

Business, Merchandising and Operations Committee

Report to the NGFA Board of Directors

September 2024

I. Key Issues:

- Developing and executing the Country Elevator Conference program.
- Delivering NGFA’s policy messages to U.S. congressional offices and federal agencies as part of NGFA’s summer fly-in.
- Engaging with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Association of Grain Regulatory Organizations (AGRO) to enhance the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of both federal and state grain warehouse regulatory programs to protect depositors and maintain the integrity of the grain warehouse system.
- Address impactful topics during the three annual committee meetings and provide feedback to NGFA subject-matter committees.

II. Committee Activities:

- A. Country Elevator Conference:** Increasing education, training and professional development opportunities for employees of NGFA-member companies is a committee priority. The committee helped identify program topics and speakers for the Dec. 10-12, 2024, conference at the Sheraton Kansas City Hotel.
- B. Summer Fly-in:** In June, the committee held a committee meeting at NGFA’s Arlington, Virginia office and met with federal agency officials and congressional members.
- C. Federal and State Grain Warehouse Issues:** The committee interacts with USDA on federal licensing fees for grain warehouses licensed under the U.S. Warehouse Act (USWA).

III. Other Actions:

The committee and NGFA staff also were engaged in the following activities during the March 2024 – September 2024 period:

- A.** The committee advised the NGFA Rail Shipper/Receiver Committee on rail service challenges and proposed rail policy.
- B.** The committee advised the NGFA Risk Management Committee on potential impacts of the federal banking regulators’ proposal to increase capital reserve requirements on futures commission merchants.