



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

OUTREACH October 20, 2015

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

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Member Opportunities

Alternative Security Program Workshop – November 18

At the request of U.S. Coast Guard, NAEGA and NGFA will host an upcoming workshop for Alternative Security Program (ASP) administrators. The afternoon workshop will take place on November 18 at our offices in Washington, D.C. The agenda for this year’s workshop includes input from ASP users on seafarer shore access, ASP Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circulars (NVIC), and cyber-security, among other items. NAEGA ASP users who would like more information or would like to provide input for the workshop should contact Gary or Ryan.

Alternative Security Programs (ASP) provide an alternative to Facility Security Plans to meet some security measures required by the Maritime Transportation Security Act (MTSA). The ASP is available to facilities operated by NGFA and NAEGA members in good standing. If you are interested in learning more about the NAEGA-NGFA-administered ASP, please contact Gary or Ryan for more information.

Buenos Aires December 1-December 3

On December 1, the International Grains Council and the Buenos Aires Bolsa de Cereales will hold a forum titled *The New Global Context: Challenges and Opportunities of Large Net Exporters* in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The forum will be conducted at the Bolsa de Cereales, 123 Corrientes Avenue, Buenos Aires, Argentina and feature discussions on global grain markets, upcoming developments and challenges to the grain trade, ongoing trade negotiations, and food security issues, among other topics. Working on behalf of the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC), Gary Martin plans to moderate a session at the forum called “*Key Grain Trade Issue: Developments and Challenges*”. NAEGA members will be invited to attend the IGC Bolsa Forum and the subsequent meetings of the IGTC. You can now register to attend online at the following links:

English: <http://www.igcargentina.com/eng/index.html>

Spanish: <http://www.igcargentina.com/>

The IGTC will hold meetings and a general assembly on December 2 and 3 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The IGTC will be also be hosted by the Bolsa de Cereales, 123 Corrientes Avenue, Buenos Aires, Argentina. The meetings will feature a policy strategy session, a roundtable discussion on relevant policy and commercial concerns, an IGTC general assembly, and a stakeholder outreach session. NAEGA members are welcome to attend and will soon receive invitations and further details on this event, including a draft agenda.

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Additionally, a block of hotel rooms has been reserved for IGTC members from November 28 to December 3 at the Sheraton Buenos Aires Hotel & Convention Center. Please Contact Gary, Ryan, or Colleen in the NAEGA office for assistance.

NAEGA Seminars

The NAEGA Contracts Committee conducts seminars for in-depth, interactive education on contract practices. NAEGA Seminars are divided into two different categories: first, “Privately” funded and designed for a single member company, and attended by persons invited by that member company; second, “Generally” funded by registration fees, designed to cover the interests of many companies, and attended by persons from several companies. In most cases, the Seminars provide intensive review of current developments and practices in international grain trade contracts, and often focus on the NAEGA 2. In-depth examination of regulatory compliance, as well as NAEGA services and policy concerns, can also be added content for a Seminar designed to meet your needs. Invitations for General Seminars are sent to all NAEGA member company representatives, and a per person registration fee will be required for attendance.

Our tentative plans for a General Seminar in Kansas City are on hold as we seek a date in near future that can be accommodated. NAEGA members interested in attending a General Seminar should contact Gary (gcmartin@naega.org) or Sam (sbonilla@naega.org). We have several open dates during which Seminars may be conducted. At your convenience, please let us know if you would like to discuss options for holding a seminar.

NAEGA Internships

NAEGA is seeking candidates for internships in our Washington, D.C. office during the winter and summer of 2016. NAEGA internships last for 2 to 4 months and are tailored to meet the availability and interests of the student. Common responsibilities for a NAEGA internship include supporting staff administration and communication related to membership and industry services, national and international policy, international programs and cooperation, as well as general office administration. NAEGA interns report directly to a Director of Operations and support the work of all NAEGA staff and third party personnel. Work study programs may be incorporated into a NAEGA internship.

Please contact Ryan to discuss – we are now recruiting for interns to start in January or February and May or June of 2016. Your recommendations are welcome!

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

IGTC to Address Electronic Documents

The International Grain Trade Coalition (www.igtglobal.org) will work to support the innovation of Electronic Documents. Recognizing the ongoing deployment of technology based-tools to facilitate execution of international agriculture products trade, we are pleased announce the establishment of an IGTC Electronic Documents Working Group.

NAEGA member staff have volunteered to work with IGTC to assemble a global industry perspective on the use of Electronic Documents that provides for a competitive, compatible, and secure environment for the provision of e-documentation. The Working Group will also coordinate with the IGTC team addressing IPPC and other regional and national plant health initiatives related to electronic conveyance and management of phyto-sanitary certificates. Nadeem Ashraf, Trade Execution Lead Grains & Oil Asia, WTU Palm at Cargill Singapore, has volunteered to Chair the IGTC Electronic Documents Working Group. Meetings are ongoing to as the Working Group’s activity intensifies and it and develops shared goals and a communications plan that includes establishing activity milestones for coming months.

A milestone already in place is participation at the upcoming IGTC-involved meetings on December 1 to 3 in Buenos Aires, Argentina at the Bolsa de Cereales. On December 1, the Bolsa will be hosting an International Grains Forum (English: <http://www.igcargentina.com/eng/index.html>, and in Spanish: <http://www.igcargentina.com/>.) The Forum is organized with the International Grains Council (<http://www.igc.int>) and includes an IGTC panel at which a presentation will be made on electronic documents and trade. On December 2, IGTC will include the Electronic Documents Working Group report in its agenda. Finally, on December 3, at an IGTC Outreach Session hosted by IGTC Member Trade Associations CIARA and CEC (www.ciaracec.com.ar/), the Working Group will present its findings to an invited audience of interested government and trade professionals. More details on the IGTC Buenos Aires plans to follow.

Gary Martin is acting on behalf of IGTC to support the IGTC Electronic Documents Working Group, and welcomes your input and questions.

NAEGA Trip Report on the International Dry Bulk Terminals Group

On September 30, NAEGA Senior Advisor Jerry Cotter Traveled to Vancouver, Canada to participate in the annual meeting of the International Dry Bulk Terminal Group (DBTG). The DBTG annual meeting featured presentations by industry experts on dry bulk commodities, including freight markets, logistics, and reliability, including a tour of the Neptune Bulk Terminal and the Port of Vancouver. Jerry has been leading NAEGA efforts regarding the reclassification of grain as a hazardous material under the UN Globally Harmonized System code. DBTG executive director Ian Adams addressed the conference on these issues, highlighted

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the ongoing discussions on classifications, and relayed some of the challenges and recent developments.

A copy of Jerry’s trip report is available [here](#). More in-depth information on the classification of grain as a hazardous material is available on the Members Only section of the NAEGA website, [here](#).

NGFA-NAEGA Joint Statement to APHIS on MON 87419

On October 13, NAEGA and NGFA submitted comments to APHIS on MON 87419 regarding the non-regulated status of maize genetically engineered for resistance to dicamba and glufosinate. As with previous comments to APHIS in the past, NAEGA and NGFA highlighted risk assessment, risk management, and risk responsibility as the three crucial elements that are essential for the responsible commercialization of biotech enhanced traits. Due to the fungibility and interconnectedness of the global trade in grains and oilseeds, it is vital that proper risk management techniques be applied to any commercialization practices. Furthermore, the status of import approvals for overseas markets must be taken into effect as APHIS moves forward with any commercialization. Currently, these issues are not properly addressed in APHIS environmental assessments.

As a result, the comments suggest that “APHIS create and apply a different category of deregulation – namely “conditional regulation” – expressly for MON87419 and other biotech enhanced events that the agency determines do not present a plant pest or noxious weed risk.” In addition, the comments suggest that APHIS consider working with U.S. and foreign governments to pursue a Global Low Level Presence (LLP) policy, a long-held position advocated by NAEGA and NGFA.

A copy of the comments submitted to APHIS can be found [here](#).

NAEGA Future Actions

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

2015

U.S. Review of Coordinated Biotechnology Framework – NAEGA will be engaged in a White House initiative intended to update and improve the U.S. Coordinated Biotechnology Framework. The White House issued a memorandum directing the three federal agencies with oversight responsibilities for the products of biotechnology—the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Department of Agriculture (USDA)—to update the Coordinated Framework, develop a long-term strategy to ensure that the system is prepared for the future products of biotechnology, and commission an expert analysis of the future landscape of biotechnology products to support this effort.

NAEGA looks forward to receiving member input. More information can be found [here](#).

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USDA Public Comment on GE Wheat Field Trials – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has opened up a 30-day public comment period regarding its proposed plan to strengthen oversight of genetically engineered wheat field trials. The proposed plan would require future field trials to be conducted under APHIS permit. This permitting process is proposed following two recent detections of GE wheat in unauthorized areas. APHIS will consider all public comments received on or before October 26, 2015.

NAEGA looks forward to receiving member input on this issue.

For more information, click [here](#).

ITC Review of Economic Impact of Trade Agreements – Prompted by a request from Congress, the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) has begun an investigation into the economic impacts of U.S. trade agreements since 1984. This investigation will include bilateral and multilateral agreements, including the Uruguay Round of negotiations, and will take place over a period of 8 months. Submissions of public statements will be accepted until November 4. A public hearing on the report will be conducted on November 17, and the report will be submitted to Congress on June 29.

For more information, click [here](#).

NAEGA Actions on Current Issues are tracked on the Members Only Section under their relevant committee pages.

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Information for your Consideration

Iran Agreement Adopted on October 18

Arent Fox, LLP reports that, as of Sunday, October 18, 2015, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) – commonly referred to as the Iran Nuclear Agreement – has been adopted. According to a statement by President Obama, on that date “the JCPOA comes into effect and all JCPOA participants, including the United States, are to make the necessary arrangements and preparations for implementation of their respective JCPOA commitments.” A set of FAQs by the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) states that the Office plans to provide information and advice on its website before Implementation Day, an event contingent upon Iran’s compliance with all measures as specified in the JCPOA.

To read more about the information provided on adoption day, click [here](#). The OFAC FAQ page can be found [here](#).

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TPP Vote May Occur During Lame-Duck Session

There has been speculation that a congressional vote on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement will likely not take place until after the 2016 elections. The text of the agreement has not yet been provided but may be released in early November. President Obama is required to notify Congress 90 days prior to signing the deal and Congress is allowed 90 days to vote on it once it has been introduced. Additionally, the text must be available to the public 60 days prior to the president’s signature and can be neither amended nor filibustered.

For more information about a possible lame-duck session vote, click [here](#).

USDA Reorganization and Under-Secretary for Trade

In an effort to adjust to the evolution of the agricultural sector, an expert panel convened by the National Academy of Public Administration has issued a report to identify and assess options for the reorganization of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The purpose of the reorganization is the creation of a new Under Secretary position focused on trade and bolstering multiagency collaboration on trade issues. The report highlights a preferred reorganization option of the three evaluated, provides advice on ways to enhance multiagency cooperation, and recommends methods for incorporating other USDA agencies into the reorganization.

To read the full report, click [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

2015

October

18 – Budapest, Hungary – Plant Breeding and Innovation Working Group of the International Seed Federation (ISF). Marcel Bruins, for IGTC, attending.

26-29 – Memphis, TN - 39th NAPPO Annual Meeting

November

12 – Washington, D.C. – NAEGA Membership and Board Meeting

18 – Washington, D.C. – NAEGA hosting ASP Workshop

16-19 – Location TBD – USAEDC Annual Workshop

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17-20 – Amsterdam, Netherlands – International Genetically Modified Conference on Coexistence (GMCC-15)

December

1 - Buenos Aires Argentina - International Grain Council (IGC) meeting and Forum Bolsa de Buenos Aires. Gary Martin, Marcel Bruins plan to attend.

2- 3 – Buenos Aires, Argentina IGTC General Assembly and Meetings – Bolsa de Buenos Aires. Gary Martin, Marcel Bruins plan to attend. ALL NAEGA members / IGTC Corporate Stakeholders welcome!

9-11 – Geneva, Switzerland – Globally Harmonized System (GHS) Subcommittee meeting. Jerry Cotter attending.

15-18 – Nairobi, Kenya – Tenth WTO Ministerial Conference

2016

January

11-14 Washington, D.C.-Transportation Research Board (TRB) Agricultural Transportation Committee Annual Meeting. Gary Martin will present on multiple freight transportation modes related to the U.S. grain industry.

April

14 – Winnipeg, Canada – Tentative IGTC Meeting

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