

Capitol LINK

CURRENT ISSUES AFFECTING WISCONSIN AGRICULTURE & AGRI-BUSINESS

August 27, 2010

Fall Harvest Truck Weight Limits in Effect Sept. 1

By Jordan Lamb -- DeWitt Ross & Stevens

Fall harvest truck weight limits will be in effect from Sept. 1 through Nov. 30, 2010. That means that an overweight truck permit is *not required* for the transportation of corn, soybeans, potatoes, vegetables or cranberries from the field to initial storage, or from the field to the initial processing point. This applies if the vehicle (or combination of vehicles) has a gross weight of 50,000 pounds or more *and* if the vehicles do not exceed weight limits by more than 15 percent.

Note, however, that this road weight exception *does not apply* on Class "B" highways or on highways designated as part of the national system of interstate and defense highways. Farmers should always check with local law enforcement officials to ensure that there are not special restrictions on roads they will be using.

Partisan Primary is Tuesday, Sept. 14th

By Jordan Lamb -- DeWitt Ross & Stevens

The partisan primary election is coming up on Tuesday, September 14th. In the statewide race for Governor, Scott Walker and Mark Neumann are the main candidates competing for the Republican nomination. Tom Barrett faces minor opposition from Tim John for the Democratic nomination.

The Lieutenant Governor's seat is hotly contested with four Democrats and five Republicans each competing for their party's nomination for the November ballot. In addition, there are numerous partisan primaries for state representative and state senate seats.

On the federal side, there are three Republicans vying for the chance to face current Democratic Senator, Russ Feingold, in the general election. Ron Johnson (Oshkosh), Dave Westlake (Watertown) and Stephen Finn (Milwaukee) are all seeking the Republican Senate nomination.

If you are unsure where you go to vote, you may use the State's voter public access system on the Internet at <https://vpa.wi.gov/> to find your voting location.

Wisconsin's "Farmers Feed Us" Campaign is Underway

By Jordan Lamb -- DeWitt Ross & Stevens

Beginning on July 6, 2010, Wisconsin residents could register to win a year's worth of free groceries by visiting the "Farmers Feed Us" web site and learning a little more about Wisconsin agriculture.

The web site, www.farmersfeedus.org, provides videos through which the viewer can meet a Wisconsin farmer. Featured farmers include: Allan Arndt (beef cattle farmer), Janesville; Bill Hoffman (corn grower), Columbus; Bill Rehm (egg farmer), Lake Mills; Chris Landwehr (veal farmer), De Pere; Dan Truttmann (dairy farmer), New Glarus; Daphne Holterman (dairy farmer), Watertown; Shannon Wolf (hog farmer), Lancaster; and Vicki Coughlin (soybean grower), Watertown.

Numerous print and television ads are currently directing consumers to the Farmers Feed Us website and are encouraging consumers to register to win. Farmers Feed Us is sponsored by several Wisconsin agricultural organizations including: the Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, the Wisconsin Pork Association, Wisconsin Soybean Association, Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, Wisconsin Corn Growers Association, Wisconsin Poultry and Egg, Wisconsin Beef Council, Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association, Wisconsin Veal Growers Association, and the Wisconsin Dairy Business Association.

Ohio Animal Welfare Compromise Supported by Ohio Agriculture Groups

By Jordan Lamb -- DeWitt Ross & Stevens

Early in July, the "Ohioans for Livestock Care Coalition" and the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) announced a compromised agreement which further effectuates the establishment of the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board as the regulatory body overseeing animal welfare and animal care practices. The Ohioans for Livestock Care Coalition includes the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association, the Ohio Corn Growers Association, the Ohio Dairy Producers Association, the Ohio Poultry Association, the Ohio Pork Producers Council and the Ohio Soybean Association.

This agreement was the subject of a recent *New York Times* article entitled, "Farmers Lean to Truce on Animals," regarding the pressure on American farmers with regard to animal welfare. To review the article, go to: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/12/us/12farm.html>

Capitol Link Details

The PDPW *Capitol Link* monthly e-newsletter is sponsored by DeWitt Ross & Stevens law firm. DeWitt Ross & Stevens is a Wisconsin law firm whose members are leaders in their areas of practice and in their communities. Founded in 1903, today there are more than 80 attorneys in their Madison and Milwaukee offices. Nominated by peers as top lawyers nationally and locally, DeWitt's attorneys offer numerous services including strategic counseling, advocacy, collaboration, alternative dispute resolution, negotiation, mediation, lobbying, and litigation.

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