



Holiday Schedule:

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December 29-December 30 – office closed

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Member Opportunities

OFAC 2016 Fall Symposium – December 7

Register now for the Office of Foreign Asset Control's (OFAC) 2016 Fall Symposium. The symposium will take place in Washington, D.C. on December 7, 2016 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. The event will provide a comprehensive review of current U.S. economic sanctions. This event will include presentations on OFAC regulations, as well as targeted reviews of sanctions concerns for new and updated OFAC-administered programs. In addition to formal presentations by key personnel, OFAC staff will be available throughout the day to answer individual questions from participants. The event is free, but advanced registration is required. To register, please click [here](#).

For more information please contact Gary or Ryan.

CAST Asynchronous Approvals for Biotech Crops Event – December 8

All NAEGA member representatives are invited to [register now](#) for the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) and the U.S. Biotech Crops Alliance's presentation and discussion on "The Impact of Asynchronous Approvals for Biotech Crops on Agricultural Sustainability, Trade, and Innovation. The event will take place on Thursday, December 8 from 3:00 to 4:30 pm at the American Farm Bureau Federation in Washington, DC. The presentation will include comments by Drs. Nicholas Kalaitzandonakes and Val Giddings followed by a panel discussion with Bobby Frederick of NGFA, Matthew O'Mara of BIO, Tom Sleight of the U.S. Grains Council and a U.S. Government Representative. To register for this event, please click [here](#).

For more information please contact Ryan.

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>	6:00pm-7:30pm	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 and Board Meeting to follow	Nottaway Room
	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:

Vietnam Methyl Bromide Fumigation

The U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has announced that, beginning immediately, Vietnam's Plant Protection Department (PPD) will require methyl bromide fumigation for all shipments of wheat, corn and DDGs to Vietnam. In addition, efforts led by APHIS, NAEGA and industry stakeholders to prevent a pending suspension has stalled, and PPD continues to indicate that it will suspend imports of DDGs with a bills of lading dates December 17, 2016 and later. November 25, 2016 APHIS formally requested a meeting with PPD, and they replied that the second week in January was the earliest they could meet to discuss these topics. In the interim, APHIS requested in December 1, 2016 letter that Vietnam withdraw its methyl bromide requirement and pending suspension of DDGs. The letter describes the results of APHIS investigation in response to PPD reports of live pest detections. It also recommends remedial action alternatives to methyl bromide and DDG suspension, to take place upon Vietnam's acceptance.

A copy of the letter from APHIS to PPD can be found [here](#). For more information please contact Gary or Ryan.

IGTC Secretariat in Arlington

Katy Lee, Acting Secretariat of the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) visited NAEGA headquarters in Arlington, VA last week on her way to Cancun for COP/MOP 8. While in Arlington, Katy met with NAEGA staff to discuss ongoing operational issues, including implementation of the IGTC's new business plan. In addition, Katy conducted an IGTC stakeholder briefing for Washington, D.C. based IGTC members, corporate stakeholders and governments. A copy of Katy's trip report will be available soon.

IGTC Stakeholder Meeting

On Friday, December 2, Acting IGTC Secretariat Katy Lee joined NAEGA in their Arlington offices for an IGTC Stakeholder Briefing. Katy presented on recent developments in the IGTC the IGTC policy files, discussed the new IGTC Value Proposition and highlighted changes that will occur to IGTC structure and administration now that the new business plan is in place. Highlights of Katy's presentation included the addition of IGTC's newest member, the South African Cereals and oilseeds Trade Association (SACOTA), an IGTC event with the WTO in Geneva and the IGTC President's participation in the World Grain Forum in Russia in November.

Katy's full presentation is available [here](#) and you can access the IGTC Value Proposition [here](#). All NAEGA members are considered corporate stakeholders in the IGTC. If you are interested in learning more or getting involved in IGTC policy files, please contact Katy Lee at secretariat@igtglobal.org.

Future Actions:

Cartagena Protocol COP-MOP – December 4-17

Following her stop in Arlington, Katy Lee will travel to Cancun, Mexico on December 4-17 to participate in the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety's COP-MOP 2016 Meeting. A copy of the provisional agenda is available [here](#). During the COP-MOP discussions, Katy will be representing IGTC policy position on the CBP, which can be found [here](#), and communicating closely with the IGTC's Cartagena Protocol Team.

A notice to post for this travel is available [here](#). For more information, or to provide input into the meeting, please contact the IGTC Secretariat at secretariat@igtglobal.org.

GHS Subcommittee Meeting – December 7-9

On December 6-9, 2016 NAEGA volunteer Jess McCluer, NGFA's Vice President for Safety and Regulatory Affairs, will travel to Geneva, Switzerland to participate in a meeting of the [United Nation's \(UN\) Globally Harmonized System \(GHS\) Subcommittee of Experts on the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals](#). A copy of the preliminary agenda for the Subcommittee meeting is available [here](#). A schedule of events for the meetings is available [here](#). Please click [here](#) for a copy of the notice to post for this travel.

Please contact Gary or Ryan for more information or if you would like to contribute to this mission.

Pending Actions:

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

CFTC Supplement to Position Limits Rule

On May 26, the Commodities and Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) announced that it will issue for public comment a supplement to its position limits proposal. The proposal will modify the procedures for those seeking exemptions from speculative position limits for non-enumerated bona fide hedging. The supplement would provide a new process for exchanges to recognize certain positions in commodity derivative contracts as non-enumerated bona fide hedges or enumerated anticipatory bona fide hedges, as well as to exempt from federal position limits certain spread positions, in each case subject to CFTC review.

Comments on the supplemental may be submitted electronically through the CFTC's website. If you are interested in contributing to comments on the supplemental, please contact Gary or Ryan. For more information, click [here](#).

EU Environmental Footprint Pilot

At the end of July, the European Commission launched its public consultations on Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules (PEFCR) for feed, food and drink products. The PEFCR is a pilot project to develop an approach to calculate the environmental footprint of different products with the goal of measuring environmental performance of products for future policy making. The PEFCR is an effort to measure and communicate the EU's environmental goals under its *Building the Single Market for Green Products Initiative*.

The EC has developed draft PEFCRs for each product under consultation from product secretariats formed by representatives of trade associations, companies and supply chain experts. The draft PEFCRs developed by the secretariats are now available for public consultation and comment. The comment period will be open until the first quarter of 2017.

More information on contributing to comments on the draft PEFCRs can be found [here](#). If you are interested in contributing comments to the draft PEFCRs please contact Gary or Ryan.

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In the News

Chile and Swaziland Join Trade Facilitation Agreement

Chile and Swaziland ratified the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) on November 21. The agreement, which aims to expedite the movement, release, and clearance of goods traded internationally, has so far been ratified by 98 members. Their submission of the "instruments of acceptance" to the WTO means that nearly 90% of the ratifications needed to bring the TFA into force have been submitted. The TFA will be enforceable once two-thirds of the WTO membership has formally accepted the agreement.

For more information on the ratification and the TFA agreement, please click [here](#).

USDA Washington GE Wheat Report

The U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has concluded its investigation of the presence of some genetically modified wheat plants in a Washington State field in July 2016. A copy of APHIS's findings can be found [here](#). In response to the discovery of wheat plants growing in an unplanted agricultural field, APHIS tested the farmer's full wheat harvest. The GE wheat in question is resistant to Roundup®. All samples tested by APHIS were found to be negative for any GE wheat material and APHIS ensured that no GE wheat moved into commerce.

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

7-9 – UN GHS Subcommittee Meeting – Geneva, Switzerland

8 – CAST Asynchronous Approvals for Biotech Crops Event – Washington, DC

14 – IGTC Management Council Meeting, 12pm – Virtual

23 – NAEGA office closes at 3pm

26 – NAEGA office closed

27 – Merry Christmas – NAEGA office closed

29 – NAEGA office closed

30 - 1 – 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

September

14 – IGTC Management Council Meeting – Virtual

December

14 – IGTC Management Council Meeting – Virtual

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