



*"Working Together to Make Trade Work"*

## **OUTREACH October 27, 2014**

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

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- IGTC Formal Incorporation
- NAEGA-NGFA Joint Comments on CFATS
- US Country of Origin Labeling WTO Decision

### **Member Opportunities**

- Kansas City, MO – NAEGA Grades and Inspections meets jointly with NGFA Grades and Weights Committee - November 5, 2014
- St. Louis, MO – Wheat Innovation Alliance Wheat Forum – November 7-8, 2014
- College Park, MD – FDA Public Meeting on FSMA – November 13, 2014

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## **Reports on NAEGA Actions**

### **Chinese Vessel Comparison Study**

A team of USDA and China AQSIQ regulatory officials, along with NAEGA and USSEC representatives, have completed the first portion of another [Vessel Comparison Study \(VCS\)](#) under the 2010 [Memorandum of Understanding](#) on Soybean Quality. Two vessels in New Orleans, Louisiana were subjected to a review of inspection, fumigation and loading under the terms of the VCS. In addition to observing the relevant processes at the two NAEGA member company export elevators loading the vessels, the team also visited facilities operated by two additional NAEGA members.

Thanks to all NAEGA member companies that helped make this U.S. step of the VCS a success. The next step will include observing the same two vessels subject to the VCS as they are off loaded and inspected in China. Arvid Hawk, who leads the effort for NAEGA and USSEC, will be providing a report at the end of this VCS.

### **International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC)**

NAEGA hosted an IGTC conference call to provide updates on policy work and the establishment of IGTC as a non-profit association. The successful outcome of the COP/MOP 7 biosafety protocol meetings, plans to work with the International Plant Protection Convention on the

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development of an International Standard for Phyto-sanitary Management (ISPM) for Grain Movement, and developments related to the Global Low Level Presence Initiative (GLI) were featured during the meeting. A report of the meeting will be posted to the NAEGA website [International Programs pages](#).

Immediately following the IGTC call, we hosted a Constitutive General Assembly during which actions needed to formally establish the IGTC as a non-profit trade association were completed. Canada Grains Council (CGC), NAEGA, NGFA, and the U.S. Grains Council (in a non-voting capacity) completed actions that included the approval of the [Articles of Association](#) in conformity with the Swiss law, adoption of revised [Statement of Organization and Operating Guidelines](#) and Election of officers. Current IGTC officers are: President, Gary Martin (NAEGA), Treasurer, Randall Gordon (NGFA) and Secretary, Marcel Bruins who is contracted by NAEGA to provide for the IGTC Secretariat. Minutes and codified documents for the IGTC can be found on the NAEGA website on [International Programs pages](#).

The first General Assembly of the formally established IGTC will occur in Brussels, Belgium during the week of December 8. At that meeting changes to IGTC policy actions as well as organizational and operational plans will be considered.

#### **NAEGA-NGFA Joint Comments on CFATS**

NAEGA and NGFA submitted [comments](#) to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS). Overall, NGFA-NAEGA supported making permanent the indefinite exemption for agricultural facilities to register and submit to the CFATS process. The comments also urged the DHS to consider not only the release, theft and sabotage/contamination criteria as a whole, but also examine the impacts of existing handling practices, accident history and potential risk to surrounding communities when evaluating the addition or deletion of a chemical from Appendix A.

#### **US Country of Origin Labeling WTO Decision**

NAEGA signed a letter urging U.S. Congress to change U.S. Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) law after a World Trade Organization panel ruled the law is still in violation of the national treatment obligation. The U.S. most recently revised COOL regulations in 2012 but the panel still found it to violate international trade law. Canada and Mexico continue to threaten retaliatory tariffs if the COOL regulations are not further revised to their satisfaction.

The letter, signed by a number of stakeholders, expresses concerns of the negative impacts retaliation could have on the U.S. economy. Because of the negative impact retaliatory tariffs could have, the stakeholders urged Congress to authorize and direct the Secretary of Agriculture to rescind elements of COOL that have been determined to be noncompliant with international trade obligations.

***NAEGA Actions on Current Issues are tracked on the Member’s Only Section under their relevant committee pages.***

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

**2014**

**Oct. 29** – Comments to USTR on TBT & SPS trade barriers for Annual National Trade Estimate Report

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) is seeking input for its annual national trade estimate (NTE) report on foreign trade barriers. Comments are due by October 29 and are encouraged to be made on any of the following topics:

- import policies (e.g., tariffs, quotas, import licensing and customs barriers)
- government procurement restrictions (e.g., “buy national” policies and closed bidding)
- export subsidies
- lack of intellectual property rights protection
- anticompetitive conduct of state-owned or private firms tolerated by foreign governments that restricts the sale or purchase of U.S. goods or services in the foreign country’s markets
- other barriers, including barriers that encompass more than one category, such as bribery and corruption, or that affect a single sector

The USTR is particularly interested in trade practices that may violate U.S. trade agreements and information on new barriers. The USTR also welcomes comments on trade restrictions through unwarranted sanitary and phytosanitary measures and standards (SPS), and conformity assessment procedures or technical regulations that can be implemented in less trade restrictive ways (TBT).

A copy of the federal register notice can be found [here](#).

**Dec. 15** – Comments to FDA on revisions of certain provisions on foreign supplier verification programs for importers of food for humans and animals. Potential revisions are primarily related to compliance status review of food and foreign suppliers, hazard analysis, and supplier verification activities. A copy of the federal register notice can be found [here](#).

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## **Member Opportunities**

### **Kansas City, MO – NAEGA Grades and Inspections meets jointly with NGFA Grades and Weights Committee – November 5, 2014**

NAEGA's Grades and Inspection Committee and NGFA's Grain Grades and Weights Committee will meet from 12:00pm – 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 5 at the Hilton Kansas City Airport, 8801 NW 112<sup>th</sup> St., Kansas City, MO 64153, Phone: (816)-891-8900. The meeting will immediately follow the November 4-5 GIPSA Grain Inspection Advisory Committee at the National Grain Center in Kansas City. The primary discussion item will be to finalize potential

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policy options to address during the upcoming 2015 GIPSA reauthorization process. The session will begin with a working lunch.

In order to get an accurate headcount for both seating and food, please let Jess McCluer ([jmcccluer@ngfa.org](mailto:jmcccluer@ngfa.org)) know if you plan on attending the meeting.

A block of sleeping rooms have been arranged for **Wednesday, November 5** at the special room rate of **\$159** per night, single occupancy. You can go to [www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com) or call **1-800-445-8667** to make your reservation under the "NGFA" room block at this special rate. The deadline for making your reservation at this rate is Wednesday, October 15.

#### **St. Louis, MO – Wheat Innovation Alliance Wheat Forum – November 7-8, 2014**

The Wheat Innovation Alliance executive committee is hosting a “Wheat Forum” to introduce objectives of identifying and overcoming obstacles to innovation in wheat in order to improve wheat profitability. The National Association of Wheat Growers encourages all current and potential industry partners to participate in this important discussion surrounding current and future innovation in wheat.

A description of the Wheat Forum can be found [here](#) and a “Save the Date” can be found [here](#). Please direct any questions regarding this Wheat Forum to Burlison Smith at [technology@wheatworld.org](mailto:technology@wheatworld.org) or 202-547-7800.

#### **College Park, MD – FDA Public Meeting on FSMA – November 13, 2014**

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a [press release](#) announcing a public meeting to discuss the proposed changes to four rules of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). The public meeting will be November 13, 2014 at Harvey W. Wiley Federal Building, Wiley Auditorium 5100 Paint Branch Parkway, College Park, MD (just outside of Washington, DC).

The purpose of the meeting is to solicit oral stakeholder and public comments on the new content of the supplemental proposed rules and to inform the public about the rulemaking process (including how to submit comments, data, and other information to the rulemaking dockets), and to respond to questions about the revised proposed rules. The proposed changes include the following topics:

Current Good Manufacturing Practice and Hazard Analysis and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Human Food (Preventive Controls of Human Food)

Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption (Produce Safety)

Current Good Manufacturing Practice and Hazard Analysis and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Food for Animals (Preventive Controls for Animal Food)

Foreign Supplier Verification Programs for Importers of Food for Humans and Animals (Foreign Supplier Verification Programs)

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Participants can attend either in person or via webcast. Registration can be done by [clicking this link](#).

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

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## **NAEGA Calendar & Member Notices**

### **2014**

#### **October**

**27** – Washington, D.C. – USSEC Contractor Workshop – NAEGA will host sessions for USSEC country representatives where Senior Advisor, Arvid Hawk will discuss phytosanitary measures, Senior Advisor, Sam Bonilla will discuss dispute resolution, and Gary Martin will provide an overview of the U.S. export grain industry.

**28-30** – Washington, D.C. – US Coast Guard Alternative Security Program (ASP) Workshop. NGFA/NAEGA hosting. Jerry Cotter attending for NAEGA.

**27-November 2** – Seoul, South Korea – Korea Food Security Research Foundation (KFSRF) seminar on economic impacts of asynchronous approvals/LLP in the context of food security. Gary Martin attending and presenting.

#### **November**

**5** – Kansas City, MO – NAEGA Grades and Inspections meets jointly with NGFA Grades and Weights Committee.

**7-8** – St. Louis, MO – Wheat Innovation Alliance Executive Committee Wheat Forum

**10-11** – Beijing, China – APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting (TBD)

**17-20** – Baltimore, MD – USAEDC Annual Workshop

#### **December**

**4** – Washington, D.C. – U.S. Biotech Crops Alliance (USBCA) International Working Group (IWG) Meeting – NAEGA/NGFA Conference Room

**8-10** – Brussels, Belgium – International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) Meeting

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**10-12** – Geneva, Switzerland – UN Globally Harmonized System (GHS) Subcommittee meeting. Jerry Cotter attending.

**14** – Washington, D.C. – U.S. China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT)

**15** – Washington, D.C. – U.S. Biotech Crops Alliance Plenary Session

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