



North American Export Grain Association

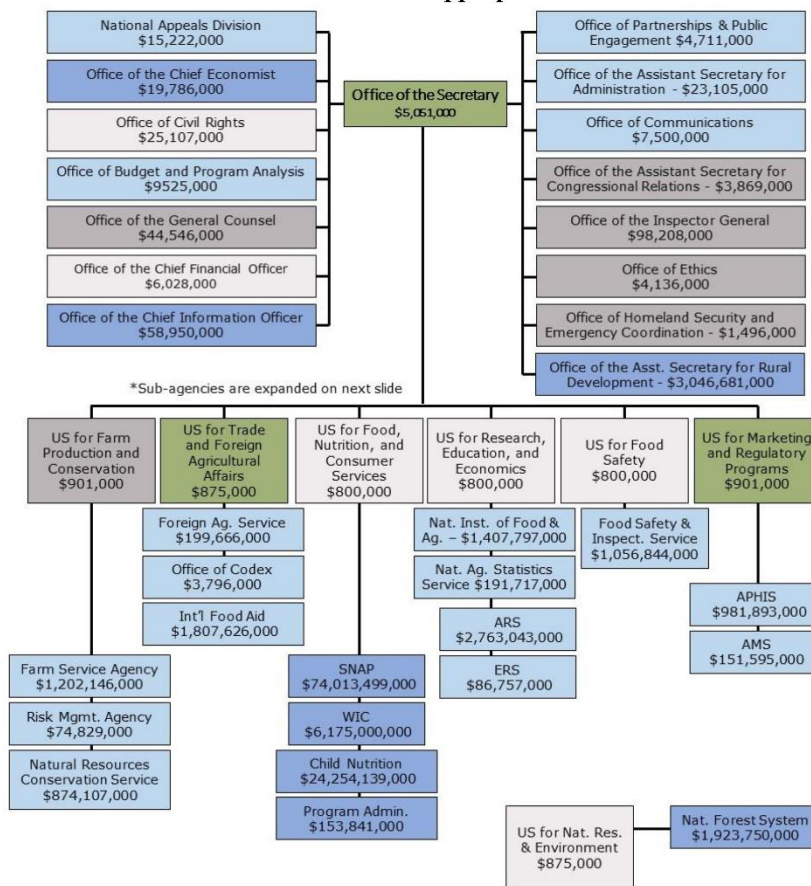
## Outreach

April 13, 2018

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

### Image of the Week

#### U.S. Department of Agriculture Funding Levels Under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018



*On March 23, 2018 President Donald Trump signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 into law. This act funds the U.S. Federal Government through September 30, 2018. General appropriations for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) by department can be found in the above graphic, which also lays out the new reorganization of USDA implemented by Secretary Sonny Perdue. Under the reorganization, the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Service was created and the Foreign Agriculture Service was moved to this department. In addition, the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) was moved to the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS).*

*The Consolidated Appropriations Act extends funding for USDA through September 30, 2018. Many USDA program's authorization will expire on December 31, 2018 with the expiration of the Farm Bill. Legislators are now considering Farm Bill language, and proposed language in the house includes \$255 million for market developments programs including the Market Access Program.*

***CORRECTION: in the March 29 image of the week the image incorrectly stated that Section 301 comments were due March 4. They are do May 11.***

### Member Opportunities

- World Bank Agriculture Trade Survey
- Spring and Summer Contracts and Best Practices Seminars
- NAFTA and Asia-Pacific Policy Teams
- NAEGA Internships

### Action Reports

#### ***Recent Actions:***

- MRL Workshop Trip Report
- COCERAL Transition Trip Report

#### ***Upcoming Actions***

- IPPC Commission on Phytosanitary Measures – April 16-20 – Rome, Italy
- IGTC Strategy Session and IGC Meeting – June 17-20 – London, UK

#### ***Pending Actions***

- Comments on Deregulation of Herbicide Resistant GE Canola
- Section 301 Comments

### News

- Trump Administration Looks to Join TPP

### NAEGA Calendar and Member Notices

- Upcoming Events and Notices for Members

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## **Member Opportunities**

### **World Bank Agriculture Trade Survey**

The World Bank Group's Enabling the Business of Agriculture project is inviting NAEGA members to contribute their knowledge and expertise to the Enabling the Business of Agriculture 2019 report. The report will analyze and monitor regulations that impact how markets function in the agriculture and agribusiness sectors in 82 countries around the world. More information on EBA, including its latest report covering 62 countries can be found here: <http://eba.worldbank.org/>. Among others, EBA data can be a useful tool when advocating for regulatory reforms to enable market access in your countries.

The EBA team is looking for trade associations, agribusinesses, agri-cooperatives and other associations in your country to share their knowledge by completing a set of questions on the regulatory challenges they face when exporting agricultural products. These questions can be found in Section 5 of [this survey](#).

Data collected through these surveys will be presented in the EBA's 2019 report and, if you choose to contribute, you will be acknowledged in the report and on their website, subject to your consent. The EBA team will also send you a World Bank certificate of participation and a complimentary copy of the report. Individual responses are kept strictly confidential and are not shared with anyone inside or outside the World Bank.

### **Contracts and Best Practices Seminars**

With the release of the revised NAEGA 2 contract on March 30 NAEGA is planning for educational seminars to communicate the revisions and educate on the contract and industry best practices. Last year, NAEGA held three North American and one international seminar. As we move into the Spring and Summer we are seeking your assistance in identifying locations for this year's seminars! Let us know where we should hold 2018 Seminars and what topics you would like us to cover. NAEGA also conducts company specific private seminars. Please let us know if you are interested attending or hosting a NAEGA seminar. Click [here](#) for more information the in-depth, interactive programs NAEGA conducts!

### **NAFTA and Asia-Pacific Policy Teams**

With NAFTA negotiations underway and the evolving U.S.-China trade relationship we expect many more fast paced and dramatic developments that could greatly change the terms of trade for NAEGA members. Your involvement is needed!

NAEGA ad hoc policy teams of member personnel working largely through conference calls are helping to guide our multifaceted effort to address the evolving trade environment. Teams focused on the North American Free Trade Agreement and the Asia-Pacific Market are already established. The **NAFTA Policy Team** will be heavily engaged over the next three months to support NAEGA work with the U.S. Food and Ag. Dialogue for Trade, The Pacific Northwest Economic Region, the Canada U.S. Grain and Seed Trade Task Group and the NAEGA committees and Board of Directors to address NAFTA. A similar effort will soon start with an **Asia-Pacific Policy Team** that will be focused on U.S. trade relations with China, Japan, Korea and the Trans Pacific environment more generally.

### **Internships**

We have an open intern position starting in the fall of 2018 to work at the NAEGA office at 1400 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202. Information on working for NAEGA as an intern can be found [here](#).

*Full Details on Upcoming Events can be found in the [Meetings & Events Section of the NAEGA Member's Only Page](#).*

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## **Action Reports**

### ***Recent Actions:***

#### **MRL Workshop Trip Report**

A trip report is now available for NAEGA contractor Matt Lantz's travel to Geneva, Switzerland. In Geneva, Matt, in close coordination with the IGTC's MRL Policy Team, participated in a WTO sponsored Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) Workshop on February 26-27. At the workshop Matt will represent NAEGA and advanced IGTC policy advocacy related to MRLs during discussions with importer and exporter government officials, intergovernmental organization representatives, and industry.

A copy of the trip report is available [here](#).

#### **COCERAL Transition Trip Report**

A trip report is now available for IGTC Secretariat Katy Lee's trip to Brussels, Belgium. In Brussels, Katy met with COCERAL's new Secretary General Iliana Axiotiandes and Head of Regulatory Affairs Kevin Bosc to discuss the transition of the new COCERAL leadership following the departure of IGTC vice-president and COCERAL secretary general Teresa Babuscio. During a full day of meetings, Ms. Lee and COCERAL discussed IGTC policy positions on plant breeding innovation, maximum residue limits (MRLs) and electronic documentation; the leadership role of The Netherlands in the International Plant Protection Convention's (IPPC) ePhyto pilot project; and the support of the EU Commission in identifying regulatory frameworks to support implementation of the ePhyto initiative.

A copy of the trip report is available [here](#).

### ***Upcoming Actions:***

#### **IPPC Commission on Phytosanitary Measures – April 16-20 – Rome, Italy**

On April 16-20 Katy Lee, Secretariat of the International Grain Trade Coalition, will travel to Rome, Italy to participate in the IPPC Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM). During this meeting the IGTC will act as an observer at the annual CPM event, considered the "parliament" of the 183 contracting governments to the IPPC. The agenda of the CPM includes issues of highest importance to the IGTC, including:

- The role of the grain trade in global food security and economic development;
- The status of the draft International Standard on Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) for grain;
- Discussions among IPPC contracting parties on "Conceptual challenges in commodity standard development";
- The IPPC ePhyto Solution and progress of the worldwide pilot project on IPPC ePhytos;

During the meeting the IGTC will also hold individual meetings with the leaders of the CPM, countries sitting on the Standards Committee and IPPC staff. A notice to post for this travel is available [here](#).

#### **IGTC Strategy Session and IGC Meeting – June 17-20 – London, UK**

On June 17-20 a robust representation from IGTC Members and Corporate Stakeholders is expected in London to participate in a IGTC Strategy Session and attend a meeting of the International Grains Council. A preliminary schedule includes:

June 17: Welcome event for IGTC global delegation in London

June 18: IGTC Strategy Session

June 18-19: IGC Session and annual conference

June 19: GAFTA annual dinner

### ***Pending Actions:***

#### **Comments on Deregulation of Herbicide Resistant GE Canola**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is inviting public comment on a petition from BASF Plant Science L.P. (BASF) seeking deregulation of a canola variety genetically engineered (GE) to convert oleic acid to docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) and eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA), as well as for resistance to an imidazolinone herbicide.

Comments may be submitted from March 30, 2018 – May 29, 2018, at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) by entering docket number APHIS-2018-0014 in the search box.

#### **U.S. Section 301 Comments**

The U.S. Trade Representative is seeking public comment on its findings under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 that the Government of China's policies on technology transfer, intellectual property and innovation that are unreasonable and discriminatory. In relation to these findings, the Trade Representative proposes an additional duty of 25 percent on a list of products from China. In addition to receiving public comment, USTR will also hold a hearing on May 15, 2018. Parties interested in testifying before the hearing or participating in the public comment period should adhere to the following schedule:

**April 23, 2018:** Due date for filing requests to appear and a summary of expected testimony at the public hearing and for filing pre-hearing submissions.

**May 11, 2018:** Due date for submission of written comments.

**May 15, 2018:** The Section 301 Committee will convene a public hearing in the main hearing room of the U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street SW Washington DC 20436 beginning at 10:00 am.

**May 22, 2018:** Due date for submission of post-hearing rebuttal comments.

Please contact NAEGA if you are interested in participating in these comments.

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## **News**

### **Trump Administration Looks to Join TPP**

In comments made yesterday to Senators and Governors from major agriculture states, U.S. President Donald Trump ordered his National Economic Council Chair Larry Kudlow and U.S.

Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer to pursue U.S. membership in the recently completed Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership or TPP. This move follows the U.S. withdrawal from the agreement during the first week of the Trump presidency in 2017. The agreement, which was signed in early March, includes market access and regulatory cooperation amongst 11 Pacific nations including, Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam.

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### **Calendar & Member Notices**

*Click [here](#) for a Copy of the IGTC Calendar*

#### **2018**

#### **April**

- 16-20** – IPPC Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-13) – Rome, Italy
- 23** – Requests to appear at USTR 30 Hearing Due

#### **May**

- 11** – Section 301 Written Comments Due
- 14-18** – IPPC Standards Committee – Rome, Italy
- 15** – Section 301 Committee Hearing – Washington, D.C.

#### **June**

- 6-7** – WTO Agriculture Committee – Geneva, Switzerland
- 14** – IGTC Management Council – Virtual
- 18** – IGTC Strategy Session – London, UK
- 19** – 27<sup>th</sup> IGC Grains Conference – London, UK
- 19** – 2018 Gafta London Dinner – London, UK

#### **July**

- 1-September 30** – IPPC ISPM Consultation – Virtual
- 2-7** – 41<sup>st</sup> Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC41) – Rome, Italy
- 11-12** – WTO SPS Committee – Geneva, Switzerland

#### **September**

- 4-7** – IGTC Seminar – Washington, D.C.

7 – International Grains Council Market Condition Committee Meeting – London, UK

10-14 – IMO CCC5 – London, UK

14 – IGTC Management Council – Virtual

26-27 – WTO Agriculture Committee – Geneva, Switzerland

**October**

TBD – DBTG Operational and Technical Workshop – Baltimore, MD

1-5 – FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) – Rome, Italy

31-November 1 – WTO SPS Committee – Geneva, Switzerland

**November**

19-23 – IPPC Standards Committee – Rome, Italy

21-22 – WTO Agriculture Committee – Geneva, Switzerland

10-22 – COP 14 – Egypt

27-29 – IGTC General Assembly 2018 – Beijing, China

**December**

TBD – U.S. APHIs and China AQSIQ bilateral on soybean phytosanitary requirements

2-4 – NGFA Country Elevator Conference – St. Louis, MO

4 – IGC 40<sup>th</sup> Session – London, UK

14 – IGTC Management Council - Virtual

TBD – Biosafety Protocol COP 14 – Egypt

**2019**

**March**

17-19 – NGFA Annual Convention – Amelia, Island, FL

**December**

2-4 – NGFA Country Elevator Conference – Indianapolis, IN

**2020**

**March**

8-10 – NGFA Annual Convention – Austin, TX

**December**

**TBC – COP 15 – CBD – Beijing, China**

***2021***

**March**

**14-16 – NGFA Annual Convention – San Diego, CA**

***2022***

**December**

**TBC – COP 16 – CBD - Turkey**

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