



*“Working Together to Make Trade Work”*

## **OUTREACH November 4, 2013**

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

### **Welcome New Member and Director**

**Please Join us in welcoming David Smoot of Viterra who has been named to fill the unexpired term of Bob Miller on the NAEGA Board of Directors and BTGPactual a new NAEGA Associate Member.**

BTG is working to establish BTG Commodities to trade grain and oilseeds. The firm is owned by a Brazilian multinational investment banking firm that engages in investment bank, wealth management and global asset management around the world.

Revisions to the NAEGA Contact Directory have been posted to the Member’s section of [www.NAEGA.org](http://www.NAEGA.org)

#### **Member participation opportunity:**

- Canada Border Services Agency/Canadian Food Inspection Agency Trade Consultation – November 7
- Food and Agriculture Dialogue on Free Trade Agreements Meeting – Washington, D.C. November 14
- International Grain Trade Coalition Meeting and Canada Symposium, Ottawa, Canada - November 18-20
- USAEDC Annual Workshop – Baltimore, MD – November 18-20
- European Union Buyers Conference – Istanbul, Turkey – November 19-22

#### **Action Reports**

- Expanded U.S. Industry collaboration on crop biotechnology market impacts
- North America – Country of Origin Labeling Letter
- U.S. – Federal Grain Inspection via the State of Washington Grain Inspection
- World – G-33 Food Security Letter

#### **New Issues**

- U.S. – U.S. FDA Published Proposed FSMA Rules

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

- Upcoming Events and Notices for Members

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## **NAEGA Member Participation Opportunity**

### **Canada Border Services Agency/Canadian Food Inspection Agency Trade Consultation – November 7**

Members are invited to attend a Trade Consultation Session via WebEx hosted by the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), in conjunction with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). The webinar will focus on the importation of products regulated by the CFIA.

The session is scheduled for November 7th, 2013, from 1-4 p.m. (EST). The objectives of this webinar will be to provide participants with information on the Single Window Initiative (SWI) as it relates to food, plant and animal products and to provide a forum for discussion on the following aspects:

- Background on the SWI
- Integrated Import Declaration
- Business process changes for food, plant and animal products
- Data requirements for food, plant and animal products

Members are requested to register by October 24th, 2013. This webinar is being offered in English and provided free of charge to participants. To register for this training session go to <https://gts-ee.webex.com/gts-ee/k2/j.php?ED=250149527&UID=1692251122&HMAC=3151dfeae6054b7e6917a376c05d5fec3a620a17&RT=MiMxMQ%3D%3D&FM=1> and register.

Questions can be forwarded to CBSA-ASFC\_OGD\_Single\_Window-Guichet\_Unique\_des\_AM SWI-IGU@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca<<mailto:SWI-IGU@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>>.

### **Food and Agriculture Dialogue on Trade Agreements Meeting – Washington, D.C. – November 14, 2013**

NAEGA members are invited to the next session of the US Food and Agriculture Dialog for Trade Agreements. Representatives of USTR and USDA led by Sharon Bomer Lauritsen will join us for discussion on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP) and ongoing related developments including Trade Promotion Authority (TPA).

Hosted by Arent Fox LLP, the Dialog runs from 3:00 to 5:00 pm in the Multipurpose Room at 1717 K Street, NW Washington DC. If you wish to attend, let Gary or Kyle know.

### **International Grains Trade Coalition (IGTC) meeting and Grain Industry Symposium: “Canada’s Grain Industry Outlook for 2014”, hosted by Canada Grains Council and Grain Growers of Canada**

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The IGTC will convene 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 is meeting on November 18 and 19 on the margins of the November 18-20 Symposium at the National Hotel in Ottawa, Canada. Interested NAEGA members are welcome at both.

An agenda for the IGTC meeting which will begin on Monday morning, November 18 is now under development.

Please let us know if you would like to be included in the IGTC meetings that will include: 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 program and registration form for the Symposium are available at <http://naega.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/CGC-GGC-Grain-Industry-Symposium-2013-Updated-to-Oct-24-2013.pdf> or the website [www.canadagrainscouncil.ca](http://www.canadagrainscouncil.ca). The Symposium has an impressive roster of speakers and topics that will deliver a comprehensive outlook for the global economy, grain trade, market access and how advances in crop genetics. You will also hear about how Canada’s grain supply chains are responding to changing food safety requirements in Canada and the U.S. and fighting back to confront misinformation about nutritional value and health benefits of grain-based foods.

Register NOW for the Symposium by filling out the registration form at the end of the program and returning it to the Canada Grains Council.

Call the National Hotel (361 Queen Street) by November 1<sup>st</sup> to receive a special room rate of only \$149. Please reserve your room early as there are a limited number of rooms available at this rate. To reserve a room: phone 1-613-238-6000 or toll-free 1-855-238-6001, identify yourself as being with the Canada Grains Council group and quote reservation ID GSCGC13.

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

NAEGA members are invited to attend United States Agricultural Export Development Committee’s (USAEDC) Annual Workshop from November 18-20 at the Hyatt Regency in Baltimore, MD. On Monday, November 18 will be the “FAS 101 for New Cooperator Staff” and on Tuesday, the 19<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, the 20<sup>th</sup> will be the Annual Workshop. The annual workshop will include a diverse group of speakers and breakout sessions. A copy of the most recent agenda can be found [here](#). The registration form can be found [here](#).

### **3<sup>rd</sup> European Union Buyers’ Conference – Istanbul, Turkey, November 19-22**

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The USSEC has [announced](#) the 3<sup>rd</sup> European Union (EU) Buyers’ Conference will be held in Istanbul, Turkey on November 19-22. A list of the attendees can be found [here](#). For more information and an agenda, please contact Matt Magiera at [mmagiera@ct.ussec.org](mailto:mmagiera@ct.ussec.org).

*Full Details on Upcoming Events can be found in the [Meetings & Events Section of the NAEGA Member’s Only Page](#) and the [Personal Pages Website](#)*

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## Reports on NAEGA Actions

### Expanded Industry Collaboration on Crop Biotechnology Market Impacts

The recently established **U.S. Biotech Crop Alliance** (USBCA) of which NAEGA is a founding member will announce **Dr. Michael J. Phillips** to serve as the organization’s secretariat.

Established under US 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.

Phillips is president of MJ Phillips and Associates LLC, an agricultural consulting firm that specializes in agricultural biotechnology issues. Throughout his career, he has been active in providing leadership and advice on agricultural biotechnology to U.S. and foreign governments, as well academic institutions and all sectors of the agricultural biotechnology value chain. Prior to establishing his consulting business, Phillips was vice president for science and regulatory policy for food and agriculture at the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), where he was responsible for developing and implementing policy on the science, regulatory, compliance, stewardship and trade implications of agricultural biotechnology. Phillips also served as director of the Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources at the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), where his duties included overseeing studies on a wide range of topics, including agricultural biotechnology, conducted by the NAS at the request of the federal government. In addition, he previously was director of the food and agriculture program at the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment, where he developed and directed policy studies for congressional committees, including several on agricultural biotechnology. Prior to his industry and government service, Phillips served on the faculty at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind.,

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and was a senior staff member in the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C.

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.

### **North America – Country of Origin Labeling Letter**

We joined a large number of other agricultural groups in a letter to Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Chairwoman of the Senate Agricultural Committee; Thad Cochran (R-MS), Ranking Member of the Senate Agricultural Committee; Rep. Frank Lucas (R-OK), Chairman of the House Agricultural Committee; and Rep. Collin Peterson (D-MN), Ranking Member of the House Agricultural Committee to oppose Country of Origin Labeling (COOL). The WTO is currently reviewing the U.S. Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) law to determine if the revised regulation is compliant to WTO standards. If the WTO finds that COOL discriminates against Mexican and Canadian Products, those countries will be given the authority to retaliate against U.S. products. We ask Congress to find a legislative solution that is WTO-compliant as they work out final details in the 2013 Farm Bill.

The letter can be found [here](#).

### **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.

Working with NGFA and other stakeholders, NAEGA continues to warn the USDA and key lawmakers that interruptions in official grain inspection put at risk the U.S. reputations as a reliable supplier of grains and oilseed to foreign customers. The effort to focus on Capitol Hill and get the attention of key lawmakers continues. Senator Johanns (R-NE) and Representative Cramer (R-ND) both sent letters to Secretary Vilsack urging the USDA to take action to provide official inspection. Representative Cramer’s letter can be found [here](#), and Senator Johanns’ letter can be found [here](#).

Previously we sent a [letter](#) to Secretary Vilsack to encourage the USDA to take all actions necessary to provide official inspection of grain. The story is starting to gain traction in the

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media as Politico ran a segment on the issue. That article can be found [here](#) under the title “The Show Must Go On”.

On another organized labor dispute the United States District Court of the District of Oregon agreed with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) this past week and held ILWU in civil contempt of the Court’s order on October 15, 2013. The [Court’s decision](#) holds that ILWU must comply with all terms of the original court order and failure to do so would result in significant fines.

Further reports and actions in this regard will be addressed via coordination with the Grades and Inspections Committee.

### **World – G-33 Food Security Letter**

We signed a [letter](#) to United States Trade Representative, Mike Froman and Secretary of Agriculture, Thomas Vilsack expressing concerns regarding negotiations underway in Geneva at the Ninth World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference. The letter states that the “food security” proposal from the Group of 33 (G-33) would represent a significant step backwards for the WTO and would make it more difficult to reach a comprehensive Doha Round agreement. Any agreement that relaxes current WTO disciplines would set a damaging precedent for future talks and increase the likelihood of further subsidy increases. We encourage any agreement that does not undermine current WTO rules, but rather sets the stage for further trade liberalization.

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

#### **2013**

**Nov. 8** – Originally due Oct. 11, but date was extended – Comments to Office of Management and Budget on the U.S. – Canada Regulatory Cooperation Council’s progress to date and how to address regulatory divergence between the U.S. and Canada governments.

**Nov. 15** – Comments to USTR on TBT & SPS trade barriers.  
[http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=USTR\\_FRDOC\\_0001-0279](http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=USTR_FRDOC_0001-0279);  
[http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=USTR\\_FRDOC\\_0001-0278](http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=USTR_FRDOC_0001-0278)

**Nov. 25** – Comments to EPA on Fumigant Registration.  
<http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0625-0001>

**Nov. 26** – 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>

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**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>

**TBD** – Comments to USDA on Agricultural Coexistence. The USDA will soon publish a notice in the Federal Register asking the public to comment on how agricultural coexistence in the U.S. can be strengthened. The comment period begins upon publication of the notice in the Federal Register and will be 60 days. More information can be found [here](#).

**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](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. – FDA Publishes Proposed FSMA Rules**

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued [proposed rule](#) under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) to include animal food. The Federal Register notices states, “FDA is taking this action to provide greater assurance that animal food is safe and will not cause illness or injury to animals or humans and is intended to build an animal food safety system for the future that makes modern, science and risk-based preventive controls the norm across all sectors of the animal food system.”

Companies subject to the new regulations will need to draft: a food safety plan, a hazard analysis, preventative controls, and a recall plan. Companies will also need to establish processes on how they will: monitor the consistency of preventive controls, take corrective actions if problems occur, and verify the preventive controls.

Comments are due by February 26, 2014. FDA will hold three public meetings to discuss the proposed rule. NAEGA expects to coordinate closely with NGFA in this regard.

*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**

### **November**

**4-6** – San Antonio, Texas – American Nutrition Forum – Gary Martin attending and presenting

**6** – Washington, D.C. – ECWG meeting to discuss the status of the Farm Bill and the GSM program and USDA’s negotiations with the Brazilians

**7** – Canada Border Services Agency/Canadian Food Inspection Agency Trade Consultation – Webinar

**7** – Washington, D.C. – Meeting with BASF on herbicide tolerant soybean, CV127

**8** – Washington, D.C. – Food and Ag Dialogue on Trade Agreements Steering Committee Meeting

**12-15** – Lisbon, Portugal - 6th International Conference on Coexistence between Genetically Modified (GM) and non-GM based Agricultural Supply Chains: [www.gmcc13.org](http://www.gmcc13.org)

**13-16** - PNWER Economic Leadership Forum

**14** – Washington, D.C. – Food & Ag Dialogue on Trade Agreements Meeting

**19-20** - Canada Seminar/Canada Grains Council

**18-22** - IPPC Standards Committee - Grain Movement

**18-20** – Baltimore, Maryland – U.S. Agricultural Export Development Council (USAEDC) 2013 Annual Workshop – NAEGA Members invited to participate

**19-22** – Istanbul, Turkey – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual European Union Buyers’ Conference. Hosted by USSEC.

**20** – Riverdale, Maryland – APHIS BRS Annual Stakeholder Meeting – Attendees can participate in person or via webcast. Meeting details and registration information will be available soon.

### **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

### **March**

**31** – 2014 NAEGA Annual Meetings – Hilton Head, South Carolina

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**30-April 1** – 2014 NGFA Convention – Hilton Head, South Carolina

**June**

**10** – IGC Grains Conference – Tower Hotel, Tower Bridge, London

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