



# AGRIBUSINESS ASSOCIATION OF IOWA

# TAKE FIVE

A five-minute summary of industry activities for members of the largest state agribusiness association in the nation.

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## First 2012 Farm Bill Field Hearing Held in Des Moines

Seven members of Congress were in Des Moines on Friday, April 30, for the first field hearing of the 2012 Farm Bill. The chairman of the House of Representatives Agriculture Committee, Collin Peterson from Minnesota, led the session and the ranking Republican, Frank Lucas from Oklahoma was also present.

Representative Leonard Boswell introduced the event and along with Steve King and Tom Latham, took part in the question and answer sessions. Representative Stephanie Herseth Sandlin from South Dakota and Jim Costa from California rounded out the congressional delegation.

Two panels of agriculturalists were on the agenda with a broad range of interests from dairy programs

to conservation. Mark Reisinger, CEO of the Agribusiness Association of Iowa, says a field hearing broadens the debate and includes producer reaction to government programs.

Jeff Stroburg, Chairman and CEO of Renewable Energy Group and an AAI board member, was on the second panel of witnesses. Stroburg discussed the biodiesel industry and the impact the loss of the federal biodiesel blenders tax credit has had on the industry.

For Stroburg's complete testimony and additional highlights from the 2012 Farm Bill field hearing, please go to AAI's YouTube page at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/IowaAgribusiness>.

## USDA Releases Major Report on Agricultural Transportation

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has released to Congress a comprehensive report on agricultural transportation in the United States, the first ever of this magnitude. The report, Study of Rural Transportation Issues, was mandated by the 2008 Farm Bill and covers the four major modes of transportation commonly used by agriculture in the United States—truck, rail, barge, and ocean vessel.

"Agriculture is the largest user of freight transportation in the United States, with 31 percent of all ton-miles recorded in 2007 being used in the movement of agricultural products," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "This report provides policy makers the vital information needed to make strategic infrastructure and policy decisions to meet rural America's transportation needs, now and in the future."

"We need a strong transportation infrastructure for our vast quantities of farm exports to be competitive in world markets," said Transportation Secretary LaHood. This report is timely, coming as we work to carry out President Obama's National Export Initia-

tive of doubling of U.S. exports within five years."

The report examines some of the major issues facing agricultural transportation, including: the dramatic effect of deregulation on the rail industry, a growing gap for funding the inland waterways and highway systems, availability of containers and ocean vessel capacity, and the infrastructure that may be needed to support a projected increase in biofuel transportation.

Study of Rural Transportation Issues may be found on the Agricultural Marketing Service website at [www.ams.usda.gov/RuralTransportationStudy](http://www.ams.usda.gov/RuralTransportationStudy).

Changes have recently been made to transportation laws in Iowa. All commodities can now carry increased weights by traveling on 6 or 7-axle configurations. For additional information on the new trans-axle legislation and video of the bill signing ceremony with Governor Culver and the AAI Board, go to AAI's YouTube channel at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/IowaAgribusiness>.

## Governor Culver Continues Discussion of Iowa's Biofuels Industry

Governor Chet Culver traveled to Washington, DC this week, where he met with senior White House officials to discuss the challenges facing Iowa and the nation's biofuels industry. The Governor met with Senior Advisor to the President Peter Rouse, Deputy Chief of Staff Jim Messina, and Deputy Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change Policy Heather Zichal, a native of Elkader, Iowa.

"The Obama Administration has been a great partner in supporting renewable energy and biofuels," said Governor Culver. "I was proud to continue that strong partnership today with our fruitful discussion about the future of America's biofuels industry. We discussed the challenges this industry faces, and

ways we can grow this industry."

The meeting is a follow up to the Governor's brief discussion with the President last week when he was in Iowa. During both that discussion and today's meeting, the Governor reiterated the importance of the EPA granting a waiver for E-15. That decision is currently pending before the EPA.

In addition, White House staff reiterated the President's agreement with the Governor regarding his encouragement of the availability of more flex-fuel vehicles and the installation of retail blender pumps soon, which is crucial to the development of the next generation of biofuels.

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## USDA Invites Applications for Renewable Energy Funding

The USDA is seeking applications to increase the production and use of renewable energy sources. Funding is available from four USDA Rural Development renewable energy programs authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill).

USDA is accepting applications for grants and loan guarantees in the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) until June 30, 2010. More information on how to apply for funding is available in the April 26, 2010 Federal Register. The Rural Energy for America Program provides funds to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to purchase and install renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements.

Eligible projects include installing renewable energy systems such as wind turbines, solar, geothermal, biomass, anaerobic digesters, hydroelectric, and ocean or hydrogen systems. Funding may also be used to purchase energy-efficient equipment, add insulation, and improve heating and cooling systems.

In addition to the REAP program, Secretary Vilsack announced that USDA is also planning to accept applications for three other renewable energy programs: the Biorefinery Assistance Program, Repowering Assistance Program and the Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels.

## AAI Membership Value

### Ethanol DOT Meeting Scheduled for June 29, 2010

Are you an ethanol producer? Ethanol terminal? Ethanol transporter? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then mark your calendars for the Ethanol DOT workshop. The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) will soon begin audits at your facility, and regulators have the authority to fine you up to \$50,000 per violation. The Agribusiness Association of Iowa will be hosting an Ethanol DOT workshop on Tuesday, June 29, 2010 at the Ag Information Center (23842 590<sup>th</sup> Ave.) in Nevada where speakers will cover Federal and state requirements for offering and transporting hazardous materials.

Speakers from the U.S. DOT and Iowa DOT will also cover federal and state requirements for rail and highway transportation, security plans, placarding, shipping papers, and tank testing.

The workshop will begin at 8:30 am and conclude at 4:30 pm. Tuition for the Ethanol DOT workshop is \$80 per person, this fee covers all lunch and educational materials including a 49CFR Parts 100-182 Hazardous Material Book.

A registration form is attached and can be downloaded at [www.agribiz.org](http://www.agribiz.org). Please call the AAI office at 515.262.8323 or 800.383.1682 with any questions you may have.

## Mark your Calendars to Tee-off with AAI!

### Upcoming AAI Committee Meetings & Events

- Feed & Livestock Committee Meeting: May 18, 2010, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, AAI Office, Des Moines, IA
- Legislative Committee Meeting: June 1, 2010, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, AAI Office, Des Moines, IA
- Membership Committee Meeting: June 9, 2010, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, AAI Office, Des Moines, IA

Each year AAI members gather on the green to network and entertain customers and guests. These golf outings are a great opportunity for you to meet new and longtime members and expand your business. The scheduled golf outings are throughout the summer and all over the State, and we want you to be a part of it!

AAI will be at Fox Ridge Golf Course in Dike on July 7, Emerald Hills Golf Course in Okoboji on July 8, Legacy in Norwalk on July 14, Lake Panorama National Golf Course in Panora on July 29, and Riverside Casino & Golf Course in Riverside on September 16. Lunch for all of the golf outings will be served at 11:00

am and tee off will be at 12:00 pm.

Agribusiness Association of Iowa has a block of rooms reserved at the Ramada Inn in Okoboji for members interested in staying overnight during the AAI golf outing at Emerald Hills. The room rates are \$121.90/night during the week and \$149.90/night for the weekends (does not include tax). To reserve a room, call the Ramada Inn at 712-336-3984 and ask for the block under Agribusiness. Limited rooms are reserved.

A registration form will be available soon. Please call the AAI office at 515.262.8323 or 800.383.1682 if you have any questions. Mark Your Calendars!

## AAI Hosting a Grain Grading Workshop

The Agribusiness Association of Iowa is hosting a Grain Grading workshop on August 17 and August 18, 2010 at the Ziegler CAT Facility (1500 Ziegler Drive NW; Altoon, IA). FGIS inspectors will be leading these hands-on workshops.

Attendees will be presented with the latest information on grain quality. Inspectors will address and display may different grain samples, but will emphasize mainly corn and some soybeans.

Class size for these workshops will be limited to 30 pre-registered students, no walk-ins will be admitted. Tuition for these workshops is \$85 per AAI member and \$95 per non-member for each session. This fee includes all educational materials, all breaks and lunch for each student.

A registration form is attached and can be downloaded at [www.agribiz.org](http://www.agribiz.org). Please call the AAI office at 515.262.8323 or 800.383.1682 with any questions you may have.

For additional information and to view more upcoming events, go to the AAI website at [www.agribiz.org](http://www.agribiz.org) for.