

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

NORTHEAST AG & FEED NEWS

January 2011

New Faces in Northeast Agricultural Leadership

Following the November 2010 elections, several northeast governors have made announcements of their appointments for key agricultural positions. So far the faces, while new in their current positions, are all well established in their leadership roles in agriculture.

Governor Andrew Cuomo nominated former North Country state Senator Darrel Aubertine to head the state's Department of Agriculture and Markets. Aubertine, 57, said he was pleased to be offered the position and was looking forward to carrying out the mission the governor laid out in his state of the state message Tuesday, including looking at possible cuts.



"There really is no department in state government that is perfect, no department or agency that doesn't deserve a hard look," Aubertine said. "We have limited resources to work with." Aubertine, a Cape Vincent farmer, represented Oswego, Jefferson and parts of St. Lawrence counties as a Democrat in the Senate for three years. Republican Patty Ritchie, R-Ogdensburg, defeated him in November. He was state assemblyman for five years before winning the Senate seat in a special election in 2008.

Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin has appointed Chuck Ross from Hinesburg to be the new Secretary of Agriculture for Vermont. Ross has been the State Director for U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy for the last sixteen years. In addition to his management responsibilities he has focused on the issues of sustainable development, energy and emerging business opportunities, including opportunities relating to agriculture and food systems.

Prior to being employed by Senator Leahy, Chuck worked on his family's farms and served as the State Representative from Hinesburg. He served on the House Natural Resources and Energy Committee and concluded his service as chairman in 1994.



The Ross family's farming interests include the 800-acre Taproot Morgan Horse Farm in Hinesburg, and a soybean farm in Iowa. Ross helped manage these farms and developed and managed a state wide commercial hay business.

Governor Dan Malloy has selected Steven K. Reviczky, who has been the voice for Connecticut's 5,000 farmers for the last five years at the Capitol, as the state's commissioner of agriculture.

Currently the executive director of the Connecticut Farm Bureau and a farmer from Coventry himself, Reviczky is versed in the issues facing the state's agriculture community, including attempts to ban outdoor wood furnaces, regulating water-flow for reservoir owners and the severe drop in the number of dairy farmers in the state.

"These are very exciting times for Connecticut farmers," Reviczky said. "This is all about local farms and local jobs... Government needs to be a partner to make that happen." Malloy called Reviczky "active and vibrant" and said his knowledge of the industry will be "invaluable to the thousands of family farms across our state."

National Dairy Industry Advisory Council Sub-Committee Releases Recommendations



In August, 2009 the USDA established the 17 member Dairy Industry Advisory Committee (DIAC), under the rules of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, to advise Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack on policy issues impacting the dairy industry. Members of the DIAC from the northeast include Paul Bourbeau Paboco Farms, Inc., Vermont; Edward Maltby Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance, Massachusetts; Deb Erb, Springvale Farm, NH; and Andrew Novakovic of Cornell as a special government employee and DIAC chairman.

One of the first actions of the DIAC was to form a Dairy Farm Profitability Sub-Committee to review the issues of dairy farmer profitability. Specifically the Sub-Committee was tasked with providing suggestions and ideas to the full committee on:

1. How USDA can best address specific issues related to the measurement of dairy farm profitability,
2. A review of existing and proposed federal policies that either promoted or hindered dairy farm profitability, to meet the dairy industry's needs.
3. A review of proposed or prospective policies that hold considerable promise for improving dairy farm profitability.

In December of 2010 the Sub-Committee provided its findings to the full committee. An excerpt from the Executive Summary appears below with recommendations the Sub-Committee feels can directly improve dairy farm profitability and allow farm families to plan for the future.

These recommendations are:

- a redefined Milk Income Loss Contract program that includes supplemental insurance for large operations;
- encouraging support of innovation and new products for the export market;
- changes in the somatic cell count that will increase the milk/feed margins and increase export opportunities;
- grants to implement energy efficiencies and green payments to mitigate the high cost of meeting environmental standards;
- Farm Savings Accounts to encourage saving in years of increased revenue;
- improvements to risk management programs to make them more consumer friendly;
- changes in how farm milk prices are determined.

In addition to these recommendations the Sub-Committee developed comments on:

- proposed changes in the milk fortification standards;
- the impact of growth management programs on farm profitability;
- the effects of consolidation at all levels of the dairy industry and;
- proposed changes to the Federal Milk Marketing Order.

The International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA) is on record in opposition to increasing the milk fortification standards stating that in the opinion of IDFA increasing the standards would raise retail milk prices, increase the costs of federal nutrition programs and reduce dairy exports.



The full report can be accessed at:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=about&subject=landing&topic=dia>

AFIA Supports FDA Compliance Policy Guides on Salmonella in Animal Feed

The last day for comments on the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) updated Compliance Policy Guide Sec. 690.800 on Salmonella in Animal Feed was December 31, 2010. The FDA created Compliance Policy Guides (CPG) to direct field staff regulating compliance policy for animal feed or feed ingredients contaminated with Salmonella and for products which come into direct contact with humans, such as pet food.

Feed distributors and manufacturers will be affected by these guidelines; as written they provide a scientifically-justified policy for Salmonella in feed. Realizing this is a rare occurrence. The eight serotypes listed in the CPG are very rare in feed. For the uncommon occurrences that have been documented by FDA, the most commonly occurring are not known to be animal health concerns. FDA has rightly focused the CPG on the health concerns of animals given the lack of research data relating to Salmonella in feed and any human health concerns.



The American Feed Industry Association (AFIA) supported the CPGs as drafted, noting "For many years, AFIA has urged FDA to separate how the agency polices Salmonella in food and feed, and we applaud this separation. Now, Salmonella found in feed will not always be deemed adulterated, which is a break with the past and a good break," said AFIA Vice President Richard Sellers.

AFIA has initiated the Salmonella in Feed Research Coalition in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (ARS). The purpose of the Coalition is to define research priorities for Salmonella in feed and begin to map out research protocols at ARS facilities. The first formal coalition meeting is tentatively scheduled for early 2011. Scientists from the Center for Veterinary Medicine's Office of Research have been encouraged to participate as observers at the coalition meetings.

Although several groups have commented that all Salmonella should be prohibited in feed, a number of scientists have professed that such a position is neither scientifically defensible, nor realistic. There are currently no scientific data to justify a complete ban given the lack of data on infectious dose, types of serotypes appearing in feed, and the changing landscape of Salmonella on the farm. Most feed and grain groups believe that the proposed CPG is realistic, scientifically-based and takes into account the known research on the issue.

Adopted from the AFIA January 3, 2011 newsletter

2011 Alliance Annual Meeting



Leon Graves



February 6 – 8, 2011
Serving Northeast Animal Agriculture



Steve Kopperud

The 2011 Annual Meeting is fast approaching! This year we will be meeting February 6-8, 2011 at the Albany Marriott on Wolf Road. Registration is Open! If you misplaced your registration brochure, go to: www.northeastalliance.com for online registration or the brochure in pdf format. You won't want to miss this one, so *register today!*



... and back by popular demand
Trent Loos

Sunday Evening - February 6th:

Super Bowl Party in Lobby Lounge

Monday - February 7th:

Capitol Tour and Legislative Meetings

Feed Alliance Seminar Series

Seminar I: Animal Welfare and Care: Programs Available to Farmers in the Northeast
Leon Graves, Dairy Marketing Services & Kathy Finnerty, NYSCAPS

Seminar II: Agricultural Use of Antibiotics: The Science and the Politics
Steve Kopperud, Executive Vice President, Policy Directions, Inc.

Welcome Reception

Dinner on the Town

Siena Saints Basketball



Tuesday - February 8th:

Annual Meeting

Election of Board Members

Feed Industry Update and Outlook - Joel Newman, President, AFIA

Milk Price Forecasts and Risk Management Tools for Northeast Dairy Farmers
Ed Gallagher, Dairylea Cooperative

Collaboration Throughout the Agricultural Industry: How We Can Collectively Move The Ball Forward.

Julie Suarez, Director of Public Policy, New York Farm Bureau

Panel discussion: *The Team Approach to Dairy Nutrition: How Today's Dairy Farmers are Building a Team of Experts to Balance Nutritional Requirements and Herd Health.*

Dr. John Ferry, DVM moderator

Dr. Bob Ladue, DVM

Dr. Bob Corbett, DVM

Pete Gelber, Farmer

Paul Knox, Farmer

Awards Luncheon - Distinguished Service Award

Luncheon Address Honorable Catherine Young, Senate Agriculture Committee

Networking/Exhibits

Live Radio Show - Rural Route, with Trent Loos.

President's Reception

Annual Banquet

Keynote Speaker: Trent Loos



Food/Feed Safety Bill Clears Final Hurdle with House Passage

The House on Dec. 21, 2010 by a 215-144 vote, gave final approval to the comprehensive food/feed safety bill that had been approved most recently on Dec. 19 by the Senate. The bill has since been signed into law by President Obama. After being forced to drop the nearly 2,000-page appropriations bill because of Republican objections over its \$1.1 trillion price tag and more than 6,000 earmarks, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev, subsequently extracted the food/feed safety language and inserted it as a replacement for a totally unrelated House bill (H.R. 2751) whose previous subject matter was intended to be a successor for the cash-for-clunkers automobile incentive program. The Senate then approved that text on Sunday night (Dec. 19) by unanimous consent, which meant that no senator objected to the bill moving forward.

In the House, the bill was supported by 204 Democrats and 10 Republicans. Eight Democrats and 136 Republicans opposed the measure. Forty-two Democrats and 33 Republicans did not vote. Most who supported the measure cited its prevention-based focus, increased authorities and resources provided to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to address the safety of imported foods and ingredients, and the fact that U.S. food safety laws had not been substantially updated since the federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act was enacted more than 70 years ago. Opponents argued that the United States already has the safest food supply in the world, and that the new law would not meaningfully improve U.S. food safety but instead would add increased costs to a wide array of businesses involved in the food and feed chain.

Once signed into law, FDA will have 18 months to issue regulations requiring all facilities – foreign and domestic – registered with the agency under the Bioterrorism Act to develop a written food/feed safety plan that evaluates hazards and procedures to control those hazards to acceptable levels so they do not cause the product to be adulterated or misbranded.

Facilities also will be required to develop food defense plans to protect against intentional contamination incidents from terrorists or other sources. The scope of facilities covered under the bill is extensive, and includes all commercial grain elevators, feed mills, feed ingredient manufacturers, grain processors, millers, exporters and a wide array of other food-related facilities.

The food safety bill authorizes the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) to set and enforce new standards for hazard control in food and feed production facilities. The bill also gives FDA first-ever mandatory recall authority, replacing the current practice of companies voluntarily recalling contaminated products. Finally, the bill requires imported food products to meet U.S. safety standards. The bill also authorizes user fees on re-inspections, recalls, voluntary imported food inspection and inspection certification. There are no registration user fees in the final bill.

Centers for Disease Control Releases Updated Food Safety Data

Amidst the flurry of legislative activity aimed at food and feed safety the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) – an arm of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, FDA's parent agency – published new data this week estimating that 48 million Americans sustain foodborne illnesses annually, with 128,000 being hospitalized and 3,000 dying. Those estimates are dramatically lower than the agency's 1999 estimate of 76 million being sickened, 325,000 being hospitalized and 5,000 dying. The CDC said the new figures "are more accurate than previous estimates," which it attributed to improved quality and quantity of data, as well as new methods used to estimate foodborne diseases



2011 Alliance Membership Renewals

If you have not already done so, it's time to renew your membership for 2011! Your membership has been a significant component in our ability to serve the animal agriculture industry throughout the Northeastern United States. **Membership invoices were mailed at the beginning of November and emailed in December.** If you have not received yours, or need another copy, please contact Sue Kinner (sue@nysta.org).

NEAFA Calendar Of Events

AFIA Online Education Program
Fundamentals of Feed Manufacturing
January 17-February 18, 2011
Online only at: www.afia.org

NEAFA/ProDairy Dairy Health & Nutrition Conference
March 1-2, 2011
Holiday Inn–Liverpool/Syracuse
Liverpool, New York

NEAFA Annual Meeting
February 6-8, 2011
Albany Marriott Hotel
Albany, New York

NEAFA/ProDairy Dairy Health & Nutrition Conference
March 3, 2011
Fireside Inn
West Lebanon, New Hampshire

Cornell Dairy Executive Program
February 20-24, 2011
The Statler Hotel & Cornell University
Ithaca, New York

Cornell Dairy Executive Program
December 4-8, 2011
The Statler Hotel & Cornell University
Ithaca, New York

NEAFA News is a publication of the
Northeast Ag & Feed Alliance
27 Elk Street - Albany, NY 12207

PHONE: (888) 445-4595 - FAX: (518) 434-9093 - www.northeastalliance.com