

Outreach April 6, 2018

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

Image of the Week

NAFTA Timeline Under Trade Promotion Authority



Sources: Trade Benefits America Coalition, "Timeline and Requirements for Trade Agreements Under TPA-2015 Legislation"; Ian F. Fergusson and Richard S. Beth, "Trade Promotion Authority (TPA): Frequently Asked Questions," Congressional Research Service, July 2, 2015; Jackie Calmes, "Trans-Pacific Partnership Text Released, Waving Green Flag for Debate," New York Times, November 5, 2015

Member Opportunities

- Spring and Summer Contracts and Best Practices Seminars
- NAFTA and Asia-Pacific Policy Teams
- NAEGA Internships

Action Reports

Recent Actions:

- Update on China Soybean Requirements
- NAFTA Coalition Meeting
- CMC and NAEGA Board Meeting Trip Report
- IPPC ePhyto 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

- Codex Alimentarius Analysis and Sampling Comments
- Comments on Deregulation of Herbicide Resistant GE Canola
- Section 301 Comments

News

- China Announces Section 301 Retaliation
- NAFTA Ministerial in Washington

NAEGA Calendar and Member Notices

- Upcoming Events and Notices for Members

Member Opportunities

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](#).

[Click here to return to Index](#)

Action Reports

Recent Actions:

Update on China Soybean Requirements

Last week Gary and Ryan were joined by NAEGA Washington representatives at meetings with the House, Senate and U.S. Trade Representative to discuss ongoing concerns regarding foreign material regulations on exports of soybeans to the Chinese market. NAEGA met with the House Committee on Agriculture Majority Staff on Tuesday, March 27, the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Majority staff on Wednesday, March 28, and USTR's Chief Agriculture Negotiator Ambassador Gregg Doud on Thursday, March 29. During these meetings NAEGA representatives discussed industry concerns regarding APHIS negotiations with AQSIQ and implementation of FGIS Directive 9180.85 requiring all soybean shipments to China to acknowledge foreign material content. To date, NAEGA has been cooperating with USDA by contributing to and communicating our concerns and possible solutions as part of the USDA Systems Approach on Weed Seeds. Unfortunately, APHIS has no current plans to address the "Trade Support" elements that would address China's practices and provide for leveling the playing field for U.S. exports. As a result, in last week's conversations, NAEGA requested action on the part of the U.S. government to:

1. Support the establishment of a new protocol to provide for consistent application of more predictable and transparent Chinese soybean import requirements that are science based and consistent with the International Plant Protection Convention's International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures Number 32. As such the protocol would eliminate the AD.
2. Complete work to establish U.S. official and commercial practice as sufficient to meet China's Administrative Measures of Inspection and Quarantine for the Entry and Exit Grain issued by the General.
3. Closely examine and report on the unwritten agreement between APHIS and AQSIQ and actions taken by U.S. officials that led to the current circumstances.

Following these meetings, NAEGA is advising and working closely with House, Senate and USTR staff to address industry concerns and identify next steps.

NAFTA Coalition Meeting

On Wednesday, April 4 Ryan attended a Business and Agriculture Community Meeting on NAFTA Modernization Negotiations at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington, D.C. At the meeting, industry representatives from across sectors provided an update on NAFTA negotiations and analysis of where negotiations might turn. Some type of conclusion to NAFTA seems to be approaching. This week, USTR Ambassador Robert Lighthizer welcomed his

Canadian and Mexican trade ministers to Washington to discuss NAFTA. Several factors are pushing negotiators to a conclusion, including: Mexican election in July, statutory requirements related to trade promotion authority, and the Canada and Mexico's exemption from steel and aluminum tariffs, which happens on May 1.

CMC and NAEGA Board Meeting Trip Report

A trip report is now available for IGTC Secretariat Katy Lee's travel to Miami, Florida to attend the Commodity Markets Council's State of the Industry conference and brief the NAEGA Board of Directors on IGTC funding, policy files and initiatives. A copy of Katy's trip report can be found [here](#).

IPPC ePhyto Trip Report

A trip report is now available for IGTC Secretariat Katy Lee's travel to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. In Kuala Lumpur Katy attended the 3rd IPPC Global Symposium on ePhyto as part of IGTC participation in the IPPC ePhyto Industry Advisory Group (IAG). Currently, the IGTC is advising the IPPC on the testing of its global ePhyto solution. At the Global Symposium the IGTC was granted an opportunity to discuss "ePhyto and Trade Facilitation" before attendees.

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:

Codex Alimentarius Analysis and Sampling Comments

The U.S. Department of Agriculture and Food and Drug Administration [are sponsoring a public meeting](#) on April 6, 2018 to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft United States (U.S.) positions to be discussed at the 39th Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex). The meeting will take place in Budapest, Hungary, between May 7 and 11, 2018. The public meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 6, 2018, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. To register for the meeting please [click here](#).

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 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.

[Click here to return to Index](#)

News

China Announces Section 301 Retaliation on U.S.

On Tuesday, April 3 the Chinese Ministry of Commerce announced its intention to implement a 25 percent tariff on \$50 billion in U.S. origin goods in response to the ongoing U.S. 301 investigation. This move follows the Trump Administration's recommendation that a 25 percent tariff be applied to \$50 billion of Chinese goods, including aerospace, information and communication technology, robotics, and machinery. [The Chinese list of products](#) includes soybeans, durum wheat and certain types of aircraft. These actions follow recently implemented tariffs by the U.S. on Chinese steel and aluminum under Section 232 and \$3 billion in retaliatory tariffs in response.

NAFTA Ministerial in Washington

This week U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer welcomed Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Chrystia Freeland and Mexican Secretary of Economy Ildefonso Guajardo to Washington for a ministers meeting to discuss ongoing NAFTA negotiations. Previously, NAFTA parties had been attempting to schedule an eighth round of negotiations. However, this week's meeting of ministers is seen as a substitute for the next round of talks and a potential indication that a negotiated agreement could be near completion. Many analysts believe that May 1 is a likely deadline for the negotiating process as Mexican presidential elections approach and the timelines for passage through the U.S. Congress narrows.

[Click here to return to Index](#)

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** – 27th IGC Grains Conference – London, UK

19 – 2018 Gafta London Dinner – London, UK

July

1-September 30 – IPPC ISPM Consultation – Virtual

2-7 – 41st 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 40th 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

[Click here to return to Index](#)

Thank you for your membership and work with NAEGA. This copyrighted report is intended for the use of NAEGA membership only. The accuracy of the information reported and interpreted is not guaranteed. All contents are subject to correction and revision. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture NAEGA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or disability. NAEGA is an equal opportunity employer

To be removed from the NAEGA OUTREACH email list please send a message to membersonly@naega.org with the phrase “Unsubscribe from OUTREACH” in the subject line.