



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

OUTREACH November 17, 2015

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

SAVE THE DATE: NAEGA Annual Meeting
March 13 • San Diego, California



Member Opportunities

- Alternative Security Program (ASP) Workshop – November 18
- IGC Meeting and Forum – IGTC General Assembly and Meetings – Buenos Aires, Argentina, December 1 – 3
- Seminars and Internships

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NAEGA Calendar and Member Notices

- Upcoming Events and Notices for Members

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Member Opportunities

Alternative Security Program Workshop – November 18

At the request of U.S. Coast Guard, NAEGA and NGFA will host a workshop for Alternative Security Program (ASP) administrators. The afternoon workshop will take place on November 18 at our offices in Washington, D.C. The agenda for this year’s workshop includes input from ASP users on seafarer shore access, ASP Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circulars (NVIC), and cybersecurity, among other items. NAEGA ASP users who would like more information or wish to provide input for the workshop should contact Gary or Ryan.

Alternative Security Programs (ASP) provide an alternative to Facility Security Plans to meet some security measures required by the Maritime Transportation Security Act (MTSA). Our ASP is available to facilities operated by NGFA and NAEGA members in good standing. If you are interested in learning more about the NAEGA-NGFA ASP, please contact Gary or Ryan for more information.

IGC Meeting and Forum – IGTC General Assembly and Meetings – Buenos Aires December 1 - December 3

The IGTC will hold a reception, meetings and a general assembly on December 1-3 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The IGTC will be hosted by the Bolsa de Cereales at 123 Corrientes Avenue, Buenos Aires, Argentina. A reception will take place on December 1 immediately following the International Grain Council/Bolsa de Cereales forum *The Global Context: Challenges and Opportunities of Large Net Exporters*. Registration for the forum is now closed. The December 2 and 3 meetings will feature a policy strategy session, a roundtable discussion on relevant policy and commercial concerns, an IGTC general assembly, and a stakeholder outreach session.

A draft agenda can be found [here](#). Please RSVP to the events at the links below.

IGTC Reception:

December 1

Bolsa de Cereales

18:30-20:30

[Register Now](#)

IGTC Policy Meetings and General Assembly:

December 2

Bolsa de Cereales

09:00-17:00

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December 3
Bolsa de Cereales
11:00-13:00
[Register Now](#)

IGTC Corporate Stakeholders Outreach Session:
December 3
Bolsa de Cereales
08:30-11:00
[Register Now](#)

Please contact Gary or Ryan with any questions.

Seminars and Internships

Contract Seminars: Please click [here](#) for more information on NAEGAs in-depth, interactive education on contract practices.

Internships: Information on working for NAEGA as an intern in our Washington, D.C. office 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

London Trip Report

Following a successful trip to London on September 12-26, NAEGA has submitted a trip report to the USDA Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) with an update on developments and accomplishments. The report highlights the activities and accomplishments of NAEGA President and CEO Gary Martin and NAEGA Senior Advisor Jerry Cotter on this multifaceted mission. The trip was comprised of six main objectives: Cotter’s continued work on the IMO’s Subcommittee on the Carriage of Cargoes and Containers; Martin and Cotter’s presentations in support of the Chatham House study “Vulnerabilities and Pinchpoints in the Global Food Trade;” NAEGA’s continued leadership in identifying needs and communication channels in relation to the innovation of new trade facilitative document management technologies; Martin’s presentation before the FAS Europe and EU Cooperator Meeting; Martin’s participation in a Canning House round table on South American Net Grain exporters; and continued NAEGA engagement with the International Grains Council.

A copy of the trip report can be found [here](#). Please contact Gary with any questions.

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Vancouver Trip Report

Following a successful trip to Vancouver, Canada on September 29-October 3, NAEGA has submitted a trip report to the USDA Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) with an update on developments and accomplishments. NAEGA has been closely monitoring developments in the International Maritime Organization’s (IMO) Subcommittee on Carriage of Cargoes and Containers (CCC) and proposed amendments to the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) to reclassify grain as a hazardous material. The purpose of this travel was to further engage the IMO’s CCC and monitor multilateral regulatory developments regarding the trade in grains and oilseeds. As part of this effort, NAEGA Senior Advisor Jerry Cotter traveled to Vancouver, Canada to attend and participate in the annual International Dry Bulk Terminals Group (DBTG) and Executive Committee meetings and monitor discussions of the reclassification of grain.

A copy of the trip report can be found [here](#). Please contact Gary or Ryan for questions.

Member and Board Meeting

NAEGA Members and the Board of Directors met on Thursday, November 12, to discuss ongoing business, including changes to the bylaws, budget revisions, staff and legal reports, and 2016 planning. In addition, NAEGA members, board staff continued to work on updates to the NAEGA Membership Directory. A copy of the most recent version of the directory can be found [here](#). In addition, NAEGA members also approved minutes from the March 2015 Member Meeting and Board of Directors Meeting. Copies of the approved minutes can be found [here](#) and [here](#), respectively.

Reports on actions taken at the November 12 will soon be available.

Statement on Modernizing Biotech Regulations

NAEGA and NGFA continued their engagement on the U.S. Review of the Coordinated Biotechnology Framework this week with the submission of their joint statement following the October 30 public meeting titled “Modernizing the U.S. Regulatory System for Biotechnology Products.”

Earlier this year, the White House issued a memorandum directing the three federal agencies with 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.

The statement emphasized regulatory shortcomings that restricted international trade of U.S. crops. These shortcomings include increased lack of regulatory coherence and cooperation with foreign market regulators, and a lack of emphasis on global low level presence initiatives that could limit biotechnology events and facilitate trade.

A copy of the statement can be found [here](#). Please contact Gary or Ryan with any questions.

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Future Actions

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

2015

APHIS Letter to Vietnam on Infestation of Warehouse Beetle: The U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has drafted a response to Vietnam’s national plant protection agency over a phytosanitary event in which Vietnamese authorities identified warehouse beetle in a shipment of DDGs from the U.S. The APHIS letter requests that Vietnam not suspend imports of DDGs and instead allow fumigation of infested shipments while the agency conducts trace-back investigations.

As this situation develops, NAEGA welcomes your questions and advice. Please contact Gary or Ryan with any questions or comments.

Peru’s Draft MRL Standards: The USDA Foreign Agriculture Service is requesting comments on Peru’s draft MRL standards filed at the WTO on October 5. While the MRL levels appear to be in harmonization with U.S. levels, NAEGA and USDA welcome any comments from members on these draft rules.

Comments are due to USDA by December 1. Please contact Gary or Ryan with any questions.

Canada’s Draft MRL Standards: The USDA Foreign Agriculture Service is requesting comments on Canada’s draft MRL standards filed at the WTO on October 19. These MRL standards include draft levels for dried soybeans, legumes, flour, and whole wheat flour. While the MRL levels appear to be in harmonization with U.S. levels, NAEGA and USDA welcome any comments from members on these draft rules.

Comments are due to USDA by December 1. Please contact Gary or Ryan with any questions.

Nonregulated Status Syngenta Corn: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has opened up a public comment period on its preliminary decision to extend the nonregulated status of Bayer/Genective S.A.VCO-01981-5 and Pioneer’s DP-004114-3 to Syngenta MZHGO. Syngenta’s corn variety has been genetically engineered for resistance to glyphosate using the same mechanism as the Genective variety. Therefore, a no significant impact is sought for the Syngenta variety as well. APHIS will accept public comments until November 27, 2015.

More information on the public comment period can be found [here](#). NAEGA looks forward to hearing member input on this public comment.

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U.S. Review of Coordinated Biotechnology Framework – NAEGA will continue to 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 with 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](#).

NAEGA Actions on Current Issues are tracked on the Members Only Section under their relevant committee pages.

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Information for your Consideration

Cuba USACC and - Trade Mission

Last week, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack conducted the agency’s first official trip to Cuba since 1961. Among the cohort of lawmakers who accompanied him were Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and Reps. Suzan DelBene (D-WA), Teri Sewell (D-AL), and Kurt Schrader (D-OR). Trip activities included port facility and cooperative visits. The mission discussed fruit and vegetable export certification and field inspections in anticipation of future U.S.-Cuba agricultural trade. According to Sec. Vilsack, food and agricultural products are the preeminent category of U.S. exports to the Caribbean nation. Beyond the U.S. trade embargo that remains in place, Sec. Vilsack cited credit – currently unavailable to Cuban purchasers of American products – and the requirement of US dollar payments for products as challenges for U.S.-Cuba trade.

U.S.-Cuba trade ties have improved markedly since diplomatic relations were restored in July 2015. However, normal trade relations have yet to be established and U.S. producers continue to experience difficulty exporting products. NAEGA continues to support increased trade ties with Cuba through the U.S. Agriculture Coalition for Cuba (USACC).

Additional information about the visit and agricultural trade with Cuba can be found [here](#). More information on the USACC can be found [here](#).

TPP Details and Support

In a special report published on November 14, Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA) expressed his support for two agriculture-related aspects of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). Sen. Grassley conveyed his satisfaction with increased market access for U.S. agricultural products, citing the immediate elimination of Japan’s 4.2 percent tariff on soybeans and Malaysia’s tariffs on corn,

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among other agricultural tariff reductions and eliminations. Additionally, Sen. Grassley lauded the incorporation of science-based sanitary and phytosanitary measures regarding food safety.

TPP negotiations concluded on October 5 and negotiators released a copy of the final text nearly a month later. Congress is expected to take up the agreement as soon as next year. The new agreement will, for the first time, have a biotechnology chapter, and also provides U.S. exporters with a rapid response mechanism that can be used to ensure timely resolution of SPS and TBT issues. Japan has also, for the first time in a trade agreement, negotiated market access to wheat imports. NAEGA is currently conducting an in-depth study of market access gains in TPP for U.S. grains and oilseeds in order to reassess NAEGA’s Unified Export Strategy (UES) commitments.

A more in depth listing of U.S. agriculture market access gains under TPP can be found [here](#). A copy of the full agreement can be found [here](#). To read more of Sen. Grassely’s evaluation of the TPP, click [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

2015

November

18 – Washington, D.C. – ASP Workshop

16-19 – Baltimore, MD – USAEDC Annual Workshop. For more information, click [here](#).

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

21-23 – Guangzhou, China – U.S. China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade. For more information, click [here](#).

December

Dec. 1 - Buenos Aires, Argentina - International Grain Council (IGC) meeting and Forum Bolsa de Buenos Aires. Gary Martin, Marcel Bruins plan to attend. To register, click [here](#).

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! To register, click [here](#).

9-11 – Geneva, Switzerland – Globally Harmonized System (GHS) Subcommittee meeting. Jerry Cotter attending

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15-18 – Nairobi, Kenya – Tenth WTO Ministerial Conference. For more information, click [here](#).

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.

March

13 – San Diego, California – NAEGA Annual Meeting

April

14 – Winnipeg, Canada – Tentative IGTC Meeting

June

14 – London, UK – IGC Grains Conference

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