



Issue 2009.12

December 9, 2009

## Update on Annual Meeting Plans

Planning is well underway for AAGIWA's annual meeting which will be held April 25 – 28, 2010 at the Paris Hotel and Casino on the famed Las Vegas "strip." The meeting opens with a reception on Sunday evening, April 25 and continues with meeting sessions on Monday morning, April 26, and all day on Tuesday, April 27. The session wraps-up with the Board of Directors meeting on Wednesday morning, April 28.



At this early stage, AAGIWA is pleased to report that Iowa State University Professor Charles Hurbugh plans to be on hand to discuss quality issues associated with the fall harvest, plus marketing opportunities for inspection agencies and provide an update on plans for the new GEAPS-Kansas State University International Center for Grain Handling Industry Operations.

On other topics, AAGIWA looks forward to again hearing from Elwin Hermanson, Chief Commissioner, Canadian Grain Commission, on inspection-related developments in Canada. And, indications are there will be a representative on hand from one of the major western rail carriers to discuss shuttle issues and policies.

## Industry Issues

### Harvest Update

It has been a difficult fall harvest in many areas of the nation. AAGIWA appreciates the following reports from its members on harvest conditions in their respective areas.



- Central Iowa Grain Inspection: Soybean harvest is finished with average yields and good quality. Soybeans are coming into processors averaging over 13 percent moisture, which is requiring longer drying times and thus slowing processing down. Corn harvest is winding down, but there still are a significant number of acres yet to be harvested. The moisture on corn coming into the elevators is running between 18 and 22 percent. There is more blight and cob rot damage in this year's crop due to the wetter conditions in October. We have had an increase in requests for Mycotoxin testing. We are expecting 10 to 14 inches of snow this week which will slow harvest down considerably. Kevin Bredthauer, agency manager.



- Champaign-Danville Grain Inspection: Harvest is nearing completion with soybeans nearly 99 percent and corn about 75-80 percent complete. Vomitoxin in corn has been a big concern. Harvest started in late September and it is now expected to be completed by Christmas, unless the weather slows it down even further. Dave Ayers, agency manager.
- Columbus Grain Inspection: Harvest is almost over in Ohio and yields are good. Quality in the southern half of the State looks to be good, although in the northern half there's a lot of cob rot and vomitoxin. Soybeans look good all over. Ray Anderson, agency manager.
- Fremont Grain Inspection: Corn was wet ranging from 20-25 percent moisture at the start of harvest. In the last two weeks, we have seen 16- 20 percent moisture. Mycotoxin testing for aflatoxin, DON, fumonisin has shown spotty results on DON and fumonisin. Soybean harvest was a little late with no quality issues. Harvest for the most part is finished in our area. Northern Nebraska still may have 15 percent left in the field. Dave Reeder, agency manager (GO BIG RED).
- Kankakee Grain Inspection: We had an abnormally wet season this year and are seeing higher levels of moisture and consequently high levels of foreign material and heat damage due to drying. Yields are average. Al Carlin
- Mid-Iowa Grain Inspection: Currently we are seeing a completed bean harvest and a nearly complete corn harvest. We have not seen a lot of new crop beans, but here is a report on the corn quality picture. Test weights have been on the lighter side compared to previous years. We are seeing test weights ranging from 50-54 pounds/bushel. Moistures have been 15-16 percent with drying and out of the field are running 20 percent-plus. We have had reports of an LP shortage that is slowing the drying of new crop. The predominate damage type has been black surface mold/blight/cob rot. We have not seen a lot of blue eye mold or germ damage so far this year. Mycotoxins have been spotty in the area. Vomitoxin and Zearalone have been the most requested tests followed by Aflatoxin. Very few have exceeded FDA limits. Tom Sloan, agency manager.

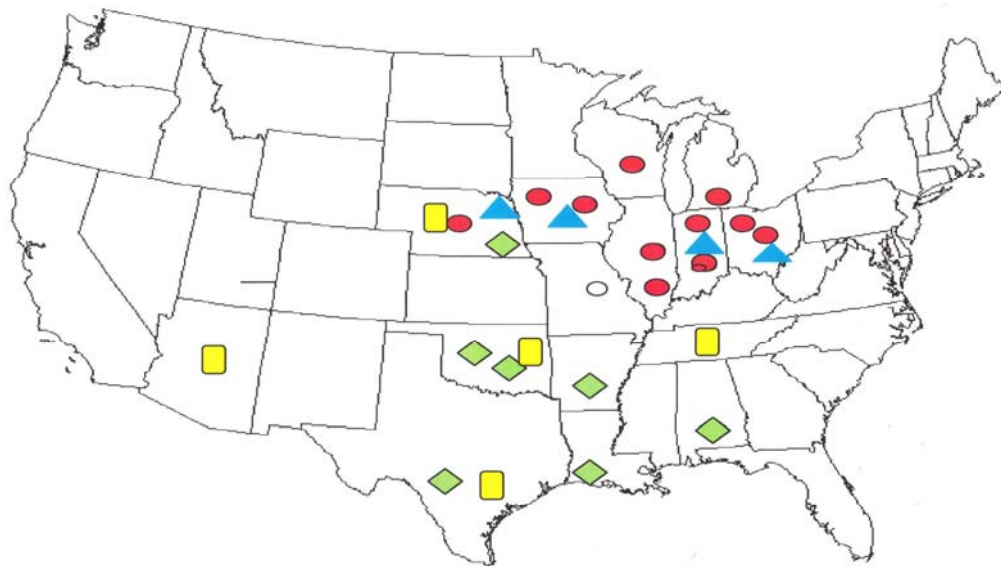
- Seedburo Equipment Company: We have been seeing an increased concern for overall crop quality. With the extreme delay in harvest, we have had primary interest from farmers/producers on the delivery of corn and soybeans to elevators without first knowing themselves the quality of the crop. This has included increases in sampling equipment, moisture testers, test weight measurement products and dockage sieves. There has been an above average interest in these measurement tools over previous years.

We have had a significant increase in the request for Aflatoxin and Vomitoxin test kits in the Eastern Cornbelt. This interest has particularly been with the swine feeders/farmers which are receiving suspect grain from various elevators and ethanol plants. This region has primarily been in the North/Central Indiana and Southern Michigan regions.

From a more personal observation in the "home" region around Peoria, IL, we still had approximately 50 percent of the corn still in the field as of Thanksgiving weekend. Very busy harvesting these past two weeks, but the snow and winds will hamper any further harvest this week. Test weight and moisture levels continued to be problems with lack of dryer capacity slowing deliveries to primary elevator locations. Tom Runyon, president.

- Vicam: In the Southeast states we did see some Aflatoxin, mainly in Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Mississippi. The amounts were high in some areas and scattered in Louisiana and Mississippi. In the Midwest and Northeast there are problems with DON, a very large problem in some states. We have seen levels as high as 12 to 14 ppm. There are also reports of Fumonisin in the Midwest and Northeast. Jim Cary, national sales manager.

**CORN HARVEST MYCOTOXIN MAP REPORT AS OF 11/20/2009**  
**BY NEOGEN CORPORATION – MILLING & GRAIN UPDATE**



CONFIRMED LEVELS: Aflatoxin  Fumonisin  Zearalenone  DON 

## Corn with Mold on Ears in the Field Should be Tested for Mycotoxin

-- *Wallace's Farmer*, November 24, 2009, Rod Swoboda

There are a lot of reports about mold in corn grain this year, and some of it, especially in the eastern Corn Belt, is producing mycotoxins that can be harmful when the corn is fed to livestock. Likewise, if the corn is sold to ethanol plants, the distillers grains concentrate the vomitoxin in the distillers grains that are fed to livestock.

In Iowa and other states in the western Corn Belt, grain elevators, grain processors and others who buy corn are keeping a wary eye on the situation. Will this mold issue on corn, the longer we go with the corn standing unharvested in the field, become a bigger and bigger problem? "Yes it will. The longer the corn sits in the field, particularly as wet as it is east of Iowa, the more likely it will be to find vomitoxin in the grain," says Charlie Hurburgh, an Iowa State University grain quality expert.

"Food safety issues like this are really complicated for the grain handling system," says Hurburgh. For more information, go to the Iowa Grain Quality Initiative Web site at [www.extension.iastate.edu/grain](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/grain)

## GEAPS Realigns Programs and Services

GEAPS leaders at their November 11-12 Board meeting in Minneapolis voted to realign its programs and services. The Board voted to move ahead on three significant initiatives.

1. Online learning – GEAPS will be expanding its distance education program to include on-demand and real-time formats which will build upon its existing relationship with Kansas State University.
2. Credentialing – GEAPS will provide the option of tracking participation in its continuing education and professional development programs.
3. Creating a new "International Center for Grain Handling Industry Operations" – GEAPS will be working with Kansas State University on a new partnership to create this new Center which it envisions will become a global forum for the exchange of ideas and information about grain handling industry operations.



GEAPS says it is excited about this increased emphasis on continuing education and professional development. The new partnership with K-State in forming the International Center for Grain Handling Industry Operations has the potential to be a major development.

As GEAPS undertakes these new initiatives, it decided to cut-back on some of its more traditional areas of providing "technical services." GEAPS says there are some things it will no longer provide, such as industry news. Its daily "industry alerts," for example, will come to an end. And the GEAPS joint technical committees with the National Grain and Feed Association – Agroterrorism/Facility Security; Grain Grades & Weights, Safety, Health & Environmental Quality – will become exclusively NGFA's domain.

## Inspection Issues

### Quality Roundtable Update

-- A Report from Randall Deike, Washington State Grain Inspection Program Manager



Randy Deike

At the invitation of FGIS management and the recommendation of Larry Kitchen, AAGIWA president, Mark Fulmer and I had the opportunity to participate in the FGIS Quality Roundtable held November 19-20 in Kansas City. Thirteen FGIS representatives joined us in the task of evaluating the official inspection system for efficient and effective use of resources while maintaining integrity and assuring uniformity and a balance between cost-effectiveness, production, and quality control. A draft report was forwarded to the participants on December 4 with a due date of December 11 for comments/changes to the final document. FGIS executive management should receive the final report the following week. I believe it is prudent to commend FGIS management for recognition of the issues that caused them to convene the Quality Roundtable.

I'm sure all of us have been concerned with the looming loss of institutional knowledge in FGIS, with the apparent lack of coordination and leadership in the centralization effort and many of us have been frustrated with the transition to **FGISonline**. After participating in the roundtable, I can say that this angst is not limited to those of us delegated and/or designated by FGIS. Many of the FGIS personnel around the table had issues with aspects of both **FGISonline** and the centralization concepts.

Functions such as CRT, IDW, and ECT have already affected official agency operations, some positively, some not so much. With Licensing, QAC and ITW still looming on the horizon, we should expect official agency operations to be further impacted. As many of us already know, lack of available "go-to" experts will likely cause issues during these coming transitions. Add in the requirements of a quality management program and yearly audits/reports and it becomes evident that the mission of maintaining a high-quality official inspection system is evolving and will require a cooperative effort where FGIS and the official agencies share responsibilities. On the bright side, most of us run progressive, quality operations and we're competent to meet these challenges, even if we aren't entirely in agreement with the goals and additional costs associated with them.

I am hopeful that FGIS management will utilize the recommendations of the roundtable to improve the coordination of the GSL, FMD, BAR, QAC, and FOSS to best address the needs and expectations of FGIS and official agency service providers and that they will find the means to maintain integrity and quality within the official system. AAGIWA members should accept the fact that much of the transition to **FGISonline** and centralization are already to the point that undoing them would be costly and may not be a viable solution for FGIS. We will need to make the best of the situations, work as closely as possible with FGIS on the solutions they select, and remain as involved and informed as possible.

## Advisory Committee Meets

USDA's Grain Inspection Advisory Committee met November 17-18, 2009 in Kansas City. Topics included:

- Crop production and marketing outlook
- Sorghum odor
- Container regulations
- Video railcar stowage exams
- Fumigation handbook
- Track scale program
- Wheat standards
- Quality management program for the Official System
- Biotechnology proficiency programs
- International trade and outreach issues
- Rice equipment approval issues
- Program updates

AAGIWA Board member Tom Dahl, Sioux City Inspection and Weighing is a member of the Committee and was in attendance, as was AAGIWA member Randall Deike, Washington Grain Inspection Program, who is an alternate committee member. Other AAGIWA members in attendance included David Ayers, Champaign-Danville Grain Inspection, Mark Fulmer, Lincoln Inspection Service, and Tom Meyer, Kansas Grain Inspection.

## Container Regulations

Robert Lijewski, acting director, Field Management Division, FGIS, reported on changes underway in container regulations at the Advisory Committee meeting. Lijewski noted that grain exported in containers has grown exponentially in the past 5 years to levels that far exceeded grain industry forecasts. This has prompted GISPA to review current policies and procedures pertaining to containerized cargoes, and also the regulations for the inspection and weighing of grain in single lots and combined lots. GISPA also reviewed regulations that are specific to the CuSum loading plan and is proposing that regulations applicable to inspections of shiplots, unit trains, and lash barges be amended to address situations where load orders specify "Average Grade" or "No subplot to exceed" analysis. The goal of the review and any subsequent changes is to ensure



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inspection and weighing procedures are fair and do not create advantages or disadvantages with regard to the shipping container or method.

### **Comments Sought on Wheat Standards**

FGIS announced on November 27 that it is seeking public comments on any changes needed to the U.S. Standards for Wheat or current official grading practices for wheat. Comments on the agency's Advanced Notice of Public Rulemaking are due by February 25, 2010. Click here to make a comment: <http://www.regulations.gov/search/Regs/home.html#documentDetail?R=0900006480a5f543>

### **What Constitutes a Loading Order?**

FGIS now has underway its export contract review program under which the agency reviews randomly selected export grain shipments for consistency between load order instructions provided by shippers to official personnel and contract specifications.

AAGIWA hears occasional reports that perhaps not all originating shippers are as familiar as they should be with the requirements for what constitutes a loading order. FGIS Technical Services Director John Sharpe points out the requirements for load orders are found in the inspection handbook. The following link will take you to Book III and the requirements for load orders may be found on page 2. <http://archive.gipsa.usda.gov/reference-library/handbooks/grain-insp/grbook3/grinsp-bk3-ch1.pdf>

### **GSL Temporarily Suspends Receiving Samples**

The temporary suspension of samples going to the Grading Services Laboratory and the BAR except for Appeal, Board Appeal, and opinion samples, was lifted on December 7 after the agency was able to complete about 700 appeal samples.

FGIS had notified those official agencies monitored by the GSL on December 1 that there would be a temporary suspension which included routine monitor samples to the GSL, and STEP and training samples to the BAR. Ken Critchfield, assistant director, Field Management Division, said the action was regrettably necessary due to the limited number of GSL graders and BAR members, and the obligation that those limited resources be directed toward an influx of original AMA samples and an intermarket concern that has prompted at least several hundred appeal requests.

### **Advisory Committee Nominees Sought**

FGIS announced on November 10 that it is seeking nominations for individuals interested in serving on USDA's Grain Inspection Advisory Committee. Nominations are being sought for five members and eight alternate members, all of whom will begin serving their three-year terms in April 2010. Nominations are due by January 11.

## **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](mailto:bob.petersen@aagiwa.com).

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