

## Interagency Working Group on Import Safety holds Public Hearing

The Interagency Working Group on Import Safety (Working Group) was created by President Bush on July 18, 2007. Chaired by Health and Human Services Secretary Michael O. Leavitt, the Working Group is comprised of senior officials from 12 federal departments and agencies. Its creation was prompted by the dangers found in imported apparel, pet food ingredients, toys, seafood, and other products.

The Working Group has held initial consultations with the private sector, reviewed and assessed current import safety procedures and methods, surveyed the authorities and practices of federal government agencies, and worked with the importing community to begin identifying best practices.

On Monday, October 1 the Working Group convened a public hearing on the recently released Strategic Framework for Import Safety. Testimony was gathered from trade organizations, manufacturers and companies developing technology to improve

import safety procedures. Randy Gordon of the National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) as well as Joel Newman of the American Feed Industry Association (AFIA) provided testimony for the feed industry. Louise Calderwood attended on behalf of the Alliance.

While some of the input to the Working Group was from organizations that would like to see strict moratoriums placed on imports, most speakers provided suggestions to increase efficiency of import safety oversight. A common request was for development of a ranking system to assign risk levels to various overseas companies. Data such as a previous compliance record, credit history, and previous export experience would be used to rank importers and then more focus would be placed on companies determined to be high risk.

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## Farm Bill Updates

The Senate Agriculture Committee released their targets for the 2007 Farm Bill on Wednesday, October 17th. The proposal shows minor tweaks to Title I, the Commodity Title, with slight decreases in payment caps and adjusted gross income criteria. In a surprise move, the Senate actually increased conservation spending beyond the amounts included in the House version of the Bill with total increased conservation spending pegged at \$4.8 billion. Unfortunately the increases don't include more dollars for EQIP, the conservation cost share program essential for regulatory compliance on livestock farms in the northeast.

Interest groups are fine-tuning their messages to congress as the Farm Bill moves forward. While there are many special interest groups the debate can be broken into two broad camps of disaster payments vs. conservation funding.

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### Send us your employee news!

We have received feedback from Alliance members that they would like to see more coverage of employee news in our monthly newsletter. To achieve this we need to hear from you!

Please provide Louise Calderwood at [rcalderwod@aol.com](mailto:rcalderwod@aol.com) (that's right-rcalderwod, only one "o") with updates on new positions, promotions, recent hirings, or any other employee news that you want to share with other Alliance members. We can also use photos if you would like to provide them.

# NORTHEAST AG & FEED NEWS

## Feed Inventory Reports From USDA

The Oct. 12 Crop Production report from USDA forecasts the corn harvest at 13.3 billion bushels, which is 26% more than 2006. Based on conditions as of Oct. 1, yields are expected to average 154.7 bushels per acre, 5.6 bushels more than last year. This is anticipated to be the second highest yield on record.

Soybean production is forecast at 2.60 billion bushels, 19% less than last year's record high. Yields are expected to average 41.4 bushels per acre which is down 1.3 bushels from last year.

USDA's Oct. 12 Crop Production report estimates the 2007 cottonseed crop at 6.287 million tons, down more than a million tons from 2006 and the smallest cottonseed harvest since 2002.

Production of dry alfalfa and alfalfa mixture hay is forecast at 72.3 million tons, up 1% from last year. Based on Oct. 1 conditions, yields will average 3.37 tons per acre. Harvested area is forecast at 21.5 million acres, slightly more than last year.

Production of other hay is forecast at 75.6 million tons, up 8% from 2006. Yields are expected to average 1.87 tons. Harvested area, at 40.3 million acres, is up 2% from last year.

## Feed Ingredient Trading Welcomes Michael Smith

Feed Ingredient Trading Corp. is pleased to announce the addition of Mike Smith to their team effective October 15<sup>th</sup>. As Manager of Operations and Business Development, Mike will be exploring the many opportunities to add and enhance the services provided to the livestock feed manufacturing industry. Most recently with Renewable Energy Group, a leader in the bio-diesel industry, Mike also served as Executive Vice President with Blue Seal Feeds until May, 2006. His responsibilities included retail store operations, production and manufacturing, purchasing operations and risk management. Prior to Blue Seal, Mike spent several years in various merchandising capacities with Pillsbury.

It is great to have Mike back to the Northeast, renewing his active interest in our feeding industry. Feel free to contact him at: 518-478-7850 or email: msmith@feedcorp.com

## Dairy Market Softening

Milk production forecasts for 2007 and 2008 were raised earlier this month by the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service. Producers continue to respond to high milk prices with high replacement heifer and calf prices pointing to continued expansion plans. Milk per cow growth into 2008 is expected to be moderated by tight supplies of alfalfa hay and relatively high feed prices. Stocks, both on a fat and skim-solids basis, are forecast higher than last month reflecting increased supplies of butter and stocks of non fat dry milk (NDM). Higher milk production is expected to pressure prices despite relatively robust demand. For 2007 and 2008 the all milk price forecasts were reduced, with prices in 2007 forecast to average a record \$18.95 to \$19.05 and decline to \$17.70 to \$18.60 in 2008.

## Golf Outing Results!

The Golf Outing at Turning Stone Resort netted almost \$7,000. The weather was scorching and so where the scores with the Team Cargill edging out the Cooperative Feed Dealers for first place honors. Congratulations to Brett Oakes for the long drive, Fred Darrow for CTP on hole 6 and Jim Mitchell for CTP on hole 12.

A portion of the earnings will be used towards the Alliance's scholarship program in support of northeast teams participating the National Collegiate Dairy Challenge.

1. Team Cargill: Rob Sheffer, Brian Sheley, Rick Button, and Dan Abrahamson
2. Team Cooperative Feed Dealers: Lon Stephens, Fred Darrow, Brett Oakes, Jim Mitchell  
-Longest Drive Brett Oakes  
-CTP #6 Fred Darrow  
-CTP #12 Jim Mitchell
3. Team IL Richer: Andy Dugan, Landon Stewart, Glenn Waffle, and Dave Howard
4. Team Harbor Point: Kevin Crane, George Deeree, Nick Stacey, Rick Salamore
5. Team Gramco: Bob Mattison, Jeff Ward, Rich Walker, and Bob Cleary

Welcome to new member Michael T. O'Neill,  
Kemin Industries, Beach Lake, PA,  
mike.oneill@kemin.com

# NORTHEAST AG & FEED NEWS

## No-Match Ruling Buys Time for Ag-Jobs

Farmers and ranchers across the country expressed relief last week after a federal judge in San Francisco issued a preliminary injunction that continues to keep the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) from moving forward with its new “no-match” rule. The Oct. 10 ruling is viewed by many as an opportunity to push for agricultural employee guest worker reform.

If allowed to proceed, the rule would have put the burden on employers to resolve Social Security number discrepancies or else fire employees whose work authorization cannot be re-verified by a document not containing the disputed number. U.S. District Judge Charles R. Breyer on Oct. 10 concluded that the new rule and a DHS guidance letter to be included with the SSA no-match notices would cause potential harm to both employers and employees, by leading to the firing of lawfully employed workers and by requiring employers to develop costly procedures to comply with it. His order followed a temporary restraining order that first blocked the rule on Aug. 31.

If enacted, the no-match rule would result in the mailing by SSA of no-match letters including the DHS

guidance letter to 140,000 employers, identifying no-matches for approximately 8 million employees. California Farm Bureau Federation Associate Counsel Carl Borden notes that under Breyer’s order, the SSA could mail no-match letters in their previous format—that is, without the DHS letter.

“...for now, the ruling means that farm employers should not expect to receive the no-match letters with the DHS guidance letter and should continue to comply with current hiring rules,” Borden said. But even without its rule, DHS can prosecute employers who get no-match letters, Borden warned.

To illustrate the severity of the ag labor problem, American Farm Bureau President Bob Stallman cited Labor Department surveys indicating that in 2001 and 2005, 53 percent of the hired crop labor force was not authorized to work in the U.S.

“We believe this is probably a low estimate because it is based on responses volunteered by individuals to government-authorized interviewers,” Stallman said. “It seems reasonable that at least some individuals surveyed did not volunteer that they were not legally authorized to work.”

Using National Agricultural Statistics Service figures  
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### Meet the NEAFA Board

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Dave Traub, The Old Mill Troy, Inc. Waverly, NY

Arthur Whitman, Whitman’s Feed Store N. Bennington, VT



# NORTHEAST AG & FEED NEWS

## Farm Bill *cont. from page 1*

The National Corn Growers Association and others are clearly aligned behind Senator Conrad's (D-ND) disaster package. The proposal focuses on revenue protection and is designed to reduce the need for costly ad hoc disaster assistance. Key provisions of the disaster package include:

- revenue targets that adjust with the markets, designed to reduce production distortions caused by fixed prices and loan rates.
- more equitable treatment of farmers across crops resulting in planting decisions based more on market opportunities and risks than politically set price supports.
- integrating subsidized private revenue insurance with federal revenue counter cyclical payments to reduce insurance costs for farmers.

A coalition of 24 groups with a strong environmental focus are urging support for Senator Harkin's (D-IA) wished-for conservation spending package beyond what is currently planned by the Senate Finance Committee. The Finance Committee supports \$3.846 billion (\$3.075 billion in outlays) for conservation tax credits for the Conservation Reserve Program and the Grasslands Reserve Program. These groups site the backlog of farmer applications for conservation projects as demonstrated need for increased funding.

Lawmakers from the northeast are building their alliances with an eye towards dairy policy. Currently there is moderate support for the continuation of MILC with some changes. Pressure is being applied to increase payment caps and revisit the definition of "producer" to accommodate multi-family member farms.

## Import Safety *continued from page 1*

A recent review of the Working Group web site indicates no activity since the October 1 hearing. We will keep you posted as progress develops. The American Feed Industry Association is sponsoring a national dialog on ingredient import safety in Chicago, November 28-29, 2007. This forum will host expert presentations on this important topic and facilitate a consensus building process on import ingredient safety. For details, visit: [www.afia.org](http://www.afia.org).

## No Match *continued from page 3*

that peg the number of non-family farm workers at 1 million, Farm Bureau estimates at least 500,000 agricultural workers in the U.S. lack proper authorization. *Compiled from AFBF and California Farm Bureau reports.*

## Save the Date!

### NEAFA Events

#### 83rd Annual Seminar & Tea Party

February 11 & 12, 2008

Marriott Copley Place, Boston, MA

#### 2008 Ruminant Health and Nutrition Conference and New England Nutrition Conference

March 25, 2008-Syracuse, NY

March 27, 2008-West Lebanon, NH

#### Speaker program for 2008:

- **Paul Kononoff**, University of Nebraska, "Nutritional Keys to Successfully Feeding Distillers Grains to Dairy Cattle."
- **Tom Jenkins**, Clemson University, "Fat Metabolism in the Rumen and Effect of Distillers Grains on Milk Components."
- **Bill Weiss**, Ohio State University, "Managing variation in nutrient composition and proper sampling of feeds and TMR."
- **Jesse Goff**, West Central Soy, "Immunology and Prevention of Milk Fever."
- **Ken Nordlund**, University of Wisconsin, "Transition cow management: using the Transition Cow Index."

(Program and speakers are the same for both locations.)

### Other Events of Interest

Nov. 7-9

**Dairy Practices Council Annual Conference**, Harrisburg, PA.; [www.dairypc.org](http://www.dairypc.org).

**International Symposium on Milk Genomics & Human Health**, Napa, CA.; [milkgenomics.org](http://milkgenomics.org).

Nov. 13-14

**National Conference for Agribusiness**, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.; [www.agecon.purdue.edu/cab](http://www.agecon.purdue.edu/cab).

**Penn State Dairy Cattle Nutrition Workshop**, Grantville, PA.; [www.das.psu.edu](http://www.das.psu.edu).

Nov. 28-29

**National Dialogue on Ingredient Import Safety**, Chicago, IL; [www.afia.org](http://www.afia.org).