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[Board of Directors:](#)

William Colten

President

315-701-4482

splitty8@aol.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

[From The Executive Director](#)

It is difficult for me to realize that we are already well beyond the half way point of 2014. It feels like we just celebrated New Years and our fantastic annual meeting in Orlando! In the meantime, we managed to host two successful Herd Health and Nutrition Conferences, in partnership with PRO-DAIRY, another Golf for Good Works Tournament at the Turning Stone and a Food Safety Modernization Act seminar in partnership with AFIA. Even though we have witnessed a whirlwind of great programs, it is the advocacy work that I want to mention to you this month. Wedged in between all this good program stuff has been a lot of effort to advocate for and against public policy impacting your lives.



Louise Calderwood has been vigilant in her advocacy throughout New England. We are the only agribusiness organization representing the interests of its members in the New England states and Louise, along with our Governmental Relations Committee, is engaging on your behalf. We will be able to do more on this front going forward because we received good news from Crop Life America that they are awarding us a \$10,000 grant to enhance our efforts in New England! We thank the leaders at CLA and look forward to building on this strong working relationship. More details on this new opportunity are posted below. The New York Lobby Day on April 29th proved to be well timed and complementary to our efforts in New York. Louise and I always appreciate our members engaging on their behalf as it significantly strengthens our efforts.

However, the main reason for me why the first half of 2014 screamed by is because NEAFA has been leading the fight against GMO labeling throughout the Northeast. Labeling legislation was introduced in four of our states, posing a serious threat to the food and feed industries because of the dramatic processing, handling and inventory management changes required to meet the state law mandates. Our organization, the Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance, is the only regional agricultural association stepping up to the plate representing its members on this critical issue. Our voice has been strong and clear - this food scare tactic will increase food costs by an average of \$500 a year per family of four as demonstrated by research conducted by Cornell University's Dr. William Lesser. GMO labeling supporters have no right to increase our food costs!

NEAFA's leadership on this issue was well received and helped to catalyze opposition coalitions throughout our northeast region. Food, agriculture, agribusiness and other industry groups came together to fight for the cause. Standing up to the misleading, but simple message of "right to know" took time and commitment, but at the end of the legislative sessions, we were quite successful. With the exception of Vermont, all the labeling bills were stopped in their tracks. As I write this column, the Massachusetts State Legislature has not yet adjourned for the year, but the labeling bill appears to be locked up. We will know for sure by the end of July. New Hampshire voted "no" on the proposal before they adjourned and the New York bill remained locked up in the Assembly Ways and Means Committee. Despite the fact that Vermont passed a labeling bill, the State Legislature did provide a golden opportunity to challenge the constitutionality of state labeling laws. Suit was filed in the Second Circuit Court in late June. Those close to the legal questions are optimistic that this law will fall.

Therefore it is no wonder that we are in the midst of summer and we are just pausing to catch our breath. Your organization has been delivering on its primary objectives of advocacy, education and collaboration and, as a result, leading our industry forward. It's been a fast paced ride, but I would have it no other way!

Enjoy your summer!

Rick Zimmerman
Executive Director

art@whitmansfeed.com

- Directors -

Mark Anderson
315-247-7176

manderson@diamonddv.com

Barry Baetz
716-481-7392

bbaezt@dfafarmsupplies.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

thickley@phoenixfeeds.net

Corwin Holtz
607-844-3649

holtz296@frontiernet.net

Chip Hyde
315-689-6384

cnyfeed@verizon.net

Peter Karnezos
802-999-4634

pkarnezos@oldmilltroy.com

Blake Lutz
607-432-7984

blakelutz@lutzfeed.com

Jenny Mills
315-697-7669

millsjk@lilly.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

Rick Zimmerman
Executive Director
rzimmerman@zga-llc.com

EPA Poised to Extend Regulatory Oversight to...Puddles

The Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance has submitted comments in opposition to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed rule that would expand its regulatory authority under the Clean Water Act (CWA) to include puddles, ponds, ditches, intermittent streams and isolated wetlands that dot the nation's farmland. The proposed rule will make it more difficult to farm or change a farming operation to remain competitive and profitable.

Under the expanded definition of navigable waters announced on March 25, even depressions in harvested fields could come under regulatory scrutiny. If passed, the new oversight would require permitting for fencing or pesticide application in association with spring time puddles. The CWA requires permits for actions that impact navigable waters and as currently written, the new definition of "navigable" includes puddles and intermittent streams.

The proposed changes to the CWA overstep the original legislative intent in the historic document. Use of the term "navigable waters" in the original drafting of the Clean Water Act indicates Congress did not intend for the law to extend federal regulations to such small, remote waters and land features. Several bills before Congress have proposed striking the term 'navigable' from the CWA. None of them have passed.

If the rule is implemented as currently written, farmers could be forced to apply for permits to do all kinds of normal agricultural activities on lands included in the expanded "water of the U.S" definition. Because the rule is written in such a vague way, farmers who want to install their own grassed waterways or build their own fence without using NRCS assistance or applying for a federal permit will not be able to be certain they are in compliance with the Clean Water Act. Installing structural conservation practices may require permits if installed on land with hydric soils or on land that holds or conveys water for any length of time.

Obtaining a federal permit from agencies that are chronically understaffed won't be easy. Although issued by the EPA, the permit requires Army Corps of Engineers review. If a farmer wants to apply for financial assistance through state or federal agencies to assist with meeting costly federal standards, the process becomes even more cumbersome.



Alliance To Expand Outreach in New England



Thanks to a \$10,000 grant from Crop Life America, the Alliance will increase its presence in the six New England states with outreach to legislators, regulators and land grant universities and will establish relationships with crop growers and commodity groups.

Over the last several years the Alliance has spent approximately two days per year meeting with key legislators and land grant faculty in each of the New England states. On a rotating basis these meetings have been held with each New England director/commissioner/secretary of agriculture and members of their staff. The relationships built during these visits are valuable when issues of concern to Alliance members are raised in legislative committees or state budgets.

With assistance from Crop Life America the Alliance will expand its presence in New England to enhance modern agriculture's image and build positive relationships with key policymakers and influential allied groups in the northeastern states.

Established in 1933, CropLife America represents the developers, manufacturers, formulators and distributors of plant science solutions for agriculture and pest management in the United States. CropLife America's member companies represent virtually all the crop protection and biotechnology products used by American farmers.

Alliance Hosts Food Safety Modernization Act Training

Louise Calderwood
Governmental Relations
Director
rcalderwod@aol.com

Sue Kinner
Membership &
Meeting Registration
sue@nysta.org

On July 16th and 17th, 52 people attended a Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) training in Albany, New York, organized by the Alliance in collaboration with the American Feed Industry Association (AFIA).

As we await the FSMA final rule -the Alliance and AFIA have taken leadership in providing training on the first steps necessary to reach FSMA compliance. Through the two day session participants gained a better understanding of the recommendations and components of an effective animal food safety plan.



Commissioner Ball of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets welcomes attendees to the Food Safety Modernization Act training in Albany, New York.

New York Agriculture and Markets Commissioner Richard Ball opened the conference with timely remarks concerning the importance of the feed industry to recognize their role in meeting the food safety challenge. He pledged the Department of Agriculture and Markets' assistance in working with feed manufacturers within this new regulatory environment.

Henry Turlington, Director of Quality and Manufacturing Regulatory Affairs at AFIA was joined by Maria Knirk, special assistant to the commissioner at the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets in presenting material on the first steps to FSMA compliance.

The program helped companies that manufacture animal feed and pet food establish the fundamentals for FSMA compliance. Attendees were provided with samples of procedures, forms and reference information they can use to develop their own plan for compliance.

John Williams, Operations/Quality Assurance Manager of Poulin Grain attended the training and said "We appreciate the opportunity to attend a regional meeting to learn more about the updated FSMA regulations from experts such as Henry and Maria. This will help us to remain at the forefront of animal feed safety."

Following the seminar many participants stayed on for an introductory session on the voluntary Safe Feed /Safe Food certification program. The third-party-certified initiative administered by AFIA is designed for feed mills and feed- and ingredient-related facilities in the United States and Canada. Intended for the total feed industry Safe Feed/Safe Food establishes comprehensive standards of excellence that go beyond existing regulations to maximize food and feed safety



Henry Turlington Director, Quality & Manufacturing Regulatory Affairs and Maria Knirk, Special Assistant to Commissioner Ball, were the training presenters for the Food Safety Modernization Act training in Albany, New York.

Dairy Farms and the FSMA Intentional Adulteration Rule

The intentional adulteration rule was the sixth proposed rule of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) to be opened for public comment. As currently written, the proposed rule will require domestic and foreign food facilities to address hazards that may be intentionally introduced by acts of terrorism. The National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) has submitted comments to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration asking that dairy farms be exempted from the [intentional adulteration rule](#).

The creation of Section 420 in the



Food, Drug & Cosmetics Act states FSMA requires FDA to establish regulations for facilities to review the potential risk of intentional adulteration of food. Fortunately for grain manufacturers, the proposed rule only applies to human food. The American Feed Industry Association submitted comments applauding the agency's proposal to exempt animal food from the intentional adulteration rule.

In asking that dairy farms be exempt from the proposed rule the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) stated that dairy farms are already employing many elements of food defense for biosecurity measures that help prevent the introduction of infectious and

contagious diseases among cattle, and, in turn, help prevent the spread of harmful problems in the milk from dairy cows.

In their comments NMPF wrote "We would encourage FDA to adopt an approach whereby dairy farms would have a food defense plan (a suite of risk-based good manufacturing practices) that is implemented only when a credible threat of intentional adulteration against the milk supply is identified."

Raw milk that is produced for direct human consumption and not destined for pasteurization should not be exempted. NMPF noted "Because they will not be pasteurized prior to human consumption, raw milk and raw milk products have an expanded list of potential contaminants, including those that are heat-sensitive."

Excerpted from Food Safety News July 3, 2014 and AFIA press release June 30, 2014

Canadian Truckers Angered by New APHIS Border Fees

A legal opinion conducted on behalf of the Canadian Trucking Alliance says the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) agricultural quarantine inspection (AQI) fees are inconsistent with the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Great Lakes shippers call the new fees "anti-competitive, non-tariff barriers," and the Canadian Trucking Alliance (CTA), the national truckers group, allege the new fee schedule violates both the North American Free Trade Agreement and the World Trade Organizations General Agreements on Tariffs & Trade. In a June 26 web post the 4500 member Ontario Trucking Associations states "Given the availability of pre-clearance inspections and other targeted risk assessment measures, it is difficult to justify a level of inspection that warrants the existing fees, much less the proposed *increased* fees."

For trucks under the proposed system, transponder fees increase from \$105 to \$320 per year, per truck, or a 205 percent increase. Add on the U.S. Customs & Border Patrol fee of \$100, and the total fee per truck is \$420, according to the CTA. Trucks without transponders will see an increase from \$10.75 to \$13.50 per crossing, or a 52 percent increase.

In its comments to APHIS, CTA said the impact of the proposed fee system affects all U.S.-Canada trade because the fees are paid by every truck crossing the border, regardless of whether the truck is carrying food and agriculture-related goods. Further, under the current e-Manifest system, truckers can indicate what goods are moving on wooden pallets, a U.S. concern because



PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

of insect infestations. The truck group said APHIS fails to take a risk assessment approach, charging trucks carrying auto parts on plastic pallets the same fees and trucks which may be of actual concern.

APHIS last week said it is extending the comment period on its revised quarantine inspection fee schedule for another 30 days, saying it would address the furor over the proposed fee increases with another *Federal Register* notice. The new deadline for comments is July 24

From AFIA July 3, 2014 Washington Update and the Ontario Trucking Association, June 26 web post

INDUSTRY NEWS

Alliance Kicks Off Cornell Faculty Renewal Campaign

Even though the campaign only officially began June 26th, we are already \$315,000 towards our \$500,000 goal! The Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance is leading a campaign to seed an endowment for an animal science faculty position and the official kickoff occurred on June 26th at the Annual Golf for Good Works Reception.

By raising \$500,000 through Cornell's Faculty Renewal Sesquicentennial Challenge, the Alliance will assure on-going expertise in animal nutrition and environmental modeling in the Cornell Department of Animal Science. In turn, Cornell will match our \$500,000, dollar for dollar, and commit to endowing the position for the full term of the new faculty member. Charlie Sniffen and John Mitchell are leading the fundraising campaign on behalf of the Alliance in partnership with Cornell.

Supporters who have pledge financial support as of mid-July include: NEAFA, Mercer Milling, O'Brien and Sons, Afgritech, Phoenix Feeds, Holtz/Nelson Dairy Consultants, Co-operative Feed Dealers, Central New York Feeds, John Mitchell, Kemin Industries and an anonymous donor.

For more information please contact John Mitchell at jmitchell50@gmail.com or Charlie Sniffen at fencrest@msn.com.



Campaign Kickoff

(left to right) Rick Grant, Charlie Sniffen, and Tom Overton joined donors Pat O'Brien-O'Brien and Son, Les Berghorn-Afgritech, Craig Newton -Phoenix Feeds, Corwin Holtz-Holtz/Nelson Dairy Consultants, and Lon Stephens-Co-operative Feed Dealers. On the far right is Rick Zimmerman-Alliance Executive Director. Contributors not pictured include Mercer Milling, Central New York Feeds, John Mitchell, and Kemin Industries.

Golf For Good Works - Largest Alliance Fundraiser To Date!

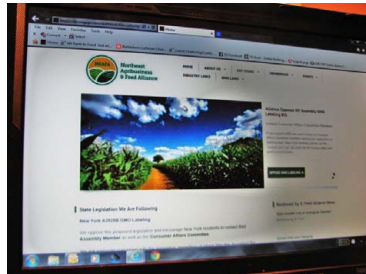


Golf for Good Works First Place Team (left to right) Greg Harding, Zach Harding, Dan Campbell, and Chris Pierpont (not shown).

The 2014 Golf for Good Works fundraiser was the strongest yet for the Alliance. Over 118 people played in the tournament on the award winning Turning Stone Shenandoah golf course in Vernona, New York, raising a record setting amount for educational and promotional activities for youth groups and others.

The New York State FFA President Ashley Witts addressed the pre-golf tournament reception and accepted a \$500 donation to FFA from the Alliance's Good Works Committee. Over the last seven years, the Alliance has donated over \$50,000 to worthy causes in support of agricultural education.

E-Alliance: Connect with us!



Over the last year the Alliance has expanded its outreach to members through several new tools. Our **newsletter** (what you are reading right now) is sent out four times a year, but in between we have several ways to keep our members up to date and involved.

The **Alliance webpage** is updated regularly and is the "go-to" spot for event registration. The webpage is also your link to our letter writing tool. **Action Alerts** are sent to members and contain web page links so members can contact their legislators in three clicks of a mouse! During the 2014 legislative session Alliance members and partners sent over 5500 letters to lawmakers in Vermont and New York on issues of importance to agriculture.

The **Alliance Update** is e-mailed to members every few weeks and has timely news and details of Alliance activities.

Our **Facebook page** is kept up to date with news of the Alliance and partner organizations. Over the last two weeks our "likes" have jumped from 127 to 194. Click on our page and help us reach the 300 likes level by September 1. This is the easiest way to help us spread our positive message about modern agriculture!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Alltech Hosts Mycotoxin Informational Meetings for Dairy Farmers

Alltech presents their annual Mycotoxin Road Show, bringing national mycotoxin expert Randy Asher to the region the week of July 21st. Randy will be giving presentations on how farmers can identify symptoms and combat mycotoxins, and then doing a Q&A. Each stop will be on a dairy farm. A complimentary BBQ will be served, along with ice cold refreshments. All are welcome. Please call Alltech VT at 802-524-7460 to find out the stop nearest you and RSVP.

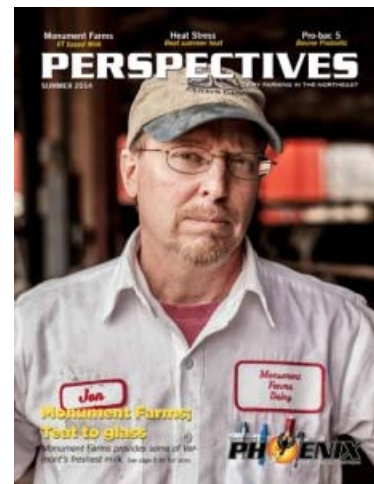
Phoenix Feeds Launches Perspectives Magazine

Congratulations to Phoenix Feeds of New Haven Vermont on the unveiling of their new web site and inaugural edition of *Perspectives: Dairy Farming in the Northeast* magazine.

The new quarterly publication that will serve as a voice and a spring board for Vermont and surrounding state's dairy farmers. It will touch on hot topics that affect dairy farmers, and in addition it will highlight some of the positive changes that inventive farmers are implementing around the Northeast.

The summer edition of the magazine featured articles by Senior Editor Mark Freeman with a featured article on Monument Farms, a Vermont-based milk producer as well as some tips for reducing heat stress in cows, and great leading edge herd management tips from Dr. P.V. Reddy, an innovative New York-based feed scientist.

A digital version of the magazine is available at the Phoenix Feeds website: <http://phoenixfeed.com/>



Click on the "magazine tab" to receive a free digital copy.



Patrick	O'Brien	Pat O'Brien & Sons, Inc. (716) 992-1111	patobrienfeeds@yahoo.com
Alexandra	O'Brien	Pat O'Brien & Sons, Inc. (716) 992-1111	allieobrienfeeds@yahoo.com
Meghan	Moody	Virtus Nutrition, LLC (814) 574-4817	mmoody@virtusnutrition.com
Dan	Andreasen	Virtus Nutrition, LLC (814) 574-4817	dandreasen@virtusnutrition.com
Ron	Sette	Devenish Nutrition	ron.sette@devenishnutrition.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



Territory Sales Representative - Alltech
Alltech is currently looking for an entry-level Territory Sales Representative for New York.

Key Responsibilities Include:

- * Paying regular visits to dairy farmers and consulting nutritionists throughout New York, cultivating new relationships and strengthening existing ones
- * Driving sales by identifying customer needs and providing solutions
- * Educating customers about new Alltech solutions
- * Attending industry events and tradeshows

The Ideal Candidate Should Have

- Dairy background
- B.Sc. or higher in Animal Science or Agriculture-related field
- Strong verbal, written and people skills
- Interest in the agriculture industry

To apply or for additional information, please contact: Alltech VT/NY at ewisell@alltech.com or 802.524.7460

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 Membership Directory Sponsorship Deadline

Friday, July 25, 2014

[Click Here For More Information](#)

NEAFA Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Stoweflake Mountain Resort & Spa

Stowe, Vermont