quality Management](#) video for a succinct outline of the hazards posed by out-of-condition grain as well as proper storage methods and recommendations.

### Dryer Fires

Grain dryers serve an important role in preserving grain quality during storage, thereby reducing potential bin engulfment and entrapment hazards. At the same time, a running grain dryer -- operating at above 140°F -- poses a potential fire hazard. Effective preventive maintenance programs are important for reducing potential grain dryer fires.

A common dryer malfunction is plugging the grain flow, which can result in smoldering grain or foreign material in the dryer causing a fire or smoldering grain in the storage bin.

Mechanical failures and the lack of an effective maintenance plan also create the potential for dryer fires. A proper maintenance plan and established fire-prevention measures can limit dryer downtime during harvest and reduce potential injury and/or property loss. Operating dryers at excessive temperatures can increase the risk of fire; therefore, many dryers have automatic shut-offs if temperatures reach a critical level. Other significant contributors to increased dryer fire risks include the lack of timely cleaning and inspection of the manufacturer's recommended susceptible areas.

Read more tips about preventing dryer fires in this [Safety Tips Sheet](#).

NGFA will continue to share safety resources on the connection between grain quality and safety. Find more information at [ngfa.org/safety](http://ngfa.org/safety).

## FDA proposes to revoke use of carbadox in medicated swine feed

*By David Fairfield, Senior Vice President, Feed*

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Nov. 7 announced the [agency is revoking the approved method for detecting residues of carbadox](#), a new animal drug used in swine feed that has been shown to be carcinogenic in laboratory animals. An approved method is required by the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to show that no residue of carcinogenic concern from a new animal drug persists in any edible tissue or in any food derived from treated animals. FDA is revoking the approved method for carbadox based on its determination that the method is inadequate to monitor the residue of carcinogenic concern.

Based on the revocation, [FDA is also proposing to withdraw approval of all new animal drug applications providing for use of carbadox in medicated swine feed](#), for which Phibro Animal Health Corp is the sponsor. In addition, in accordance with federal requirements, FDA provided notice of an opportunity for a hearing (NOOH) in which Phibro could provide evidence to demonstrate why the new animal drug applications should not be withdrawn. The deadline for Phibro to make a request and provide supporting evidence for such a hearing is Dec. 7, 2023.

In a [press release](#), Phibro reiterated the safety of its carbadox product - Mecadox® - and stated it intends to defend the continued use of Mecadox® in medicated swine feed. “Phibro is extremely disappointed in the actions taken by the FDA and believes fully in the safety of Mecadox®. Mecadox® has been approved and sold in the United States for more than 50 years and is a widely used treatment for controlling bacterial diseases in swine, including Salmonella and swine dysentery, resulting in improved health and welfare for newly born and young pigs,” the company said in the release. “Phibro will take appropriate action and next steps to continue to defend swine producers’ ability to use Mecadox® to protect the health and welfare of their animals.”

FDA first made public its concern regarding the adequacy of the approved method for detecting residues of carbadox in 2016. In 2020, FDA issued a proposed order to revoke the carbadox method, and explained that if it finalized the order, the agency intended to issue a NOOH proposing to withdraw approval of all new animal drug applications containing carbadox. After announcing the proposed order, FDA solicited stakeholder comment and held a public hearing on the topic on March 10, 2022. In this week’s announcement, FDA said “nothing presented [in response to the proposed order] demonstrates that the approved method is adequate to monitor the residue of carcinogenic concern in compliance with FDA’s operational definition of ‘no residue.’ Therefore, FDA is revoking the approved method.”

## Senate Ag Committee sets AI hearing

The Senate Agriculture Committee will explore the potential for artificial intelligence in agriculture. The committee has scheduled a Nov. 14 [hearing](#) titled “Innovation in American Agriculture: Leveraging Technology And Artificial Intelligence.”

Witnesses include Jahmy Hindman, senior vice president and chief technology officer at Deere and Co.; Mason Earles from the AI Institute for Next-Generation Food Systems at the University of California, Davis; and Todd Janzen, administrator of the Ag Data Transparent Organization.

**AI at CEC:** AI in agriculture is a featured topic during the NGFA’s upcoming Country Elevator Conference and Trade Show (CEC). Bushel CEO Jake Joraanstad will provide a Dec. 5 general session address on “Generative AI and Real Talk on How it Could Impact Agriculture and Agribusinesses.” Learn more at [ngfa.org/cec](https://ngfa.org/cec).

## EVENTS

### CEC to feature former American Gladiator Dan ‘Nitro’ Clark

During the NGFA’s 52nd annual Country Elevator Conference and Trade Show (CEC), former star of American Gladiators Dan “Nitro” Clark will deliver a motivational address on “The Power of Resilience: Master Adversity, Triumph through Change, Live with Heart.”

Clark is featured in “Muscles & Mayhem: An Unauthorized Story of American Gladiators” on Netflix. Clark is a former pro football player, bestselling author, television host, entrepreneur and speaker. [Read more](#) about Clark’s story and journey to motivational speaking.

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, the state of U.S. transportation, artificial intelligence, and more.

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

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

### Submit your entries to the 2023 Grain and Feed Photo Contest

NGFA is accepting entries for its [annual photo contest](#). Winners of \$500, \$300 and \$200 are announced during the Country Elevator Conference and Trade Show in December.

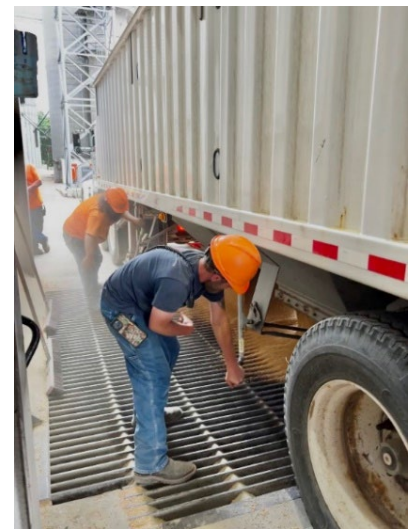
Deadline for entries is **Nov. 21, 2023**.

The contest theme is “**A Day in the Life.**” (What’s happening day-to-day at your NGFA member location? What daily tasks help “transform America’s harvest” into food, fuel and fiber? NOTE: The best photo will clearly depict aspects of the grain handling industry.)

One photo per participant will be accepted. Email photos as an attachment to [sgonzalez@ngfa.org](mailto:sgonzalez@ngfa.org). The body of the email must include the photographer’s name and contact information.

Full rules are available [here](#).

*Pictured right: First place photo in the 2022 Grain and Feed Photo Contest with theme: "In Action." By Alyssa Barrett, Michigan Agricultural Commodities.*



# SUPPLEMENTS

## Foundation launches year-end fundraising campaign

Every day the [National Grain and Feed Foundation](#) (NGFF) goes to work for this industry by:

- Promoting safety and health in the workplace and protecting employees,
- Supporting research projects that enhance the productivity and safety of members, and
- Educating and uplifting the industry's visibility and reputation.

*But we cannot do it alone. NGFF needs your support!*

NGFF is engaging in its **first-ever year-end fundraising campaign** to propel safety, education, and research efforts into the new year and beyond. Be on the lookout for emails and social media posts detailing how your support makes a difference.

Ready to give? [Click here to donate!](#)



## Extra Supplements

NPR: [Farmers want more money for crop support programs included in Farm Bill](#)

Agri-Pulse: [Poultry rule requires integrators to share more info with growers \(log in\)](#)

Bloomberg: [Soybeans for Biofuel Have Labs Racing to Make a Better Bean](#)

Reuters: [Exclusive: China makes largest US soy purchases in months -traders](#)

Hagstrom Report: [Ag lenders worry about liquidity, farm income more than inflation](#)

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