



News & Views

A Monthly Publication Dedicated to the Feed, Seed, Grain and Farm Supply Industries of Wisconsin

A NEW BEGINNING

Greetings from the Wisconsin Agri-Service Association! What a wonderful time of the year it is – with the weather turning warmer, the grass turning green, and the anticipation of another cropping season beginning in the coming days. After a long cold snowy winter, a new beginning is exactly what most of us need.

Here at WASA, your association is going through somewhat of a new beginning as well. The first new beginning for your association and its members is the addition of a new Safety Loss Control Program Director. Our new Safety Director is named James Nolte from Janesville. I have no question that Jim will hit the ground running with the WASA Safety Program, and will make a creditable well respected program. I will tell you more about Jim in the following article.

Second, your association is studying itself, finding out what WASA currently is and what we want to become. This study includes analyzing our member services, studying our finances and expenses, rethinking our mission statement, and brainstorming numerous ways to more effectively serve our members. While this internal study will be an on going improvement project continuing into the future, I believe in the end that it will bring great value to WASA and its members.

Third, your Board of Directors is working diligently to search for the right person in filling the role of Executive Director for your association. While everyone desires to have new leadership in place as quickly as possible, your board has pledged to take no short cuts in the process of hiring a new director. Your board has already spent a lot of time in this process, and I am confident they will have an outstanding new leader in place in the not too distant future. In the meantime, I promise to do

all I can to keep WASA moving in a positive direction and providing the services needed by the membership.

In my first six weeks at WASA, I have had the chance to travel several parts of the state to meet some of you and hear your opinions of your association. I have really enjoyed the opportunity to meet several of you, and I look forward to meeting many others in the weeks to come. In the meantime, if you have thoughts or suggestions that you would like to share about WASA, do not hesitate to contact me or a member of the Board of Directors. We would love to hear your opinions. As I said in a letter I sent you over a month ago, I truly believe you have a lot to be proud of at WASA, and we promise to do our very best to make it even better in the future.

Sincerely,
Tom Bressner
Interim Executive Director

JAMES NOLTE – NEW SAFETY DIRECTOR FOR WASA

It is with great pride that I announce to you, the employment of a new Safety Loss Control Program Director to WASA. Your new Safety Director is James Nolte. With over 26 years of extensive experience in the field of occupational safety and health, Jim will bring a wealth of knowledge and understanding to our members in meeting regulations and making their places of businesses safer. Jim's experience includes regulatory compliance assistance, evaluation of safety management systems, implementation and development of safety programs, employee safety training, and numerous other valuable initiatives. Jim's career experiences have ranged from working for private business, providing consultation services for businesses

through the Wisconsin Department of Commerce consultation program, and he has even spent five years running a safety consultation business of his own..

Jim lives in Janesville, Wisconsin, where he is married with two sons. He also holds a BSE degree in Occupational Safety Studies from the University of Wisconsin – Whitewater. He will start his new position with WASA on Monday, May 2nd. I feel comfortable that each of you will be impressed with the talent that Jim will bring to the WASA Safety Loss Control Program. Please help us in welcoming Jim Nolte to the staff of the Wisconsin Agri-Service Association.

NEW OFFICIAL MOISTURE METER TECHNOLOGY BEING STUDIED BY FGIS

For several years now, the grain and feed industry has become used to the Dickey-john GAC 2100 moisture meter being the moisture meter used by the official grading system in the U.S., for both domestic and export trade. Well, with new technologies in moisture meter measurement now in place, the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) has announced that they are developing selection criteria, specifications and tolerances for approving a new moisture meter for use in the official system. It is the goal of FGIS to make a decision on which technology they will use by the end of 2011, with implementation to begin by May 2013. We will keep you informed as we see new developments beginning to take shape.

BURDENSOME IRS 1099 REPORTING REQUIREMENT HAS BEEN REPEALED

In the WASA News & Views mailed in December 2010, John Petty wrote a very informative article telling you what to prepare for based on some new 1099 reporting regulations approved as part of the 2010 healthcare reform legislation.

Well, businesses everywhere breathed a sigh of relief last week when President Obama

signed H.R. 4 into law. Also known as The Comprehensive 1099 Taxpayer Protection and Repayment of Exchange Subsidy Overpayments Act of 2011, this legislation will repeal the requirement that small business owners, farms and ranches, file a 1099 for all payments, including goods and services that totaled \$600 or more in a calendar year for each vendor they deal with. Originally, the government planned to tax revenue reported on these 1099 forms in order to raise money to fund health care reform, and was set to begin in 2012. However, after realizing how burdensome and costly this would be for small businesses, both houses of Congress repealed the requirement by passing this bill (Senate by a vote of 87-12 and House by a vote of 314-112). President Obama agreed that repealing this requirement is the right thing to do for business, and has signed the bill into law. However, remember that while H.R. 4 does repeal all 1099 reporting that was part of the 2010 healthcare reform legislation, all required 1099 reporting that you have been doing in past years remains unaffected.

FDA SEEKS INPUT ON IMPLEMENTING THE NEW FOOD/FEED SAFETY LAWS

As a follow up to an article written in the February 2011 addition of the WASA News & Views, the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) is now beginning to come up with their plan on how to regulate the new Food/Feed Safety Law. In a meeting held on April 20, FDA Deputy Commissioner for Foods, Michael Taylor said, "Our challenge is how to create a regulatory framework that is adaptable across diverse industries." It must be science and risk based, and must provide sufficient flexibility for facilities to identify controls that are effective and workable for their individual operations. It is proposed that FDA will have regulations on the law's hazard analysis and preventive control provisions published before the end of the year. You can be assured that WASA will pay

extremely close attention to this regulatory process as it moves forward.

NINETY-SEVEN THOUSAND POUND ROAD ACCESS LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN U.S. CONGRESS

The Safe and Efficient Transportation Act of 2011 (Senate Bill 747) was introduced in the US Senate on April 6th, with the goal of allowing states to adopt 97,000 pound road access on interstate highways. The bill was introduced in the US House of Representatives (House Bill 763) in February. The proposed bills would allow states the option of choosing to allow 97,000 pound, six axle truck access on interstate highways. According to Mike Steenhoek, spokesman for the Soy Transportation Coalition, "It's a responsible way to increase the overall capacity of our infrastructure without having to build new roads. For a soybean farmer, being able to load up 97,000 pounds would allow him to add 183 additional bushels of soybeans per delivery (as compared to five axle, 80,000 pound capacity rigs)." According to Richard Lewis, president of the Forest Resources Association, "...full implementation would reduce the forestry and agriculture sectors' diesel consumption by 13.9 million gallons annually, reducing carbon emissions by 242 million pounds."

Obviously, not every one is in favor of the proposed new bills. Potentially more dangerous driving environment for other motorists, along with magnified damage to roadways is a concern to many. Currently, groups against the bill include law enforcement agencies, various state Departments of Transportation, and the Owner-Operators Independent Drivers Association.

JUST FOR FUN – ARE YOU EATING YOUR SHARE?

For many of us, it is that time of year that we love the most – baseball season. It is really hard to imagine anything quite as great as a day at the ballpark, sitting in the bleachers, soaking in the sunshine, catching a home run ball, and of course, devouring a couple of hot dogs. But my question to you is: are you eating your share?

According to the National Hog Dog and Sausage Council's 2011 annual report released for Major League Baseball, the council projects that major league ballparks around the country will serve 22,435,000 hot dogs during the 2011 season! If laid end to end, that is enough hot dogs to circle the bases 31,160 times or long enough to stretch from AT&T Park in San Francisco all the way to the Great American Ballpark in Cincinnati. And this does not include the over 5.1 million sausages expected to be consumed at major league ballparks this year.

So if your spring and summer plans include a day at the ballpark, take your glove, sunglasses, and sunscreen, but above all, don't forget to take your appetite and do your part. "That will be a hot dog with mustard and relish, please... no wait, you better make that two."

WASA DIRECTORY UPDATE

The following updates should be made to your WASA Directory.

New:

Agri-Business Insurance Services

1349 Quarry Ln

Eagan, MN 55121

Phone: (651) 487-6249

Changes are indicated in bold. As additions or changes are made throughout the year, we will notify you here in *WASA N & V*.