



## *Happy Thanksgiving!*

### **Holiday Schedule:**

- November 23 – office closed at 3pm
- November 24 – office closed
- November 25 – office closed
- December 23 – office closed at 3pm
- December 26-27 – office closed
- December 29-December 30 – office closed

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**Member Opportunities**

**IGTC Breifing**

NAEGA members are invited to attend an IGTC briefing from 9:00 to 11:00am on Friday, December 2, 2016. Katy Lee and Gary Martin will provide the latest information on IGTC activities and operations. We hope you or an interested colleague can join us for the briefing in the lobby conference room at 1400 Crystal Drive in Arlington, VA. Please contact us or respond to the upcoming email invite if you plan to attend

**New Orleans Port-Range Subcommittee Meeting**

All NAEGA member representatives are invited to attend a meeting of the Grades and Inspections Committee's NOLA Port-Range Subcommittee on Monday, December 5 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm central time at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel. Gary will be in town to meet with the subcommittee and discuss local, national, and international issues affecting the New Orleans port-range.

Please contact Ryan if you are interested in attending or would like more information.

**IGC Session and Round Table**

IGTC is invited to the 45<sup>th</sup> International Grains Council Session and Round Table at 10:00am on Monday, December 5 at the London Marriott West India Quay Hotel. A full draft agenda, including notes for the session, is available [here](#). Information on the round table discussion on "Are low prices a cure for low prices?" and confirmed panelists is available [here](#).

If you are interested in attending, please contact Ryan immediately to receive accreditation from the IGC through the International Grain Trade Coalition.

**OFAC 2016 Fall Symposium – December 7**

Register now 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. To register, please click [here](#).

For more information please contact Gary or Ryan.

### **Annual Member and Board of Director Meeting – March 20, 2017**

Please make your plans now to attend the 2017 NAEGA Annual Member and Board of Directors meeting. Once again, this year's meeting will take place alongside the NGFA Annual Convention. Our meetings will take place on March 20, 2017 at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana. Meeting times for the Member, Board and Committee meetings are still to be decided.

You can secure guest room accommodations here: A copy of the NGFA Convention schedule and hotel information is available [here](#).

For more information please contact Gary or Ryan.

### **Contracts and Best Practices Seminars**

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:***

#### **U.S. Election Implications**

As President-elect Trump's transition planning begins and the new Congress is established, NAEGA is monitoring and evaluating potential policy moves and key administration personnel in USDA, USTR and Treasury. Currently, we are working with two small groups of agriculture trade leaders to respond to the impact and changes that may result from the policies of the president-elect and the new U.S. Congress. Possible changes to, or a renegotiation of, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and broader policy changes that could affect the agriculture trade are both under consideration. NAEGA will keep members updated on U.S. policy changes.

NAEGA members may be interested in the following post-election analysis from Arent Fox, LLP, which can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

Please contact Gary or Ryan if you have any questions.

### **Market Access Program 2017 Funding**

On Monday, November 14 NAEGA received word that its 2017 Unified Export Strategy (UES) application with the U.S. Department of Agriculture has been accepted and NAEGA will receive funding under the Market Access Program (MAP) in 2017. MAP funding in 2017 for NAEGA will be limited to a \$346,388 ceiling, \$7,000 higher than its 2016 ceiling.

A copy of NAEGA's 2017 UES application is available [here](#). For more information, please contact Ryan.

### **Vietnam Fumigation**

NAEGA continues its engage with the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) on upcoming Vietnamese fumigation requirements and a potential suspension on the trade of U.S. origin DDGS into Vietnam. On Thursday, November 18 NAEGA participated in a conference call with APHIS, FAS and industry stakeholders to receive an update on APHIS efforts to engage Vietnam PPD on this issue. Currently, industry is facing a methyl bromide fumigation requirement for all shipments of wheat and corn to Vietnam after the bill of lading date of December 1, 2016. Furthermore, Vietnam has announced a suspension of the import of U.S. origin DDGS by the bill of lading date of December 17, 2016. Both of these requirements are related to the discovery of live pests in past shipments of wheat, corn and DDGS from the United States.

Currently, Vietnamese authorities have shown their willingness to work with APHIS on a pilot treatment schedule for DDGS in bulk and containers that may suit PPD demands and allow industry to avoid a suspension of trade. The current proposal that APHIS is seeking with Vietnam PPD includes:

- **For containers:** A minimum phosphine dosage of 750ppm and an increased exposure of 3 days for shipments with a 70-degree Fahrenheit ambient temperature and 4 days for shipments with a 60-69-degree ambient temperature. In addition, stowage inspection will occur at loading to ensure shipments are free of debris.
- **For bulk:** Identical concentration of gas as containers at 750ppm. New requirements for fumigation to use the recirculation method to ensure a higher kill rate on inspects present in the shipment.

For bulk wheat and corn, APHIS is continuing to work with Vietnam PPD for approval of a fumigation program that includes phosphine instead of methyl bromide. Vietnamese authorities have been insistent that methyl bromide be used for fumigation of all shipments of wheat and corn due to instances of phosphine resistance in shipments from the United States.

This is an ongoing and unfolding situation. More information will be available in the coming days and will be communicated to NAEGA members as soon as it is available. For more information please contact Gary or Ryan.

### **USAEDC Meeting**

On November 15 and 16 NAEGA Director of Operations Ryan Olson travelled to Baltimore, MD to attend the U.S. Agricultural Export Development Council's (USAEDC) Annual Workshop. A copy of the agenda is available [here](#).

During the workshop, Ryan heard reports on USDA programs and policy objectives over the past year, including:

#### *Market Access Program*

USDA Market Access Program (MAP) participants have been notified of their 2017 program year ceilings. This program year overall funds for participants are lower due to higher rate of fund usage in 2017 and the addition of a new program participant. USDA Office of Trade Programs staff, which oversees the MAP program, added that program funding in the future remains insecure do to short term funding of the federal government and ongoing sequestration.

#### *Cuba Policy*

The Administration continues to pursue President Obama's priority of liberalizing agricultural trade with Cuba. USDA Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services Alexis Taylor spoke to the plenary session about the progress and promise of increased agricultural trade. In addition, the State Department and FAS spoke on USDA's continued work on the island. Currently, USDA has signed 10 memorandums of understanding with the Cuban government regarding agricultural relations and the U.S. Treasury's Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC) has undertaken six rounds of country sanctions changes. The U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) currently has a rotating employee working in the Embassy in Havana, and the USDA hopes to assign more long-term staff to the Embassy once resources are available. Moving forward, USDA and the State Department are pursuing three channels for future engagement: continued dialogues regarding property rights, human rights and U.S. prisoners; strengthening bilateral cooperation; and explaining to the public and the Cuban people the scope and detail of policy changes.

Please contact Ryan for more information on the workshop or if you have any questions.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual World Grain Forum**

On November 18 and 19 NAEGA President and CEO Gary Martin represented NAEGA and the IGTC at the [2<sup>nd</sup> Annual World Grain Forum](#) in Sochi, Russia. During the forum, Gary provided formal remarks "*Global View of Key Dynamics in Policy and Commerce for Grains, Oilseeds and other Agribulks*" and moderated a panel discussion: "*World Grain Market Long-Term Trends and Forecasts*".

Gary also participated in high level meetings with Russian Officials, completed interviews for several Russian and International media sources, and spoke at a round table about security and quality of grain in the context of global food security. A trip report for this travel will be available soon. Please contact Gary or Ryan for more information.

#### **Recently Issued Reports:**

This week, NAEGA submitted the following reports to USDA FAS:

### *ISF Meeting*

The report on the IGTC travel to the International Seed Federation's mid-year meetings is now available. On October 16-17, 2016 NAEGA and IGTC Science Advisor Dr. Marcel Bruins traveled to Bordeaux, France to participate in the meeting and represent IGTC policy on new plant breeding innovations (PBI). In Bordeaux, Dr. Bruins worked closely with the ISF to find common ground and develop common communication plans toward securing international regulatory coherence and compatibility on PBIs.

A copy of the trip report can be found [here](#).

### *IPPC ISPM Trip Report*

The report on the IGTC travel to Melbourne, Australia September 15-23, 2016 for the International Plant Protection Convention's (IPPC) Expert Working Group (EWG) on the development of an International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) for grain is now available. Science Advisor Dr. Marcel Bruins represented NAEGA and IGTC during meetings to consider a draft specification for the pending ISPM for Grain that was approved by the IPPC Standards Committee.

A copy of the trip report can be found [here](#).

### *International Arbitration Seminar Trip Report*

The report on the NAEGA MAP travel to the International Seminar on Arbitration is now available. NAEGA Senior Advisor Sam Bonilla traveled to Naples, Italy September 6-11 to present before and attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual International Seminar on Arbitration at the Napoli Chamber of Commerce. Bonilla engaged with members of GAFTA and international contract experts and presented on "Dispute Resolution Clauses and Enforceability of Arbitral Awards in the World, Mainly in Europe and Far East."

More information on the seminar is available in the trip report [here](#).

### ***Future Actions:***

#### **IGTC Secretariat Visit – December 1-3**

Acting IGTC Secretariat and NAEGA Contractor Katy Lee will visit NAEGA's offices in Arlington, VA on December 1-2, 2016. During her visit, Katy will be meeting with NAEGA staff and DC based corporate stakeholders on implementation of the new IGTC business plan. An IGTC briefing at NAEGA's headquarters is currently being planned.

A notice to post for this travel is available [here](#). More information on Katy's final itinerary 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 is available [here](#). For more information, or to provide input into the meeting, please contact the IGTC Secretariat at [secretariat@igtglobal.org](mailto: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 is available [here](#). A schedule of events for the meetings is available [here](#). Please click [here](#) for a copy of the notice to post for this travel.

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

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## In the News

### **Egyptian Prime Minister decrees new Agricultural Imports Procedures**

On Sunday November 13, the Egyptian prime minister declared that the Egyptian General Organization for Export and Import Control (GOEIC) will now replace the quarantine authority as the administrative department responsible for inspecting strategic agricultural imports, including wheat, feed corn and soybeans. The GOEIC will have sole responsibility for inspecting wheat and other agricultural imports under its purview. While GOEIC will be responsible for all inspections of these commodities, it will continue to use plant quarantine officials by subcontracting experts from plant quarantine to do the required testing for imported cargoes at discharge. In light of these changes, the Ministry of Trade and Industry will issue a decree in the coming weeks regarding the importation process and procedures for pre-inspection, discharge inspection and re-sampling process.

Read the Ministry's decree [here](#). For more information, please click [here](#).

### **USDA Women in Agriculture Initiative**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture invites all woman participating in the agricultural sector to join its Women in Agriculture Initiative (WIA)! The program consists of three initiatives: USDA WIA Employee Group, Women in Agriculture Mentorship Network, and Global Women in Agriculture. Each of these groups offers professional development opportunities for women in agriculture to support women to assume leadership roles in the U.S. both on and off the farm. The WIA website also offers resources for women farmers, agriculture leaders and young farmers on navigating the business environment and participating in USDA programs.

For more information, or to sign up for the WIA newsletter, please 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**

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

**2016**

**November**

**23** – NAEGA Closes at 3pm

**24** – Happy Thanksgiving! – NAEGA closed



25 – NAEGA office closed

## **December**

### **2 - IGTC Breifing, Arlington, Va**

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

5 – 44<sup>th</sup> International Grains Council Session and Round Table – London, UK

5 – Port-Range subcommittee meeting, New Orleans, LA

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

14 – IGTC Management Council Meeting – Virtual

23 – NAEGA office closes at 3pm

26 – NAEGA office closed

27 – Merry Christmas – NAEGA office closed

29 – NAEGA office closed

30 - 1 – Happy New Year! – NAEGA office closed

## **2017**

### **January**

20 – U.S. Inauguration Day – NAEGA office closed

### **March**

TBD – Global Low Level Presence (LLP) meeting

19-21 – NGFA Convention – New Orleans, LA

20 - NAEGA Annual Meetings – New Orleans, LA

### **April**

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

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

### **June**

5– 8 – 46<sup>th</sup> International Grains Council Session, IGC International Grains Conference and IGTC meetings– 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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