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NEWS

Grain entrapments decreased in 2023

Purdue University's Agricultural Safety and Health Program released its "[2023 Summary of U.S. Agricultural and Confined-Space Related Injuries and Fatalities](#)" report, which documents a 36 percent decrease in grain entrapments in 2023.

There were 27 fatal and non-fatal grain entrapment cases documented in 2023, with 16 being fatal and 11 non-fatal. This was slightly lower than the five-year average of 34.2 cases per year. (The total number of incidents in 2022, at 42, was the highest in 10 years). The state with the most documented grain entrapments in 2023 — fatal and non-fatal — was Iowa with five cases total. These cases include only those involving entrapment or engulfment in flowing grain. They do not include cases involving falls from grain storage structures or entanglement in grain handling equipment such as floor or sweep augers. Further, Purdue's report does not specifically identify the number of grain entrapment cases that occurred on farms versus at commercial facilities. However, historically, 70 percent of grain entrapments have occurred on farms.

When it comes to **all** confined space-related incidents — including those not involving grain entrapment — 55 fatal and non-fatal cases were documented in 2023. Of these, 29 (53 percent) were fatal and 49 percent of all cases were directly related to grain entrapments. A total of 36 incidents (65 percent) occurred on farms.

NGFA and its safety partners have the resources — including videos and regional safety seminars — to assist employers in preventing common grain entrapment hazards, as well as providing the appropriate safety standards for farms and commercial facilities. The NGFA and the U.S. Department of

Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), as part of their joint Alliance agreement with the Grain Elevator and Processing Society (GEAPS) and the Grain Handling Safety Coalition (GHSC), host an annual major safety outreach effort, "Stand Up 4 Grain Safety Week." NGFA also hosts its annual Harvest Safety Week at the end of August to share grain safety resources particularly relevant to the busy harvest season. Training videos, guidance documents and more safety resources are available at ngfa.org/safety.

NGFA submits comments on FDA feed ingredient guidances

NGFA submitted statements on Sept. 9 to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regarding new draft guidances the agency issued due to the pending expiration of its memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO).

In August, FDA and AAFCO announced the MOU that facilitates their current partnership to define feed ingredients will not be renewed when it expires on Oct. 1. As a result, FDA published draft guidances on enforcement policy and its interim Animal Food Ingredient Consultation (AFIC) process.

NGFA expressed its disappointment that the MOU will not be renewed but supported FDA's efforts to review and potentially streamline the federal ingredient approval processes and to extend enforcement discretion towards existing AAFCO-defined ingredients. NGFA also outlined several recommendations for the agency to implement going forward. Read NGFA's comments below.

- Read [NGFA's comments on FDA's draft guidance for enforcement policy on AAFCO-defined animal feed ingredients](#).
- Read [NGFA's comments on FDA's draft guidance on the interim Animal Food Ingredient Consultation \(AFIC\) process](#).

Members with questions or comments can contact [NGFA Senior Vice President of Feed David Fairfield](#).

NGFA publishes 'Farm Economy Update and Trade Outlook'

NGFA recently published an update on the agricultural economic landscape, farm income trends and their influence on policy, and a trade analysis and outlook.

The document was completed with the help of The Russell Group (TRG), a leading bipartisan government relations firm focused exclusively on food and agriculture public policy that NGFA hired earlier this year to bolster the association's presence on Capitol Hill and assist with other government relations activities.

[Access the Farm Economy Update and Trade Outlook](#).

NGFA to testify at rail hearing on Sept. 17

NGFA President and CEO Mike Seyfert will testify before the Surface Transportation Board (STB) on Sept. 17 during a hearing about recent trends and strategies for growth in the freight rail industry.

"While the Board recognizes that some shifts in volume may not be primarily within the control of rail carriers, the Board has observed that over the past ten years carload volumes have not grown, and have in fact decreased," STB noted in its hearing notification in July. "The Board wishes to explore how industry participants are strategizing and innovating to reverse this recent trend and achieve freight rail

growth. The Board is also interested in shippers' plans or desire for future use of rail, factors that may affect shipment decisions, and what rail carriers are doing and can do to increase shippers' use of rail."

Executive-level officials from Class I railroads will attend at the Board's request. In addition to NGFA, STB also invited testimony from industry analysts, other rail carriers, rail customers, rail suppliers, and labor organizations.

STB posted an additional notice on Sept. 5 with a schedule of witnesses for the two-day hearing, which will begin at 9 a.m. ET on Sept. 16-17. The hearing can be viewed on the [Board's YouTube page](#).

Ag Committee leaders unite in push for farm bill

Agriculture Committee leaders are working together to get a farm bill completed in the lame duck session of Congress, wrote the House Agriculture Committee's top Democrat in a memo to members this week.

Ranking Member David Scott, D-Ga., said in the memo that House Agriculture Committee Chair Glenn "GT" Thompson, R-Pa., joined in objecting to Speaker Mike Johnson's, R-La., plan to include a farm bill extension in a continuing resolution to temporarily fund the government.

"We all know that Congress needs pressure to act. That is why Chairman Thompson, Chair Stabenow, Ranking Member Boozman, and I agree we are better off without another extension at this point," the memo states. "The farm groups are also asking Congress to continue to work on passing a full farm bill this year and are not supporting any extension at this time."

Ranking Member Scott said he hopes the committee leaders can agree on "broad funding parameters" for the bill while the House and Senate are in session this month.

"That would allow Committee staff to start to pull together a bipartisan package of legislative text for Members to review and consider. The hope would then be for the package to be included in must-pass legislation, likely the NDAA or the appropriations omnibus package in December," the memo states.

While the House Agriculture Committee passed its version of the bill in May, the Senate Agriculture Committee has only released bill "frameworks." The 2018 farm bill extension expires at the end of September.

House votes to limit foreign ownership of U.S. agricultural land

During a week focused on China-related legislation, the House voted to restrict the purchase of agricultural land by citizens of China, Russia, North Korea, or Iran.

Passed on a 269-149 vote with 55 Democrats joining a majority of Republicans, the "Protecting American Agriculture from Foreign Adversaries Act" (HR 9456) heads to the Senate with limited days left on the legislative calendar.

Introduced by Rep. Dan Newhouse, R-Wash., the bill would add the Secretary of Agriculture to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) and require the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to report any purchases of U.S. agricultural land by foreign entities deemed to pose national security risks. The legislation seeks to permanently enshrine provisions similar to those in the fiscal 2024 Agriculture-FDA appropriations bill, which passed in March and is set to expire at the end of September.

“It is the beginning of the effort to keep our greatest adversaries from being able to purchase any American farmland, because the way I see it, a group like the [Chinese Communist Party] that has made it their goal to cripple the United States has no business having a hand in our supply chains and critical lands,” said Rep. Newhouse.

Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind., and others have introduced a companion measure in the Senate.

Meanwhile, the Biden administration said the bill duplicates safeguards already in place while interfering with the work of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), which has the power to block transactions that pose a national security risk.

The Newhouse bill would require CFIUS to review every agricultural land transaction involving citizens of China, Russia, North Korea, or Iran.

EVENTS

Member Webinar: Fall Threat Briefing with Food and Ag-ISAC on Sept. 19

Jon Braley, director of the Food and Agriculture-Information Sharing Analysis Center (Food and Ag-ISAC), will present a fall cybersecurity threat briefing for NGFA members on **Sept. 19** at 1-2 p.m. EST.

The briefing will cover advanced persistent threats (APT) and Nation State motivations, operational technology, supply chain threats, ransomware threats and highlights from the Food and Ag-ISAC's ransomware report with quarterly analysis, as well as an open Q&A.

NGFA joined the Food and Ag-ISAC as an industry partner in May to increase collaboration between ISAC and the food and agriculture industry on cybersecurity and threat intelligence sharing. The Food and Ag-ISAC provides weekly threat reports to association partners as well as threat briefings and cybersecurity thought leadership.

This webinar is exclusive to NGFA members. [Register here.](#)

Meet with Mike, NGFA's president/CEO, on Sept. 20

NGFA members are invited to a virtual meeting with NGFA President and CEO Mike Seyfert on Friday, **Sept. 20** at 1 p.m. ET.

If you wish to attend, RSVP to sgonzalez@ngfa.org to receive the Zoom meeting information. This is a casual meeting open to any topic for discussion.

Member Webinar: The Russell Group's 2024 Election Forecast on Sept. 26

The 2024 elections are shaping up to be historic. Join The Russell Group on **Sept. 26** at 1-2 p.m. ET to learn more about the House, Senate, and presidential races, and what the results could mean for policy affecting the agriculture industry in 2025. Speakers include Randy Russell, president of The Russell Group, and Ashlee Johnson and Andrew Harker, both principals at The Russell Group.

NGFA hired The Russell Group earlier this year to bolster the association's presence on Capitol Hill and assist with other government relations activities.

This webinar is exclusive to NGFA members. [Register here.](#)

CEC registration is open

Registration is open for the NGFA's 53rd annual Country Elevator Conference and Trade Show (CEC) on Dec. 10-12 in Kansas City, Mo.

Confirmed speakers so far include Glenn Spencer, senior vice president of the employment policy division at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Ambassador Kip Tom, farmer and former ambassador to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Agencies and International Organizations; and Jim Wiesemeyer, elections analyst and contributor to Pro Farmer and Farm Journal.



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.

Photo Contest: NGFA's [Grain and Feed Photo Contest](#) also opens for submissions on Sept. 10. Winners will be announced during CEC. This year's theme is "Safety in Action."

SUPPLEMENTS

NGFA announces the retirement of David Fairfield

David Fairfield, NGFA's senior vice president of feed, will retire at the end of 2024 from the NGFA after 23 years with the organization.

During his time with the NGFA, David played a pivotal role in leading the association's feed and food safety initiatives, strengthening its relationship with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and guiding NGFA's response to the FDA's implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). He served as chair of animal food-related activities of the Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance (FSPCA) and frequently spoke at events on food safety, quality assurance, and facility operations. Dave developed and delivered critical training, education, and compliance materials for NGFA members, particularly in areas related to feed safety, regulatory and environmental issues.

Before his years with NGFA, Dave worked as an operations manager at Hubbard Feeds, Wayne Feed Division and Cargill's Nutrena Feed Division. NGFA extends its heartfelt thanks to Dave for his many years of service and wishes him the very best in his retirement.

NGFA announces staff departure of Sarah Gonzalez

Sarah Gonzalez, NGFA's director of communications and digital media, will be departing her role on Oct. 4 after nine years with the organization. During her time with NGFA, Sarah played an integral role in shaping and advancing the association's communications strategy. NGFA wishes her continued success in her future endeavors.

Extra Supplements

NGFA in the news:

Feed & Additive Magazine: [The U.S. grain and feed industry: Working to meet the challenges of global hunger and food insecurity](#)

Trains: [STB sets speaker schedule for hearing on rail growth, adjusts starting time](#)

Other news:

Agri-Pulse: [Trump, Harris advocates debate implications of race on ag \(log in\)](#)

Marketplace: [Will Congress negotiate a new farm bill this fall? Farmers hope so](#)

Reuters: [Hurricane Francine disrupts Louisiana energy hubs, crop exports](#)

Wall Street Journal: [Trade 'Loophole' Used by China Should Be Closed, House Democrats Tell Biden](#)

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