



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Wishing you and yours all the best in this holiday season!

The NAEGA office will be closed December 30 and January 2. For assistance while the office is closed please contact Gary or Ryan via email.

In this Issue:

Member Opportunities

- U.S. Government Transition - U.S. Food and Ag Dialogue for Trade – January 5, 2017
- Grain Inspection Advisory Committee Applications – January 20, 2017
- PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE: NAEGA Annual Meetings – March 19-21, 2017
- NOLA Regional Industry Workshop – March 21, 2017
- NAEGA Contracts and Best Practices Seminar – New Orleans – March 22, 2017
- NAEGA Seminars
- NAEGA Internships

Action Reports

Recent Actions:

- IGTC Newsletter
- Geneva and Brussels IGTC Meetings
- U.S. Government Transition - Mexico

Upcoming Actions:

- Gijon, Spain – DBTG Executive Committee Meeting – January 11-12

News

- U.S. Sues China over Corn, Rice and Wheat Practices

NAEGA Calendar and Member Notices

- Upcoming Events and Notices for Members

Member Opportunities

U.S. Government Transition and the U.S. Food and Ag Dialogue for Trade

As part of NAEGA efforts related to the U.S. government transition NAEGA is working to engage and inform stakeholders via the U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade. The Dialogue met several times over the last 2 years to successfully engage in the negotiation of the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) and Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). Now, in anticipation of significant changes in U.S. trade policy we are focused on working with the Trump Administration and the new U.S. Congress.

All NAEGA member personnel are invited to attend the first 2017 meeting of the U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade in Washington, D.C. on January 5, 2017: Beginning at 2:00pm the Dialogue will:

1. Discuss a path forward and 2017 plans for the U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade.
2. Consider a report from Arent Fox on statutory parameters and possibilities related to U.S. trade.
3. Conduct a Round Table with Trump Administration and U.S. Congressional officials (invited) and all participants.

Please join us:

Where: Arent Fox, LLP – 1717 K Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20036

When: January 5, 2017, 2:00pm-4:00pm.

The NAEGA supported concept of a [Rapid Response Mechanism](#) that was in-part successfully negotiated TTP will be a center piece of NAEGA efforts related to the U.S government transition.

[Please click here to RSVP for the Jan. 5 Dialogue](#)

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 and reserve your hotel rooms now for the 2017 NAEGA Annual Member, Board of Directors and Committee meetings on March 19-21, 2017 at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana.

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

All NAEGA member personnel are invited to attend and participate in all NAEGA meetings. A preliminary schedule of events is available below:

NAEGA Annual Meetings and Events – March 19-22			
<i>All events to take place at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel – 500 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA</i>			
Date	Time	Event	Location
<i>Sunday, March 19</i>	3:15-5:30pm	Joint NGFA Biotechnology and NAEGA Production Technology Committee Meeting	Nottoway Room
	6:00-7:30pm	NGFA Convention: CoBank Welcome Reception <i>(Included in Promo Rate for NAEGA members)</i>	Armstrong Room
<i>Monday, March 20</i>	7:00-8:45am	Contracts Committee Meeting	Nottoway Room
	9:00am-11:30am	NGFA Convention: Grand Opening Plated Breakfast Featuring Juan Luciano, Chairman and CEO, ADM <i>(Included in Promo Rate for NAEGA members)</i>	Grand Ballroom A/B/C
	12:00-5:00pm	NAEGA Members Lunch with Member and Board Meeting to follow	Nottoway Room
	1:00-4:00pm	NGFA Convention: Congressional Facility Tour	TBD
	6:30-7:30pm	NGFA Convention: Bunge North America Reception <i>(Included in Promo Rate for NAEGA members)</i>	Armstrong Room
<i>Tuesday, March 21</i>	7:30-8:45am	Joint NAEGA Grades and Inspections and NGFA Grain, Grades and Weights Committee Meeting	Nottoway

	12:00-4:00pm	Regional Industry Workshop	Rhythms 1
	1:00-4:00pm	Facility Tours	TBD
<i>Wednesday, March 22</i>	8:00am-3:00pm	NAEGA Contracts and Best Practices Seminar	TBD

NAEGA Committee members should also consider making plans to attend their Committee meetings on March 19-21. The following Committee events have been scheduled, including Joint meetings with NGFA Committees:

NAEGA Committee Meetings			
All Committee Meetings to take place at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel – 500 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA			
Date	Time	Event	Location
<i>Sunday, March 19</i>	3:15-5:30pm	Joint NGFA Biotechnology and NAEGA Production Technology Committee Meeting	Nottoway Room
<i>Monday, March 20</i>	7:00-8:45am	NAEGA Contracts Committee Meeting	Nottoway Room
	12:00-5:00pm	NAEGA Members Lunch with Member and Board Meeting to follow	Nottoway Room
<i>Tuesday, March 21</i>	7:30-8:45am	Joint NAEGA Grades and Inspections and NGFA Grain, Grades and Weights Committee Meeting	Nottoway

Agenda's for the NAEGA Annual Member, Board and Committee Meetings will be distributed in the coming days.

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

NOLA Regional Industry Workshop – March 21

NAEGA and NGFA will host a New Orleans Regional Industry Workshop on Tuesday, March 21 from 12:00-4:00pm in the Rhythms 1 Room of the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel. The Regional Industry Workshop will bring together members of industry and government to discuss safety, security and operational issues affecting the NOLA Port-Range. Past workshops have included members of the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS), U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the National Cargo Bureau. More information, and a preliminary schedule, will be available soon.

NAEGA Contracts and Best Practices Seminar – March 22

On Wednesday, March 22 in New Orleans, LA NAEGA will hold a Contracts and Best Practices Seminar following the Annual Meeting events on March 19-21. The Seminar will take place from 8:00am-3:00pm in the Sheraton New Orleans.

NAEGA Seminars are an interactive opportunity to review commercial and official practices to improve predictability, reduce risks, resolve trade barriers and facilitate the profitable trade of grains and oilseeds. Topics of this seminar will include a review of the global contracting environment, industry wide standards, guidelines and model contracts, commercial compliance with international conventions and case studies of commercial topics. In addition, issues specific to the NOLA Port-Range will be discussed. A full agenda will be available soon.

Price and registration for this Seminar will be available soon.

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](#).

[Click here to return to Index](#)

Action Reports

Recent Actions:

IGTC Newsletter

The newest edition of the IGTC Newsletter is now available! This week's newsletter includes a recap of the IGTC actions in Cancun at the Cartagena Biosafety Protocol meetings and an update on the IPPC's ePhyto project. A copy of the newsletter can be found on the IGTC intranet at www.igtglobal.org or by clicking [here](#).

Geneva and Brussels IGTC Meetings

On November 7-12 Gary Martin, as acting in his role as President of the IGTC, traveled to Geneva, Switzerland and Brussels, Belgium. In Geneva, the IGTC conducted a General Assembly and Strategy Session. During the meetings, the IGTC established a new business plan that provides for transitioning the IGTC from NAEGA administration and financial underwriting to a member funded and sustained federation. Other actions taken by IGTC included welcoming of a new IGTC member, the South African Cereals and Oilseeds Trade Association (SACOTA) and election of officers. Gary also attended a meeting of the IPPC's ePhyto Project Industry Advisory Group (IAG). [More details on these and other NAEGA actions in Geneva and Brussels can be found in the trip report here.](#)

U.S. Government Transition - Mexico

One of our top priorities related to the transition of the U.S. government will be preserving and upgrading the North American agriculture trade. To this end, discussions with Ken Ramos, Head of Trade at the Mexican Embassy to discuss impacts and changes that may result from trade policies of the president-elect and the new Congress were the focus of a group of like-minded industry representatives including NAEGA Director of Operations Ryan Olson on Friday, December 16.

During the meeting, Mr. Ramos expressed the Mexican Government's interest in upgrading and enhancing cross border trade between Mexico, Canada and the U.S. through the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Mr. Ramos pointed to the opportunity to enhance sanitary and phytosanitary rules for cross border trade in any discussions between the NAFTA parties.

The NAEGA supported concept of a [Rapid Response Mechanism](#) that was in-part successfully negotiated TTP is a good fit to upgrade to trade policy to better address plant health protection as well as many other non-tariff trade barriers. Advocating for the RRM will be a center piece of NAEGA efforts related to the U.S government transition.

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:

[Click here to return to Index](#)

In the News

U.S. Sues China over Corn, Rice and Wheat Practices

On Wednesday, December 15 the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) announced its intention to file a case at the World Trade Organization (WTO) against Chinese wheat, corn and rice trade practices. The suit alleges that Chinese tariff-rate quotas (TRQ) for these commodities fail to uphold the country's obligations under WTO rules. According to USTR, China lacks transparency in the rules for importing commodity grains resulting in underutilization of the TRQs for corn,

wheat and rice. USTR estimates that full utilization of the TRQs would have allowed nearly \$3.5 billion of imports into China in 2015.

More information on the USTR's actions against China 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.

[Click here to return to Index](#)

Calendar & Member Notices

Click [here](#) for a Copy of the IGTC Calendar

2016

December

29 – 2 – Happy New Year! – NAEGA office closed

2017

January

2 – NAEGA Office Closed

5 – Contracts Committee NAEGA 2 Revisions Call – Virtual

5 – Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade Agreements Meeting – Arent Fox, LLP, Washington, D.C.

TBD - Contracts Committee NAEGA Revisions Call – Virtual

11-12 – DBTG Executive Committee Meeting – Gijon, Spain

TBD - Contracts Committee NAEGA 2 Revisions Call – Virtual

20 – U.S. Inauguration Day – NAEGA office closed

20 – Grain Inspection Advisory Committee Applications Due

TBD - Contracts Committee NAEGA 2 Revisions Call – Virtual

February

TBD - Contracts Committee NAEGA 2 Revisions Call – Virtual

TBD – IGTC Extraordinary Webinar on LLP – Virtual

TBD – IGTC Working Visit with Chinese Member Associations – Beijing, China

1-3 – Global Grain, Food and Feed (G2F2) – Delhi, India

5-9 – IGTC Working visit with Solvent Extractors’ Association – Mumbai, India

TBD - Contracts Committee NAEGA 2 Revisions Call – Virtual

TBD - Contracts Committee NAEGA 2 Revisions Call – Virtual

TBD - Contracts Committee NAEGA 2 Revisions Call – Virtual

March

TBD – Global Low Level Presence (LLP) meeting

1 – Publication of new IPPC ISPMs for consideration at Standards Committee

1-2 – Global Grain Asia – Singapore, Singapore

1-3 Global Grain MENA – Dubai, UAE

7 – Australian Grains Industry Conference Asia – Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

TBD - Contracts Committee NAEGA 2 Revisions Call – Virtual

9 – Australian Grains Industry Conference Asia – Shanghai, China

14 – IGTC Management Council – Virtual

TBD - Contracts Committee NAEGA 2 Revisions Call – Virtual

15-31 – IGTC Working Visit with CIARA-CEC

19-21 – NGFA Convention – New Orleans, LA

19 – NAEGA Production Technology Committee Meeting – 3:15-5:30pm - Nottoway Room, Sheraton New Orleans – New Orleans, LA

20 – NAEGA Contracts Committee Meeting – 7:00-8:45am - Nottoway Room, Sheraton New Orleans – New Orleans, LA

20 – NAEGA Annual Member and Board Meetings – 12:00-5:00pm – Nottoway Room, Sheraton New Orleans – New Orleans, LA

21 – NAEGA Grades and Inspections Committee Meeting - 7:30-8:45am – Nottoway Room, Sheraton New Orleans – New Orleans, LA

21 – NOLA Regional Industry Workshop – 12:00-4:00pm – Rhythms 1 Room, Sheraton New Orleans – New Orleans, LA

22 – NAEGA Contracts and Best Practices Seminar – New Orleans, LA

29-31 – DBTG Operational Meeting – Santander, Spain

April

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

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

10-14 – IGTC Working Visit with Eastern Africa Grains Council – Nairobi, Kenya and other EAGC member countries

17-23 – Eastern African Grains Council (EAGC) Annual General Meeting – Nairobi, Kenya

24-25 – Global Low Level Presence (GLI) Meeting – Location TBD

May

1-2 – NGFA 2017 Trade Rules Seminar – Kansas City, Missouri

8-12 – IPPC Standards Committee – Rome, Italy

22-24 – ISF World Seed Congress 2017 – Budapest, Hungary

June

TBD – IMO Council – London, UK

TBD – Grain Inspection Advisory Committee Meeting

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

14 – IGTC Management Council Meeting – Virtual

27 – IPPC Industry Advisory Group on ePhyto Hub – Washington, DC

July

10-12 – GHS Subcommittee Meeting – Geneva, Switzerland

24-28 – IMO Council Session – London, UK

August

1-3 – Australian Grains Industry Conference Australia and associated meetings – Melbourne, Australia

7-11 – IGTC Working Visit with GTA – Sydney, Australia

17 – APEC High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology - Vietnam

September

11-15- IMO CCCC – London, UK

14 – IGTC Management Council Meeting – Virtual

October

TBD – IGTC General Assembly – Location TBD

TBD – NAEGA-APPAMEX Forum

November

13-17 – IPPC Standards Committee – Rome, Italy

TBD – Grain Inspection Advisory Committee Meeting

December

3 – NGFA Country Elevator Conference

6-8 – GHS Subcommittee Meeting – Geneva, Switzerland

14 – IGTC Management Council Meeting – Virtual

[Click here to return to Index](#)

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