



"Working Together to Make Trade Work"

OUTREACH October 6, 2014

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

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- DBTG Annual Meeting
- NAPPO Annual Meeting Teleconference
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- WTO Cotton/GSM-102 Dispute Settlement

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Reports on NAEGA Actions

COP/MOP 7 Meeting in Korea

NAEGA Biotechnology Committee Chairman, Paul Green and Senior Advisor, Kirk Miller, and worked with an International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) delegation to secure a successful outcome of the Seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP/MOP 7) in Korea. Requirements for the handling, transport, packaging, and identification of living modified organisms (LMOs) in products intended for food, feed and processing (Article 18.2a) were the main topics of NAEGA concern. Liability, redress for damages, risk assessment, and management related to the trans-boundary movement of LMOs were also addressed by the IGTC delegation. A report will soon be available on the International Programs' webpage of the Members' Only site.

DBTG Annual Meeting

NAEGA President, Gary C. Martin, and Senior Advisor, Jerry Cotter, attended the annual meeting of the [International Dry Bulk Terminals Group \(DBTG\)](#) in Panama City, Panama. Gary presented 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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on “Global Grain trade Logistics and Policy in delivery World Food Security” and Jerry, who is on the DBTG Executive Committee, gave a report on Hazardous to the Marine Environment (HME) issues currently before the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Carriage of Cargoes and Containers (CCC). The meeting included a trip to view the progress of the Panama Canal expansion project. A report will soon be available on the International Programs’ webpage of the Members’ Only site.

NAPPO Annual Meeting Teleconference

NAEGA participated in a teleconference hosted by USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) with industry to discuss Project Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) Proposals for the 2015 North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) Work Program and other topics of discussion for the NAPPO Annual Meeting. A copy of the NAPPO Project Proposals submitted to NAPPO can be found [here](#).

USBCA Letter to U.S. President Obama on Chinese Biotechnology

The U.S. Biotech Crops Alliance (USBCA) International Working Group (IWG), which Gary Martin co-chairs, sent a [letter](#) to U.S. President, Barrack Obama, on Chinese biotechnology policy. The letter is intended to bring to the attention of the U.S. government the lack of timely import approvals for new biotechnology products in China prior to the 2014 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders’ Summit, hosted by the Government of the People’s Republic of China. It urges the administration to make biotechnology a top priority in its upcoming trip to China.

WTO Cotton/GSM-102 Dispute Settlement

The United States and Brazil came to a [settlement agreement](#) over a long standing dispute before the World Trade Organization (WTO) over the United States’ cotton and export guarantee program. The U.S. will pay Brazil \$300 million and modify its GSM-102 export guarantee program in exchange for Brazil giving up its right for retaliation and agreeing not to bring any new WTO actions against the U.S. cotton support programs under the current Farm Bill or export credit guarantees.

NAEGA joined a group of agricultural associations on a [joint statement](#) recognizing the importance of the settlement in providing for a path forward and removing the threat of retaliation against U.S. exports. The organizations gave credit to Ambassador Darci Vetter, U.S. Trade Representative’s Chief Agricultural Negotiator, and the teams at the USDA and USTR for negotiating a workable agreement for the U.S. agriculture.

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.

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

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Oct. 10 – Comments to USDA-Agricultural Marketing Service on proposed unified process to consolidate all Agency fee setting activities and rates into a single, annual rulemaking. A copy of the federal register notice can be found [here](#).

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

Washington, DC – Regulatory Cooperation Council Stakeholder Event – October 8, 2014

The U.S. and Canadian governments released the Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC) Joint Forward Plan (Forward Plan). The Forward Plan outlines departmental commitments to cooperate in 24 areas of regulatory business and new department-level partnerships to institutionalize the way U.S. and Canadian regulators work together to develop smarter and more effective regulatory approaches that avoid creating unnecessary requirements and costs.

As part of the effort to rollout the Forward Plan, stakeholders are invited to participate in a bi-

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national RCC Stakeholder Event in Washington, D.C. on October 8, 2014. The meeting will provide interested stakeholders the opportunity to learn more about the Forward Plan, and provide input to regulators from both countries on its implementation.

For more information on the Forward Plan, stakeholder event, or to add names to the RCC email distribution lists Canadian stakeholders can go to: www.actionplan.gc.ca/rcc, and U.S. stakeholders can go to: www.trade.gov/rcc.

Honolulu, Hawaii – U.S.W.A. North Asia Marketing Conference – October 14-17, 2014

The U.S. Wheat Associates will host the North Asia Marketing Conference (NAMC) on October 14-17, 2014 in Honolulu, Hawaii. This regional buyer’s conference is for both private and public organizations that procure wheat from the international market. The agenda will address the most pressing issues for the Korea, Taiwan, and Japan markets, including advanced application and end-use trends in U.S. wheat classes; world trade agreements – TPP impact and opportunities – and others that can influence agricultural trade; current factors and mega-trends in the world grain market may affect global wheat prices; and the connection between corn and wheat.

A copy of the most recent agenda can be found [here](#). The conference will be held at the Modern Honolulu hotel on Waikiki: <http://www.themodernhonolulu.com>. USW has arranged a special group rate of \$189 + 13.962% tax per night; this room rate is based on single or double occupancy with a maximum room occupancy of four people per room. This rate expires in early September.

The online registration can be done [here](#).

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 Burleson Smith at technology@wheatworld.org or 202-547-7800.

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

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Food Facility Biennial Registration with FDA

Food facilities required to register with the Food and Drug Administration must renew their food facility registrations beginning October 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014. These registration requirements from section 415 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) apply to domestic and foreign food facilities that manufacture, process, pack, or hold food for human or animal consumption in the United States. The registration with the FDA occurs every other year. The FDA has three guidance documents available to assist registrants with the process. Those documents can be found [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

Stracener Farming Co. v. Syngenta re MIR-162

A group of farmers is the most recent group to have filed a class action lawsuit against Syngenta Seeds, Inc. seeking damages from Syngenta for commercialization of its Agrisure Viptera® (MIR 162) corn seed. Since mid-November 2013 China has taken action to limit imports of U.S. corn and products that contain U.S. corn because of the presence of Syngenta’s MIR 162 trait which has not been approved for import into China. A copy of the complaint can be found on the [Biotechnology Committee webpage](#) under the Members Only site.

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

October

8 – Washington, D.C. – Forward Plan Rollout/RCC Stakeholder Bi-national Event

13 – Geneva, Switzerland – WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) Committee Meeting

20-24 – Huatulco, Oaxaca, Mexico – The North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) and the National Plant Protection Organization of Mexico. <http://www.nappo.org/>

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

31-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

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

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

17-20 – Baltimore, MD – USAEDC Annual Workshop

December

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

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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