



August 22, 2017

Asmus Farm Supply Hosts Sen. Ernst

ARA Member Asmus Farm Supply last week hosted Senator Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) during her 99-county tour across Iowa.



During her August 16 visit, owners

Harlan and Amy Asmus and employees toured the Rake, Iowa, facility with Ernst. Throughout the tour, Harlan Asmus talked about how the company is encouraging sustainable practices through offering free bulk tanks for customers to use to reduce packaging waste. Furthermore, Harlan Asmus covered the expense and lifespan of these tanks to

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Sen. Ernst.

Following the tour, Sen. Ernst met with local farmers and community members of Winnebago County and briefly covered a couple of topics including healthcare, the Farm Bill and communicating a true message to society about the importance of agriculture. She began by discussing the 2018 Farm Bill, mainly focused on crop insurance and how it could potentially affect local farms and their families.

"Senator Grassley and I both sit on the Agriculture Committee and we will both have input as we move into the 2018 Farm Bill," she said. "Now with that bill, we hope to have it actually wrapped up and this is being a little optimistic, but we hope to have that wrapped up through the Ag Committee and ready for the floor of the Senate by Christmas."

Amy Asmus then brought up concerns about the company surrounding the Affordable Care Act and selecting insurance for employees to meet their needs. Sen. Ernst understood the difficult position small businesses are placed in and explained the disappointment in the inability to get votes passed to reduce healthcare premiums, high deductibles and co-pays. She continued that it is becoming difficult for small businesses to purchase healthcare for employees, which results in families not having health insurance and being fined by the government because of it.

Holden Asmus later brought up his concern regarding the need for many in Congress and in federal agencies to better communicate the importance of agriculture to the public.

"The image of agriculture is misconceived," he said. "And I'm curious about what we can do and what D.C. can do about ag illiteracy and how we can convey a better image and message of farming"

Sen. Ernst talked about how many in Washington D.C. should be doing a better job at communicating these rising issues on agriculture and helping get a clear message out about the importance of agriculture. She also mentioned the rise of technology in agriculture and what technology is doing to help increase yield potential and reduce

pesticide use.

Sen. Ernst also traveled to Hancock and Worth Counties on Wednesday to meet with local farmers and agribusinesses.

More about the tour:

<https://kiow.com/2017/08/17/ernst-visits-rake-and-tours-asmus-farm-supply/>

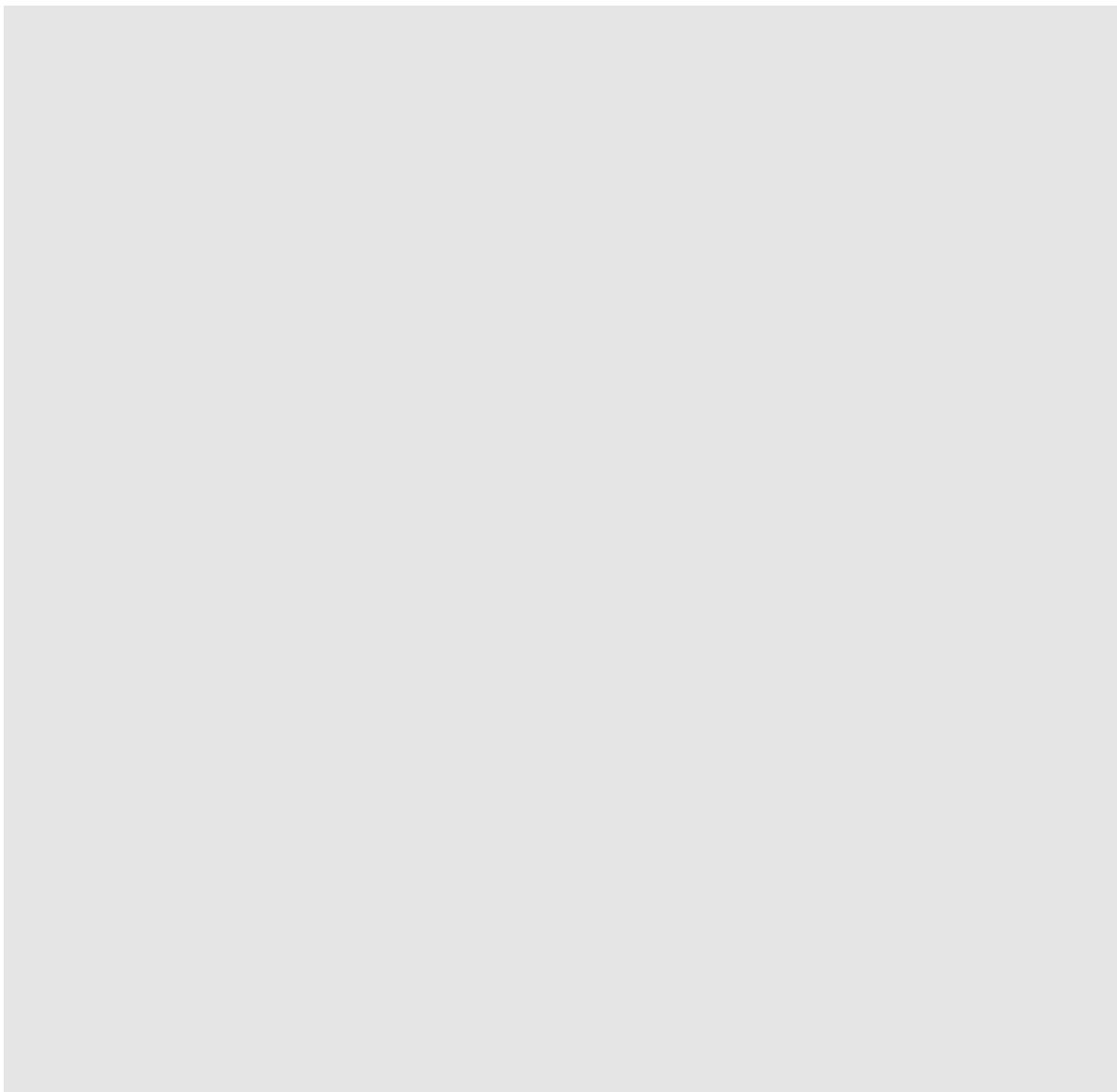


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The banner features a green and blue gradient background. On the left, the text 'PERSONNEL MEASUREMENT Services' is displayed in white, bold, sans-serif font. On the right, the 'Ag7Source' logo is shown, with 'Ag' in a stylized font and '7' as a green leaf, followed by 'Source' in a serif font. Below the logo is a green button with a white checkmark icon and the text 'More Info click here!'.





Coppock Attends ANDAV Congress

ARA President and CEO Daren Coppock traveled to Brazil last week for the 7th Congress of ANDAV. For Coppock, the conference highlights similarities and differences within the U.S. and Brazilian ag retail sectors.

Among the highlights he noted, the Brazilian distribution system does an excellent job with container recycling. More than 90 percent of containers are recycled in Brazil, largely due to a

few key factors:

Brazil requires by law that retailers print on the sales receipt the location where the grower must return the container. The retailers themselves do not have to collect containers at their stores but they must provide a location to the grower on the receipt.

In areas where distance is a problem some retailers have banded together to create a jointly-owned recycling receiving station. Delivery of the containers to the indicated location is the responsibility of the grower and the federal government provides enforcement.

Brazil celebrated "Clean Day" on August 18, to mark their recycling achievements and features a mascot who attends industry meetings to promote recycling. Coppock is pictured above with Gabriel Chaim, an environmental engineer on the ANDAV staff, and the recycling mascot.

Coppock will provide further insights in the October issue of *AgPro*.

California Revises Chlorpyrifos Risk Assessment, May Add Use Restrictions

The California Department of Pesticide Registration recently released a revised risk assessment for chlorpyrifos and announced a process to consider possible additional use restrictions and setbacks that may be applied to all chlorpyrifos products used in the state of California in the future.

The document release does not change current permit conditions or current use of the product in California or anywhere in the United States. All product in retail or distribution inventory may continue to be sold according to the label, and growers may apply chlorpyrifos products according to that label and existing permit conditions.

Dow AgroSciences remains confident in the conditions of use required on federal chlorpyrifos labels and disagrees with the necessity of additional restrictions in California. A coalition of organizations, including the Agricultural Retailers Association, see opportunities for continued refinement of these potential restrictions and will continue to work with CDPR and farmers in California and across the country to insure ongoing availability and utility of products containing chlorpyrifos as the process moves forward.

These products are critical to effective pest management for more than 50 crops grown in California.

[More information from the CDPR](#)

["EPA Denial of Chlorpyrifos Ban Sets Pro-Science Precedent: Activist Petition to Ban Safe and Valuable Pesticide Would Undermine Food Affordability"](#)

ARA Conference and Expo

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WOTUS Comment Period Extended

Extension of the Comment Period for Proposed Rule "Definition of 'Waters of the United States' – Recodification of Pre-existing Rules"

The Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers are extending the comment period by 30 days for the proposed first step of the review of the definition of “Waters of the U.S.” rule.

The comment period will now close Sept. 27. With this extension, the public will have more than 90 days to review the proposal. When finalized, the proposed rule would replace the 2015 Clean Water Rule with the regulations that were in effect immediately preceding the 2015 rule. For more information on the proposed rule: www.epa.gov/wotus-rule

[Extension of Comment Period for the Definition of "Waters of the United States" – Recodification of Pre-existing Rules \(PDF\)](#)

Glenn Appointed to Head EPA Region 4

Trey Glenn Will Lead Environmental Protection Efforts Across Eight Southern States

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt announced the appointment of Trey Glenn of Alabama to become Regional Administrator for EPA’s Southeast Region (Region 4).

Mr. Glenn will employ his 22 years of environmental and regulatory experience in leading the environmental protection efforts across Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

Mr. Glenn served as director of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management from 2005 - 2009 where he managed over 600 ADEM employees tasked with ensuring a safe, healthy, and productive environment to all Alabama residents. Mr. Glenn also served as division director for the Alabama Office of Water Resources from 2001- 2005 where he was responsible for leading day-to-day operations on coordinating and managing Alabama’s water resources.

Most recently, Mr. Glenn has been working as an independent engineer consultant and business owner, focused on environmental issues.

“Trey Glenn will bring invaluable experience as regional administrator having spent over two decades working in the field of environmental and regulatory policy,” said Administrator Pruitt. “Mr. Glenn will help us carry out President Trump’s vision of creating a more streamlined and efficient EPA that focuses on the Agency’s core mission, while also providing more regulatory certainty to our nation’s businesses.”

Celebration of Collaborative Conservation in America's Heartland

Iowa Agriculture Secretary Bill Northey joins the Iowa Corn Growers Association, the Iowa Soybean Association and Environmental Defense Fund for an event highlighting the power of collaborative conservation and agriculture's vital role in stewarding our nation's land and water resources.

Other featured speakers include Bill Shipley, President-elect, Iowa Soybean Association Board of Directors, and Dave Coppess, Executive Vice President of Sales & Marketing, Heartland Co-op. The program includes a sneak preview of the acclaimed new Discovery documentary film *Rancher, Farmer, Fisherman*. (1-3 PM at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden.) Complete details and RSVP link are available online at: <http://iacollaborativeconservation.eventbrite.com/>

How Agricultural Retailers Can Leverage Biological Products to Build Business

The world's population is expected to reach nine billion by the year 2050. Because of this, a primary focus of today is how to feed the growing population in a sustainable way with little or no impact on the environment. This growing need for sustainable food production is providing agricultural retailers a tremendous opportunity to be leaders and educational partners surrounding biological products.

Biological products include microbials, organic acids, plant extracts, pheromones, and minerals. They are defined as a product whose active ingredients are derived from natural or biological sources. These new technologies have dramatically improved the ability for sustainable agricultural production across many different crop categories, including commodity row crops. Biological products have also achieved increasing support through extensive university research and increased education at the grower level in how the products can be used to improve agricultural sustainability and soil health. [Read more...](#)



BPIA Fall Meeting & Sustainability Symposium
October 10th-11th bpia.org/events

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APPLY NOW FOR INDUSTRY AWARDS

Nominate Your Best for AGCO's Operator of the Year

Nominations are now open for the 12th annual AGCO Operator of the Year. The award recognizes the value of the hard work professional applicators do caring for crops and customers across the country, as well as their involvement in their communities.

Retailers can submit nominations at www.applylikeapro.com/oty through October 23, 2017.

Four finalists will be guests of AGCO at the 2017 Agricultural Retailers Association Conference & Expo, Nov. 28-30 at the Arizona Biltmore Hotel in Phoenix. The Operator of the Year winner will be announced Nov. 29 at the conference and presented the grand prize, a new Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

AgPro Seeking the Best in Precision Ag

Nominations for the 2017 Precision Impact Award are now being accepted. This annual award recognizes an outstanding retailer and/or outlet that provides innovative precision agriculture services for their farmer-customers. To nominate a retailer and/or outlet, please complete the following entry form and return it to us for consideration.

The evaluation process for this year's award will be conducted in two parts. First, AgPro magazine editors will review all initial applications and select three as the top finalists. As part of this step, AgPro editors will conduct brief phone interviews with each finalist to discuss their work with precision ag. Second, the three finalists' entries will then be evaluated by a group of judges, comprised of precision industry specialists, who will select the 2017 award recipient.

All entries must be received no later than August 31, 2017. [Apply Now...](#)

inquiries are welcome. © 2017.

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