



AGRICULTURE COUNCIL OF INDIANA NEWSLETTER

Promoting Agribusiness Policy in Indiana

July 21, 2017

ACI Comments at Pesticide Review Board

Mark Shublak attended the Indiana Pesticide Review Board public hearing on Thursday, July 6 to provide comments on behalf of ACI. The board was hearing comments on a proposed rule to expand the list of state restricted use pesticide products to include certain herbicides containing the active ingredient dicamba. Mark provided oral and written testimony about ACI's position on dicamba expressing concerns about the product but suggesting there is not enough evidence to support the proposed rule at this time. [Click here](#) to read the written comments from ACI and interested parties.

Senate panel approves USDA funding bill

Source: NGFA

The Senate Committee on Appropriations on Thursday approved a funding bill for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs, including a provision that would change how cotton is recognized under the commodities title of the farm bill.

The [FY2018 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill](#) designates cotton as an "other oilseed" under Title I of the 2014 Farm Bill, allowing cotton producers to participate in the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program along with other major U.S. crops.

The bill provides \$145.4 billion in discretionary and mandatory funding, \$4.85 billion more than the president's budget request and \$7.9 billion less than the FY2017 enacted level. It contains \$20.525 billion in discretionary funding, \$352 million below the FY2017 enacted level, and includes \$124.9 billion in mandatory funding.

Trump nominates USDA leaders

Source: NGFA

President Donald Trump announced this week his intent to nominate Ted McKinney as USDA's undersecretary for trade and foreign agricultural affairs and Dr. Sam Clovis as undersecretary for research, education and economics.

In May, Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue created the new position of undersecretary for trade and foreign agricultural affairs as directed by the 2014 Farm Bill.

McKinney has been director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture since being appointed to the post in 2014 by then-Gov. Mike Pence. The NGFA and North American Export Grain Association in December jointly recommended to President Trump and Vice President Pence that McKinney be nominated to a high-level USDA post. Prior to his appointment as Indiana's ag director, he spent a decade with Dow AgroSciences, culminating in his service as its leader of food chain, agriculture industry affairs and state government relations.

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue praised both selections. In a press statement, he said of McKinney: "I have always said that I want someone who wakes up every morning asking how we can sell more American agricultural products in foreign markets. Ted McKinney is that person. His longstanding background in agriculture, economic development and global issues will make him an unapologetic advocate for U.S. products in the world marketplace."

Senator Donnelly Hosting Farm Bill Listening Session

Mark your calendars for a Farm Bill Listening Session with Senator Joe Donnelly on Tuesday, August 15th at 9:00 a.m. in the Normandy Barn. More information will be coming soon.

Indiana Department of Labor Agriculture Worker Safety & Health Webinar

The Indiana Department of Labor works to collaborate with industry stakeholders on educating employees about work-related safety and health. Please [click here](#) to review the webinar and presentation and use it as a resource in your workplace.

Increase in Gasoline License Tax, Special Fuel License Tax & Motor Carrier Surcharge Tax

2017 requires the Indiana Department of Revenue to publish the new rates effective **July 1, 2017**, for the gasoline license tax (IC 6-6-1.1-201), special fuel license tax (IC 6-6-2.5-28), and motor carrier surcharge tax (IC 6-6-4.1-4.5) on the department's Internet website no later than June 1, 2017. For the period July 1, 2017, to June 30, 2018, the following rates shall be in effect:

Gasoline license tax:	\$0.28/gallon
Special fuel license tax:	\$0.26/special fuel gallon
Motor carrier surcharge tax:	\$0.21/surcharge gallon