



Take Five

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

Registering for the August CCA Exam

REGISTERING FOR THE AUGUST CERTIFIED CROP ADVISOR EXAM

The next CCA Exam will be held on August 1, 2008. Registration for this exam began May 5th and continues through June 20, 2008. Registrations for the August exam received after June 20th cannot be processed. For more information on the CCA exam and registration please contact the Agribusiness Association of Iowa office at 515-262-8323. Information can also be found on the CCA website at <https://www.certifiedcropadviser.org/>

Status of the Grain Indemnity Fund

GRAIN INDEMNITY FUND STATUS

IDALS Grain Warehouse Bureau reports that the Grain Indemnity Fund has a balance of \$8,209,254.25. The Iowa Grain Indemnity Fund Board will hold their telephone conference call on May 15 at 2 p.m. Members of the Indemnity Fund Board include: Bill Northey (or designee), Edwin Hershberger, Steve Larson, Sharon Smith, Angela Burke Boston, Thomas Kaldenberg and Sandy Simpson

NGFA Tells Congress of Concerns Over Rail Capacity

NGFA TELLS CONGRESS OF CONCERNS OVER RAIL CAPACITY

The National Grain and Feed Association's (NGFA) recently released statement voiced major concerns over rail capacity constraints and the impacts on predictable service for agricultural shippers, particularly smaller firms. The NGFA also cited data showing that freight rate increases for agricultural shippers generally exceed those for other classes of traffic, and faulted the process for challenging small rail rate cases at the federal Surface Transportation Board.

Full NGFA Statement Attached

Further, the NGFA said, physical access to rail service has become more limited in rural areas, reflecting rail carriers' preference for large unit-train loading facilities. This, in turn, has led to an increasing concentration of grain handling at fewer loading points, causing the average farm-to-market distance to be longer. "So, the efficiency gains accruing to rail carriers by moving to larger unit trains has had the effect of putting added traffic on highways and local roads, whose repairs are borne by taxpayers," NGFA President Kendell W. Keith said.

For the complete press release go to www.agribiz.org or see attached.

AAI Educational Opportunities

AAI EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Agribusiness Association of Iowa strives to provide relevant educational opportunities to our members. This summer, we have some excellent educational seminars we would like to offer you. The following workshops have been scheduled:

Grain Grading Workshop – This workshop will feature the latest information on grain quality. The course is sponsored by the Agribusiness Association of Iowa and facilitated by FGIS inspectors.

Ethanol DOT Meeting – US Dept. of Transportation (DOT) officials will walk you through a DOT audit that can happen at your location if you are an ethanol producer, terminal or transporter.

Nurse Tank Testing Workshop – AAI is working with USDOT and Iowa Dept. of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) to provide you with accurate information on becoming qualified to test your own nurse tanks at your own facilities.

You will receive details on these workshops later this month. If you have any further questions and/or concerns, please contact Joan O'Brien or Jackie Haley at the AAI office at 515.262.8323 or 800.383.1682.



Take Five

CDL Update on Regular & Restricted Licenses

CDL UPDATE ON REGULAR AND RESTRICTED LICENSES

AAI has been asked to help clarify questions the Iowa Department of Transportation has been receiving on regular and restricted CDL's.

Regulations do not allow a driver to have both a regular CDL and a Restricted CDL. So, if a driver has a CDL without a hazmat endorsement, he may not get the Restricted CDL to assist a co-op in transporting anhydrous ammonia to the farm fields and carry both licenses. He would have to add the hazardous material endorsement to the regular CDL.

[IADOT](#) standard procedure is that if a driver drops a CDL, he/she must complete all the testing, knowledge and skills, to regain the CDL. Early on during the onset of the hazmat security threat assessment program, [IADOT](#) had allowed drivers to drop the regular CDL and apply for the Restricted CDL and at the end of the season allowed the driver to then regain the regular CDL without the knowledge and skills testing. This was due to the delays in the completion of the security threat assessments. However, now that the process has been significantly improved, [IADOT has](#) discontinued waiving the retesting requirement. This was effective January 1, 2008. Somehow, this has been incorrectly translated into meaning that Iowa no longer issues Restricted CDLs.

IDOT and AAI want to confirm that Iowa does indeed continue to issue Restricted CDLs. The only change is that if a driver wants to drop an existing CDL to obtain the Restricted CDL, he/she will have to take all testing to regain the original CDL.

General information related to the Restricted CDL:

Question: What are the seasonal periods for use of the Restricted CDL?

Answer: March 15 through June 30 & October 4 through December 14.

Question: Is there a mileage restriction on the use of the Restricted CDL?

Answer: Yes. The driver may operate between the employer's place of business and the farm currently being served, not to exceed 150 miles.

Question: What may be transported?

Answer: The rule allows the licensee to drive a commercial motor vehicle for agricultural input purposes. "Agricultural inputs" means suppliers or applicators of agricultural chemicals, fertilizer, seed or animal feeds.

Question: Is hazardous material included?

Answer: A Restricted CDL is not valid for transporting hazardous materials requiring placarding, except as follows:

(1) Liquid fertilizers such as anhydrous ammonia may be transported in vehicles or implements of husbandry with total capacities of 3,000 gallons or less. A hazardous material endorsement is not required.

(2) Solid fertilizers such as ammonium nitrate may be transported provided they are not mixed with any organic substance. A hazardous material endorsement is not required.

Question: Can tank vehicles and vehicles equipped with airbrakes be operated with the Restricted CDL?

Answer: Yes.

Question: When not driving a commercial motor vehicle for agricultural input purposes, is the license valid for non-commercial motor vehicles?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Must the Restricted CDL be re-validated for each season?

Answer: Yes. The driver must appear at a driver license station during the current season or not more than 30 days before the beginning of the season to validate the license.

Question: Is testing required?

Answer: No.

Question: Must the driver have a good driving record?

Answer: Yes. The applicant must have two years of previous driving experience. This means that he/she must have held a license that permits unaccompanied driving for at least two years. The applicant must be at least 18 years of age. The driver license examining staff will review the driving record for the previous two-year period. There must be no suspensions, revocations, disqualifications, denials, bars or cancellations of any kind. Traffic offenses that would prevent the issuance of a Restricted CDL are similar to the serious and major offenses that contribute to CDL disqualification.

Question: Do my ammonia tanks need to have lights and brakes?

Answer: Yes. If you are traveling interstate (state to state) you must have brakes and lights on the tanks.

No. If you are traveling in intrastate (in Iowa only) you do not have to have brakes and lights on the tanks but must have SMV's for equipment moving slower than 35 mph.