Active Members

Active members are “any individual or firm engaged in the warehousing, processing, manufacturing, merchandising, or distribution of grain or feed, or feed ingredients in the United States, and whose membership in (the NGFA) is independent of its membership in any other organization.” Active members have full voting rights at association meetings.

All NGFA Active members are covered by, and have access to, NGFARail Arbitration unless they notify the NGFA of their desire to withdraw from the Rail Arbitration System within 30 days of membership approval. Thereafter, an Active member may withdraw from the Rail Arbitration System with 90-day notice to the National Secretary.

Rail Arbitration/Mediation

A historic agreement between the NGFA and railroads, completed in August 1998, provides NGFA-member firms the opportunity to submit certain classes of rail disputes to binding NGFA Arbitration. Certain other disputes with rail carriers may be mediated. For the first time, rail shippers/receivers have access to a practical, inexpensive and timely dispute-resolution process.

Only NGFA members are assured access to NGFARail arbitration/mediation.

Contract Arbitration

The NGFA Arbitration System provides a quick, inexpensive alternative to resolving trade disputes in court. While court cases can take years to resolve and potentially cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, NGF Arbitration cases generally are decided more expeditiously by expert arbitrators for a small fee. Arbitration is compulsory between NGFA Active members if requested by one party; non-members may access the arbitration system only if the other party is an NGFA member and agrees to arbitrate. All arbitration decisions are published and distributed to the NGFA membership. Arbitration increasingly is used to resolve contractual disagreements with farmers.

Trade Rules

When companies join the NGFA, they agree to abide by the NGFA’s Trade Rules. That means that NGFA members automatically know the rules under which a transaction occurs, reducing the potential for disputes. Non-member companies may reference the NGFA Trade Rules in their contracts, but in the event of a trade dispute, may not have access to the industry experts who administer the NGFA Arbitration System to interpret those Trade Rules.

NGFA Information Services

The NGFA is your one-stop shop for information critical to the grain, feed and processing industry. The NGFA’s web site (www.ngfa.org) is the industry’s most comprehensive.
Please Type or Print:

Company Name ____________________________

Street Address ____________________________

E-mail Address ____________________________

Web Site ____________________________

If accepted, I agree to abide by the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Arbitration Rules (when applicable), Rail Arbitration Rules (when applicable), Trade Rules (when applicable) and Code of Ethics of the National Grain and Feed Association.

Principal Contact Signature ____________________________

Print Contact Name and Title (above) ____________________________ Date ____________________________

Sponsor [Current NGFA member. If you do not have a sponsor, call Todd Kemp at the NGFA at (202) 289-0873.]

Principal Business: Please indicate your principal types of business (e.g. country elevator, terminal elevator, feed mill, processor, etc.).

Total Annual Investment: $_________ (see investment schedule below)

Payment enclosed. ☐ Please bill me.

Your application will be submitted to the NGFA Board of Directors for approval following receipt of your annual dues investment. Generally, Board approval occurs within 30-45 days of receipt.

Investment Schedule (Minimum dues: $600 Maximum dues: $68,000)

Part 1: Annual Bushel Put Through: _____ million bushels x $40 = $_______

Defined as all bushels received plus all bushels removed for shipment, processing or transfer, divided by 2. (Note: Transfer does not include intracompany transfers.)

Part 2: Licensed Storage Capacity: _____ million bushels x $80 = $_______

Defined as the storage capacity of all your company’s grain facilities located within the United States.

Part 3: Gross Dollar Revenue: (Use one of the following and complete only that line.)

☐ Less than $3 million Gross Revenue: $_____ mil. x $65 = $___

☐ $3 million to $20 million Gross Revenue: $_____ mil. x $30 + $120 = $___

☐ More than $20 million Gross Revenue: $_____ mil. x $14 + $500 = $___

Part 4: Tax-deductible Contribution to National Grain and Feed Foundation (optional).

Sum of parts 1, 2, 3 and 4 (optional) to get your Total Investment.

Total Investment: $_________