



Political Papers

JANUARY 2010

CALENDAR

January 12, 2010 - House
Convenes

January 19, 2010—Senate
Convenes

January __, 2010—State of
the Union Address

January 28-31, 2010—
House Recess

February 14-20, 2010—
House and Senate Recess

March 28—April 4, 2010—
House and Senate Recess

April 5-April 11, 2010—
House Recess

May 31-June 5, 2010—
House and Senate Recess

July 4-10, 2010—House
and Senate Recess

August 9—September 12,
2010—House and Senate
Recess

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World War III: Agriculture V. EPA

The US Environmental Protection Agency has never felt more empowered. With sympathetic ears in both Congress and the White House, bureaucrats within the agency are moving their agenda forward with zeal and enthusiasm. And they will **regulate you out of your ability to feed a growing world population** if we don't act now.

Agriculture's problem is not that they want to save the environment. Farmers are, after all, the oldest advocates for soil, water, and animal care. The problem is that they push these issues

without regard for truth, science, or proven fact.

For example, the EPA is currently in the midst of their rulemaking for the Renewable Fuels Standard II. In doing so, they have placed high penalties on corn-based ethanol, saying that the inputs used to produce the crop are polluting

the environment and contributing to global warming. However, the agency has also evaluated ethanol from corn stover (cobs and other refuse from a corn crop) and found that the environmental cost for inputs for that type of ethanol are much less despite the fact that both come from the same plant and have the same lifecycle.

This is just the beginning of the misinformation and misunderstandings in the EPA.

- The agency is currently pursuing rulemaking that would make your spring spraying point source elimination thus requiring a permit to

(cont pg 3)



EPA'S "BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE"

How can two parts of one crop have separate "Lifecycles"? Isn't the same amount of fertilizer needed for the stalks, leaves, and cobs as for the seed? How can seeds have an EPA Lifecycle GHG Emissions score of -16%, but cobs -119%?

DECEMBER AUCTION A SUCCESS!

Although the unpredictable weather put a damper on this year's postponed PAC Auction, the success of the evening was undeniable.

The event, finally held on December 16, 2009, raised approximately \$5000 dollars for your Political Action Committee.

"The evening was enjoyable, the food was exceptional and the

company was enlightening," said PAC Chairman Rob Elliott. "But most importantly, the event was outstanding, raising a considerable amount of money that will allow your PAC to become more engaged in Springfield and Washington, DC"

The Auction included both live and silent auctions in addition to some new features like dollar bill

poker. Live auction items included a weekend at Starved Rock Hotel and Conference Center, a Cornbelter's package including the historic first pitch, and a barge trip from St. Louis to New Orleans which was the highest bid of the evening.

The second highest money maker of the evening was a steel sign donated by Illinois Corn District IX Director Dan Cole.

Political Action Committee 101



Federal PACs cannot utilize membership dollars to make PAC contributions.

This requirement is put in place to prevent a membership association from basically transferring money from their accounts into a PAC account and contributing to an elected official.

However, when we hold a

fundraiser for our ICGA PAC, did you know that we have to make three times the amount of money we spent in order to consider the money a donation for the federal PAC?

As an example, if ICGA purchases a big screen TV for \$1000 and wants to auction it off at the PAC Auction, we have to auction it for at least

\$3000 in order to deposit the \$3000 into our PAC account.

Donated items do not have the “three times” clause applied to them because the money has not been transferred from the membership organization and is, instead a donation from a member.

Federal PAC fundraising is extremely challenging!

Summer State PAC Contributions

Throughout the summer of 2009, ICGA Board members across the state passed out PAC contributions to many of our Illinois elected officials.



Above: Tim Bivens and Craig Buhrow —Bivens is an Illinois Senator for the 45th District.



Above: Thomas Holbrook and Greg Guenther—Holbrook is an Illinois Representative for the 113th District.



Left: David Luechtefeld, Ken Hartman and Dan Reitz—Luechtefeld is an Illinois Senator for the 58th District while Reitz represents District 116 in the House of Representatives



Above: Ron Gray, David Reis and Richard Gates—Reis is an Illinois Representative for the 108th District.



Above: Eric Kunzeman, Mike Smith and Kent Kleinschmidt—Smith is an Illinois Representative for the 91st District.

Corn Farmers Coalition Briefing

Corn farmers and two veteran corn-state congressmen asked the federal Environmental Protection Agency to reconsider new rules on ethanol in light of the phenomenal productivity and declining environmental impact of America's largest crop.

Reps. Leonard Boswell (D-Iowa) and John Shimkus (R-Ill.) said farmers don't get enough credit for growing more corn every year on the same amount of land with less energy and fewer resources.

The congressmen spoke at a Capitol briefing sponsored by the Corn Farmers Coalition (CFC), an alliance of national and state corn-grower groups.

Boswell, chairman of a House Agri-

culture subcommittee that oversees commodities exchanges, called on the Agriculture Department to resume measuring how much pesticide and fertilizer farmers use in their fields. The federal agency suspended its authoritative annual Chemical Usage Survey after 2005 in a budget cut. The survey found the amounts per bushel had been declining for years.

"The Agriculture Department does a good job of collecting some data we need to make policy on energy and environmental issues," said Boswell. "But in other areas, we're flying blind, including the use of nitrogen fertilizer — a number which figures prominently in the crucial debates we've having about the environmental benefit of making

ethanol from corn. We shouldn't have to guess."

Shimkus, a member of the Energy



and Commerce Committee, called on the EPA and the California Air Resources Board to carefully weigh corn's explosive productivity while
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EPA Regulations (cont.)

spray your fields or for your rural municipality to simply control the mosquito population.

- With the removal of the word "navigable," the EPA believes that all waters of the US are within its jurisdiction, making your downspouts and ornamental ponds subject to inspection as well as your creeks and drainage districts.
- The EPA is currently beginning a review of Atrazine, the second such study in four years, regardless of the piles of reviews and research indicating the safety of the product.
- They are currently evaluating the hypoxia zone in the

Chesapeake Bay and once they figure out how to regulate agriculture in that area, similar regulations will occur for the Gulf of Mexico.

There has never been a more important time to be involved in the Illinois Corn Growers Association. There have never been a more vital time to contribute to your Illinois Corn Growers Association Political Action Committee.

With PAC dollars, ICGA can support elected officials that understand agriculture and will end this undue regulation before it causes millions to go hungry. With PAC dollars, ICGA can help to ensure a balanced playing field in Washing-



ton, DC instead of allowing environmental activists to regulate activities and products that don't need regulating.

Thank you for your support of the ICGA and the ICGA PAC.

"It takes about 64 acres of corn to produce one gallon of ethanol."
Margo Oge,
Director, EPA Office of Transportation and Air Quality

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CFC Briefing (cont.)



Congressional staff listened intently while Congressman Shimkus and Congressman Boswell spoke about the need for policy makers to understand the ethanol industry.

using the same amount of land and fewer chemicals per bushel as these agencies calculate the environmental impact of growing corn for ethanol in their biofuel regulations.

“I see farmers constantly boosting their production on the same amount of land,” Shimkus said. “So I have to wonder whether EPA and the California Air

Resources Board are carefully considering the latest yield trends in their land-use calculations. I think we need to take a careful look at that.”

Having the correct information, good models and current data will assure we don’t make unwarranted decisions that hurt family farmers. Specifically, agencies need to know about corn’s declining environmental impact, said Mark Lambert, CFC Director.

“There is a quiet technological revolution happening at every stage of the growing cycle — from the advanced equipment and new planting techniques farmers use to cut energy use and preserve the soil to the bioengineered seeds that require fewer pesticides and less water.

“But policy-makers can only make the right decisions about food, fuel and the environment if they have all these facts.”

DONATE

Donating to the ICGA PAC is easy!
Simply complete your personal check
and fill out the form below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Amount: _____

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