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## NEWS

### Canadian railways shut down in union lockout

Contract negotiations between labor unions and Canadian railroads reached an impasse this week, launching a shutdown of the Canadian National (CN) and Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) Railway systems in Canada early on Aug. 22. Late Thursday afternoon Canadian Labour Minister Steven MacKinnon announced the Canadian government is requiring the two railroads and the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference to enter into final binding arbitration discussions. This action will allow the CN and CPKC to resume operations in Canada.

NGFA issued a statement urging Canadian leaders to take action to restore service, potentially by sending the issue to binding arbitration.

“NGFA, representing member companies in both the U.S. and Canada, urgently calls on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Canadian government leaders to take immediate action to restore rail service. The current shutdown of major Canadian rail lines is inflicting a severe shock to the North American agricultural supply chain,” said NGFA President and CEO Mike Seyfert in an [Aug. 22 press statement](#). “If the lockout continues, the repercussions will be devastating for Canadian and U.S. agricultural producers and agribusinesses who depend on CPKC and CN rail service for shipments through and within Canada to support both domestic and global food security.

“Canada is the top export market for U.S. ethanol, the fourth largest for soybean meal, and fifth largest for corn and distillers dried grains (DDGs),” the statement added. “The rail shutdown is preventing the cross-border movement of U.S. corn, DDGs and soybean meal into Canada and halting shipments

of U.S. spring wheat, corn and soybeans from Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota to Pacific Northwest export routes that transit through Canada on the Canadian rail lines.”

Earlier this month, the Canada Industrial Relations Board (CIRB) cleared the way for a potential rail strike when it ruled that a work stoppage on the CN and CPKC would not cause an immediate threat to public health and safety.

NGFA led the Agriculture Transportation Working Group in an [Aug. 19 letter](#) to Prime Minister Trudeau urging him to intervene before a strike began.

“Operational railroads are essential on both sides of the border for the integrated North American supply chain,” states the letter. “While we believe a negotiated solution is always the preferred outcome, the government should be prepared to move quickly if negotiations fail.”

NGFA sent similar letters warning of the economic and food security consequences of a rail stoppage [on Aug. 2](#) to the chairman of the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food in the Canadian House of Commons and to the CIRB [on May 21](#).

## Ag lobbyists outline Trump and Harris policies

Major policy initiatives that could be implemented by former President Donald Trump or Vice President Kamala Harris, depending upon the outcome of the election, are outlined in a [new document](#) prepared for the NGFA by The Russell Group.

Earlier this year, the Association began working with The Russell Group, a bipartisan government and industry relations firm focused exclusively on food and agriculture public policy, to supplement its advocacy efforts.

The outline linked below breaks down potential actions by both administrations on executive orders, antitrust and competition, trade, foreign policy, climate, taxes, and regulatory agendas.

### [2024 Presidential Election Candidate Outlook: Donald Trump and Kamala Harris](#)

NGFA provided members with similar outlines of the agriculture-related policy history of both vice-presidential candidates earlier this month. Read the outlines for Gov. Tim Walz and Sen. J.D. Vance in the [Aug. 9 NGFA Newsletter](#).

## EVENTS

### NGFA publishes new Harvest Safety Week 2024 resources

NGFA’s fifth annual Harvest Safety Week ended today, Aug. 23!

Each year at the end of August, NGFA dedicates a week to sharing safety resources relevant to the busy harvest season. This year’s theme encouraged members to “Participate, Prepare, Protect,” by sharing Harvest Safety Week resources, preparing for hazards during the harvest season, and protecting the employees that “transform America’s harvest” into food, fuel and fiber.

Each day this week, NGFA shared a new safety resource, including two new “Safety Tips” training videos. Click below to watch each video and find more resources at [ngfa.org/safety](https://ngfa.org/safety).

- ▶ [NGFA Safety Tips: Bin Site Entanglement Hazards](#)

- ▶ [NGFA Safety Tips: Shuttle Loading and Rail Safety](#)
- ▶ [Best Practices for Onboarding New Employees](#) – Webinar by People Spark Consulting
- ▶ [Fumigation and Integrated Pest Management](#) – Presentation by M&M Specialty Services



NGFA and the [National Grain and Feed Foundation](#) made Harvest Safety Week possible. Thanks to the support of the Foundation, billboards and radio ads highlighting the event were displayed in several regions throughout the country.

## CEC 2024 trade show registration is filling up

Companies interested in exhibiting at NGFA's 53<sup>rd</sup> annual Country Elevator Conference and Trade Show (CEC) on Dec. 10-12 in Kansas City, Mo., can register at [ngfa.org/cec](http://ngfa.org/cec). More than half of available trade show spots are taken!

NGFA is also holding an **open call for speakers** from NGFA-member companies to headline CEC breakouts and general sessions. All proposals are due on **Aug. 29**. Contact NGFA Vice President, Marketing and Member Services, [Rebecca Grubbs](#), for more information.

NGFA's flagship meeting for grain merchants, elevator operators, feed manufacturers, processors, and grain industry suppliers attracts several hundred industry members each year for networking, education and the supplier trade show. Programming at CEC is designed to prepare, teach and inspire attendees.

## SUPPLEMENTS

### Register for People Spark leadership training by TODAY

The deadline to register for the September 2024 leadership program hosted by People Spark Consulting is TODAY, Aug. 23.

NGFA members receive a **bonus private coaching session** with their Leadership Transformation Program® registration. New cohorts begin monthly throughout 2024. [Click here for information!](#)

The investment for the 12-month People Spark Leadership Transformation Program® is \$2,500. Use reference code: NGFA

NGFA and People Spark Consulting have partnered to further the mission of providing education and training to members at all levels in the agriculture industry. The [People Spark Leadership Transformation Program](#)® is a year-long course that focuses on practical application of leadership skills and tools. It starts with an 8-week intensive training, followed by 10 months of ongoing support to reinforce and sustain the learned skills.

## Contribute to the Foundation at the end of Harvest Safety Week

As Harvest Safety Week ends, Foundation Trustees Chair Brian Schouvieller, senior vice president of global grain marketing at CHS Inc., shared the following message:



Today is the last day to give to the National Grain and Feed Foundation during Harvest Safety Week! It's not too late to donate, so [give today](#), and give generously to support the Foundation's safety, education, and research efforts. Your tax-deductible contribution supports NGFF's initiatives which protect the employees that "transform America's harvest" into food, fuel and fiber.

## Extra Supplements

NGFA in the news:

DTN: [Ag Trade Affected as CPKC, CN Lockout Disrupts North American Shipping, Trade](#)

Bloomberg: [US Agriculture Groups Urge Trudeau to Step In to Avert Rail Strike](#)

Reuters: [Canada rail stoppage poised to disrupt North American agriculture](#)

Meat & Poultry: [Canada rail traffic stops over labor dispute](#)

Progressive Railroading: [Rail News - Ag groups call on Trudeau to avert rail strike in Canada. For Railroad Career Professionals](#)

RFD-TV: [With Harvest Safety Week around the corner, here are some new safety resources](#)

Other news:

Toronto Star: [Trudeau government sends rail dispute to binding arbitration](#)

Agri-Pulse: [Accepting VP nomination, Walz cites rural roots in making case for Democratic ticket](#) (log in)

The New York Times: [How U.S. Farms Could Start a Bird Flu Pandemic](#) (log in)

South Dakota Searchlight: [Thune calls Trump's across-the-board tariff strategy 'a recipe for increased inflation'](#)

The Daily Yonder: [Democrats Trying to Reverse Election Losses in Rural America Urge Focus on Economy](#)

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