



Grain Warehouse Task Force

Commissioner Staples is appointing a grain warehouse task force to provide input and recommendations to the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) related to grain warehouse regulation. In recent months, more than five grain warehouses have filed bankruptcy or experienced failure, directly affecting grain deposited by producers and other depositors. Producers and industry have expressed concern about the current protections provided in law for grain deposits and are interested in finding ways to improve these protections. The goal is to identify workable measures for the regulated industry while also enhancing protection for stored grain.

Objectives:

1. Review existing grain warehouse laws and the regulatory framework.
2. Develop recommendations to enhance oversight and regulatory functions associated with grain warehouses.
3. Develop recommendations (if any) for legislative changes to increase protections for grain depositors.

Task Force Members:

Ben Boerner – Texas Grain & Feed Association
Tom Engelke – Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council
Brian McCuiston – South Texas Country Elevator Association
George Caldwell – Texas Farm Bureau
David Gibson – Corn Producers Association of Texas
Rodney Mosier – Texas Wheat Producers Association
Wayne Cleveland – Texas Grain Sorghum Association
Jeff Nunley – South Texas Cotton and Grain
Web Wallace – Cotton and Grain Producers of Lower Rio Grande Valley
Ronnie Gerrik – Blackland Cotton and Grain Producers Association
Dale Swinburn, Tulia, TX – Producer
Robert Fleming, Troy, TX – Producer
Dale Murden, Monte Alto, TX – Producer
Ed Small – Jackson Walker L.L.P.
George Ferguson – Frank Bailey Grain
Jim Johnson – First Victoria National Bank
Josh Winegarner – Texas Cattle Feeders

TDA staff conducting task force meetings: David Kostroun, Brian Murray and Rick Garza

Proposed Timeline:

March 15 – 19, 2010 – Contact members concerning participation on task force.
March 22 – 26, 2010 – Notification to task force members sent.
April 2010 – Task force to meet and discuss objectives.
April – June 2010 – Meetings/conference calls conducted to finalize recommendations.
July 2010 – Task force recommendations finalized and submitted to TDA.