



California, Here We Come!

The 2012 NCTA Convention & Trade Show is just around the corner – and we hope to see every-

one in Sacramento! If you've already registered for the meeting, be sure to check out pages 20-24 of this issue for an updated schedule and additional details. Still on the fence? Don't miss out on this great opportunity to connect with old and new friends, shop for the latest products for your busi-

ness and gain valuable ideas and training designed to help you manage risk, increase profit and improve your bottom line.

And as a special offer for all of our loyal Journal readers – use the form provided with this issue and you'll receive the early bird rate!

Advocacy Updates

In recent months, you have likely noticed the NCTA Advocacy Alerts – these emails are designed to keep you informed of legislative and regulatory issues that could impact your business. If you have not been receiving these alerts, that means we do not have a current email address on file for you, so please contact us at 636/449-5070 or brasmussen@amrms.com to update your contact information. Here's a quick recap of some of the recent challenges and successes.

Success!

In late April, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced that it had withdrawn proposed rules governing child labor on farms. NCTA first alerted members to the possible regulations in fall 2011, which if enacted, would have prohibited 14- and 15-year-old farm workers from working with certain types of animals and operating almost any power-driven equipment, including farm tractors and lawn mowers, regardless of safety training completed. The DOL scrapped the rules after receiving more than 10,000 comments, including those from NCTA and numerous other agriculture groups.

Success!

NCTA leaders kept a close eye on the Farm Bill as it moved through the U.S. Senate. Among the more than 220 amendments offered to the Bill was one from Senator Jim DeMint (R-SC). The amendment would have prohibited mandatory promotion and research orders, or checkoff programs. NCTA, along with 90 other agricultural producer groups, signed onto a letter encouraging Senate leaders to oppose this amendment, and in late June, the amendment was resoundingly rejected by a vote of 79-20.

Success – and Ongoing Challenge

On June 21, the U.S. successfully passed its version of the Farm Bill by a vote of 64-35. This version protects several key programs important to the Real Tree industry, including pest and disease prevention programs, research and block grants for specialty crops.

But it's not over yet – we'll be keeping a

close eye on what happens in the House as they work to discuss the bill in early July.

Success – and Ongoing Challenge

So far, both the House and Senate have preserved IR-4 in their versions of the 2013 agriculture funding bills. IR-4 is important to the Real Tree industry as it offers assistance with product development and registration for pest management solutions for specialty crops. (Pest management companies don't have the same market incentives to invest in research for specialty crops – IR-4 helps to bridge this gap to ensure economical options for all growers.)

Unfortunately, the House did propose an additional 2% cut in funding for IR-4's Program area; if approved, this would be the second year of funding cuts.

Ongoing Challenge

On June 28, the U.S. Supreme Court, in a much-anticipated ruling, generally upheld the president's healthcare law, otherwise known as the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010. The decision has far-reaching implications, many of which will financially impact businesses and individuals.

The decision means that, generally, without congressional action, the provisions of the health care act that already have gone into effect will stand, and the provisions that are scheduled to go into effect in future years will, indeed, go into effect. Those provisions affecting businesses include the current tax credits for small businesses that provide health care coverage to employees, as well as the penalties for failing to do so that are scheduled to go into effect in 2014.

Ongoing Challenge

There have been a number of announcements on the labor front in recent weeks. On June 15, the Department of Homeland Security announced that, effective immediately, certain young people who were brought to the United States as children, do not present a risk to national security or public safety and meet several key criteria no longer have to fear deportation.

Just 10 days later, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the case of *Arizona v. United States*, declaring that the authority to enforce immigration laws rests squarely with the federal government and limiting the role that states may play in crafting state-level answers to immigration enforcement. In a statement following the decision, President Obama said, "What this decision makes unmistakably clear is that Congress must act on comprehensive immigration reform. A patchwork of state laws is not a solution to our broken immigration system – it's part of the problem."

*Help us add to these successes (and continue to work on ongoing challenges) by making a contribution to the Real Tree Advocacy Fund. Your investment helps to enact change and ensure that our industry's unified voice is heard. **We are just \$20,000 short of our 2012 goal – make your commitment today by calling 636/449-5070, filling out the form on page 5 of this issue or visiting www.christmastree.org/pledgeform.pdf.***

The Survey Says ...

You may have recently received an email survey, with questions about your business and your experiences with NCTA. Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete this survey and share your honest and open feedback. You can see some of the results of that survey on pages 27-28 of this issue. In addition, we will be sharing this information with state/regional association leaders in upcoming conference calls.

More importantly, your input is helping to shape the future course of the association. Based on these surveys, NCTA leaders have identified several key areas for improvement, including member communication, outreach and state relations, and are developing short-term and long-term action items. While these surveys were extremely valuable to NCTA leaders and staff, your thoughts, ideas and feedback are always welcome!

New NCTA & CSF Websites



More than 1 million people visit the NCTA website each year, looking for tips on selecting and caring for their perfect tree. This holiday season, those consumers will see a new look when they visit www.christmastree.org. In addition to being visually appealing, the new site is designed to make it easier for all audiences – consumers, media and members - to find the information they're seeking. In addition, a new Trees for Troops website will be introduced in time for this year's program. Come get a first peek at both websites at the NCTA Convention in Sacramento! 🌲

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SHAKEE

manufactured by



SHAKEE

LIL' SHAKEE

- Perfect for retail lots
- 3/4 HP "Farm Duty" motor
- Heavy-duty construction
- Foot switch operated
- Shown with optional tree holder
- 115 lbs.



SHAKEE 250

- 3 power options
- 5.5 HP Honda direct drive engine
- 540 rpm PTO driven
- 1 HP "Farm Duty" electric motor with foot switch
- Shown with optional wheel kit: highway tires, tongue & handles

SHAKEE

SD 400 DUAL SHAKER

- Dual cones mounted 5' apart
- 540 rpm PTO powered
- Dual tree holders
- Gear box and belt drive
- 330 lbs.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT RES EQUIPMENT L.L.C.

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