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From The Executive Director ...

Well, we did it! It is hard to believe that we accomplished the unimaginable goal of raising one million dollars for two faculty positions at Cornell. This outstanding accomplishment was recognized by CALS Dean Kathryn Boor two weeks ago at our Golf for Good Works Tournament Reception (see article below) where she announced that the Department of Animal Science will be moving forward to fill **two** positions that will serve the animal agriculture industry for many years to come. This unprecedented accomplishment (no other group of individuals have even attempted this effort) could not have been achieved without the tremendous support of our members and the leadership of your Board of Directors. And of course a tip of the hat to Charlie Sniffen and John Mitchell for leading the campaign and twisting arms! Stay tuned for more developments on the new faculty positions. The Agribusiness and Feed Alliance will be directly involved. In the meantime, please review the impressive list of donors posted below. Thank you to all who have given so generously!



GMO labeling was one of the hot button issues in Albany this year and your Alliance led the charge against the effort. I am happy to report that, for the third year in a row, we defeated the pro-labeling forces and the bill failed to get to the floor in either house. We were part of a large coalition of agriculture, food, beverage and retail marketing interests that prevailed with science based information and an effective communications strategy. Recognition needs to be given to Cornell University for standing strong as an educator, sharing the science based facts despite the threats of economic and physical harm from some passionate labeling advocates. In addition, the resources provided by our partner, BIO, played a critical role in getting our messages across the various medium including Twitter. The battle continues in Massachusetts and we are engaged. I provided a letter to the editor in the Boston Herald which ran July 14th. Of course the labeling advocates will be back in the state capitols next year unless Congress passes the Safe and Accurate Food Act, HR 1599, which would preclude states from passing mandatory labeling laws. We are advocating for its passage.

Five years ago the NEAFA Board of Directors developed a strategic plan to direct the organization forward. From that work, much of what we do under the objectives of advocacy, education and collaboration have been guided by this plan. Your board will be gathering on July 21 - 22 to review, renew and update our plan for the next five years and details will follow. Many thanks should be forwarded to your board members (listed on the left) for volunteering their time and travel for the betterment of this organization. Please reach out to them.

Enjoy your summer!

Rick Zimmerman
Executive Director

Alliance Raises One Million Dollars for Cornell Faculty Renewal Program

The Alliance, with strong support from its feed industry members, raised \$1 million to fund two new faculty positions in the Department of Animal Science at Cornell University. Generous donations from 45 businesses and individuals allowed the Alliance to double its original goal of \$500,000, thus successfully creating the opportunity for two positions.

Dr. Rick Grant, the Alliance President said "This tremendous accomplishment is a reflection of the confidence our industry has in the future of the northeast dairy industry. When Dr. Tom Overton of Cornell approached our board to provide leadership for funding of a faculty position in dairy cattle nutrition and environmental modeling we were pleased to help."

Dr. Kathryn Boor, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences said "We are deeply grateful to the Alliance for its incredible commitment to the future of Cornell - and of agriculture in the northeastern US. This vote of faith and confidence will pay dividends for decades." Funds raised through the work of the Alliance will be matched by Cornell to support the two positions.

The Alliance tapped long time dairy industry leaders, Dr. Charlie Sniffen and John Mitchell, to lead the effort. "We knew the feed industry would step up to strengthen dairy nutrition research at Cornell," Sniffen said. "Funding two positions confirms the industry's positive view to the future of northeast dairy farming."

The fundraising effort led by the Alliance was part of the Cornell Faculty Renewal Sesquicentennial Challenge; a \$100 million effort to recruit the next generation of Cornell faculty, both emerging "stars" as well as distinguished senior faculty. These professors will follow in the footsteps of those hired in the 1960s, 1970s, and early 1980s - many of whom are nearing retirement.

Support of land grant colleges is part of the Alliance mission of education, collaboration, and advocacy on behalf of northeast agriculture. Companies and individuals from New York and the northeast contributed to the campaign. President Grant said "Creation of two new positions at Cornell is a boost for all the land grant universities in the region." Grant explained that research conducted at Cornell applies to dairy production throughout the northeast. "Support from members of the Alliance to create these new positions will help farmers in many neighboring states," Grant said.



The Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance Board is joined by Dean Kathryn Boor of the Cornell College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

back row l-r:
Craig Newton, Tom Overton, Corwin Holtz, Barry Baetz,
Mark Anderson & Chip Hyde

front row l-r:
Rick Zimmerman, Rick Grant, Dean Boor,
Danielle Penney, Bill Colten & John Clark

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The search is underway for the first faculty position. Dr. Tom Overton is leading the search committee and interview process, which includes representation from the Alliance. "Cornell has worked with the Alliance to develop a job description that meets the needs of the northeast dairy industry and will attract a strong candidate pool for this vital new position in the Department of Animal Science," Overton said. Work has started on drafting the job description for the second position that will focus on more basic aspects of nutrition and lactation with an emphasis on dairy cattle.

CORNELL FACULTY RENEWAL DONORS

Leading Donors (\$40,000 +)

- + Adisseo
- + Arm and Hammer Animal Nutrition
- + Cargill Animal Nutrition
- + DairyOne Cooperative
- + Kemin Animal Nutrition and Health
- + Mercer Milling
- + Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance
- + Novus International
- + Nutreco
- + Perdue AgSolutions
- + Prince Agri Products
- + West Central

Contributors

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- + Cumberland Valley Analytical Services
- + Diamond V
- + Andy Dugan
- + Feed Ingredient Trading Corp.
- + Gramco
- + Holtz-Nelson Dairy Consultants
- + Interstate Commodities
- + John C. Mitchell
- + Lallemand Animal Nutrition
- + Lutz Feed Company
- + Micronutrients, Inc.
- + NASF - John Clark
- + NBT Bank
- + Tom Overton
- + Joel Pankowski
- + Papillon Agricultural Products
- + Pat O'Brien and Sons
- + Danielle Penney
- + Phoenix Feed and Nutrition
- + Poulin Grain
- + Progressive Dairy Solutions, Inc
- + Rapp Dairy Nutrition
- + RP Feed Components
- + Andy Sears
- + Charles J. Shiffen
- + Whitman's Feed Store



Golf for Good Works Tournament: A Fundraising Success



Lyndsey Palmer, the FFA State Sentinel from Hamilton New York attended the Golf for Good Works reception to receive funds in support of FFA events.

The Alliance Golf for Good Works Tournament, held on June 26th at the Turning Stone Resort in Verona, New York raised over \$10,000 to support agricultural educational programs in New York and New England. Thank you to the 99 golfers who took part in the tournament and 29 sponsors who supported the effort.

During the last seven years, the Alliance has awarded over \$75,000 to programs such as collegiate and 4-H judging teams, the regional and national Collegiate Dairy Challenge, the New York State Fair Birthing Center, FFA to support agricultural education and positive public awareness of farming practices.

The evening before the Golf for Good Works Tournament the Alliance hosted a feed industry reception and awarded Good Works funds to the New York FFA program and the New York State Fair Birthing Center. Todd Lighthall, Executive Director of the FFA Foundation, Lyndsey Palmer, the FFA State Sentinel and Jessica Zehm of the New York Animal Agriculture Coalition were on hand to receive the awards.



Closest to the Pin - Mike O'Neill - Kemin Industries

Longest Drive - Chris Talcott - Holtz-Nelson Dairy Consultants, LLC

First Place - 64

Lansing Trade Group Team

Zach Harding, Greg Harding, Dan Campbell and Chris Pierpont



Second Place - 66

CHR Hansen/Seedway Team 1

Tim Kelly, Mike Olmstead, Jason Perault and Tim Sandoni

Third Place - 67

Arm & Hammer Animal Nutrition Team

Joel Pankowski, Mitch Roy, Pat Brennan and Chad Tillotson

Check out tournament pictures and the list of sponsors on our website: www.northeastalliance.com.

"Jake the Seed" Leads GMO Education

From The Cat in the Hat to Big Bird, we all know how educational characters can help teach complex topics in a fun, interesting way. "GMO Answers" a collaborative effort of six biotechnology companies, has recently introduced "Jake the Seed" - an animated GMO seed, who explains biotechnology information in a simple, friendly manner.



- In his first [video](#), Jake tells the story of a GMO seed, including:
- A brief history of crop modification in agriculture
 - How GMOs are created and why they are used today
 - The variety of paths crops from GM seeds can take after harvest

GMO Answers encourages use of this short video (less than three minutes) for any educational events or presentations you may be making in the future, or to share online. Future videos are planned to help educate consumers about biotechnology in agriculture.

Additional infographics, videos and educational resources from GMO Answers are available on the [educational resource page](#), hosted by the group. These full color resources are appropriate for use with a variety of audiences.

EPA's Water of the US Ruling Spurs Lawsuits

The battle over EPA's overreach is headed to courts. The EPA's and Army Corps of Engineers' sweeping new rule supposedly "clarifying" federal jurisdiction over waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) drew a series of lawsuits shortly after its publication.

Three suits representing various groups of state attorneys general are asking separate federal district courts to halt the implementation of the rule. Up to 27 attorneys generals have signed on to one or more of the various lawsuits. The suits filed by the attorneys general focus on the usurpation of regulatory power by the federal government from state governments. The Congress and several federal courts have repeatedly affirmed that regulation of the Clean Water Act is a state government function.

A fourth lawsuit involves various citizen organizations, ranging from the American Farm Bureau Federation and various producer groups to the American Petroleum Institute, Leading Builders of America and American Road and Transportation Builders. The group's suit was filed in federal district court in Texas.

The group's complaint claims the new rule grants EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers broad control over land use far beyond what Congress authorized in the Clean Water Act. The lawsuit also claims vagueness and over-breadth of the rule

violate the U.S. Constitution. The groups also challenged EPA's aggressive grassroots advocacy campaign during the comment period, claiming it ignored the concerns expressed by farmers and others.

According to the complaint, "the Agencies are determined to exert jurisdiction over a staggering range of dry land and water features-whether large or small, permanent, intermittent or ephemeral, flowing or stagnant, natural or manmade, interstate or intrastate." The "opaque and unwieldy" rule "leaves the identification of jurisdictional waters so vague and uncertain that Plaintiffs and their members cannot determine whether and when the most basic activities undertaken on their land will subject them to drastic criminal and civil penalties under the (Clean Water Act)."



*Excerpted from LandOwner Newsletter, July 6, 2015
a Professional Farmers of America publication. Mike Walsten, Editor*

INDUSTRY NEWS



AFIA Stresses Customer-Feed Manufacturer Relationship to FDA

AFIA in [its comments](#) to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration stressed concerns over the draft guidance for industry titled "[Ensuring Safety of Animal Feed Maintained and Fed On-Farm](#)." The draft document has been in the works for many years at FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine.

At the top of the list, AFIA noted its disappointment with guidance, as there was no national conference on feed use on-farm, which would have decreased the need for AFIA's comments, as the industry would have been granted the opportunity to provide input on concepts and principles. The organization, however, still requests the opportunity to gather with FDA and the industry at a national conference.

"If a producer feels there is an issue with its feed, it is important to involve the manufacturer. Feed manufacturers determine a reportable food, and to do so, they need the information from the farmers," said Richard Sellers, AFIA President. "If there is a problem, the manufacturer needs to know in order to prevent further distribution of the feed; and the sooner the better. It is a serious omission that FDA did not acknowledge, nor encourage, communication with feed manufacturers when customers have concerns."

AFIA expressed the need for proper dissemination of information regarding the guidance moving forward and stated its interest in a partnership with FDA in the process, provided certain changes within the language can be accommodated.

AFIA also made note of FDA's failure to recognize and support the ongoing relationships between feed manufacturers and customers, particularly regarding quality programs, commenting "the tone of this document reads as if farms need to be protected from feed manufacturers."

AFIA's comments go on to express the genuine relationship between the two entities, and asked FDA to encourage U.S. farmers to have continuous conversations with feed manufacturers about quality and safety programs. AFIA strongly suggests FDA note the feed industry's quality and feed safety programs, especially AFIA's Safe Feed/Safe Food Certification Programs

For more information on AFIA's quality certification program, Safe Feed/Safe Food, visit www.safefeedsafefood.org.



Industry Groups Make Additions to Hazard Communications Compliance Guide

In May, NGFA and the American Feed Industry Association (AFIA) released a hazard communication compliance program guide for consideration and use by grain handling, feed, ingredient and processing facilities. The free, 50-page guidance document was developed to assist the industry in preparation for compliance with updates to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's safety data sheets (SDSs) and hazard communication compliance requirements. The Corn Refiners Association and the North American Millers Association (NAMA) also contributed to the guidance document.

Following the document's distribution and a subsequent webinar ([recording](#)), AFIA and NGFA received numerous inquiries from both members and non-members on the sample SDSs. As a result, the groups made minor modifications to both the sample grain and feed SDSs and created a new SDS for non-food grain; specifically, grain that is used for industrial purposes.

The revised data sheets are now included in the [guidance document](#). Further, a flour SDS developed by NAMA also has been included.

As a reminder, AFIA and NGFA continue to emphasize each decision related to the classification of hazards and the creation of a SDS and/or labeling of "products" that are "manufactured" at a facility must be determined independently by facility management.

The updated [guidance document](#), as well as the sample SDSs, are available on afia.org and ngfa.org.

MEMBER NEWS

Whitman's Feed Store Under New Ownership

After 67 years of feed manufacturing in North Bennington, Vermont, Whitman's Feed Store has been sold to Poulin Grain of Newport, Vermont.

Art Whitman, former owner of the store, and longtime board member for the Alliance, said the business employs 35 full time positions and 41 during peak months when part timers are hired. None of those people will be losing their jobs and there's every indication that Poulin plans to grow the business.

The store's name will not change, Art said, just the name of the company on invoices. Art, his wife Kathy, and their son Jerry, plan to remain working at the store for at least a year to help manage the transition.

Art and Kathy are not contemplating retirement and will continue to operate A and K Agriservices, a lime spreading company.

Whitman's Feed Store consists of an efficient grain mill and well stocked retail feed store. Art said that in 1968 his father had a milk route out of Shaftsbury, picking up milk in the mornings from farms to be processed elsewhere. On his return runs he would deliver grain to those same farms.

The ability to change and be diverse has always been the business' strategy for success, Art said. The building his father purchased for the grain business began with rail sidings so grain could be loaded easier. Eventually, to remain competitive and keep up with demand, the company started producing its own feed and later added the retail division with a wide assortment of small pets.

Many offers were made on the business from companies that would have likely torn it down and bought it solely for its workers and clients. Art said that was not how they wanted to leave things, and so they waited for the right buyer.

Josh Poulin, owner of Poulin Grain, said he's the fourth generation of his family to run the business headquartered in Newport, beginning in 1932 with his great grandfather.

"Our goal is to grow," Josh said, describing his company as "aggressive" and eager to see what can be done in Bennington with Whitman's.

*Excerpted from the Bennington Banner, July 1, 2015
Photo reprinted with permission from the Bennington Banner*



NEAFA MEMBER LOSES DAUGHTER IN TRAGIC ACCIDENT



Katherine "Katie" Elizabeth Durkin, age nine, daughter of Jeff and Ellen Durkin of South Wales, NY, lost her life in a two car traffic accident on July 7th. Jeff Durkin has been a long time member of the Alliance and served on the Board of Directors for six years. A fund has been established to receive donations for the "Katie Durkin Memorial Athletic Park" to be constructed at the Wales Primary School where Katie attended.

Katie's school is recognized as a special place, comprised of thoughtful administrators, professional educators, and an engaged parent community. However, other than two small climbing playgrounds, there is no soccer field, track, baseball diamond, or even a basketball net.

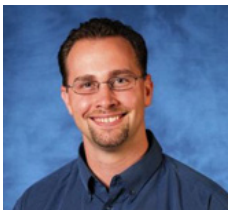
In honor of Katie, the family is asking for donations to be made to the "Katie Durkin Memorial Athletic Park." There is no better way to honor this little girl, who loved soccer and softball, and at the same time give to the school community a needed resource.

Donations can be made payable and sent to:

**Wales Primary PTO
c/o Liz Miller
PO Box 74
South Wales, NY 14139**



Andrew Hunt Appointed to Board of Directors



The NEAFA Board of Directors, at their June 25th meeting, appointed Andrew Hunt to fill an open board seat created when Andy Dugan was elected to serve as vice president of the organization. Andrew will serve out the term of this seat which is up for election in 2017.

Hunt is the General Manager of the Shur-Gain Feed Plant in Strykersville, New York.



WELCOME

RP Feed Components	Marcia	Itle	(814) 931-8675	marcia.itle@feedcomponents.com
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Warren Trucking LLC	Marjorie	Wood	(315) 834-2256	warrentrucking1@yahoo.com
Warren Trucking LLC	Jeffrey	Wood	(315) 834-2256	

Thank you to our current members for your continued support!

SEND US YOUR NEWS!

We often hear that Alliance members enjoy reading about news from members' companies: new hires, promotions, awards, changes to business structures or physical plants - anything you feel is newsworthy that does not promote a specific product or service.

Please send press releases to Louise Calderwood, Government Relations Director, for inclusion in the newsletter, or contact Louise with details and she will happily draft the news for you.

*Louise can be reached at 802-586-2239
or louiseh.calderwood@gmail.com*

Remember, if you missed one, past issues of NEAFA News are always available on our website at:

www.northeastalliance.com/newsletter.html



Do you have a position to fill? The Job Opportunities section of our newsletter is a free service for NEAFA members. Please contact Sue Kinner in the NEAFA office to submit your employment ad (sue@nysta.org).

Calendar of Events

NGFA Elevator Design Conference

July 28-30, 2015
Sheraton Crown Center
Kansas City, Missouri

For more information: <http://www.edc2015.net/>

National Mastitis Council Regional Meeting

July 28-29, 2015
Syracuse, New York

For more information: [Click Here](#)

AFIA Liquid Feed Symposium

September 15-17, 2015
Minneapolis, Minnesota

For more information: http://www.afia.org/ev_calendar_day.asp?date=9/15/2015%2012:00:00%20PM&eventid=45

2015 Vermont Dairy Industry Association Annual Conferences

September 22-23, 2015
- Save the Date -