



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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Unprecedented Cropland Study Confirms Conservation Practices Work on Farms in Upper Mississippi River Basin

Conservation practices installed and applied by agricultural producers on cropland are reducing sediment, nutrient and pesticide losses from farm fields, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said today as he announced the release of a comprehensive study on the effects of conservation practices on environmental quality in the Upper Mississippi River Basin (UMRB).

"This important new report confirms that farmers and ranchers are stepping up and implementing conservation practices that can and do have a significant impact on the health of America's soil and water," Vilsack said. "The information gathered for this study will make it possible to quantify the effectiveness of conservation practices for the first time and enable USDA to design and implement conservation programs that will not only better meet the needs of farmers and ranchers, but also help ensure that taxpayers' conservation dollars are used as effectively as possible."

Key findings from the study, "Effects of Conservation Practices on Cultivated Cropland in the Upper Mississippi River Basin" include the following:

Suites of practices work better than single practices;

- Targeting critical acres improves effectiveness significantly; practices have the greatest effect on the most vulnerable acres, such as highly erodible land and soils prone to leaching;
- Uses of soil erosion control practices are widespread in the basin. Most acres receive some sort of conser-

vation treatment, resulting in a 69 percent reduction in sediment loss. However, about 15 percent of the cultivated cropland acres still have excessive sediment losses and require additional treatment;

- The most critical conservation concern in the region is the loss of nitrogen from farm fields through leaching, including nitrogen loss through tile drainage systems.

The study also revealed opportunities for improving the use of conservation practices on cropland to enhance environmental quality. For instance, the study found that consistent use of nutrient management (proper rate, form, timing and method of application) is generally lacking throughout the region. Improved nutrient management would reduce the risk of nutrient movement from fields to rivers and streams. A suite of practices that includes both soil erosion and consistent nutrient management is required to simultaneously address soil erosion and nitrogen leaching loss.

This study is part of a larger effort - the Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) - to assess the effects of conservation practices on the nation's cropland, grazing lands, wetlands, wildlife and watersheds. CEAP is a multi-agency, multi-resource effort led by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Additional regional cropland studies on the effects of conservation practices will be forthcoming over the next several months.

The complete UMRB cropland study report can be found at: www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/nri/ceap.

New Requirements Coming for Pesticide Applicators

The DNR is seeking input from people who apply pesticides to Iowa waters at an informal meeting June 29 in Des Moines.

Due to a federal court decision, anyone who sprays or applies pesticides to road ditches, stream banks, lakes or other areas where the pesticide residues can end up in a water body will soon have to meet the requirements of a permit issued by the DNR.

"Since the permit only covers pesticides registered for aquatic uses, most on-farm users would not be affected," said Wendy Hieb, an environmental specialist with the DNR's wastewater program.

The meeting is from 1 to 4 p.m. in the DNR's fourth floor conference rooms, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. Ninth St. The DNR will present the latest information about proposed new requirements and seek

input from attendees on the permit.

The input will be used to further develop a draft general permit that would require all pesticide applicators to use best management practices.

Some applicators will need to meet additional requirements—based on the size of the water area they spray.

The new permit is required based on a ruling from the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals which vacated the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's final rule on Jan. 7, 2009. The decision gives all states until April 9, 2011, to develop and issue general pesticide permits.

For more information, check the DNR website at: www.iowadnr.gov/water/npdes/pesticides.html.



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 590th 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 can be downloaded at www.agribiz.org. Please call the AAI office at 515.262.8323 or 800.383.1682 with any questions you may have.

AAI Hosting Grain Grading Workshops

The Agribusiness Association of Iowa is hosting two Grain Grading workshops 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.

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.

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

A registration form is attached and can be downloaded at 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

- **Ethanol DOT Workshop:** June 29, 2010, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm, Ag Information Center, Nevada, IA
- **AAI Golf Outing:** July 7, 2010, 11:00 am lunch, 12:00 pm tee-off, Fox Ridge Golf Course, Dike, IA
- **AAIS Board Meeting:** July 8, 2010, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm, AmericInn, Spencer, IA
- **AAI Board Meeting:** July 15, 2010, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm, AAI Office, Des Moines, IA

For additional information and to view more upcoming events, go to the AAI website at www.agribiz.org for.

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. AAI golf outings are throughout the summer all over the state, and we want you to be part of the fun!

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.

Hit the Road with the AAI Foundation During the 6th Annual Motorcycle & Classic Car Run!

Join the AAI Foundation on a scenic ride through Iowa during the 6th Annual Motorcycle & Classic Car Run, August 20-21, 2010.

Riders will meet in Des Moines and have a scenic ride through South Eastern Iowa. A dinner will be held at Pzazz! Resort & Catfish Bend Casino. Riders will continue the ride through Southern Iowa the next day.

The AAI Foundation has 30 rooms blocked at Pzazz! Reort Hotel. The address is 3001 Winegard Dr., Burlington, Iowa. Rates are \$79 (plus tax). This includes a \$10 Catfish Bend Casino cash card per person. Phone 319.237.1253 and be sure to ask for the

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.

You can register online or download a form at www.agribiz.org. Please call the AAI office at 515.262.8323 or 800.383.1682 if you have any questions.

Iowa Agribusiness Association Foundation Run block of rooms.

All proceeds from the Motorcycle & Classic Car Run go to the AAI Foundation, which supports scholarship, environmental stewardship and education for agribusiness across Iowa. The AAI Foundation supports three scholarships and an environmental stewardship award.

A registration form is attached, or you can download a form on the AAI Foundation website at: <http://foundation.agribiz.org/events>. Please call the AAI office at 800.383.1682 or 515.262.8323 for more information or with any questions you may have.