



*"Working Together to Make Trade Work"*

## **OUTREACH January 6, 2014**

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

### **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**We are looking forward to serving and working with you in 2014.**

#### **Member participation opportunity:**

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

- China – Biotech Trade Restrictions
- U.S. – NAEGA Supports New USTR Appointment of Ag Negotiator
- World – NAEGA Trip Report on Ottawa, Canada for IGTC
- World – NAEGA Trip Report on Lisbon, Portugal for GM Coexistence
- Welcome New NAEGA Board Member – Steve Strong

#### **New Issues**

- Egypt – Ambrosia Requirements for U.S. Soy
- U.S. – USDA APHIS Seeks Comments on 2,4-D GE Corn and Soybeans

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

- Upcoming Events and Notices for Members

### **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](#). 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

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[here](#). A formal notice of the NAEGA meetings, including agendas and registration information will be mailed soon.

**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.

### **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](#).

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*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 – Biotech Trade Restrictions**

The NAEGA Board of Directors has been meeting via ongoing confidential conference calls to address possible additional NAEGA actions related to the MIR 162 problem with China. Possible legal remedies and future procurement and sales contract guidance to best mitigate the risk of these types of biotechnology scenarios are under active consideration. **IF SOMEONE FROM YOUR COMPANY WOULD LIKE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE NAEGA BOARD OF DIRECTOR’S CONSIDERATION – PLEASE CONTACT GARY MARTIN.**

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

NAEGA has expressed its support for Darci Vetter’s nomination as Chief Agricultural Negotiator in the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR). Ms. Vetter is highly qualified and capable to serve as Chief Agricultural Negotiator. Most recently, she served as Deputy Undersecretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services in the USDA working on many of the critical programs related to trade currently offered by the federal government as well as the numerous trade associations involved in helping stimulate agricultural trade.

Ms. Vetter was nominated by President Obama to fill the vacancy created by Islam Siddiqui’s decision to retire. Mr. Siddiqui has held the position of Chief Agricultural Negotiator since 2010.

### **World – NAEGA Trip Report on Ottawa, Canada for IGTC**

A report on recent the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) Strategy Session and the Canada Grains Council Symposium Ottawa is now available. . The purpose of the Strategy Session was to make important decisions on the future of the IGTC and update strategy and plans on several key developments affecting trade risk.

At the Canada Grains Council Symposium, Gary participated on a panel with other IGTC members entitled “Preventing Barriers to International Trade – IGTC Update.” The trip report can be found on the “Members’ Only” page [here](#).

### **World – NAEGA Trip Report on Lisbon, Portugal for GM Coexistence**

International deliberations on GMO crops were the subject of Conference on Coexistence between Genetically Modified and non-Genetically Modified Program (GMCC-13). NAEGA President and CEO, Gary C. Martin attended and submitted a trip report in compliance with the USDA’s MAP program on the recent activity in Lisbon, Portugal, Gary participated on a panel

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entitled “The Impact of Coexistence and Contrasting Regulatory Frameworks on Food and Feed Industry, International Trade and Competitiveness.” Specifically Mr. Martin discussed key issues and experiences in international grain movement and meeting customer needs from farm to consumer.

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

### **New NAEGA Board Member – Steve Strong**

Please join us in welcoming Steve Strong to the NAEGA Board of Directors. Steve is a Feed Grain Product Line Manager for Bunge N.A. He also serves NAEGA as our representative on the Commodity Futures Trading Commission Advisory Committee. Steve was named by the Board of Directors to fill the unexpired term of Dave Houts. Dave Houts recently retired from Bunge and resigned from NAEGA’s Board of Directors.

An updated copy of the Member Directory can be found on the [“Members’ Only” site](#).

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

#### **2013**

**Jan. 9** – Comments to USDA FAS on China SPS 631 on Non-Compliant Imports. More information can be found [here](#).

**Jan. 10** – Comments to APHIS on IPPC Karnal Bunt diagnostic protocol

**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](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](mailto:William.D.Wesela@aphis.usda.gov)

***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**

### **Egypt – Ambrosia Requirements for U.S. Soy**

After a December 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting between APHIS, FAS and Egypt’s Central Administration of Plant Quarantine (CAPQ) it appears the plant quarantine issue regarding *Ambrosia* (ragweed) seed contamination in US soy cargos arriving in Egypt has been resolved. Prior to the meeting, importers were being obligated to clean soybeans found to be contaminated with *Ambrosia* at discharge port, in spite of the fact they were intended to be processed into meal and oil. During the meeting, CAPQ agreed that soybeans intended for processing at the crushing facility at Bourg El Arab would be exempted from any screening requirement at port, subject to official supervision until processed.

APHIS/Cairo informs us that the problem has been resolved and no further action is recommended.

### **U.S. – USDA APHIS Considers Deregulation of 2, 4-D-GE Corn and Soybeans**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA’s) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) released today its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) as part of its review to determine whether to deregulate genetically engineered (GE) corn and soybean plants that are resistant to several herbicides, including one known as 2,4-D. APHIS is performing an assessment of these GE plants, while the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is conducting a concurrent review of the related herbicides. APHIS’ DEIS will be available for public review and comment for 45 days from the date of publication in the Federal Register.

APHIS encourages public input on its DEIS and will host a virtual public meeting to receive comments. APHIS will consider all public comments submitted during the comment period before finalizing the DEIS and plant pest risk assessment and then, based on these, making its final regulatory decision on Dow AgroSciences’ deregulation request.

APHIS anticipates that EPA will publish a notice that APHIS’s DEIS is available for public review in the Federal Register on Jan. 10, 2014. A copy of the DEIS provided to EPA can be reviewed at: <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2013-0042>.

Dow AgroSciences’ GE corn and soybean plants are the first developed to be resistant to 2, 4-D and are intended to provide farmers with new plants to help address the problem of weeds that have developed resistance to other herbicides.

***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

**27-29 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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