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### MO-AG Board of Directors

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Springfield

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**Don Houston**  
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Mexico

**Second Vice Chairman**  
**Brian Parman**  
Fertilizer Dealer Supply  
Boonville

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**Jerry Foster**  
Cargill  
Jefferson City

**Chris Hoffman**  
Hoffman and Reed  
Trenton

February 10, 2010

### FROM STEVE'S DESK *by Steve Taylor*



### Mark Your Calendar!

Be sure to mark your calendar for MO-AG's Legislative Days which will be March 1 & 2 in Jefferson City. This event will provide you the chance to interact with your key legislators, members of the executive branch and agency officials. This will be a great opportunity that you won't want to miss and your participation will be crucial to its success. So, mark your calendar and be on watch for more detailed information coming out in the next few days.

The legislative sessions in Jefferson City and Washington DC are both in full swing. In Jefferson City, there are some crucial decisions that will need to be made regarding the state's budget. With the downturn in the economy, state revenues are down and tough cuts are being proposed. One key issue for MO-AG will be the budget for the Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA). Many programs which are important to MO-AG are administered by MDA. For example, given the challenges facing the grain industry last year, MO-AG supported adequate funding for MDA's grain division. Likewise, MDA's pesticide program, with its mission to "assure the availability of pesticides needed to maintain our quality of life," is a vital program that requires adequate funding.

At the national level, thanks are due to Missouri's own Congressman Ike Skelton for sponsoring HR 4572. HR 4572 instructs EPA to not consider carbon dioxide (CO2) an air pollutant under the Clean Air Act. Currently,

**Rex Meyr**  
Shawnteetown Feed &  
Seed  
Jackson

**Wayne Orey**  
Riggins R-Co, LLC  
Marshall

**Jason Paris**  
MFA Inc.  
Columbia

**Duane Simpson**  
Monsanto  
St. Louis

**Hank Thomas**  
Van Diest Supply  
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**Aaron Wade**  
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EPA is moving forward with climate change regulations for CO2 emissions. The EPA actions could result in huge costs and a reduction of agricultural production. The bill is co-sponsored by Missouri Republican Congresswoman Joann Emerson and the Minnesota Democrat House Agriculture Chairman Collin Peterson.

Again, more information on MO-AG's Legislative Days will be available soon. I hope you sincerely consider joining your colleagues and engaging your government on issues important to our industry.

*Steve*

## **REMINDERS**

### **2010 Pesticide Label Books Available**

The Asmark Institute now has the [2010 Pesticide Label Books](#) available for purchase for \$18.40 each (plus tax and freight); Orders of 50 or more \$15.40 each. You can order by [clicking here](#).

### **Missouri Agriculture Outlook Conference**

FAPRI will be hosting a discussion of the drivers of Missouri agricultural and bio-fuel markets and an introduction to the latest culmination of work from members of the FAPRI research consortium. The results are FAPRI's ten-year baseline outlook, prepared for the U.S. Congress. In addition, they will present a special session on international issues and policy developments pertaining to agriculture. Registration is \$25 per person which includes lunch and conference materials. You can access online registration by [clicking here](#).

## **MEMBER NEWS**

### **Free Training for EPA's Online Risk Management Reporting for Anhydrous Ammonia Retailers**

In March 2009, EPA provided new web-based software called RMP\*eSubmit for facilities to

use for online Risk Management Plan (RMP) reporting. RMP\*eSubmit allows facilities to submit, correct, and access their RMPs online, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. EPA asks that all facilities use this new method to submit RMPs because it is easy to use and will improve data quality. For those not familiar with RMP\*eSubmit, EPA will hold a Webinar during which they will explain how to submit an RMP using the new software. Webinars are being planned for April, June and August. There will be time for questions and answers during the Webinar. For more information, please contact George Hess, EPA Region 7 environmental scientist at 913.551.7540 or email to: [hess.george@epa.gov](mailto:hess.george@epa.gov).

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

### **Missouri Members of Congress Seek to Rein in EPA**

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) officials would not be allowed to regulate greenhouse gases under legislation being filed by West-Central Missouri Congressman Ike Skelton and Southeast Missouri Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson. Skelton says their bill would stop the EPA from regulating greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act, keep the EPA from calculating foreign deforestation in setting ethanol and bio-diesel policies, and change the definition of bio-mass to benefit US farmers and the renewable fuels industry.

The two say a Massachusetts case, decided by the United States Supreme Court in 2007, ruled that the EPA had the power to regulate greenhouse gases. The legislation would strip the EPA of that power.

Skelton says regulations proposed by the EPA would drastically raise utility rates in Missouri and dramatically harm Missouri farmers. "The EPA is controlled by bureaucrats who are not elected and responsible only to the head of the EPA who is from New Jersey," Skelton said during a Jefferson City news conference. "I doubt that they understand mid-America, the Midwest, agriculture and what our farmers need to continue to do a good job for our country."

Congresswoman Emerson says the EPA is trying to enforce what it can't get through Congress. "It is their goal to, in effect, impose these kinds of regulations that will hurt every single business in Missouri," Emerson said. "It will decimate our agricultural industry. It will increase the cost for our citizens of their electricity; every time they flip on a light switch."

The proposed legislation would amend the Clean Air Act and the 2007 Energy Bill. [*Source: Missouri.net*]

### **National Animal ID Scrapped**

For much of the past decade, the Agriculture Department has pursued, often clumsily, a national identification system to track livestock from birth to slaughter. The effort came about in 2003 after a case of mad cow disease was traced to an imported animal. Mad cow disease, better known as BSE, is a brain malady that can afflict humans. It is a potentially serious problem that ravaged the livestock industry in Europe and bred deep distrust in the government there.

The prospect of extra record-keeping sounded especially onerous in Missouri, the nation's second-leading state in beef cow-calf operations. What's more, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) concluded that the Agriculture Department had spent more than \$130 million without coming up with a workable system.

Since 2006, the government has tried a voluntary system. But it didn't work well either. By last year, just over a third of the nation's livestock sites had signed up. Things have now changed. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that the government is taking a new approach and will start over. "It is apparent that a new strategy for animal-disease traceability is needed," he said.

The announcement went over so well with Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., that she was twittering about it. Last year, she wrote Vilsack arguing that the trouble and expense of the system wasn't worth the effort, especially in an economic downturn already had stretched

livestock producers "beyond the breaking point."  
"[The] announcement is a victory for Missouri's small producers," she said in a release. [Source: St. Louis Post]

### **Petition on Spray Drift**

CropLife America, in coordination with the American Farm Bureau, has developed an online petition to send to EPA letting them know the negative effects of their three recent notices in the Federal Register related to spray drift. EPA actions would essentially implement an unachievable, "no drift" policy. Included in the petition is that EPA should not impose unnecessary buffers that would reduce cropland available for American agriculture and that EPA should maintain the FIFRA risk-based standard of "no unreasonable adverse effects." To sign the petition, [click here](#). [Source: *CropLife America*]

### **Model Fertilizer Contract Confirmation Released**

The Agricultural Retailers Association (ARA) released a final version of a model fertilizer contract confirmation developed as a voluntary tool and designed to help companies better manage their risks and provide consistent terms and conditions when dealing with suppliers or customers. In Spring 2009, ARA formed the Fertilizer Contract Task Force with the objective of developing an ARA branded fertilizer contract confirmation that specifies the mutually agreed upon terms of the buyer and seller between any two business entities in the distribution system: manufacturer, distributor, retailer and end user. Task Force members were primarily comprised of agricultural retailers (independent, co-op and national) and distributors, but also included representatives from the manufacturer segment. ARA undertook this effort in response to the extreme volatility that has occurred with the fertilizer prices and supplies over the past few years. This document is viewed as a way to help establish better risk management, more accountability, and common terms and conditions. The ARA Board of Directors initially approved the tool at their 2009 annual meeting. [Click here](#) to view a copy of the document.

[Source: Asmark Institute]

## **Groups Oppose "Animal Protection Liaison" Idea**

A number of livestock and other groups have sent a letter to President Obama urging him not to appoint an "animal protection liaison" in the White House. The concept has been proposed by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). Among those signing the letter: The American Farm Bureau Federation, American Soybean Association, National Pork Producers Council, and United Egg Producers. The Vice President for Government Affairs with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Colin Woodall says HSUS already has a lot of access in both the Obama administration and in Congress. "That's what concerns us, because they truly are out to end animal agriculture," Woodall says. "You know, they don't talk about that publicly as much as they used to - but it's still their ultimate goal." Woodall says HSUS has scaled back on legislative initiatives in Congress while it focuses on state-by-state ballot initiatives which Woodall thinks is part of their overall strategy. "They know if they can get out there and win things like Proposition 2 did in California - and what they're trying to do in Ohio right now," Woodall explains, "if they can get to a point where they have a critical mass of states that have passed ballot initiatives, then they'll be able to take that back to Washington and tell Congress 'hey look, you no longer have any excuse not to move forward with our agenda because the states have already told you how they feel.'" [Source: *Brownfield*]

## **CAFOs Face New Permitting Requirements**

If you own or manage a permitted animal feeding operation, be prepared to face new choices when you renew your license. New rules will require producers to decide between a new state general permit and a more costly federal permit. "We understand it's going to be confusing and farmers need help to be prepared for the deadlines later this year," says John Lory, University of Missouri Extension environmental nutrient management specialist.

More than 550 animal feeding operations in Missouri now hold permits. Most have held a federal general permit previously. Many of those permits will expire Feb. 23, 2011, so producers will have to choose between the new Missouri general permit and a federal permit in time for the application renewal deadline in late July.

Specifics of the new state general permit are still under development, but two important differences from the previous permit are known. The new permit will differ from previous standards by prohibiting any type of discharge of manure for any reason. It also requires all producers to use the new Nutrient Management Technical Standard (NMTS) to develop a nutrient management plan that will determine manure application rates and define conditions where manure application is restricted. The second option is to get a federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit, which also requires a nutrient management plan that follows NMTS. The biggest difference in the federal permit is a provision that allows certain exceptions to strict manure spill restrictions.

Changes from the old federal general permit include additional public notice requirements for obtaining or amending a permit and higher fees compared with the state permit. Lory notes that producers with open liquid manure storage will need to choose carefully. "In simple terms, if an operation discharges waste, there will be fewer ramifications and fines with the federal permit," he says. "In most instances that won't matter, but in a time like last year where we saw excessive rain, even the best systems can overflow and that will not be allowed with the state permit."

MU Commercial Agriculture Program and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources will be holding free educational sessions throughout the state in March to explain CAFO permit requirements and answer questions. For more information, [click here](#). [Source: *Missouri Ruralist*]

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**FEBRUARY, 2010**

10-11 Missouri Pork Expo; Columbia, MO  
12-14 Missouri Farm Bureau Young Farmer  
Conference;  
Osage Beach, MO  
19-21 Western Farm Show; Kansas City, MO  
22-23 Missouri Farm Bureau Commodity  
Conference and Legislative  
Briefing; Jefferson City, MO  
24 MU Agricultural and Life Sciences  
Career Fair 2010;  
Reynolds Alumni Center; Columbia,  
MO

### **MARCH, 2010**

**1-2 MO-AG Legislative Days; Jefferson  
City, MO**  
**11 FAPRI MO Agriculture Outlook  
Conference;**  
**Jefferson City, MO**

### **JULY, 2010**

**21-23 MO-AG Summer Meeting; Country  
Club Hotel;**  
**Lake Ozark, MO**

Note: Items in **red** are new postings since the  
last Wrap-Up issue.

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## **Letters to the Editor**

*Do you have a response to the Missouri Agribusiness Wrap Up? Let us know! The Missouri Agribusiness Wrap Up is a bi-weekly publication of the Missouri Agribusiness Association (MO-AG). MO-AG is a member-owned association based in Jefferson City, Mo. which protects members' interests in state legislation and provides educational opportunities.*

Missouri Agribusiness Association  
PO Box 1728, 410 Madison Street  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
(573) 636-6130  
Fax: (573) 636-3299  
[MO-AG Website](#)

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Missouri Agribusiness Association | P.O. Box 1728 | 410 Madison Street | Jefferson City | MO | 65102

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