



info@nebrconcagg.com  
402-325-8414

# NEBRASKA CONCRETE AND AGGREGATES ASSOCIATION

## Newsletter

JUNE 2008

### NC&AA President's Letter

Wow! It's hard to believe that it is the end of June already. We have survived torrential rains, flooding, tornados and just all around bad weather this spring. Hopefully some of that is past us so we can move on to a prosperous business year. Fuel prices are definitely working against us. Let's hope that the prices get straightened out soon.

Much promotion has taken place due to the efforts of our Executive Staff. Much more will come. The implementation of FACs ( Friday Afternoon Concrete ) has been very well received with participation of local producers working together to promote concrete. I have attended two FACs and really enjoyed and learned from them. Please contact Jereme to schedule one in your area.

We have addressed the potential for contractors to become associate members with very mixed feelings. The vote was split down the middle with not enough votes for the motion to carry. There are many strong feelings both ways on this subject. Maybe this will be a subject for future Board of Directors to face. For now though it is important for the membership to come back together as they always have to continue this strong association and the promotion of our products.

I hope to see you all at the summer golf outing August 4<sup>th</sup> at the York Country Club.



**Wes Cunningham**  
President NC&AA  
Ready Mixed Concrete  
Kearney, NE

### From the Executive Director



**Jereme Montgomery**  
NC&AA  
Executive Director

Well, a lot has happened since our last newsletter. We have conducted 5 Friday Afternoon Concrete presentations. We have been to North Platte (x2), Grand Island, Kearney, and Nebraska City. These programs have been well received. We have covered such topics as floors, fibers, decorative, and hot-weather concreting. These programs are geared to be more educational than promotional, even though I believe that promotion is education. Thank you to all who have sponsored these FAC's. One thing that I have learned with these programs is that people are hungry for education in concrete. Concrete is very simple in design, but unfortunately the most widely misunderstood product around. And it is up to us to shorten that learning curve so that designers are more comfortable with our product and contractors are more educated on how to use concrete in different applications.

The Board of Directors have also had a busy year. A proposal for adding an associate contractor membership was introduced to the Board. Through many debates, the board of directors voted last week on adding this membership category. It did not pass with a final Board vote of 8-8. The board felt that even though we need to work with concrete contractors, their membership just did not fit into our Association.

The NC&AA has just started on putting together a committee for a seminar in Omaha on Residential concrete. Since I started in May of 2006, the NC&AA has not covered any Residential concrete promotion directly. Through discussions with Architects and Producers, this 1-day seminar is long past due. If you have

For more FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR . . .see page 2

Editor: Paul Kostal  
Beatrice Concrete Company, Inc  
402-223-4013

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. . .continued from page 1

any subjects that should be covered please contact the office. We hope to have this seminar in September. Whether its FAC's, 1-day seminars, boxed lunches, or 1 on 1 meetings....momentum is building. We need to keep pushing the benefits our products bring.

Just a note of thanks to our membership. For the two years I have been here, I have seen more members volunteer their time for the good of our products. From committee meetings to sponsorships, the Association could not be what it is today without the support of its membership.

*Let's keep it going!*



## 2007-2008 Training Programs Well Attended

Submitted Mike Willman

The 2007 – 2008 training season was completed in May with seven ACI Field Testing Technician Grade I certification Classes with 146 people taking the classes, and 125 people certified. Three NDOR Field Testing classes with 45 people attending the classes and 43 certified.

One ACI Flatwork Finisher Class with 9 people attending and 7 Certified, one ACI Strength Testing Certification Class with 13 people attending and 12 certified, and two NDOR Plant Certification classes with 34 attending and 34 certified.

Certification programs are important to all of us in the concrete industry. On behalf of the Nebraska Concrete & Aggregates Association, we are pleased to be able to administer these programs in cooperation with the Nebraska Department of Roads, and the Nebraska Chapter American Concrete Institute. The training programs continue to be cost effective and provide quality programs due to the support of the local Ready Mix Producers and all the volunteers.

I would like to extend a big thank you to Rochelle Hitz, Leon Schaefer, Jereme Montgomery, Jim Musilek, Steve Weidenhammer, Larry Schmidt, George Woolstrum, Bob Irwin, Jerry Woods, The Nebraska Concrete & Aggregates Association, ACI Nebraska Chapter, and Nebraska Department of Roads Volunteers for all their hard work to make these programs a success.

### NEBRASKA CONCRETE & AGGREGATES ASSOCIATION

is now able to accept credit cards  
-- VISA -- Mastercard -- Discover --



Please contact the office for more information: (402) 325-8414

# Safety News

## FMCSA say Chantix May Affect Driver's Ability



Recently the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration issued the following statement: "While we do not name any medications, such as Chantix in FMCSA regulations, it appears that medical examiners should not certify a driver taking Chantix because the medication may adversely affect the driver's ability to safely operate a commercial motor vehicle. Chantix is prescribed by doctors to help patients stop smoking.

## MSHA Small Mines Office Helps Small Operators Make Large Safety Gains Fatality rate down significantly at small mining operations over 5-year period

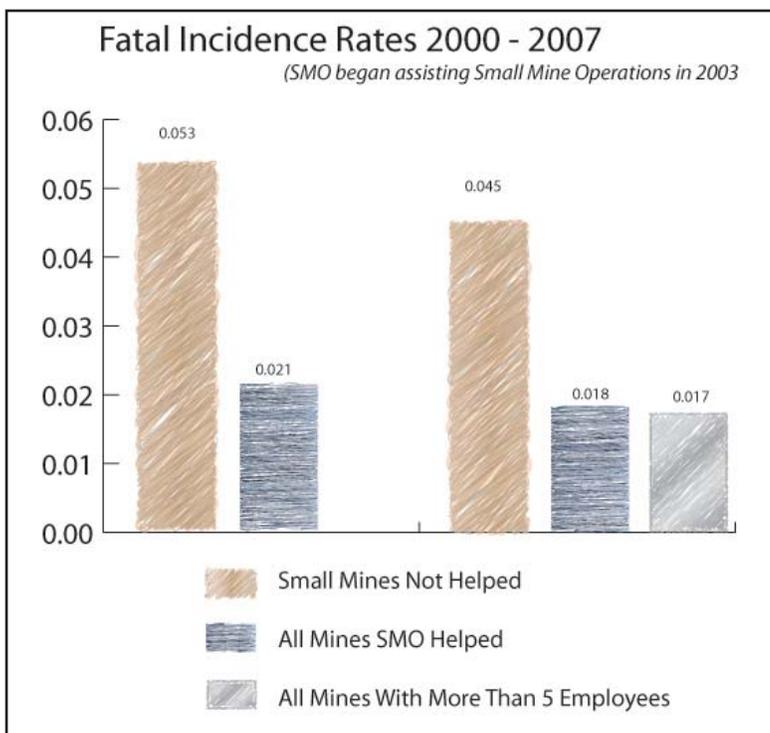
ARLINGTON,VA-- According to the US Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), smaller mining operations in the US have seen a significant decline in the rate of fatal accidents in the five years since MSHA established its Small Mines Office. Between 2003 and 2007, mine operations receiving direct assistance from the agency's Small Mines Office have experienced a 66 percent reduction in their fatality incidence rate (i.e., the number of fatalities per 200,000 hours worked). Prior to 2003, smaller mining operations, those which employed five or fewer miners, tended to experience a higher rate of fatal accidents than their larger counterparts.

"MSHA's Small Mines Office has clearly played a major role in assisting small mine operators in reducing the workplace hazards that can cause deadly mining accidents," said Richard E. Stickler, acting assistant secretary of labor for mine safety and health. "These efforts have demonstrated that good health and safety practices need not be expensive, time-consuming or complicated."

Since its inception, MSHA's Small Mines Office has helped operators of more than 6,500 US mines develop written safety and health programs tailored to fit their specific mining operation. Over the five-year period, these small operations reduced their fatal incidence rate by 66 percent -- from .053 (2000-2002) to .017 for the same time period.

Kevin Burns, manager of the Small Mines Office, indicated that a primary reason for the success with reducing fatal incidence rates at small mining operations was the agency's "robust enforcement efforts coupled with a dose of assistance that increases their ability to comply with MSHA safety and health regulations." Small mining operations with five or fewer employees represent about 50 percent of all US mining operations.

For further information, please visit the MSHA website at [www.msha.gov](http://www.msha.gov).



*"MSHA's Small Mines Office has clearly played a major role in assisting small mine operators in reducing the workplace hazards that can cause deadly mining accidents."*

--Richard E. Stickler



# Safety News

... Continued

## OSHA announces its Site-Specific Targeting Plan for 2008

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced today that its 2008 Site-Specific Targeting (SST) plan will focus on approximately 3,800 high-hazard worksites on its primary list for unannounced comprehensive safety inspections over the coming year.

"We will make effective use of our inspection resources to focus our targeted inspection program on those workplaces with the highest injury and illness rates," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA Edwin G. Foulke, Jr. "This program emphasizes to employers the importance of our enforcement efforts in ensuring safe working conditions for employees."

Over the past ten years, OSHA has used a site-specific targeting inspection program based on injury and illness data. This year's program (SST-08) was developed using the agency's Data Initiative for 2007, which surveyed approximately 80,000 employers to obtain their injury and illness numbers for 2006.

This program will initially cover about 3,800 individual worksites on the primary list that reported 11 or more injuries or illnesses resulting in days away from work, restricted work activity, or job transfer for every 100 full-time employees (known as the DART rate). The primary list will also include sites based on a "Days Away from Work Injury and Illness" (DAFWII) rate of 9 or higher (9 or more cases that involve days away from work per 100 full-time employees). Employers not on the primary list, who reported DART rates of between 7.0 and 11.0, or DAFWII rates of between 5.0 and 9.0, will be placed on a secondary list for possible inspection. The national DART rate in 2006 for private industry was 2.3, while the national DAFWII rate was 1.3.

The agency will also randomly select and inspect about 175 workplaces (with 100 or more employees) across the nation that reported low injury and illness rates for the purpose of reviewing their actual degree of compliance with OSHA requirements. These establishments are selected from those industries with above the national DART and DAFWII rates.

Finally, the agency will include on the primary list some establishments that did not respond to the 2007 data survey.

Employers are responsible for providing a safe and healthy workplace for their employees. OSHA's role is to promote the safety and health of America's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards; providing training, outreach and education; establishing partnerships; and encouraging continual process improvement in workplace safety and health. For more information, visit [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov).



**ADVERTISE** ready-mixed plant locations, services or products in the directory or company logos on the NC&AA website.

### WEBSITE OPPORTUNITIES:

1. The association website homepage is [www.nebrconagg.com](http://www.nebrconagg.com), if your company would like to add your company logo to the member link section at no charge, please let us know.
2. NEW to the association website is an opportunity to advertise as a website sponsor to the homepage. Website sponsorship is \$100/year. Placement of website sponsors will be on the home page near the current "contact NC&AA for sponsorship opportunities" section. Website sponsorship is first come, first serve basis and will be limited (limit TBD, maybe 10? sponsors). Images requested 72 dpi or higher.

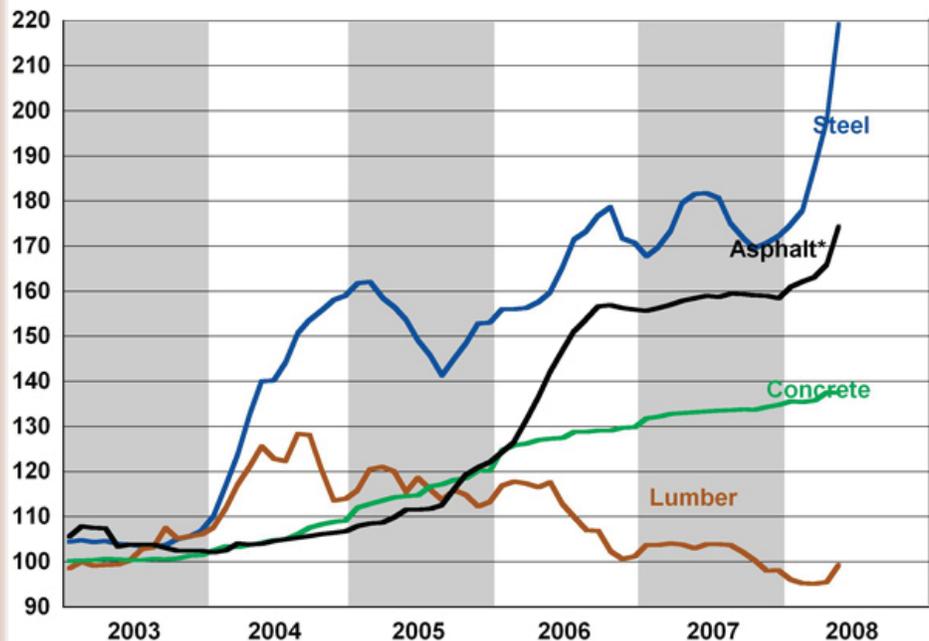
### Questions?

Contact Rochelle  
402-325-8414

**Ad Deadline: July 11, 2008**

## Buildings Materials See April Price Increases

### Producer Price Indices Competitive Building Materials



\* BLS series "Paving Asphalt" through 2003 (discontinued) then "Asphalt Paving Mixtures and Block"

Base Year: 2002 = 100

Last four months of data are preliminary.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. Data rebased to 2002 by PCA Market Research

## Updated Version of CPA Software Almost Ready

NRMCA Senior Director of National Resources Phil Kresge reports that the updated Concrete Pavement Analyst (CPA) software Version 2.0 is currently undergoing Beta testing. Though a few minor adjustments may be necessary, the program and its new features seem to be working well, he reports.

Among the improvements is a calculator feature that will allow the user to determine the asphalt in-place per ton cost based on the square foot price. Also, users will now have the option to include an aggregate or treated base beneath the concrete pavement for comparison. The cost of the base material will be included in the concrete placement costs and the thickness will be reflected in the design graphics. However, the inclusion of base material will not be figured into the soil support calculations and therefore will not affect the recommended thickness of the concrete pavement. Additionally, the format of the final reports has been modified to be more user friendly. The last stage of the upgrade process will include revising the Help file to reflect the program changes and replacing the default values for materials and labor where applicable. (For anyone interested, there is still time to provide input with regard to the default costs.)

NRMCA is planning a low-cost exchange program for owners of the current CPA versions 1.0 and 1.1. Also, an updated webinar program will highlight the changes for current users of the program. Rollout of the new CPA Version 2.0 is expected by late June.

To contact Phil Kresge, e-mail him at [pkresge@nrmca.org](mailto:pkresge@nrmca.org).



**Among the improvements is a calculator feature that will allow the user to determine the asphalt in-place per ton cost based on the square foot price.**

# More Industry News



## Testing Guide for Pavements Now Available

The National Concrete Pavement Technology Center located at Iowa State University has released a Testing Guide for Implementing Concrete Paving Quality Control Procedures. The guide, the effort of a state-pooled fund research study involving 17 state highway agencies, discusses quality control tests for optimizing concrete pavements during mixture design, verification and construction.

This guide is one product of a larger project for Material and Construction Optimization for Prevention of Premature Pavement Distress in PCC Pavements. The guide provides three recommended testing schemes depending on the pavement design life and traffic volume with a goal of balancing costs of testing with the risk of failure for various project types. Several tests are discussed in brief and user-friendly format.

The guide can be downloaded from the CPTC website at [http://www.cptechcenter.org/publications/mco/testing\\_guide.pdf](http://www.cptechcenter.org/publications/mco/testing_guide.pdf).

## NRMCA Certifies First Green-Star Plant

NRMCA has issued its first Green-Star Certificate Transit Mix Concrete & Materials' Seven Points Plant in Seven Points, TX. NRMCA's Green-Star Program was recently designed and implemented by the Environmental Task Group of the Operations, Environment and Safety Committee, in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a means to support the efforts of the ready mixed concrete industry toward environmental excellence.

Through the use of Environmental Management Systems as a tool for environmental benchmarking and continual improvement, Green Star recognizes those plants which adhere to essential principals of the environmental and sustainability movement of our industry.

"The Green-Star certification demonstrates Transit Mix's commitment to environmental responsibilities and its applications shows the company's culture is one that goes beyond mere compliance," said NRMCA's Senior Vice President of Operations and Compliance Gary Mullings.

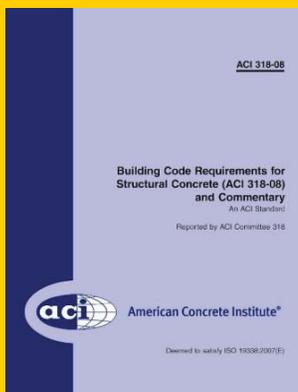
Along with press releases and numerous promotional activities a "Green-Star flag raising event" is planned at the facility. Transit Mix & Materials Company officials, representatives from the trade and national press, NRMCA executives and leadership, and EPA officials are scheduled to attend.

"Like the NRMCA, Transit Mix is committed to the continual improvement of the ready mixed concrete industry," said Matthew Hallmark, Transit Mix's director of construction and environment. "We would be honored to assist in promoting the Green-Star program and hopefully improving our industry's image with the regulatory authorities and the public." For more information, contact Gary Mullings at [gmullings@nrmca.org](mailto:gmullings@nrmca.org).



## New ACI Publications - 2008

The following is a list of new publications published in 2008



**ACI 201.2R-08** - Guide to Durable Concrete

**ACI 209.2R-08** - Guide for Modeling and Calculating Shrinkage and Creep in Hardened Concrete

**ACI 238.1R-08** - Report on Measurements of Workability and Rheology of Fresh Concrete

**ACI 318-08** - Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete and Commentary

**ACI 330R-08** - Guide for the Design and Construction of Concrete Parking Lots

**ACI 332-08** - Code Requirements for Residential Concrete and Commentary

**ACI 522.1-08** - Specification for Pervious Concrete

**ACI 530-08** - Building Code Requirements & Specification for Masonry Structures and Related Commentaries

## Wobken Promoted at Ash Grove Jensen Joins Team, Johnson to Retire



Steve Wobken

**May 30, 2008**--Ernie Peterson, National Sales Manager for Ash Grove Cement Company announced that, effective June 1, Steve Wobken will be promoted to Technical Services Representative for the Northern Region of the Midwest Sales Division. Steve will maintain sales responsibilities in eastern Nebraska and will cover the states of Nebraska, Iowa, and a small section of South Dakota.

Steve Johnson will be retiring at the end of 2008 as Senior Sales Representative. Steve has been with Ash Grove Cement Company for 6 1/2 years and was previously with Gerhold Concrete, an Ash Grove subsidiary, for 22 years. He will continue to be a recognized leader in both sales and technical service as he transitions to retirement.

Tyler Jensen will be joining the Northern Region sales team as a Sales Representative. Tyler is a recent graduate of the University of Nebraska, where he majored in Construction Management. He served as an Ash Grove intern last summer in the Northern Region and was instrumental in developing the Nebraska parking lot survey that is widely used by our customers throughout the state. He will eventually move to the northeast part of Nebraska and will assume the sales responsibilities from Steve Johnson.



Steve Johnson



Tyler Jensen

### EPA, Corps of Engineers Establish New Rule for Wetlands Compensatory Mitigation

The US Army Corps of Engineers and the US Environmental Protection Agency announced a new wetlands mitigation rule ([www.epa.gov/wetlandsmitigation/](http://www.epa.gov/wetlandsmitigation/)) on March 31 that consolidates existing regulations and guidance to establish equivalent standards for all types of mitigation under the Clean Water Act Section 404 regulatory program. The final rule was set to be published in the Federal Register on April 4 and will go into effect 60 days later.

The new rule provides one set of regulations for compensatory mitigation instead of the numerous separate guidance documents that have been used up to now. The rule establishes equivalent sets of standards based on better science, increased public participation, and innovative market-based tools.

The most significant change required is that compensation projects provided by all three compensation mechanisms (i.e. permittee-responsible mitigation, mitigation banks, and in-lieu fee mitigation) must have mitigation plans which include the same 12 fundamental components: objectives; site selection criteria; site protection instruments; baseline information; credit determination methodology; a mitigation work plan; a maintenance plan; ecological performance standards; monitoring requirements; a long-term management plan; an adaptive management plan; and financial assurances.

The rule further establishes a preferred hierarchy for mitigation options. The most preferred option is mitigation bank credits, followed by in-lieu fee program credits and, finally, permittee-responsible mitigation. Permittee-responsible mitigation has three further possible

circumstances: watershed approach; on-site and in-kind, and off-site/out-of-kind.

Mitigation sequencing (i.e. avoid, minimize and compensate) has also been retained in this rule.

*Source: National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association eDigest*



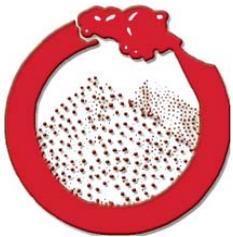
The National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA) has signed an agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop and promote environmental management tools to help ready mixed concrete plants comply with their Clean Water Act obligations. "Beyond Compliance Principles of Environmental Stewardship -- New Agreement to Reduce Environmental Footprint of Ready Mixed Concrete Operations" was signed last month at NRMCA's Annual Convention in Las Vegas.

NRMCA's efforts in this arena have long included an Environmental Certification Course and, now most recently, the addition of the Association's new Green-Star Program. Green-Star is an environmental management system (EMS) based program developed specifically for the ready mixed concrete industry that's geared to recognize facilities that have implemented an EMS based on continuous improvement. The agreement will also further the goals of EPA's regional Healthy Waters Priority and the Green Highways Partnership's "beyond compliance" principles of environmental stewardship.



## Industry Calendar

August 4, 2008	NC&AA Golf Outing at York Country Club
September 26, 2008	NC&AA Scholarship Fund Shoot (Alda, NE)
September 9 - 11, 2008	Husker Harvest Days
September 17 - 19, 2008	League of Nebraska Municipalities
October 8, 2008	Board of Directors Meeting
November 12, 2008	Board of Directors Meeting
December 17, 2008	Board of Directors Meeting
February 3 - 6, 2009	World of Concrete (Las Vegas, NV)
February 18 - 20, 2009	NC&AA 50th Annual Convention (Embassy Suites, Omaha, NE)



### **NEBRASKA CONCRETE AND AGGREGATES ASSOCIATION**

6000 Cornhusker Highway  
Lincoln, NE 68507  
402-325-8414

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**