



In This Issue

[President's Pen](#)

[Alliance Hosts FSMA Training](#)

[New Ag Commissioner in Massachusetts](#)

[Alliance to Host Dairy Feed Dealers
Seminar in Vermont](#)

[FSMA Requires Bioterrorism Act Facility
Registration Renewal](#)

[Changes to OSHA Record Keeping](#)

[NEAFA Annual Meeting](#)

[NEAFA Nutrition Conferences](#)

[Welcome New Members](#)

[Send us your News](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Board of Directors:](#)

William Colten
President

315-701-4482
coltenbill@gmail.com

Dr. Rick Grant
Vice President

518-846-7121
grant@whminer.com

Richard Casler
Secretary

518-478-7850
rcasler@feedcorp.com

John Clark
Treasurer

315-868-5646
johnclark@nasf.us

Art Whitman
Immediate Past President
802-442-2851

[President's Pen...](#)

My two years at the helm of the Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance has been productive and rewarding as we have been active in support of northeast animal agriculture. The Alliance started 2014 with a new name and new logo, and our continued passion to be a strong voice for northeast farming. With support of the membership, board and staff, the Alliance has undertaken new initiatives to assure the perspectives of commercial agriculture are clearly heard by legislators, regulators and members of the public engaged in food production and environmental protection.

Over the past year with support from Crop Life America, the Alliance has been able to increase its outreach in the New England states while maintaining a strong focus on New York issues. We successfully lobbied against adoption of GMO labeling in New York, New Hampshire and Massachusetts and put up a strong effort in Vermont. Our members' perspective is regularly sought in statehouses; we are often asked to testify before committees or submit letters outlining our position on proposed legislation.

Our members and staff speak on panels and in the press explaining why our businesses and farmers use safe practices, based on science. Through the Alliance, our voice is heard and it does have an impact on outcomes.

An organization is only as good as its members and ours is strong. Many of you serve on committees to provide leadership for outreach and governmental relations; others help with the details of our conferences and meetings. Through your sponsorship and attendance at our golf tournament the Good Works committee is able to fund educational events for FFA, 4-H and collegiate Dairy Challenge teams. The resounding success of our 10th anniversary meeting in Orlando is an indication of your commitment to the Alliance. Thanks to all of you, we are expanding our influence and the value of membership in the Alliance.

As I step away from the President's podium, I do so with confidence in the future of the Alliance to support businesses that serve farmers in the production of safe and wholesome food and provide a voice for the agribusiness community.

Sincerely,



art@whitmansfeed.com

- Directors -

Mark Anderson
315-247-7176
manderson@diamondv.com

Barry Baetz
716-698-4244
bbaetz@globalagritrade.com

Andy Dugan
603-437-3400
adugan@goldstarfeed.com

Jeff Durkin
716-652-4177
jeff.durkin@verizon.net

Stuart Hall
860-578-0478
stuart@morrisonfeeds.com

Tom Hickley
802-349-0993
tom.hickley@feedcomponents.com

Corwin Holtz
607-844-3649
holtz296@frontiernet.net

Chip Hyde
315-689-6384
cnyfeed@verizon.net

Peter Karnezos
802-999-4634
tpkarnezos@landolakes.com

Blake Lutz
607-432-7984
blakelutz@lutzfeed.com

Jenny Mills
315-697-7669
mills_jenny_k@elanco.com

Lon Stephens
607-651-9078
lpstephens@co-opfeed.com

Contact Us:

194 Washington Ave, Ste. 305
Albany, NY 12210

Phone: 888-445-4595
Fax: 518-783-1258

www.northeastalliance.org

William J. Colten
NEAFA President

Alliance Testifies in Vermont Legislature



Alliance Past President, Art Whitman was joined by Marty Waterman, Vice President of the Vermont Feed Dealers and Louise Calderwood, Alliance Director of Government Relations in the Vermont House Agriculture Committee in early January. The trio took the opportunity to brief new committee members on common agricultural practices and the role the feed industry plays in water quality protection.

"Thirty years ago we could add antibiotics directly to feed, that has stopped. Now we focus on a clean, low stress environment to keep cows healthy," Waterman said.

Whitman explained that the feed industry assists farmers in growing quality forages to reduce the amount of grain imported into Vermont. "Our goal is to help farmers grow the best possible forages to keep their cows and their check books healthy." Whitman went on to explain that corn is an essential part of a balanced diet for high producing cows and can be grown responsibly by farmers using rotations and cover crops.

The committee questioned the threesome on agriculture's role in protecting Vermont's water quality. The biggest improvement mentioned to the committee is fencing animals out of waterways. "Farmers have reduced the amount of phosphorus in feed," Waterman told the committee. Whitman added that in addition to planted buffers and cover crops, many farms have switched to sand bedding from sawdust, further reducing the amount of phosphorus spread on fields.

Water Quality Target of Vermont Legislative Session

The Vermont legislature will use the 2015 session to focus on water quality impacts from agriculture. In his inaugural and budget speeches Governor Shumlin highlighted \$15 million of state funding for water quality efforts, and two new sources of state revenue: a proposed fee on fertilizer sales and a per parcel development fee.



In order to raise \$1 million annually, per-parcel development fees would increase to raise \$550,000 and a 1 percent increase in the state excise tax on fertilizers would raise approximately \$450,000 annually. In the Vermont statehouse some lawmakers have been heard to propose a \$30 per ton tax on fertilizer imported into the state while others have suggested all fertilizer applied to land in Vermont should be subject to the state's 6% sales tax.

Another part of Shumlin's plan includes slashing property tax relief to farmers who violate

Rick Zimmerman
Executive Director
rzimmerman@zga-llc.com

Louise Calderwood
Governmental Relations Director
rcalderwod@aol.com

Sue Kinner
Membership &
Meeting Registration
sue@nysta.org

water quality laws on land enrolled in the state's current use program, which gives property tax breaks to owners who continue to harvest the resources on their land rather than sell it for development.

This part of his plan has come under fire from some in the farming community. The Vermont Farm Bureau said the Governor's proposal will devastate the tax program and damage the state's relationship with farmers.

[New Commissioner of Agriculture in Massachusetts](#)



With the inauguration of the Republican Governor, Charlie Baker, Massachusetts will see a renewed focus on the business of agriculture and energy policy.

John Lebeaux, a former nurseryman, has been appointed Commissioner of Agriculture in the Baker administration at a time when the number of farms in Massachusetts has grown slightly. Former Governor Duval Patrick's administration focused on the public's appetite for locally grown food. The Baker administration appears to be poised to tackle the tough challenges in farming: global competition and burdensome state and federal regulations.

Lebeaux's grandfather operated Buttonwood Farm, and his father established a garden center and nursery on a portion of the farm. Lebeaux grew up there and after moving away came back and worked at Shrewsbury Nurseries.

"It was a conscious decision my wife and I made to come back to Shrewsbury and join the family business," Lebeaux said. The nursery closed in 2008-09, which Lebeaux attributed to his father's death, a rough economy, and the fact that his children weren't interested in taking it over.

Lebeaux also has local government experience. He most recently was town administrator in Princeton, population 3,500, and a selectman in Shrewsbury. "I think it brings value to the commissioner's position," he said of his local government work.

Excerpted from the Boston Globe, Jan 9, 2015

[New York Regulations Support Dairy Production](#)

A decision by State Supreme Court Justice Raymond Elliott, III of Albany affirmed regulatory changes made by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) which ease the burden on New York farmers who participate in concentrated animal feeding operations, or CAFO's. The court dismissed a claim by Riverkeeper Inc., Sierra Club Atlantic and other organizations that challenged DEC's decision to ease regulations and exempt certain dairy farmers from environmental permitting requirements.

The Northeast Dairy Producers Association, New York Farm Bureau and individual farmers such as Patrick McCormick, Vice President of Wyoming County Farm Bureau, were influential in bringing about the beneficial judicial decision. The court found the DEC has the authority to amend CAFO regulations and that the amendments are not unreasonable, arbitrary or capricious as claimed by petitioners. The court's written decision said



the amended regulations are compatible and keeping with the Legislature's delegation of authority for balancing environmental protection with economic prosperity.

The amended regulations were adopted in the interest of reducing the regulatory burden on dairy farms, ensuring continued flexibility relative to permitting, harmonizing the State's permitting program with the Clean Water Act's requirements, and fostering necessary expansion of milk production to meet the needs of New York's booming yogurt processors.

In its ruling, the court further stated the amended regulations are consistent with the broad purpose of preventing and controlling water pollution.

Excerpted from MoningAgClips January 15, 2015

Increased USDA Funding For Lake Champlain



Vermont and New York will share \$16 million of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service funding over the next five years to address water quality in Lake Champlain. The combined Vermont/New York project was the largest single funding level of any project in the new national Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). Coupled with matching funds from private groups and another Lake Champlain cleanup grant that was announced last year, more than \$80 million will become available to help clean up the lake, officials said. Farmers will be eligible for grants of up to \$450,000 over five years. Farmers can begin applying for the grants later this year.

The money from the grants will be used to help farmers with conservation practices such as planting cover crops, protecting stream and river banks, grazing practices and other projects designed to keep pollutants from farm fields from reaching the waterways and eventually the lake, said Vicki Drew, the state conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in the Vermont.

The priority areas for using the money are the Missisquoi and Lamoille river watersheds as well as southern Lake Champlain, Drew said.

The project will use modeling to target conservation practices and an extensive monitoring network to assess if the practices are effective

Excerpted from VTDigger January 14, 2015

Reminder of Changes to OSHA Record Keeping



As of January 1, 2015, all employers must report:

- All work-related fatalities within 8 hours.
- All work-related inpatient hospitalizations, all amputations and all losses of an eye within 24 hours.

You can report to OSHA by:

- Calling OSHA's free and confidential number at 1-800-321-OSHA (6742)
- Calling your closest OSHA Area Office during normal business hours
- A new online form will soon be available at the following link:

http://www.osha.gov/report_online/index.html

Note: The record keeping exemption for any employer with ten or fewer employees, regardless of their industry classification, remains in place.



NEAFA Annual Meeting to Focus on Challenging Issues GMO's, Farm Transparency to Headline Conference

The Northeast Agribusiness & Feed Alliance will hold its Annual Meeting and Forum February 3-4, 2014 at the Albany, NY Marriott Hotel. Alliance members, agricultural leaders, farmers, and the agribusiness community are invited to hear from outstanding speakers as they focus on the future of animal agriculture in the Northeast.

"The Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance is proud to provide an opportunity for our industry to engage in timely topics" stated Bill Colten, Alliance President. "Our speakers are outstanding and will be addressing a variety of topics including dairy markets, national agricultural issues, GMO's and industry transparency."

Keynote speakers include Sarah Evanega, Director of Cornell's Alliance For Science Program, Jessica Ziehm, NY Animal Ag Coalition, Ed Gallagher, Dairy Farmers of

America, Richard Sellers, American Feed Industry Association, Kate Hall, Biotech Industry Organization and David Okerlund, nationally known speaker.

A distinguished panel of dairy farmers will discuss the topic of Dairy Farm Transparency. "This topic is extremely important for our industry because consumers want to know more about where their food comes from and how it is produced," stated Jessica Ziehm, conference speaker and panel moderator. "Who are better than farmers to connect with consumers on these important topics?" The farmer panel will include Joanna Lidback, Westmore, VT, Julie Patterson, Auburn, NY and Mike McMahon, Homer, NY.

The GMO challenge to our feed and food system will be the headliner topic on Wednesday February 4th. Kate Hall of the Biotech Industry Organization will kick off the presentation and lead a panel discussion of industry experts including Jane Andrews of Wegmans Food Markets, Mateo Kehler of Cellars at Jasper Hill and Richard Sellers of the American Feed Industry Association. "This topic is very timely given the active discussions on GMO labeling in state legislatures throughout the Northeast," stated President Colten.

David Okerlund, nationally known speaker, will draw the conference to a close with his inspirational outlook on the industry's role within the region and the world.

Click on links below for more information ...

[Online Registration](#)
[Hotel Information & Online Reservations](#)
[Printable Registration Form](#)

If you are looking for places to dine, shop or visit while in Albany for the NEAFA Annual Meeting, check out the Albany Convention and Visitors Bureau link at <http://www.albany.org/neagandfeed/>.



Holiday Inn Liverpool, Syracuse, NY
 March 17, 2015

Essex Resort and Spa, Essex Junction, VT
 March 19, 2015

Mark your calendar now to attend the 2015 Herd Health and Nutrition Conferences on March 17 at the Holiday Inn in Liverpool, NY and March 19 at the Essex Resort and Spa in Essex Junction, VT. These conferences are presented through a partnership between PRO-DAIRY and Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance (NEAFA). An ideal educational opportunity for agriservice professionals, feed industry representatives, veterinarians, and dairy producers and alike, topics for the 2015 conferences will include:

- Starch Availability, Measurement, and Implications for Ration Formulation - Dr. Mike Allen, Michigan State University
- Fiber Digestion: New Concepts to Improve Feeding of Higher Forage Diets - Dr. Mike Van Amburgh, Cornell University
- Heat Stress and Gut Function - Dr. Lance Baumgard, Iowa State University

- Fatty Acid Nutrition and Milk Fat Depression - Dr. Kevin Harvatine, Pennsylvania State University

All sponsors will be recognized by level in the conference brochure and proceedings, on the PRO-DAIRY and NEAFA websites, and on signs and in logo Powerpoint presentation at the conferences.

On-line sponsorship Form

Sponsorship Form PDF

Registration information will be available very soon.



WELCOME

D and D Ingredient Distributors	John Osborne	(800) 543-7962	josborne@d-dfeed.com
Fornazor International, Inc.	John Fornazor, Jr.	(201) 664-4000	jf@fornazor.com
New York Susquehanna & Western Railway	Ray Schloss	(607) 221-4578	rschloss@nysw.com
Papillon Agricultural Company, Inc.	Larry Whitaker	(410) 820-7400	
Pennsylvania Grain Processing LLC	Steven Blackburn	(814) 205-2025	steveb@pagrain.com

Thank you to our current members for your continued support!

SEND US YOUR NEWS!

We often hear that Alliance members enjoy reading about news from members' companies: new hires, promotions, awards, changes to business structures or physical plants - anything you feel is newsworthy that does not promote a specific product or service.

Please send press releases to Louise Calderwood, Government Relations Director, for inclusion in the newsletter, or contact Louise with details and she will happily draft the news for you.

Louise can be reached at 802-586-2239

or rcalderwod@aol.com (note-only one "o")

Remember, if you missed one, past issues of NEAFA News are always available on our website at:

www.northeastalliance.com/newsletter.html



Do you have a position to fill? The Job Opportunities section of our newsletter is a free service for NEAFA members. Please contact Sue Kinner in the NEAFA office to submit your employment ad (sue@nysta.org).

Calendar of Events.....

NEAFA Annual Meeting & Forum

February 3-4, 2015
Albany Marriott Hotel
Albany, New York

For more information: [Click Here](#)

AFIA Purchasing & Suppliers Conference

March 11-13, 2015
Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress
Orlando, Florida

NGFA Annual Convention

March 15-17, 2015
San Antonio, Texas

See details below

2015 NEAFA Herd Health & Nutrition Conferences

March 17, 2015 - Syracuse
March 19, 2015 - Vermont





Register Today!

Save \$60 off NGFA Annual Convention

March 15-17, 2015 | San Antonio

Don't Delay! Early-Bird Ends Feb. 20!

Early Agenda Unveiled

NGFA's Annual Convention features top policy makers, substantive open forums and outstanding general sessions that explore the most important issues facing the industry in the year ahead. It also provides an ideal opportunity to interact and exchange ideas with industry leaders.

Check out additional information at ngfa.org/annualconvention or download the preliminary agenda, which features:

- Grand Opening Breakfast with special guest speaker
- Major address by Carl Ice, President/CEO of BNSF Railway Co.
- "Futures Markets - Change and Innovation"
- "Beyond Biotechnology - The Next Innovation in Seed Technology"
- "China's Plans for Achieving Food Security - Impacts on U.S. Agribusiness and Trade"

Networking

NGFA's Annual Convention offers a unique opportunity to meet with top industry leaders during receptions, excursions, committee meetings and the closing gala.

Support the Foundation

The annual golf tournament supports the National Grain and Feed Foundation. This year's tournament is at the Quarry Golf Club, which is recognized throughout the country for its unique setting and design; the front nine plays in a links-style format and features rolling hills, native grasses and immaculate greens while the back nine lays out in a 100-year-old quarry pit. For more information, contact Todd Kemp or go to ngfa.org/annual-convention.

Register and Save

Members, register by Feb. 20 and save \$60! (Non-members are not eligible for savings.)

Where

San Antonio, Texas
Hyatt Regency San Antonio Riverwalk
123 Losoya St. | San Antonio, TX 78205

Make your hotel reservations [online](#) or by calling 210-222-1234 and referencing NGFA Annual Convention.

Sponsorships Available

For sponsorship information contact [Rebecca Grubbs](#).

Take in the Sights

Make time to join us for one of several tours and activities highlighting local culture:

Texas Style Shooting: It's off to The San Antonio Gun Club, the oldest active gun club in the country. After safety instructions, experienced shooters will be partnered with a new shooter and the contests begin.

Hill Country Day Trip & Wine Tasting: After some shopping and local tour, participants will head to Dry Comal Creek Vineyards - where the wines have been recognized for outstanding quality. Guests will experience the wines with the wine maker.

Cooking San Antonio Style: San Antonio is known for great food and genuine hospitality - no one reflects this better than Chef Blanca Aldaco. She will teach guests how to make the perfect enchilada, and learn the secret to the best Margaritas (sampling included).

(Note tours and the golf tournament are not included in the conference fees. A separate registration is required.)

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to neafainfo@nysta.org by neafainfo@nysta.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



Try it FREE today.

Northeast Ag & Feed Alliance, Inc. | 4 Youngs Place | Latham | NY | 12110