

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and  
Agriculture Ocean Transportation Coalition (AgOTC)

**Ag Shipper Workshops & Luncheons**

**Boise \* Portland \* Atlanta \* Modesto \* Fresno**

**AGENDA**

*What are your transportation concerns? All Southeast ag shippers are encouraged to join in this informal, off the record (no press, no carriers), discussion of ag transportation issues and solutions.*

- Update on ocean freight rates and surcharges. Which way are they heading?
- Container Shortage. Both reefer and dry containers are in short supply for agriculture exports, as is space onboard ships. When will the situation improve?
- Port Congestion -- Status of daytime loading fee at Ports of LA/LB. Will it spread to other ports? How will the new fee be collected and refunded? What services are being offered "after hours"?
- Cargo security fee -- Congress continues to consider imposing a surcharge on all cargo to help pay for port security. What to expect in the next Congress.
- The "7-Day Rule" -- Congress wants to impose hefty fines for cargo sitting on the docks more than 7 days. What is AgOTC (and others) doing to fight this provision. Will it be enough?
- Automated Export System & Option 4. The new, revised AES will soon be MANDATORY for all exports, making it tougher to qualify for Option 4 (post departure filing). What can ag shippers expect and when? How can one qualify for Option 4?
- FDA Prior Notice for food imports. Full enforcement is underway, with steep penalties for even the most minor errors in transmission. What to watch for and what to do when problems arise.
- International wood packing material standard. Some of our trading partners already require compliant WPM for export shipments. Imports into the US must comply by September 2005. What is required and how do you find "compliant" WPM in foreign countries?
- New contracting options with NVOs -- How it can benefit ag exporters.
- Trucking. The shortage of trucks and drivers continues to build what can we expect in 2005?
- Rail – Rates through the roof, service through the floor threatens Ag shipments.
- Other issues, Local Concerns. Depending upon the location of the workshops (below), we will address Columbia River vessel service, West Coast congestion and nighttime loading hours, lack of rail service, and any other issues shippers may wish to discuss.

**Workshop Dates:**

Boise, ID – January 17, 2005  
Portland, OR – January 18, 2005  
Atlanta, GA – February 3, 2005  
Modesto, CA – February 23, 2005  
Fresno, CA – February 24, 2005

**Fee To Attend:**

\$20 AgOTC Members  
\$40 Non-AgOTC Members  
  
*Sorry, no carriers or press.*

**Agriculture Ocean Transportation Coalition**

*“The principle voice of agriculture exporters in U.S. transportation policy”*

**Agriculture Ocean Transportation Coalition -- Ag Shippers Workshops**  
**REGISTRATION FORM**

Name(s):	
Company:	
Tel:	Fax:
Email:	

**Select a Workshop**

**Boise, ID**

January 17, 2005  
9am-Noon (includes breakfast)  
Location: The Grove Hotel  
245 South Capitol Boulevard (209-472-3358)  
Co-Sponsored by Port of Tacoma

**Portland, OR**

January 18, 2005  
10am-1pm (includes lunch)  
Location: Oregon Convention Center  
777 NE ML King Boulevard (503-235-7575)  
Co-Sponsored by Port of Portland

**Atlanta, GA**

February 3, 2005  
10am-1pm (includes lunch)  
Location: Crowne Plaza Atlanta Airport  
1325 Virginia Avenue (404-704-1425)  
Co-Sponsored by USA Poultry & Egg Export Council

**Modesto, CA**

February 23, 2005  
10am-1pm (includes lunch)  
Location: Doubletree Hotel  
1150 Ninth Street (209-526-6000)  
Co-Sponsored by Ports of Oakland and Los Angeles

**Fresno, CA**

February 24, 2005  
10am-1pm (includes lunch)  
Location: Ramada Inn University  
324 East Shaw Avenue (559-224-4040)  
Co-Sponsored by Ports of Los Angeles and Oakland

**PAYMENT – CHECKS ONLY**

AgOTC Members: \$20 each Non-AgOTC Members: \$40 each

Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_

**TO REGISTER**

1. Fax form to 202-783-4422 and
2. Mail check payable to "AgOTC" to: AgOTC  
1201 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Suite 315  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Questions? Contact AgOTC at 202-783-3333  
or visit us at [www.AgOTC.org](http://www.AgOTC.org)

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