



An educational  
program presented by  
the California Grain &  
Feed Association

# GRAIN & FEED INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

*2024 Theme*

**P**roduction  
**R**egulation  
**O**perational  
**M**aintenance

**JANUARY  
9-11, 2024**

**Embassy Suites on  
Monterey Bay**

[www.cgfa.org](http://www.cgfa.org)

# 2024 GRAIN & FEED INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

## SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

The Grain & Feed Industry Conference is an annual two-day educational event that is planned and coordinated by the California Grain & Feed Association. The basic purpose of the conference is to provide mill managers and key employees of grain handling and feed manufacturing operations a unique educational program consisting of both managerial and technical information specific to the industry. Rather than presenting abstract and theoretical concepts, the Grain & Feed Industry Conference emphasizes practical skills and techniques that are of direct and immediate benefit to the participants. The conference is an extensive educational program. Because many of the participants who attend the GFIC do not attend the CGFA Annual Convention, the conference provides an opportunity to network with others in the industry. The GFIC also gives the association the opportunity to showcase some of the current programs and activities of CGFA. In addition to the educational components, the networking opportunities and the exhibits are important elements of the Grain & Feed Industry Conference.

### TUESDAY ~ JANUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>

**5:30 pm-7:30 pm**      **Early Registration and Welcome Reception**

### WEDNESDAY ~ JANUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>

**8:00 am-8:15 am**      **Welcome & Student Introductions by Chair Brian Alves, Alves Equipment Co., LLC**

**8:15 am-9:00 am**      **Electrical Training / Motor Maintenance**

This interactive presentation will discuss the importance of the Electric Motor to the industry. Eric will share some basics of the Electric Motor, its construction, how they work, what typically causes failure, and then focus in on the #1 cause of failure - the bearings. In this focus Eric will dive into ways maintenance teams at facilities can better maintain their rotating equipment bearings to extend their equipment reliability and longevity. As a service company representative, Eric gives a hands-on perspective of what an Electric Motor Repair shop frequently sees from all the various brands regarding motor failure and how to help prevent some with just a little focus.

- o ***Eric Sullivan, Industrial Electric Company***

**9:00 am-9:45 am**      **Track Safety**

Anthony Santellano, Railroad Track Inspector, Railworks Track Systems LLC will provide an overview of Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) rules and regulations. He will also address the importance of routine track inspections to safely move product and other freight in and out of our facilities, while also helping to avoid preventable & costly rail car derailments.

- o ***Anthony Santellano, Railworks Track Systems***

**9:45 am-10:00 am**      **Refreshment Break**

**10:00 am-10:45 am**      **Pesticide Permitting and Compliance**

This presentation will provide you with the information you need to know to obtain your private applicator certificate, including the latest changes to the "brown card", apply for your pesticide license with your County Ag Commissioner and what documents you are required to maintain to be in compliance with pesticide regulations in CA.

- o ***Denise Holmes, Foster Farms - Coordinating***

**10:45 am-11:45 am**      **Bucket Elevator Maintenance Affects Your Entire Facility**

Most bucket elevators operate well enough that their maintenance is overlooked until they break down. Bucket elevator maintenance is often overlooked and often misunderstood. It can affect the ability to properly feed product into and discharge out from the bucket elevator. Maintenance can improve the quality of the product being handled. It can increase the capacity of the bucket elevator and therefore the whole system. If the knowledge level of employees, maintenance managers and facility managers concerning bucket elevators were increased it could have a very positive impact on the entire operation.

- o ***Dean Wedekind, Duraplas/Maxilift***

**11:45 am-1:00 pm**      **Group Luncheon & Networking**

**1:10 pm-1:55 pm**      **Regulatory Assistance / Pre Audits**

How to prepare your facility for an audit and have open communication with your auditing body so your facility can be well prepared, and you and the auditing body can work as a team. Know what auditors are for, what they do, and how they work. Auditors are there to ensure the system you have developed complies with the standards you are implementing and that you are doing what you say you are.

- o ***Barbara Alley, NuWest Milling***

**WEDNESDAY ~ JANUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>** *continued..*

- 1:55 pm-2:40 pm**                    **Bag House Maintenance, Regulations, ATC Process and Permits**  
Dust collection preventative maintenance - what to check on your system daily, weekly, monthly and annually. Troubleshooting - what to look for when your system is having problems. Permits - starting point and what information the manufacture of your equipment should provide.  
o ***Kurt Keefer, EAS Corp.***
- 2:40 pm-3:00 pm**                    **Refreshment Break**
- 3:00 pm-3:45 pm**                    **Automated Packaging**  
**When Good Help is Hard to Find - Automation is a Great Solution**  
In a world where “Help Wanted” and “Now Hiring” signs can be found at nearly every business, in every sector, it is no wonder that labor intensive agriculture jobs are some of the least desirable to potential workers. It’s time to start working smarter. Automating processes is one way you can eliminate pinch points in your production, reduce downtime, and ensure a consistent product for your customers.  
o ***Freya Jensen, Verbruggen Palletizing Solutions***
- 3:45 pm-4:30 pm**                    **Screening**  
There are many benefits to screening grains and finished products such as pellets and textured feed. We will take a look at the different types of screeners on the market, visit about where screening can take place in your facility, and why screening is important.  
o ***Tiffany Palmer, EBM***
- 4:30 pm-7:00 pm**                    **Table Top Exhibits and Group Reception**
- 7:00 pm-10:00 pm**                    **Group Dinner Buffet and Cornhole Tournament With Prizes For All Levels**

**THURSDAY ~ JANUARY 11<sup>TH</sup>**

**Moderator: Vice Chair, Ty Fahey, Harris Ranch**

- 8:00 am-8:45 am**                    **Drag Conveyors**  
This presenter will share insights on drag conveyors used for bulk materials. Material is pulled gently and smoothly through drag conveyors. Material rides on itself “en masse” (in one solid mass) with no internal turbulence, tumbling or agitation. This makes drag conveyors ideally suited for a variety of materials, particularly delicate ones. Particle degradation and separation are drastically reduced.  
o ***Jesse Moran, Screw Conveyor Corp.***
- 8:45 am-9:30 am**                    **Boiler Regulations**  
This presentation will review the newest Boiler Regulations Rule 4306 and 4320. It will also review permitting requirements and if your facility is prepared in the event of an inspection.  
o ***Denise Holmes, Foster Farms - Coordinating***
- 9:30 am-11:00 am**                    **Industry Safety**  
Leadership is a key component for any successful safety program. Each of us have a moral and ethical responsibility to provide a safe working environment for our employees. As a leader, are you providing this for your employees? The objective of this presentation is to provide you with some things to consider.  
o ***Marty Jakosa, Management Consultant/Certified Professional Coach***
- 11:00 am**                                **Closing - Grand Prize and Golden Bucket Award Winner Announced**
- 12:00 pm**                                **Golf at Pacific Grove Municipal Course**
- 2:00 pm**                                 **Sporting Clays Experience at Coyote Valley in Morgan Hill**

*Questions? Call the CGFA Office  
(916) 441-2272*



## OTHER CONFERENCE INFORMATION

### REGISTRATION

Registration forms need to be completed and returned to the CGFA office no later than January 3, 2024. Please be advised that due to guarantees and commitments that CGFA must make to the hotel, full registration refunds can only be made prior to January 3, 2024. An online GFIC micro site with all the details and online registration and sponsorship information is available on the CGFA website. [www.cgfa.org/events](http://www.cgfa.org/events) or call (916) 441-2272.



### TABLE TOPS

The table tops exhibits and reception will be held in the exhibitor's hall. Sponsoring companies will have display spaces set up with sales literature and representatives available to answer questions and share information. Exhibitors are required to register for the conference. The exhibit hall will be open on Wednesday evening from 4:30 pm until after dinner.

### GOLDEN BUCKET AWARD

The coveted "GBA" could be engraved with your company name on it and proudly displayed at your place of business for the remainder of 2024. To enter is simple: submit the details of an idea or describe a project that has been implemented at your mill that either improved efficiency, productivity or safety to CGFA and all entrants will have a chance to show their project at the GFIC. Please include the need for this particular project, how it came up and the details of implementation and the outcome. Photographs are encouraged. This prestigious award will be given to the company whose new innovation to improve productivity at their feed mill wins the popular vote at the 2024 GFIC. The winner will also receive a \$100.00 gift card!

### STUDENT SPONSORSHIP MEMORIAL

This special fund, established in memory of John Gonsalves, continues to sponsor student attendance at the GFIC. If you would like to contribute to the memorial fund there is a line item on the registration form. Students are encouraged to come and learn more about intern programs and opportunities available in the feed industry.

### GOLF Anyone!

If you are interested in golfing with a group of industry folks after the GFIC simply sign up on the registration form. We will play at the Pacific Grove Golf Course from 12:00 pm / 4:30 pm on Thursday afternoon.

### SPORTING CLAYS Anyone!

If you are interested in going to the Coyote Valley Sporting Clays facility located in Morgan Hill with a group of industry folks after the GFIC simply sign up on the registration form. Coyote Valley Sporting Clays will provide all equipment and instructions about the activity from 2:00 pm / 4:30 pm on Thursday afternoon.

### EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL

The Embassy Suites Hotel gives you more than just a place to sleep. A group block of rooms has been reserved for the California Grain & Feed Association GFIC participants at a rate of \$189.00 per night; single/double occupancy. Please call the hotel directly at (800) 362-2779 or (831) 393-1115. The Embassy Suites is located at 1441 Canyon Del Rey, Seaside, CA 93955. Hotel reservations must be made by **DECEMBER 26th** in order to receive the group rate or until the group block is full, whichever comes first. Group Code is: "GFI" - MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY! A link is available on the CGFA website "Events" page at [www.cgfa.org](http://www.cgfa.org). Our CGFA personalized group web page address is:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/mryeses-gfi-52f12254-0eb3-4360-9943-45ca030213ea/>

### 2024 Grain & Feed Industry Conference Planning Committee

Our thanks to the following CGFA members and their companies for the generous gift of their time and expertise:

Chair, Brian Alves, Alves Equipment Co., LLC  
Barbara Alley, NuWest Milling  
Justin Grider, A.L. Gilbert Co.  
Meghan Lewis, Foster Farms Turkey Division  
Mark Pruett, Nutrius

Vice Chair, Ty Fahey, Harris Ranch Beef  
Stan Dillon, Western Milling LLC  
Geoff Holland, Andritz Feed & Biofuel  
Luke Vieira, Associated Feed & Supply  
Steven Gonzales, Nutrius

John Rocha, Foster Farms  
Craig Hamilton, DPI Global  
Scott Herron, Easy-Automation  
Denise Holmes, Foster Farms