



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT of
AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY

MIKE STRAIN, DVM *Commissioner*

LOUISIANA AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES COMMISSION
November 20, 2025, 2:00 P.M.
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
VETERANS' MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM
5825 FLORIDA BOULEVARD
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70806

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Ronald Petree at 2:00 P.M.

II. ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM

LDAF staff, Cindy R. Abbott, called roll.

The following commission members were present:

Ryan Ellington
Ross Girtman
Ronald Petree
Tom Russell
Kevin Webb
Todd Parker

With six members present, a quorum was declared.

The following commission members were absent:

Robert Hanks
Garrett Hebert
Stephen Logan
Larry Sayes

LDAF Staff Present

Agro Consumer Services Assistant Commissioner: Kevin Finley;
Louisiana Agricultural Commodities Commission Director: Gene Cavalier;
LDAF Attorney: Bethany Gonzales;
LDAF Auditor: Jeff Fabre;
Weights and Measures Assistant Director: Allison Dumas;
Administrative Coordinator IV: Cindy Abbott.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None at this time.

IV. ADOPTION OF June 25, 2025 MINUTES

A motion was made by Tom Russell to approve the minutes from the June 25, 2025 meeting. Ross Mire seconded the motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

V. ADJUDICATORY HEARING

A. Hansen- Mueller Company

Adjudicatory matter, labeled LACC 25-1101, under Hansen-Mueller Company. Mrs. Bethany Gonzales read from Section 362 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; On Monday, November 17, 2025, Hansen-Mueller filed bankruptcy and pursuant to Chapter 11 (USC 362), there's an automatic stay in place for any commencement or continuation of judicial, administrative, or other action or proceedings against the debtor, that was or could have commenced before the commencement of this case, under this title, or to recover a claim against the debtor that arose before the commencement of the case under this Title. That stay will be in place until the case is closed or dismissed and the adjudicatory matter is on hold, due to the bankruptcy filing.

VI. GRAIN & COTTON INDEMNITY FUND AND SELF INSURANCE FUND

Director Gene Cavalier stated that as of November 19, 2025, the Grain and Cotton Indemnity Fund (GCIF) balance is \$8,515,092.57 and the Self Insurance Fund (SIF) balance is \$802,451.13.

GCIF- \$8,515,092.57

SIF- \$802,451.13

A. RS 3:3412- Self Insurance Fund (SIF)

B. RS 3:3412.1- Grain & Cotton Indemnity Fund (GCIF)

VII. GRAIN & COTTON INDEMNITY FUND CLAIM DETERMINATION

A. HANSEN- MUELLER COMPANY

Mrs. Bethany Gonzales stated, the primary trigger for opening the indemnity fund is the Commission declaring the licensee insolvent. There was previous evidence of situational insolvency, with their inability to write checks, due to an agreement with their banks. However, the bankruptcy filing is proof of insolvency and to open the indemnity fund, we would need a motion from the board to declare insolvency.

The total estimated dollar amount of loss was then discussed, and Mr. Jeff Fabre advised what led to the bankruptcy filing and how the estimated amount of loss had been calculated. Mr. Fabre stated, this is all public record, that there are 27 entities contracted with 21 currently owed for grain delivered, estimated at \$5,477,00.00. Mrs. Bethany Gonzales advised once insolvency is declared, the claims process will begin, and all claims information will be provided immediately to the Louisiana Producer or local representatives, ensuring it is received by all producers impacted.

With no further questions, a motion was made by Todd Parker to proceed with declaring Hansen-Mueller Company insolvent and to move forward with opening the Indemnity Fund. Tom Russell seconded the motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Mrs. Bethany Gonzales advised there is one more motion pursuant to the Indemnity Fund. The LDAF/LACC staff would need the Commission's permission to act on behalf of the Commission in approving claims as they come in.

A motion was made by Ryan Ellington to allow the LDAF staff to act on the Commission's behalf in issuing funds as needed, from the Grain and Cotton Indemnity Fund. Tom Russell seconded the motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

The Commission discussed raising the current Grain and Cotton Indemnity Fund from \$12,000,000.00 to \$25,000,000.00 in upcoming Legislative Session, which was passed by the Commission at a previous meeting. As well as raising the GCIF monthly assessment fee from \$0.0004 per bushel/bale/cwt to \$0.0008 which would also need to be done in Legislative Session. This would help ensure the Department's ability to repay any producer, not receiving payment in the future.

Mr. Kody Allen Beavers, a producer from Franklin Parish, stated he too believed the GCIF cap should be raised and assessment fees increased because operations are much bigger than in previous years and there is a lot more money involved, leading to higher losses.

A motion was made by Kevin Webb, as a recommendation to the Commissioner and his staff, to increase the Grain and Cotton Indemnity Fund monthly assessment fee, to a minimum of \$0.0008. Tom Russell seconded the motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Tom Russell and Mrs. Bethany Gonzales discussed the Grain Prompt Payment Law, which has not been amended since its creation in 1983, that states, "*Each grain dealer who purchases grain from producers under a spot price or daily market contract shall pay the producer for the grain within ten working days after the day the grain is delivered pursuant to the contract of sale,*" may need a language revision based on current trading practices. There are too many variables and discrepancies after delivery, that are not covered under the current verbiage. Tom Russell stated the verbiage needs to include completed contracts, fulfilled contracts, fully priced, as well as spot grain prices.

A motion was made by Tom Russell to have the Commissioner and LDAF/LACC staff review the Grain Prompt Payment Law, for modernization of terms. Kevin Webb seconded the motion. All members in favor. Motion carried.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

None at this time.

XI. DATES FOR NEXT MEETING

A. May 28, 2026 at 9:30 A.M.

B. June 25, 2026 at 9:30 A.M.

XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Todd Parker to adjourn the meeting, and Ryan Ellington seconded the motion. All members in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 P.M.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd Parker", is written over a horizontal line.

LOUISIANA AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

THESE MINUTES ARE TENTATIVE UNTIL VOTED ON AND APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION AT THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING, AT WHICH TIME THEY WILL BECOME FINAL.