

The following is a special message from Randy Gordon, National Grain and Feed Association:

**USDA to Extend Deadline for Submitting Offers in Response to Post-Hurricane Initiatives Designed to Ease Grain Transportation**

In response to an inquiry this morning (Sept. 27), the NGFA has been informed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that it plans later today to announce that it will publish a *Federal Register* notice soon providing additional information on its three initiatives designed to relieve post-hurricane congestion on the grain transportation system.

Further, USDA said it will be **extending the deadline** for submitting offers under the initiatives until several days after the publication of the *Federal Register* notice.

Affected by the pending announcement are USDA's three initiatives under which it will consider offers to enter into agreements to provide: 1) transportation assistance to relocate and discharge barges containing "damaged" corn from the Mississippi/Center Gulf region; 2) alternative grain storage for up to 50 million bushels of bulk grain to ease storage and transportation congestion in areas dependent for grain movement on the Mississippi River/Center Gulf region; and 3) transportation differentials to redirect bulk grain and soybeans to specific regions, such as the Great Lakes or East Coast ports, to further alleviate grain movements to the Center Gulf.

Prior to this new development, USDA had set a deadline of 5 p.m. Central time on Sept. 28 for the submission of offers to its Kansas City Commodity Office. USDA officials told the NGFA that the **new deadline likely will be five days AFTER the publication of the *Federal Register* notice.** Further, they said, the *Federal Register* notice will provide additional details on each of the three initiatives that prospective bidders should consider prior to submitting offers. Those submitting offers thus far will have an opportunity to rescind, revise and/or resubmit their bids prior to the newly extended deadline once the *Federal Register* notice is published.