



TAKE FIVE

A five-minute summary of industry activities for members of the largest state agribusiness association in the nation
The Agribusiness Association of Iowa

AAI Expo
Nov 28
Hilton Coliseum
Iowa State
University
Ames, IA

The Agribusiness Association of Iowa (AAI) Expo will be held November 28, 2007 at the Hilton Coliseum on the Iowa State University Campus. It is being held in conjunction with the Iowa State University Integrated Crop Management (ICM) Conference on November 28-29, 2007 at the Iowa State Center on the Iowa State University Campus. The Agribusiness Expo presents a comprehensive collection of new and innovative products covering all facets of the agribusiness industry. Over 75 exhibitors will be present for this year's Expo, held in Hilton Coliseum. "Our AAI members are always looking for new technology, data and innovation from the academic side of our industry. Partnering with the ISU ICM conference in late November provides an excellent venue to start out the new crop year," said Jose Laracuente, AAI Services chair. For more information on the Expo, please visit the AAI website: www.agribiz.org. For more information on the ICM conference, please visit their website: <http://www.aep.iastate.edu>.

Old Time Grain
Elevator

Selyem Enterprises has produced a pictorial display of grain elevators and a bit of their history in their newest book, Old Time Grain Elevators. AA, I along with other state grain and feed associations, are proud advertisers. This book is a must have for business credenzas. Contact Selyem Enterprises directly at 406-388-9282 or e-mail them at: bselyem@grainelevatorphotos.com. Cost is \$25 plus \$7 shipping and handling.

Water Implications
of Biofuel -
Production in the
United States

The National Academy of Sciences released a study on October 10th, germane to water and the implications of biofuels in the U.S. National interests in greater energy independence, concurrent with favorable market forces, have driven increased production of corn-based ethanol in the United States and research into the next generation of biofuels. The trend is changing the national agricultural landscape and has raised concerns about potential impacts on the nation's water resources. This report examines some of the key issues and identifies opportunities for shaping policies that help to protect water. For more information: <http://nationalacademies.org/morenews/20071010.html>

State Loans and
Federal Financial
Assistance -
A Winning Combina-
tion for Smaller
Open Feed Lots

Small open feedlots may find a winning combination this fall if they want to improve their open feedlot by moving part or all of it under a roof. "For the first time, we'll be able to offer a low interest loan to producers who want to replace part or all of their open feedlot with a deep-bedded confinement," said Patti Cale-Finnegan, the DNR's loan coordinator. "Loans are available to small and mid-size operations and can be used as a sole source of financing or can be combined with an application for federal financial assistance," Cale-Finnegan said.

Producers who would like to combine the loan with federal financial assistance should apply for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Apply this fall at local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service offices for funding in 2008. Loans are available for the buildings because they confine the animals and manure, preventing runoff or discharge of the manure. Projects that will benefit Iowa's water quality and environment are eligible. Because of federal funding sources, the loans are available only to facilities with less than 1,000 beef cattle, 700 mature dairy cows or 2,500 finishing hogs. Funding can be used for deep-bedded buildings that: 1) Replace an existing open feedlot, or 2) Expand a facility as an addition to an existing open feedlot, provided the existing open feedlot remains in compliance with all environmental rules. The loans cannot be used for some of the minor costs of the project, such as feed bunks or watering facilities, that don't have a direct benefit to the environment or Iowa's water quality. Producers may apply for loans through many local lenders. Applications and more information about the program are available through the Iowa Agricultural Development Authority, which administers the loan program in cooperation with the DNR. Contact Jeff Ward, (515) 281-6444 or go to:

http://www.iada.state.ia.us/livestock_wqfp.htm.