



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

OUTREACH December 16, 2013

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

Happy Holidays to all!

NAEGA Holiday Hours: The NAEGA Office will be closed from Monday, December 23, 2012 through Friday, December 27 in recognition of Christmas. The office will also be closed on Tuesday, December 31, 2013 and Wednesday, January 1, 2014 for New Year’s.

Member participation opportunity:

- NAEGA Annual Meeting – Hilton Head, South Carolina – March 31, 2014

Action Reports

- Canada-U.S. – Grain and Seed Trade Task Group Meeting
- China – NAEGA Trip on Biotech Trade Restrictions
- North American Plant Protection Organization – NAEGA Trip Report
- U.S. Biotech Crop Alliance Plenary Meeting.

New Issues

- Asia-Americas – Trans-Pacific Partnership
- Canada – Deregulation of Soybean Cyst Nematode

NAEGA Calendar and Member Notices

- Upcoming Events and Notices for Members

NAEGA Member Participation Opportunity

NAEGA Annual Meeting – Hilton Head, South Carolina – March 31, 2014

NAEGA will hold its Annual meetings in Hilton Head, South Carolina on Monday, March 31, 2013 in conjunction with NGFA’s convention. You can now reserve your hotel room at the Westin Hilton Head Resort by clicking [here](#). An agenda and further details will be available in the near future.

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

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Reports on NAEGA Actions

Canada-U.S – Grain and Seed Trade Task Group Meeting

The Canada-U.S. Grain and Seed Task Group (Task Group) held a meeting and conference call on Thursday, December 12. Germane developments and Task Group actions discussed included:

- The *Agricultural Commodity Flows from U.S. to Canada* study jointly commissioned and published by NAEGA and Ag. Canada for the Task Group.
- Canada's new Global Import Framework (GIF)
- Canada's varietal crop registration requirements for seeds for planting.
- North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO)
- U.S.-Canada Regulatory Cooperation Council
- Collaboration with Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) initiatives
- Trans-Pacific Partnership -- Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

Representatives from key officials from both Canada and U.S. Government including U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) and Canada’s Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) participated in the meeting and indicated a strong interest in continued work by the Task group.

China – NAEGA Trip on Biotech Trade Restrictions

NAEGA and representatives from NAEGA members are completing numerous discussions in Beijing, China during the week of December 16. The delegation is meeting with key industry and government officials to learn more about the Chinese biotechnology regulatory process and current practices while improving awareness of the nature of the U.S. supply chain and the practicalities of managing crop biotechnology events that may be found in export and domestic shipments. Given ongoing trade disruptions resulting from the aggressive introduction of biotechnology events in the absence of approval in major markets like China, we find unmanageable risks in exporting U.S. grain and oilseeds. In light of the current and long-standing uncertainties regarding the biotech corn event MIR 162, NAEGA is meeting with decision leaders from China’s Ministry of Agriculture, China AQSIQ, Crop Life China and the Development Research Center of the State Council (DRC).

Mission objectives include reducing and mitigating those risks in both the short and longer term. In the event the current MIR 162 approval of import into China is not resolved, we expect to work with Chinese industry and government officials to seek a speedy remedy to resolve the shipments in detention now as well as to avoid future similar trade disruptions.

In preparation for this trip, NAEGA organized and lead a meeting with Secretary Vilsack and the U.S. Biotech Crops Alliance (USBCA). The meeting was to advise the Secretary of NAEGA and industry concerns and coordinate messaging regarding the MIR 162 debacle. Secretary Vilsack previously planned to be in China the same week as the NAEGA delegation for meetings of the China U.S. Joint Committee on Commerce and Trade (JCCT). The NAEGA team in

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Beijing will also interact with delegates and stakeholders to the JCCT regarding the MIR 162 debacle.

U.S. Biotech Crop Alliance Plenary Meeting – Washington, D.C. – December 16-17

The U.S. Biotech Crop Alliance (USBCA) Executive Committee, on which NAEGA has a seat met on December 6. The meeting was primarily to prepare for the plenary session on December 16 and 17, discuss potential new members, and decide on fee structure of the organization. NAEGA Biotech Committee Chair will represent NAEGA and discuss the agenda and recent activities of international working of the USBCA. A copy of the agenda for the plenary session can be found [here](#).

North America – NAEGA Trip Report on NAPPO annual meeting

A copy of Arvid Hawk’s trip report on the North American Plant Protection Organization’s (NAPPO) Annual Meeting is now available. NAEGA plans to continue to work with NAPPO via the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) and U.S. Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), as well as the Canada-U.S. grain and seed trade task group to address industry expectations for NAPPO.

A copy of the trip report, complete with observations and recommendations, can be found [here](#).

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

2013

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>

Feb. 10 – Comments to Customs and Border Protection (CBP) on the Request of Information via CBP Form 28 in an effort to reduce paperwork. http://ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2013-29713_PL.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

Asia-Americas – Trans-Pacific Partnership

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) issued two press releases announcing significant progress toward a finalization of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations. The press releases identified potential “landing zones” for the key outstanding issues. They also explained that work will continue into the New Year, missing the year-end deadline.

The press releases can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Canada – Deregulation of Soybean Cyst Nematode

Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has announced it is deregulating soybean cyst nematode. As of November 25, 2013 CFIA is no longer enforcing import requirements related to this plant pest. These changes affect soybean seed, potatoes, root crops and mushrooms.

More details on CFIA’s deregulation of soybean cyst nematode 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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NAEGA Calendar & Member Notices

2013

14-21 – Beijing, China – NAEGA representatives to meet with U.S. government and Chinese industry and government on MIR 162

16-17 - Washington, D.C. – USBCA’s first plenary meeting 3:00pm to 5:00pm Eastern. 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.

2014

January

27-29 Doha, Qatar - **U.S. - Middle East, & Africa Grain Trade Forum: Partnership for Fostering Trade.** Conducted jointly by U.S. Wheat Associates (USW), U.S. Grains Council (USGC), U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC), North American Grain Export Association (NAEGA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture/ Foreign Agriculture Service (USDA/FAS). Grand Hyatt Doha,

February

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20-21 Arlington, Virginia – USDA 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 – Westin Hilton Head Resort – Hilton Head, South Carolina (in conjunction with NGFA’s Convention March, 30 – April, 1). Reservations can be made [here](#).

June

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

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