



*“Working Together to Make Trade Work”*

## **OUTREACH December 9, 2013**

**Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA**

### **Member participation opportunity:**

- Canada-U.S. Grain and Seed Trade Task Group – Conference Call – December 12
- Biotech Trade Restrictions in China – Beijing, China – December 14-21
- U.S. Biotech Crop Alliance Plenary Meeting – Washington, D.C. – December 16-17
- NAEGA Annual Meeting – Hilton Head, South Carolina – March 31, 2014

### **Action Reports**

- NAEGA Committee Conference Calls
- Americas-Asia – Trans-Pacific Partnership Letter
- U.S. – Letter to Congress on Critical Role of United States Trade Representative
- World – Soy Sustainability Certificate Process Webinar

### **New Issues**

- World – WTO meeting in Bali, Indonesia

### **NAEGA Calendar and Member Notices**

- Upcoming Events and Notices for Members

## **NAEGA Member Participation Opportunity**

### **Canada U.S Grain and Seed Trade Task Group – Conference Call – December 12**

The Canada-U.S. Grain and Seed Task Group is having a conference call on Thursday, December 12 from 10:00am to 11:30am Eastern. The discussion items for the call include:

- Organization & Communication
  - Canada-US Grain & Seed Task Group Website
- Phytosanitary Measures
  - Agricultural Commodity Flows from U.S. to Canada Study
  - Canada's new Global Import Framework (GIF)
- Comments on Canada's Varietal Crop Registration
- Update on North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO)
- U.S.-Canada Regulatory Cooperation Council -- Review of Canada and U.S. Submissions, next steps

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- Work under the Consultative Committee on Agriculture
- Collaboration with Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER)
- Trans-Pacific Partnership -- Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
- Next Meeting & Participation

NAEGA members are welcome to call in using the coordinates listed below. If there are additional items you would like discussed, please let Gary or Kyle know.

Dial In Information: 1.404.920.6650

Toll-free if needed: 1.800.977.8002

Participant Code: 245335#

### **Biotech Trade Restrictions in China**

NAEGA members are invited to industry meetings in Beijing, China during the week of December 16 at which we plan to meet with key industry and government officials to learn more about the Chinese biotechnology regulatory process and current practices while improving awareness of the nature of the U.S. supply chain and the practicalities of managing crop biotechnology events that may be found in export and domestic shipments. Given ongoing trade disruptions resulting from the aggressive introduction of biotechnology events in the absence of approval in major markets like China, we find unmanageable risks in exporting U.S. grain and oilseeds. Hence, and in light of the current and long-standing uncertainties regarding the biotech corn event MIR 162, NAEGA is compelled to convene such a dialog on behalf of all its members and international grain trade stakeholders in general.

Mission objectives include reducing and mitigating those risks in both the short and longer term. In the event the current MIR 162 approval of import into China is not resolved, we expect to work with Chinese industry and government officials to seek a speedy remedy to resolve the shipments in detention now as well as to avoid future similar trade disruptions.

If interested in attending the trip, please contact Gary ASAP.

### **U.S. Biotech Crop Alliance Plenary Meeting – Washington, D.C. – December 16-17**

The U.S. Biotech Crop Alliance Executive Committee convened on December 6. The meeting was primarily to prepare for the plenary session on December 16 and 17, discuss potential new members, and decide on fee structure of the organization. If you would like to attend the plenary meeting on December 16-17 downtown Washington, D.C., please RSVP to Gary or Kyle.

### **NAEGA Annual Meeting – Hilton Head, South Carolina – March 31, 2014**

NAEGA will hold its Annual meeting in Hilton Head, South Carolina on Monday, March 31, 2013 in conjunction with NGFA’s convention. You can now reserve your hotel room at the Westin Hilton Head Resort by clicking [here](#). An agenda and further details will be available in the near future.

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*Full Details on Upcoming Events can be found in the Meetings & Events Section of the [NAEGA Member’s Only Page](#). (Please note, the Member’s Only Page is in the final stages of a transition. Some documents may be missing. If you cannot find something you are looking for, please let Kyle know. We apologize for any inconvenience).*

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## Reports on NAEGA Actions

### NAEGA Committee Conference Calls

NAEGA’s four standing committees meet via conference call from December 3-6 to discuss and review key issues and priority actions items. In all cases plans for 2014, including plans for the Annual meetings in Hilton Head, South Carolina on March 31, were discussed.

The **International Programs Committee** focused on the need to address the ongoing problems related to aggressive commercialization of biotech crops and delays approvals for import to China resulted in a decision to plan for meetings in Beijing as soon as possible. Current plans are detailed in Member Opportunities section above. The Committee also considered reports on the [International Grain Trade Coalition](#) and the NAEGA International Programs budget. Further action related to the budget was tabled pending incorporation of expenses related to the upcoming mission to China.

The **Grades and Inspections Committee** reviewed the extensive committee agenda that included discussion on how to address:

- Report on the first vessel and conducting additional “Vessel Comparison Studies” under the USDA – AQSIQ Soybean Quality MOU,
- The Fluazifop MRL violation on Soybeans in Japan,
- Canada’s Grain Import Framework (GIF) intended to further work on D-12-05,
- Mexican Boarder procedures from SENISICA,
- Egypt’s phytosanitary requirements,
- Potential EU verification of USDA FGIS ochratoxin and vomitoxin testing for wheat,
- Development of a Standard for the international movement of grain by the International Plant Protection Convention,
- Official actions related to combustible dust and Globally Harmonized System for Labeling,
- Failures to provide USDA FGIS official grain inspection in the State of Washington,
- Status of NAEGA priorities in TPP and TTIP negotiations.
- China and MIR 162.

NAEGA will soon be gauging the interest of the committee regarding the EU verification of wheat mycotoxin testing, future provision of official inspections in Washington, and the upcoming annual meeting in Hilton Head, South Carolina on March 31.

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**The Contracts Committee** reviewed progress regarding NAEGA applicants to the [American Arbitration Association International Center for Dispute Resolution \(AAA\)](#). NAEGA will encourage applicants to continue to pursue acceptance to the AAA and coordinate with each other as well as NAEGA. The Committee also had a lengthy and robust discussion on Clause 15 (Communications) of the NAEGA contract and whether the clause should further define a “business day.” Finally, the committee was briefed on GAFTA’s efforts to draft a new FOB contract specifically for exports from Canada.

The **Biotechnology Committee** discussed China, the MIR 162 issue, and aggressive commercialization. The Committee was also briefed on the U.S. Biotech Crop Alliance (USBICA), biosafety protocol and documentation of GMOs, and progress with the [International Grain Trade Coalition](#).

### **Americas-Asia – Trans-Pacific Partnership Letter**

NAEGA joined several other US Food and Agriculture trade supporting organizations in a letter to U.S. Trade Representative, Michael Froman, expressing concerns about the Administration’s ‘General Exception’ proposal for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). The letter illustrates concerns that the Administration’s product-specific proposal would create a new and troubling precedent undermining existing trade disciplines in the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations. Specifically, we are concerned that our trading partners will follow suit and propose other product-specific language to protect sensitive industries like agriculture. The letter finished by reiterating the importance of science-based regulations to achieve legitimate health-related objectives.

A copy of the letter can be found [here](#).

### **U.S. – Letter to Congress on Critical Role of United States Trade Representative**

NAEGA joined several other U.S. Food and Agriculture trade supporting organizations in a letter to the U.S. Congress highlighting the importance of the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) to the export market and overall U.S. economy. The letter explains that insufficient funding of the USTR jeopardizes U.S. exports and trade negotiations necessary to keep the U.S. competitive in world markets. With over \$140 billion in exports and increasing non-tariff barriers to trade, the USTR is particularly important to the U.S. agriculture industry.

A copy of the Letter can be found [here](#).

### **World – Soy Sustainability Certificate Process Webinar**

NAEGA, in conjunction with the United States Soybean Export Council (USSEC), hosted a webinar on December 4. Eighteen participants learned about the new shipment specific Soy Sustainability Certificate now available via a free internet based application and allocation system (protocol). Individual companies to discuss the protocol and certification process one on one should contact Brent Babb at [babb@ussec.org](mailto:babb@ussec.org) or 636-449-6020.

You can learn more about the certification process [here](#).

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

**2013**

**Jan. 3** – Comments to USDA on Enhancing Agricultural Coexistence Doc. No. APHIS—2013—0047. More information can be found [here](#).

**Jan. 27** – Comments to FDA’s proposed rule on importer/third-party accreditation of foreign foods: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/07/29/2013-17994/accreditation-of-third-party-auditors-certification-bodies-to-conduct-food-safety-audits-and-to-issue>  
<http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=FDA-2011-N-0146-0039>

*NAEGA Actions on Current Issues are tracked on both the Member’s Only Section under their relevant committee pages and the on the Personal Page’s site. Updates to tracked issues are posted in this section.*

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## **New Issues & Opportunities for NAEGA Consideration**

### **World – WTO Meeting in Bali, Indonesia**

The World Trade Organization met in Bali, Indonesia for a Ministerial Conference from December 5-7. The conference produced the “Bali Package” which is aimed to provide developing nations with further opportunities in regards to food security. In regards to agriculture specifically, the package covers tariff quota administration, export subsidies, and developing countries’ public stockholding for food security. The package now goes to the full membership for consideration.

A copy of the press release regarding the “Bali Package” 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.*

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## **NAEGA Calendar & Member Notices**

**2013**

**December**

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**11** - Washington, D.C. – Meeting with Canada Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to discuss CFIA Grain Import Framework (GIF): Options for Import to Canada. The GIF replaces previous work on D-12-05.

**14-21** – Beijing, China – NAEGA representatives to meet with U.S. government and Chinese industry and government on MIR 162

**16-17** - Washington, D.C. – USBCA’s first plenary meeting 3:00pm to 5:00pm Eastern. Established under U.S. Value Chain Biotech MOU signed in 2012, the USBCA is working across the plant based agriculture value chain to provide for new and stronger collaboration on measures to improve the marketability of U.S. crops.

## **2014**

### **January**

**27-29** Doha, Qatar - **U.S. - Middle East, & Africa Grain Trade Forum: Partnership for Fostering Trade.** Conducted jointly by U.S. Wheat Associates (USW), U.S. Grains Council (USGC), U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC), North American Grain Export Association (NAEGA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture/ Foreign Agriculture Service (USDA/FAS). Grand Hyatt Doha,

### **February**

**20-21** Arlington, Virginia – USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum – USDA’s annual event to discuss the changing face of agriculture.

### **March,**

**6-7** Washington, D.C. – CBP East Coast Trade Symposium held at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C. This was originally scheduled for October 24-25, 2013 but had to be rescheduled due to the government shutdown.

**31** – 2014 NAEGA Annual Meetings – Westin Hilton Head Resort – Hilton Head, South Carolina (in conjunction with NGFA’s Convention March, 30 – April, 1). Reservations can be made [here](#).

### **June**

**10** – IGC Grains Conference – Tower Hotel, Tower Bridge, London

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