CHAFF
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AAGIWA Annual Meeting to be Held in Las Vegas

After an absence of several years, AAGIWA will return to Las Vegas for the association's 2010 Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held April 25-28, 2010 at the Paris Las Vegas Hotel and Casino. Plans call for the following meeting schedule:

Sunday, April 25, 2010

4:00 to 4:30 p.m.	Board Meeting
6:00 to 7:30 p.m.	Opening reception

Monday, April 26, 2010

8:00 to 11:30 a.m.	Meeting session
Lunch	On your own
Afternoon	Open
Evening	Open

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

8:00 to 12:00 noon	Meeting session
Lunch	Vendor's What's New Luncheon
1:00 to 5:00 p.m.	FGIS presentations
5:30 p.m.	Reception
6:30 p.m.	Annual Banquet

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

9:00 to 12:00 noon	Board of Directors meeting

The Paris Hotel and Casino is located on the famed Las Vegas "strip." Current meeting information is also available at the AAGIWA web site, www.AAGIWA.org.

FGIS Forms Quality Roundtable

Randall Jones

FGIS Deputy Administrator Randall Jones on October 30 announced the formation of a new Quality Roundtable. Jones said the group was charged with ensuring that – at this time of great change for the agency – its ability to provide quality results and services remain as high as customers expect and its history deserves. The group will meet November 19-20, 2009, in Kansas City.

Representing AAGIWA on the Roundtable are Vice Chairman Mark Fulmer, Lincoln Inspection Services, and Randall Deike, Washington State Grain Inspection Program. FGIS officials named to serve on the Roundtable are: Jim Brownlee, Kenneth Critchfield, Edward Durgan, Joe Hearns, Ronald Metz, Diane Palecek, Beverly Whalen, Mark Wooden, David Lowe, Michael Eustrom, David Funk, George Lewis, and David Mundwiler.

The Charter for the Quality Team states that its challenge is to find the best ways to ensure that inspection and service quality are maintained and coordinated throughout the official inspection system.

The Charter states that the Team Charge is:

> To thoroughly and critically evaluate the official inspection system and programs; to determine the most efficient and effective allocation of resources (human) and mechanisms; to adequately safeguard the integrity of the national inspection system; and to assure our grain, rice and pulse stakeholders inspection uniformity nationwide and around the world. Central to the evaluation is assuring appropriate means are in place to encourage and enable service providers to maintain a sensible balance between mounting pressures to reduce costs and increase production, and practicing prudent quality control principles. The team's evaluation will identify areas of concern and make recommendations to improve noted shortcomings in current practices, organizational structure, and technology.

To view the Quality Team Charter, click here.

Quality Management Program Update

FGIS Compliance Division Director Thomas O'Connor reports that implementation of the Quality Management Program has gone very well. With one exception, he said all official agencies have now submitted their plans and the vast majority have been approved. He said FGIS appreciates the cooperation from agencies in making any necessary changes in an expeditious fashion.

Once an agency's plan is approved, it is then subject to an initial audit within three months. O'Connor said the audit provides an opportunity to review and fine-tune the plans to make any necessary changes. Within a year, agencies will then have full audit and over the course of three years, FGIS will conduct an on-site review.

O'Connor made a point of thanking AAGIWA for its participation in the Quality Review Team and said the changes the team made to the original plan resulted in a much more workable program.

Grain Inspection Advisory Committee to Meet

USDA's Grain Inspection Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet November 17 and 18, 2009, in Kansas City. The meeting will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in the Country Club Plaza area of Kansas City.

The meeting agenda includes these topics:

- Crop production and marketing outlook
- Sorghum odor
- Container regulation changes
- Wheat standards
- Status of Quality Management Program Implementation
- Laboratory Proficiency Program
- International Programs
- Yamamoto Rice Sheller Study

Tom Dahl, Sioux City Inspection and Weighing Services, represents AAGIWA on the Advisory Committee.

AAGIWA Board Discusses Promotion Ideas

AAGIWA's Board of Directors, at their September 14, 2009, meeting asked FGIS to consider re-starting the domestic outreach program it operated for a year in the late-1990s. Board members said they felt the program was helpful in highlighting the benefits of the official system with domestic grain shippers, handlers, processors, and users.

FGIS Deputy Administrator Randall Jones expressed the agency's wiliness to explore the issue and designated John Sharpe, director, Technical Services Division, as the Agency's point person on the subject.

AAGIWA President Larry Kitchen said the association has also sought to include GEAPS – the Grain Elevator and Processing Society – in efforts to develop an outreach program. Kitchen noted that GEAPS members are often the key decision-makers at grain facility locations when it comes to using official services.

An initial, discussion session including the three groups was held October 21 in Kansas City at the FGIS Technical Center. Attending were Bob Petersen, AAGIWA staff; John Sharpe, FGIS Technical Services Division; and David Krejci, GEAPS Executive Vice President. Petersen reported to the AAGIWA Board that all participants came away from the session feeling it was a positive discussion that could lead to a

collaborative initiative to develop grain inspection and operations outreach opportunities. The AAGIWA Board will be further discussing the nature and shape of such a potential program.

Wet Harvest Season Posing Challenges in Some Areas

photo courtesy of AgriPulse Newsletter

A very difficult harvest season is emerging in many parts of the United States as an exceptionally damp and cool fall has left producers struggling to bring in a crop. According to the October 29 issue of USDA's ***Grain Transportation Report***, the rainfall for October in Chicago was twice the normal level; in St. Louis it was nearly four times the normal level.

As of October 25, only 20 percent of the U.S. corn crop was harvested, 17 percentage points lower than last year at this time and 38 points lower than the five-year average. The soybean harvest has made a little better progress, with 44 percent of the harvest complete as of October 27, but that is still 37 percentage points lower than last year at this time and 36 percentage points lower than the five-year average.

The cool, wet weather is causing soybean diseases to explode across the Midwest. In a report posted on ***Agricultural Online*** on October 28, Pioneer senior marketing manger for soybeans, Don Schafer, said "heavy disease pressure has been reported this year in fields to diseases such as white mold, soybean cyst nematode (SCN) and brown stem rot (BSR)." In a company report, Schafer wrote that white mold has been reported across most states in the northern Corn Belt including Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Nebraska. Brown stem rot surfaced in areas where it's common, like northern Illinois, northern Indiana, southwest Michigan and southern Minnesota. But, it's also showing up in atypical areas such as northeast Nebraska and South Dakota.

Farmers in the upper Midwest are facing many of the same harvest challenges as they did in 2008. North Dakota State University Extension Ag Engineer Ken Hellevang says the crop won't dry down in the fields very fast. "As we get this late in the season, where we have cool temperatures and short days, we're going to see very minimal field drying; maybe a point a week is about all that we can really expect," Hellevang said according to a report carried by the Red River Farm Network's ***Farm Net News*** on November 2, 2009

Harvest conditions and related quality concerns caused U.S. Grains Council President Ken Hobbie to issue a statement to export customers to assure them that U.S. farmers will be able to meet all domestic and global demands for grain. According to an October 23 report from ***World Grain***, Hobbie was in Asia meeting with some of the largest buyers of U.S. corn.

Iowa State Grain quality specialist Dr. Charles Hurburgh provided answers to a number of grain quality questions in his November 1, 2009 bulletin. He advises, among other items, to keep the dryer fans running in all weather and that the time for field drying has likely passed. He also suggests how to deal with low corn test weights and increased shrink. Click here to access his newsletter (http://www.extension.iastate.edu/CropNews/2009/1030hurburgh.htm)

Cool and wet weather can also create ideal conditions for the development of mycotoxins. Neogen and Charm Sciences have provided AAGIWA with further information about the incidence of mycotoxins:

- Click here to see Charm Sciences' most recent MycotoxIncidence Report. To be added to the distribution list for this report, send an e-mail to stephaniem@charm.com.
- Click here to see Neogen's corn harvest mycotoxin map report of November 2. E-mail any questions you have to pfrasco@neogen.com.

AAGIWA members have shared these harvest reports.

- Dave Ayers, Champaign-Danville Grain Inspection: The harvest here is wet, slow, and big. We are about 40 percent done on soybeans and maybe 25 percent done on corn.
- Tom Dahl, Sioux City Inspection and Weighing Service: It's been difficult for local farmers to get in the field. Looks like it could be a heavy year for mycotoxins.
- Keith Fronabarger, Cairo Grain Inspection Agency: There was almost 11 inches of rain last month which has put harvest very far behind. The corn crop is about 70 percent harvested and beans are about 50 percent. The rivers are rising so a lot of the bottom land crops will go under water. This could leave quite a mess when the water recedes. At this point we need about three weeks of sunshine.
- Greg Hoelck, Hastings Grain Inspection: Our soybean harvest has been going pretty well as opposed to the almost non-existent corn harvest which continues to be delayed. Quality issues could present themselves.
- John Sanders, Louisiana State Department of Agriculture: Here in the northeast corner of Louisiana we have received up to 20 inches of rain for the month of October. Statewide it is varying from 10-20 inches. As far as the overall harvest, we are 80 percent done on soybeans with the possibility of the remaining not being harvested. Corn is 99 percent done, sorghum is 99 percent, and cotton is 35 percent. We had started with good quality grades and after all the monthly rain the grades on soybeans are ranging from 10 to 100 percent damage. We are having 7-10 days of good weather and this should finish the harvest.

New Hard Wheat Varieties Released for Eastern Production

NuEast Appalachian White

The first hard winter wheat varieties bred and developed for production in the eastern United States have been released by USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS). The new varieties are NuEast, a hard red winter wheat, and Appalachian White, a hard white winter wheat.

Soft winter wheats, which are used to make pastries, cookies and biscuits, are typically grown in the eastern United States. Hard wheats, on the other hand, are best suited for making bread. Hard wheat has not traditionally been a successfully grown crop in the eastern states

because the area's humidity increases the incidence of disease in the field. This in turn affects yield and the quality of the grain.

But NuEast addresses these problems. In field tests, NuEast had significantly higher grain yield than the check varieties over four years of testing. It also showed moderate reaction to powdery mildew but was more resistant than some check varieties. NuEast's resistance to leaf rust is good, and it is moderately resistant to stem rust, including Ug99 races.

There are very few hard white wheats grown and produced in the United States. The main challenge with growing hard white wheat under humid conditions in the eastern states is the pre-harvest sprouting typically associated with white wheats, according to Marshall.

Throughout six locations and over three years of testing, Appalachian White had significantly higher yield than the only other variety that could be considered acceptable when grown under weather conditions in the eastern states. Appalachian White also showed a higher level of resistance to powdery mildew, stripe rust, leaf rust and Hessian fly.

Researchers Develop Sorting Technology for Wheat Kernels

A small-scale imaging system that inspects and sorts wheat samples and other grains at moderate speeds with 95 to 99 percent accuracy has been developed by USDA Agricultural Research Service scientists and cooperators. This new system, suitable for small-scale operations, uses a single camera to capture color images of three sides of each kernel, and a personal computer processes the images. The system sorts 30 kernels per second which equates to slightly more than 7.5 pounds of wheat per hour.

Notes of Interest

- Chicago Key Hub for Containerized Grain Exports: Containerized grain movements represent approximately five percent of total oceangoing grain exports. Container availability has been a challenge for containerized grain shippers in the Midwest. The economic recession has caused a sharp drop in containerized imports, greatly reducing the container pool available for export cargo. Import containers are generally moved to major inland transportation hubs, such as Chicago, Kansas City, and Dallas. Chicago is the busiest inland transportation hub, so it typically has a regular supply of containers. It is also the primary origin for containerized grain exports. Container flows of export grain move most frequently – more than 67 percent -- from the Chicago area to the Los Angles and Long Beach, CA, port complex. *(source: USDA **Grain Transportation Report**, September 24, 2009)*

- Holiday Season May Spark Brief Upturn in Container Availability: Shippers are expecting some improvement in container availability around Chicago through the fall due to increases in import

traffic for the holiday season. However, import container traffic is expected to fall by November, diminishing available equipment for exporters through the end of the year and into 2010. Shipments of containerized grain to Asia from January through July were 56 percent below last year and 65 percent below the three-year average. *(source: USDA **Grain Transportation Report**, October 15, 2009)*

- Ethanol Production Recovering: Ethanol production recovered during the summer months, as profitability returned due to relatively low corn prices and strong petroleum prices. According to the Energy Information Agency, as of July, U.S. ethanol production reached 5.9 billion gallons year-to-date – almost 16 percent higher than during the same period last year. Exports of distillers dried grains with solubles have also increased with more than 50 percent of U.S. DDGS exports destined for markets outside North America. *(source: USDA **Grain Transportation Report**, October 15, 2009)*

  Profit margins for ethanol manufacturers reached 25 cents per gallon in October. That's up from 15 cents in September and about five cents in August. Credit Suisse says the increase in profit margins is related to a reduction in Brazilian ethanol imports. *(source: Red River Farm Network, **Farm Net News,** November 2, 2009)*

Supplier News

Charm Introduces First Aflatoxin Grain Test with Water-Based Extraction Solution

Charm Sciences, Inc., on September 29, announced the introduction of its ROSA® BEST Aflatoxin P/N Test Kit using an eco-friendly extraction solution.

Until now, aflatoxin detection in feed and grain has required the use of hazardous extraction solvents such as ethanol or methanol. Charm's new BEST (Biodegradable Extraction Solution Technology) qualitative lateral flow test uses an aqueous-based, alcohol-free extraction solution that is safe for test operators and the environment.

The BEST solution is non-toxic and non-flammable, ensuring a low environmental impact and reduced storage, shipping and disposal costs compared to alcohol extractions.

The ROSA BEST Aflatoxin P/N Test follows the same simple Rapid One Step Assay (ROSA) procedure as other Charm ROSA mycotoxin tests and can be run on the same equipment. Positive or Negative results are provided after a quick 3-minute incubation.

Neogen's Veratox® for DON 2/3 Receives AOAC Approval

Neogen Corporation announced on September 14 that it has received approval from the AOAC Research Institute for its quantitative Veratox® for DON 2/3 test kit (AOAC-RI 090901). Veratox for DON 2/3 provides exact levels of DON (a.k.a., deoxynivalenol), a natural toxin produced by molds, in

the range of 0.5 to 5 parts per million (ppm). After a simple water extraction, the test produces clear sample results after two incubations that together total only 5 minutes. The test's performance has been verified for testing wheat, rice, barley, malted barley, corn, and oats.

Neogen launches Veratox® for T-2 / HT-2 toxins

In response to proposed regulation in the European Union, Neogen has improved its Veratox® for T-2 Toxin test kit to simultaneously detect the closely related HT-2 mycotoxin, according to an announcement from the company on September 22, 2009. Using the same simple protocol as Neogen's Veratox for T-2, the new Veratox for T-2/HT-2 test provides the same exceptional accuracy and reproducibility as the previous version, and also returns results in the range of 0-250 parts per billion (ppb). T-2 and HT-2 toxins are trichothecene mycotoxins produced by several species of *Fusarium* molds. As T-2 toxin is readily metabolized to HT-2 toxin, and the toxins have been shown to produce numerous adverse effects on many animals, these two mycotoxins are frequently evaluated together.

Romer Labs Announces Test Kit Approval

Romer Labs, Inc., has announced that it was awarded a five-year renewable contract award by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), Grain Inspection Packers & Stockyards Administration (FGIS) to use Romer Labs' *FluoroQuant Afla* test kit for their detection of total aflatoxin (B1, B2, G1, & G2) in corn.

Romer Labs, Inc. is one of the premiere providers of Mycotoxin, Melamine, GMO, and allergen detection kits and services in the world with offices in the US, Asia, Europe, and South America. Romer says its goal of "Making the World's Food Safer", is achieved by aiding in contamination identification in both the human food and animal feed industries.

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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.

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