



"Working Together to Make Trade Work"

OUTREACH November 3, 2014

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

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National Trade Estimate Comments

NAEGA joined the National Oilseed Processors Association (NOPA), and the American Soybean Association (ASA) to submit [National Trade Estimate \(NTE\) comments](#) to the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR). Our comments highlight the trade distorting effects of Argentina's differential export taxes (DETs). Argentina applies an export tax of 35% on soybeans and 32% on soy meal and soy oil. Although Argentina is only the third largest exporter of soybeans, their export tax policy has enabled them to become the world's largest exporter of soybean oil and meal. The comments argue that Argentina's DET's should be eliminated in order to reduce trade barriers and provide for more effective and efficient international markets.

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Korea Food Trade Seminar

NAEGA President and CEO, Gary C. Martin, traveled to Seoul, South Korea to attend and present at the Food Trade and Price Policy for the Changing Global Climate Seminar sponsored by Korea’s Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA) and the U.S Grains Council (USGC). The Seminar was organized by the Korea Food Security Research Foundation (KFSRF). Mr. Martin presented at the seminar on “Global food security challenge; LLP of GMO/LMO in agricultural commodities.” A report will soon be completed and posted to the [International Programs page](#) of the Members’ Only site.

IMO CCC Report

NAEGA Senior Advisor Jerry Cotter’s [trip report](#) on the International Maritime Organization’s (IMO) Subcommittee Meeting on Carriage of Cargoes and Containers (CCC) is now available for your review. There were two main topics of the meeting in London, England were the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes Code (IMSBC Code) and Substances Harmful to the Marine Environment (HME).

Regarding the IMSBC Code, there was a proposal to create three classifications for Seed Cake instead of the current two classifications. The three newly proposed classifications would be: Group A for hazardous materials, Group B for materials hazardous in bulk (MHB); and Group C for non-hazardous materials. This proposal will next be addressed at next meeting of the UN Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG) subcommittee meeting in December. Jerry Cotter will also attend that meeting on behalf of NAEGA.

The Subcommittee also considered numerous actions on HMEs. Most notably, it considered draft indicative lists of solid bulk cargoes with regard to HME (cargoes in the black indicative list, consisting of cargoes which are liable to classified as HME; and white indicative list, consisting of cargoes which may be classified as non-HME). The Subcommittee agreed not to prepare any indicative lists at this stage, with a view to seek advice from the Maritime Environment Protection Committee (MEPC).

Rapid Response Mechanism and TPP

In a [letter](#) to Chief Agricultural Negotiator at the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), Darci Vetter, NAEGA joined NGFA and members Cargill and ADM to emphasize the importance that a Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) in the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP). RRM is broadly supported by NAEGA members and industry as a key element to ensure TPP sanitary and phyto-sanitary (SPS) commitments are genuinely meaningful. Our letter follows reports from the Sydney Australia meeting of TPP Ministers and Heads of Delegation that concluded on October 28 ([TPP Ministers October 28 2014](#)). In its press release the USTR indicated that negotiating teams are positioned to consult widely at home and work intensely with each other to resolve outstanding issues. Given the importance of an effective RRM, we sent the October 29 letter to reinforce our fervent belief that a comprehensive and high standard Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement (TPP) must include gold standard sanitary and phyto-sanitary (SPS) provisions as a critical element of the agreement.

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A RRM provides for timely action to expedite resolution of import disputes and will add significant value to both SPS and TBT commitments. Given the perishable nature of food and other agricultural products, there are two key elements that must be included in the TPP. First, there needs to be a rapid notification within a few days to the exporter and importer of record when a shipment is restricted or delayed by regulatory actions at import. Second, there must be a formal obligation required of import authorities to work with the importer, exporter and, if needed, the exporter’s government representatives to identify options for an expedited resolution within a matter of days. In this way, regulatory requirements can be met that enable the release of shipments for disposition in less than a few weeks.

U.S. Coast Guard Alternative Security Program

NAEGA and NGFA hosted the U.S. Coast Guard’s (USCG) annual [Alternative Security Program Workshop](#). NAEGA’s Senior Advisor Jerry Cotter represented NAEGA at the meeting during which USCG discussed with Alternative Security Program (ASP) sponsoring organizations current homeland security concerns including Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS), Cybersecurity, Area Maritime Security Committee/Harbor Safety Committee (AMSC/HSC), Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and Electric Sector Alternative Security Program (ESASP). The USCG and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) are currently considering combing the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) Program with TSA Pre-check. NAEGA and NGFA plan to renew its ASP with the USCG in 2015. To subscribe or provide input related to the ASP please contact Kyle at kliske@naega.org or 202 682 4030.

USSEC Global Contractors Meet

NAEGA and NGFA hosted more than 15 global contractors with the U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC) in their office. Gary Martin, and NAEGA Senior Advisor, Arvid Hawk and Sam Bonilla, provided the contractors with information on trade perspectives and practices. The daylong meeting was part of a larger USSEC educational program to provide their key contractors with exposure to policy leaders and soybean farmers as well as NAEGA and NGFA. A copy of the biographies of the contractors can be found [here](#).

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

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

2014

Dec. 15 – Comments to FDA on revisions of certain provisions on foreign supplier verification programs for importers of food for humans and animals. Potential revisions are primarily related to compliance status review of food and foreign suppliers, hazard analysis, and supplier verification activities. A copy of the federal register notice can be found [here](#).

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Member Opportunities

Kansas City, MO – NAEGA Grades and Inspections meets jointly with NGFA Grades and Weights Committee – November 5, 2014

NAEGA's Grades and Inspection Committee and NGFA's Grain Grades and Weights Committee will meet from 12:00pm – 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 5 at the Hilton Kansas City Airport, 8801 NW 112th St., Kansas City, MO 64153, Phone: (816)-891-8900. The meeting will immediately follow the November 4-5 GIPSA Grain Inspection Advisory Committee at the National Grain Center in Kansas City. The primary discussion item will be to finalize potential policy options to address during the upcoming 2015 GIPSA reauthorization process. The session will begin with a working lunch.

In order to get an accurate headcount for both seating and food, please let Jess McCluer (jmcccluer@ngfa.org) know if you plan on attending the meeting.

A block of sleeping rooms have been arranged for **Wednesday, November 5** at the special room rate of **\$159** per night, single occupancy. You can go to www.hilton.com or call **1-800-445-8667** to make your reservation under the "NGFA" room block at this special rate. The deadline for making your reservation at this rate is Wednesday, October 15.

St. Louis, MO – Wheat Innovation Alliance Wheat Forum – November 7-8, 2014

The Wheat Innovation Alliance executive committee is hosting a “Wheat Forum” to introduce objectives of identifying and overcoming obstacles to innovation in wheat in order to improve wheat profitability. The National Association of Wheat Growers encourages all current and potential industry partners to participate in this important discussion surrounding current and future innovation in wheat.

A description of the Wheat Forum can be found [here](#) and a “Save the Date” can be found [here](#). Please direct any questions regarding this Wheat Forum to Burlson Smith at technology@wheatworld.org or 202-547-7800.

College Park, MD – FDA Public Meeting on FSMA – November 13, 2014

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a [press release](#) announcing a public meeting to discuss the proposed changes to four rules of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). The public meeting will be November 13, 2014 at Harvey W. Wiley Federal Building, Wiley Auditorium 5100 Paint Branch Parkway, College Park, MD (just outside of Washington, DC).

The purpose of the meeting is to solicit oral stakeholder and public comments on the new content of the supplemental proposed rules and to inform the public about the rulemaking process (including how to submit comments, data, and other information to the rulemaking dockets), and to respond to questions about the revised proposed rules. The proposed changes include the following topics:

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Current Good Manufacturing Practice and Hazard Analysis and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Human Food (Preventive Controls of Human Food)

Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption (Produce Safety)

Current Good Manufacturing Practice and Hazard Analysis and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Food for Animals (Preventive Controls for Animal Food)

Foreign Supplier Verification Programs for Importers of Food for Humans and Animals (Foreign Supplier Verification Programs)

Participants can attend either in person or via webcast. Registration can be done by [clicking this link](#).

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

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Information for your Consideration

New WTO Trade and Tariff Tools

The World Trade Organization (WTO) issued its annual package of trade and tariffs tools. The tools detail statistics on import/export flows and tariff rates in 2013. The tools include International Trade Statistics, World Tariff Profiles, Trade Profiles, and Services Profiles. The [International Trade Statistics](#) is a comprehensive overview of world trade up to the end of 2013 that covers merchandise and services trade, as well as trade measured in value-added terms. The [World Tariff Profiles](#) provides a collection of data on tariffs imposed by WTO members and other countries. [Trade Profiles](#) provides a summary of relevant indicators on growth, trade, and trade policy measures on a country-by-country basis. [Service Profiles](#) provides statistics on key infrastructure services for 150 economies.

U.S.-Mexico Sugar Trade

The U.S. and Mexico appear to have reached agreement related to allegations that Mexico is dumping sugar into the U.S. We understand that the U.S. Department of Commerce and the government of Mexico and Mexican sugar exporters have agreed that the U.S. would suspend its antidumping and countervailing duty investigation of Mexican sugar in return for certain provisions in the pending agreement designed to ensure there is not an oversupply of Mexican sugar exported to the U.S. If the preliminary agreements are not signed, the U.S. Department of Commerce and the International Trade Commission will continue their investigations and could ultimately issue antidumping and countervailing duties on Mexican sugar.

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USDA Announces New GSM-102 Fee Structure

The USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) announced a new fee structure and guarantee fee rates to be charged for coverage under the Commodity Credit Corporation’s Export Guarantee Program (GSM-102). The new guarantee fee rates will apply to applications for payment received on or after Friday, October 31, 2014. The new fee structure will be based on obligor country, foreign financial institution, tenor, and repayment terms. To assist participants in determining the appropriate fee, FAS launched a [fee calculator](#).

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

2014

November

5 – Kansas City, MO – NAEGA Grades and Inspections meets jointly with NGFA Grades and Weights Committee.

7-8 – St. Louis, MO – Wheat Innovation Alliance Executive Committee Wheat Forum

10-11 – Beijing, China – APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting (TBD)

17-20 – Baltimore, MD – USAEDC Annual Workshop

December

4 – Washington, D.C. – U.S. Biotech Crops Alliance (USBCA) International Working Group (IWG) Meeting – NAEGA/NGFA Conference Room

8-10 – Brussels, Belgium – International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) Meeting

9 – Washington, DC – CFTC Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) Meeting – Steve Strong attending on behalf of NAEGA

10-12 – Geneva, Switzerland – UN Globally Harmonized System (GHS) Subcommittee meeting. Jerry Cotter attending.

14 – Washington, D.C. – U.S. China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT)

15 – Washington, D.C. – U.S. Biotech Crops Alliance Plenary Session

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