



AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL OF INDIANA NEWSLETTER

Promoting Agribusiness Policy in Indiana

March 30, 2018

Planting Season Reminder

It's that time of year again, and it's important to keep in mind some key tips on safety:

- Transport Safely
 - o Be sure to use warning signs while using public roads. This will help keep drivers aware of the possible danger, and mitigate accidents.
- Follow the Label
 - o Labels are important as they contain product warnings and directions for proper use.
- Maintain Equipment
 - o Make sure your equipment is well maintained and that it's been inspected before seasonal use. If you had your equipment serviced before the end of last season, it does not mean the equipment is still in proper condition.
- Store Fuel Properly
 - o Store fuel away from machinery and fire sources. Keeping your fuel containers secured ensures that damage is minimal in the event of a fire.
- Stay Healthy
 - o Despite working long hours, agribusiness operators should still eat and sleep well. Sleep deprivation or malnutrition results in a deterioration of mental functions, meaning that equipment operation is more dangerous.
- Watch for Children
 - o Noisy and large equipment can attract curious children. It's important to make sure your children are safely secured at all times.

OISC Notice of Intent

The Indiana State Chemist has posted a Notice of Intent to Readopt rules related to "Fertilizer Material Use, Distribution, And Record Keeping". [Please click](#) here to read the rule.

If you have any questions, please contact Mark Shublak at 317-236-5981 or mark.shublak@icemiller.com.

Please contact Mark Shublak at mark.shublak@icemiller.com or Lesa Dietrick at lesa.dietrick@icemiller.com if you have any questions or needs regarding policy matters.

Washington Report

KORUS Agreement a Relief to Agriculture

Source: Hoosier Ag Today

Agriculture was ‘left out’ of the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement renegotiation effort, a relief to the sector. For many in agriculture, there was more to lose than gain in the renegotiation effort. The U.S. is the largest supplier of beef to Korea and the second largest pork supplier. Data from the U.S. Meat Export Federation shows red meat exports to Korea set a record last year of \$1.7 billion, up 19 percent from the prior year and up 69 percent from 2012.

USMEF spokesperson Joe Schuele told Meat industry publication, Meatingplace, the revised KORUS is “excellent news” for U.S. beef and pork because it ensures the U.S. “will continue to be able to serve the growing South Korean market.” South Korea is also a top-five importer of U.S. corn, buying more than 5.3 million metric tons in the last marketing year, which is more than 200 million bushels. Under the new agreement, South Korea will limit its steel exports to the U.S. and allow more imports of U.S. autos. The U.S. agreed to exempt South Korea from Trump’s steel and aluminum tariffs.

Donnelly: Senate Farm Bill Being Done in “Completely Bipartisan Way”

Source: Hoosier Ag Today

As Hoosier Ag Today reported Wednesday, Kansas Republican and Senate Ag Chairman Pat Roberts said he believes a Farm Bill could reach the Senate floor by the end of April. Indiana Senator, and member of the Senate Ag Committee, Democrat Joe Donnelly believes that timeline is not unreasonable.

“I would agree with Senator Roberts; he’s a good friend of mine. I have traveled around the state from one corner to the other holding farm bill listening sessions. As I told our Hoosier farmers, ‘you are writing this bill.’ They have been incredibly helpful to me in providing information. As a result, I think that the Farm Bill is on schedule. We are looking at continuing to move it along.” Donnelly says everything has been done in a “completely bipartisan way”; something that can’t be said for the House.

“They seem to struggle in this occasionally. I think the Senate is ready and willing to go, and to do it on a bipartisan basis. And to do it in a way that both the nutrition portions of it and the ag portions of it can really blend together well.”

Senator Donnelly addressed the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, that is currently holding up talks in the House as House Democrats are reportedly opposing any changes to the existing program.

“I think we’ll have a nutrition program that is also aimed at working together with our ag communities for all of our ag products to be included in the nutrition program. Additionally, it’ll be a nutrition program that is responsible, and then make sure that every dollar is spent wisely and prudently.

Donnelly also said that rural broadband connectivity and addressing the opioid epidemic are priorities of his for the Farm Bill.

“Broadband is critical to ag’s future and critical to our rural community’s future. And the ending this opioid scourge is not only critical for our communities, but for our families, for our children, and our loved ones as well.”

As Farm Bill talks progress in the Senate, we’ll have to hurry up and wait to see if bipartisan ground can be found in the House.

Secretary Perdue Issues USDA Statement on Plant Breeding Innovation

Source: USDA – March 28, 2018

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today issued a statement providing clarification on the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) oversight of plants produced through innovative new breeding techniques which include techniques called genome editing.

Under its biotechnology regulations, USDA does not regulate or have any plans to regulate plants that could otherwise have been developed through traditional breeding techniques as long as they are not plant pests or developed using plant pests. This includes a set of new techniques that are increasingly being used by plant breeders to produce new plant varieties that are indistinguishable from those developed through traditional breeding methods. The newest of these methods, such as genome editing, expand traditional plant breeding tools because they can introduce new plant traits more quickly and precisely, potentially saving years or even decades in bringing needed new varieties to farmers.

“With this approach, USDA seeks to allow innovation when there is no risk present,” said Secretary Perdue. “At the same time, I want to be clear to consumers that we will not be stepping away from our regulatory responsibilities. While these crops do not require regulatory oversight, we do have an important role to play in protecting plant health by evaluating products developed using modern biotechnology. This is a role USDA has played for more than 30 years, and one I will continue to take very seriously, as we work to modernize our technology-focused regulations.”

“Plant breeding innovation holds enormous promise for helping protect crops against drought and diseases while increasing nutritional value and eliminating allergens,” Perdue said. “Using this science, farmers can continue to meet consumer expectations for healthful, affordable food produced in a manner that consumes fewer natural resources. This new innovation will help farmers do what we aspire to do at USDA: do right and feed everyone.”

USDA is one of three federal agencies which regulate products of food and agricultural technology. Together, USDA, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have a Coordinated Framework for the Regulation of Biotechnology that ensures these products are safe for the environment and human health. USDA’s regulations focus on protecting plant health; FDA oversees food and feed safety; and EPA regulates the sale, distribution, and testing of pesticides in order to protect human health and the environment.

USDA continues to coordinate closely with its EPA and FDA partners to fulfill oversight responsibilities and provide the appropriate regulatory environment. This ensures the safety of products derived from new technologies, while fostering innovation at the same time.

Read talking points on this subject provided by the American Seed Trade Association by [clicking here](#).

Industry News

What's Behind the Label on a Bag of Seed?

Pat T. Miller, Director State Affairs, American Seed Trade Association

Mike Stahr, Seed Lab Manager, Iowa State University Seed Laboratory &

Vice President, Association of Official Seed Analysts

The seed label, or tag as it is often referred, is like the inside jacket of a novel. It tells you everything that's important about your bag of seed. The United States is frequently cited as one of the most reliable producers of food in the world. One of the reasons for that is because we have some of the most stringent seed laws in the world. The seed label reflects those laws. Strong seed laws provide the means to ensure plant breeder's rights, encourage biodiversity, and greater opportunity for financial success by the grower community. Of course, the ultimate benefit is the consumer.

When you look at a seed label you'll see a lot of numbers. But on closer look, all of those numbers are significant. The Federal Seed Act and all state seed laws require a seed label, although they vary slightly in their requirements. Most of these laws were created over 80 years ago and variances have evolved, but they generally all have the same means to an end. Some of the notations on a label are obvious, some not so much. Here's what most states require on a seed label and what each item means:

- Product name: the brand name and/or species name, so the consumer knows what they are getting
- Pure seed: percentage by weight of the desired seed(s) based on the entire contents of the bag
- Other crops seed: percentage by weight of seeds not considered weed. If the amount is over 5% (generally) then those species are considered Pure Seed and are to be listed by name. In some cases those species present at 5% or less may also be listed as Pure Seed if so desired by the seller.
- Weed seed: the percentage by weight of weed seeds unless they are considered restricted noxious weed seeds by law where the seed will be sold. If they are restricted noxious weed seeds, then they must be listed individually by name and are limited to the amount in the state law (usually around 0.25%). (NOTE: prohibited noxious weed seeds are not allowed at all)
- Inert matter: the percentage by weight of whatever is in the package that doesn't grow (i.e. broken seed that are half or less what was originally there, seed coats, insects, etc.).
- Address: the contact information for the company providing the seed
- Origin: state where the seed was grown
- Lot number: a unique number so that the seed can be traced to its origin
- Test date: month and date that this lot was tested. The date of the standard germination test must be listed, even if it is different from the dates of other tests done.
- Germination: the percentage of seed in the bag that is expected to grow (based on a lab test)
- Treatment: coatings generally used to enhance germination, protect the seed, or assist in growth
- Other items deemed necessary by the state, as this list is not all-inclusive.

The seed label is generally backed up by a test from a seed lab. It is required that the person from a seed lab signing the report of analysis be certified in testing or that the person conducting the testing be certified. Certification is in purity testing which includes conducting the mechanical purity test & the noxious weed seed exam and also in germination testing. The

Association of Official Seed Analysts (AOSA, which is composed of state, federal, university and some crop improvement labs) and the Society of Commercial Seed Technologists (which is composed of analysts from seed companies, private labs, crop improvement labs and some AOSA labs) jointly give certification exams. A person must provide evidence of training (related college courses; workshops and training within their lab) and experience to qualify to take the exams. A person passing both exams becomes a Registered Seed Technologist (RST) and is able to sign and put their seal on reports of analysis. Certified analysts must show evidence of continuing education & proficiency testing to remain in good standing.

Seed labs can conduct more than 50 distinct types of tests. A number of these are not used to provide information for the label, but rather provide supporting information (such as vigor) to the seed company. Many states require testing for the label to be done according to the AOSA Rules for Testing Seeds and seed produced in one state and sold in another must meet the requirements of the Federal Seed Act and its regulations. Others don't list the AOSA Rules. A mechanical purity test is done on approximately 2,500 seeds, while a noxious weed exam is approximately 25,000 seeds. Seeds aren't counted out, but rather a table in the Rules lists the required weight for more than 700 species of seed. Some seeds are easy to identify, but others (example: Quackgrass from Western Wheatgrass) take a highly trained person with good eyes and a lot of patience. The standard (or warm) germination test is conducted under conditions considered ideal and so its results are likely the maximum germination rate of that seed. It must be remembered that fields (gardens, etc.) vary in soil type, fertility, fungal & insect population, environmental conditions, etc. and so the germination percentage or the result of a vigor test may or may not match field emergence. Vigor of a seedling isn't considered in the germination test, but rather that the parts of a seedling are present and not badly damaged mechanically or by fungi or insects. Volume four of the AOSA Rules provides information on how to classify seedlings as normal or abnormal according to the species of seed. Also determined in the germination test is the percentage of dead seed, dormant seed (those that take up moisture, but don't grow) and hard seeds (certain types of seeds that can have a seed coat that doesn't allow water to penetrate until later).

As you can tell, there is more to a bag of seed than meets the eye. However, a grower can find out all they need to know by studying the seed bag label. And then, like reading a novel, they'll know the rest of the story.

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Dicamba Best Management Practices

Source: Agricultural Retailers Association

The Agricultural Retailers Association has collected guidance and best management practices from the dicamba registrants to help retailers make the sound decisions regarding handling, mixing and application.

BASF

[Engenia Spray System Hygiene Technical Bulletin](#)
[Engenia Mixing Order Guidance](#)

Corteva[Bulk Handling Guidance](#)**Monsanto**[XtendiMax Best Management Practices](#)

These and other dicamba-related documents are available on the [ARA website](#) (login required). Questions related to these products and best management practices should be directed to the registrant.

ARA Webinar - Responsible Use of Dicamba in 2018

Source: Agricultural Retailers Association

ARA will host two webinars on "Responsible Use of Dicamba in 2018." The first will be held tomorrow at 3 p.m. and features Reuben Baris of the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs and Dr. Stanley Culpepper, Professor, Extension Weed Scientist, University of Georgia. The webinars will cover new label requirements, best management practices for application, and the science behind the regulations.

The April 11 webinar will feature Rick Keigwin of the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs and Dr. Culpepper.

Click the link below to register for either date.

Thurs., March 22, 3-4 p.m. EDT

Wed. April 11, 3-4 p.m. EDT

[RSVP Now to Secure Your Seat](#)

Suspicious Activity and Facility Security; fact sheets and information

Source: The Fertilizer Institute – Justin Louchheim, Director of Government Affairs

The safe and secure handling of commercial fertilizers is paramount. In coordination with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), we have compiled key documents and information that may be of interest to the fertilizer industry and agribusinesses.

DHS has made available the following information and fact sheets:

- [CFATS Overview](#)
- [CFATS Quarterly Spring 2018 Newsletter](#)
- [CFATS Tiering Methodology](#)
- [CFATS Response](#)
- [CFATS Detect and Delay](#)
- [Know Your Customer](#)
- [See Something Say Something Trifold](#)
- [Security Training Resources](#)
- [Security Guide](#)
- [Active Shooter Booklet](#)
- [Active Assailant Security Resource Guide](#)
- [Voluntary Security Programs](#)

Suspicious activity should always be reported to the FBI to prevent the illicit use of materials. Suspicious activity can be reported by calling 1-855-TELL-FBI (or 1-855-835-5324).

The FBI Chemical Countermeasures Unit is available to work with industry and provided the following information on a series of education programs they administer that may also be of interest. If you would like more information and/or to schedule a meeting with the appropriate personnel at the FBI, you can reach out directly to [Justin Louchheim](#) at TFI (202-515-2718) or [Lisa Pampichate](#) at the FBI (202-324-1117).

MISSION:

The Chemical Countermeasures Unit's mission is to deter, detect and disrupt the production, acquisition and intentional misuse of chemicals through foreign and domestic outreach initiatives.

They administer the following programs to enhance individual facility operations.

Chemical Facility Outreach Exchange (CFOX)

- Half-day workshop to systematically complete outreach with high-risk chemical facilities throughout the territory of all 56 field offices
- Audience: Chemical facility personnel from the nation's highest-risk facilities, law enforcement
- Themes: Emphasize the importance of establishing tripwires to report suspicious activity to law enforcement; Facilitate the sharing of best practices and lessons learned between high-risk chemical facilities and members of private industry
- Expectation: To provide law enforcement with the opportunity to spread the chemical countermeasures mission while also creating an environment encouraging the sharing of best practices among high-risk chemical facilities

Chemical Industry Outreach Workshop

- One-day workshop to educate Chemical Industry executives and security personnel.
- Audience: Chemical industry personnel, chemical facility security professionals, members of academia, local first responders, emergency management
- Themes: Explore the use of explosive precursor chemicals to manufacture improvised explosive devices and chemical WMDs through briefings and a range of demonstrations; Emphasize the importance of reporting suspicious activity and sharing information with partners
- Expectation: To increase chemical industry personnel awareness of explosive precursor chemicals and improvised explosive devices, and increase awareness of the chemical countermeasures message

National Retailers Program

- Familiarizes chemical industry partners with chemical threat concepts and the precursor chemicals they manufacture, sell, or distribute which can be used in the production of homemade IEDs
- Audience: Chemical retail personnel, local law enforcement

- Themes: Provide chemical retailers with an understanding of the potential for their precursor materials to be used in an improvised explosive device; Provide security training materials for retailers to share with their employees; Encourage information sharing between chemical retail personnel and law enforcement; Provide best practices for point-of-sale employees about the potential indicators of terrorist activities, suspicious purchases, and suspicious activity reporting mechanisms
- Expectation: To train all levels of chemical retailers about the procurement and illicit uses of precursor chemicals to manufacture improvised explosives

As we work to promote safety and security at facilities, we hope you will reach out with any questions or suggestions.