

Outreach

December 8, 2017

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

Graphic of the week:

This Sunday the 11th WTO Ministerial kicks off in Buenos Aires Improving market access for agricultural products is already shaping up to be a major theme of the conference. Read more below!

World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference 11

WTOMC11 opens in Buenos Aires on Sunday, and negotiators have already tabled several new proposals:

Capping trade-distorting support

- Some members are calling for new caps on trade distorting subsidies. The most widely shared proposal would classify countries as either highly-trade distorting “amber box” support or “de minimis” payments
- Countries would be divided into three categories, each taking on different reduction commitments:
 - Developed countries would take their permitted “de minimis” payments during a historical base period (2011-2015) and add this to their existing WTO commitment on amber box support; that figure would be cut by a percentage
 - Developing countries without amber box commitments would take twice their “de minimis” support levels in the base period and subject this to a different percentage cut to be negotiated later
 - Developing countries with amber box commitments would cut the sum of their amber box and “de minimis” support by applying the same cut as other developing countries plus an “additional contribution” if their total amber box commitments exceed US\$500 million
- Developed countries would implement the new limit as soon as WTO members adopt the decision; developing countries would have two extra years; least developed countries would not be required to make domestic support commitments



Public stockholding

- India, China, Indonesia, and others have long sought greater flexibility for developing countries that buy food at minimum prices as part of their public food stockholding schemes.
- A four year compromise on stockpiling that shields stockpiling countries from dispute resolution in exchange for more transparency will expire at this year’s meeting.
- Members will need to consider whether to extend this compromise or come to a lasting resolution.

Improving transparency on export prohibitions and restrictions

- Members will also consider efforts to improve transparency on export prohibitions. Some proposals include: committing members to continuing talks on this area after the MC11; promoting increased transparency; and exempting humanitarian food aid purchased by the World Food Programme from export constraints

Revitalizing talks on market access and export competition

- Argentina and four other agricultural exporting countries tabled a draft decision which would commit ministers to reinvigorate talks on market access for farm goods, with a view to achieving market access outcomes at the next MC in 2019

Member Opportunities

- U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade High-Level Steering Group Meeting – Washington, DC – December 14
- U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade Meeting with USTR – Washington, DC – December 19
- CMC State of the Industry 2018 – Miami, FL – January 28-30
- NAEGA Board of Directors Meeting – Miami, FL – January 30
- NAFTA and Asia-Pacific Policy Teams

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Member Opportunities

U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade High-Level Steering Group Meeting – Washington, DC – December 14

Please “save the date” for the next meeting of the U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade High-Level Steering Group. Members are invited to attend a meeting with Tiger Minsok Chu, President of the Korea International Trade Association, to discuss cooperative efforts regarding outreach to Congress and the Administration on the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement.

The meeting will take place on Thursday, December 14 at 10:30am in the North American Meat Institute Conference Room at 1150 Connecticut Ave NW #1200.

Please contact Ryan if you have any questions.

U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade Meeting with USTR – Washington, DC – December 19

NAEGA member personnel are invited to attend the next meeting of the U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade. The meeting will take place at King and Spalding at 1700 Pennsylvania Ave NW #200 in Washington, D.C. at 2:00pm on December 19. [To RSVP please click here.](#) A preliminary agenda can be found below.

Tentative Agenda:

2:00-2:10pm: Introductions and roll call

2:10-3:00pm: Briefing from the U.S. Trade Representative

John Melle, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for the Western Hemisphere

Sharon Bomer-Lauritsen, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Agricultural Affairs and Commodity Policy

Michael Beeman, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Japan, Korea, and APEC

Stewart Young, Deputy Assistant Trade Representative for Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement

3:00-3:30pm: Questions and discussion

3:30-4:00pm: U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade Working Group Update

North American Market Working Group

Asia-Pacific Working Group

International Outreach Working Group

4:00pm: Adjourn

Please contact Ryan if you have any questions.

CMC State of the Industry 2018 – Miami, FL – January 28-30

NAEGA member personnel are invited to join the NAEGA Board of Directors at the Commodity Markets Council's State of the Industry 2018 conference. The conference will take place at The Miami Beach Edition Hotel. CMC is the leading trade association for commodity futures exchanges and their industry counterparts. The State of the Industry 2018 conference will include discussion and presentations by industry and government leaders focusing on agriculture, metals, energy, power and technology markets. Governor of Nebraska Pete Ricketts will join the conference as the keynote speaker. A copy of the draft agenda can be found [here](#). [Please click here if you would like to register.](#)

NAEGA Board of Directors Meeting – Miami, FL – January 30

Please "save the date" for the next meeting of the NAEGA Board of Directors on January 28-30 in Miami, FL. The Board is planning to meet the afternoon of January 30 right after and in conjunction with the Commodity Market Council's State of the Industry 2018 Conference at The Miami Beach Edition Hotel. More information, and a preliminary agenda, will be available soon.

NAFTA and Asia-Pacific Policy Teams

With NAFTA negotiations underway and the evolving U.S.-China trade relationship we expect many more fast paced and dramatic developments that could greatly change the terms of trade for NAEGA members. Your involvement is needed!

NAEGA ad hoc policy teams of member personnel working largely through conference calls are helping to guide our multifaceted effort to address the evolving trade environment. Teams focused on the North American Free Trade Agreement and the Asia–Pacific Market are already established. The **NAFTA Policy Team** will be heavily engaged over the next three months to support NAEGA work with the U.S. Food and Ag. Dialogue for Trade, The Pacific Northwest Economic Region, the Canada U.S. Grain and Seed Trade Task Group and the NAEGA committees and Board of Directors to address NAFTA. A similar effort will soon start with an **Asia-Pacific Policy Team** that will be focused on U.S. trade relations with China, Japan, Korea and the Trans Pacific environment more generally.

Please contact [Ryan](#) if you have any questions or are interested in participating in NAEGA’s ad hoc policy teams.

Contracts and Best Practices Seminars

NAEGA is beginning to plan seminars for 2018! Let us know where we should hold 2018 Seminars and what topics you would like us to cover. NAEGA also conducts company specific private seminars. Please let us know if you are interested attending or hosting a NAEGA seminar. Click [here](#) for more information the in-depth, interactive programs NAEGA conducts!

Internships

We have an open intern position starting January 2017 to work at the NAEGA office at 1400 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202. 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:

EU, IGC, Cocalal and IGTC events in Brussels, Belgium – December 3-6

Gary is back from a successful meeting in Brussels, Belgium with grain trade leaders and IGTC members and corporate stakeholders. While in Brussels, Gary attended the International Grains Council’s 46th Session on December 5th, where he presented before IGC members (to view his presentation please click [here](#)). The IGC meetings bring together government representatives and industry stakeholders from around the world. As per the member-endorsed agreement in Buenos Aires in December 2015, the IGTC remains a committed partner at the IGC, providing grain trade updates at Council sessions, conferences and the Market Conditions Committee meetings. In addition, Gary also attended the following meetings and events:

1. ***A European Commission Grains Outlook Seminar*** on December 4. At the Seminar, the Commission will present its outlook for global grain supply, demand and trade.

2. The *Coceral Annual Reception co-hosted by the IGTC*. Invitees will include all 55 IGC member governments as well as Brussels agri-value chain representatives and officials from the EU institutions.

A trip report for this meeting will be available soon.

IGTC Newsletter

The latest IGTC newsletter is now available! This week's newsletter includes information about the IGTC delegation in Brussels, a leadership change at the IGC, and the publication of the November 2017 IPPC Standards Committee report.

For more details, read the IGTC Newsletter [here](#) or visit the IGTC website at www.igtglobal.org.

Clause 20 Certifications

Over the past few weeks NAEGA President and CEO Gary Martin has issued two Clause 20 certifications upon the recommendation of a NAEGA Clause 20 panel.

Hurricane Harvey – August-September 2017

This request for certification resulted when delivery was prevented at the applicant's elevator due to actions by Federal, state or local governments or authorities. Leading up to and following the passing of Hurricane Harvey through the Houston area, the U.S. Coast Guard limited traffic and closed the Port of Houston, preventing vessels from accessing the applicant's facility and preventing loading of the commodity. The panel recommended and the President certified that a valid cause existed between 1500 CDT on August 24, 2017 and 0306 CDT on September 5, 2017.

Hurricane Nate – October 2017

This request for certification resulted when delivery was prevented at the applicant's elevator due to actions by Federal, state or local governments or authorities. Leading up to and following the passing of Hurricane Nate through the New Orleans area, Plaquemines Parish issued a mandatory evacuation that resulted in the closing and suspension of labor at the applicant's elevator. This prevented delivery of the commodity at the applicant's facility. The panel recommended and the President certified that a valid cause existed between 1500 CDT on October 6, 2017 and 1300 CDT on October 8, 2017.

Pending Actions:

U.S. APHIS Consultations on IPPC Activities

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is accepting consultations on three draft specifications and 13 draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) from the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

Draft Specifications:

- [Revision of ISPM 12](#)
- [Audit of phytosanitary context](#)
- [Supplement to ISPM 11](#)

Draft ISMPs:

- [2017 Amendments to ISPM 5: Glossary of phytosanitary terms](#)
- [International movement of cut flowers and foliage](#)
- [Requirements for the use of fumigation as a phytosanitary measure](#)
- [Diagnostic protocols: Bactrocera dorsalis complex](#)
- [Diagnostic protocols: Conotrachelus nenuphar](#)
- [Diagnostic protocols: Ips spp](#)
- [Diagnostic protocols: Xylella fastidiosa](#)
- [Diagnostic protocols: Puccinia psidii](#)
- [Revision of Diagnostic Protocol: Plus pox virus](#)
- [Revision of ISPM 6: Surveillance](#)
- [Requirements for the use of temperature treatments as a phytosanitary measure](#)
- [Draft revision of Annexes 1 & 2 to ISPM15](#)
- [Draft 2015 and 2016 amendments to ISPM 5 Glossary of phytosanitary terms](#)

Please contact Gary or Ryan if you are interested in contributing to any of these comments.

CFIA Consultations for Canada-U.S. RCC

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is seeking input from stakeholders for the development of new cooperation opportunities and prioritization of existing initiatives under the Canada-United States Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC). The purpose of this consultation is to provide an additional mechanism to seek stakeholder feedback on the prioritization of work plan initiatives currently being pursued between the CFIA and its U.S. regulatory counterparts, and to solicit input on potential opportunities for the future. There is no firm deadline for completion of this consultation. However, CFIA’s tentative timeframe for collecting input is by fall of this year. Input [can be submitted at this link](#).

Canada – U.S. RCC Request for Stakeholder Comments

NAEGA is seeking member input on the Government of Canada’s call for [suggestions for regulatory cooperation that supports participation in the Canada-U.S. Regulatory Cooperation Council \(RCC\)](#). Canadians, businesses, and stakeholders have been encouraged to submit suggestions for regulatory reconciliation and cooperation items for federal consideration.

Suggestions for regulatory reconciliation should focus on existing federal regulations that act as a barrier to trade, investment, or labor mobility between Canada and the U.S. Suggestions for regulatory cooperation should highlight areas where governments could cooperate in the development of future regulations, in order to facilitate innovation, competition, and growth in emerging industries, technologies and sectors.

If you are interested in contributing to NAEGA comments on the RCC please contact Gary or Ryan. Comments are due by January 8, 2018.

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In the News

New WTO Trade Restrictions Report

A recent WTO report finds that WTO members introduced fewer trade-restrictive measures from mid-October 2016 to mid-October 2017 compared to the previous year. At \$169 billion, the import-facilitating measures adopted during the review period covered twice the value of the import-restrictive measures implemented, which totaled \$79 billion. The initiation of trade remedy investigations remained the most frequently applied trade-restrictive measure at around 46% of the total, with the initiation of antidumping investigations accounting for 83% of all trade remedy initiations. India led the way with 55 new AD investigations during July 2016-June 2017, followed by the US (47), Argentina (21), Canada (19), Turkey (19), and Australia (18).

You can read more about the report [here](#).

Court Rules on Signing Contracts

A recent U.S. Court of Appeals held that an arbitral clause in a contract must be signed by the parties in order to be enforceable. The defendant sought to compel arbitration based on an employment contract between the seaman and the vessel owner. The court ruled in its that “the litigant prove the agreement is in writing and ‘signed by the parties’” in order for a legitimate claim to be filed.

You can read the full decision [here](#).

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

2017

December

10-13 – WTO Ministerial Conference – Buenos Aires, Argentina

14 – U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade’s High Level Steering Group Meeting – Washington, D.C.

19 - U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade Meeting with USTR – Washington, D.C.

2018

January

18 – Annual Grain Sector Meeting with U.S. APHIS Administrator

22-26 – IPPC Global ePhyto Symposium – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

25-26 – Paris Grain Day 2018 – Paris, France

28-30 – Commodity Markets Council State of the Industry – Miami, FL

28-30 – NAEGA Board of Directors Meeting – Miami, FL

30 – IGTC Management Council - Virtual

February

21-22 – WTO Agriculture Committee – Geneva, Switzerland

28 – IGTC MRL Policy Team Call - Virtual

28-March 1 – WTO SPS Committee – Geneva, Switzerland

March

14 – IGTC Management Council - Virtual

18-20 – NGFA Annual Convention – Scottsdale, Arizona

18-20 – NAEGA Annual Meetings – Scottsdale, Arizona

26-28 – Canadian Global Crops Symposium – Toronto, Canada

April

16-20 – IPPC Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-13) – Rome, Italy

May

14-18 – IPPC Standards Committee – Rome, Italy

June

6-7 – WTO Agriculture Committee – Geneva, Switzerland

14 – IGTC Management Council – Virtual

18-20 IGTC Strategy Session – London, UK

19 – 27th IGC Grains Conference – London, UK

19 – 2018 Gafta London Dinner – London, UK

July

1-September 30 – IPPC ISPM Consultation - Virtual

11-12 – WTO SPS Committee – Geneva, Switzerland

August

1-2 – Australian Grains Industry Conference – Melbourne, Australia

September

4-7 – IGTC and Gafta Seminars – Washington, D.C.

10 – USSEC Annual Event – Mid-West, U.S.A.

14 – IGTC Management Council – Virtual

26-27 – WTO Agriculture Committee – Geneva, Switzerland

October

31-November 1 – WTO SPS Committee – Geneva, Switzerland

November

19-23 – IPPC Standards Committee – Rome, Italy

21-22 – WTO Agriculture Committee – Geneva, Switzerland

TBC – COP 14 – CBD and COP-MOP 9 - Egypt

December

14 – IGTC Management Council - Virtual

TBD – Biosafety Protocol COP 14 – Egypt

2020

December

TBC – COP 15 – CBD – Beijing, China

2022

December

TBC – COP 16 – CBD - Turkey

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