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## [Agriculture Threatened By CWA Changes](#)

The EPA proposes to expand the reach of the 50 year old Clean Water Act beyond the current definition of "navigable waters" to include intermittent and ephemeral streams. In a strong show of support for farmers in New York and their own taxpayers, 35 counties and 17 towns have passed strongly worded resolutions asking the Environmental Protection Agency to withdraw its proposal to expand the definition of Waters of the United States under the Clean Water Act ([CWA](#)).

The proposed changes to the CWA would have impacts for farmers across the northeast. New York Farm Bureau has challenged the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers on its proposed rule changes that are believed by many to be an overreach of the CWA. The confusing and vague language in the new definition opens up the potential for dry land and ditches to now be considered federally controlled waters. The bureaucratic nightmare and costly permitting process that this would create would not only impact agriculture across this state but also local taxpayers and homeowners who would be subject to additional federal regulations, permits and expensive fines.



The EPA is currently accepting comments on the matter through November 14.

Alliance members can submit comments on the proposed rule by following the link to the [public comment period](#) and clicking on the "Clean Water Act; Definitions: Waters of the United States." The Alliance has drafted a short [sample letter](#) that you can copy into the comment box. Feel free to customize the letter for your specific location or concerns.

## [Alliance Submits Comments on New GE Corn and Soy Seeds](#)



Recognizing the need for ongoing support of new technology, the Alliance submitted comments to the EPA in support of regulatory approval of two Monsanto products, ROUNDUP READY 2 XTEND™ SOYBEANS and BOLLGARD II® XTENDFLEX™ COTTON.

In its comments, the Alliance stated the potential for environmental impact on sensitive areas or development of resistant weed varieties is mitigated by Monsanto's label application requirements.

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## Chobani To Collaborate With Green America

New York based yogurt maker Chobani recently announced it would collaborate with Green America, an environmental advocacy group, to work toward a milk supply that is organic and free of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). This is an interesting development because Green America organized a letter writing campaign in late 2013 that led to Whole Foods Market excluding Chobani products from its nearly 400 stores.



Organized in 1982, Green America went by the name "Co-op America" until January 1, 2009. Their web site states their organization's mission is to harness economic power-the strength of consumers, investors, businesses, and the marketplace-to create a socially just and environmentally sustainable society. The recent Green America "DON'T HAVE A COW" campaign includes blog topics on eating less meat as a family, new vegan products, and tips for a vegan diet

for athletes.

This \$3.47 million, 50 employee organization is facilitating Non-GMO Supply, a working group motivated to shift the supply of commodity crops from predominantly GMO to non-GMO sources. With a specific focus in the northeast, the organization is leading a multi-stakeholder initiative in an effort to transition over half a million acres of farmland to non-GMO and organic production.

Directed for nearly 30 years by Alisa Gravitz, a Harvard educated MBA, Green America influences investments across the US. Gravitz serves on the board of Ceres, a non-profit advocacy organization with \$5.9 million in annual receipts that works with investors, stock markets, credit rating agencies, and others to promote and integrate social principles into economic decision-making, practices and public policy.

## STB to Require Weekly Reporting of Expanded Rail Service Metrics

Responding to long-standing requests from many agricultural trade associations, as well as individual rail shippers and receivers, the federal Surface Transportation Board (STB) announced Oct. 8 that it will require expanded public reporting of rail service metrics on a weekly basis - including for the first time for nonagricultural products - and extend the reporting requirement to all Class I railroads.

Previously, the weekly reporting requirement was limited to the BNSF and Canadian Pacific Railways, and applied only to grain (and to fertilizer for a period earlier this spring).

The new STB order also expands the scope and granularity of service metrics that all Class I railroads now will be required to report, and applies some of the reporting requirements to encompass coal, crude oil, ethanol, automotive, intermodal and manifest traffic. Railroads are required to start reporting the newly expanded service metrics on Oct. 22.



For the past six months rail customers have expressed a need for greater industry-wide transparency on rail service metrics to allow them to plan logistics, minimize economic harm to operations and revenues, assist with business planning and to better serve their own customers. Additionally, the expanded reporting will bring transparency regarding the extent to which railroads are improving and resolving ongoing service issues.

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## Faculty Renewal Campaign Closing In On Goal



The Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance, with leadership from Charlie Sniffen and John Mitchell, is making progress towards raising \$500,000 to establish a new faculty position in Cornell's Department of Animal Science. The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences will provide another \$500,000 for a total of \$1 million to secure the faculty position in Dairy Nutrition and Environmental Modeling.

The fundraising was launched by a \$100,000 anonymous donation and a \$40,000 pledge from the Alliance, followed by support from over 20 companies and individuals. It is not too late to pledge a donation which can be spread over five years. Please contact John Mitchell at (315) 725-2843 or Charlie Sniffen at (607) 968-7417.

## Alliance to Host Feed Dealers Seminar in Vermont

For the first time, NEAFA will host a dairy feed manufacturer conference in Middlebury, Vermont on November 12. This meeting is an expansion of the annual feed dealer meetings held in New York and NEAFA will co-host the event with the Vermont Feed Dealers and Manufacturers Association.



The Feed Dealer Seminars are specifically targeted for nutritionists, veterinarians, other consultants, extension educators, and dairy producers with specific interest in nutrition-oriented topics. They are designed to blend the latest concepts in feeding and other management aspects of dairies with field level application. They have been conducted annually as a road show with multiple sites in New York since the late 1940s and provide opportunities for educational programming with networking in the local regions. For a listing of the New York seminars, [click here](#).

Vermont Location: American Legion Post #27, 49 Wilson Road, Middlebury VT

When: Wednesday, November 12, 2014, 10:00 am - 2:30 pm.

### Speakers:

- Dr. Thomas Overton, Professor of Dairy Management, Cornell University
- Maris McCarthy, Ph.D. candidate, Cornell University
- Brittany Sweeney, Ph.D. student, Cornell University

### Topics:

- Impacts and evaluation of subclinical hypocalcemia in dairy cows
- Strategies to improve fresh cow energy metabolism
- Short topics - update on shredlage, feeding for milk protein, revisiting phosphorus levels in rations, transition cow field study update

Pre-registration rate is \$50 and a registration form is [available here!](#)

(Registration Deadline is 11/5/2014)

## FSMA Requires Bioterrorism Act Facility Registration Renewal in 2014

The Food Safety Modernization Act requires each food, animal food or ingredient facility to renew its registration for the Bioterrorism Act between the months of October and December of even-numbered years. With 2014 falling into that category, the American Feed Industry Association is providing its members with a reminder that each facility must re-register their facilities between October and December of this year.

Following 2012, the first time re-registration was required, FDA informed AFIA that 2,000 animal food facilities did not re-register. It is a prohibited act to operate your facility if the registration is not current.

Food, animal food or ingredient facilities, which manufacture, process, pack or hold food, animal food or ingredients, must register each facility as required by the Bioterrorism Act of 2002 unless the facility is exempt because it is a "farm." Facilities that feed their own animals on their own land (meaning owning the operation) are considered "farms" and are exempt from facility registration; meaning those feed mills on that operation do not need to register.

If your facility is new or was not re-registered by Jan. 31, 2013 (delayed implementation in 2012 that extended the deadline into 2013), you should do so immediately by visiting the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's facility registration webpage [here](#) (click on "Login/Create New Account" to begin). New facilities must be registered with FDA before operations can begin.

There is no fee for facility registration or fine for not registering, but it is required by FDA law. Also, if your ownership, address or contact person/information has changed, you must notify FDA and change it by visiting the facility registration [website](#) within 60 days.

AFIA anticipates FDA will begin communicating soon via email and postcard to remind facilities of this renewal requirement. Firms should use the next couple of weeks to locate the necessary login and password information and prepare the necessary staff for the upcoming requirements. If you have misplaced your login and/or password, you should contact the FDA district/regional office where your facility resides to obtain the information. FDA will ask for information to verify you are responsible for the registration. You can find a list of FDA regional and district offices [here](#). If you do not know which district/region your facility resides in, please contact the office closest to your facility on the FDA website.

For technical information or help with FDA facility registration, you can contact FDA's Help Desk at (800) 216-7331 or (301) 575-0156.

FDA has reportedly made improvements to the registration system to improve the re-registration process, such as making it easier to retrieve your PIN and to handle the volume of online users. As of today, AFIA expects FDA to have the re-registration system up and running on Oct. 1. AFIA will continue to share more information as it becomes available from FDA.

If you have questions or seek additional information, contact [Leah Wilkinson](#), AFIA director of ingredients, pet food and state affairs at (703) 558-3560.

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## NEW MEMBERS



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Phil	Rockwell	H. Rockwell & Son, Inc.	(570) 673-5148	<a href="mailto:prock31@frontiernet.net">prock31@frontiernet.net</a>

*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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:sue@nysta.org)).*

## Calendar of Events.....

### AFIA's Fundamentals of Feed Manufacturing Course

October 12 - November 15, 2014 (5 week course)

*For more information:* [www.afia.org](http://www.afia.org)

### Northeast Feed Dealers Seminar

November 12, 2014

American Legion Post #27

Middlebury, Vermont

*For more information:* [Click Here for Registration Form](#)

### NEAFA Board of Directors Meeting

December 8, 2014.

via Video Downlink

### NGFA Country Elevator Conference & Trade Show

December 7-9, 2014

JW Marriott Indianapolis

Indianapolis, Indiana

*For more information:* [www.ngfa.org/country-elevator-conference/](http://www.ngfa.org/country-elevator-conference/)

### AFIA Import & Export Seminar

December 9-10, 2014

Hyatt Regency Crystal City at Reagan National Airport

Indianapolis, Indiana

*For more information:* [www.afia.org](http://www.afia.org)

### NEAFA Annual Meeting & Forum

February 3-4, 2015

Albany Marriott Hotel

Albany, New York

*For sponsorship information:* [Click Here](#)

### 2015 NEAFA Herd Health & Nutrition Conferences

March 17, 2015 - Syracuse

March 19, 2015 - Vermont

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