



ISSUE 2011.10

October 19, 2011

Board Meeting Held September 12, 2011

The AAGIWA Board met September 11, 2011 in Kansas City, Missouri. On the board's agenda for the morning session was a full discussion of association business including financial and membership reports. The Board also reviewed the 2011 Annual Meeting and discussed plans for the upcoming 2012 meeting to be held May 6-9 at the Monte Carlo Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

After the business portion of the meeting, board members met with senior FGIS officials to discuss a variety of topics, and then took a tour of the National Grain Center. Those issues impacting members are reported below.

Inspection Issues

The Board of Directors of the American Association of Grain Inspection and Weighing Agencies (AAGIWA) met with FGIS officials during their September 12, 2011 Board Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri to discuss current issues.

Those present were David Ayers (president), Larry Kitchen (past-president), Brent Hibbets, Rich Flaugh, and Tom Meyer with AAGIWA's Board of Directors. AAGIWA members present included Greg Holeck, David Slater and Tyrone Robichaux. AAGIWA staff included Robert Petersen, Erica Venancio, Abigail Hiles, and John Sharpe. Representing FGIS were Randall Jones, Robert Lijewski, Dave Lowe, Tom O'Connor, Karen Guagliardo, Eric Jabs, Dave Funk, and Randy Deike.

Moisture Check Testing

Acting Director David Funk updated AAGIWA on the current status of Moisture Check Testing Meters. AAGIWA's main concern was the loss of man power from inspection activities for testing procedures, and the timing of such checks. AAGIWA would like FGIS to look at the possibility to send dockage and moisture tests at the same time to a location so that they can get check testing done and verify that the machines are functioning to make best use of time.

Dr. Funk reported that an analysis of why moisture meters were failing check-testing indicated that the instruments were failing as much for the moisture analysis as it was for the scale, so GIPSA would continue to require testing both the scale and moisture component twice a year.



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FGIS reported that the QAC will be looking at the process of using monitoring data for assessing the performance of individual pieces of equipment. Currently 650 meters are check tested, however, the problem comes from machine sharing and using machines not owned by official agencies, but owned by individual elevators. AAGIWA raised the question of sending samples instead of machines into grain center, having them tested on GIPSA's end. Dr Funk reported that it will be a year and a half until they finalize the new units for moisture meters and thus beginning agency transition to those meters. AAGIWA stated that their priority is the corn testing study, accomplished by the implementation of new meters. AAGIWA would also like lengthening the time of a valid sample.

Reporting/Viewing Reports through QAC

The QAC is currently undergoing an overhaul of processes to see where they can improve and become more efficient. Karen Guagliardo reported that they are working on FGISonline to make reports available to member agencies. With the help of programmers, FGISonline will soon have input and output capabilities providing a query screen to official agencies to run customized reports. Twenty-five reports have been identified as priority and will be rolled out in groups within the first month of launch. However, the top priority is making FGISonline ready for agency use.

QMP/Submitted Internal Audits

FGIS reported that audits are taking less time now that QMP's have been implemented, as well as reports are becoming more succinct.

AAGIWA offered their perspective that official agencies have received little or no response from FGIS with regards to their annual audit. They have also experienced the Quality Assurance and Compliance Division announcing upcoming visits, without providing a reason or cause. AAGIWA requests improved communication throughout the QMP process. Official Agencies have 30 days to respond, but GIPSA has no timeframe for results on internal audits. AAGIWA suggested a time frame of 4-6 weeks, as it puts agencies in limbo when there is a lack of response from GIPSA.

GIPSA responded that when an upcoming visit is announced it is most likely a yearly designation visit. It has been the practice that, when audit reports have been received and no problems are detected with the audit format or content, the OAs will not hear anything back from GIPSA staff. GIPSA states that if there was a problem, response time would be quick. However, GIPSA appreciates the interest in getting a response stating whether an audit was satisfactory or not, and assured the group that it would begin providing such feedback in the future.

Inspection Supervision/GIAC Resolutions

In light of recent retirements and staffing shifts, GIPSA is looking at ways of providing more efficient supervision. Possibilities include more targeted samples and targeted volumes, and sampling with separations. FGIS mentioned the potential for entering sampling information into FGISonline that would flag the sample so it could be saved.

FGIS also touched on field office realignment. Cedar Rapids will only be open until staff members retire, then they will be replaced by staff officed in Kansas City. AAGIWA questioned the number of inspectors GIPSA expects to lose and if they will be replaced. Randall Jones explained that currently 18 interns are being trained for inspection right now to



potentially be part of the next generation of FGIS. He added that replacements for field inspectors should be one for one.

DT Sampler Checks

FGIS suggests that drop samples are still the solution to check the sampler. AAGIWA asked if there was a reason they can't trust a Gamet or InterSystems electric system that was checked when it was installed, as regulations seem to be written for export needs versus the reality for the domestic market. AAGIWA stressed that dropping grain is not realistic and that once systems are approved, they shouldn't need to be checked. AAGIWA suggested the possibility of having more options due to realistically being able to drop grain into samplers, or having a third party system to approve installations.

Bob Lijewski stated that FGIS will continue with the current check testing system until a new one is approved and that drop samples will be only used on an optional basis. Lijewski also offered reducing the amount of grain to be dropped to a more manageable weight as a compromise for the domestic market. To help official agencies, Lijewski also offered to establish a policy that requires elevators to provide grain and labor for sampler checks.

Future Research Needs

David Funk is taking suggestions for new research possibilities. He hopes to focus on how to better update current grain inspection processes.

AAGIWA Suggestions included:

- * NMR Testing: FGIS has managed to get the software for the current machine, and hopes to soon be able to loan it out soon to official agencies. New instruments need to be approved, as only three instruments are currently approved in the entire system and one is housed at the National Grain Center.
- * Monitoring program for mycotoxin testing
- * Combining "certified organic" with Grain Inspection.
- * Wheat Identifying for Identity preserve

Sorghum Odor



GIPSA has been working with Dr. Edgar Chambers of Kansas State University to create a chemical cocktail to mimic "storage musty" sorghum in order to teach graders to be able to identify the smell in samples. A timeline has been established and FGIS is in the process of collecting samples and training graders.

Rice Sheller

The Yamamoto Rice Sheller is now approved for California only, for medium and short grained rice. The GIPSA program notice went out the week of September 12, about the specific application in the specific geography.

Stowage Inspections

The President has directed that all federal agencies create labor-management forums to explore ways to promote satisfactory labor-management relations and improve government operations. GIPSA has

created such a forum with its labor unions, which is focusing on ways that the efficiency and timeliness of ship hold inspections for cleanliness can be improved. The forum is also taking the opportunity to look at other inspection processes as well, including containers. GIPSA would like to include official agencies in that process to gather process improvements. AAGIWA member Dave Slater suggested that barge lot inspections also need to be included.

FGIS Online Update

Karen Guagliardo stated that they are moving the data center to Kansas City in the next year, allowing FGISonline applications to be housed somewhere other than DC for redundancy purposes and more protection.

With regards to IDW redesign, FGIS is looking to:

- * increase speed
- * allow more people to search
- * include a place for people to search and a place for data to come in
- * holding data together in a lot for easier searching purposes

FGISonline is also working to improve validation of data in CRT, including getting all validated states to use IDW. They would also expect railcars to be the next addition on IDW. There hope is to also have EGIS and GWIS coming out of IDW and so to not have to manually enter them.

FGISonline Help: 866-275-8915
Janine Goodson: 816-659-8401

FGIS 2016

In 2016, FGIS is launching a new initiative to look back and celebrate 100 years of grain inspection. FGIS wishes to create a task force to get a shared vision of grain inspection for the future, including representatives from official agencies.

Producers Should Check Grain Sorghum for Stalk Rot


MANHATTAN, Kan. - A lot of attention has been given to stalk rot and other lodging problems in corn this year. But producers should keep in mind that stalk rot can be an even bigger problem in grain sorghum due to a generally thinner stalk, said Doug Jardine, K-State Research and Extension plant pathologist.

The best estimates are that at least 5 percent of the sorghum crop is lost each year to stalk rot, he said.

"The incidence of stalk rot in individual fields may reach 90 to 100 percent with yield losses of 50 percent. The most obvious losses occur when plants lodge. More important may be the yield losses that go unnoticed," Jardine said

SAVE THE DATE

Advisory Committee Meeting
December 6-7, 2011
Portland, OR



AAGIWA Annual Meeting
May 6-9, 2012
Monte Carlo Hotel & Casino
Las Vegas, NV

These losses are caused by reduced head size, poor filling of grain, and early head lodging as plants mature early, he explained.

In grain sorghum, the two most common types of stalk rot are charcoal rot and Fusarium stalk rot, he said. Although caused by many different organisms, the symptoms of the various stalk rots are somewhat similar, he said.

"Symptoms generally appear several weeks after pollination when the plant appears to prematurely ripen. The leaves become dry, taking on a grayish-green appearance similar to frost injury. The stalk usually dies a few weeks later," Jardine said.

Producers can check their sorghum for stalk rots by squeezing the lower stem with their thumb and fingers.

"If the stalks crush easily, they are probably infected with one of the stalk rot organisms and may lodge at any time. Check 100 plants across the field to determine the percentage of affected plants. If the percentage of stalk-rot-infected plants is high, sorghum should be harvested as soon as possible, even if it hasn't dried down adequately in the field," the K-State plant pathologist said.

"If the stalks are firm, the plants will probably be able to stand just fine in the field for several more weeks if necessary," he added.

Stalk rot is a stress-related disease, he said.

"When the carbohydrates used to fill grain become unavailable due to nutrient shortage, drought stress, leaf loss from insects, hail, disease or reduced sunlight, the plant is forced to use nitrogen and carbohydrate reserves stored in the stalk to complete grain fill. This loss of nitrogen and carbohydrate reserves weakens stalk tissues and results in increased stalk rot susceptibility," Jardine said.

For more information and management practices to reduce stalk rot, see "Stalk Rots of Corn and Sorghum," K-State publication L-741.

Last GEAPS / K-State Distance Learning Courses For Year Cover Materials Handling and FGIS Basics

Looking to get in one last training session before year end? Consider the brand-new course on materials handling that GEAPS and Kansas State University are now offering.

GEAPS 551: Materials Handling II is one of two five-week courses now available. Both run Nov. 7 to Dec. 9.



The new course builds on a previous materials-handling course, but is open and appropriate for anyone with a professional interest in the nuts and bolts of grain- and feed industry materials handling.

Speaker Ideas

Every year at the Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, AAGIWA attempts to set up a program of informative and timely topics and discussions for its members. With the meeting now in its planning stages, AAGIWA looks to its members for what they would like to hear about.

Do you have any suggested speakers or topics for the upcoming Annual Meeting in May?

Contact Abigail Hiles at abigail.hiles@aagiwa.org with your suggestions.

The course discusses how various dry grains, ingredients and other materials are physically handled in the storage and production of grain-related products.

Designed for managers, operators and maintenance personnel involved with grain storage, it is an ideal course for elevator superintendents, location or regional managers, designers, engineers, maintenance personnel and university students.

The course covers useful topics such as grain marketing legislation, the U.S. Grain Standards Act, industry trading rules, grain inspection, and so much more.

This 12-lecture course is designed for merchandisers, facility managers, exporters and everyone who needs to learn more about the U.S. grain inspection and marketing system.

The knowledge you obtain will be useful in almost any grain-industry endeavor.

The course was developed by GEAPS, the Federal Grain Inspection Service and Kansas State University.

Source: GEAPS/GrainNet.com

The Andersons, Inc. to Construct 3.8 Million Bushel Capacity Grain Elevator in Custer County, NE

Maumee, OH-The Andersons, Inc. (Nasdaq: ANDE) announced Oct. 5 it will soon begin construction on a 3.8 million bushel capacity grain elevator facility near the towns of Anselmo and Broken Bow in Custer County, Nebraska.

The facility is slated to be open in time for the 2012 harvest.

"Constructing a new facility located in the center of Nebraska fits well with our strategy to provide service to customers west of our traditional eastern cornbelt market," says CEO Mike Anderson.

"During the past 15 months we've expanded our operations in Nebraska to nine locations, both through acquisitions and merchandising agreements."



This is the first elevator The Andersons has constructed in Nebraska and will be the largest in Custer County.

Located along the Burlington Northern Railroad mainline, the facility will have both train and truck loading capabilities.

"We are excited to welcome a company like The Andersons into Custer County," says Elizabeth Babcock, President, Custer Economic Development Corporation.

"While this is a tremendous economic development opportunity for our entire county, it is especially beneficial to our farmers to have value added to their grain and an additional outlet that increases the efficiency and speed with which their grain can move to end users."

Jim Cripe, regional director for The Andersons Grain Division, adds: "We received an outstanding reception by the community leaders and residents in this area, which was one of several sites we considered for this project."

"We are looking forward to establishing a long-standing relationship in this progressive agricultural community."

Source: GrainNet

Harvest Report

- Cairo Grain Inspection Agency, Keith Fronabarger: We are about 75-80% done with corn harvest with only about 1-2% having aflatoxin in it. Considering the dry summer and fall that was really surprising. Bean harvest is about 20-25% done with late beans probably coming out at the end of this month. Yields are about 145-160 for corn and 40-60 for beans. Late beans will be considerably less.
- Champaign-Danville Grain Inspection, David Ayers: Harvest is just starting to roll here. Yields are better than expected and corn is drying down quickly. Soybeans about 25% done and corn 20%, but crop is disappearing fast.

Fremont Grain Inspection, Dave Reeder: Soybeans are for the most part done. Only issues with soybeans is the fm is running higher because of the dryness of the beans. Corn is less than 25% done. Moisture from 14-18%, 14% from field affected by hail and 16-18% in corn that was not damaged by weather. Little to no concerns about Viptera in the corn. Weather has been good but drying conditions have been on the cool side. Also a local newspaper reported: Corn in Nebraska 30% done, soybeans 84%. Corn in Iowa 45% done, soybeans 87%. Crops are not a record levels but very good yields.

- Louisiana Dept of Agriculture & Forestry, John Sanders: We are 99% completely though with harvest. The



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overall report is above average on all grains. Due to the drought conditions, the overall quality of the crop was excellent.

- Sioux City Inspection & Weighing Service, Tom Dahl: Here in Sioux City we are about 70% done with soybean harvest. The beans have been generally good with not much green damage from our early frost. The protein and oil on the soybeans is low again this year due to our extended hot spell in July. Corn is just starting to be harvested with yield ranging anywhere from 150-200 bushels depending on the location. We have had indications of both aflatoxin and vomitoxin in this years crop.
- Neogen, Pat Frasco: We have the latest maps Neogen prepares for wheat and corn (for the occurrence of mycotoxin). Also our press release on how Neogen offers Certified Reference Materials on mycotoxins. (Maps and press release available upon request.)

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: abigail.hiles@aagiwa.org.

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