



*“Working Together to Make Trade Work”*

## **OUTREACH October 14, 2013**

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

### **Member participation opportunity:**

- NAPPO Annual Meeting 2013 – Guelph, Ontario-Canada – October 28-November 1
- Canada Border Services Agency/Canadian Food Inspection Agency Trade Consultation – November 7
- European Union Buyers Conference – Istanbul, Turkey – November 19-22
- Soy Sustainability Certification Process Webinar – TBD

### **Action Reports**

- EU / Italy – Testing Wheat for Biotech
- U.S. – State of Washington Grain Inspection

### **New Issues**

- Asia-Americas – U.S. Shutdown and Trans-Pacific Partnership
- Brazil-U.S. Cotton / GSM Credit Guarantee Dispute – Brazil Retaliation?
- U.S-EU –Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

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

- Upcoming Events and Notices for Members

## **NAEGA Member Participation Opportunity**

### **NAPPO Annual Meeting 2013 – Guelph, Ontario, October 28**

The 2013 North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) annual meeting is scheduled for October 28, 2013 to November 1, 2013 at the Delta Hotel in Guelph, Ontario in Canada. More information will be coming soon. Nick Friant (Cargill) and NAEGA Senior Advisor Arvid Hawk are planning to participate. In addition to concerns with official plant protection regulation in Mexico, Canada and the U.S., Nick and Arvid will focus on the International Plant Protection Organization’s intentions regarding a standard for Phytosanitary Measures for International Grain Movements. Updates on the agenda are forthcoming at: <http://www.naplo.org/en/>

### **Canada Border Services Agency/Canadian Food Inspection Agency Trade Consultation – November 7**

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Members are invited to attend a Trade Consultation Session via WebEx hosted by the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), in conjunction with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). The webinar will focus on the importation of products regulated by the CFIA.

The session is scheduled for November 7th, 2013, from 1-4 p.m. (EST). The objectives of this webinar will be to provide participants with information on the Single Window Initiative (SWI) as it relates to food, plant and animal products and to provide a forum for discussion on the following aspects:

- Background on the SWI
- Integrated Import Declaration
- Business process changes for food, plant and animal products
- Data requirements for food, plant and animal products

Members are requested to register by October 24th, 2013. This webinar is being offered in English and provided free of charge to participants. To register for this training session go to <https://gts-ee.webex.com/gts-ee/k2/j.php?ED=250149527&UID=1692251122&HMAC=3151dfeae6054b7e6917a376c05d5fec3a620a17&RT=MiMxMQ%3D%3D&FM=1> and register.

Questions can be forwarded to CBSA-ASFC\_OGD\_Single\_Window-Guichet\_Unique\_des\_AM [SWI-IGU@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](mailto:SWI-IGU@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca)<<mailto:SWI-IGU@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>>.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> European Union Buyers’ Conference – Istanbul, Turkey, November 19-22**

The USSEC has [announced](#) the 3<sup>rd</sup> European Union (EU) Buyers’ Conference will be held in Istanbul, Turkey on November 19-22. A list of the attendees can be found [here](#). For more information and an agenda, please contact Matt Magiera at [mmagiera@ct.ussec.org](mailto:mmagiera@ct.ussec.org).

### **Soy Sustainability Certificate Process Webinar**

NAEGA, in conjunction with the USSEC, will host a webinar to educate members on the new Soy Sustainability Certificate now available. The time and location of the webinar will be announced shortly. You can learn more [here](#). For immediate questions, contact Brent Babb at [sesadmin@ussec.org](mailto:sesadmin@ussec.org) or 636-449-6020.

***Full Details on Upcoming Events can be found in the Meetings & Events Section of the [NAEGA Member’s Only Page](#) and the [Personal Pages Website](#)***

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## **Reports on NAEGA Actions**

### **Europe (Italy) – Testing Wheat for Biotech Content**

Following the announcement by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that an unapproved genetically modified event (MON 71800 herbicide resistant wheat) was found in a field in

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Oregon, the European Union advised member states on May 31 to test certain wheat shipments from the United States. Subsequently the EUs Joint Research Center (JRC), together with the European Network of GMO Laboratories, developed a testing strategy to enable a confirmation of the absence of this wheat in grain deliveries of wheat-containing products. The method is based upon the combination of validated methods that EU control laboratories already have in use but does not specifically identify MON 71800.

This method is available since 13 June at: <http://gmo-crl.jrc.ec.europa.eu/> and has been deployed by the government of Italy as part of random monitoring of wheat imported from the U.S. As part of that random sampling of what we understand is being conducted on approximately 5% of import shipments, a shipment of U.S. wheat that recently arrived in Italy tested positive for GM content and was placed in quarantine pending completion of the testing regime.

NAEGA worked on behalf of the exporter and in coordination with the importer and USDA FAS in Italy to successfully, and in a few days, to expedite the release of the shipment from quarantine. Ultimately Italian authorities agreed that the test indicated the wheat contained very small traces of approved GMO material from other crops. Ultimately the Italian authorities determined the presence was an acceptable case of botanical impurity and released the wheat.

We note that a MON 71800 event specific detection method has been made available by MONSANTO and may soon be published for use in the EU.

### **U.S. – State of Washington Grain Inspection**

NAEGA is working with its members, NGFA and other stakeholders to ensure grain inspectors of exports from in the state of Washington in light of troubling decisions related to provision of service by the USDA Grain Inspections Packers and Stockyards Agency’s Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS). In a response somehow tied to picketing by the locked out International Longshore Workers’ Union (ILWU), the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) suddenly and without clear reason refused to provide for the inspection of grain at least one grain export facility within its assigned responsibility to do so. In an unexpected and potentially adverse precedent setting response, FGIS has deferred to the curious decisions of its delegated state agency WSDA and is not willing to directly provide for grain inspections at the facility.

Further reports and actions in this regard will be addressed via coordination with the Grades and Inspections Committee.

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

#### **2013**

**Oct. 22** – Comments to FAS on the proposed extension of an information collection in support of the export sales reporting program for U.S. agricultural commodities.

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**Nov. 8** – Originally due Oct. 11, but date was extended – Comments to Office of Management and Budget on the U.S. – Canada Regulatory Cooperation Council’s progress to date and how to address regulatory divergence between the U.S. and Canada governments.

**Nov. 25** – Comments to EPA on Fumigant Registration.

<http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0625-0001>

**Nov. 26** – 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>

**Nov. 30** – Comments to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) on current crop variety registration system in Canada. <http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/about-us/public-opinion-and-consultations/crop-variety-registration-engagement/?id=1374781777067>

**TBD** – Comments to USDA on Agricultural Coexistence. The USDA will soon publish a notice in the Federal Register asking the public to comment on how agricultural coexistence in the U.S. can be strengthened. The comment period begins upon publication of the notice in the Federal Register and will be 60 days. More information can be found [here](#).

**TBD** – Comments to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) on draft directives D-12-05: [http://www.naega.org/images/pdf/CFIA\\_Draft\\_D-12-05.pdf](http://www.naega.org/images/pdf/CFIA_Draft_D-12-05.pdf)

*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**

### **Asia-Americas – U.S. Shutdown and Trans-Pacific Partnership**

Despite U.S. President Obama canceling his trip to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Bali, Indonesia, the White House issued a press release stating that the negotiations for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) are on track to be completed. The [press release](#) stated, “Ministers and negotiators have made significant progress in recent months on all the legal texts and annexes on access to our respective goods, services, investment, financial services, government procurement, and temporary entry markets.” The statement went on to say, “The deepest and broadest possible liberalization of trade and investment will ensure the greatest benefits for countries’ large and small manufactures, service providers, farmers, and ranchers, as well as workers, innovators, investors, and consumers.”

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### **Brazil-U.S. Cotton / GSM Credit Guarantee Dispute – Brazil Retaliation?**

Reports indicate that Brazil is prepared to resume trade sanctions against the U.S. Brazil has authority to retaliate against the U.S. from its victory at the WTO over U.S. cotton subsidies. Brazil agreed not to place trade sanctions on the U.S. as long as the U.S. changed its cotton policy in the next farm bill, and in the interim, pay Brazil \$147 million a year. With the farm bill in limbo and the government shutdown, the USDA has suspended its previously agreed upon \$147 million per year compensatory payments to Brazil. Brazil responded by establishing a task force that will report to Brazil’s President, Dilma Rousseff, on the possibility of retaliatory measures.

Prior to the agreement between the U.S. and Brazil, Brazil took steps to retaliate in the form of higher tariffs on 102 U.S. products in 2010, including wheat. The 2010 list of products can be found [here](#).

### **U.S.-EU – Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership**

In a recent speech in Brussels, U.S. Trade Representative Mike Froman highlighted regulatory differences between the U.S. and the EU and declared a goal to “bridge the divergences between two well-regulated markets while retaining a shared commitment to strong regulations in the public interest and reducing unnecessary costs that damage our collective competitiveness in an increasingly competitive global market.” Froman pointed to disagreements on how to recognize equivalence among regulations and argue the differences create unnecessary and costly barriers. Ambassador Froman optimistically noted the “so-called gap between Europe’s preference for the precautionary principle and the United States’ focus on cost-benefit analysis is decreasingly important.

Unfortunately our reading of the speech indicates the Ambassador avoided directly mentioning the many substantial issues related to trade in agricultural products that we are concerned with and are key to successful negotiation. A copy of the speech can be found [here](#).

*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**

### **October**

**24-25** – Washington, D.C. Area – CBP East Coast Trade Symposium held at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, DC. The theme is “Increasing Economic Competitiveness through Global Partnerships and Innovation.” This will be the only Symposium held this year.

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**28 – Nov. 1** – 2013 NAPPO Annual Meeting – NAPPO’s annual meeting has been scheduled for October 28, 2013 to November 1, 2013 at the Delta Hotel in Guelph, Ontario in Canada. More information will be coming soon.

### **November**

**TBD** – Washington, DC – One Day USDA/USAID Food Aid & Development Meeting with Stakeholders

**4-6** – San Antonio, Texas – American Nutrition Forum – Gary Martin attending and presenting

**7** – Canada Border Services Agency/Canadian Food Inspection Agency Trade Consultation – Webinar

**12-15** – Lisbon, Portugal - 6th International Conference on Coexistence between Genetically Modified (GM) and non-GM based Agricultural Supply Chains: [www.gmcc13.org](http://www.gmcc13.org)

**13-16** - PNWER Economic Leadership Forum

**19-20** - Canada Seminar/Canada Grains Council

**18-22** - IPPC Standards Committee - Grain Movement

**19-20** – Baltimore, Maryland – U.S. Agricultural Export Development Council (USAEDC) 2013 Annual Workshop – NAEGA Members invited to participate

**19-22** – Istanbul, Turkey – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual European Union Buyers’ Conference. Hosted by USSEC.

**20** – Riverdale, Maryland – APHIS BRS Annual Stakeholder Meeting – Attendees can participate in person or via webcast. Meeting details and registration information will be available soon.

### **2014**

**January -- TBD** – Egypt – 2013 Middle East Regional Trade Conference hosted by U.S. Wheat Associates in cooperation with NAEGA, U.S. Grains Council and U.S. Soybean Export Council

### **March**

**31** – 2014 NAEGA Annual Meetings – Hilton Head, South Carolina

**30-April 1** – 2014 NGFA Convention – Hilton Head, South Carolina

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