Industry Partner Committed to Safety, Customers

Global nitrogen supplier supports ResponsibleAg initiative

During CF Industries’ first 60 years, the company was a member-owned cooperative supplying fertilizer products for its owners. Today, the nearly 75-year-old business is a financially successful, publicly traded company and one of the largest nitrogen fertilizer manufacturers in the world. The company supplies a suite of fertilizer products to ag and industrial customers around the world. It operates nine manufacturing complexes throughout North America and the United Kingdom, producing granular urea, UAN, ammonia and ammonium nitrate, as well as diesel exhaust fluid and other products that meet growing customer demand. CF Industries’ Donaldsonville Nitrogen Complex is the world’s largest nitrogen complex. CF Industries’ focus on safety has been present since the company was formed, encapsulated in its bedrock “Do it Right!” value. The company’s heritage gives company leadership an intimate understanding of the regulations, safety and security responsibilities its customers face.

“Safety is our top priority, and the most important commitment we make to each other and to our communities,” says Rosemary O’Brien, Vice President of Public Affairs at CF Industries. “It is critical to our license to operate, just as it is for our entire industry, from manufacturers to retailers and farmers, as we are all subject to health, safety and environmental regulations.”

Audits work for manufacturer and retailers

As part of its culture of environment, health and safety excellence and its focus on operations that are compliant with regulations, CF Industries utilizes a team of auditors who conduct audits and facilitate best practices across all CF operations.

“We employ an audit process at CF Industries because audits work,” O’Brien says. ResponsibleAg audits are designed to take the confusion and guesswork out of regulatory compliance. “You may not have the expertise in your organization to decipher every rule and regulation,” O’Brien notes. “The audit process makes sure location managers are interpreting complex regulations correctly. Audits also are an important learning experience.”

O’Brien believes ResponsibleAg’s audit initiatives significantly contribute to safety efforts at the retail level and that the audit process should be a positive one. “Everyone in the fertilizer industry has a responsibility to handle products safely, ResponsibleAg is a helping hand to make that easier for you,” she states. “Completing the audit and achieving certification through ResponsibleAg shows employees and the community your business is going above and beyond. You are using best practices.”

The ResponsibleAg audit process provides third-party verification that the company is committed to what is best for all its stakeholders,” O’Brien explains. CF Industries’ membership in ResponsibleAg is just one aspect of the company’s focus on safety.

ResponsibleAg membership reinforces commitment to industry, safety

The company’s commitment to safety in the fertilizer industry is the reason CF Industries is among more than 50 leading companies that have supported ResponsibleAg since its launch in 2014.

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ResponsibleAg is an industry-led initiative committed to helping agribusinesses ensure they are compliant with environmental, health, safety and security regulations to keep employees, customers and communities safe. It offers a systematic approach to facility evaluation, a corrective action plan for improvements and a comprehensive collection of resources members can turn to for information and education.

“We take safety, security and regulatory compliance seriously throughout the industry. By supporting ResponsibleAg and encouraging our customers to join, we want to encourage improvement and best practices all the way down the line,” says O’Brien, a long-standing member of the ResponsibleAg Board of Directors and member of the ResponsibleAg Communications Committee. Likewise, she believes ag retailers who achieve ResponsibleAg certification validate their commitment to safety, sending a strong message to their employees, customers and communities. “Companies throughout our industry must be credible to all our stakeholders – business, community and employee. Our processes and our safety records must demonstrate that we take safety seriously,” O’Brien adds.

Indeed, CF Industries boasts an impressive safety record, with several locations logging years without lost time for injury. O’Brien explains, “You don’t have that kind of record unless safety is part of your culture – part of your core values as a company. Joining ResponsibleAg and achieving certification is an excellent way for ag retailers to demonstrate they take safety and compliance seriously.”

To learn more about ResponsibleAg or to become a member visit www.ResponsibleAg.com or call 270.683.6777.