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VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1

CMA NEWSLETTER

NO.1

**GREETINGS FROM
THE NEW EXECUTIVE**

SAFETY

**AN INSIDE LOOK OF
WHAT CAN HAPPEN**

**WELCOME
ANOTHER ADDITION
TO CMA
& MUCH MORE...**



MEET THE EXECUTIVE...



MATIAS PINTO
President

At the 26th Annual General Meeting held in Grenada in December 2023, it was announced on the second day of the business meeting that Matias Pinto, the 1st Vice President, would become the President for the next two years. This decision was made after the outgoing President and co-founder, Philip Milliken, officially announced his retirement from the Association after more than 20 years of unbroken service. However, Philip will continue to serve as an ex-officio member of the Association.

Unfortunately, we regret to inform Mr. Pinto has resigned from his position at Molinos del Ozama. As a result, he will no longer be associated with the Association with effect from mid-February 2024. This news came as a great shock and was unforeseen, but the Secretariat will do its best to handle the matter smoothly for the Association's continued success and growth. We would like to express our best wishes to Mr Pinto in his future endeavours.

Dear Members and Friends

I trust you're having a positive and productive 2024 - generally the region experienced an optimistic first quarter of 2024 filled with opportunities, as most member countries continue to experience economic recovery since the negative fallout from the COVID pandemic. This improved economic condition has been counterbalanced by the negative impact of inflation, the war in Ukraine and the Gaza conflict, which continue to reverberate throughout the world. Let's not forget the acute political and socio-economic turmoil that has gripped our member country of Haiti. We should keep Haiti in our prayers that there be a speedy resolution to the current crisis.

A threat closer to home is the potential entry of wheat flour originating from Turkey and more recently attempts to have Ukraine wheat flour penetrate our regional market. This threat poses a challenge which necessitates that our organization continuously monitor the regional trading environment and that individual members keep a watchful eye out for foreign products, to guard the survival of our milling industry and its contribution to the economic and social well-being of the Caribbean region.



GILBERT SPOONER
1st Vice President

In December 2023 the 26th Annual General Meeting of the CMA was held in the "Spice Isle" of Grenada with great success. I'd like to thank all members and friends who made it to the event as well as the host country for their outstanding hospitality and other courtesies. We now look forward to having a similarly successful event in this year's host country of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in December 2024.

Finally, I take this opportunity to thank the immediate past President of the CMA, Mr. Philip Milliken, for his stellar service and dedication to the organization. Mr. Milliken who was the Commercial Manager at ADM Belize Mills Limited, retired at the end of December 2023.

Sincerely
Gilbert Spooner

MEET THE EXECUTIVE CONT'D...



CHARLES LEGAULT
2nd Vice President

Good day fellow members,

I, Charles Legault, am honored to have been elected to the position of 2nd Vice President (VP) during the last Caribbean Millers' Association (CMA) meeting held in Grenada in December of 2023.

I hope that in my role as 2nd VP, my experience and expertise will contribute to this association and that together we will be able to work on solutions to the problems faced by our members.

A major issue discussed in recent meetings is the volume of imported goods like pasta, cookies and other products coming from foreign countries. There are local producers who are making and are ready to supply quality products from within our own borders, how can we increase purchases of local goods? Let's explore this together.

Manyan Inc has been a member of the CMA for many years and as membership and members have grown and evolved, so have we. I, myself started working for Manyan Inc. in October 2000, learning about your association that same year and only started to attend the meetings after our CEO, Peter Yanofsky, appointed me to represent Manyan Inc. My vast experience in the commercial printing industry, dating back to the late 70's has

helped me considerably when I transitioned to the bag packaging industry. Printing on bags is similar to printing on paper, except it is slightly more challenging due the texture of woven polypropylene bags. It is now nearing 24 years that I have had the privilege of servicing the FEED and FLOUR industry in South America and the Caribbean islands with Manyan Inc. and it is always a pleasure meeting everyone.

We are proud to be a supplier to many of our members and would like to extend our offer of services by letting you know that we print on and supply many different types of bags such as laminated and unlaminated pillow and gusset style bags, BOPP bags, paper poly bags, bulk / tote bags (FIBCs for ½ ton or more). If we can be of any assistance, we would be pleased to help.

I would once again like to thank you for the distinct honor and privilege bestowed upon me as newly appointed 2nd Vice President of the esteemed Caribbean Millers' Association and look forward to seeing what we can accomplish together.

Sincerely yours,
Charles Legault





AN INSIDE LOOK OF WHAT CAN HAPPEN...

Imperative

It is important for everyone to prioritize safety by following procedures and ensuring they are implemented by all members involved.

Recently I came across a story by the Associated Press which involved the sentencing of two (2) former Didion Milling officials in a Wisconsin corn plant blast. Both were sentenced to two years by a federal judge for falsifying records and obstructing the investigation of a fatal corn dust explosion which occurred seven (7) years ago.

U.S. District Judge James Peterson sentenced Didion Millings' Vice President of Operations and the company's former Food Safety Superintendent for their convictions last October 2023 on multiple safety, environmental and fraud charges.

Additionally, there were at least five (5) Didion employees who pleaded guilty to or were convicted of charges that included concealing environmental violations, lying to investigators and falsifying cleaning logs.

This explosion unfortunately took the lives of 5 individuals in 2017 at the company's Cambria corn mill. I hasten to point out we will never see or be aware of the magnitude of this great loss to these 5 families that were gravely affected in the years ahead. What can be done is to learn from this unfortunate incident and put into place all the necessary precursors to avoid this or any similar incidences at our place of work.

Question - Are you ready to embrace safety as a way of life? Let's make sure we always put safety first and keep ourselves and those around us protected and secure.

Remember, safety is not just a habit, it's a mindset.

(Source: Office of Public Affairs U.S. Dept. of Justice)

STRUCTURAL DAMAGE EARTHQUAKE (JAMAICA)

BEFORE



AFTER



Monday, 30 Oct. 2023 Jamaica: magnitude 5.4 earthquake

In October of last year, the island of Jamaica was hit by a powerful earthquake that occurred around 10:57 a.m. Fortunately, there were no reports of injuries, but the building (refer to attached pictures) that houses CMA's secretariat suffered severe damage. Despite this setback, the Association's work continues for the time being. However, the building had to be vacated and is currently considered unsafe.

(Amateur photographer: Pictures taken 30-Oct-2023)





VISERION INTRODUCTION

GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL MERCHANT

In October 2023, CMA welcomed a new Associate Member from the U.S.A. Please allow me to introduce Viserion Grain.

• BRIEF HISTORY/INFORMATION ABOUT VISERION.

Founded in 2018, Viserion is a global agricultural organization based in Boulder, CO. Viserion began as a highly experienced managed futures and options trading team that previously managed grain/oilseed trading operations for global agricultural firms. From 2020 - 2023, through a series of acquisitions and integrations, Viserion has grown into a global exporter, feed miller, and crusher of grains and oilseeds.

• COMPANY'S SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.

Viserion Introduction	<p>Viserion International Holdco, LLC ("Viserion") is a global agricultural merchant based in Colorado.</p>	Viserion International, LLC ("Viserion International")
	<p>Viserion recently expanded its agricultural financial trading platform to include a physical trading presence (grain handling capabilities) and a portfolio of complementary agribusiness units.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A financial grain trading firm with the backing of Pinnacle Asset Management, L.P. ("Pinnacle"), Viserion International is comprised of a highly experienced managed futures trading team that previously managed grain/oilseed trading operations for global agricultural firms.
	<p>Viserion is comprised of four business lines.</p>	Viserion Grain, LLC ("Viserion Grain")
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic grain storage & handling facilities along the Mississippi river spanning from Iowa to Louisiana. An experienced trading team managing truck, train, barge, container, and vessel supply chains for both domestic and global customers in the food and feed industries ingredient.
		Viserion Europe Sàrl ("Viserion Europe")
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A subsidiary that was developed to complement the physical and financial capabilities of Viserion Grain and Viserion International. Opportunities in Europe are expected to be geographic and/or product line specific and aim to add diversification of risk.
		Viserion Milling, LLC ("Viserion Milling")
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formerly "Western Milling", the leading West Coast feed miller. Grain handling and Milling assets in Oregon, California, Arizona, and Texas. Amplifies Viserion's domestic growth plans, while simultaneously providing geographic, product, and personnel expertise.

COMPANY VALUES:



Care for each other.

We provide support, understanding and genuine care for each other. We work collaboratively recognizing that no one can do it alone and that as team, we are always better and stronger together.



Do the right thing.

We are trustworthy because we are honest, accountable and transparent. We work towards the best solution, not the easiest solution, always doing the right thing the first time.



Own it.

As employee owners, we know and accept that every act we take and decision we make are our own. We recognize that there are no good excuses and that mistakes, which can happen, are acceptable when we own them and learn from them.



Strive for customers success.

We seek to understand and appreciate what makes our customers successful. We make the most of every opportunity to exceed their expectations, thus creating value that contributes to their success and ours.

Annual School Supplies Drive: Every year we hold a campaign for employees to donate time, money, resources to help families in need with supporting their children with back-to-school supplies.

Kruse Western Renewable Fuels: In 2020 we began the construction of our first CNG facility, which uses methane from the dairy waste pools and refines it into CNG for commercial trucks in Central California to fuel up on. Western Milling converted nearly 100% of it's trucking fleet to Renewable CNG. We also partner with several Fortune 500 companies to supply their commercial trucks in Central California.

Delivering RNG in the form of CNG: We proudly source Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) from San Joaquin Valley dairies which capture methane and direct it away from the environment, repurposing it as a clean, green energy source. This carbon negative fuel, used as transportation fuel in the form of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), is an answer to the question of both affordability and sustainability.



Compressed Natural Gas Fueling Station - Goshen / Visalia CA. - KWRP

Compressed Natural Gas fueling is now available in Goshen, CA! Visit our brand new CNG fueling station off of Freeway 99 at 30981 Rd 67.

 Kruse Western Renewable Fuels

Awards/Recognitions Received

- In 2019 Western Milling's Goshen Facility was named Feed Facility of the year by the American Feed Industry Association (AFIA)

<https://millingandgrain.com/afia-announces-2019-feed-facility-of-the-year-category-winners-21701/>

- In 2023, Western Milling's CEO Chad Pinter was named CEO Monthly's CEO of the year

<https://www.ceo-review.com/winners/western-milling/>

- Viserion Grain is a member of NAEGA (North American Export Grain Association), with Patrick Hart currently serving on the NAEGA Board.

Quote from Elian CEO Andres Martin:

"Sustainability is our core foundational value, and we believe that this strategic asset - coupled with Viserion's scale, resources, and expertise - will allow us to better align our services with consumers and food system trends, enhance European food security, and resist supply chain disruptions."




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