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Thursday, October 21, 2010

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Legislative & Regulatory News

Vote Nov. 2!

The mid-term elections are just around the corner! Nov. 2 will provide all registered U.S. voters with a chance to express their political views through the ballot box. It is a right and a privilege no matter what your political persuasion. All 435 U.S. House members and 36 U.S. senators are up for election this year as well as 37 governors.

The outcomes from this election will be critically important for NAEDA, our affiliated associations and equipment dealers across the United States because whoever gets elected affects our ability to obtain our common legislative and regulatory goals for the future. So please vote on Nov. 2.

To learn where important contests are being held and how House and Senate majorities might be affected by the outcome of the Nov. 2 elections, visit www.cookpolitical.com.

IRS issues draft Form W-2 for 2011

The IRS has issued a [draft Form W-2](#) for 2011, which employers are to use to report wages and employee tax withholding.

The IRS also announced that it will defer the new requirement for employers to report the cost of coverage under an employer-sponsored group health plan, making that reporting by employers optional in 2011.

The draft Form W-2 includes the codes that employers may use to report the cost of coverage under an employer-sponsored group health plan. The Treasury Department and the IRS have determined that this relief is necessary to provide employers the time they need to make changes to their payroll systems or procedures in preparation for compliance with the new reporting requirement. The IRS will publish guidance on the new requirement later this year.

Although reporting the cost of coverage will be optional with respect to 2011, the IRS continues to stress that the amounts reportable are not taxable. Included in the Affordable Care Act passed by Congress in March, the new reporting requirement is intended to be informational only and to provide employees with greater transparency into overall health care costs.

KPA: Supreme Court hearing cases that will affect employee relations and litigation

blog.kpaonline.com/2010/10/supreme-court-now-hearing-cases-that-will-impact-employer-and-employee-relations-and-employment-litigation/

Feds to eliminate dust: Obama declares war on farmers

By Ted Sheely in *The Washington Post*

When the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) thinks about farmers, it must have in mind the lyrics from that song by Kansas: "All we are is dust in the wind." That's because the EPA wants to regulate the dust that farmers produce as they run combines through their fields and drive down gravel roads. Federal bureaucrats seem to have forgotten that food production is a challenging business - and yes, sometimes it kicks up a bit of dust. What's next? Regulating backyard gardeners who grow the flowers that make the pollen that causes neighbors with allergies to sneeze?

Don't be surprised if it comes to that. As Democratic Sen. Blanche Lincoln of Arkansas said in a recent hearing, the EPA makes a habit of threatening farmers and ranchers with "burdensome, duplicative, costly, unnecessary or, in some cases, just plain bizarre" regulations.

Farm dust is a perfect example of federal overreach. Nobody has shown that farm dust is a public health hazard. Judges have determined that the research is "inconclusive," but they've stopped short of blocking the EPA's draconian rules.

Frustration with the EPA is bipartisan. Republican Rep. Frank D. Lucas of Oklahoma agrees with Mrs. Lincoln. He called the EPA "an agency gone wild" and warned that "if the EPA is allowed to continue down this path, the only choice for many farmers and ranchers will be to stop farming altogether."

This is a crystal-clear example of a federal government that doesn't have its priorities straight. Unemployment is sky-high. The challenges of joblessness are especially severe in rural America. Shouldn't our overlords in Washington strive to get people back to work? At the very least, they shouldn't go out of their way to make life

CEO Blog

Vote for freedom!

October 2010

With U.S. mid-term elections just around the corner, Nov. 2, 2010 provides each of us with the opportunity to express our political views through the ballot box. As always, no matter what your political persuasion, I encourage you to VOTE... it is a right and a privilege. As the saying goes, "If you don't vote, don't complain!"

Having voted in numerous elections during my lifetime, I cannot recall another election where I have felt so much was at stake. The results of this election may well decide whether individual freedom will prevail or how long the United States will be a leader on the world stage.

We elect senators and representatives to serve our needs and wishes. Yet, time and time again, the current members of Congress seem to ignore our desires and pass measures that serve selfish political whims. For many of us, this spending appears to be irresponsible, as if there is no tomorrow - thus, handcuffing our kids, grandkids and several future generations with an unsustainable debt load. Even when polls indicate a vast majority of Americans are opposed to a measure, they approve it anyway. From all outward appearances, these politicians seem to be much more concerned about their political career than our well-being (although they do their best to convince us that it is for our own good, even if we don't understand or appreciate it at the moment.)

So the real question on Nov. 2 is whether we should allow our elected officials to continue placing their desires above ours, or whether we will have the courage to correct the situation. My wife, Carol, frequently reminds me (in a friendly way) that she does not like to be ignored. That's how I feel about our political process today... I feel like I'm being ignored and I don't like it. Do you? Even if you feel an incumbent is doing a good job and you wish to return that person to office, before you vote, I encourage you to ask for his or her promise to pay greater attention to the needs of America as a whole rather than his or her own needs.

I believe most people on this earth prefer to have the freedom to make their own choices about their life. They want the freedom to pursue their own hopes and dreams and their definition of whatever is important to them to make their life happy, successful and fulfilled. They don't want someone else telling them how to live their lives. And they certainly don't want someone to tell them that they need to settle for the status quo or even less.

Our democracy exists because our forefathers had tremendous insight, character and strength of conviction. They stood for individual freedom. This election should be about whether we allow that individual freedom to flourish or expire (like so many other great ideas over the centuries that were bludgeoned by a ruling class who thought they knew what was best for their subjects).

more difficult for struggling families in these hard times.

Yet that's what the EPA seems designed to do. My own experience with the agency is a tale of chronic frustration. It can feel as if EPA has a boot planted on my throat, trying to choke the life out of me.

"Why has an American agency decided to declare regulatory war on such a large swath of American people?" asked Gerald Simonsen of the National Sorghum Producers at a forum in Washington last week.

I know exactly what he means. Friends of mine who grow corn are worried about the future of atrazine, an important crop-protection herbicide.

I have my own hassles with the EPA. The latest involves irrigation. Here in California, water is at a premium: We just don't have enough of it. Federal regulations are a big part of the reason why, but that's another story. The bottom line is that we have to use water with maximum efficiency so we can grow the food Americans need.

I can't afford to lose any water, so I save every last drop - even when I'm flushing the sediment from my irrigation tape. After the water cleans out my lines, it flows into a holding pond. From there, I can reuse it.

Recycling water is an example of sustainable agriculture at work. It enables me to get the most out of limited resources.

But the EPA may make me halt this practice. It's worried that trace amounts of herbicide and pesticide possibly will show up in my holding pond.

So, instead of seeing my recycled water as a source of life for a farm that grows food in a dry land, it may treat my water as a potential source of environmental contamination.

The coming micromanagement could be severe. Previous experience with the EPA teaches me that I should anticipate a worse-case scenario - and then assume that the result will be twice as bad.

I don't want to pollute anything - and I certainly don't want to pollute my own farmland, where I live and work. Nobody has a greater stake in my farm's safety than I do.

I support sensible regulations. It's the insensible ones that drive me batty. The problem is that the EPA often refuses to exercise common sense. Its one-size-fits-all approach is bad for everyone.

The only people it helps are the regulators who seem to think their job is to produce a bumper crop of onerous new rules, without a care for whether rural America produces the food our country needs.

Ted Sheely farms in California's San Joaquin Valley. He is a board member of Truth About Trade and Technology.

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E15 approval draws mixed reactions from ethanol, machine companies

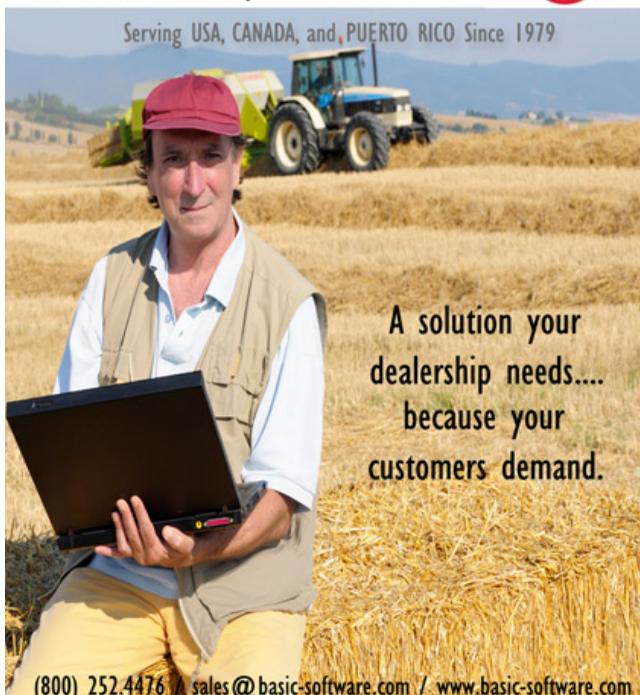
biofuelsdigest.com/bdigest/2010/10/14/e15-ethanol-approved-in-us-for-2007-model-years-critics-supporters-react/

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Isn't it ironic that just when Congress is suggesting we're better off because of its recent actions, new poverty statistics indicate more Americans are living in poverty than at any time during the last 50 years? Something is wrong with that picture, especially when the U.S. is touted as being the most successful and prosperous nation on earth. Nearly 10 percent of our workforce is unemployed and can't find a job. Many college graduates are desperately looking for a job in their field. Something is wrong with that picture as well.

I, for one, will exercise my right to vote Nov. 2 and I will make my choices for people who demonstrate support for individual freedom and democracy. For democracy to continue, more people need to express their opinion through the ballot box. To guarantee our nation's ongoing precious democracy, we need to preserve individual freedom - and that's the way I see it.

Paul Kindinger is president/CEO of the North American Equipment Dealers Association. The association, in coordination with affiliated state, provincial and regional associations, provides educational, legal, legislative, and financial services to approximately 5,500 retail agricultural, construction, large property/rural lifestyle, and outdoor power equipment dealers in the United States and Canada.

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The North American Equipment Dealers Association provides educational, legal, legislative, and financial services to approximately 5,500 retail agricultural, construction, large property/rural lifestyle, and outdoor power equipment dealers in the United States and Canada.

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You must be a paid member of a NAEDA-affiliated association for your

NAEDA 20 Group dealers and other member dealers are in the running for Deere Manager's Club

Fifty four top dealerships are still in the running for the 50 available spots within the exclusive John Deere Manager's Club. Several of the dealerships are members of the NAEDA John Deere Multi-Store 20 Group administered by Currie Management Consultants, Inc. Finalists include:

AGRO Equipment	Calgary, Alberta	JD Group #1
East Coast Equipment	Winterville, N.C.	JD Group #1
Hutson, Inc.	Mayfield, Ky.	JD Group #1
James River Equipment	Danville, Va.	JD Group #2
RDO Equipment Co.	Beckenridge, Minn.	JD Group #2
Reynolds Farm Equipment, Inc.	Fishers, Ind.	JD Group #1
Sunshine Equipment Co.	Donaldsonville, La.	JD Group #1
Van-Wall Equipment, Inc.	Perry, Iowa	JD Group #1
Wade, Inc.	Greenwood, Miss.	JD Group #1

Additionally, several members of NAEDA-affiliated associations are also finalists for the prestigious John Deere Manager's Club. To view all of the finalists, [click here](#).

Dealerships are selected for membership in the Manager's Club based on the following seven criteria:

1. Ag Retail Sales
2. Turf & Utility Retail Sales
3. Net Parts Purchases
4. Large Ag Market Share
5. Small Ag Market Share
6. <90hp Tractor Market Share
7. Customer Experience

The 50 Manager's Club finalists will be honored at the Resort at Pelican Hill in Newport, Calif., March 3-6, 2011.

Caterpillar profits soar 96 percent on strong sales

hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_EARNS_CATERPILLAR?SITE=MOSTP&SECTION=DJSP_COMPLETE&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2010-10-21-08-34-47

Access and print "Recurring Legal Issues Dealers Should Know"

To download "Recurring Legal Issues Dealers Should Know," [click here](#).

Husqvarna to shutter Beatrice, Neb. plan by end of year

www.beatricedailysun.com/news/local/article_ed4c27fe-d8c7-11df-838b-001cc4c03286.html

No bull! Jaylor inflatable bull returns home after being swiped at Dairy Expo

<https://app.e2ma.net/app/view/CampaignPublic/id:1408430.6821820903/rid:db93f630ce89cb6e9379280041f48409>

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www.convinceandconvert.com/social-media-case-studies/humanizing-a-critically-important-industry-from-the-ground-up/



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NAEDA & Association News

KPA: Healthcare cost reporting is not required on W-2 forms for 2011

blog.kpaonline.com/2010/10/healthcare-cost-reporting-not-required-on-w-2-forms-for-2011/

KPA: Key lock/out programs – common sense and regulatory requirements aligned

blog.kpaonline.com/2010/10/key-lockout-programs-common-sense-and-regulatory-requirements-aligned/



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Canadian News

Canada posts record deficit of \$55.6 billion

The national deficit hit a record \$55.6 billion in the last fiscal year, though Finance Minister Jim Flaherty says he is confident the government can balance its budget in 2015-2016. [CTV News >>](#)

Canada starts national conversation on health care

The federal government is preparing for a national conversation on how to pay for and reform health care. [CTV News >>](#)

Flaherty releases update on Canada's economic and fiscal projections

www.fin.gc.ca/n10/10-098-eng.asp

Canadian economic growth to lead G7 as global recovery seen continuing: IMF

ca.news.finance.yahoo.com/s/06102010/2/biz-finance-canadian-economic-growth-lead-g7-global-recovery-continuing.html

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—Lee Rogness

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