



Wishing you and yours all the best in this holiday season! Our office schedule: December 23 – office closes at 3pm, December 26-27 – office closed, December 30-January 2 – office closed.

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Member Opportunities

Grain Inspection Advisory Committee Applications

The U.S. Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is seeking applications for its Grain Inspection Advisory Committee. The Committee meets twice annually to advise GIPSA on the programs and services it delivers under the U.S. Grain Standards Act. Recommendations by the committee help GIPSA to better meet the needs of its customers who operate in a dynamic and changing marketplace. The committee is comprised of 15 members appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture who represent all segments of the grain industry. They include grain producers, processors, merchandisers, handlers, exporters, consumers, grain inspection agencies, and scientists. Committee members serve without compensation, but are reimbursed for travel expenses.

Members interested in applying for a position on the Committee submit an AD-755 application form. The deadline for the application is January 20, 2017. The application form and additional information about the Advisory Committee can be found [here](#).

Annual Member and Board of Directors Meeting – March 20, 2017

Please make your plans now to attend the 2017 NAEGA Annual Member and Board of Directors meeting on March 20, 2017 at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel.

[Hotel room blocks are now available at the Sheraton by clicking here. Please book your room as soon as possible to guarantee a space.](#)

Once again, this year's meeting will take place alongside the NGFA Annual Convention. The NGFA Convention schedule can be found [here](#).

All NAEGA meetings will take place on Monday, March 20, 2017 at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana. Meeting times for Committees and Subcommittees are still to be decided. Please see below for a preliminary set of NAEGA events.

All events to take place at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel – 500 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA			
Date	Time	Event	Location
<i>Sunday, March 19</i>	<i>6:00pm-7:30pm</i>	CoBank Welcome Reception	Armstrong Room
<i>Monday, March 20</i>	9:00am-11:30 am	Grand Opening Plated Breakfast featuring Juan Luciano, Chairman and CEO, ADM	Grand Ballroom A/B/C
	12:00pm-4:30pm	NAEGA Members Lunch with Member	Nottaway Room

		and Board Meeting to follow	
	1:00pm-4:00pm	Congressional Facility Tour	TBD
	5:30pm-6:30pm	Bunge North America Reception	Armstrong Room
<i>Tuesday, March 21</i>	1:00pm-4:00pm	Public Facility Tour	TBD

NGFA is once again offering NAEGA members a special rate of \$275 per person and \$200 per spouse to attend the NGFA Convention. This special rate includes the CoBank Welcome reception on Sunday, March 19 and all events on Monday, March 20, including the Grand Opening breakfast and the Bunge North America Reception. A special registration code will soon be available for NAEGA members interested in taking advantage of this offer.

For more information on the hotel, NAEGA meetings or NGFA convention 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:

China Decree 177 – US Response

Over the last few months NAEGA has been working closely with industry and government stakeholders, including the U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA's Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS), the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the U.S. Grain Inspectors, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) regarding Chinese facility registration requirements under Decree 177.

In October, USDA FAS sent a letter and a copy of the [GIPSA list of registered U.S. grain export facilities](#) to Chinese counterparts at the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ). The letter, and registration list, seeks to comply with AQSIQ requests for registration of U.S. facilities exporting to the Chinese market as laid out in Decree 177. The list of GIPSA registered facilities includes all grain export facilities that handle more than 15,000 metric tons of grain in a given calendar year.

Last week, USDA FAS received a response to this letter. A copy of the response can be found [here](#). In the response, ASQIQ has again reiterated that U.S. facilities shipping to China register and provide basic information according to the AOSIQ format of “List of Grain Exporting Facilities for Registration.” In addition, AOSIQ has requested that, per Decree 177, all U.S. facilities exporting to China must register with AOSIQ, including facilities that export less than 15,000 metric tons in a calendar year. In short, the GIPSA registration list is not an acceptable form of registration for U.S. facilities shipping to China.

In light of this rejection of the GIPSA export facility registration list, NAEGA will be participating in further discussions with USDA FAS and other industry and government stakeholders regarding U.S. industry compliance with Decree 177. The first follow up meeting is planned for this week.

NAEGA will have additional information for members following this meeting, and will keep members informed of any new information as it becomes available. Please contact Gary or Ryan if you have any questions.

NAFTA TWG on Pesticides

On October 25-26 NAEGA President and CEO Gary Martin travelled to Quebec City, Quebec for the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Technical Working Group (TWG) on Pesticides. The report on this NAEGA travel is now available. In Quebec City, CropLife Canada invited Gary to represent NAEGA and the IGTC at the meetings. Gary presented before the group on “A Global View of Key Dynamics in Policy and Commerce for Grains, Oilseeds and other Agri-Bulks” and emphasized that close coordination on MRLs is vital for the efficient and sustainable provision of grains, oilseeds and other agri-bulk commodities.

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

NAEGA-APPAMEX Forum

On October 1-8 IGTC Acting Secretariat Katy Lee travelled to Washington, D.C. where she was joined by NAEGA Director of Operations Ryan Olson for further travel to Cancun, Mexico. The trip report on these NAEGA and IGTC activities is now available. In Washington, Katy held a stakeholder briefing and met on IGTC policy files with D.C. based stakeholders. In Cancun, Ryan and Katy represented NAEGA and IGTC at the NAEGA-APPAMEX Forum and co-hosted a policy briefing entitled “Exclusive Section on Bulk Grain Trade Issues: Update on Commercial and Official Policies and Practices.”

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

Future Actions:

Gijon, Spain – DBTG Executive Committee Meeting

On January 11-12, 2017 NAEGA Senior Advisor Jerry Cotter will travel to Gijon, Spain to participate in a meeting of the Dry Bulk Terminal Group’s (DBTG) Executive Committee meeting. A copy of the provisional agenda for the meeting will be available soon. NAEGA, under its MOU with the DBTG, sits on the Executive Committee and engages with the group and its sister organization, the International Bulk Terminal Association (IBTA) on issues relating to international maritime safety and regulation.

A Notice to Post for this upcoming travel will be available soon. Please contact Gary or Ryan if you have any questions.

Pending Actions:

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

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In the News

Sri Lanka Import Duty on U.S. Soybean Meal

On November 10, the Sri Lankan government is enforcing a 5 percent duty on all imported U.S. soybean meal. Prior to enforcement of the duty, U.S. soybean meal was imported into Sri Lanka at zero duty under an exemption for ingredients used to manufacture poultry feed. The new duty does not apply to Indian meal because Sri Lanka and India share a free trade agreement.

Final ePhyto Project Document

The International Plant Protection Convention's (IPPC) ePhyto Hub project continues to move forward, as stakeholders meet key deadlines. This week, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Trade Organization's Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) finalized and approved the ePhyto Hub Project and set an implementation date of December 15, 2016. Meanwhile, the United Nations International Computing Center (UNICC), which will host the hub in its Geneva facility, is finalizing the generic ePhyto national system (GeNS) requirement documents to comply with receiving U.S. government funding and proceeding with development of the hub. Lastly, IPPC Steering Groups and Committee are making progress overcoming the technical aspects of implementing the hub, including harmonizing codes and supporting country implementation. Progress will continue in the coming months as the project moves forward.

More information and project documents on the ePhyto Hub can be found [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

December

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

23 – NAEGA office closes at 3pm

26 – NAEGA office closed

27 – Merry Christmas – NAEGA office closed

29 - 2 – 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 Member and Board Meetings – New Orleans, LA

April

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

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

June

5– 8 – 46th International Grains Council Session, IGC International Grains Conference and IGTC meetings– London, UK

14 – IGTC Management Council Meeting – Virtual

July

10-12 – GHS Subcommittee Meeting – Geneva, Switzerland

September

14 – IGTC Management Council Meeting – Virtual

December

6-8 – GHS Subcommittee Meeting – Geneva, Switzerland

14 – IGTC Management Council Meeting – Virtual

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