



*“Working Together to Make Trade Work”*

## **OUTREACH October 5, 2015**

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

*Please join us in welcoming a new staff member to our office and the NAEGA – NGFA team!*

Last week, NGFA welcomed **Bobby Frederick** as the new Director of Legislative Affairs. Bobby previously held the position of legislative director for Rep. Rodney Davis (R-Ill.), serving as his lead staff member for agricultural biotechnology and research issues, as well as rail, waterway, and surface transportation policy.

Frederick has more than 11 years of experience on Capitol Hill, having previously worked as senior legislative assistant for then-Rep. Tim Johnson (R-Ill.) and as acting chief of staff and legislative director for then-Rep. Bobby Schilling (R-Ill.).

### Member Opportunities

- IGC Meeting and Forum – Buenos Aires November 30-December 1
- IGTC General Assembly and Meetings – Buenos Aires December 2-3
- NAEGA Seminars
- NAEGA Internships

### Action Reports

- Letter to AQSIQ, CFNA, and COFCO on China Draft “Grain Law”
- Letter to Congress on Trans-Pacific Partnership
- Comments to FAS on Cuba Cooperator Activities
- NAEGA and NGFA Laud U.S. Grain Standards Act Reauthorization
- International Seed Federation Plant Breeding and Innovation Working Group Meeting

### NAEGA Future Actions

- U.S. Review of Coordinated Biotechnology Framework
- USDA Opens Public Comment Period on GE Wheat Field Trials
- ITC Review of Economic Impact of Trade Agreements

### Information for your consideration

- China Biotech Talks During Xi Visit
- Trans-Pacific Partnership Deal Reached
- WTO – Global Trade Growth to Slow and Crop Prices to Remain Flat

### NAEGA Calendar and Member Notices

- Upcoming Events and Notices for Members

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## **Member Opportunities**

### **IGC Meeting and Forum**

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, Gary Martin plans to moderate a session called *“Key Grain Trade Issue: Developments and Challenges”* at the forum. The topics and presenters include:

1. **Electronic Documentation** – Randal Giroux, Ph.D., Vice President of Food Safety, Quality and Regulatory, Cargill
2. **International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures for Grain** – presenter to be determined
3. **Accommodating New Plant Breeding Techniques** – Marcel Bruins, Ph.D., Science Advisor, NAEGA and IGTC
4. **Grain as a hazardous material?** UN Sub-committee of Experts on the Global Harmonized System (GHS) of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals – María Marta Rebizo, CIARA-CEC

NAEGA members will be invited to attend the IGC Bolsa Forum and the subsequent meetings of the IGTC. Registration information and agendas will be released soon.

### **IGTC General Assembly and Meetings**

The International Grain Trade Coalition will hold meetings and a General Assembly on December 2 and 3 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The IGTC will be hosted by the Bolsa de Cereales, 123 Corrientes Avenue, Buenos Aires, Argentina. NAEGA members are welcome and will soon receive invitations and further details on this event, including a draft agenda.

### **NAEGA Seminars**

The NAEGA Contracts Committee conducts seminars for in-depth and interactive education on contract practices. NAEGA Seminars are conducted in two different fora: 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

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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**

### **Letter to AQSIQ, CFNA, and COFCO on China Draft “Grain Law”**

On October 1, 2015 the Canada Grains Council, NAEGA, the Associacao Nacional dos Exportadores de Cereais, Centro de Exportadores de Cereales, and Grain Trade Australia sent a letter to the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ), the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Food Stuffs and Native Produce (CFNA), and the COFCO Group thanking them for their participation in the August 11 and 12 symposium on the draft *Administrative Measures for Inspection, Quarantine and Supervision of Inbound and Outbound Grains*. The letter followed two days of informational meetings regarding the draft measures and notes that continued engagement and transparency is required from both sides as China pursues changes to its grain laws.

A copy of the letter can be found [here](#). A copy of the trip report on the working meetings will be available soon.

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### **Letter to Congress on Trans-Pacific Partnership**

On October 5, 2015 NAEGA joined a letter to Congress regarding the recently concluded Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) deal. The letter, drafted by the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC), welcomes the announced conclusion of TPP negotiations but warns against drawing conclusions on the agreement until the text has been released. According to the letter, “Since the full details of this massive twelve-nation undertaking are not yet available and may not be known for some days, we intend to withhold final judgment on the package until the specifics of the deal are available and can be carefully examined. We would also like to express hope that members of Congress will also refrain from pre-judging TPP until the full agreement is available. Conclusions as to whether an agreement of this unprecedented scope and complexity is in the overall best interest of the U.S. should not be drawn based on press reports on elements of the package or rapid reactions of organizations that are traditionally opposed to trade agreements.”

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

### **Comments to FAS on Cuba Cooperator Activities**

On October 5, NAEGA submitted comments to the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) on cooperator activities in Cuba. FAS is seeking information on cooperator activities in Cuba and significant trade barriers that cooperators currently face while conducting business on the island. NAEGA’s response highlighted the yet-unrealized potential of the Cuban grain and oilseed market to U.S. exporters, as well as some of the hardships experienced by exporters due to U.S. government export regulations.

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

### **NAEGA and NGFA Laud U.S. Grain Standards Act Reauthorization**

The North American Export Grain Association (NAEGA) and the National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) applaud the House for the final congressional passage of legislation which reauthorizes the U.S. Grain Standards Act. The Act was set to expire on September 30, 2015 and will now be in force through September 30, 2020. Significant reforms sought by NAEGA and NGFA were achieved through this legislation on the following subjects:

- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) waiver requests for the official grain inspection requirement in the event of USDA’s Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) failure to quickly resume official inspection service
- Disruption notification and reporting requirements to Congress in the event of FGIS’ inability to immediately resume official inspection service
- Notice-and-comment rulemaking procedure for state agencies with official inspection duties at export ports
- USDA user fees for export elevators
- Congressional reauthorization period for the U.S. Grain Standards Act

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A number of the above reforms seek to address last year’s disruptions to official grain inspection services in Washington state.

The NAEGA-NGFA press release on the bill’s passage can be found [here](#).

### **International Seed Federation Plant Breeding and Innovation Working Group Meeting**

On October 18, International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) Science Advisor Marcel Bruins will travel to Budapest, Hungary to attend a meeting of the International Seed Federation’s *Plant Breeding and Innovation Working Group*. The meeting will cover bilateral and multilateral issues relating to new plant breeding techniques (NPBT), including recent regulatory developments and the lack of synchronization between national regulatory regimes. Marcel has been working at the IGTC level to promote the global Low Level Presence Initiative, and will continue to promote IGTC positions related to LLP. IGTC is seeking alliances and stakeholders on these issues as it works to promote a science-based approach of the regulation of NPBTs.

Please let us know if you would like to provide any input for the upcoming meetings in Budapest.

A copy of the notice to post 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 that have 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](#).

**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 being proposed after two recent detections of GE wheat in unauthorized areas. APHIS will consider all public comments received on or before October 26, 2015.

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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 Member’s Only Section under their relevant committee pages.*

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## **Information for your Consideration**

### **China Biotech Talks During Xi Visit**

Following a state visit late last month by Chinese President Xi Jinping, the White House announced that China has made commitments to speed up approvals of biotech crops. According to the White House, both sides “committed to further improve approval processes” and “reaffirmed the importance of implementing timely, transparent, predictable, and science-based approval processes for products.” However, the Chinese government has not yet approved seven biotech products which the U.S. administration specifically advocated for at the summit.

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

### **Trans-Pacific Partnership Deal Reached**

On October 5, trade ministers from the 12 countries negotiating the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) announced that they have reached a deal. The consensus comes following negotiations last week in Atlanta on the outstanding issues of dairy product market access, auto rules of origin, and the time period for data protection of biologics. The 12 nations involved in the deal – Australia, New Zealand, Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam, Singapore, Japan, Canada, the United States, Mexico, Peru, and Chile – account for nearly 40% of global GDP. President Obama is required to submit the agreement for congressional approval; under his fast-track promotion authority, approved by Congress in June, the agreement cannot be amended or filibustered. Also as part of this authority, President Obama is required to wait 90 days after the deal’s completion before signing and submitting it for a vote, and the text of the agreement must be available to the public for a minimum of 60 of those 90 days.

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More information about the agreement please click [here](#). A new USTR website on TPP is available [here](#).

### **WTO – Global Trade Growth to Slow and Crop Prices to Remain Flat**

In a report released on September 29, the World Trade Organization (WTO) announced that it was cutting the anticipated growth rate of global trade. The report states that the global goods trade will grow by 3.3 percent in 2015 and 4 percent in 2016, less than previously anticipated. According to WTO Director-General Roberto Azevedo, “We expect trade to continue its slow recovery but with economic growth still fragile and continued geopolitical tensions, this trend could easily be undermined.” Furthermore, a WTO public forum on trade in agriculture reported last week that agricultural commodity prices are expected to “remain flat or decline in the next ten years” reflecting excess supply and a broad-based decline in commodity prices.

More information can be found [here](#) and [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**

**7-8** – Washington, D.C. – International Trade Administration’s Advisory Committee on Supply Chain Competitiveness will hold an open meeting

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

#### **November**

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

**16-19** – Location TBD – USAEDC Annual Workshop

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

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

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**December**

**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 – 10<sup>th</sup> 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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