



*"Working Together to Make Trade Work"*

## **OUTREACH December 2, 2013**

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

### **Member participation opportunity:**

- NAEGA Committee Conference Calls – December 3-6
- Soy Sustainability Certification Webinar – December 4

### **Action Reports**

- Japan – Fluazifop MRL Violation on Soybeans
- U.S. – NAEGA-NGFA Comments on Fumigation
- Vietnam – National Assembly Passes Law on Plant Protection and Quarantine
- World – NAEGA Travel to Geneva, Switzerland for UN Sub-committee on Globally Harmonized System for Labeling

### **New Issues**

- U.S.-Bangladesh – Trade and Investment Cooperation Forum Agreement

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

- Upcoming Events and Notices for Members

## **NAEGA Member Participation Opportunity**

### **NAEGA Committee Conference Calls – December 3-6**

Each of the four standing NAEGA committees will convene soon to review key issues and consider priority actions items. Conference call of the Biotechnology, Contracts, International Programs and Grades and Inspections Committees will include the very active and important agendas in play for each committee. As always NAEGA members are encouraged to bring concerns and information to the attention of the Committees as well as participate. If who would like to be included in the calls or in the invitations and background material for any of the conference calls please contact Gary or Kyle as soon as possible.

A Schedule for the calls is in the NAEGA **Calendar & Member Notices**. The agendas for the meetings will be posted to the respective section of the NAEGA member's website.

### **Soy Sustainability Certificate Process Webinar – December 4**

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NAEGA, in conjunction with the United States Soybean Export Council (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**

Japan’s Ministry of Health Labor and Welfare (MHLW) [announced](#) on November 22 an enhanced monitoring level of 30% for U.S. soybeans and soybean products for “fluazifop” after a single detection of pesticide residue that exceeds Japanese maximum residue limits for soybeans. Fluazifop is a general use herbicide often used to control grasses (including volunteer corn) in soybean fields.

Most recently MHLW stated it will let each Quarantine office decide whether they will monitor the cargo of the Planned Import System (PIS)—also known as Program Imports—even though MHLW exempted the monitoring of PIS cargo. Thus, there is a possibility that cargo of the PIS will be monitored by the Quarantine office at some of the ports regardless of the bulk or container shipment.

In response, USDA/FAS sent a letter to MHLW seeking further clarification on PIS. We expect more information on how MHLW will handle imports this week.

### **U.S. – NAEGA-NGFA Joint Comments on Fumigation**

NAEGA and NGFA submitted joint comments to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on registration of phosphides and phosphine. The comments supported the continued registration by EPA of aluminum phosphide, magnesium phosphide, and phosphine as important pest-management tools used to protect the safety and quality of the U.S. grains, and oilseeds.

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

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### **Vietnam – National Assembly Passes Law on Plant Protection and Quarantine**

The Vietnam National Assembly passed a new Plant Protection and Quarantine Law on November 25<sup>th</sup>. The law outlines the process and procedures for exporters to follow NAEGA submitted comments generally supporting the law (which included similar provisions to a Rapid Response Mechanism). The comments can be found [here](#). NAEGA will provide access to the new law once it is available in English.

### **World – NAEGA Travel to Geneva, Switzerland for UN Sub-committee on Globally Harmonized System for Labeling**

From December 2 through 7 NAEGA Senior Advisor Jerry Cotter is traveling to Geneva, Switzerland to participate in the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Sub-committee of Experts on Globally Harmonized System for Labeling. Mr. Cotter will be investigating with the intent to advise industry on trade impact from the ongoing work of Sub-committee and the subsequent developments related to the Globally Harmonized System (GHS). GHS focus on grain dust explosion hazards and labeling are key to his work.

A copy of the sub-committee agenda 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>

*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.-Bangladesh – Trade and Investment Cooperation Forum Agreement**

The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) issued a press release on November 25<sup>th</sup> announcing that a Trade and Investment Cooperation Forum Agreement

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(TICFA) between the U.S. and Bangladesh was signed in an effort to enhance and restore the trade relationship between the two countries.

The [press release](#) stated: “In July 2013, USTR provided Bangladesh with an Action Plan on worker rights and safety that, if implemented, could provide a basis for the President to consider the reinstatement of GSP trade benefits. In the bilateral meeting following the TICFA signing, the Government of Bangladesh shared its progress to-date on addressing the various elements of the Action Plan.”

Preferential duty treatment under GSP expired on July 31, 2013, and congress has yet to determine if an extension will be granted.

*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**

**December**

**3** – Washington, D.C. – NAEGA International Programs Committee meeting / conference call, 11:00am Eastern

NAEGA Grades and Inspections Conference meeting / conference call, 3:00pm Eastern

**4** – Webinar – USSEC / NAEGA Soy Sustainability Certification 3:00pm to 5:00pm Eastern

**5** – Washington, D.C. – NAEGA Contracts Committee meeting / conference call, 3:00pm Eastern

**6** – Washington, D.C. – NAEGA Biotechnology Committee meeting / conference Call 11:00am Eastern

U.S. Biotech Crop Alliance (USBCA) Executive Committee meeting / conference call, 1:00pm Eastern

U.S. Biotech Crop Alliance (USBCA), International Working Group meeting / conference call, 3:30pm Eastern

**11** - Washington, D.C. – Meeting with Canada Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to discuss CFIA Grain Import Framework (GIF): Options for Import to Canada. The GIF replaces previous work on D-12-05.

**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

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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**

**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)

### **June**

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

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