

Donna Boggs

From: California Grain and Feed Association <info@cgfa.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 12:29 PM
To: Donna Boggs
Subject: The Latest News for You

March 24, 2020

CONVEYOR CURRENTS

CALIFORNIA
**GRAIN
& FEED**
ASSOCIATION

Latest News and Events for California's Grain and Feed Industry.

Waiver in Response to the COVID-19 Emergency - For States, CDL Holders, CLP Holders, and Interstate Drivers Operating Commercial Motor Vehicles

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration issued a notice and accompanying waiver for drivers who might have their licenses or medical screenings lapse over the next few months due to closure of DMVs/medical facilities. Had to have current credentials as of March 1st. Waiver runs through June 30th.

Ongoing Updates from AAMSI

Your management staff at Ag Association Management Services Inc is continuing to closely monitor the rapidly changing developments of the COVID-19 situation and its impact on food and agriculture businesses.

To streamline communication for each of you AAMSI has developed a special news announcement to get important information out to everyone. **Further communication from AAMSI on the ongoing COVID-19 situation will now come from chris@agamsi.com via Constant Contact.** We want to make sure everyone is receiving the information, please remember to mark all emails from chris@agamsi.com as "safe" so they can get into your inbox. Double check spam or junk folders as well to make sure emails are not getting lost. If you are still having problems receiving the alerts please let us know and we will work on getting the situation resolved.

Below is the most recent information we have distributed incase you may have missed it:

AAMSI Update on COVID-19 Situation

AAMSI continues in our effort to streamline communications in this busy time for us all. We know that many groups are sharing information and our goal is to be helpful rather than duplicative. Toward that end, we have created a general newsletter that is coming directly from AAMSI rather than sending multiple newsletters to the many associations we represent. We hope you are receiving these in a timely manner.

Our offices remain open with minimal staffing. If you need to contact us, please call the office number and leave a message if no one answers. Also, feel free to reach out to staff directly via mobile phone or email.

Department of Homeland Security Travel Restriction for Mexico Exempts Farm Workers

U.S. and Mexican officials have mutually determined that non-essential travel between the United States and Mexico poses additional risk of transmission and spread of COVID-19. Beginning at midnight March 20, land ports of entry along the U.S.-Mexican border suspended normal operations and process for entry will be allowed only to those travelers engaged in “essential travel.” In its [announcement](#), DHS clearly defines as “essential” individuals traveling to work in the United States -- including individuals working in the farming or agriculture industry who must travel between the United States and Mexico in furtherance of such work.

EEOC Issues Updated Guidance for Pandemic Preparedness in the Workplace

While most food and ag businesses have been granted status as “essential services,” it is critically important that employers follow proper guidance to prevent spread of COVID-19 among employees. Attached is [updated information](#) from the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to assist employers and employees in following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as state/local public health authorities on how best to slow the spread of this disease and protect workers, customers, clients, and the general public. We encourage all members to read and follow these important guidelines.

CDFA Food Safety Inspection Services to Continue

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has [notified](#) the public it will continue to serve Californians during the COVID-19 pandemic by maintaining its food inspection work to ensure a safe, healthy and abundant food supply. The continued work of CDFA inspection personnel is vital to providing consumers, as well as national and international markets, ongoing assurance that California’s food and agricultural commodities continue to be held to the highest standards of safety and quality during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Included in the attached notice is additional information and guidance regarding important measures for employers and employees to preen the spread of COVID-19.

Critical UC Ag and Natural Resources Services Remain in Operation

Many of the AAMSI associations conduct research or participate in programs offered through University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources. Glenda Humiston, Vice Present of UCANR has issued the following [letter](#) to communicate important information about programs still in operation, which includes critical research projects.

Additional Information to Protect Workers

In addition to the aforementioned guidance provided by the EEOC, AAMSI has received multiple documents that employers may find useful as they strive to protect their workforce. This is a critically important effort as we must keep the workforce healthy if we are to provide essential services to our nation’s citizens. Thank you all for your diligence and commitment in these trying times.

- **CDFA COVID-19 and Food Supply** - [Click Here](#)
- **CDC Guidance and Cleaning** - [Click Here](#)
- **Monterey Guidance on Ag Employees** - [Click Here](#)
- **AgSafe COVID-19 Resources:** <https://www.agsafe.org/covid-19-resources/>

- CA Labor Dept. Guidance and Employer/Employee Resources <https://www.labor.ca.gov/coronavirus2019/>

California Department of Food and Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross Issues Statement

We wanted to share with you an important supportive statement issued today by California Department of Food and Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross concerning the critical nature of California ag businesses and the continued operation of support services in the public and private sectors.

The statement can be found [here](#).

Employer Resources: Sample Letter for Employee of Essential Services

As you may be aware, California Governor Newsom yesterday issued a statewide **Stay at Home Order** for all residents in California. We recognize this order may create some challenges and confusion for both employers and employees of businesses deemed as essential in this crisis.

We are providing below a sample letter that California food and agriculture businesses may find useful to share with employees. We encourage you to personalize this letter to provide your employees with any specific information about additional safety precautions in place to protect their health and to outline any services, such as childcare, that may be available to them.

Although the Governor's order directs all individuals living in the State of California to stay home or at their place of residence, it specifically states this does not apply to employees of operations determined critical infrastructure sectors, which includes agriculture. Yesterday, we provided information from the Department of Homeland Security outlining what types of businesses qualify for exemptions from orders such as the one issued in California yesterday. You can find that list [here](#).

Governor Newsom has emphasized that Californians working in 16 critical infrastructure sectors-which includes food and agriculture-may continue their work because of the importance of these sectors to Californians' health and well-being. It is critically important the food supply be maintained.

[Sample Letter to Employees](#)

U.S. Department of Homeland Security Issues Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce

Your management staff at AAMSI received the attached announcement as the nation comes together to slow the spread of COVID-19. The President has issued updated Coronavirus Guidance for America. This guidance states that:

"If you work in a critical infrastructure industry, as defined by the Department of Homeland Security, such as healthcare services and pharmaceutical and food supply, you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule."

Included in this announcement is identifying workers who conduct a range of operations and services that are essential. The section pertaining to Food and Agriculture is posted below.

AAMSI will continue to assist our clients to ensure this guidance is recognized by state and local jurisdictions as this situation progresses. We will update you on any further developments.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

IDENTIFYING ESSENTIAL CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE WORKERS

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SECTOR:

- Workers supporting groceries, pharmacies and other retail that sells food and beverage products

- Restaurant carry-out and quick serve food operations - Carry-out and delivery food employees
- Food manufacturer employees and their supplier employees—to include those employed in food processing (packers, meat processing, cheese plants, milk plants, produce, etc.) facilities; livestock, poultry, seafood slaughter facilities; pet and animal feed processing facilities; human food facilities producing by-products for animal food; beverage production facilities; and the production of food packaging
- Farm workers to include those employed in animal food, feed, and ingredient production, packaging, and distribution; manufacturing, packaging, and distribution of veterinary drugs; truck delivery and transport; farm and fishery labor needed to produce our food supply domestically
- Farm workers and support service workers to include those who field crops; commodity inspection; fuel ethanol facilities; storage facilities; and other agricultural inputs
- Employees and firms supporting food, feed, and beverage distribution, including warehouse workers, vendor-managed inventory controllers and blockchain managers
- Workers supporting the sanitation of all food manufacturing processes and operations from wholesale to retail
- Company cafeterias - in-plant cafeterias used to feed employees
- Workers in food testing labs in private industries and in institutions of higher education
- Workers essential for assistance programs and government payments
- Employees of companies engaged in the production of chemicals, medicines, vaccines, and other substances used by the food and agriculture industry, including pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, minerals, enrichments, and other agricultural production aids
- Animal agriculture workers to include those employed in veterinary health; manufacturing and distribution of animal medical materials, animal vaccines, animal drugs, feed ingredients, feed, and bedding, etc. transportation of live animals, animal medical materials; transportation of deceased animals for disposal; raising of animals for food; animal production operations; slaughter and packing plants and associated regulatory and government workforce
- Workers who support the manufacture and distribution of forest products, including, but not limited to timber, paper, and other wood products
- Employees engaged in the manufacture and maintenance of equipment and other infrastructure necessary to agricultural production and distribution

[Download the Full Guidance Statement Here](#)

CGFA Annual Convention Update

For those that have not yet cancelled your reservations at The Sheraton Maui Resort & Spa, the hotel has offered to cancel all reservations in the group block and we have accepted their kind offer. They are concerned that folks may not be able to get through to the reservations department and want to assure that everyone receives their refund on any deposits due to them. If for some reason you were planning to go on your own for personal travel, you will need to rebook your reservations. Again, all group reservations will be cancelled by the hotel. If you booked outside the block through a third party, you will still need to call and handle.

Thank you and stay safe.

California Legislative Report

The California legislative report this week includes California Legislature Reacts to COVID-19, United States Treasury Extends Tax Deadline to July 15th, California Secures Presidential Major Disaster Declaration to Support State's COVID-19 Emergency Response and more.



[Read the CA Legislative Report Here](#)

Federal Report

The Federal Report this week includes President Donald J. Trump Signs Emergency Relief Bill; Congress Continues Work on Other Packages, Homeland Security Designates Food & Agriculture as “Critical Infrastructure” and more.



[Read the Federal Report Here](#)

Resource for Industry - CDFA Safe Animal Feed Education (SAFE) Program

The [Safe Animal Feed Education \(SAFE\)](#) program of California uses outreach, education, and a comprehensive Voluntary Quality Assurance program to lead the nation in ensuring a safe and wholesome supply of commercial feed. SAFE uses an approach that fosters voluntary compliance with the state laws and regulations to ensure the safe manufacture and use of commercial feed in a changing livestock feed market. This unique collaboration between SAFE and the feed industry benefits both the agricultural community and the consumer.



[Watch Our Industry Video Here](#)

CGFA Schedule of Events

The events scheduled for the next three months have been cancelled at this time. The District Meeting, Annual Convention and CANC will not be proceeding as previously scheduled.



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