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President's Pen ...

Fall is here - my favorite season. Coming off a busy summer for all of us, the pace quickens as we enter the last three months of 2015. As I write this message, I am looking out our window at Lake Champlain with a view framed by red-leafed maples. It's a rainy, blustery day perfect for taking a moment to reflect on all that the Alliance has accomplished the past few months and what opportunities lay ahead.

Headlines bristling with phrases like GMO food labelling, food safety, pesticides, herbicides, water quality, tile drainage, animal welfare - all attest to the fact that farming and food production are front-and-center, not just for our industry but for society as a whole. Going forward, the Alliance plans to continue leading the effort to advocate for farming in the northeast and to engage the public on all of the critical issues surrounding the food they eat.

With this challenge in mind, your Alliance Board held a retreat in July focused on strategic planning for the next five years. Buoyed by the positive feedback from the membership survey conducted this spring, we doubled down on our three-fold mission to advocate, collaborate, and educate. Survey feedback overwhelmingly supported our advocacy efforts and greater collaboration with like-minded organizations regionally and nationally. We also heard the message to offer more educational programs to build on the success of the Herd Health and Nutrition Conferences. Already this past July the Alliance offered webinar locations to learn about the Food Safety and Modernization Act which were well attended. Look for many more educational opportunities hosted by the Alliance in the future.

You should all be proud of the fundraising effort over this past year that resulted in two key faculty positions continuing at Cornell University: applied nutrition and modeling plus a more basic nutritional physiology position - essentially carrying forward the outstanding work of Larry Chase and Dale Bauman. The million dollars that you all pledged to this effort ensures continuation of Cornell's research and outreach leadership in the dairy industry. Looking to the future, the Alliance intends to collaborate with other organizations to strengthen research and education throughout New York and New England.

This newsletter is filled with updates on all of the important activities that the Alliance and its members are engaged in. Every one of you reading this newsletter is vital to our success. Please reach out to Board members with your comments, suggestions about what we're doing, and ways that we could serve the industry even better.

Finally, be sure to take a few moments while the fall colors linger to appreciate what a wonderful environment we work in. The Alliance and its members are fortunate to serve an agricultural industry here in the northeast second to none and surrounded by unparalleled natural beauty.

Best regards,

Rick Grant
NEAFA President



Alliance Receives CropLife America Grant

The state affairs committee of the CropLife America (CLA) trade association awarded funds for the second year to the Alliance to support expanded outreach in New England. Art Whitman, chair of the Alliance Government Relations Committee said, "The Alliance thanks CLA for a second year of funding. The CLA support has allowed the Alliance to build a stronger presence in New England and we still have a lot of work to do as we meet with legislators, regulators and crop input companies."

The Alliance will use CLA state affairs committee grant funds for increased advocacy and educational efforts in the six New England states and to increase member engagement in legislative issues. A trip is already

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In August Rebeckah Adcock, state affairs liaison for Crop Life America met with David Zuckerman, an organic vegetable farmer and vice chair of the Vermont Senate Committee on Agriculture.

planned in late October for Alliance staff and members to meet with trade groups and legislators in Maine.

Previous CLA funding supported the Alliance in development of relationships with seed and crop chemical businesses in New England. This effort was critical in successfully responding to legislative issues in Vermont. A second year of funding will support the Alliance as it continues to build recognition and increased membership among New England agribusinesses.

Rebeckah Adcock, State Affairs Liaison for CLA said "The Alliance is a valued partner as we support farmers use of technology to grow safe and wholesome food. The Alliance brings an important perspective to the work we do on behalf of modern agriculture."

CropLife America is the national trade association that represents the manufacturers, formulators and distributors of crop protectants. CLA's member companies produce, sell and distribute virtually all the crop protection and biotechnology products used by farmers, ranchers and landowners.

Alliance Requests Extension for Rail Technology Changes

The Alliance joined the National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA), in a [joint letter](#) signed by 48 national and state agricultural organizations, urging the U.S. House of Representatives to take action to avert the potential for a major, looming disruption to the U.S. rail system.

In a letter to all members of the House, the Alliance, and other agricultural producer, commodity and agribusiness organizations, encouraged Congress to enact legislation that would extend the current Dec. 31, 2015, deadline by which Class I rail carriers are to develop, test and implement Positive Train Control (PTC) safety technology on their rail networks.

President Barack Obama plans to enforce the deadline for rail operators, despite warnings from railroads that they can't meet the mandate and would have to suspend some service without an extension

Implementation of PTC was mandated by the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008, and in the Federal Railroad Administration's regulations implementing the statute. However, as noted in a Government Accountability Office (GAO) study issued in September, the deadline will not be met by any of the Class I carriers, each of which has reported major challenges in installing and implementing this new technology - some of which is the result of delays in receiving approval of safety plans from government regulators and in obtaining radio spectrum and Federal Communications Commission permits for the required communications infrastructure.

The White House remains firm on its position. "Congress enacted this law, including the December 31, 2015, deadline, and we believe it is important that the Department of Transportation enforce the law that Congress passed," Frank Benenati, a White House spokesman, said.

House transportation leaders introduced legislation in early October to extend the deadline for three years. House and Senate negotiators have been discussing ways to get the measure through both chambers.



The letter from NGFA, the Alliance and others noted that the agricultural organizations have "serious doubts" that applicable legal standards governing railroads statutory common carrier obligation would permit an individual railroad to cease all transportation of freight simply because it did not meet the Dec. 31 deadline to install PTC on its rail network.

Zimmerman Speaks at the Vermont Feed Dealers Meeting

Alliance Executive Director Rick Zimmerman was the luncheon speaker for the Vermont Feed Dealers annual meeting in Stowe, Vermont.



Zimmerman took the opportunity to inform the audience of agricultural industry representatives, educators and students of the collaborative work conducted by the Alliance—especially support of northeast land grant colleges. Explaining the Alliance fund raising leadership in support of two new faculty positions at Cornell was a central point of Zimmerman's remarks. He also highlighted the many programs and initiatives the Alliance has established under the organization's strategic goals of advocacy, collaboration and education.

Other speakers at the Vermont Feed Dealers meeting included Dr. Tom Vogelmann of the University of Vermont; Dr. Bruce Chassy University of Illinois Food Science Department speaking on GMO Myths and Facts; Dr. Andrew Scroth - of the University of Vermont Geology Department speaking on the relationship between the phosphorus cycle and Lake Champlain. A panel of farmers, input providers and educators discussed the impact of modern agriculture on the environment.

Alliance / VFD to Co-Host Middlebury Seminar Nov. 17

For the second time, NEAFA will host a feed and nutrition conference in Middlebury, Vermont on November 17. This meeting is an expansion of the annual feed dealer meetings held in New York and NEAFA will co-host the event with the Vermont Feed Dealers and Manufacturers Association.

The feed and nutrition seminars are specifically targeted for nutritionists, veterinarians, consultants, extension educators, and dairy producers with specific interest in nutrition-oriented topics. The program is designed to blend the latest concepts in feeding and other management aspects of dairies with field level application. Annually conducted as a road show with multiple sites in New York since the late 1940s, NEAFA is proud to provide this opportunity for our members in New England.



Vermont Location: American Legion Post #27, 49 Wilson Road, Middlebury VT

When: Wednesday, November 17, 2015, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm.

Agenda:

11 AM - Strategies to improve the nutritive value of corn silage
Dr. Luiz Ferraretto, Miner Institute

12:00 PM - lunch

1 PM -- Understanding and manipulating bioactive proteins in milk
Dr. Sabrina Greenwood, University of Vermont

2 PM -- Current topics in transition cow nutrition and management
Dr. Tom Overton, Cornell University

Pre-registration rate is \$50 and a registration form is [available here!](#)
(Registration Deadline is 11/10/2015)

Purina Animal Nutrition to Rebuild State-of-the-Art Plant in Caledonia

Purina Animal Nutrition, LLC, in partnership with Commodity Resource Corporation will rebuild a new state-of-the-art feed facility in Caledonia, New York. The rebuilt facility will improve automation and increase efficiency.



Construction on the feed facility will begin this fall and be completed in early 2017. On November 1, 2014, a fire destroyed a Purina Animal Nutrition plant that was leased from Commodity Resource Corporation in Caledonia. Twenty-one employees worked at the facility when the fire occurred. The employees were assigned to work at another facility or remained at the Caledonia site. Regular, full-time work will return to the plant.

"Purina has operated out of this site for more than 10 years," said Brian Gier, vice president of feed sales for Purina. "We support construction of this state-of-the-art facility because we are committed to our employees, the community and meeting our customers' needs. And we

are committed to our longstanding partnership with CRC."

"We know the last 10 months have been difficult for everyone, especially our employees and customers. We are grateful to them for their patience and commitment to Purina Animal Nutrition."

The new plant will continue to produce bulk dairy feeds, customized formulas, ingredients, as well as provide full-service bag distribution for local producers. "CRC is committed to being a part of the agricultural community and is pleased we are able to partner with Purina Animal Nutrition to serve the producers of Western and Central New York," said Les Cole, president of CRC.



AFIA Takes Stance on SDS Requirements for the Feed Industry

In April 2015, the American Feed Industry Association along with the National Grain and Feed Association, the Corn Refiners Association and the North American Millers Association produced a guidance document to give a basic overview of the 2012 changes to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) as it relates to the feed and grain industry. Below is a brief summary of AFIA's position, along with recommendations specifically geared toward feed manufacturing facilities and ingredients received by, processed in and shipped from those facilities.

INGREDIENTS

AFIA interprets the rule to state that all ingredients received by a feed manufacturing facility that are classified as hazardous chemicals must have a corresponding Safety Data Sheet (SDS). Making SDSs available for all ingredients used in the feed manufacturing facility will ensure the use of appropriate workplace protections. Ingredient SDSs should identify all hazards associated with use of the product, including combustible dust, if applicable. The industry's guidance document intends to provide general assistance for developing individual ingredient SDSs.

All feed ingredients are subject to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration labeling requirements under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) and are therefore exempt from OSHA HCS labeling requirements, but exports must comply with the laws of the importing country, which may require a label for ingredients (e.g. Canada).

AFIA recommendations:

- Written Plans -- Make sure each facility has a written Hazard Communication Plan required by 29 CFR 1910.1200.
- Developing and Sending SDSs -- Manufacturers and/or distributors of any ingredient used in feed manufacturing that is classified as a hazardous chemical must develop and send individual SDSs for their products to all downstream users, as required in the HCS.
- Shipping Inside the U.S. -- For products shipped within the U.S., a HCS label is not required by OSHA's HCS standard.
- Shipping Outside the U.S. -- For products shipped outside the U.S., AFIA recommends each

facility consult with the destination country's regulations concerning chemical hazard communication labeling.

- Send SDSs -- Send an initial copy of the appropriate SDS to every current customer in advance or with the first shipment.
- Track SDSs sent -- Develop a system to ensure that a copy of the appropriate SDS is sent to all existing and new customers.
- Updating the SDS -- After an initial shipment, an updated SDS must be sent to downstream users in the event that any changes with a safety and health impact are made to the ingredient, in accordance with the standard.

FEED

Based upon further discussions with OSHA, the agency continues to believe that feed manufacturing facilities are "manufacturers" of a "hazardous chemical" (i.e. grain dusts), and that most livestock feeds contain some grain dust. In light of OSHA's interpretations, AFIA recommends the development of SDSs for livestock feeds to help ensure good faith compliance with OSHA requirements.

As with ingredients, all feeds are subject to FDA labeling requirements under FFDCA and are therefore exempt from OSHA HCS labeling requirements. Exports must comply with the laws of the importing country, which may require a label for feeds.

AFIA recommendations:

- Written Plans -- Make sure each facility has a written Hazard Communication Plan required by 29 CFR 1910.1200.
- Maintain SDSs for Ingredients -- Make sure each facility has a current SDS on file and accessible to employees for every ingredient used in the plant that is classified as a hazardous chemical.

Use the "Generic Feed SDS" as a Model for Feed Products -- Use the "Generic Feed SDS" contained in the guidance document as a model for developing the generic SDS for your feed products. While the HCS is not clear, we believe it is appropriate to use one or a small number of generic SDSs for feed products. The basic principle is that a generic SDS may cover a group of products as long as they have the same hazard classification under the HCS. In other words, the hazard class and category must be the same for each feed product covered by the SDS.

- Develop specific SDSs for Feed Products with Special Hazards -- Develop a specific SDS for any feed products manufactured at a facility that may contain any hazards not covered by the generic SDS developed for products (use the guidance document to assist in this determination).
- Shipping Inside the U.S. -- For feeds shipped within the U.S., a HCS label is not required by OSHA's HCS standard.
- Shipping Outside the U.S. -- For feeds shipped outside the U.S., AFIA recommends each facility consult with the destination country's regulations concerning chemical hazard communication labeling.
- Send SDSs -- Send an initial copy of the appropriate SDS to every current bulk feed customer and bagged feed customer/dealer in advance of or with the first shipment.
- Track SDSs sent -- Develop a system to ensure that a copy of the appropriate SDS is sent to all existing and new customers/dealers.
- Updating the SDS -- Update SDSs as needed. Send additional SDSs to customers/dealers in the event that changes to the SDS are made or if they request an SDS.
- "SDS available" -- Include the wording "Safety Data Sheet available upon request" on all feed labels with appropriate contact information included.

For more information, please contact [Gary Huddleston](#), AFIA manager of feed manufacturing safety and environmental affairs, at (703) 666-8854.

Waters of the US - Stay Tuned!



In early October the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit issued a decision to grant a stay of the EPA's overreaching rule to revise the definition of "Waters of the United States" or WOTUS, under the Clean Water Act. The judges expressed deep concerns over the basic legality of the rule. In their written determination the two federal judges voting in favor noted the stay allows for a more deliberate determination whether WOTUS is proper under the dictates of federal law. A stay temporarily silences the whirlwind of confusion that springs from uncertainty about the requirements of the new Rule and whether they will survive legal testing.

On the heels of this decision a panel of federal judges then declined to move all the outstanding WOTUS appeals cases to the District of Columbia District Court, as requested by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The American Farm Bureau has stated the stay is a tremendous victory for agriculture and the 18 states that challenged the EPA on what many view as a power grab. In some northeast states implementation of WOTUS would increase the miles of waterways under federal regulatory control by more than 20%.

MEMBER NEWS

NEW MEMBERS



WELCOME

Elanco Animal Health	Amie	Thomas (518) 321-6639	athomas@elanco.com
H.J. Baker & Bro., Inc.	Jacob	Sparkman(931) 212-3999	jsparkman@bakerbro.com
Hoover Feeds	Tom	Nauman (717) 768-3216	
Hoover Feeds	Brad	Wagner (717) 768-3216	bwagner@hooverfeeds.com
Ingredion Incorporated	Scott	Cruciger (708) 551-2555	scott.cruciger@ingredion.com
La Coop Federee	Gabriel	Biron (514) 858-2564	gabriel.biron@lacoop.coop
Nu-Feeds, Inc.	Glenn "Pat"	Ely (570) 278-3767	nuely@stny.rr.com
Rapp Dairy Nutrition, LLC	Brian	Rapp (315) 677-3238	rappdairynutrition@gmail.com
Feed Products & Service Co.	Greg	Fallin (800) 822-3772	gregory.fallin@feedproducts.net

*Thank you to our current members for your continued support!
The 2015-2016 is currently being printed and will arrive in your mailbox very soon!*



Membership Directory



2015 - 2016

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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
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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

Free Webinar - Affordable Care Act - Update for Employers

October 22, 2015

For more information: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9154391245968322049>

2015 Feed Dealers Conference Series

Vermont Seminar: November 17, 2015

American Legion Post #27

Middlebury, Vermont

2015 NGFA Country Elevator Conference

December 6-8, 2015

Sheraton Crown Center

Kansas City, Missouri

For more information:

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ebedb95ic6e41d9b&llr=fdr65vnab>

NEAFA Board of Directors Meeting

December 7, 2015

Albany, New York

NEAFA Annual Meeting

February 2-3, 2016

Albany Marriott Hotel