

NAEDA Advocacy Update



A monthly summary of ASSOCIATION PRIORITY ISSUES

A companion reference is regularly updated in the Dealer Advocacy Center at www.naeda.com.






This "Action Alert" icon will be displayed whenever action steps exist to help your voice be heard on topical issues. Dealers can expect to see alerts in all forms of NAEDA communications.

Manufacturer Relations

ISSUE	SUMMARY	NAEDA'S POSITION	STATUS
 Equipment Titling and Registration Task Force	The Equipment Titling and Registration Task Force briefing paper is now online at www.naeda.com . This briefing paper outlines each of the topics discussed by the task force during the group's initial Nov. 2006 meeting held in Chicago. The task force intends to reconvene this spring.	NAEDA supports efforts of the Equipment Titling and Registration Task Force.	Ongoing.
 OPE Dealer Council Meeting	The OPE Dealer Council met Feb. 5-6 in New Orleans and discussed a variety of topics, including manufacturer relations-related issues about direct sales/Internet sales, bar coding and Yellow Pages-style advertising. The council continues efforts to protect the dealers' customer base; advise manufacturers to provide bar coding on wholegoods and parts; and gain manufacturer support to reduce the number of OPE headings in phone directories.	NAEDA supports the OPE Dealer Council's work.	Ongoing.

Government Relations

ISSUE	SUMMARY	NAEDA'S POSITION	STATUS
 Equipment Depreciation	NAEDA supports legislation reducing the IRS depreciation schedule for agricultural equipment to five years from seven. NAEDA is currently working with the office of Sen. Kent Conrad (D-ND) to introduce such legislation.	NAEDA favors reducing the depreciation schedule.	Ongoing.
 Agricultural Equipment Economic Impact Study	The financial contributions of the agricultural equipment industry on the U.S. economy has not been documented... until now. NAEDA, the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM) and the Farm Equipment Manufacturers Association (FEMA) contracted Global Insight to identify the industry's economic impact. Certain data in the study will be applied to identify the industry's importance in Canada as well. Check out www.naeda.com to see the published study.	Identifying the economic contribution of the equipment industry is critical to being heard in Washington D.C. and Ottawa.	Study completed.
 Trade	The Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) is set to expire on July 1. The TPA gives the president the authority to negotiate a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and put it before Congress for a straight "yes" or "no" vote.	NAEDA supports extension of the TPA.	Ongoing.



Animal Rights

Smithfield foods, the United States' largest pork producer, announced it is phasing out the use of sow gestation crates in all its operations over the next 10 years. The move comes in the wake of successful ballot initiatives in Arizona and Florida that banned such crates, and as a California lawsuit banning sow crates is debated.

Canada's WTO Corn Complaint

Since Canada's initial request for World Trade Organization (WTO) consultations, several other WTO members have requested to join the consultations as interested third parties. They include Argentina, Australia, Brazil, the European Union, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Thailand, and Uruguay. Canada alleges illegal handouts are being provided to U.S. corn producers. The U.S. position is its corn programs are legal and not harming Canadian producers.

Ethanol Plant Capacity

Whether it's "20 in 10" as President Bush promotes or 25x'25 as the NAEDA-supported coalition targets, ethanol is a major component of the renewable fuels future for both Canada and the U.S. It's already clear too many press reports are focusing on plant permits and not enough on actual in-place production from existing plants. Like it or not, the price of oil determines if and when proposed ethanol plants get built. Do you think "big oil" knows where the price point is that trips the trigger for ethanol plant construction?

Livestock Disease

Mad cow disease was confirmed in a mature bull that died in Alberta, Canada. The February confirmation is the ninth case of an animal testing positive for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) since 2003. The animal died on the farm and never entered the food supply.