



National Conference on Weights and Measures
"That Equity May Prevail"

2011 Chairman's Address

Tim Tyson | Kansas Department of Agriculture / Weights and Measures Division

I hope everyone has been able to get out and see some of the beautiful sites around Missoula. Sunday evening my wife and niece talked me into hiking up the hill to the M. I don't think what I did was considered hiking. I made it and next week I may need by-pass surgery. I know Tim Chesser saw more sites than he wanted. Tim was able to safely elude a grizzly in Glacier Park. I have tried to find the YouTube video of Tim running from the bear but haven't found it yet, I even tried searching on "Arkansas Redneck mulls bear in Glacier Park." If we find it we will show it. On a serious note, we are thankful Tim survived.

In the last newsletter I talked about Weights and Measures being the silent 3rd partner in every transaction. Everyday our inspectors go out and test scales and gas pumps, they test packages and do price verifications. They also may test propane meters, DEF dispensers, and mass flow meters that are measuring ag chemicals at the local Coop or they may be at a pipeline testing meters. Whatever they are testing, our inspectors are ensuring that when a transaction occurs that the consumer and the device owner are both being treated equitably. Most of the time no one notices.

Also in the article I wrote about the need to acquire and assemble data to show the impact we have on the marketplace when we can perform our duties and when we cannot. Do we have this data? No. I can tell you that when the State of Kansas started testing VTM's after a 3 year layoff, that compliance rate were less than 50% and now after 2 years they are at 90% compliance. As an organization we need to compile these instances and put dollar amounts to them.

I would like to share some analysis that I have done. In Kansas we produce about 224.4 million bu of sorghum, 369.6 million bu of wheat, 595.3 bu of corn and 160.6 million bu of soybeans. At current cash grain prices, \$6.50 for sorghum, \$7 for wheat, \$7 for corn, and \$13.75 for soybeans Kansas produces \$10.4 billion. That is just in those four grains. Now lets assume that our analysis shows that after testing all of our grain scales that on a bell curve our median error is 0. If we change that bell curve and now our median is a -20 lbs, one division, we now have just reduced our economic value by \$4.18 million dollars. That is \$4.18 million dollars less that our producers don't get paid for.

Now lets look at fuel sales. Kansas sells about 3.3 billion gallons of fuel each year. If we again look at our bell curve of errors and our average error is 0 that 3.3 million gallons is worth \$11.5 billion at \$3.50 per gallon. I have looked at our bell curve and it does indeed have a median



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of 0. Now if we again shift that bell curve to the left and now have a -1 cu in median error then consumers just lost \$10 million. In your state that could be less or that could be more depending on fuel prices and the amount of gallons sold.

These are the type of numbers that get people's attention. However we have be able to say what our bell curves are and how are they impacted by inspection or how are they impacted by not inspecting them.

Everyday we hear how the economy is getting better or not. The reality is that we all are struggling with budget cuts and reduced revenues. As states we must find new ways of doing business and better ways of justifying our programs.

I cannot tell you when we can have better analysis for our programs, I can only tell you we must. I can tell you that it is a humbling experience being your chairman over the past year, I thank you.

I now would like to call up Alan Johnston, President of Measurement Canada for the signing of the MRA between our two Nations.