

NAEDA Advocacy Update

A monthly summary of ASSOCIATION PRIORITY ISSUES

The NAEDA Advocacy Update is a new reference guide designed to keep dealers informed about association priority issues. An electronic version will be 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.



Fine Particle (PM 2.5) Pollution

Agriculture, industrial and outdoor power equipment operation may be jeopardized by proposed revisions to fine particle pollution (PM 2.5) standards being developed by the states. Non-attainment of revised PM 2.5 standards could subject many areas to costly new regulations and guidelines.

If revised PM 2.5 standards are enacted, expect changes in equipment design and operation. For instance, new dust control systems may be required on equipment. In the field, planting and harvesting operations could be restricted or scheduled under designated time slots.

Equipment dealers who want to make their voices heard should attend public hearings scheduled by their state's environmental agency as these new standards are being developed. NAEDA is monitoring this process and will provide updates on the status and implications of the revisions.

Visit the electronic NAEDA Advocacy Update pages at www.naeda.com for additional online information links, including a map of counties affected by PM 2.5 standards (courtesy of A.S.L. & Associates), implementation schedule, and EPA overview.

Ethanol Plant Capacity Expansion

Ethanol plants are popping up across the U.S. The 42 new plants under construction would add to the total capacity of the 101 existing facilities. Existing ethanol plants have a production capacity of 4.8 billion gallons. Total U.S. production capacity should climb to 7.7 billion gallons as plants come online. Producers within 20 to 50 miles of an ethanol plant are expected to benefit most from corresponding crop demand and transportation advantages.

Manufacturer Relations			
ISSUE	SUMMARY	NAEDA'S POSITION	STATUS
Meeting Schedule	NAEDA routinely meets with individual manufacturers and their industry groups to voice dealer positions on issues. We invite your comments at all times. Please contact your state, regional or provincial association or NAEDA (e-mail: naeda@naeda.com) with issues or perspectives to add your voice in these discussions. October meetings include: Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM) Legislative Committee Meeting, Oct. 23-24, and Kubota Tractor Corporation, Oct. 25.	Don't wait for a meeting date. Dealer comments about issues are welcome anytime. Your thoughts give us direction on how to best represent your interests.	Ongoing.
Warranty Database	Dealers typically have to submit warranty information through a variety of manufacturer-specific forms that generally collect the same or similar information. This is a burden on dealers who sell products from several FEMA & OPE manufacturers.	NAEDA believes a single warranty database, using a standardized warranty submittal form, could relieve the information submittal and tracking burden from dealers and manufacturers alike.	NAEDA/FEMA met with a technology company, iConnect, to review its similar work with the auto industry. FEMA & NAEDA focus group appointed.

Government Relations			
ISSUE	SUMMARY	NAEDA'S POSITION	STATUS
LIFO	Results of the NAEDA LIFO survey have been tabulated and indicate that 62.6 percent of responding dealers use the LIFO inventory accounting method. The survey also revealed that FIFO is used by 16.7 percent of dealers and 17.8 percent use average cost for inventory accounting. The loss of LIFO could mean many thousands of dollars of expenses to dealers and other businesses that use this accounting practice.	Supporting the efforts of the LIFO coalition, which is made up of 118 members, to maintain the LIFO option.	Survey results have been provided to the LIFO coalition.
2007 Farm Bill	Bob Frazee, NAEDA chairman, testified before the House Agriculture Committee and recommended 2007 farm bill provisions supporting renewable energy, balanced conservation, fair trade and rural development and employment. His Sept. 13 testimony can be seen on page 24 and is available at the NAEDA Web site: www.naeda.com .	NAEDA supports legislation that benefits producers, including pro-farmer positions on balanced conservation/land use, rural development and trade.	Ongoing discussions are taking place.
Health Care Plans	NAEDA and its affiliated U.S. associations are working hard for passage of the Health Insurance Marketplace Modernization and Affordability Act of 2006 (S. 1955). If passed, the legislation would extend to small companies the same price advantages that large corporations receive negotiating health plans and providing benefits.	NAEDA supports passage of S. 1955. Dealers are urged to contact their senators to support the legislation.	Targeted "GetActive" campaign conducted to reach pivotal senators. Send letters by going to the Dealer Advocacy Center on NAEDA's Web site at www.naeda.com .
Trade	The Senate approved the United States-Oman Free Trade Agreement on Sept. 19 after having passed the House on July 20.	NAEDA supported this trade agreement.	Passed.