



Take Five

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

Surface Waters: Ammonium is not Ammonia

SURFACE WATERS: AMMONIUM IS NOT AMMONIA

Written By: John Sawyer, Associate Professor, Department of Agronomy, Iowa State University

A recent article in the Des Moines Register newspaper has caused considerable controversy regarding nitrogen in Iowa streams and rivers. The article featured information about "ammonia" levels in certain Iowa surface water systems during the recent winter time period. The implications were that manure and fertilizer application to cropland, and subsequent snowmelt and runoff, had resulted in higher than normal "ammonia" levels in surface waters. In the article there was a comparison of the reported levels to an ammonia reading of 0.10 ppm considered harmful to aquatic life. Unfortunately, measured surface water concentrations (and as reported in the article) are not ammonia-N. Instead they are ammonium-N plus ammonia-N. Therefore, a comparison of the reported values to a concentration of ammonia toxic to aquatic life is inaccurate. Read on: <http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/soilfertility/>

U.S. Agricultural Trade Boosts the Economy

U.S. AGRICULTURAL TRADE BOOSTS OVERALL ECONOMY

U.S. agricultural trade generates employment, income, and purchasing power in both the farm and non-farm sectors. Each farm export dollar earned stimulated another \$1.65 in business activity during the 2006 calendar year. The \$71.0 billion of agricultural exports in 2006 produced an additional \$117.2 billion in economic activity for a total economic output of \$188.2 billion. Agricultural exports also generated 841,000 full-time civilian jobs, which include 482,000 jobs in the non-farm sector. Farmer's purchases of fuel, fertilizer, and other inputs to produce commodities for export spurred economic activity in the manufacturing, trade, and transportation sectors. See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/FAU/2008/04Apr/FAU124/>

Iowa's Smoke Free Legislation Impacts Your Business

SMOKE FREE IOWA IMPACTS YOUR BUSINESS

Iowa's country elevators and ag retail locations must be in compliance with Iowa's Smoke Free legislation by July 1, 2008. This law applies to profit or nonprofit workplaces and public places. Places not covered may voluntarily be declared a nonsmoking place. A public place is defined as an enclosed area, where the public is invited or permitted; including restaurants, bars, retail stores, public buildings, schools, daycare providers, and health care providers. Enforcement of this bill is done by the Iowa Department of Public Health.

Governor Chet Culver signed the Smoke Free Air Act recently, stating "my goal is to make Iowa the healthiest state in the nation, which is why I am proud to sign the Smoke Free Air Act." House File 2212 takes effect on July 1, 2008.

Iowa Department of Ag Unveils a New Website

NORTHEY UNVEILS NEW WEBSITE FOR IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND STEWARDSHIP

Iowa Ag Secretary Encourages Iowans to Visit www.iowaagriculture.gov

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey today unveiled a new website and web address for the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. The new site contains a number of new features designed to make the programs and services operated by the Department more accessible to the public and can be found at www.iowaagriculture.gov. Also as part of the transition to the updated website, Northey announced new email addresses for all Department employees. Employees can be reached by using the format:

firstname.lastname@iowaagriculture.gov.



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The Gasoline Tax Rate is Changing July 1, 2008

THE IOWA MOTOR FUEL TAX RATE ON GASOLINE WILL CHANGE ON JULY 1, 2008.

The gasoline tax rate will increase on July 1, 2008 from the current 20.7¢ per gallon to 21¢ per gallon. All other fuel tax rates remain the same. New gasoline tax rate: 21¢ per gallon Ethanol blended gasoline and E85 tax rate (No Change): 19¢ per gallon. Gasoline Increase Explanation: Legislation passed in 2001 stated the rate of the excise tax on gasoline and ethanol blended gasoline may change each July 1 depending on the percentage of ethanol blended gasoline sold during the previous calendar year. This legislation codified in section 452A.3 (1) was set to expire on June 30, 2007. Senate File 601 passed last legislative session changed the expiration date from 2007 to 2012. Thus the department continues to determine the tax rates based on the prior calendar year taxable gallons.

The amounts for calendar year 2007, which were used to determine the rates beginning July 1, 2008, are as follows:

Total Taxable gallons of ethanol blended gasoline distributed: 1,214,914,564

Total taxable gallons of motor fuel distributed: 1,646,696,893

Percentage of ethanol blended gasoline distributed: 73.78%

Since this percentage falls within the 70-75% range, it triggers a tax rate for ethanol of 19¢ and gasoline of 21¢.

Iowa Code Section 452A.3 Iowa Administrative Rules 701-68.2

Aerial Applicators Must Have Secondary Containment Access

AERIAL APPLICATORS MUST HAVE SECONDARY CONTAINMENT ACCESS

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship has adopted new rules requiring all aerial applicators to have access to secondary containment for the purpose of repairing or maintaining the spray component of an agricultural aircraft. The new rule also requires that the application record maintained by the applicator must also be maintained by the applicator's broker and pesticide dealer.

Aerial applicators may comply with this provision by acquiring their own containment structure or by notifying the pesticide bureau you have a written agreement with an aerial applicator located in Iowa.

Containment may be a permanent structure or a portable device. Both types will be required to be certified by a registered engineer that meets the requirements of Chapters 21-44 of the Iowa Administrative Code. Containment is required for the purpose of repairing or maintaining aerial application equipment regardless of whether or not the site where repair or maintenance is performed is considered to be a "permanent pesticide storage/mixing site". Existing rules require containment for the mixing/loading area for all applicators loading agricultural aircraft at a permanent pesticide storage/mixing site. A permanent pesticide storage/mixing site is defined as: a site where pesticides are stored for more than 30 days and where more than 300 gallons or 300 pounds of formulated pesticides are mixed and loaded within a 30 day period.

The containment structure for storage/mixing areas under both the new rules and existing rules must be designed by a registered engineer and certified by the owner that the containment structure was constructed according to the engineer's design plan. A registered engineer is required to certify that the structure will meet the requirements of chapter 21-44 of the Iowa Administrative Code.