



*“Working Together to Make Trade Work”*

## **OUTREACH November 11, 2013**

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

### **Member participation opportunity:**

- Food and Agriculture Dialogue on Free Trade Agreements Meeting – Washington, D.C. November 14
- International Grain Trade Coalition Personnel Search
- International Grain Trade Coalition Meeting and Canada Symposium, Ottawa, Canada - November 18-20
- USAEDC Annual Workshop – Baltimore, MD – November 18-20
- European Union Buyers Conference – Istanbul, Turkey – November 19-22
- Soy Sustainability Certification Webinar – December 4

### **Action Reports**

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## **NAEGA Member Participation Opportunity**

### **Food and Agriculture Dialogue on Trade Agreements Meeting – Washington, D.C. – November 14, 2013**

NAEGA members are invited to the next session of the U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialog for Trade Agreements. Representatives of USTR and USDA led by Sharon Bomer Lauritsen will join us for discussion on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP) and ongoing related developments including Trade Promotion Authority (TPA).

Hosted by Arent Fox LLP, the Dialog runs from 3:00 to 5:00 pm in the Multipurpose Room at 1717 K Street, NW Washington DC. If you wish to attend, let Gary or Kyle know.

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

Your assistance is requested to help search for potential candidates to provide for coordination and leadership as a contract consultant by serving as IGTC secretariat. Working with the support of and at the direction of members the IGTC, a person is needed to act under the title of “IGTC Secretariat”. IGTC members make significant intellectual and administrative resources available to IGTC. However, an independent coordinating and leadership executive is being sought to affect IGTC plans and strategies. We are conducting a global search for potentially available people. A position description and other background are available. Please contact Gary if you have suggestions or questions.

### **International Grains Trade Coalition (IGTC) meeting and Grain Industry Symposium: “Canada’s Grain Industry Outlook for 2014”, hosted by Canada Grains Council and Grain Growers of Canada**

The IGTC will convene to make important decisions on the future of the IGTC as well as update strategy and plans on several key developments affecting trade risk. The IGTC is meeting on November 18 and 19 on the margins of the November 18-20 Symposium at the National Hotel in Ottawa, Canada. Interested NAEGA members are welcome at both.

An agenda for the IGTC meeting which will begin on Monday morning, November 18 is now under development.

Please let us know if you would like to be included in the IGTC meetings that will include: Reports and decisions related future of IGTC including proposed 2014 budget, membership fees, a secretariat selection and revisions to the IGTC Statement of Organization and Operating Guidelines. IGTC actions related to the International Plant Protection Conventions development of an International standard for phyto-sanitary management for grain movement; crop Biotechnology Low Level Presence, International Standards Organization (ISO) work on Sampling / Testing, the Trans Pacific Partnership Negotiations and the Biosafety Protocol.

The program and registration form for the Symposium are available at <http://naega.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/CGC-GGC-Grain-Industry-Symposium-2013-Updated-to-Oct-24-2013.pdf> or the website [www.canadagrainscouncil.ca](http://www.canadagrainscouncil.ca). The Symposium has an impressive roster of speakers and topics that will deliver a comprehensive outlook for the global economy, grain trade, market access and how advances in crop genetics. You will also hear about how Canada’s grain supply chains are responding to changing food safety requirements in Canada and the U.S. and fighting back to confront misinformation about nutritional value and health benefits of grain-based foods.

Register NOW for the Symposium by filling out the registration form at the end of the program and returning it to the Canada Grains Council.

To reserve a room: phone 1-613-238-6000 or toll-free 1-855-238-6001, identify yourself as being with the Canada Grains Council group and quote reservation ID GSCGC13.

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### **USAEDC Annual Workshop – Baltimore, MD – November 18-20**

NAEGA members are invited to attend United States Agricultural Export Development Committee’s (USAEDC) Annual Workshop from November 18-20 at the Hyatt Regency in Baltimore, MD. On Monday, November 18 will be the “FAS 101 for New Cooperator Staff” and on Tuesday, the 19<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, the 20<sup>th</sup> will be the Annual Workshop. The annual workshop will include a diverse group of speakers and breakout sessions. A copy of the most recent agenda can be found [here](#). The registration form can be found [here](#).

### **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 Magieria at [mmagiera@ct.ussec.org](mailto:mmagiera@ct.ussec.org).

### **Soy Sustainability Certificate Process Webinar – December 4**

NAEGA, in conjunction with the USSEC, will host a webinar to educate members on the new Soy Sustainability Certificate now available. The webinar will take place on December 4 from 3:00 to 5:00 Eastern (2:00 to 4:00 Central) time. Further details on how to participate in 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](#). (Please note, the Member’s Only Page is in the final stages of a transition. Some documents may be missing. If you cannot find something you are looking for, please let Kyle know. We apologize for any inconvenience).*

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## **Reports on NAEGA Actions**

### **Canada - U.S. -- NAEGA Comments to Regional Cooperation Council**

NAEGA submitted comments to the U.S.-Canada Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) on how U.S. and Canada can improve regulatory cooperation. We used the comments as another opportunity to advocate for improvements in phytosanitary certification processes, the implementation of a Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) and coordination with the Canada- U.S. Grain and Seed Task Group. More information on the RCC can be found here: <http://www.trade.gov/RCC/>. NAEGA’s comments to the group are posted to the NAEGA website [here](#).

### **U.S. – American Nutrition Forum**

Gary addressed the American Nutrition Forum [www.americannutritionforum.info](http://www.americannutritionforum.info) in San Antonio, Texas. Slides used for his remarks on “*Global Grain Trade 2015 – 2025 Prospects, Concerns and Vision*” can be found [here](#).

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### **U.S. Federal Grain Inspection via State of Washington Grain Inspection**

USDA/GIPSA/FGIS actions related to multiple failures by their delegated State agency Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) to provide export grain inspection service remain a concern. In a reaction somehow tied to picketing by the locked out International Longshore Workers’ Union (ILWU), the WSDA repeatedly and without clear reason has 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 then deferred to the curious decisions of its delegated state agency WSDA and is not willing to directly provide for grain inspections at the facility.

Most recently, Senator Hoven (R-ND) sent a [letter](#) to the Secretary Vilsack urging the USDA to use all tools necessary to ensure inspections at the Port are being performed in a consistent and timely manner. This letter was preceded by similar letters from Senator Johanns (R-NE) and Representative Cramer (R-ND) both sent letters to Secretary Vilsack urging the USDA to take action to provide official inspection. Representative Cramer’s letter can be found [here](#), and Senator Johanns’ letter can be found [here](#). Previously we sent a [letter](#) to Secretary Vilsack to encourage the USDA to take all actions necessary to provide official inspection of grain.

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**

**Nov. 15** – Comments to USTR on TBT & SPS trade barriers.  
[http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=USTR\\_FRDOC\\_0001-0279](http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=USTR_FRDOC_0001-0279);  
[http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=USTR\\_FRDOC\\_0001-0278](http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=USTR_FRDOC_0001-0278)

**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-auditorscertification-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>

**Jan. 3** – Comments to USDA on Enhancing Agricultural Coexistence Doc. No. APHIS—2013—0047.

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**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**

### **U.S.-EU – TIPP Negotiations Resume**

The United States Trade Representative (USTR) issued a [press release](#) announcing the resumption of the negotiations for the second round of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership Negotiations (TTIP), which will be held in Brussels November 11-15, 2013.

The negotiations were originally scheduled for October 7-11, 2013, but had to be canceled due to staffing and financial limitations related to the government shutdown. The third round of negotiations will take place in Washington D.C., December 16-20, 2013.

*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**

### **November**

**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

**14** – Washington, D.C. – Food & Ag Dialogue on Trade Agreements Meeting

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

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

**18-20** – 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

**June**

**10** – IGC Grains Conference – Tower Hotel, Tower Bridge, London

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