



National  
**Corn Growers**  
Association  
www.ncga.com

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March 2, 2004

Daniel Perez  
ICAM General Director

Dear Mr. Perez:

Thank you for agreeing to participate in our up coming Traceability and Labeling Conference. As you know, we are hoping to better understand the impact that the European Union's recent regulations on the entire food and feed industry. These regulations will impact every stakeholder in this industry. Our goal is to bring together leaders from all segments of this industry to discuss the effects of these regulations and, perhaps, methods to mitigate any negative consequences of these changes.

We have split the discussions into five different panels. These include the European, United States, Retailers and Technology Providers, Grain Handlers and Growers positions. Each panel will consist of 3-4 industry sector representatives and each representative will be able to make an introductory statement followed by time for questions and answers. After all panels have had a chance to discuss their positions, we will have an hour for open discussion. This will be followed by a break to allow small group discussion, then a final session to allow reflection on what we have learned.

We request you provide our office a short biography, and a position paper which describes your organizations viewpoints regarding the traceability and labeling regulations. This information should be sent to Hayden Milberg ([milberg@dc.ncga.com](mailto:milberg@dc.ncga.com)) by Wednesday March 10th to be included in the meeting book.

We would like you to speak on the first panel along with other European representatives. You are welcome to join us for the entire day's events and a reception with the Congressional Biotech Caucus following the conference. This reception will take place at the House Agriculture Committee Hearing Room and will allow conference attendees to intermingle and meet congressional staff.

Again, thank you for participating in this conference. We are looking forward to a stimulating and informative debate.

Sincerely yours,

Helen Inman  
Chairman, Biotechnology Working Group

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### **Traceability & Labeling Conference Prospectus**

On October 18, 2003, the European Union published two new regulations governing the sale, labeling and approval of food and feed produced using biotechnology crops. The first regulation, "Traceability and Labeling of Genetically Modified Organisms and the Traceability and Labeling of Food and Feed Products Produced from Genetically Modified Organisms" (EC 1830/2003), will take effect ninety days following publication of a list of unique codes for genetically modified crop events. The second regulation, "Genetically Modified Food and Feed" (EC 1829/2003), takes effect six months following publication. Both regulations are expected to go into effect by mid-April 2004. The regulations make important changes in the requirements for exporters selling corn grain and processed corn products to European markets, and U.S. food companies using these ingredients that ship products to Europe.

The regulations will have a far-reaching impact on U.S. agriculture and food exports. The regulations call for a threshold for adventitious contamination of 0.9 percent for approved genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and 0.5 percent for unapproved GMOs, dropping to zero percent after three years. Labeling and traceability requirements are triggered whether or not the target protein is detectable in the end product and the regulations do not require mandatory sampling and testing but rather mandate the requirements if an exporter cannot guarantee the identity of the entire shipment.

Late last year, nearly two dozen U.S. agriculture and business organizations called on the Bush Administration to challenge the new regulations in the World Trade Organization (WTO). In a letter to the United States Trade Representative, the organizations argued that the new rules "clearly violate" the European Union's obligations under the WTO Agreements on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and Technical Barriers to Trade. It has been estimated that the new regulations could cost industry as much as \$400 million annually.

On March 16, 2004, the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) plans to host a conference at 101 Constitution to focus attention on this important issue. The conference will provide NCGA members and other stakeholders the opportunity to hear from all sectors of the food industry regarding the short and long-term effects of the regulations. The conference will also provide an opportunity for stakeholders to elevate the level of awareness in the public sphere and hear from the U.S. Government on these problematic regulations.

The one-day conference will include separate panels consisting of: 1) commodity organizations, 2) grain handlers, 3) food manufacturers & retailers and 4) government officials. The conference will also include representatives from the European Union to provide the "EU" perspective. This would be an open conference providing the opportunity for wide press coverage from agriculture and non-agriculture press. Breakfast and lunch events may revolve around special speakers from industry and/or Capitol Hill. NCGA plans to co-host a post conference reception with the AgBiotech Planning Committee to honor the Congressional Biotech Caucus.

For registration information, please contact Cathy Durham in the St. Louis office at (636) 733-9004.

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