

**AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL OF INDIANA NEWSLETTER**

***Promoting Agribusiness Policy in Indiana***

***November 17, 2017***

**Indiana Pesticide Review Board Meets – Dicamba Presentation**

On November 15th the Indiana Pesticide Review Board met in West Lafayette.  ACI lobbyist Mark Shublak monitored the discussion.  A nearly hour presentation on dicamba was presented by Dave Scott. As has been reported in previous editions of this newsletter, dicamba is now a Restricted Use Pesticide.  Dicamba complaints for 2017 show a record increase of 129 cases.  For perspective, in 2016 there were only 3 cases.  Going forward, the State Chemist Office will be focused on education and training on dicamba as a priority matter.  In the near future, we will distribute education materials or other information released by the office.  In the meantime, please see the attached presentation that was presented at the meeting.

**Notice for All Registered Restricted Use Pesticide Dealers**

*Source: Office of Indiana State Chemist and Seed Commissioner*

A notice is being mailed from OISC to all of our currently registered Restricted Use Pesticide Dealers (vendors/retailers/distributers) that sell RUPs to Indiana end users (applicators). We anticipate it will be mailed out early next week. We are also posting it on our web site on the Dicamba Herbicide Update page [http://www.oisc.purdue.edu/pesticide/dicamba.html](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/1dDnBYt434bvuZ?domain=oisc.purdue.edu) . We are also interested in providing this notice to dealers/retailers who may sell agricultural dicamba pesticides to Indiana farmers and custom applicators, but are not already RUP dealers. Your assistance or recommendations in spreading this word would be greatly appreciated.

 Please note. OISC is working on a second notice that is intended to announce requirements and details for mandatory training for any applicator that wants to use Engenia, Xtendimax, or FeXapan Herbicide in 2018. That notice may be ready, or at least drafted by this afternoon. Your assistance in distributing that information to potentially impacted clients would be appreciated as well.

**Ag groups and businesses ask 50 governors to help protect NAFTA**

*Source: National Grain and Feed Association*

The NGFA [joined](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/g5akB0TZDx9DH9?domain=r20.rs6.net) 167 other agricultural organizations and agribusinesses in writing to all 50 governors to express concern about the potential of a withdrawal from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).  "We respectfully request that you let President Trump know that you support a modernized NAFTA that maintains and enhances food and agricultural trade between the U.S., Mexico, and Canada, and recognition that withdrawal from the accord would have adverse impacts," the Nov. 14 letter stated.

President Donald Trump has threatened to invoke Article 2205 of NAFTA, which allows withdrawal from the agreement within six months after providing notice to Canada and Mexico. The NGFA and other agricultural groups told the governors that notice of withdrawal from NAFTA would result in substantial harm to the U.S. economy, particularly to the U.S. food and agriculture sector. "The adverse effects...would be abrupt and particularly severe for America's farmers, food manufacturers, and agribusinesses," the letter stated, noting that a notice of withdrawal would trigger an immediate response in commodity markets, as market-specific focus would turn to a scheduled return to trade-prohibitive tariff rates. "We appreciate President Trump's initiative to modernize NAFTA with a 'do-no-harm' pledge to American food and agriculture, and we are committed to working constructively with the administration...(and) encourage NAFTA negotiations to continue without the threat of withdrawal."

[View the full letter](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/oX30BmtpmMDmHW?domain=r20.rs6.net), which outlines the detrimental impacts to each commodity that would begin with issuance of a notice of withdrawal from NAFTA.

**House passes tax reform bill**

*Source: National Grain and Feed Association*

The House passed a tax reform bill on Thursday by a 227-205 party line vote, with 13 Republicans opposed. "Passing this bill is the single biggest thing we can do to grow the economy, restore opportunity and help these middle-income families that are struggling," said House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., while celebrating the vote.

The House-passed bill reduces the top corporate income tax rate from 35 percent to 20 percent, cuts the number of tax income brackets from seven to four, and [limits interest deductibility](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/VAOEBGTELzXLUV?domain=r20.rs6.net) to 30 percent of taxable income. Also included in the House bill is a provision ending tax breaks for private activity bonds, a key element involved in public-private partnerships in infrastructure projects. The Trump administration has said it wants to leverage those partnerships to reduce the direct cost of the president's $1 trillion infrastructure plan.

The House and Senate must reconcile the [differences between their plans](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/5JgMBLc5GQJGfo?domain=r20.rs6.net) if Congress is to complete tax reform by the end of the year. The Senate has yet to vote on its proposed version of a tax reform plan, which differs in several ways from the House-passed measure.

**Administration officially delays WOTUS**

*Source: National Grain and Feed Association*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of the Army [proposed](https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/ANo7BxclVpDVs7?domain=r20.rs6.net) Thursday to delay the effective date of the 2015 rule defining "waters of the United States" for two years.

"This amendment would give the agencies the time needed to reconsider the definition of 'waters of the United States,'" the agencies' announcement said. "EPA and the Army are taking this action to provide certainty and consistency to the regulated community."

The 2015 rule, which redefined the scope of where the Clean Water Act applies, previously had an effective date of Aug. 28, 2015. Implementation of the 2015 rule is currently on hold because of the nationwide stay of the rule imposed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, but that stay may be affected by a pending Supreme Court case. The 2015 rule also is stayed in 13 states as a result of a North Dakota district court ruling.

The agencies' proposal is separate from the two-step process they propose to take to reconsider the 2015 rule. The comment period for the Step 1 rule closed in September, and the agencies are conducting listening sessions with stakeholders as they develop a proposed Step 2 rule that would revise the definition of "waters of the United States." EPA and the Army said they plan to take final action in early 2018.

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