

March 20, 2009

FREE

# Many hands contribute to production of Ag News

When Ag News at a Glance expanded to add additional pages two years ago, Publisher Don Taylor was faced with a problem. Hundreds of copies of the newsletter needed the additional page stuffed in the middle, twice a month, and Taylor lacked the manpower to accomplish the task.

He turned to Snowy Mountain Industries (SMI) in Lewistown. "This very capable team has been an integral part of Ag News at a Glance since June of 2007 when we began our 10 page format," said Taylor.

The mission of SMI's Resource Support and Development program is "to encourage, support, and assist each person with disabilities we serve to make choices in his/her life and expand his/her opportunities for growth and personal development." Guiding principles are the following:



Snowy Mountain Industries workers add inserts to a recent edition of *Ag News at a Glance*. Pictured are (above, from left) Phil, Shawn, George, Danny, Phil, Earl, and Joselyn; (below, from left) Christine, Roger, and Kathy.

\*Goal Achievement: We

strive for customer satisfaction.

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\*Customer-centered: We succeed when they succeed.

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\*Adaptability: We accept change.

"I fully recommend any business needing time intensive help to contact SMI at 538-5130," said Taylor.



# Guest Opinion

## Coalition for a Prosperous America visits capital

By Gilles Stockton  
Grass Range, Mont.

On February 23-25 the Coalition for a Prosperous America (CPA) had its first lobbying fly-in to Washington, D.C. CPA is a new organization that brings together United States based manufacturing firms, labor unions, and agricultural organizations - all working to stop the outsourcing of manufacturing, jobs, and food production. This is the first time that these three industry segments have come together to advocate for sane international trade agreements that puts America's interest first.

I represented the Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC). Bill Bullard, Mike Callicrate, and Herman Schumacher were there as members of R-CALF. We also had representation from the Kansas and Ohio Farmers Union. Fred Stokes of the Organization for Competitive Markets (OCM), who was instrumental in organizing the CPA, was there. Michael Stumo who now heads CPA, led the effort.

We had at least a dozen persons representing various manufacturing firms from across the nation (incidentally many of those were tool and die making companies, an indus-

try that has not yet been completely outsourced) along with representatives of the unions with which they work. It was a lively, talented, learned, and committed group.

Our efforts met with a mixed reaction in Washington. Those in Congress, who like us, recognize the harm the trade at any cost agreements have caused to this country were happy to see us. Those who have sold out to the multi-national firms were less welcoming.

Our message was that we are not against trade but that we can't trade away America's industry and people. This is a message that I hope is starting to sink in, especially now when the "service" jobs of the "new economy" are evaporating in this recession.

People need good jobs and good jobs come from making things and growing food - a lesson that unfortunately too many of our politicians, diplomats, and economists seem to have never learned.

The CPA position in this lobbying effort was centered around four trade issues:

- We need an actual trade strategy, not a hodgepodge of trade agreements.
- We need to take currency manipulation by our trading partners seriously such as

the 35% undervalued Chinese currency that artificially makes their stuff so cheap to import.

- We need to do something about how the Value Added Tax system used by most countries in the world, other the United States, which results in a 17% tax on our exports.

- We need to take food and product safety seriously and stop poisoning our people with imported products that are never inspected at our borders.

We also asked that President Obama's Economic Recovery Advisory Board, dominated by multinational corporations and the financial interests, be expanded to include representatives of agriculture and do-

mestic manufacturers. For my part I took every opportunity to remind everyone that the beef packer's manipulation of the Canadian captive supply decreases cattle prices by 27%. The packer monopoly is not only an anti-trust issue - it is a trade problem too.

The principals of CPA has so far been endorsed by 54 organizations, 172 manufacturers and service providers, and 81 prominent individuals. If this effort/organization is something that you are interested in being part of please contact Michael Stumo at the Coalition for a Prosperous America, 615 Boardman St. Sheffield, 01257 (cpa@prosperousamerica.org).

## Poll asks if animals should have same rights as humans

Costco Connections, the magazine sent to patrons of the Costco warehouse club, is running a poll that asks, "Should animals have the same rights as people?"

Industry observers note that animal rights groups are certain to flood the survey with "yes" votes, and this is a chance for those in agriculture to make their views known as well.

If the "yes" votes win, it's a

virtual certainty those activist groups will trumpet that fact. It only takes a few seconds to submit a vote by going to the website below, and clicking on the "Click here to vote" icon. Those who'd like to submit additional comments via e-mail, can click on the button below the "vote" icon.

To register a vote, visit <http://www.costcoconnection.com/connection/200903/?pg=16&pm=2&u1=friend>.

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