



# AGRIBUSINESS ASSOCIATION OF IOWA

## TAKE FIVE

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

July 30, 2010

### Inside this issue:

#### Page 1

**Grant of \$70,000 to help Anhydrous Ammonia Facilities in Iowa Comply with Regulations**

**DHS Issues Agriculture Survey to CFATS Facilities**

#### Page 2

**Rep. Boswell Signs Letter Supporting the Safe and Efficient Transportation Act**

**Northey Encourages Iowans to Consider Running to Serve as Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner**

**AAI Launches Mini-Bulk Container Recycling Program**

**AAI Hosting Grain Grading Workshops**

## Grant of \$70,000 to help Anhydrous Ammonia Facilities in Iowa Comply with Regulations

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) a total of \$70,000 to assist with outreach, education and implementation of the Clean Air Act's Risk Management Program. All fertilizer facilities that handle, process or store more than 10,000 pounds of anhydrous ammonia are subject to EPA's chemical safety requirements.

"EPA wants to assure the continued safe handling of anhydrous ammonia which is a source of nitrogen fertilizer widely used for corn, milo and wheat," said Karl Brooks, regional administrator. "This grant is designed to prevent releases and protect the health and safety of area residents, employees at the facilities, emergency responders and the environment."

IDALS is receiving this funding to conduct on-site audits, workshops and follow-up safety assessments at agricultural retail anhydrous ammonia facilities in Iowa. Anhydrous ammonia is generally safe provided handling, storage and maintenance procedures are followed. However, it is toxic and can be a health

hazard. Inhaling anhydrous ammonia can cause lung irritation and severe respiratory injuries.

EPA Region 7 receives more accidental release reports for ammonia than for any other chemical. In addition to releases caused by transportation accidents, human error and equipment failure, a number of releases have been caused by anhydrous ammonia thefts. Anhydrous ammonia is a key ingredient in the illegal production of methamphetamine. When stolen, the toxic gas can be unintentionally released, causing injuries to emergency responders, law enforcement personnel, the public and the criminals themselves.

Retailers were first required to be in compliance with the Risk Management Program in 1999. EPA then started facility inspections and enforcement of the program, which includes five components: hazard assessment system, management, accident prevention, emergency response and submittal of a risk management plan.

## DHS Issues Agriculture Survey to CFATS Facilities Agency Establishes a 60-Day Mandatory Deadline for Facilities to Submit Completed Survey

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has sent an Agriculture Survey to approximately 1,000 CFATS facilities. The purpose of the survey is for DHS to collect information from CFATS facilities that sell, transfer or commercially apply a Chemical of Interest (COI) and COI-containing products (e.g. agricultural pesticides and fertilizers) to farms, ranches, and other agricultural production facilities.

Be advised that DHS is likely to use an alternate submission system for farmers and ranchers under the CFATS program. Your input to DHS is critical to make the system user-friendly for your customers and help minimize the need for your company's involvement in their submission of information to DHS.

On December 21, 2007, DHS issued a letter granting an indefinite extension for farmers and other agricultural facilities from being required to complete a Top-Screen using the agency's Chemical Security Assessment Tool (CSAT) website. The extension was intended to allow DHS time to gather more information regarding the storage and use of COI materials at these agricultural production facilities. The Agriculture Survey will collect information on the types of COI and COI-containing products provided to these agricultural production facilities as well as certain

information, where available, about those customers' use and handling of the COI-containing products.

To view the CSAT Agriculture Survey Users Guide, go to: [http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/chemsec\\_agsurvey\\_userguide\\_1\\_9.pdf](http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/chemsec_agsurvey_userguide_1_9.pdf). To view the CSAT Agriculture Survey Screen Captures, go to: <http://images.magnetmail.net/images/clients/ARA1/attach/AgSurveyScreenCaptures.pdf>. ARA recommends printing the Ag Survey Screen Captures and completing a draft of the survey before inputting information into the CSAT system. Your company should also review the information it provided to DHS during the Top-Screen submission process as it relates to any COI materials being handled and stored at your CFATS facilities to ensure consistent information is being provided to the agency.

For more information on the DHS CFATS program, go to: [http://www.dhs.gov/files/laws/gc\\_1166796969417.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/files/laws/gc_1166796969417.shtm)

Please contact Richard Gupton, Vice President of Legislative Policy & Counsel, at 202-457-0825 or [richard@aradc.org](mailto:richard@aradc.org) if you have any questions or need any assistance with DHS.

Agribusiness  
Association of Iowa  
900 Des Moines Street  
Des Moines, Iowa  
50309  
515.262.8323  
800.383.1682  
Fax: 515.262.8960  
[www.agribiz.org](http://www.agribiz.org)



## Rep. Boswell Signs Letter Supporting the Safe and Efficient Transportation Act

Recently Representative Boswell, along with eight members of the House Agriculture Committee, signed a letter of support for H.R. 1799 - The Safe and Efficient Transportation Act. The letter stated that as cosponsors they support the legislation because it will provide much needed support to the agriculture industry, improve the efficiency of the trucks on our nation's roads and decrease the number of accidents on highways.

H.R. 1799 would give each state the option of increasing truck weight limits on the interstate up to 97,000 pounds, so long as trucks are equipped with a sixth axle to maintain the same breaking capacity as trucks that are currently on the road.

As of July 1, 2010 all commodities can now travel on 6 or 7-axle configurations on Iowa's roads, excluding Interstates; however, H.R. 1799 would allow the state to increase truck weights on the Interstates as well.

In the letter to colleges the Representatives outlined seven key points for supporting this legislation, and highlighted the 2002 Transportation Research Board's *Special Report 267*. The report found that allowing 97,000 pound single-trailer trucks on our Interstates would decrease the costs of moving freight by over \$5 billion each year while simultaneously reducing accidents on our highways.

Please open the attached document to read the letter in its entirety.

## Northey Encourages Iowans to Consider Running to Serve as Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey is encouraging Iowans interested in protecting the state's soil and water resources to consider running to serve as a Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner. Anyone interested in becoming a commissioner should contact their local Soil and Water Conservation District. Nomination papers must be filed by August 27, 2010.

"Each of Iowa's 100 Soil and Water Conservation Districts are managed by five volunteer commissioners who help their community meet their conservation pri-

orities," Northey said. "Commissioners help oversee the distribution of federal, state and local conservation aid in their community."

Each Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) in Iowa is composed of five commissioners and are the local legal subdivisions of state government responsible under state law for soil and water conservation work within their boundaries. Candidates are elected locally on a nonpartisan ballot during the general election.

More information can be found on the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship website at [www.IowaAgriculture.gov](http://www.IowaAgriculture.gov).

### Upcoming AAI Committee Meetings & Events

- [Foundation Run Conference Call](#): August 4, 2010, 10:00 am
- [Ag Industry & Crop Management Summer Field Day](#): August 5, 2010, 8:45 am - 3:45 pm, Red Top Farm, Jefferson, *This workshop is only open to CCAs who attended the 2010 Agribusiness Showcase & Conference*
- [Grain Grading Workshops](#): August 17 & 18, 2010, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm, Ziegler CAT Facility, Altoona

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

### AAI Membership Value

#### AAI Launches Mini-bulk Container Recycling Program

AAI is coordinating a pilot program to benefit members who have Intermediate Bulk Containers (IBC's) that are old, damaged, or no longer used and occupying warehouse space. Registrants of the products are underwriting much of the cost of recycling so that each qualifying container (56 to 330 gallons) will be picked up at your location and recycled for \$15.

The Ag Container Recycling Council is utilizing the pilot program in Iowa because of the density of retail agrichemical/fertilizer locations. Containers will also be processed for recycling by the CSN Service Center, Cropland Containers, in Webster City, IA.

#### 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; Altoona, 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.

A maximum of 6,000 containers will be recycled under the program which ends on December 31, 2010. A letter and participation form has been sent to all AAI members plus a brochure on how to clean mini-bulk tanks for recycling. If you have any questions about the program or did not receive a participation form and would like to enroll in the program, please contact Ken Root at 515.262.8323 or [ken.root@agribiz.org](mailto:ken.root@agribiz.org).

Regulations will go into effect in August of 2011 that will require agrichemical dealers to address performance standards on refillable containers in their possession.

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.