



AGRICULTURE COUNCIL OF INDIANA NEWSLETTER
Promoting Agribusiness Policy in Indiana
October 6, 2017

Agricultural Industry Supports a Guestworker Program for American Farmers

Source: American Dairy Coalition

The American Dairy Coalition released a united letter of support today on behalf of our nation's dairy, agriculture and livestock producers and agriculture industry businesses, representing thousands of businesses that have been waiting for a program that ensures a viable labor force.

Associations, businesses and individuals signed on in support on a new immigration reform bill, introduced today by Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-VA), chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. The Agricultural Guestworker Act (AG Act) will create a new, workable agricultural guest-worker program.

“Our country, and especially our agriculture industry, has been waiting for more than 20 years for positive immigration reform. We commend Chairman Bob Goodlatte’s dedication; understanding and ambition to provide a legal guest-worker program that will assist with the current agriculture labor shortages, add many new jobs for domestic workers and spur economic growth. “

The Agricultural Guestworker Act replaces the cumbersome and costly H-2A guestworker program with a reliable H-2C visa program, which covers year-round employees and allows experienced, unauthorized workers to continue working.

The House Judiciary Committee has released a “Notice of Markup” to be held on Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2017 at 10 a.m. at 2141 Rayburn House Office Building. (The committee and markup were postponed until further noticed.)

For more information on the AG Act or the American Dairy Coalition, visit our website at www.americandairycoalitioninc.com.

Perdue says NAFTA and Japan are top trade priorities

Source: NGFA

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue expressed his disappointed this week about progress made thus far in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) negotiations, but said he is

optimistic that the pace will pick up in the next round that takes place Oct. 11-15 in Washington, D.C. "Honestly, we've been somewhat disappointed in the first three rounds, but we think this is the way these things get going," Perdue said at a Washington International Trade Association (WITA) event on Oct. 4 attended by NGFA. "If you've ever watched a boxing match, they circle one another for a while, and I think we've been circling."

During his WITA speech, Perdue also highlighted the Trump administration's interest in entering into bilateral trade agreements with Asian countries, particularly Japan. "We're eager to enter into bilateral trade negotiations with Japan and lower those barriers to address the preferences that they seem to have currently for Australia, the EU (European Union), Chile, Mexico and other countries," he said.

The NGFA and other agricultural stakeholders are eager to take advantage of market opportunities in the Asia-Pacific, spurred by President Donald Trump's withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which included Japan and Vietnam. Trump is traveling to Southeast Asia this fall, and Perdue said the administration is "advising policymakers" on the opportunities there. The NGFA will continue to convey its trade priorities with Perdue and USDA, as well as monitor congressional opportunities like the House Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee's Oct. 11 hearing on expanding trade in the Asia-Pacific region.

[**View the full story here**](#)

NGFA participates in Trump administration invitation-only events focused on cutting red tape and rolling back needless regulation

Source: NGFA

The NGFA on Oct. 2 participated in several invitation-only Trump administration events kicking off the administration's effort to reduce federal government regulations and red tape that inhibit U.S. economic growth and job creation. NGFA President Randy Gordon participated in a White House East Room event featuring remarks by Vice President Mike Pence and attended by many of President Trump's cabinet secretaries. He also later participated in a roundtable with Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue at USDA. Meanwhile, NGFA Director of Legislative Affairs Bobby Frederick took part in roundtable with Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao, and NGFA Vice President of Safety and Regulatory Affairs Jess McCluer participated in an event at the U.S. Department of Labor with Labor Secretary R. Alexander Acosta. During the roundtables, the NGFA presented several initial proposals for regulatory reform and federal government business innovation. [**View them here**](#).

[**View the full story here.**](#)

Senate committees conduct confirmation hearings on additional USDA, USTR posts

Source: NGFA

Two Senate committees conducted largely perfunctory confirmation hearings on three other persons nominated by President Trump to serve key roles at USDA and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR). The Senate Agriculture Committee conducted an hour-long hearing on the nominations of current Nebraska Director of Agriculture Greg Ibach to become USDA's undersecretary for marketing and regulatory programs, as well as Iowa Secretary of Agriculture William Northey to be USDA undersecretary of farm production and

conservation. In these roles, Ibach would oversee the Agricultural Marketing Service (which is being expanded to include the Federal Grain Inspection Service and USDA's warehouse licensing, examination and commodity-procurement activities) and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Meanwhile, Northey would oversee USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Risk Management Agency (RMA).

Meanwhile, the Senate Finance Committee conducted a confirmation hearing on the nomination of Greg Doud to become chief agricultural negotiator in the Office of the USTR. All three nominations are expected to be voted upon by the full Senate sometime next week.

Are you Ready, Large and Small Businesses?

Both large and small businesses need to be ready for the next compliance date for the Food Safety Modernization Act's animal food rule, which arrives next Monday, Sept 18. On this date, small businesses (those with fewer than 500 employees) will need to be in compliance with the "[Current Good Manufacturing Practice, Hazard Analysis and Risk-based Preventive Controls for Food for Animals](#)" subpart B (the current good manufacturing practices) and related requirements. Businesses with more than 500 employees across the entire business ("large businesses") will need to be in compliance with nearly every other part of the regulation, including subpart C on hazard analysis and risk-based preventive controls, including completion of each facility's animal food safety plan.

Even though the Food and Drug Administration recently [indicated](#) that inspections for the hazard analysis and risk-based preventive controls will not start until sometime in the fall of 2018, firms must still be in compliance by Sept. 18. While this announcement on delayed inspections seemed like a "win" for industry, in reality, this small victory really amounted to little relief as firms must still have an animal food safety plan written and in operation by next week. The delay in inspections does allow a firm to "test" the animal food safety plan and hazard analysis and make any necessary adjustments once the FDA releases additional guidance documents next year. AFIA's outside legal counsel--Olsson, Frank and Weeda--wrote a legal memo on the subject that can be viewed [here](#).

Small businesses must be in compliance with the CGMP requirements on Monday, Sept. 18, and we anticipate that inspections at these facilities will likely start in October when the new fiscal year begins. FDA has a goal of conducting 500 inspections in the fiscal year for large- and small-sized animal food firms. Please review the [Sept. 14, 2016, FSMA Update](#) to see other reminders to ensure your facility is in compliance.

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.