



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

OUTREACH November 25, 2013

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

The NAEGA office will be closed Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29 in recognition of the Thanksgiving holiday in the U.S. The office will reopen on Monday, December 2. We wish all of our members a Happy Thanksgiving!

Member participation opportunity:

- USDA / APHIS Call with Industry on Mexico and Canada – November 25
- Soy Sustainability Certification Webinar – December 4

Action Reports

- Japan – Fluazifop MRL Violation on Soybeans
- U.S. – U.S. Biotechnology Crops Alliance
- U.S. – Federal Grain Inspection via the State of Washington Grain Inspection
- U.S. – NAEGA-NGFA Comments on SPS Trade Barriers
- U.S. – USAEDC Annual Workshop
- World – Food and Agriculture Dialogue on Free Trade Agreements Meeting
- World – GMCC Meeting in Lisbon, Portugal
- World – International Grain Trade Coalition Meeting

New Issues

- U.S. – CBP East Coast Symposium Rescheduled
- U.S. – Report says U.S. will not reach Goal of Doubling Exports by 2015
- World – Cotton Proposal at WTO Summit

NAEGA Calendar and Member Notices

- Upcoming Events and Notices for Members

NAEGA Member Participation Opportunity

USDA / APHIS Call with Industry on Mexico and Canada – November 25

George Galasso at USDA / APHIS invites industry to a call on current issues related phyto certification in North America, particularly regarding Mexico. APHIS plans to meet with Mexican officials December 3-5. The agenda includes:

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1. Potential measures APHIS and industry can take to address the following question posed by Mexico’s SENASICA: What is being done to reduce soil contamination in grain cargos?
2. Proposed SENASICA guidance for soil contamination in grain cargos

If time permits APHIS will also provide an update on the draft CFIA grain directive D-12-05. We have a meeting scheduled with APHIS CFIA representatives here in our office on December 11.

The call will take place on November 25 at 2:30-3:30pm Eastern (1:30 Central and 11:30 Pacific) time. The call in number is 1-888-844-9904 and passcode 7055972#.

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. The webinar will include an overview of the U.S. Soy Sustainability Assurance Protocol, Introduction into the sustainability certification website, and views of U.S. industry use of the certification site. There will also be an opportunity for questions and answers.

Further details on how to participate in the webinar will be announced shortly. You can learn more [here](#).

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

Japan – Fluazifop MRL Violation on Soybeans

We are working with USDA and USSEC to address actions regarding a single detection of pesticide residue that exceeds Japanese maximum residue limits for soybeans. On November 22, Japan’s Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) MHLW officially announced an enhanced monitoring level to 30% for the imported US soybeans and soybean products for “Fluazifop” pesticide residue. Fluazifop is a general use herbicide often used to control grasses (including volunteer corn) in soybean fields. An initial translation of the relevant document can be found [here](#).

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We understand that many bulk shipments, namely those covered by the “Program Imports” of the *Japan Oil Fats Export Import Association (JOFIEA)*, may be exempted from this enhanced monitoring.

U.S. – U.S. Biotechnology Crops Alliance

The recently established U.S. Biotech Crop Alliance (USBCA), of which NAEGA is a founding member, plans to hold its first meeting on December 16-17 at 3:00pm Eastern in D.C. USBCA’s newly appointed secretariat, Dr. Michael J. Phillips, will lead the plenary meeting.

Established under U.S. Value Chain Biotech MOU signed in 2012, the USBCA is working across the plant based agriculture value chain to provide for new and stronger collaboration on measures to improve the marketability of U.S. crops. USBCA has placed a priority on timely and cost-effective development and commercialization of modern crop biotechnology, and the efficient and cost-effective marketing and distribution in domestic and international markets of bulk and processed agricultural commodities and products containing biotech-enhanced traits.

Dr. Phillips work to build on existing work conducted under the MOU to implement consensus positions on key policy issues designed to improve crop biotechnology introduction, stewardship, domestic and international crop biotechnology regulatory policy, and distribution of commodities and processed products containing biotech-enhanced traits in U.S. and export markets.

NAEGA serves on USBCA’s Executive Committee along with representatives from the National Corn Growers Association, American Soybean Association, American Seed Trade Association, Biotechnology Industry Organization, and the National Grain and Feed Association. Other national organizations that subsequently have become participants in the USBCA include: American Farm Bureau Federation, Corn Refiners Association, National Oilseed Processors Association, and U.S. Grains Council.

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.

In addition to letters previously sent by Senator Hoven (R-ND) ([letter](#)), Senator Johanns (R-NE) ([letter](#)), and Representative Cramer (R-ND) ([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, Representative McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) is the most recent lawmaker to send a [letter](#) to Secretary Vilsack on the issue. The letter was also signed by Simpson (R-ID), Hastings

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(R-WA), Cramer (R-ND), and Daines (R-MT). 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.

U.S. – NAEGA-NGFA Joint Comments on SPS Trade Barriers

NAEGA and NGFA submitted joint comments to the United States Trade Representative Office on sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) trade barriers. A key theme in both comments was the fact that implementation of a Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) would help alleviate inefficiencies created by SPS and TBT trade barriers. The comments also highlighted concerns over Canada’s D-12-05 regulations, concerns with Mexican soil regulations, global biotechnology concerns, and IPPC International Grain Movement Standard.

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

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

Kyle represented NAEGA at the U.S. Agricultural Export Development Council’s (USAEDC) Annual Workshop in Baltimore. The workshop included a diverse group of speakers and breakout sessions covering topics on the Farm Bill, the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, trade with Africa and much more. It also included hundreds of participants from the USDA/FAS and agricultural industry cooperators. A copy of the agenda can be found [here](#).

World – Food and Agriculture Dialogue on Free Trade Agreements Meeting

NAEGA organized a U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialog on pending trade agreements on November 14. Arent Fox hosted the discussion that included representatives from a broad cross section of U.S. stakeholders in the pending Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP). At the off the record meeting, USTR officials updated and answered questions on the current negotiations.

World – GMCC Meeting in Lisbon, Portugal

Gary participated in the Conference on Coexistence between Genetically Modified and non-Genetically Modified Program (GMCC) in Lisbon, Portugal where he presented on “The Impact of Coexistence and Contrasting Regulatory Frameworks on Food and Feed Industry, International Trade and Competitiveness.” the global outlook of international grain and feed trade. GMCC is a gathering of academic and industry experts, regulators, policy makers and other key stakeholders from around the world to discuss both specific and comprehensive coexistence topics. A copy of Gary’s presentation can be found [here](#) and all other presentations on the GMCC-13 website [here](#).

World – International Grains Trade Coalition (IGTC) meeting and Grain Industry Symposium: “Canada’s Grain Industry Outlook for 2014”

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The IGTC convened 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 meeting was on the margins of the November 18-20 Symposium at the National Hotel in Ottawa, Canada.

The meeting included 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 Symposium had an impressive roster of speakers and topics which included a comprehensive outlook for the global economy, grain trade, market access and how advances in crop genetics. A copy of the IGTC meeting agenda can be found [here](#).

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

2013

Nov. 25 – Comments to EPA on Fumigant Registration.

<http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0625-0001>

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. More information can be found [here](#).

Jan. 27 – 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-auditors-certification-bodies-to-conduct-food-safety-audits-and-to-issue>
<http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=FDA-2011-N-0146-0039>

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

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. – CBP East Coast Symposium Rescheduled

Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) recently announced it will reschedule its East Coast Symposium for March 6-7, 2014 at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, DC. The theme is “Increasing Economic Competitiveness through Global Partnerships and Innovation.” The Symposium was originally supposed to be held on Oct. 24-25, 2013 but was postponed due to the government shutdown.

A draft agenda and registration information is available [here](#).

U.S. – Report Says U.S. will not Reach Goal of Doubling Exports by 2015

A report recently issued by Wells Fargo found that it is unlikely the U.S. will reach the goal of doubling its exports by the end of 2014, which was set by the Obama administration’s National Export Initiative. U.S. real exports have risen only 30% since the first quarter of 2009, and export growth for 2014 and 2015 is estimated at only 7%. The report notes that there is not much that can be done in the short term to grow exports, but over the long term the proposed free trade agreements with Europe and Asia may help push exports higher. A copy of the report can be found [here](#).

World – Cotton Proposals at WTO Summit

The WTO issued a [press release](#) on recent proposals to address cotton trade at the WTO summit in Bali to establish a program for cotton within the agriculture negotiations. The proposals would allow cotton from least developed countries into developed countries (and some developing countries) duty and quota-free by 2015. It would also eliminate any remaining export subsidies in developed countries immediately and look to cut domestic support for cotton.

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

December

4

Soy Sustainability Certification Webinar

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MOU IWG – Conference Call

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USBCA Executive Committee – Conference Call

11

Washington, D.C. – Meeting with Canada Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to discuss D-12-05.

16-17

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Biotech Crops Alliance Meeting

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

February

20-21

Arlington, Virginia – Agricultural Outlook Forum – USDA’s annual event to discuss the changing face of agriculture

March

6-7

Washington, D.C. – CBP East Coast Trade Symposium held at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C. This was originally scheduled for October 24-25, 2013 but had to be rescheduled due to the government shutdown.

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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