



## Outreach February 4, 2019

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

### *Welcome Jose!*

This week NAEGA welcomes its newest intern to our Arlington office. Jose Rivera is a graduate student at George Washington University and has previous work experience at Morgan Stanley and the USDA. You can contact Jose at [intern@naega.org](mailto:intern@naega.org).

### Graphic of the week:

#### *U.S. President Trump met with Chinese Vice Premier Liu He amid U.S.-China trade talks in Washington*



#### Biography

**Current position:** Vice Premier, State Council  
**Responsibilities:** Financial sector, state-owned enterprise reform, industrial policy and relations with the US  
**Assumed position:** March 2018  
**Date of birth:** 1952  
**Place of birth:** Beijing  
**Education:** Renmin University of China, Seton Hall University, Master's in Public Administration from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government

#### Policy views

- **Supports** increased foreign investment and opening China to the global market
- **Opposes** China copying a development path that follows "western-style democracy," arguing for its own path that hinges on China's own political stability

#### Professional experience

- Worked as the director of the Office of the Central Leading Group on Financial and Economic Affairs
- Served as vice chair of the National Development and Reform Commission
- Played a major role in drafting China's five-year plans since the 1980s

“ I don't think the US and China are enemies. Our real enemies are terrorism, climate change and [the challenges arising from] technological change”

- Vice Premier Liu He

Source: U.S.-China Business Council

**We are looking forward to Working Together to Make Trade Work in 2019 and beyond!**  
 Thanks to you, NAEGA continues to enjoy success in serving you.

In addition to ongoing member, committee and policy team contributions from you we would appreciate your response to our Strategic Planning survey. Survey results will be held confidential and anonymized by NAEGA staff. To participate in the survey, please click [here](#).

As always your advice is critical and much appreciated

### Action Reports

#### *Recent Actions:*

- Cirsium arvense - Vietnam actions on grain and oilseed imports
- Board of Directors Meeting
- 2019 Contracts and Best Practices Seminars – Your feedback needed
- Peru CVD Actions on Yellow Corn
- IGTC Newsletter
- Asian Gypsy Moth

#### *Pending Actions*

- Section 301 Comments
- SPS Standard-Setting Activities – Codex

#### *Upcoming Actions*

- IGTC Secretariat Working to Make Trade Work

### Member Opportunities

- USDA Agriculture Outlook Forum – Arlington, VA - February 21-22
- U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade – Washington, D.C. – February 21
- NAEGA Meetings – Amelia Island, Florida – March 17-19
  - Grades and Inspections Committee Meeting – March 17 at 1:00pm
  - Contracts Committee Meeting – March 17 at 1:30pm
  - Production Technology Committee Meeting – March 17 at 3:15pm
  - Annual Members Meeting – March 18 at 12:00pm
  - Board of Directors Meetings – March 18 at 1:30pm
- NGFA Annual Convention – Amelia Island, Florida – March 17-19
- DBTG Operational and Technical Seminar – Barcelona, Spain – April 10-12
- NAEGA APPAMEX Forum – Cancun, Mexico – May 21-23
- IGTC Strategy Session – London, UK – June 10
- International Grains Council Grains Conference – June 11-12, 2019
- NAFTA and Asia-Pacific Policy Teams
- Internship Open with NAEGA

### News:

- U.S.-China trade talks
- Venezuela Sanctions
- ATP Awards

## NAEGA Calendar and Member Notices

- Upcoming events and notices to members

### Action Reports

#### *Recent Actions:*

#### **Cirsium arvense - Vietnam actions on grain and oilseed imports**

Recently, NAEGA and other stakeholders have placed focus on actions by Vietnam related to the presence *Cirsium arvense* (commonly referred to as Canada Thistle or Creeping Thistle) plant parts in imported grain. We are investigating several options and input including global outreach and intelligence gathering related to sound science and best commercial and official practice. Communication with U.S. government and stakeholders has been a priority.

We believe USDA will provide for meeting at 10 AM on Friday Feb. 8 that includes a debrief on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the bilateral between APHIS and VN PPD. Meanwhile NAEGA is seeking advice from several sources on how address the Veitnam's actions as well ways to improve the ability to address non-tariff trade barriers related to measures associated with phytosanitary risk management.

#### **Board of Directors Meeting**

On Tuesday, January 29 the NAEGA Board of Directors met at the Miami Beach Edition Hotel in Miami, Florida. During the meeting, the Board reviewed NAEGA finances, heard reports from the Grades and Inspections and Contracts Committee, and discussed the ongoing IGTC transition, and conducted programming and financial planning for 2019. The Board also approved minutes from its March 19, 2018 meeting. Minutes from this meeting will be available soon.

#### **2019 Contracts and Best Practices Seminars – Your feedback needed**

Your input is requested! As NAEGA prepares for 2019, we are seeking your feedback on the location, timing and curriculum of this year's Contracts and Best Practices Seminars.

Let us know if you are interested in attending or hosting a seminar, and what topics we should focus on!

NAEGA seminars are an intensive and informative review of commercial and official practices taught in an interactive environment. The goal of each seminar is to improve predictability, reduce risks, resolve trade barriers and facilitate profitable trade.

NAEGA conducts both public and private seminars, and curriculum can be tailored to your needs. Please contact Ryan if you are interested in hosting a private, tailored seminar at your office. Click [here](#) for more information on the in-depth, interactive programs NAEGA conducts!

### **Peru CVD Actions on Yellow Corn**

NAEGA continues to work closely with the Peru Corn CVD Special Interest Group (SIG) to coordinate responses and messaging regarding Peru's self-initiation of a countervailing duty case against U.S. origin yellow corn.

Currently, Peru's INDECOPI is scheduled to hear arguments regarding this case at a February 20 hearing in Lima. To ensure proper preparation and coordination for this hearing, many SIG participants are filing coordinated hearing extension requests in an effort to delay the hearing until March 18. If you are a party to this case and would also like to file an extension request, you are invited to use the below language as part of your submission.

[Extension request \(English\)](#)

[Extension request \(Spanish\)](#)

In addition, if you are a party to this case and not participating in the NAEGA SIG, you are invited to participate. Please email Ryan for more information.

### **IGTC Newsletter**

The latest IGTC newsletter is now available! This week's edition includes an update on the ePhyto Industry Advisory Group (IAG) meeting last week in Geneva, more information on Japan's proposed MRL changes, and a report on the IGTC digitization efforts.

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

### **Asian Gypsy Moth**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency have released a memorandum regarding the import requirements for marine vessels entering North American ports which have called upon areas regulated for Asian gypsy moth. The memorandum states that all vessels must arrive in North American ports free of Asian gypsy moth and with required pre-departure certification in order to prevent severe negative impacts from introduction.

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

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

#### **Section 301 Comments**

The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) is conducting its year Special 301 review to identify countries that deny adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights (IPR) or deny fair and equitable market access to U.S. persons who rely on intellectual property protection. Based on this review, the United States Trade Representative (Trade Representative) determines which, if any, of these countries to identify as Priority Foreign Countries. USTR requests written comments that identify acts, policies, or practices that may form the basis of a country's identification as a Priority Foreign Country or placement on the Priority Watch List or Watch List. USTR also requests notices of intent to appear at the public hearing.

**Deadlines:**

February 7, 2019 at 11:59 p.m. EST: Deadline for submission of written comments, hearing statements, and notices of intent to appear at the hearing from the public.

February 21, 2019 at 11:59 p.m. EST: Deadline for submission of written comments, hearing statements, and notices of intent to appear at the hearing from foreign governments.

February 27, 2019: The Special 301 Subcommittee will hold a public hearing at the Office of the United State Trade Representative, 1724 F Street NW, Rooms 1&2, Washington, DC.

On or about April 26, 2019: USTR will publish the 2019 Special 301 Report within 30 days of the publication of the National Trade Estimate (NTE) Report.

**U.S. Grain Inspection Advisory Committee**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is seeking nominations by January 28, 2019 from individuals interested in serving on its Grain Inspection Advisory Committee. The 15-member advisory committee meets at least once annually to provide input to the agency on the operation of the official grain inspection and weighing program. Members serve three-year terms, and include representation from producers, processors, handlers, merchandisers, exporters, consumers and academicians.

Currently, the Advisory Committee has five seats and two alternate slots open on the committee for a three-year term. Applications submitted during the previous nomination period, March 16, 2018–April 30, 2018, will be considered unless notification is provided the individual no longer is available for consideration. In other words, if you have already submitted your application to serve on the committee there is no need to reapply.

The application can be found [here](#), if you have not already applied.

**SPS Standard-Setting Activities under Codex**

The USDA's Office of Trade and Foreign Agriculture Affairs (TFAA) is requesting public comments on the sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standard-setting activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex). TFAA seeks comments on SPS standards under consideration and recommendations for new standards.

The official notice in the Federal Register can be found [here](#) and additional information [here](#).

***Upcoming Actions:***

**IGTC Working to Make Trade Work**

NAEGA staff and several member company representatives are working in coordination with Katy Lee, IGTC Secretariat and NAEGA contractor to implement IGTC's recently revised 2019 business plan.

Upcoming nearby IGTC actions include:

*January 30 in Geneva:* The IGTC Working Group on Electronic Documentation is supporting Katy as she continues her leadership role with the International Plant Protection Convention e-Phyto Solution. As part of these efforts, Katy will participate in IPPC ePhyto Industry Advisory Group (IAG) meeting in Geneva on January 25. IAG is a voluntarily group of private sector stakeholders working to advise the IPPC Secretariat on the feasibility of the ePhyto solution project and its ability to facilitate efficient and effective trade flows. IGTC chairs the IAG.

*February 21 in Arlington, VA:* Katy will travel to Arlington, VA to coordinate closely with NAEGA and other USA-based IGTC members and Corporate Stakeholders to gather insight as well as inform on IGTC policy files. A key action item will be on the issue of plant breeding innovation and planning for a visit of a global IGTC delegation to Brussels in March 2019.

*March 6-7 in London:* Katy will act as a panelist at the International Fertilizer Association (IFA) Production & International Trade Conference, which this year is focused on “Trade tensions on the rise - A look at the potential impacts on agri-food and fertilizer trade.”

*March 10-16 in Brussels:* at the invitation of IGTC member COCREAL, IGTC will conduct meetings with the European Commission Directorates General for trade, health and food safety, and agriculture; EU Member State representatives; European Parliament committee staff; and Third country representatives in Brussels engaged in plant breeding innovation issues. The standing agenda for these meetings will include assessment of alternative outcomes and implementation of ECJ Opinion; agri-trade issues related to gene editing (e.g. Cartagena Biosafety Protocol, Low Level Presence); opportunities for IGTC members and Corporate Stakeholders to ask specific questions about impacts of EU rules; and communication of trade-positive messaging already agreed in IGTC policy. An Internal IGTC Policy Team meeting at COCERAL Headquarters is planned for March 12 to debrief from 11 March meetings; discuss IGTC policy and advocacy strategy on plant breeding innovation; and conduct a Round Table to review how new innovations are currently impacting the grain supply chain.

*March 13 in Geneva:* The IGTC will complete administrative and governance actions related to the transitioning IGTC from NAEGA underwriting including the establishment of financial accounts and controls.

*March 14 in London:* IGTC will report to and participate in Market Conditions Committee (MCC) meeting of the International Grains Council (IGC). Over the past few years, the IGTC has been deepening its working relationship with the IGC and, in December, signed a memorandum of understanding with the IGC to encourage further collaboration to promote and facilitate the international trade of grains, oilseeds and other agri-bulks.

*April 1-5 in Rome:* In Rome, Katy will attend a meeting of the International Plant Protection Convention’s (IPPC) Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM). The CPM’s agenda includes: the contribution of the global trade of commodities to global food security and economic development; the business plan for the ePhyto Solution post 2019; international Year of Plant Health 2020 (IYPH 2020); next generation sequencing technologies as a

diagnostic tool for phytosanitary purposes; and adding, deleting or modifying IPPC documents.

*June 11-13 in London:* In June, Gary, Katy and Ryan will travel to London to attend a number of events, including and IGTC Strategy Session, the IGC's 49<sup>th</sup> Session, the IGC Annual Conference, the GAFTA Annual Dinner and bilateral meetings on the U.S.-U.K. and U.S.-E.U. trade agreements.

Multiple additional IGTC actions and events are scheduled through June 2019. If you are your company would like to directly participate in IGTC please contact Gary.

[Click here to return to Index](#)

### ***Member Opportunities:***

#### **USDA Agriculture Outlook Forum – Arlington, VA - February 21-22**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture will hold its annual Agriculture Outlook forum on February 21 and 22 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel in Arlington, VA. Among other speakers, the forum will include a keynote address by USDA Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue and important discussions will be led by Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Steve Censky and Chief Economist Rob Johansson. A full agenda can be found [here](#).

The forum registration fees and details can be found [here](#).

#### **U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade – Washington, D.C. – February 21**

NAEGA member representatives are invited to attend a Canadian Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food roundtable with the U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade hosted by the Embassy of Canada:

Where: Canadian Embassy

When: Thursday, February 21 from 11:00am-12:00pm

Featured remarks by:

The Honorable Lawrence MacAulay  
*Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food*  
Government of Canada

A government-issued photo ID is required for entry.

All dialogue meetings are in person only and strictly off the record.

[Please RSVP as soon as possible.](#)

Please contact Ryan Olson at [rolson@naega.org](mailto:rolson@naega.org) or 202-682-4030 if you have any questions.

### **NAEGA Meetings – Amelia Island, Florida – March 17 -19**

Please make your plans and reserve your hotel rooms now for the NAEGA meetings in March at the Ritz Carlton Amelia Island in Amelia Island, Florida. All NAEGA member personnel are invited to attend and participate in all of the following NAEGA meetings and events.

#### **Sunday, March 17**

1:00-4:00pm	<a href="#">Joint NAEGA Grades and Inspections and NGFA Grain, Grades and Weights Committee Meeting</a>	Salon 3
1:30-3:00pm	<a href="#">Contracts Committee Meeting</a>	Santa Maria Room
3:15-5:30pm	<a href="#">Joint NGFA Crop Technology and NAEGA Production Technology Committee Meeting</a>	Santa Maria Room

#### **Monday, March 18**

12:00-1:30pm	<a href="#">NAEGA Members Lunch and Member Meeting</a>	Plaza 2
1:30-3:30pm	<a href="#">Board of Directors Meeting</a>	Plaza 2

The NAEGA members meeting and lunch will be held on Monday, March 18. Following the members meeting, which will include the election of a new NAEGA Board of Directors, the new NAEGA Board will meet. All members are invited to attend the lunch, members meeting and Board of Directors meeting.

NAEGA members can make hotel reservations for our meetings at the Ritz Carlton using the NGFA room block. Reservation can be made at [this link](#).

Agendas will be distributed soon.

### **NGFA Annual Convention – Amelia Island, Florida – March 17-19**

All NAEGA members are invited to attend the annual NGFA Convention from March 17-19 at the Ritz Carlton Amelia Island in Amelia Island, Florida. A schedule of events can be found [here](#).

NAEGA member personnel and their guests interested in attending are invited to take advantage of a special rate that covers the NGFA welcome reception on March 17 and all of Monday, March 18's activities. The special rate is:

NAEGA Members: \$300  
NAEGA guests: \$250

Those interested in taking advantage of this special rate can register on the NGFA website [here](#) using the promotional code NAEGA19.

NAEGA members are also invited to make their hotel reservations for our annual meetings at the Ritz Carlton using the NGFA room block. Reservation can be made at [this link](#).



### **DBTG Operational and Technical Seminar – Barcelona, Spain – April 10-12**

NAEGA member personnel are invited to join Ryan in Barcelona, Spain for the Dry Bulk Terminal Group's Spring Operational and Technical Seminar on April 10-12 at The Hotel Eurostars Grand Marina. The seminar will feature presentations on safety, health and regulatory issues related to dry bulk terminals world wide. A copy of the preliminary agenda is available [here](#).

If you are interested in registering, please click [here](#).

Hotel reservations can be made [here](#).

### **NAEGA APPAMEX Forum – Cancun, Mexico – May 21-23**

NAEGA members are invited to “save the date” for the 2019 NAEGA-APPAMEX Forum on May 21-23 in Cancun, Mexico. The forum will take place at the Hotel Secrets The Vine. This year's forum will be held alongside the Mexican feed mills association CONAFAB.

### **IGTC Strategy Session – London, UK – June 10**

NAEGA member representatives are invited to attend an IGTC Strategy Session in London on June 10, 2019. The Strategy Session will involve IGTC members and corporate stakeholders and will include discussions concerning how to strengthen the work of IGTC policy, new and existing commercial requirements for grain producers and seek advice for decision makers going forward in the current business environment.

More details and a registration link will be available shortly.

### **International Grains Council Grains Conference – June 11-12, 2019**

The International Grain Trade Coalition is expecting to provide discounted registration for the International Grains Council's 2019 Grains Conference in London, UK. Our suggestion is to wait for the savings before registering, although IGC early bird registration is now open. Anyone interested can find more information at [here](#).

The two day conference will highlight the key challenges facing the international grain oilseed industry. Plenary sessions and workshops will include speakers from across the globe sharing their expertise . The Conference, to be held at the Congress Centre at 28 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LS, provides for multiple opportunities to network and build business relationships.

### **Asia-Pacific Policy Teams**

With 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. A policy team focused on the Asia-Pacific Market is already established. Over the next few months the

team 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 summer of 2019 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](#)

### **News**

#### **U.S.-China trade talks**

Chinese officials are in Washington this week as trade talks continue between the two countries. On Tuesday, Chinese Vice Premier Liu He arrived in Washington to meet with U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer. Mr. He is also expected to meet with President Trump on Thursday. Trade discussions will include the ongoing tariffs and in place by both countries, as well as Chinese intellectual property rights and forced technology transfer policies. Reports indicate that U.S. and China officials are negotiating a meeting on trade between President Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping later this year.

#### **Venezuela Sanctions**

On January 28, 2019 the U.S. Treasury's Office of Foreign Asset Control announced sanctions against Petróleos de Venezuela, S.A. (PDVSA), Venezuela's state-owned oil company, pursuant to Executive Order (EO) 13850. The purpose of the EO 13850 is to target rampant corruption within the Venezuelan government, which according to the US government has exacerbated "the economic and humanitarian crises afflicting the Venezuelan people."

As a result, US persons are now broadly prohibited from engaging in transactions with PDVSA, including its majority-owned subsidiaries. Previously, PDVSA had only been subject to limited sanctions imposing restrictions on certain debt and equity transactions.

In light of the impact the blacklisting of an entity such as PDVSA would have on the United States and beyond, OFAC rolled out a slew of general licenses (summarized below) authorizing US persons to engage in certain transactions involving PDVSA and its majority-owned subsidiaries – two of which PDV Holding, Inc. (PDVH) and CITGO Holding Inc. (CITGO) are US entities.

#### **ATP Awards**

On January 31, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced \$200 million worth funding to 57 organizations as part of the USDA's Agricultural Trade Promotion (ATP) program. The program is intended to help U.S. farmers and ranchers identify and access new export markets. The program was authorized by President Donald Trump as part of a \$12 billion

assistance package to mitigate the adverse effects of trade retaliation. A list of organizations that received money under the ATP can be found [here](#). More information on the program can be found [here](#).

[Click here to return to Index](#)

## Calendar & Member Notices

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

**2019**

### February

- 8** – Peru CVD investigation on U.S. corn imports essential facts issued
- 10** - 2019 NAEGA Membership Dues and Fees payments due
- 19** – Katy Lee visiting Arlington, VA
- 21** – U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade meeting – Washington, D.C.
- 21** – U.S. Section 301 Comments Due
- 21-22** – USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum – Arlington, VA
- 27** – U.S. Section 301 Review Hearing

### March

- 5-7** – Canadian Crops Convention – Montreal, Canada
- 11-14** – USDA FAS Trade Mission – Taipei, Taiwan
- 13** – IGTC Management Council Meeting
- 14** – IGC Market Conditions Committee Meeting – London, UK
- 17-19** – NGFA Annual Convention – Amelia Island, FL
- 17** – Contracts Committee Meeting – Amelia Island, FL
- 17** – Grades and Inspections Committee Meeting – Amelia Island, FL
- 18** – Production Technology Committee Meeting – Amelia Island, FL
- 18** – NAEGA Annual Members Meeting – Amelia Island, FL
- 18** – NAEGA Board of Directors Meeting – Amelia Island, FL
- 25** – Peru CVD investigation on U.S. corn imports definitive resolution issued

### April

- 1-5** – IPPC Committee on Phytosanitary Measures Meeting – Rome, Italy
- 2-5** – USDA FAS Trade Mission – Montreal and Toronto, Canada
- 10-12** – DBTG Operational and Technical Seminar – Barcelona, Spain

### May

- 21-23** – NAEGA-APPAMEX Forum – Cancun, Mexico

### June

- 3-6** - USDA FAS Trade Mission – Bogota, Colombia
- 10** – IGTC Strategy Session – London, UK
- 10** – International Grains Council’s 49<sup>th</sup> Session
- 10** – IGTC Strategy Session – London, UK

**11-12** – 28<sup>th</sup> IGC Grains Conference

**September**

**6** – IGC Market Conditions Committee – London, UK

**October**

**14-17** – USDA FAS Trade Mission – Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

**28-31** – USDA FAS Trade Mission - Nairobi, Kenya

**November**

**5-8** - USDA FAS Trade Mission – Mexico City, Mexico

**December**

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

**3** – International Grains Council’s 50<sup>th</sup> Session – London, UK

**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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**[Click here to return to Index](#)**