



"Working Together to Make Trade Work"

OUTREACH January 27, 2014

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

Member participation opportunity:

- Mark Your Calendars for the NAEGA Annual Meeting – Hilton Head, South Carolina – March 31, 2014
- USDA APHIS Virtual Public Meeting on Biotech / DEIS for Nonregulated Status – January 29, 2014

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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. Rooms at the Westin Hilton Head can be booked at the NGFA rate by clicking [here](#).

A special NAEGA registration for the NGFA Convention and a formal notice of the NAEGA meetings, including agendas will be available and sent 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 have been mailed to member representatives and payment is due by February 17. Prompt payment is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact the NAEGA office.

**USDA APHIS - Virtual Public Meeting on Biotech / DEIS for Nonregulated Status –
January 29, 2014**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is holding a virtual public meeting on **January 29, 2014, from 5 to 8pm EST**, to receive comments on a draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for three petitions for nonregulated status. The DEIS analyzes the potential environmental impacts of one corn and two soybean varieties genetically engineered (GE) by Dow AgroSciences, LLC (Dow) to be resistant to the herbicide known as 2,4-D, and several other herbicides.

Participation instructions for the virtual meeting and all associated documents can be found online at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/APHISVirtualMeetings/>.

To provide written comments through February 24, 2014, visit: <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2013-0042>.

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

China – Request to Syngenta

NAEGA and NGFA sent a joint letter to Syngenta on January 22, 2014 asking the company to halt commercialization of its Agrisure Viptera® (MIR162) until it receives approval by the Chinese government. The letter expressed concerns about the serious economic harm to exporters, grain handlers and, ultimately, agricultural producers – as well as the United States’ reputation to meet its customers’ needs – that has resulted from Syngenta’s current approach to stewardship of Viptera. The letter also encouraged Syngenta to halt its plans to commercialize their newest product, Duracade, until it receives approval in all major export markets in order to prevent similar damage.

NAEGA and NGFA also issued a [Press Statement](#) on the issue. NAEGA’s Board of Directors continues to deliberate this issue and 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

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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.

An ad hoc strategy committee continues 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.

A special bulletin was sent to all NAEGA Member Representatives on Wednesday, January 22.

Japan-U.S. TPP –Japan and the Trans-Pacific Partnership

NAEGA, along with a number of food and agricultural associations and companies, sent a [letter](#) to Ambassador Froman, U.S. Trade Representative, expressing their concern over the ongoing Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations with Japan. The groups signing on to the letter demand full and comprehensive liberalization of Japan's agricultural sector. A TPP negotiation which grants special treatment to Japan would be unacceptable and it would be difficult for the U.S. food and agricultural sector to support a TPP agreement that does not include complete and comprehensive trade liberalization.

U.S. – Export Credits Working Group

The Export Credits Working Group met on January 15 and decided not to comment as a group on the new proposed GSM rule. The ECWG commented on the last proposal in 2011. The new rule can be found at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/12/27/2013-29439/cc-export-credit-guarantee-gsm-102-program-and-facility-guarantee-program-fgp>. The ECWG continues to discuss the Farm Bill and Brazil Case with consideration of next steps. The Group is hoping a resolution will be found without Brazil implementing retaliatory sanctions.

U.S. –Support for 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](#).

World –Trip Report on UN meeting considering hazard labeling of grain

A report on the recent meeting of the UN Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) in Geneva, Switzerland is now available. The agenda item of most interest to the grain trade was the discussion of an informal paper submitted by the United States, Canada and Australia regarding dust explosion hazards. Ultimately the proposal was not accepted by the group.

The trip report can be found on the “Members’ Only” page [here](#).

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World - Bali WTO results

At the Ninth Ministerial Conference, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 3 to 7 December 2013, ministers adopted the “Bali Package,” a series of decisions aimed at streamlining trade, allowing developing countries more options for providing food security, boosting least-developed countries’ trade and helping development more generally. We are assessing the results from the meeting.

A key outcome for NAEGA is that the WTO members finally, after 9 years of discussion, reached consensus on a Trade Facilitation Agreement at the Bali Ministerial. The [final agreement](#) contains provisions for faster and more efficient customs procedures through effective cooperation between customs and other appropriate authorities on trade facilitation and customs compliance issues. It also contains provisions for technical assistance and capacity building in this area. A newly established Preparatory Committee was mandated to ensure the expeditious entry into force of the agreement and to prepare for its efficient operation. We are analyzing the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement to see how it meets the objectives of the NAEGA lead and strongly supported [Rapid Response Mechanism](#) concept.

Other key aspects of impact to NAEGA priorities from the Bali ministerial include decisions on public stock-holding, export subsidies, and Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQ). The Ministers also adopted a number of more routine decisions and accepted Yemen as a new member of the WTO.

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-auditors-certification-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

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

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Feb. 20 – Comments due by National Plant Protection Organization officials to International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). More information can be found at [IPPC Draft Specifications Member Consultations](#) and the [Grades and Inspections page](#).

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

Brazil-U.S. – Brazil Retaliation in Cotton/GSM-102 Dispute

Brazilian cotton producers came away from two days of meetings in Washington saying that their only remaining option in a the dispute over U.S. cotton subsidies and the GSM-102 program is to support their government’s efforts to impose retaliatory measures against U.S. exports. The producers indicated that their doubts that the problem will be resolved satisfactorily are growing due to continued delays in the passing of a new U.S. farm bill. They are also doubtful that if a new U.S. farm bill does get passed, that it will include sufficient reforms to the programs deemed noncompliant with World Trade Organization (WTO) rules.

Several months ago the U.S. halted the monthly compensatory payments it was making to Brazil in return for suspension of retaliation proceedings. While the producers said they are still hoping to find sensible solutions, the sanctions could take effect as soon as February. The sanctions may include higher tariffs on numerous products, as well as the suspension on U.S. intellectual property rights.

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

27 Washington, D.C. – USDA/USTR Bali WTO Ag Briefing

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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

29 USDA Virtual Public Meeting on DEIS for Nonregulated Status

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](#).

April,

14-16 – Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada – Canadian Global Crops Symposium – Hosted by the Canada Grains Council

June

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

July

15-16 – Alexandria, VA – USAEDC Attaché Seminar

September

29-October 3 – 7th Meeting of the Parties/Conference of the Parties for the So-called Cartagena Biosafety Protocol under the Convention on Biodiversity, which governs trans-boundary movements of Living Modified Organisms for feed, food and processing. More information can be found at: <http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/>

November

17-20 – Baltimore, MD – USAEDC Annual Workshop

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