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CEC 2024

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NGFA

NEWS

OSHA’s heat proposal open for comment

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s (OSHA) proposed Heat Injury and Illness Prevention Program is published in the Aug. 30 issue of the Federal Register with comments due by Dec. 28. NGFA will lead other agricultural trade groups in drafting comments to submit.

According to sources at the agency, OSHA is planning to hold a “robust public hearing with a post-hearing comment period, and likely a period for post-hearing legal briefs” after the comment period, leaving the regulated community with multiple opportunities to weigh in on the proposal.

NGFA notified members on July 2 that OSHA [announced](#) a heat standard proposal requiring employers to develop an injury and illness prevention plan to control heat hazards in workplaces affected by excessive heat.

“The nation’s first-ever federal safety standard addressing excessive heat in the workplace,” would apply to all employers conducting outdoor and indoor work in all general industry, construction, maritime, and agriculture sectors where OSHA has jurisdiction. The rule excludes short-duration employee exposures to heat, emergency response activities, work at indoor sites kept below 80°F, telework, and indoor sedentary work activities.

Among other provisions, the proposed standard – as summarized in [this OSHA fact sheet](#) – would require employers to:

- Develop and implement a work site heat injury and illness prevention plan (HIIPP) with site-specific information to evaluate and control heat hazards in their workplace.
- Identify heat hazards in both outdoor and indoor work sites.
- Implement control measures at or above the Initial Heat Trigger (i.e., a heat index of 80°F) that include providing employees with cool drinking water; break areas with cooling measures; indoor work area controls; acclimatization protocols for new and returning unacclimatized employees; paid rest breaks if needed to prevent overheating; and regular and effective two-way communication.
- Implement additional control measures at or above the High Heat Trigger (i.e., heat index of 90°F) that include providing employees mandatory rest breaks of 15 minutes at least every two hours; observation for signs and symptoms of heat-related illness; a hazard alert to remind employees of key parts of the HIIPP; and warning signs at indoor work areas with ambient temperatures that regularly exceed 120°F.
- Take steps if an employee is experiencing signs and symptoms of a heat-related illness or a heat emergency and develop a heat emergency response plan.
- Provide initial and annual refresher training for supervisors, heat safety coordinators, and employees, as well as supplemental training after changes in exposure to heat hazards, policies and procedures, or the occurrence of a heat injury or illness.
- Have and maintain, for a minimum of six months, written or electronic records of indoor monitoring data.
- Ensure that all requirements are at no cost to employees.

Throughout the rulemaking process, NGFA has submitted [comments](#) opposing a one-size-fits-all standard that lacks the necessary flexibility for employers to determine and implement appropriate controls to protect their employees. The primary concern with the rulemaking is that it will place an undue regulatory burden on grain handling facilities in indirect (employee time) and direct costs (equipment) and additional paperwork requirements.

NGFA submitted comments on the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) docket and to the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA) Panel regarding the heat standard. NGFA will continue to engage with other stakeholders to submit comments on the proposed standard now that it is published in the Federal Register.

NGFA issues maritime compliance recommendations

NGFA completed a document outlining programs from two Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regional offices that have impacted barge-loading grain handling facilities.

Region IV has a maritime inspection “emphasis program” and Region X has a local emphasis program for Longshoring Activity.

NGFA published the following document to provide a summary of these programs and recommendations for members: [OSHA’s New Regional Emphasis Programs on Maritime Facilities Impact Grain Handling Industry](#)

Agricultural exports projected to decline in 2025

The U.S. agricultural trade deficit will increase to \$42.5 billion for fiscal 2025 due to a projected fall in prices for major commodities, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The [latest forecast](#) from USDA published this week shows that agricultural exports for fiscal 2025 are expected to decrease to \$169.5 billion, a \$4 billion drop from the revised figures for fiscal 2024. USDA noted this anticipated decline is largely attributed to reduced unit values for major exports such as soybeans, corn, and cotton, coupled with a decrease in beef volumes.

- Soybean exports are projected to fall by \$1.5 billion, totaling \$22.9 billion.
- Corn exports are expected to decrease by \$900 million, reaching \$12.2 billion.
- Cotton exports are set to decline by \$900 million to \$4.5 billion.
- Beef exports are forecast at \$8.4 billion, a reduction of \$1 billion from the previous fiscal year, due to lower production affecting available export quantities.
- Ethanol exports are forecast at \$4.3 billion, unchanged from the revised fiscal 2024 projection.

Mexico and Canada continue to be the leading markets for U.S. agricultural products, though exports to Mexico are anticipated to slightly decrease by \$100 million to \$29.2 billion. Exports to Canada are expected to remain steady at \$28.9 billion. However, exports to China are forecasted to experience a more significant drop of \$3 billion, totaling \$24 billion, due to reduced demand and strong global competition.

Meanwhile, U.S. agricultural imports in fiscal 2025 are forecast to rise by \$8 billion from the previous fiscal year, reaching \$212 billion. This increase is driven primarily by higher imports of horticultural products as well as sugar and tropical products, USDA said.

USDA approves H5N1 vaccine trial for dairy cows

USDA will allow field trials to test vaccines to prevent avian flu from infecting dairy cows, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said this week at the Farm Progress Show in Boone, Iowa.

USDA's Center of Veterinary Biologics [published a notice](#) on Aug. 28 that it is accepting field trial applications for H5N1 vaccines that may be conducted outside of containment without terminal disposal of milk and other commodities. Previously, CVB indicated that all studies, even those not involving virus challenge, were to be conducted in containment facilities regardless of risk profile.

Earlier this month, the International Dairy Foods Association, National Milk Producers Federation, United Egg Producers and the National Turkey Federation sent a letter urging USDA and its federal partners to support the development of safe and effective avian influenza vaccinations for dairy cows, turkeys and egg-laying hens. "As this outbreak of (avian influenza) continues to progress, it is clear that a new approach is needed," the groups wrote. "This includes the availability of animal vaccines effective against current and future strains of (avian influenza) that are necessary for a sustainable food supply as well as human and animal health."

EVENTS

CEC registration opens Sept. 10

Attendee registration opens on **Sept. 10** for the NGFA's 53rd annual Country Elevator Conference and Trade Show (CEC) on Dec. 10-12 in Kansas City, Mo.

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. Go to ngfa.org/cec for more information.

Trade Show: Companies interested in exhibiting at CEC can register at ngfa.org/cec. More than half of the available trade show spots are taken!

Sponsors: NGFA is also accepting sponsors for CEC. Contact NGFA Vice President, Marketing and Member Services, [Rebecca Grubbs](#), for more information.

SUPPLEMENTS

Harvest Safety Week drives NGFA exposure

NGFA's fifth annual Harvest Safety Week, which took place Aug 19-23, resulted in significantly boosted website visits and exposure for the Association.

Thanks to the support of the [National Grain and Feed Foundation](#), billboards and radio ads highlighting the event were displayed in several regions throughout the country. Digital billboards made more than 13 million impressions, and the radio ads aired on more than 20 stations in more than 20 states, including RFD-TV, WNAX and Mid America Ag Network.

Compared to Harvest Safety Week 2023, this year's event resulted in a 124 percent increase in overall users to the NGFA website and a 158 percent increase in new users (those who interacted with our site for the first time).

During Harvest Safety Week 2024, compared to the previous week this August:

- NGFA's safety page had a 91 percent increase in views and a 79 percent increase in users.
- NGFA's website had a 55 percent increase in overall users and a 60 percent increase in new users.
- On LinkedIn and Facebook, total engagements increased 282 percent and impressions increased 252 percent.

Each year at the end of August, NGFA dedicates a week to sharing safety resources relevant to the busy harvest season.

Click below to watch each new video shared during this year's event and find more resources at 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

NGFF Thanks You

A message from Foundation Trustees Chair Brian Schouvieller, senior vice president of global grain marketing at CHS Inc.:

Thank you to all those who donated to the [National Grain and Feed Foundation](#) in celebration of Harvest Safety Week! Along with propelling important initiatives like Harvest Safety Week, your collective generosity also supports public education and research projects that benefit grain-based food systems, enhance the industry's presence to the public, and position it for future growth. We're so grateful for your overwhelming support of the Foundation! Thank you for helping elevate what matters most!

Extra Supplements

NGFA in the news:

World Grain: [CN rail work stoppage short-lived](#)

Hagstrom Report: [Canada moves to end rail strike](#)

DTN: [Union Splits Over CN, CPKC Work Stoppage Despite Canadian Government Intervening](#)

Agriculture Dive: [Canadian rail carriers' recovery from work stoppage may take weeks](#)

Other news:

Reuters: [US says Bioceres genetically modified wheat safe to grow](#)

Iowa Public Radio: [USDA announces \\$35 million investment to expand fertilizer production, bird flu vaccine trials](#)

DTN: [Former Trump Officials Slam Biden Administration on Trade and Regulatory Policies](#)

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