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## **AAGIWA Asks for Member Views on FGIS Training Programs**

As FGIS moves forward to design the framework for new training programs, AAGIWA is asking its members for input on the content of those programs. In a June 2 letter to AAGIWA members, President Larry Kitchen said FGIS and the AAGIWA Board have been discussing the nature of the new programs. Kitchen said AAGIWA would welcome member views on two particular aspects of the program framework: (1) the draft curriculum prepared by FGIS and (2) funding alternatives. (Click [here](#) for the draft curriculum; click [here](#) for the summary of the AAGIWA Board discussion with FGIS)

FGIS Technical Services Division Director John Sharpe said the effort behind the new training program is being driven by GIPSA's progress in consolidating oversight activities at its National Grain Center in Kansas City and closure of domestic field offices. The new facility will have improved areas for training and will house experts in all FGIS functions. The part of the building designed for training is scheduled to be ready in early 2010.



*National Grain Center in Kansas City*

## **Dahl Named to FGIS Advisory Committee**



Among the six members Agriculture Secretary Thomas J. Vilsack announced June 1 to serve on the Department's Grain Inspection Advisory Committee is AAGIWA past president Thomas C. Dahl. Dahl is the agency manager for Sioux City Grain Inspection and Weighing Service Company. Dahl will serve a 3-year term.

Other new members are: Tammy L. Basel, vice president, Women Involved in Farm Economics, Union Center, SD; Theresa S. Cogswell, consultant/president, BakerCogs,



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Inc., Olathe, KS; Jerry D. Cope, commodity manager, South Dakota Wheat Growers; Aberdeen, SD; Warren J. Duffy, vice-president, ADM Grain, Ama, LA; and Mark E. Hodges, executive director, Oklahoma Wheat Commission, Oklahoma City, OK.

The new alternate members are: Paul A. Coppin, general manager, Reynolds United Co-op, Reynolds, ND; Godfrey R. Friedt, director of elevator operations, Omaha, NE; Brian L. King, manager, Ritter Grain Service, Marked Tree, AR; and Gene E. McEntee, senior management, Colusa Elevator, Co., Nauvoo, IL .

AAGIWA President Larry Kitchen noted that a number of prominent members of the Association have served on the Advisory Committee through the years, giving AAGIWA an important link to the Agency and the grain industry. Most recently, Mark Fulmer, Lincoln Inspection Service, served as an Advisory Committee member. Fulmer's 3-year term expired in March 2009. Currently serving as an Advisory Committee Alternative is Randall Deike, grain inspection program manager, Washington State Department of Agriculture. (Click [here](#) to view the complete list of the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee.)

The Grain Inspection Advisory Committee is comprised of 15 members and 15 alternate members appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture who represent all facets of the grain industry. The Committee meets twice annually to advise USDA on the establishment of programs and services under the U.S. Grain Standards Act.

## Kentucky Experts Brace for Fusarium in Wheat Crop



University of Kentucky crop experts are worried they may be seeing the worst outbreak of Fusarium head blight in the State's wheat crop in 18 years, according to a report in the June 1 issue of *Southeast Farm Press*. While Fusarium is present in Kentucky wheat fields every year to some extent, this year may be more severe than others.

Depending on the severity of the disease, it could pose potential problems for the state's many agricultural sectors that depend on wheat, said Don Hershman, University of Kentucky Extension plant pathologist. "We're still in a period of flux right now," he said. "There could be more disease development over the next week or so." "The disease is not quite at 1991 levels, but it's definitely the worst it's been since 1991," Hershman said.

## Administration Plans Legislation to Recover Standardization Costs from User Fees

The Obama Administration is preparing to forward legislation to Capitol Hill that would authorize USDA to charge user fees to recoup the cost of FGIS' standardization program. Most Administrations in recent memory, dating back to the Regan Administration, have proposed similar legislation which was ultimately not enacted.

As background, the USDA budget for 2010 proposes a program level for salaries and expenses of about \$84 million for GIPSA, of which \$42 million is from existing inspection and weighing user fees. Of the appropriations request of \$42 million, about \$18 million is devoted to the grain inspection activities including standardization, compliance, and methods development activities and about \$24 million to the Packers and Stockyards Program.

The proposed legislation estimates the user fee increase would recover about \$3 million for the standardization program.

## **New Export Terminal Planned for PNW**



Bunge North America has formed a joint venture with Itochu Corp. and STX Pan Ocean to build and operate an export grain terminal at the Port of Longview in Washington State. The joint venture, which will be called EGT Development, L.L.C., will create the first export terminal in the U.S. in more than two decades, Bunge said.

According to Bunge, the export terminal will be capable of handling grain, oilseeds and protein meals, and will feature a rail loop track unloading system capable of holding four 110-car unit trains at any given time. In addition, the facility will include a shuttle train unloading system and will have the capability to unload barges from the Columbia River. When it is fully operational, the facility will be able to handle more than 8 million tonnes annually, Bunge said.

Itochu Corp. is the second-largest marketer of grain and food products in Japan, and STX Pan Ocean is one of the world's leading shipping companies of agricultural products. Bunge has oilseed processing assets in China, an ownership stake in the Phu My port in Vietnam and is a significant seller into the Asian market. Bunge said it is the majority partner in the project.

Construction is expected to begin this month with the facility accepting product for the fall 2011 harvest.

## **Wheat Groups Announce Goal of Synchronized Biotech Introduction in U.S., Canada and Australia**

Organizations representing the wheat industry in the United States, Canada and Australia announced on May 14 they will work toward the goal of synchronized commercialization of biotech traits in the wheat crop. Noting that "none of us hold a veto over the actions of others," they agreed it was in the best interest of all three producer communities to introduce biotechnology in a coordinated fashion to minimize market disruption.

The announcement came in a statement of joint principles on the issue of biotechnology in wheat, which has been a sensitive subject in some parts of the world, including major export markets in Europe and Asia. There is currently no commercial production of genetically modified wheat anywhere in the world. The statement highlighted the importance of wheat to the food supply and declining acres in all three countries due in part to competition from crops that have the advantages of biotech traits. The

statement also noted the slow growth trend of wheat yields compared to other crops and the lack of public and private investment in wheat research worldwide.

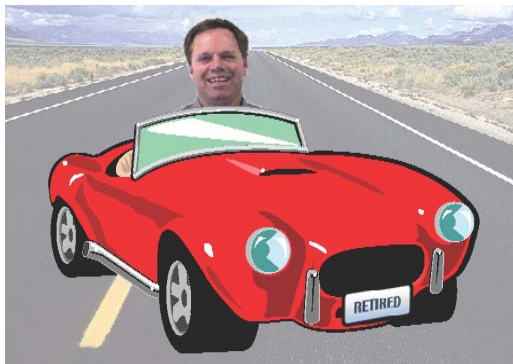
U.S. organizations signing onto the statement include the National Association of Wheat Growers, U.S. Wheat Associates, and the North American Millers' Association. Canadian signatories include Grain Growers of Canada, Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association and Alberta Winter Wheat Producers Commission. Australian signatories include Grains Council of Australia, Grain Growers Association, and Pastoralists and Graziers Association of Western Australia (Inc.).

## USDA Revising Grain Storage Program

Officials in USDA's Farm Service Agency are working on revisions to the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program which provides grower's with low-interest loans to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

A provision in the 2008 farm bill directed USDA to revise the program by increasing the maximum loan amount available from \$100,000 to \$500,000 and increasing the loan term from seven years to 12 years. A final rule accomplishing these changes is expected to be issued in July 2009 according to USDA officials.

## Giler Retirement Event Planned



FGIS will be hosting a retirement party for outgoing Field Management Division Director John Giler on June 30 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the Whitten Building Patio at the USDA headquarters building at 14<sup>th</sup> and Independence Avenues, SW, in Washington, DC. Giler is retiring effective July 3 after 31 years of service with FGIS. Those attending who are not government employees should advise FGIS in advance to expedite the security clearance process.

## Washington State Recognizes Quality Management Team

Washington State's Grain Quality Management Initiative Workgroup Team was among 14 special teams and fifty "employees of the year" honored the Department of Agriculture in celebrations held May 6 and 7. The team members honored were: Don Zoellern, Stan Larsen, Paul Recardo, Pam Collins, Pete Wood, Jack LaRue, Mark Ostergren, Bob Arnhold and Scott Cooley. Randall Deike, grain inspection program manager, said the agency hopes to have its initial audits done by June 30, 2009, and have the report completed and submitted to FGIS in July. He said Don Zoellern, NW Regional Manager, John Lindgren, SW Regional Manager, and Reola Loomis, Grain Inspection Program Administrative Assistant, will team up to conduct audits at the Department's nine locations.

## FGIS Actions

### -- Inspection of Specialty Type Corn

FGIS issued a revised Program Directive 9180.82 effective June 1 establishing uniform procedures of the analysis of Specialty Type Corn (Blue Corn). The directive revises moisture calibrations, approximate sample size for the Dickey-john GAC 2100 and makes other minor changes. Blue corn is a flour-type corn which has a soft, floury endosperm covered by a thin, evenly distributed layer of hard, corneous endosperm.

### -- IDW Update

GIPSA reports all official agencies, except five, are transmitting information into the IDW. Of the five remaining agencies, four are sending in test records to address data issues which should have them functional very soon.

### -- Agency Designations

GIPSA is asking for applicants to provide official services in the California; Frankfort, IN; Indianapolis, IN; and Virginia areas and is requesting comments on the official agencies serving these areas. Please submit applications and/or comments to GIPSA by July 1, 2009.

AAGIWA congratulates the following agencies and their official agency managers on re-designation for a three-year period:

- o Kansas Grain Inspection Service, Inc., **Tom Meyer**, president and **Randy McCormick**, official agency manager;
- o Mid-Iowa Grain Inspection, Inc., **Thomas Sloan**, official agency manager;
- o Minot Grain Inspection, Inc., **David Thom**, official agency manager; and
- o Tri-State Grain Inspection Service, Inc., **Damon Sampson**, official agency manager.



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-- **Calendar Note**

The next meeting of the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee is scheduled for June 24 and 25 in St. Louis at the Renaissance St. Louis Grand & Suites Hotel.

## **Membership Update**

AAGIWA Secretary-Treasurer Dave Reeder, Fremont Grain Inspection, reports that California Agri Inspection Company has renewed its annual membership. Thanks go to Vikash Anand, Official Agency Manager, for the agency's continued support.

## **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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## **Interested in Sponsorship Opportunities?**

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