



California Association of Wheat Growers

Newsletter

October 14, 2016

**Thank you for your commitment to
the future of agriculture and our membership.**

National Association of Wheat Growers Update

NAWG Attends Food Assistance and Food Security Conference



This week USDA and USAID held the 2016 International Food Assistance and Food Security Conference in Des Moines, IA, prior to the World Food Prize events later in the week. The conference brought forth themes on how to secure the world from hunger, and the United States' global engagement.

Breakout sessions and panels ranged from current food assistance programs including the use of in-kind and monetization, evidence based evaluations, nutrition, use of big data and the perspective of recipient countries. The Conference also served as a platform for USAID to announce their 10-year Food for Peace Strategy as well as next steps for the Global Food Security Act implementation. NAWG, alongside US Wheat Associates, attended the conference to share the perspective and support of US wheat growers on food assistance and food security and hosted a booth to educate conference attendees during networking sessions. The conference was attended by a variety of stakeholders from grower groups to Private Voluntary Organizations (PVO) to food aid manufacturers to country governments that participate in programs under these two agencies, and many more groups in attendance. CEO Chandler Goule attended the World Food Prize, also in Des Moines, [where he spoke with Julie Borlaug](#), granddaughter of Norman Borlaug, commonly known as "the father of the Green Revolution." Dedicated to the goal of improving food security by developing improved grain varieties, Norman Borlaug was a leader in advancing wheat varieties to their current stage of productivity and profitability, and a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize for this work. Achieving food security and combatting hunger around the world is a priority of NAWG's, and we support the inclusion of wheat in food aid packages.

NAWG Calls on Congress to Fund Public Education on Biotechnology in Ag

Last week, NAWG signed on to a [letter](#) to the U.S. Senate and House leadership supporting the inclusion of \$3 million in the Fiscal Year 2017 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

The funds will be applied to informing the public about the benefits realized by the application of biotechnology to food and agriculture production. Since the passing of the GMO labeling bill by Congress this summer, and its signing by President Obama, biotechnology in food has risen to the forefront of consumers' attention. As the letter states, there is a considerable amount of misinformation about agriculture biotechnology in the public domain. The \$3 million, recommended by many agricultural organizations would specify that key federal agencies, such as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, are equipped to successfully convey to the public science- and fact-based information demonstrating the safety of food products containing GMO-produced ingredients. The innovations that biotechnology has brought are crucial for increased production, environmental conservation, and food security. NAWG this funding to mitigate negative public opinion regarding biotechnology in food, and encourages Congress to retain the funding provision and oppose any legislative action to restrict agriculture technology development.

Food for Peace 10 Year Strategy

During the 2016 International Food Assistance and Food Security Conference USAID launched their 10-year Food for Peace [strategy](#). For over 60 years Food for Peace has contributed food aid to countries in need, providing critical food interventions to over 3 billion hungry people in that timespan. The program was originally intended to purchase US commodities to send to areas in need of direct food aid. Today the program, authorized in the Farm Bill, includes other avenues to provide food aid to reach the goal of food security. The new strategy highlights one main goal to improve and sustain food security through a framework that includes various strategic objectives, intermediate results, cross-cutting intermediate results and corporate objectives. NAWG continues to support the use of in-kind food aid in Food for Peace and will continue to engage as USAID progresses on their 10-year strategy.

North Carolina Wheat Growers Hit Hard by Hurricane Matthew

Following the destruction of Hurricane Matthew up the Southeast coast of the United States, wheat growers and communities in North Carolina are experiencing heavy flooding, power outages, and expect high farming losses throughout Eastern North Carolina. Dan Weathington, Executive Director of the North Carolina Small Grain Growers Association, said within a 24-hour period they received 15 inches of rain, with winds as high as 75 mph. As many as 1500 people had to be air- or water-lifted out of the area, and hospitals and city water systems are still in a state of emergency. Donations can be made to the American Red Cross, and locally to the Robeson County Church and Community Center (590 West Street, Lumberton, NC 28358). Everyone at NAWG sends their thoughts and prayers to growers and others in North Carolina and encourage people to contribute what they can to the relief funds.

Find My Seed Technology Available for Farmer Use

NAWG recently learned of Agrible's free seed selector tool, [Find My Seed](#). Although this is not an endorsement, NAWG shares this information for growers to take advantage of if they wish. Find My Seed by Agrible, Inc. is an independent, unbiased, and free seed selector tool for wheat (summer and winter), corn, soybean, oat, barley, and cotton

growers. Find My Seed combines over 300,000 third-party seed trial plots covering 20,000 varieties into an easy-to-use online interface that helps growers find the highest-yielding seed for their unique conditions. After a grower selects a few options based on criteria that is important to them, like location, soil type, seed technology, and brand, Find My Seed shows the top performing seeds based on these factors. All seed data is taken from independent studies from universities, independent researchers, and other third-party groups. It is then curated, standardized, and made easily searchable by an expert team of agronomists and developers.

Federal Policy Update



Ryan Says No Vote on TPP during Lame Duck -- Again

There will be no House vote to ratify the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade treaty during the post-election lame duck session of Congress, House Speaker Paul Ryan (R, WI) said again this week, despite strong pressure from agriculture and business groups to bring the 12-national Pacific Rim trade deal up for a vote.

Ryan told a radio interviewer, "Yeah, we're not going to bring that up in lame duck, and I think I can say that safely." He said President Obama must first "fix this deal, there's real problems with it." Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R, KY) has referred to the politics surrounding the multination treaty as "toxic" given both presidential contenders oppose it as finalized, and most congressional Democrats have demonized the White House effort as doing too little for U.S. workers affected by the treaty or to protect the environment.

Some TPP supporters argue there's still time for Obama to mollify GOP critics of the treaty. For its part, the White House says it will not move to reopen the treaty. Major criticisms of the deal among Republicans include its uneven treatment of tobacco challenges under its dispute resolution provisions and inadequate protections for biological drugs. Beside jobs and the environment, Democrats are upset the president did not consult with them before negotiating and agreeing to the treaty.

The treaty is a legacy issue for Obama's U.S.-Asia policy, and an economic win for agriculture broadly as it works to reduce or eliminate most major tariffs on U.S. food and agriculture exports in a region which represents about 40% of the world's gross domestic product (GDP).

State Policy Update

By Legislative Advocate: Dennis Albani



CARB announces Cap and Trade Workshop

The California Air Resources Board (ARB) is having a workshop to discuss the next reiteration of the cap and trade program. They encourage interested parties to participate in a public workshop on October 21, 2016, to discuss potential amendments to the Cap-and-Trade Regulation.

The Board first formally adopted the "Cap and Trade" regulation in October 2011. The 2016 amendments seek to improve Program efficiency, update the Regulation using the latest information, and chart post-2020 implementation of the Program. The program sets up an auction of carbon emissions from regulated sources. The GHG emitters pay for each ton of emissions and the revenue is deposited in the Green House Gas Reduction Fund which is tapped to pay for a host of mitigation projects.

Updates to the regulations include:

- Potential changes to program design to support greater greenhouse gas reductions at covered entities
- Market program data transparency
- Post-2020 allocation to industry and utilities
- Natural gas supplier allocation consignment
- CAISO Energy Imbalance Market compliance obligations
- Treatment of waste-to-energy facilities

Date: Friday, October 21, 2016
Time: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Place: Byron Sher Auditorium
CalEPA Headquarters Building
1001 I Street Sacramento, California 95814
Webcast: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Broadcast/>

Staff proposals for post-2020 allocation will be made available at noon (12 pm) Pacific time on October 14, 2016. All materials will be posted at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/capandtrade/meetings/meetings.htm>.

All interested stakeholders are invited to attend. A live webcast of the workshop will be available at <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Broadcast/>. Remote participants may e-mail questions during the workshop to auditorium@calepa.ca.gov.

More information about ARB's Cap-and-Trade Program is available at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/capandtrade/capandtrade.htm>.

DPR announces New Rules on Telone use

Guided by a new scientific assessment of health risks, the California Department of

Pesticide Regulation (DPR) announced an update to the way the fumigant pesticide 1,3-Dichloropropene (1,3-D) is managed and used in California.

This pesticide, commonly known by the brand name Telone, is used to control insects, nematodes and other organisms in the soil that threaten a variety of crops including sweet potatoes, almonds, strawberries, grapes and carrots. It has been used in the United States since 1954 and in California since 1970, mostly in the San Joaquin Valley and Central Coast regions.

The new restrictions, which will take effect on January 1, 2017, include:

- An annual limit of 136,000 pounds* within each six mile by six mile area known as a township. (Townships are used to track pesticide applications). Currently, township limits are between 90,250 and 180,500 pounds per year.
- Discontinuing the current practice of carrying forward or "rolling over" unused allocations of 1,3-D from one year for use in future years
- A ban on the use of this pesticide during December, when weather conditions tend to make air concentrations higher

1,3-D is a fumigant pesticide that is injected into the soil to sterilize it before the crop is planted. In 2007, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency classified it as a likely carcinogen, and it is included on California's Proposition 65 list of chemical "known to the state to cause cancer."

California is the only state to limit how much of the pesticide can be used annually in any area. 1,3-D is also a restricted material, and as such can only be applied by trained, certified applicators under a permit from a County Agricultural Commissioner. In the last decade, DPR's regulations allowed growers to use varying amounts of 1,3-D in a township annually. These limits ranged from 90,250 pounds to more than 180,500 pounds provided growers used less in other years. It also allowed unused allocations of the pesticide to be carried over into the following years. As a result of these flexible limits, some growers often used more than 136,000 pounds of this pesticide annually per township. That will no longer be allowed to continue.

The new annual limit of 1,3-D was developed after DPR completed a comprehensive scientific study of this chemical, PDF (3 mb), known as a risk assessment, and after reviewing air monitoring data.

DPR Announces Pesticide Restrictions near Schools and Day Care Centers

DPR is proposing a new regulation that would give further protections to children when agricultural pesticides are applied close to schools and child day-care facilities. The full regulation can be found at www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/legbills/rulepkgs.htm from September 30th.

Many K-12 schools and child day-care facilities are located near farming operations and increasingly teachers, parents and the public want to know whether the chemicals being applied could adversely affect them.

While many counties in California currently have varying requirements for notification of certain pesticide applications near schools, the proposed regulation would be the first statewide standard. The regulation would affect about 3,500 schools and child day-care facilities and involve approximately 2,500 growers in California.

The proposal was informed by a series of public workshops held last year in five locations around the state to gather input from school administrators, growers and applicators, parents, teachers and the community. DPR is seeking further public comment on the proposed regulation by November 17, 2016, and a final regulation is expected to become effective in September 2017.

The proposed regulation would do the following:

- Prohibit many pesticide applications within a quarter mile of public K-12 schools and child day-care facilities from Monday through Friday between 6am and 6pm. These include all applications by aircraft, sprinklers, air-blast and all fumigant applications. In addition most dust and/or powder pesticide applications such as sulfur would also be prohibited during this time.
- Require California growers and pest control contractors to notify public K-12 schools and child day-care facilities and county agricultural commissioners (CACs) when certain pesticide applications are made within a quarter mile of these schools and facilities.

Under the proposed regulation, California growers would be required to provide two types of notifications to a school or child day-care facility:

(i) An annual notification that lists all the pesticides expected to be used during the upcoming year. This must be provided to the school or child day care facility administrator by April 30 each year**. The notice must include among other things:

- The name of pesticide products (and the main active ingredient) to be used
- A map showing the location of the field to be treated
- Contact information for the grower/operator and the County Agricultural Commissioner
- The web address for the National Pesticide Information Center where additional sources of information or facts on pesticides may be obtained.

(ii) An application-specific notification which must be provided to the school or child day-care facility 48 hours before each application is made. This begins Jan 1 2018 and must include among other things:

- Name of pesticide products (and the main active ingredient) to be used;
- Specific location of the application and the number of acres to be treated;
- Earliest date and time of the application.

California has varying microclimates and schools have various extracurricular school activities. Therefore, the regulation will allow the individual school or child day-care facility, the grower and the CAC to develop an alternative written agreement, to which all three parties must consent, that provides equal or more protection than the regulation. This agreement will be enforced by the CAC.