



*“Working Together to Make Trade Work”*

## **OUTREACH November 2, 2015**

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

### **Member Opportunities**

- NAEGA Member and Board of Director Meeting – November 12
- Alternative Security Program Workshop – November 18
- IGC Meeting and Forum – IGTC General Assembly and Meetings – Buenos Aires, Argentina, December 1-3
- NAEGA Seminars
- NAEGA Internships

### **Action Reports**

- NAPPO Annual Meeting - Mexican Soil Issue Addressed
- LLP, Canadian Embassy and NAEGA-NGFA-CGC Meetings with U.S. and Canadian Government
- ePhyto Symposium in South Korea
- Public Comments on National Trade Estimates Report from NAEGA-ASA-NOPA
- Statement at Coordinated Biotechnology Framework by NAEGA-NGFA
- U.S. Biotech Crops Alliance International Working Group Meeting

### **NAEGA Future Actions**

- Public Comment on Extension of Nonregulated status Syngenta Corn
- 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**

- Export-Import Bank Reauthorization Passes House
- Congress Reaches Budget Deal
- Nonregulated Status of MON 87411 Approved
- WTO Trade Facilitation Could Boost Trade by \$1 trillion per year

### **NAEGA Calendar and Member Notices**

- Upcoming Events and Notices for Members

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## Member Opportunities

### **NAEGA Full Member and Board of Directors Meeting – November 12**

On November 12, NAEGA will host a Member and Board of Directors meeting at its Washington, D.C. headquarters. Full members are encouraged to send a voting representative to join the Board of Directors. The first order of business will be a review the NAEGA Directory. The current version for your review can be found [here](#). If you have personnel or business structure changes to report, please feel free to contact Gary and Ryan right away.

This meeting will involve voting by Full Members as well as the Board of Directors. Additional KEY items for consideration will include:

- Staff and Legal Counsel reports;
- By-laws Changes - Full Members to consider for approval;
- 2015 and 2016 NAEGA Budget revisions - Board of Directors to consider for approval;
- 2016 Planning

A proposed agenda along with additional relevant documents for your consideration will follow. Please contact Gary or Ryan with any questions.

### **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**

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

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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 (IGTC), Gary Martin plans to moderate a session at the forum called *“Key Grain Trade Issue: Developments and Challenges”*. NAEGA members will be invited to attend the IGC Bolsa Forum and the subsequent meetings of the IGTC. You can now register to attend online at the following links:

English: <http://www.igcargentina.com/eng/index.html>

Spanish: <http://www.igcargentina.com/>

The IGTC will hold meetings and a general assembly on December 2 and 3 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The IGTC will also be hosted by the Bolsa de Cereales, 123 Corrientes Avenue, Buenos Aires, Argentina. The 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 rough agenda can be found below. A more detailed agenda will follow. 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

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 additional questions.

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### **NAEGA Seminars**

The NAEGA Contracts Committee conducts seminars for in-depth, interactive education on contract practices. NAEGA Seminars are divided into two different categories: 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 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**

### **Annual NAPPO Meeting - Mexican Soil Issue Addressed**

NAEGA Senior Advisor Arvid Hawk traveled to Memphis, Tennessee last week to participate in the North American Plant Protection Organization’s annual meeting. At the meeting, Arvid led discussions with key stakeholders to address Mexico’s import controls related to a soil presence in grain shipments. Between April 2014 and June 2015, Mexican authorities ordered an average

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of 393 railcars of U.S. grain to be subjected to phytosanitary measures intended to mitigate soil presence. Attendees to the meeting included APHIS, NAEGA, APPAMEX, and industry representatives. Consensus from the meeting included pursuing a bilateral U.S.-Mexico approach to the soil issue. Currently, APHIS is drafting a position paper to present to SENISECA that will advocate for a 5 peds per kilo action threshold for soil. NAEGA is supporting the bilateral approach APHIS has taken and will continue to monitor developments related to Mexican soil issues and report developments to members. A copy of the draft APHIS paper can be found [here](#).

Among the other grain trade-related issues under consideration by NAPPO are:

1. ISPM for Grain, Canada (Canada Food Inspection Agency)-proposed discussion paper on the International Plant Protection Convention International Sanitary Phytosanitary Measure for the International Movement of Grain.
2. Khapra Beetle – A proposal to define a North American Approach to Preventing Introduction, Establishment and Spread of Khapra Beetle (*Trogoderma granarium*) in Various Pathways.
3. Karnal Bunt - Canada has proposed a Regional Sanitary Phytosanitary Measure (RSPM 13)

### **LLP, Canadian Embassy and NAEGA-NGFA-CGC Meetings with U.S. and Canadian Governments**

Industry members from the U.S. and Canada, at the invitation of the Canada Grains Council, NAEGA, and the NGFA, met with U.S. and Canadian government officials at the Embassy of Canada on Oct. 28 to discuss the nation’s approach to a low level presence (LLP) policy for biotech-enhanced traits approved as safe by competent government authorities in the country of export, but not yet by the importing country. The potential for low level presence of biotechnology traits, combined with importing countries maintaining zero tolerance import policies for biotechnology products not yet authorized, represents a critical trade policy issue. A comprehensive import policy for biotechnology-derived plant products would help alleviate the risk involved with asynchronous regulatory-approval systems. The discussion this week included an overview of the industry's concerns on LLP, Canada's plans for an LLP policy for grain imports, and viewpoints from a U.S. industry as well as government perspective. The next international meeting of the Global LLP Initiative (GLI) is expected in 2016.

For more information, please contact Gary or Ryan.

### **e-Phyto Symposium in Korea**

On November 8, NAEGA Senior Advisor Arvid Hawk will travel to Incheon City, South Korea to Participate in *Global Symposium on Implementation of IPPC ePhyto*. During the Global Symposium, Mr. Hawk will present on grain trade perspectives on the use of, and needs related to, electronic document management. Mr. Hawk will further address these objectives by engaging with members of industry, government, and multilateral organizations. Over the past few months, NAEGA and the IGTC have been providing for industry leadership in identifying needs and

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communication related to the innovation of new trade facilitative document management technologies, including developments related to the electronic management and web-based conveyance of phytosanitary certificates, bills of lading, certification of origin and other related documents. With the objectives of providing for a competitive, compatible, and secure environment for innovation, Mr. Hawk will represent IGTC at the meeting with IPPC, other officials, and attendees.

A notice to post for this NAEGA and IGTC travel can be found [here](#). For more information, or if you would like to provide input for this trip, please contact Gary or Ryan.

### **Public Comments on National Trade Estimates Report from NAEGA-ASA-NOPA**

On October 28, NAEGA, the American Soybean Association (ASA), and the National Oilseed Processors Association (NOPA) submitted joint public comments to the U.S. Trade Representative on the National Trade Estimate Report. The National Trade Estimate is published annually and helps identify significant impediments to U.S. exports of goods, services, and investment.

The joint report highlights significant barriers for U.S. soybean exporters to Argentina. Higher export tax rates for soybeans than soybean meal has diverted investment to soybean crushing, raising crushing margins and making Argentine crushers more competitive internationally to the disadvantage of U.S. and other foreign exporters.

A copy of the joint comments on the National Trade Estimate report can be found [here](#). For more information, please contact Ryan or Gary.

### **Statement on Coordinated Biotechnology**

Last week, NAEGA and NGFA submitted a joint statement for the record at a public meeting on the Coordinated Biotechnology Framework. 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 NAEGA-NGFA remarks at the public meeting on Friday were delivered by NGFA President Randy Gordon. 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](#). For more information, please contact Gary.

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### **U.S. Biotech Crops Alliance International Working Group Meeting**

On October 28, NAEGA’s Biotech Committee Co-Chair Paul Green participated in a meeting of the International Working Group of the U.S. Biotech Crops Alliance. Last week’s meeting included an overview of recent events in China and discussion of ongoing business, including potential meetings with USDA on LLP and potential responses to USTR on last month’s SAID. At this meeting, Bobby Frederick, Director of Legislative Affairs at NGFA, volunteered to co-chair the IWG.

The USBCA summary of the meeting can be found [here](#). Please contact Gary or Ryan with any questions.

### **NAEGA Future Actions**

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

#### **2015**

**Public Comment on Extension of 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 MZHG0. 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.

**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](#).

**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

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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 Members Only Section under their relevant committee pages.***

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## **Information for your Consideration**

### **Export-Import Bank Reauthorization Passes House**

On Tuesday, October 27, the House voted 313-118 to reopen the federal Export-Import Bank, which provides financing for exporting American businesses in the absence of private sector lending. The Bank’s authority lapsed on July 1, 2015, when reauthorization was blocked, confining its operations to existing claims only. The bill, which was brought to a vote via a discharge petition, will now move on to the Senate.

To read more about the House vote and the Bank’s reauthorization, click [here](#).

### **Congress Reaches Budget Deal**

On Friday, October 30, the Senate voted 64-35 to approve a two-year budget deal. The measure would allow for borrowing until March 2017, preventing a federal debt default this week, and lower the possibility that the government will shut down beyond December 11. The House approved the deal earlier in the week in a 266-167 vote; it has been sent to the White House, where President Obama’s signature is expected.

Additional information about the agreement can be found [here](#).

### **Nonregulated Status of MON 87411 Approved**

On October 27 the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced its determination of non-regulated status for maize genetically engineered for protection against rootworm and resistance to glyphosate. Based on data submitted by Monsanto, APHIS determined that this genetically engineered variety has no significant impact on the environment and does not pose a plant pest. With APHIS approval commercialization of this trait in the U.S. can begin.

For more information, click [here](#). To read the Federal Register Notice, click [here](#).

### **WTO Trade Facilitation Could Boost Trade by up to \$3.6 trillion annually**

According to a report last week from the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Organization’s trade facilitation agreement (TFA) has the potential to increase annual global exports by as much

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as \$3.6 trillion. Additionally, full implementation could reduce members’ trade costs by 14.5% on average. The Agreement was created in at the 9<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference in December 2013 and seeks to improve customs procedures worldwide. It can only come into effect once it has been ratified by two-thirds of WTO members; 50 of the 161 have done so thus far.

To read WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo’s remarks on the launch of the World Trade Report 2015, 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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## NAEGA Calendar & Member Notices

### 2015

#### November

**9-13** – Incheon, South Korea – ePhyto Symposium – NAEGA President and CEO Gary Martin Invited – For more information, click [here](#).

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

**18** – Washington, D.C. – NAEGA hosting 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)

#### 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

**15-18** – Nairobi, Kenya – Tenth WTO Ministerial Conference

### 2016

#### January

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**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

**June**

**14** – London, UK – IGC Grains Conference

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