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Member Opportunities

APHIS Biotech Stakeholders Meeting – November 16

Please “save the date” for the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Biotechnology Regulatory Service (BRS) annual stakeholder meeting (virtually and in-person) on Wednesday, November 16. The in-person meeting will take place at the USDA Center at Riverside at 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD.

Additional information and registration will be available in the coming weeks. Please visit the [APHIS website](#) for information on past stakeholder meetings.

OFAC 2016 Fall Symposium – December 7

Save the date for the Office of Foreign Asset Control’s (OFAC) 2016 Fall Symposium. The symposium will take place in Washington, D.C. on December 7, 2016 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. The event will provide a comprehensive review of current U.S. economic sanctions. This event will include presentations on OFAC regulations, as well as targeted reviews of sanctions concerns for new and updated OFAC-administered programs. In addition to formal presentations by key personnel, OFAC staff will be available throughout the day to answer individual questions from participants. The event is free, but advanced registration is required. Registration information will be available soon.

For more information please contact Gary or Ryan.

Contracts and Best Practices Seminars

On October 20 in Portland, Oregon NAEGA conducted a Contracts and Best Practices Seminar. The general program incorporated current practices and commercial experience of interest to the entire trade. Thanks to all who attended!

Please let us know if you are interested in attending or hosting a NAEGA Seminar! Click [here](#) for more information the in-depth, interactive programs NAEGA conducts!.

Internships

Information on working for NAEGA as an intern can be found [here](#).

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

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Action Reports

Recent Actions:

Geneva Events

Last week, the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) and NAEGA completed several successful activities in Geneva, Switzerland. Included:

- **November 7 and 11:** IGTC President Gary Martin met with Industry leaders, IGTC corporate stakeholders and government officials to discuss IGTC Policy files and the IGTC's new business plan as well as NAEGA operations. Katy Lee and Gary met with prospective IGTC legal council.
- **November 8: An IGTC Strategy Session and General Assembly** were completed. The Strategy Session included comprehensive review and revision of all IGTC files and the related action communication plans, policy and advocacy strategies. A new IGTC file was opened to address pesticide residue management. Initial consideration for IGTC engagement with the International Maritime Organization was tabled. The General Assembly focused on IGTC business operations, including officer elections and naming the management council as well as approval of revised business plan incorporating changes submitted by NAEGA. that was largely adopted. Gary Martin (President), Teresa Babuscio (VP) and Randy Gordon (Treasurer) were elected to two year terms.
- **On November 10**, the IGTC welcomed an audience of governments and international decision makers to a seminar entitled "The Grain Trade's Contribution to Global Food Security and Economic Development" at the World Trade Organization (WTO). The event was attended by WTO Agriculture and SPS Committee members, and chaired by Canada and Brazil. The IGTC's speakers included Grain Trade Australia, COCERAL, IGTC/NAEGA and Cargill. IGTC's presenters focused on phytosanitary risk management, the Cartagena Biosafety Protocol, plant production methods, and e-documentation. The aim of the session was to highlight the importance of the grain trade in securing safe, affordable, reliable and fungible food supply while as contributing to food security. A copy of the IGTC presentations can be found on the IGTC "Intranet" at www.igtglobal.org.
- **On November 11** several IGTC participants including Gary and Katy attended a Cairns Group Farm Leaders Seminar for which the Agenda and Background can be found [here](#) and [here](#). Gary and Katy also met with Tim Yeend, the Chef de Cabinet for WTO Director General Azevedo regarding how to best achieve the common interests and objectives of IGTC and the WTO

The new IGTC business plan, which extends until 2020, highlights governance, financial and membership goals for the organization. Most importantly, the business plan includes:

- Commitment of NAEGA underwriting until at least 2018;
- Transitioning from NAEGA underwriting and administration sometime after 2018;
- Approval of membership fees and corporate stakeholder investments beginning in 2016, with the goal of building up US\$200,000 of IGTC reserves;
- Changes to the qualifications for serving on the Management Council and Corporate Stakeholder Advisory Board;
- Creation and job description of a permanent IGTC Secretariat to be provided by NAEGA for 2017 and 2018;
- An approved budget for 2016 through 2018 incorporating revised and additional sources of income, including membership fees and corporate stakeholder investments;

- A prospective budget for 2019 and 2020;
- A more complete description and accounting of IGTC benefits included in a new section entitled the “*IGTC value proposition*”.

A copy of the IGTC new business plan can be found here: [IGTC Business Plan](#)

Reports on all the meetings will soon be made available.

For more information or to comment please contact Gary or the Katy Lee, Acting IGTC Secretariat at secretariat@igtglobal.org.

IPPC ePhyto IAG Meeting

On November 10, 2016 NAEGA CEO Gary Martin, who also serves as president of the IGTC, attended a meeting of the International Plant Protection Convention’s (IPPC) ePhyto Industry Advisory Group (IAG) in Brussels, Belgium. Gary, who at the request of IPPC Secretary Jingyuan Xia participates as a member of the IAG, attended to represent IGTC interests regarding electronic documentation in the global grain trade. A copy of the agenda and related material can be found [here](#). The day-long meeting resulted in a consensus that the Pilot phase of E-Phyto project needs to be completed as soon as possible and a complete plan of operations including budget projections and identification of funding sources was imperative. Several new details on how IPPC and the IAG plan to proceed were discussed. For instance, survey work will continue and both national and generic service platforms will be subject of the two part pilot now planned for 2017.

Once a complete report of this meeting and subsequent plans is available the IGTC E-Docs Working Group will convene to consider and advise.

PPD Letter on Vietnamese Fumigation Requirements

On Thursday November 10, 2016, NAEGA, along with industry stakeholders and corporate representatives, met with the U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to discuss the pending deadlines on U.S. origin shipments of corn, wheat and DDGS to Vietnam. Vietnamese PPD authorities have imposed a methyl bromide fumigation requirement for all U.S. origin shipments of wheat and corn to Vietnam after the bill of lading date of December 1, 2016. In addition, due to increased incidence of pest detections in shipments of DDGS, Vietnam PPD is also proceeding with a December 17 suspension of all U.S. origin DDGS imports.

On a November 10, 2016 dated letter, Vietnam PPD reiterated to APHIS these positions and stipulated that their main concern is phosphine resistance. As a result, for corn and wheat, and despite discussions with APHIS and FAS, Vietnam PPD has reinforced its desire to require methyl bromide fumigation on all shipments after December 1. For DDGS, Vietnam has indicated that it is willing to work with APHIS on alternative measures, including conclusion of an APHIS field investigation and potential verification by Vietnam PPD authorities. A copy of the letter can be found here:

[November 10, 2016 Letter to APHIS from Vietnam PPD](#)

Moving forward, APHIS is continuing pursue alternative scenarios for compliance for DDGS, as laid out in its proposal to Vietnam in October, which can be found [here](#). APHIS is still considering next steps for corn and wheat, including measures to confirm Vietnam's claim of phosphine resistance. More information will be available in the coming days. NAEGA will inform members as soon as it has more information.

Future Actions:

USAEDC Annual Workshop – November 15-16

On November 15-16 NAEGA Director of Operations Ryan Olson will travel to Baltimore, MD to participate in the [U.S. Agriculture Export Development Council's \(USAEDC\)](#) annual workshop at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The USAEDC annual workshop includes presentations by U.S. government officials, including APHIS and USDA FAS, and industry stakeholders on issues including: U.S. relations with Cuba, public-private partnerships, the proliferation of MRLs and agribusiness trading missions.

A copy of the agenda is available [here](#). For more information please contact Ryan.

2nd Annual World Grain Forum – November 18-19

On November 18-19 NAEGA President and CEO Gary Martin will travel to Sochi, Russia to present at the 2nd Annual World Grain Forum (<http://wgforum.ru/en/>). Gary was invited to present on *Global View of Key Dynamics in Policy and Commerce for Grains, Oilseeds and other Agribulks* by the Russian Grain Union (RGU). A copy of the preliminary agenda for the World Grain Forum can be found [here](#). A notice to post for this travel can be found [here](#).

Please contact Gary or Ryan for more information.

IGTC Secretariat Visit – December 1-3

Acting IGTC Secretariat and NAEGA Contractor Katy Lee will visit NAEGA's offices in Arlington, VA on December 2, 2016. During her visit, Katy will be meeting with NAEGA staff and DC based corporate stakeholders on implementation of the new IGTC business plan. A briefing for IGTC corporate stakeholders at NAEGA's headquarters is currently being planned.

More information on Katy's final itinerary, a notice to post, and plans for the stakeholder outreach session, will be available soon.

Cartagena Protocol COP-MOP – December 4-17

Following her stop in Arlington, Katy Lee will travel to Cancun, Mexico on December 4-17 to participate in the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety's COP-MOP 2016 Meeting. A copy of the provisional agenda is available [here](#). During the COP-MOP discussions, Katy will be representing IGTC policy position on the CBP, which can be found [here](#), and communicating closely with the IGTC's Cartagena Protocol Team.

A notice to post for this travel will be available soon. For more information, or to provide input into the meeting, please contact the IGTC Secretariat at secretariat@igtglobal.org.

GHS Subcommittee Meeting – December 7-9

On December 6-9, 2016 NAEGA volunteer Jess McCluer, NGFA's Vice President for Safety and Regulatory Affairs, will travel to Geneva, Switzerland to participate in a meeting of the [United Nation's \(UN\) Globally Harmonized System \(GHS\) Subcommittee of Experts on the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals](#). A copy of the preliminary agenda for the Subcommittee meeting and a notice to post for this upcoming mission will be available soon.

Please contact Gary or Ryan for more information or if you would like to contribute to this mission.

Pending Actions:

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

CFTC Supplement to Position Limits Rule

On May 26, the Commodities and Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) announced that it will issue for public comment a supplement to its position limits proposal. The proposal will modify the procedures for those seeking exemptions from speculative position limits for non-enumerated bona fide hedging. The supplement would provide a new process for exchanges to recognize certain positions in commodity derivative contracts as non-enumerated bona fide hedges or enumerated anticipatory bona fide hedges, as well as to exempt from federal position limits certain spread positions, in each case subject to CFTC review.

Comments on the supplemental may be submitted electronically through the CFTC's website. If you are interested in contributing to comments on the supplemental, please contact Gary or Ryan. For more information, click [here](#).

EU Environmental Footprint Pilot

At the end of July, the European Commission launched its public consultations on Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules (PEFCR) for feed, food and drink products. The PEFCR is a pilot project to develop an approach to calculate the environmental footprint of different products with the goal of measuring environmental performance of products for future policy making. The PEFCR is an effort to measure and communicate the EU's environmental goals under its *Building the Single Market for Green Products Initiative*.

The EC has developed draft PEFCRs for each product under consultation from product secretariats formed by representatives of trade associations, companies and supply chain experts. The draft PEFCRs developed by the secretariats are now available for public consultation and comment. The comment period will be open until the first quarter of 2017.

More information on contributing to comments on the draft PEFCRs can be found [here](#). If you are interested in contributing comments to the draft PEFCRs please contact Gary or Ryan.

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In the News

GAO Report on Improving Performance of West Coast Ports

Last week the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report on improving supply chain information to enhance efficiency and competitiveness of U.S. West Coast ports. According to the report, West Coast ports have not responded quickly enough to recent changes in global shipping trends, resulting in increased costs or diminished revenues for shippers. Some shippers have modified their supply chains to divert shipments to ports outside the West Coast and are using alternate modes of transportation. GAO recommends that Department of Transportation identify what supply chain information is needed, potential sources of information, and data gaps to develop a freight data strategy to strengthen the role of freight transportation in U.S. economic competitiveness.

The official GAO report can be found [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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Calendar & Member Notices

Click [here](#) for a Copy of the IGTC Calendar

2016

November

14-17 – USAEDC Annual Workshop – Baltimore, MD

16 – APHIS Biotech Stakeholders Meeting – Riverdale, MD

18-19 – 2nd World Grain Forum – Sochi, Russia, Gary Presenting and Moderating. A notice to post for this travel will be available soon.

December

4-17 – COP-MOP Meetings to the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols – Cancun, Mexico

7-9 – UN GHS Subcommittee Meeting – Geneva, Switzerland – Cotter Attending.

14 – IGTC Management Council Meeting – Virtual

2017

March

TBD – Global Low Level Presence (LLP) meeting

19-21 – NAEGA Annual Meeting at the NGFA Annual Convention – New Orleans, LA

April

5-11 – IPPC CPM-12 – Incheon, South Korea

10-12 – Canadian Global Crops Symposium – Alberta, Canada

June

6 – IGC Annual Conference – London, UK

14 – IGTC Management Council Meeting – Virtual

September

14 – IGTC Management Council Meeting – Virtual

December

14 – IGTC Management Council Meeting – Virtual

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