



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

OUTREACH December 22, 2014

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

Happy Holidays to all!

Make Plans Now for the 2015 NAEGA Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas on March 16, 2015. Rooms at the Hyatt Regency can be booked at the NGFA rate by clicking [here](#).

NAEGA Holiday Hours: The NAEGA Office will be closed from Wednesday, December 24 and Thursday, December 25, 2014 in recognition of Christmas. The office will also be closed on Wednesday, December 31, 2014 and Thursday, January 1, 2015 for New Year's.

Member Opportunities

- Washington, DC – U.S. Agriculture Coalition for Cuba – January 8th, 2015
- Electronic Working Group – Proposed Draft Amendments to “The Guidelines for the Exchange of Information Between Countries on Rejections of Imported Food (CAC/GL 25-1997)” – January 9th, 2015
- San Antonio, Texas – NAEGA Annual Meeting – March 16th, 2015

Action Reports:

- Grades and Inspections Committee - Chinese Soy Vessel Comparison Study
- USBCA, Plenary, JCCT and China

Information for your consideration

- AMS Feed Market Access Program for Feed Products to China
- US Dietary Guidelines Committee and Environmental Impact
- Syngenta Lawsuit against Bunge gets Dismissed
- US and Cuba to Normalize Relations

NAEGA Calendar and Member Notices

- Upcoming Events and Notices for Members

Member Opportunities

Washington, DC – U.S. Agriculture Coalition for Cuba – January 8th, 2015

NAEGA members are welcome to join the U.S. Agriculture Coalition for Cuba (USACC) and participate in the public launch on January 8th, 2015 at 2:00 at the National Press Club, 529 14th St. NW, 13th Floor, Washington, DC 20045.

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The USACC is comprised of more than 30 prominent U.S. food and agriculture companies and associations who seek to advance trade relations between the U.S. and Cuba by re-establishing Cuba as a market for U.S. food and agriculture exports. To see a current list of USACC members please see [this invitation](#) to the Public Launch of the USACC.

Electronic Working Group -- Proposed Draft Amendments to “The Guidelines for the Exchange of Information Between Countries on Rejections of Imported Food (CAC/GL 25-1997)” – January 9, 2015

Codex Members and Observers are invited to register experts for the Electronic Working Group (eWG). The eWG will work on comments for the Proposed Draft Amendments to “The Guidelines for the Exchange of Information between Countries on Rejections of Imported Food (CAC/GL 25-1997).”

The existing CAC/GL 25-1997 would be revised to include the following aspects:

1. Exchange of information (including its format) on rejected consignments and the respective roles and responsibilities of the relevant parties in this regard;
2. Any relevant processes and procedures relating to subsequent interactions (i.e. review) on rejections of imported food;
3. Where appropriate the role of the competent authority of the exporting country in investigating the non-compliance with the importing country requirements;
4. The appropriate inclusion of feed in this document.

The eWG will be co-chaired by the European Union and Chile. NAEGA is planning to advocate for a Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) by commenting on the proposed amendments. Those interested can register by sending an email detailing their name, organization and email address to Codex.europa.eu and Codex.Contact@agriculture.gov.au before **9 January 2015**.

**Mark Your Calendars for the NAEGA Annual Meeting
San Antonio, Texas – March 16, 2014**

We look forward to working with you in San Antonio, Texas in March! The 2015 NAEGA Annual Meeting will take place on Monday, March 16, 2015 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in San Antonio, Texas. The Board Meeting will immediately follow the Members Meeting.

NAEGA meetings will coincide with the March 15-17, 2015 National Grain & Feed Association (NGFA) Convention. Rooms at the Hyatt Regency can be booked at the NGFA rate by clicking [here](#). A special NAEGA registration for the NGFA Convention will soon be available.

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

Grades and Inspections Committee - Chinese Soy Vessel Comparison Study

NAEGA Senior Advisor, Arvid Hawk, has just returned from China and has completed the most recent stage of the Chinese Soy Vessel Comparison Study (VCS). Arvid reported on a conference call with the Grades and Inspections Committee. A copy of his written report can be found [here](#). This issue is being tracked on the [Grades and Inspection Committee webpage](#) under “China Phytosanitary Issue Tracking.” The teams are currently discussing the possibility of a fourth vessel to be completed in the summer or fall of 2015.

The Grades and Inspection Committee will meet next on Wednesday, January 14th at 3:30pm Eastern, 2:30pm Central, 12:30 Pacific to address a robust and comprehensive agenda, as well as organization of the committee. Please let Kyle or Gary know of any agenda items you would like to see covered at this conference call.

USBCA – Plenary, JCCT and China

The United States Biotech Crop Alliance (USBCA) held a plenary session on Monday, December 15. The USBCA was formed in November 2013 to attempt to provide for collaboration in an effort to improve the domestic and international marketability for crops produced through the use of agricultural biotechnology. NAEGA committed to support the USBCA for a period of 18 months. The Plenary provided an opportunity to evaluate progress during the first 12 of the 18 month commitment. The Plenary also outlined actions for the USBCA before May 2015.

During the event in Washington DC, representatives of the 15 US domiciled trade associations that are members heard reports from Domestic and International working groups. The International Working Group (IWG), which is co-chaired by NAEGA, reported on two governments of focus (China and the EU) and key international developments including the Biosafety Protocol and the Global Low Level Presence Initiative (GLI). The IWG reported some success in addressing the USBCA priority for ensuring the United States government gives consistent, high-level attention to working with key trading partners to improve the timeliness and predictability of regulatory systems so new biotechnology products can be commercialized in the United States with confidence that trade will not be disrupted. For example, the recent letters to US government related to China (letters can be found here: [Letter to President Obama](#), [Letter to the President’s Cabinet](#), [Letter to Senate Finance Committee](#), and the [Letter to the House of Representative’s Ways and Means Committee](#)) were considered instrumental in recent US China talks related to crop biotechnology approvals by China.

Following the plenary, NAEGA President, Gary Martin, participated in USBCA meetings with USTR Ambassador Froman and USDA Secretary Vilsack on the margins of the Joint Committee on Commerce and Trade (JCCT) meeting in Chicago. Chinese Vice Premier, Wang Yang, and U.S. Secretary of Commerce, Penny Pritzker, joined Vilsack and Froman at the 25th session of the JCCT. At the conclusion of the discussions the United States announced key outcomes in the areas

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of agricultural market access, intellectual property rights protection, innovation policies, and competition law enforcement. The press release from USTR can be found [here](#).

After the JCCT, we understand that China notified three companies who are owners of crop biotechnology products of the PRC approval for import in corn and soybeans intended for use as food, feed or processing. Exporters should now be able to acquire PRC Ministry of Agriculture Biosafety Certificates for commodity shipments into China for the three recently approved events: Bayer - Soybean A5547-127; Pioneer - Soybean 305423x40-3-2; Syngenta - Corn MIR 162. If you would like assistance with accessing China Biosafety Certificates for any crop biotechnology product, please feel free to contact the NAEGA staff.

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

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Information for your Consideration

AMS Feed Market Access Program for Feed Products to China

The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) put out this [Notice to Trade](#) about its recently launched program to facilitate the export of feed products to China. China’s General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection, and Quarantine (AQSIQ) requires U.S. exporters of feed products to apply for market access and re-registration through a U.S. government agency.

AQSIQ requires market access for applications for all feeds that:

1. Have never been exported to and sold in China,

and applications for re-registration for all feeds that:

2. Have been exported and sold in China, but which had their registration revoked by AQSIQ,
or
3. Have been exported and sold in China, but which had their registration with AQSIQ expire.

AMS has a [web-based process](#) to receive and review applications on an ongoing basis for a fee. Confirmation of your application’s submission to China may be obtained by contacting ev.export@ams.usda.gov. For other questions regarding AQSIQ's procedures for accepting feed imports, including questions about Decree 118, please contact the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) at agexport@fas.usda.gov or (202) 720-2378.

US Dietary Guidelines Committee and Environmental Impact

Earlier this year, the DGAC decided to look at some environmental aspects of diet. The DGAC may consider a diet with less animal-based foods and more plant-based foods because research suggests animal products produce more greenhouse gas emissions per pound. However, U.S.

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lawmakers recently gave direction to the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee (DGAC) to ignore incorporating agriculture production practices and environmental factors regarding the next revision of the guidelines due out in 2015. The congressional directive is non-binding.

The DGAC met on December 15 and discussed the following:

- The DGAC announced that they've extended their work to include food security and sustainability, declaring to take a systems-based approach.
- The DGAC 2015 report used methods/data on healthy dietary pattern impacts on biological AND environmental systems, noting "they are linked."
- Need for dietary guidance to include the wider issue of sustainability because 1) Recognizes the significant impact of foods and beverages on environmental outcomes (from farm to plate to waste disposal), and; 2) Important to have alignment in dietary guidance that promotes *both* health and sustainability to ensure food security for future generations.

Syngenta Lawsuit against Bunge Dismissed

The last elements of the Syngenta lawsuit against Bunge have been dismissed. Bunge, which had taken measures to refuse to handle Agrisure Viptera™ (MIR-162) that Syngenta attempted to prevent with the litigation, had previously won on all claims of the litigation with the exception of Syngenta's claims that Bunge had made false claims about MIR-162. A copy of the most recent opinion from the Eighth Circuit can be found [here](#).

The dismissal brings to close the multiyear long litigation. Bunge North America President and CEO, Todd Bastean, said, “Bunge is pleased that we prevailed in this case which affirmed our right to not accept Viptera as a legitimate business decision. From the beginning, Bunge took this action to protect our farmer customers and the export supply chain.”

Mr. Bastean continued to say, “As Bunge has made clear throughout this case, we are a strong proponent of agricultural biotechnology and the benefits it offers to the entire food chain. Biotechnology innovations have the potential to provide many advantages but only when traits are responsibly introduced to the market. For this reason, all participants must work together to avoid negatively impacting the value chain.”

US and Cuba to Normalize Relations

U.S. President, Barrack Obama [announced](#) the United States will start to normalize relations with Cuba. As part of the plan the U.S. will re-establish diplomatic relations with Cuba by re-establishing an embassy in Havana and opening travel restrictions. America will seek to empower the Cuban private sector by authorizing for export certain building materials for private residential construction, goods for use by private sector Cuban entrepreneurs, and agricultural equipment for small farmers. One of the key changes will be the facilitation of financial transactions. U.S. institutions will be permitted to open correspondent accounts at Cuban financial institutions and the regulatory definition of the statutory term “cash in advance” will be revised to specify that it means “cash before transfer of title.” A complete list of regulatory changes that will occur can be found at this [White House Fact Sheet](#).

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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

2015

January

8 – Washington, DC – USACC First Public Press Conference – National Press Club from 2:00pm-3:00pm

14 – NAEGA Grades and Inspection Committee Conference Call – 3:30pm Eastern, 2:30pm Central, 1:30pm Pacific.

16 – Conference Call – PNWER Agriculture Working Group

March

5-6 – Singapore – International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) General Assembly

16 – San Antonio, Texas – 2015 NAEGA Annual Meetings – Hyatt Regency Hotel (in conjunction with NGFA’s Convention).

April

10 – Panama – “Summit of the Americas”

July

12-16 – Big Sky, Montana – 2015 Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) Annual Summit

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