



*"Working Together to Make Trade Work"*

## **OUTREACH January 13, 2014**

**Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA**

2014 NAEGA Membership packets were sent out this past week. We appreciate your commitment to the associations and your prompt payment of dues.

### **Member participation opportunity:**

- Mark Your Calendars for the NAEGA Annual Meeting – Hilton Head, South Carolina – March 31, 2014
- Export Credits Working Group (ECWG) Meeting/Conference Call – January 15, 2014
- Regulatory Cooperation Council Webinar-Perimeter Approach to Plant Protection Work Plan – January 13, 2014
- USDA-GIPSA Seeking Nominations to Serve on Advisory Committee
- U.S. Middle East & Africa Grain Forum – Doha, Qatar – January 28-29, 2014

### **Action Reports**

- Canada-U.S. Grain and Seed Trade Task Group Press Release on Study
- China – Biotech Trade Restrictions
- U.S. – NAEGA Supports New USTR Appointment of Ag Negotiator

### **New Issues**

- U.S. – Trade Promotion Authority

### **NAEGA Calendar and Member Notices**

- Upcoming Events and Notices for Members

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## **NAEGA Member Participation Opportunity**

### **Mark Your Calendars for the NAEGA Annual Meeting Hilton Head, South Carolina – March 31, 2014**

We look forward to working with you in Hilton Head, South Carolina in March! The 2014 NAEGA Annual Meeting will take place on Monday, March 31, 2014 in Hilton Head, South Carolina. NAEGA meetings will coincide with the March 30-April 1, 2014 National Grain & Feed Association (NGFA) Convention. A special NAEGA registration for the NGFA Convention and rooms at the Westin Hilton Head can be booked at the NGFA rate by clicking [here](#). A formal notice of the NAEGA meetings, including agendas and registration information will be mailed soon.

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**Thank you for your investment in NAEGA!** – We very much appreciate and need your company’s many contributions to the ongoing success of NAEGA. Your membership year starts anew this month. Invoices for NAEGA’s 2014 Membership Dues are being mailed to member representatives this week and payment is due by February 17. Prompt payment is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact the NAEGA office.

**Regulatory Cooperation Council Webinar-Perimeter Approach to Plant Protection  
Work Plan – January 13, 2014**

The RCC is holding a webinar to update stakeholders on progress on the projects under the Perimeter Approach to Plant Protection Work Plan. These projects include the development of a Framework for ongoing regulatory alignment between APHIS and CFIA on approaches to plant health risk; harmonization of regulatory approaches for chrysanthemum white rust (CWR); and revision of the U.S.-Canada Greenhouse Certification Program as a pilot project for cooperation on plant health certification programs. The webinar is scheduled for January 13, 2014, from 2:30-3:30 PM, Eastern Standard Time.

**Conference call-in details for participants:**

Participant dial-in number(s): 613-960-7526 / 877-413-4814

Participant passcode: 1726845

or

To join the online meeting:

1. Go to <https://gts-ee.webex.com/gts-ee/j.php?ED=263830357&UID=0&PW=NN2RhZGVjNzIz&RT=MIMxMQ%3D%3D>
2. If requested, enter your name and email address.
3. If a password is required, enter the meeting password: perimeter
4. Click "Join"

Meeting Number: 557 913 343

Meeting Password: perimeter

**Export Credits Working Group (ECWG) Meeting/Conference Call – Wednesday  
January 15, 2014**

NAEGA will host an Export Credits Working Group (ECWG) meeting/conference call on Wednesday, January 15 at 2:00pm Eastern to discuss potential comments on the new proposed GSM rule which can be found at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/12/27/2013-29439/cce-export-credit-guarantee-gsm-102-program-and-facility-guarantee-program-fgp>. The ECWG commented on the last proposal in 2011. The ECWG will also discuss the Farm Bill and Brazil Case with consideration of next steps.

NAEGA members are welcome to attend in person or via conference call. The in person meeting will be here in our conference room at Suite, 1003, 1250 Eye Street, NW, Washington DC.

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Coordinates for calling in are:

**Direct Dial/ International Access Number: 1.404.920.6650**

Toll-Free Access Number: 1.800.977.8002

**Participant code: 245335#**

### **USDA-GIPSA Seeking Nominations to Serve on Advisory Committee**

The Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is seeking nominations to serve on the USDA Grain Inspection Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee). GIPSA is seeking nominations for individuals to serve on the Advisory Committee to replace seven members whose terms will expire May 2014.

The Advisory Committee consists of 15 members, appointed by the Secretary, who represent the interests of grain producers, processors, handlers, merchandisers, consumers, and exporters. While members of the Advisory Committee serve without compensation, USDA reimburses them for travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, for travel away from their homes or regular places of business in performance of Advisory Committee service.

Candidates who wish to be considered for membership on the Advisory Committee should submit an AD-755 application form. The application form and additional information about the Advisory Committee can be found at <http://www.gipsa.usda.gov/fgis/adcommit.html>.

All nomination material can be emailed to [Terri.L.Henry@usda.gov](mailto:Terri.L.Henry@usda.gov); faxed to (202) 690-2173 or mailed to: Terri L. Henry, Management Analyst, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Stop 3642, Washington, DC 20250. The deadline for submission is January 24, 2014.

### **U.S. Middle East & Africa Grain Forum – Doha, Qatar – January 28-29, 2014**

All NAEGA member personnel are welcome at the upcoming U.S Middle East & Africa Grain Forum from January 28-29, 2014. NAEGA Senior Advisors Sam Bonilla and Jerry Cotter are key participants in the conference will be held at Grand Hyatt Doha located in the new West Bay Lagoon District in Doha. The hotel is within convenient reach of Doha International Airport and cultural attractions such as the Museum of Islamic Art, Souq Waqif and the Katara Cultural Village.

NAEGA is cooperating with U.S. Wheat Associates, U.S. Grains Council, U.S. Soybean Export Council and U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service to sponsor the Forum. Industry representatives from nearly 30 countries are invited and expected to attend the comprehensive discussion and important networking event.

The details on the Forum can be found [here](#). To register for the Forum, click [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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## **Reports on NAEGA Actions**

### **Canada-U.S. Grain and Seed Trade Task Group Press Release on Study**

The Canada-U.S. Grain and Seed Trade Task Group issued a [press release](#) regarding a [study](#) published by the Task Group on commercial flow of grain from the United States to Canada. The study addresses U.S. and Canadian trade volume, handling and processing practices for more than 15 commodities traded between the U.S. and Canada. The analysis was provided to the Canadian and U.S. governments as input in the consultations for the development of phytosanitary measures under Canada’s proposed Grain Import Framework (D-12-05).

The study and press release can be found at <http://canada-usgrainandseedtrade.info>.

### **China – Biotech Trade Restrictions**

China’s Ministry of Agriculture has yet to approve Syngenta’s Agrisure Viptera® (MIR162) trait that is causing unprecedented cost to importer and exporters. We have confirmed with U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) and several biotechnology providers reports that China has renewed the bio-safety authorizations for import of products for food and feed use for four biotech-enhanced traits that expired late last year. We seeking official confirmation from the government of China.

The four biotech-enhanced events whose previously existing bio-safety authorizations have been renewed by China’s Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) reportedly are as follows (official confirmation from MOA still is being awaited by U.S. authorities):

1. Herbicide resistant soybean A2704-12 Bayer CropScience (bio-safety authorization had expired on Dec. 20, 2013).
2. Herbicide tolerance corn NK603 Monsanto Far East Ltd. (bio-safety authorization had expired on Dec. 20, 2013)
3. Insect resistance and herbicide tolerance corn MON88017 Monsanto Far East Ltd. (bio-safety authorization had expired on Dec. 20, 2013)
4. Insect resistance corn MON89034 Monsanto Far East Ltd. (bio-safety authorization had expired on Dec. 30, 2013)

The herbicide resistant soybean 356043 from Du Pont (whose bio-safety authorization had expired on Dec. 30, 2013) was never sold to famers therefore is not commercialized, so DuPont Pioneer did not seek renewal because the company is confident the event is not present in any commercial soybean supplies.

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The Bayer Soybean event A5547-127 which is new and yet to be approved but has not been commercialized, also remains unapproved by China

The NAEGA Board of Directors has established an ad hoc strategy committee to consider actions in response to the Syngenta’s products Viptera™ (event MIR 162 corn) and Duracade™ trait (event 5307 Corn) which are not yet approved in corn. 162 was commercialized in 2011. Syngenta apparently commercialized 5307 in 2013 – the same year they first applied for Chinese approval. Chinese approval requires a minimum of 2 years to complete meaning 5307 will most likely be found in US corn beginning with the harvest of 2014 – at least a year before China would be able to complete its review to provide for import safety certificates. The Committee will meet immediately to evaluate potential actions relative to Syngenta's premature commercialization of the two corn events. Under consideration is the possible development of recommended contract language for the sale of grain products into the Chinese market, the development of position statements and public comments about Syngenta's activities. Litigation to seek injunctive relief stopping the further commercialization of biotech traits that have not been approved for import into China or other major markets as well as damages that have been incurred by grain exporters, farmers and other stakeholders will be a major consideration of the Strategy Committee.

### **U.S. – NAEGA Supports USTR Appointment of Ag Negotiator**

As reported last week, NAEGA has expressed its support for Darci Vetter’s nomination as Chief Agricultural Negotiator in the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR). To demonstrate this support, NAEGA joined a number other food and agricultural organizations in a letter recommending Ms. Vetter be confirmed as Chief Agricultural Negotiator to all members of the Senate Finance Committee.

A copy of the letter can be found [here](#).

**NAEGA is considering making comments on the following items. Please contact us with your advice or suggestions:**

#### **2013**

**Jan. 27** – Comments to USDA on Proposed Changes to Export Credit Guarantee (GSM-102) <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/12/27/2013-29439/ccc-export-cr>

**Jan. 27** – Comments to FDA’s proposed rule on importer/third-party accreditation of foreign foods: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/07/29/2013-17994/accreditation-of-third-party-auditorscertification-bodies-to-conduct-food-safety-audits-and-to-issue>  
<http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=FDA-2011-N-0146-0039>

**Feb. 10** – Comments to Customs and Border Protection (CBP) on the Request of Information via CBP Form 28 in an effort to reduce paperwork. [http://ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2013-29713\\_PI.pdf](http://ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2013-29713_PI.pdf)

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**Feb. 17** – Comments to Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) on RSPM 41 “Guidelines for Oversight Programs” at North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO)  
[William.D.Wesela@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:William.D.Wesela@aphis.usda.gov)

**Feb. 24** – Comments to Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) on Environmental Impact Statement for Determination of Nonregulated Status of Herbicide 2, 4-D Resistant Corn and Soybeans. <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2013-0042>

*NAEGA Actions on Current Issues are tracked on both the Member’s Only Section under their relevant committee pages and the on the Personal Page’s site. Updates to tracked issues are posted in this section.*

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## **New Issues & Opportunities for NAEGA Consideration**

### **U.S. – Trade Promotion Authority**

Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) legislation was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate on January 9<sup>th</sup>. TPA, also known as “Fast Track,” is legislation that grants the U.S. President the authority to enter trade agreements within certain legislative parameters and without threat of legislative amendments. TPA is viewed as a critical first step to passing both the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP).

A joint [press release](#) by the House Ways and Means Committee and Senate Finance Committee about the introduction of the legislation stated that the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act of 2014 establishes 21<sup>st</sup> century Congressional negotiating objectives and rules for the Administration to follow when engaged in trade talks, including strict requirements for Congressional consultations and access to information. The previous TPA authority expired in 2007.

*If you would like more information or wish to provide comments on any of these news topics monitored by NAEGA, please contact us.*

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## **NAEGA Calendar & Member Notices**

**2014**

**January**

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**15** – Washington, D.C. – U.S. Biotech Crops Alliance Executive Committee Conference Call 9:00am Eastern.

**15** – Washington, D.C. – Export Credits Working Group Meeting and Conference Call – 2:00pm Eastern.

**16** – Washington, D.C. – USDA/Industry China Biotech Discussion – 10:00am Eastern

**27-29** Doha, Qatar - **U.S. - Middle East, & Africa Grain Trade Forum: Partnership for Fostering Trade.** Conducted jointly by U.S. Wheat Associates (USW), U.S. Grains Council (USGC), U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC), North American Grain Export Association (NAEGA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture/ Foreign Agriculture Service (USDA/FAS). Grand Hyatt Doha,

**28-30** Bogota, Columbia – USSEC Strategy Refresh and Global Planning Meeting

### **February**

**20-21** Arlington, Virginia – USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum – USDA’s annual event to discuss the changing face of agriculture.

### **March,**

**6-7** Washington, D.C. – CBP East Coast Trade Symposium held at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C. This was originally scheduled for October 24-25, 2013 but had to be rescheduled due to the government shutdown.

**31** – Hilton Head, South Carolina – 2014 NAEGA Annual Meetings – Westin Hilton Head Resort (in conjunction with NGFA’s Convention March, 30 – April, 1). Reservations can be made [here](#).

### **June**

**10** – London, United Kingdom – IGC Grains Conference – Tower Hotel, Tower Bridge – You can register [here](#).

### **July**

**15-16** – Alexandria, VA – USAEDC Attaché Seminar

### **November**

**17-20** – Baltimore, MD – USAEDC Annual Workshop

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