



Issue 2009.08

August 7, 2009

AAGIWA Board Meeting Set for Sept. 14 in Kansas City

The AAGIWA Board of Directors will hold their regular fall meeting on September 14 in Kansas City. All AAGIWA members are invited to attend. The meeting will be held at Harrah’s Resort and Casino, One Riverboat Drive, North Kansas City, MO. The preliminary meeting schedule is as follows:



Sunday, September 13, 2009

5:00 p.m.	Reception
7:00 p.m.	Dinner

Monday, September 14, 2009

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Board meeting session
6:00 p.m.	Dinner meeting with FGIS senior management team

AAGIWA Annual Meeting Set for April 25-28, 2010

Mark your calendars now for AAGIWA’s annual meeting which will be held April 25-28, 2010. After a two-year hiatus, the meeting returns to Las Vegas by popular demand. The host hotel will be Harrah’s Paris Casino and Resort with additional rooms available next door at Harrah’s Bally’s Casino and Resort. Both are located on Las Vegas’ famed “strip.”

Check out our

NEW WEBSITE!

www.AAGIWA.org

AAGIWA’s website has recently undergone a facelift! If you haven’t already, make sure to visit us online.

The tentative schedule for the meeting is as follows:

Sunday, April 25, 2010

4:00 to 4:30 p.m. Board meeting
 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Opening reception
 Dinner On your own

Monday, April 26, 2010

8:00 a.m. to noon Annual Meeting
 Lunch Supplier presentations
 Afternoon Open
 Evening Open

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

8:00 a.m. to noon Annual Meeting
 Noon Lunch
 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. FGIS presentations
 5:00 p.m. Reception
 6:00 p.m. Annual Banquet

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

9:00 a.m. to noon Board meeting



AAGIWA President Larry Kitchen said the Association has negotiated an excellent package with the hotel that will present an exceptional value to AAGIWA members. Room rates at the hotels will range from \$79 to \$99 per night. In addition, those AAGIWA members staying at the Paris Hotel will automatically be eligible for a raffle with these special perks: a voucher for a complimentary one-night stay (meeting dates not included, valid for one year); complimentary tickets for Hotel’s Jubilee Extravaganza Review (a \$65 per ticket value); and complimentary meal vouchers (\$25 per voucher value).

AAGIWA Supports FGIS Domestic Outreach Program

In an August 6 letter to FGIS Deputy Administrator Randall Jones, AAGIWA voiced its support for renewing the domestic outreach program which the Agency operated for one-year in the late-1990s. AAGIWA offered these ideas for the Agency’s consideration:

- Perhaps the program could be a joint effort with AAGIWA.
- FGIS should dedicate at least one employee to the program on an annual basis. This would need to be an individual with strong interpersonal skills and a strong background in the inspection system.
- It would be important to include and work with local agency managers in contacts within their geographic areas.
- The scope for the program should probably be more national in nature than selected areas as was the case with the past program and should include connecting with the relevant personnel at corporate locations.
- Should the user fee account (530) be used to cover the costs for this initiative?
- Potential areas that could be initial targets for the program could include: poultry markets in the southeast; feed industry users of distillers dried grains (ddgs); and ethanol plants



AAGIWA Board Member David Ayers said many members felt the previous program was helpful in highlighting the benefits of the official system with domestic grain shippers, handlers, processors and users.

Grain Inspection Topics

NMR Handbook Under Revision

AAGIWA members have been asked to review and comment on updates and revisions to FGIS' Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Handbook. Rob Dorman of the Field Management Division's Policies and Procedures Branch said comments and feedback on the proposed changes would be appreciated. Comments may be sent to:

Robert.j.dorman@usda.gov.

Fumigation Handbook Changes Effective August 22

Robert Lijewski, acting director, FGIS Field Management Division, reports that the changes to the Fumigation Handbook contained in Program Notice FGIS-PN-09-06 issued on April 2, 2009, will become effective on August 22, rather than on August 1, 2009, as first announced. The revisions affect the in-transit fumigation of vessels.

FSA to Use Official System for Commodity Inspections

The Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) plans to start sampling and testing processed commodity lots (corn-soy blend) governed by the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended, and procured by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). For efficiency and cost effectiveness FGIS will contract with private firms, institutions, and individuals for the purpose of assisting in providing the sampling service, when requested, of packaged export food products. For further details, contact Bob Lijewski at:

Robert.s.lijewski@usda.gov.



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FGIS Accepting Applications for Field Management Director Position

On July 27, 2009, GIPSA posted the job notice for the Field Management Division Director (GIPSA-SES-2009-0002) position left open with the retirement of John Giler. Applications are due by August 26, 2009. Among the many duties of the position are providing executive leadership, management and direction for program managers in developing, administering, executing, coordinating inspection and weighing services, other related programs and activities of the Agency. The position is accountable for the quality, quantity, and timeliness of the GIPSA official services and field programs, and for the effective use of resources. The salary range for the position is \$117,787 to \$177,000. This is a position within the government's Senior Executive Service, so the successful candidate must either already be qualified for the SES or have the skills necessary to do so.

The qualifications for an individual to be successful in this position have been a topic of discussion at the recent Grain Inspection Advisory Committee meeting and within the AAGIWA Board. The Advisory Committee at its June 24/25 meeting approved this motion offered by AAGIWA Board Member Tom Dahl, who is a new member of the Advisory Committee:

The Committee recommends to GIPSA, to ensure a smooth transition when replacing FGIS personnel, that GIPSA look within current staffing with the experience to continue the facilitation of new programs being implemented.

To underscore the importance AAGIWA attaches to this position, the Association wrote FGIS Deputy Administrator Randall Jones on August 6, to state its explicit support for the Committee motion and point out AAGIWA believes "... that the individual possess a strong and deep background in grain inspection procedures and policies. We believe it is critical to the successful fulfillment of this position that the individual possess the knowledge base to make effective decisions."

Trade Notes

Monsanto Back in the GMO Wheat Business

With its acquisition of WestBred LLC, Monsanto has expanded its seeds and traits portfolio to include wheat. WestBred, a Montana-based company, specializes in wheat germplasm. Monsanto said this germplasm will serve as the foundation for the development of new biotechnology traits, which will initially focus on drought tolerance, nitrogen use and higher yield. Biotechnology will be a longer-term prospect, consistent with the company's 8-to-10 year development cycle. Monsanto will also explore herbicide-tolerance and disease resistance opportunities to meet farmers' needs, but the company's plans do not include further development of the first-generation Roundup Ready® trait in wheat.

Groundbreaking Held for New PNW Export Terminal

Randy Deike, grain inspection program manager, Washington State Department of Agriculture, reports there was an official groundbreaking ceremony on August 4 for the new export terminal under construction at the Port of Longview. The project is being undertaken by EGT, LLC, which is a joint

venture whose partners include Bunge North America, Itochu Corp, and STX Pan Ocean. Larry Clarke of Bunge has been named as the CEO of the EGT, LLC project.

GEAPS Offers New Courses

GEAPS will be offering four new distance learning courses in 2010. GEAPS offers these courses between Jan. 1 and July 4: Quality Management Systems for Bulk Materials Handling Operations, Stored Grain Pest Management Practices and Fumigation, Hiring and Retaining Good Workers in the Grain Industry, Equipment Maintenance in the Grain Industry. To learn more about these courses, click here: <http://bit.ly/GEAPSDL2010>.

Member Info

Eldon Davis Passes Away

Dave Reeder, Fremont Grain Inspection, has reported on the passing of Eldon Davis the former owner of the agency. Davis, 73, died on July 18. He owned and operated the Fremont agency from 1969 to 2002 when he sold the business. Davis had suffered a stroke in recent years and was a resident of an area nursing home at the time of his death.

Trade Team Visits Lincoln Inspection

Mark Fulmer reports that the Lincoln Inspection Service was pleased to host the U.S. Grains Council's Sorghum Mexican Buying Team on July 15 as part of an itinerary that took the group through Kansas and Nebraska. The visit was made possible by special funding from the Grains Council's sorghum members. To underscore the importance of the marketing efforts, the Council said the sale of \$22 million worth of U.S. sorghum to Mexico in three months would not have happened without the investments of Council members.

AAGIWA Welcomes Member News

AAGIWA welcomes member information about new products, business changes, personnel changes and other items that may be of interest to AAGIWA members. Please let us know what is new in your business. Send your information to: bob.petersen@aagiwa.com.

Interested in Sponsorship Opportunities?

AAGIWA is now booking sponsors for future issues of **Chaff**. **Chaff** can present your company with a unique opportunity to hit a very targeted audience of key executives in a venue that has strong readership in the agriculture industry. It is an excellent marketing opportunity – contact Bob Petersen for further information at bob.petersen@aagiwa.org.
