



## April 2018 Newsletter

---

### In This Issue:

- MGFA Updates Its Safety and Health Video Library
  - Understanding the Impacts of the Section 199A Fix
  - MGFA Asks Members to Consider Placing Your Grain Bonds Through the Association
  - Member News
  - The MGFA filed comments today with the Federal Surface Transportation Board in support of the Twin Cities & Western Railroad
  - Watch For the MGFA Member Magazine Spring Issue
  - Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Announces New Anhydrous Ammonia (NH3) Guidelines
  - MGFA Safety & Health Program
  - In the Market for Insurance or Risk Management Help?
- 

### MGFA Updates Its Safety and Health Video Library

The Minnesota Grain and Feed Association has recently updated its Safety and Health Video Library from VHS to DVD's. The library contains industry specific DVD's and related employee training materials, that can be **rented** by Association members. The DVD's cover an array of safety and health related topics and are excellent for supplementing "required" OSHA employee training sessions. As you wait for the snow to melt, this may be a good time to share some safety information with your workforce. Check our website for DVD [descriptions](#) and the [rental order form](#) <http://mgfa.org/news-events/safety-health>.

---

### Understanding the Impacts of the Section 199A Fix

In response to a number of member inquiries about the Section 199A fix, the National Grain and Feed Association, one of the key negotiators in arriving at the 199A fix, developed the [attached one-pager](#) to address some of the many questions surrounding this legislative fiasco. It was carefully reviewed and we believe it to be accurate and fairly easy to digest. It may be useful in explaining impacts of the Section 199A solution, which replicates to the greatest extent possible tax benefits to cooperatives and producers of the previous Section 199 in effect in Dec. 2017, while also re-establishing the competitive balance that existed

in Dec. 2017. Per the disclaimer, it is believed to be accurate but should not be used as the basis for legal or tax advice. This summary is a very good example of resources and information available from the NGFA. If your company is not yet a member of the NGFA, additional information is available at [www.ngfa.org](http://www.ngfa.org) or from Todd Kemp at [kemp@ngfa.org](mailto:kemp@ngfa.org).”

---

## **MGFA Asks Members to Consider Placing Your Grain Bonds Through the Association**

In a few weeks, licensed grain buyers will be receiving notices about renewal premiums due for your grain bonds. We have been providing grain surety bonds for country grain elevators (with CNA Surety as the underwriter) for over 80 years, ***with 100% of the agency commission we receive going back to you, in the form of industry information, education and both regulatory and legislative representation.*** We certainly appreciate the additional financial support this bond program provides for the (your) Association, especially in these times of continued consolidation and a growing regulatory environment. It is simple to separate your bond coverage from your other insurance coverages or to change agencies. In addition, bonds are continuous (in-force until cancelled) so they can be changed at any time during the license year. To receive a quote from us, simply contact the MGFA office at 651-454-8212 or e-mail us at [info@mgfa.org](mailto:info@mgfa.org). Thanks for the consideration!

---

## **Member News**

**\*A welcome to our newest member – Prairie Scale Systems** - Prairie Scale Systems Inc. was established in 1989 and specializes in commercial weighing equipment including the installation of pit-type and pit-less truck scales. Prairie Scale Systems Inc. has grown to be the largest scale service company in North Dakota, offering licensed scale technicians and experienced construction crews to serve your weighing needs. Prairie Scale Systems Inc. is proud to service and sell a wide range of equipment, from precision lab balances to high capacity rail scales, and is certified to repair and install scales in the states of North Dakota, Minnesota and South Dakota. Their weighing solutions are used across a wide range of industries, including agriculture, industrial, manufacturing, recycling, lumber and governmental agencies. Because of their in-house construction crews, their services do not require the use of sub-contractors, which allows for construction schedules to be maintained. If you already have a qualified contractor, they will assist them with your scale and equipment installation. Please [contact us](#) about our services or products. Our contact in Horace ND is Amanda McDowell [AmandaM@prairiescale.com](mailto:AmandaM@prairiescale.com) or 701-281-9591. Welcome aboard!

### **\*Cargill Announces \$20M Expansion to Big Lake Facility by: Twin Cities Business**

In response to increased customer and consumer demand for a greater variety of cooked egg products, Cargill announced Wednesday that it will invest \$20 million in expanding its egg processing facility in Big Lake.

The expansion will enable the facility to pasteurize, mix and cook a number of new egg products for foodservice and protein ingredient customers, the company said. It will add a dozen new positions at the site to support the new operations - increasing employment there by 16 percent, or about 90 workers. The project also involves doubling the facility's annual requirement for eggs from family farms in the area to 170 million. [Read More](#)

---

## **The MGFA filed comments today with the Federal Surface Transportation Board in support of the Twin Cities & Western Railroad.**

The TC&W has been involved in discussions with the Twin Cities' Metropolitan Council (Met Council) regarding the Met Council's intention to build the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) within the freight rail corridor that TC&W uses to bring rail freight to and from St Paul for interchange to railroads such as

BNSF, CN, CP, UP, and the Minnesota Commercial Railway, as well as to ports on the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers. Their goal in these discussions has been to protect both the safety and the economics of the freight rail service they provide during construction and operation of SWLRT in the freight rail corridor. This corridor consists of 6.2 miles that CP currently owns and 2.5 miles that Hennepin County currently owns. Both entities are proposing to transfer their freight rail track ownership to the Met Council as part of the SWLRT project. We submitted comments in support of the TC&W request for the STB to allow a period of public comment to this filing. This will allow affected grain shippers and others an opportunity to have a voice in this process!

---

## Watch For the MGFA Member Magazine Spring Issue

The Spring issue of the MGFA member magazine, "Mill & Elevator News" is due out in a week or so. A subscription to this semi-annual publication is included with your membership investment. This issue includes interesting stories about the FM issue with China, keeping workers safe in light of the current opioid epidemic, the economic impact of the feed industry in Minnesota, FSMA clarification for grain elevators, a lot of association event photos, a look at our industry past, member news and a whole lot more.

---

## Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Announces New Anhydrous Ammonia (NH3) Guidelines

During the 2018 Anhydrous Ammonia (NH3) Compliance/Safety Workshops conducted by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) it was announced that beginning in 2018:

- An annual inspection/test (every 12 months) of the external pressure actuated bypass system (PA bypass system) will be required due to changes in pump manufacturers recommendations.
- The objective of the annual inspection/test is to determine if the PA bypass system is in good working order.
- That the manual bypass, when present in the NH3 storage plumbing, must remain closed during normal operations (i.e. filling nurse tanks, etc.) to allow for the compliant operation of the PA bypass system.

For more details refer to:

- Attached MDA fact sheet, [Procedure for Testing a Pressure Actuated Bypass System](#)
- YouTube video (*Testing a Pressure Actuated Bypass System*) at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wc7c4svngn4&feature=youtu.be>
- Attached [Anhydrous Ammonia Storage Facility Inspection Checklist](#)
- Attached [NH3 Inspection Services List](#). Those firms listed as "• Inspection and testing of NH3 facilities" are available to perform the PA bypass system inspection/test or show how to perform the inspection/test.

Though no documentation of the inspection/test is required it will be useful whenever the MDA performs an inspection to determine:

- If the inspection/test was performed; and
- The operational status of the PA bypass system.

Contact the following MDA NH3 program staff if you have further inquiries or questions.

St. Paul Office:

Ed Kaiser

Program Consultant

Ph. (651) 201-6275

Email: [Ed.Kaiser@state.mn.us](mailto:Ed.Kaiser@state.mn.us)

SW MN:

Bob Rialson

Area NH3 Inspector

Ph. (507) 746-4483  
Email: [Bob.Rialson@state.mn.us](mailto:Bob.Rialson@state.mn.us)

East Central & SE MN:  
Jeff Lorentz  
Area NH3 Inspector  
Ph. (320) 223-6547  
Email: [Jeffrey.Lorentz@state.mn.us](mailto:Jeffrey.Lorentz@state.mn.us)

West Central and NW MN:  
Jim Freilinger  
Area NH3 Inspector  
Ph. (320) 243-7382  
Email: [Jim.Freilinger@state.mn.us](mailto:Jim.Freilinger@state.mn.us)

---

## **MGFA Safety & Health Program**

### MGFA Safety & Health Program Brochure

The Minnesota Grain and Feed Association has an agreement with the North Dakota Grain Dealers Association, to extend their highly successful safety and health program into Minnesota. The MGFA Safety and Health Program features an experienced staff whose focus is centered upon grain elevator and feed mill safety and health compliance. This limited industry focus provides for a good working relationship with the regulatory agencies impacting our industry and for an excellent understanding of regulatory priorities and issues specifically affecting a grain handling facility. The MGFA Safety & Health Program is competitively priced and offers a level of service unmatched in the industry.

The MGFA Safety and Health Program is directed by Dave Nelson. We invite you to take a good look at what this program can do to help you improve safety and health for your employees, friends and colleagues. You can't afford to jeopardize the safety in and around your facility. This program can enhance an existing safety program and can bring members into compliance who have fallen behind or who are confused about compliance.

For information or to sign up for the program, contact Dave Nelson at (218) 784-8140 or MGFA at (651) 454-8212.

---

## **In The Market For Insurance or Risk Management Help?**

The cost of insurance continues to be the main operational expense at a grain elevator or feed mill. The MGFA (in-house) Agency has expanded its services to include property / casualty, employee benefits, risk management & financial services through a strategic alliance with Associated Benefits & Risk Consulting, a full service insurance agency. It will be worth your time to take a serious look at this very competitive program, especially now as the current market conditions are changing. To set up a consultation, contact Mike Korf at 952-947-9700 or visit [www.associatedbrc.com](http://www.associatedbrc.com).

---

STAY CONNECTED WITH US:

Visit our Website



