



April 2024

MGFA Newsletter



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MGFA Schedules Northern MN Grain Grading School for May 2

The Minnesota Grain & Feed Association will be sponsoring a grain grading school for our northern Minnesota members on **Thursday, May 2**. The grain grading school will be held at **Shooting Star Casino in Mahnomon** (800-453-7827). The school is conducted in a very practical manner by licensed grain inspectors. The focus at this school will be on the grading of corn, soybeans and wheat. The school will begin at 9:00 AM and conclude by 3:00 PM (lunch included). Proper use of grading equipment will be demonstrated, and each participant will receive a participation certificate.

The cost for the school is \$95/person for MGFA member firms. The non-member charge is \$115/person. The cost includes training materials, training personnel time, breaks and lunch.

To register, complete the [registration form](#). Please return the form, along with payment to the Minnesota Grain & Feed Association. Cancellations will be accepted up to 48 hours prior to each school. After that date a full refund cannot be guaranteed. We encourage pre-registration so we can ensure meal counts, material availability, etc.



Welcome New Member – Pioneer Container Corp.

The MGFA would like to welcome **Pioneer Container Corporation** from N. Kansas City, MO as a new member of the association.

Pioneer Container Corporation, established in 1969, manufactures multiwall paper bags. Pioneer takes great pride in providing quality service to their customers at competitive pricing. Their specialty is sewn-open-mouth and pinch bottom bags for products such as feed, seed, beans, rice, popcorn, and flour. They also keep in inventory various plain bags for feed, seed, and grass clippings.

MGFA greatly appreciates the added membership support by Pioneer Container Corp. To learn more about this new member, please visit their website at www.pioneercontainer.com.



Triangle Insurance Offers Scholarship Opportunity

College is expensive and MGFA member, Triangle Insurance, through Triangle Cooperative Service Company, is offering a \$50,000 scholarship program exclusively to students affiliated with a Triangle member cooperative. Twenty \$2,500 scholarships will be awarded to eligible sophomores, juniors or seniors enrolled in any university, but students must be majoring in an agricultural field of study. Applications are due June 1. The application & more information is available on their website at www.triangleins.com.



AFIA News

FDA's Califf Expresses Support for Legislation to Improve Feed Additive Review Process

Last week, FDA Commissioner Dr. Robert Califf [testified](#) before the House Appropriations Committee, where he reiterated the agency's support for "legislation that creates a pathway that's effective" for appropriately regulating feed additives that will reduce enteric methane emissions from cattle. In response to a question from Rep. David Valadao, R-Calif.-21, Califf expressed the FDA's commitment to expediting the evaluation process for these products, so

long as the “criteria are met for being a safe and effective product,” saying that “the promise of this for our future as a human race is really substantial.” Recognizing the limitations of the current regulatory framework, which reviews these ingredients as drugs versus animal feed ingredients, and the [FDA’s recent announcement of its intent to withdraw its outdated regulatory policy](#) that dictates this, Califf acknowledged that the agency is “having to really bend the regulations with all the flexibilities that [FDA] can offer,” and suggested that feed ingredient companies should “come in early and often” to discuss how they can get their products evaluated until there is a legislative path forward. We continue to urge lawmakers to support the [Innovative Feed Enhancement and Economic Development Act \(Innovative FEED Act\) \(S. 1842/H.R. 6687\)](#), which would resolve this regulatory issue on behalf of our industry. [Listen to Dr. Califf’s testimony here \(starting at the 17:48 mark\)>>](#)

AFIA Urges Enhances Supply Chain Resilience in Collaboration with USTR

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative recently requested comments from stakeholders on how the Biden administration could promote supply chain resilience. On behalf of the animal food industry, we submitted a letter expressing concerns over the United States’ dependency on vitamin imports from China, which are necessary for the manufacture of feed and pet food, and highlighted the potential risks and severe consequences that could arise from a disruption in the vitamin supply, including, but not limited to, reduced animal health, higher production costs, economic losses and decreased global competitiveness. We called for the USTR to take proactive measures to address these vulnerabilities and encouraged an ongoing dialogue with the animal food industry to develop workable solutions.

China Imposes Tariff on U.S. Propionic Acid Imports, Sparking Trade Tensions

The Ministry of Commerce in China announced this week that it has imposed a 43.5% tariff on imports of U.S. propionic acid, a mold inhibitor used in animal food, from the United States. The decision comes in response to findings from a Chinese July investigation, which claimed that the Chinese domestic propionic acid industry suffered significant harm due to the United States dumping of the chemical at exceptionally low prices. Unfortunately, the move highlights escalating tensions between the United States and China, especially since just last week, [President Joe Biden called for hiking tariffs on Chinese metal products](#), signaling what could be the start of another tariff war. We will be following these developments closely, as agriculture is often targeted with retaliatory tariffs in these such trade disputes with China.

Source: AFIA FeedGram



ADM’s Suspended CFO to Resign Amid Accounting Scandal

Grain trading giant Archer Daniels Midland’s suspended CFO Vikram Luthar reached a deal with the company to [resign effective Sept. 30](#), unless an earlier date is mutually accepted, as part of a “transition agreement” that calls for him to be available to assist ADM until his resignation as a “non-executive employee,” according to a Securities and Exchange Commission filing Monday

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USDA: H5N1 Testing Now Required Before Interstate Dairy Cattle Movement

To further protect the U.S. livestock industry from the threat posed by highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza, USDA is sharing a number of actions they are taking with federal partners to help get ahead of the disease and limit its spread.

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has announced a [Federal Order](#) requiring the following measures, effective Monday, April 29:

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China's Future Role in U.S. Exports

China has had an outsized influence on U.S. agriculture for the last two decades. As the second largest economy in world [1] and tied with India for the largest population,[2] China has entered the Big [3] of U.S. agricultural exports.

China, Mexico, and Canada account for one out of two dollars of U.S. agricultural exports. [3] This important relationship raises many questions for U.S. agricultural producers and agribusinesses. Will China remain a strong importer of U.S. agricultural products? How much more growth should we expect from the world's largest food producer and consumer? How will the changing demographics in China influence their production and importation of global agricultural products? It helps to go back and look at the historical changes to anticipate the future changes.

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