



*“Working Together to Make Trade Work”*

**OUTREACH December 7, 2015**  
Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

*From all of us at NAEGA, we wish you and your families a  
Happy Holiday Season!*

**Member Opportunities**

- NAEGA Annual Meeting - San Diego – March 13
- Seminars and Internships

**Action Reports**

- IGTC Meetings and General Assembly in Buenos Aires
- Alternative Security Program (ASP) Workshop

**Future Actions**

- APHIS Letter to Vietnam on Infestation of Warehouse Beetle

**Information For Your Consideration**

- U.S. OFAC Updates FAQ Section for Cuba
- USDA APHIS MON 87403 Deregulation
- U.S. Highway Funding Passage and Reauthorization of Ex-Im Bank
- U.S. Congress Working to Avoid Government Shutdown
- WTO Ministers Preparing to Meet in Nairobi

**NAEGA Calendar and Member Notices**

- Upcoming Events and Notices for Members

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## Member Opportunities

### NAEGA Annual Meeting – San Diego – March 13

NAEGA requests that you please *Save the Date* for its Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 13, 2016. The annual meeting will take place at the Hotel de Coronado in San Diego, California. This meeting coincides with the National Grain and Feed Association’s 120<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, which will run from March 13-15.

Hotel reservations in the NGFA room block can now be made. To make a hotel reservation ahead for the NAEGA Annual Meeting, please click [here](#).

More information will be available soon. Please contact Gary or Ryan with any questions.

### Seminars and Internships

**Contract Seminars:** Please click [here](#) for more information on NAEGAs in-depth, interactive education on contract practices.

**Internships:** Information on working for NAEGA as an intern in our Washington, D.C. office 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

### IGTC Meetings and General Assembly Buenos Aires

From December 1-3, the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) completed another successful set of meetings in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In all, IGTC welcomed over 50 individuals from 10 countries to participate in the meetings and an association General Assembly. Participants included members of industry, academia, and government. The IGTC meetings took place at the Bolsa de Cereales and involved four separate events: a grain trade reception following the International Grains Council (IGC)/Bolsa de Cereales all-day International Grains Forum; a stakeholder outreach session; an IGTC strategy session; and a IGTC General Assembly. A complete agenda can be found [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#). See below for more details about the IGTC events:

- **Grain Trade Reception:** The Grain Trade Reception at the Bolsa de Cereales followed an all-day IGC/Bolsa International Grain Forum. The forum included presentations from

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members of industry and academia. All IGC presentations can be found [here](#). After the forum, nearly 200 participants and grain trade professionals attended the IGTC-sponsored reception.

- **IGTC Strategy Session:** IGTC members and stakeholders met to discuss policy and strategy at a session on December 2. Discussion included International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) International Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) for grain, electronic documentation, labeling, biosafety and low-level presence (LLP), among other topics. At this session, IGTC members and stakeholders agreed to adopt a proposal to participate in the IPPC’s development of an E-Phyto hub. Under this proposal, IGTC would actively participate in and contribute support to the IPPC’s development of a hub connecting country plant protection organizations. IGTC agreed that this hub should incorporate not only E-Phytos, but also other documents like bills of lading and origin certificates.
- **Stakeholder Outreach Session:** On December 3, IGTC participated in a very informative Outreach Session sponsored by local IGTC members CIARA-CEC. Over 50 individuals were in attendance. The Outreach session included presentations on new plant breeding techniques (NPBTs), [electronic documentation](#), [the UN Climate Change Conference](#), [the WTO and Mercosur](#), and the [Argentine Bioeconomy](#).
- **IGTC General Assembly:** On December 3, the IGTC held a general assembly for all members. The general assembly included reports on IGTC activities, a financial update, formation of the corporate stakeholder advisory board, and other ongoing business. A copy of the agenda can be found [here](#). Key outcomes from this session include the addition of Geoff Honey of Grain Trade Australia and Rosalind Leeck of USSEC to the IGTC Management Council. At this session, the IGTC also announced that the International Grains Council (IGC) has accepted the IGTC to participate in its sessions and attend the IGC’s 43<sup>rd</sup> Session in June. A copy of the IGTC press release can be found [here](#).

A report on the meetings and minutes of the General Assembly will be available in the near future. For more information, please contact Gary or Ryan.

### **Alternative Security Program (ASP) Workshop**

On November 18, the NAEGA and NGFA hosted a successful U.S. Coast Guard Alternative Security Program (ASP) workshop at their Washington, D.C. headquarters. The NAEGA-NGFA ASP users, ASP users from other associations, and U.S. Coast Guard personnel participated. Senior Advisor Jerry Cotter participated on behalf of NAEGA. The workshop included input from ASP users on seafarer shore access, ASP Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circulars (NVIC), and cybersecurity, among other items. Presentations on cybersecurity, the USCG Vessel Security Division, and the facility/vessel link can be found [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#), respectively.

Alternative Security Programs provide an alternative to Facility Security Plans to meet some security measures required by the Maritime Transportation Security Act (MTSA). Our ASP is available to facilities operated by NGFA and NAEGA members in good standing. If you are

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interested in learning more about the NAEGA-NGFA ASP, please contact Gary or Ryan for more information.

## **Future Actions**

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

### **2015**

**APHIS Letter to Vietnam on Infestation of Warehouse Beetle:** The U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has responded to Vietnam’s national plant protection agency regarding Vietnam’s notice of warehouse beetles in a shipment of DDGs from the U.S. The APHIS letter requests that Vietnam not suspend imports of DDGs and instead allow fumigation of infested shipments while the agency conducts trace-back investigations.

As this situation develops, NAEGA welcomes your questions and advice. Please contact Gary or Ryan with any questions or comments.

*NAEGA Actions on Current Issues are tracked on the Members Only Section under their relevant committee pages.*

[Click here to return to Index](#)

## **Information for your Consideration**

### **U.S. OFAC Updates FAQ Section for Cuba**

The U.S. Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) has updated its FAQ section for Cuba to include information on how authorized Cuba travel-related transactions by financial institutions subject to U.S. jurisdiction are processed. According to the new FAQ, a financial institution is not required to independently verify the authorization of an individual’s travel to Cuba when processing such transactions. Instead, a financial institution is allowed to rely on U.S. travelers to provide authorized travel certifications “directly to the person providing travel or carrier services when processing Cuba traveler related transactions, unless the financial institution knows or has reason to know that the travel is not authorized by a general or specific license.” The new section also provides information regarding recordkeeping of such certifications by persons subject to U.S. jurisdiction who provide travel or carrier services, as per the Cuban Assets Control Regulations (CACR), and recordkeeping by U.S. travelers who operate under a general or specific license.

To view the updated FAQ page, click [here](#).

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### **USDA APHIS MON 87403 Deregulation**

On Friday, December 4, the USDA’s Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced the deregulation on Monsanto’s GE corn for increased ear biomass MON 87403. After a determination and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), as well as a plant pest risk assessment that finds this GE corn is unlikely to pose a plant pest risk to agriculture and other plants in the United States, MON 87403 is now cleared for commercialization.

A copy of APHIS’s notification on MON 87403 can be found [here](#).

### **U.S. Highway Funding Passage and Reauthorization of Ex-Im Bank**

On Friday, December 4, President Obama signed into law the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank. The Bank’s authority lapsed on July 1, 2015, when reauthorization was blocked, confining its operations to existing claims only; it is now authorized through September 2019. Although the bank was expected to begin processing new and suspended applications early this week, it cannot approve transactions in excess of \$10 million until Congress fills at least one of its three unoccupied board seats. This reauthorization was part of the new highway bill, which calls for expenditures of \$205 billion on highways and \$48 billion on transit projects in the course of the next five years. The legislation marks the first time since 2005 that Congress has passed a transportation funding bill for a term longer than two years.

To learn more about the Bank’s reauthorization, click [here](#). Information regarding the highway bill more generally can be found [here](#).

### **U. S. Congress Working to Avoid Government Shutdown**

A government shutdown is on the horizon if Congress fails to pass a spending bill by Friday, December 11. In the event that a bill isn’t completed by Monday, December 7, Congress will need to approve short-term funding that will allow the government to remain open past the Friday deadline. Policy riders supported by Republicans on issues such as refugee screening, banking and environmental regulations, and health care are reportedly the biggest challenge in negotiations on the bill. Both chambers of Congress are scheduled for a break beginning on December 18; the House of Representatives will be back in session on January 5, 2016, while the Senate will tentatively convene again on January 11.

To read more about the negotiations, click [here](#).

### **WTO Ministers Preparing to Meet in Nairobi**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) is set to take place from December 15-18, 2015, in Nairobi, Kenya. The Conference is the WTO’s most senior decision-making entity and is convened every two years. According to a draft of the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration, prepared by the three facilitators tasked with member support in developing a declaration, all aspects of agriculture reform will be treated as a priority given the significance of agriculture for many organization members, including least-developed countries (LDCs).

Additional information about this year’s Conference can be found [here](#).

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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.*

[Click here to return to Index](#)

## Calendar & Member Notices

### 2015

#### December

**6-8** – Kansas City, MO – NGFA Country Elevator Conference and Trade Show

**9-11** – Geneva, Switzerland – Globally Harmonized System (GHS) Subcommittee meeting. Jerry Cotter attending

**15-18** – Nairobi, Kenya – Tenth WTO Ministerial Conference. For more information, click [here](#).

### 2016

#### January

**11-14** – Washington, D.C. – Transportation Research Board (TRB) Agricultural Transportation Committee Annual Meeting. Gary Martin will present on multiple freight transportation modes related to the U.S. grain industry.

#### March

**13** – San Diego, California – NAEGA Annual Meeting

**23-24** – Orange, California – Chapman Phytosanitary Irradiation Forum

#### April

**14** – Winnipeg, Canada – Tentative IGTC Meeting

#### June

**14** – London, UK – IGC Grains Conference

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