



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

OUTREACH February 10, 2014

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

NAEGA’s office will be closed on Monday, February 17th in observance of the U.S. President’s Day. The office will re-open on Tuesday, February 18th.

Member participation opportunity:

- Mark Your Calendars for the NAEGA Annual Meeting – Hilton Head, South Carolina – March 31, 2014
- USDA-FAS Industry Biotech Trade Policy Update – February 12, 2014
- U.S. – FDA Issues Proposed Rule on Sanitary Transportation of Food and Feed Under FSMA

Action Reports

- Americas and Asia – Trans-Pacific Partnership
- China – Biotech Approval Dilemma
- Mexico – “Soil Pod” Issue
- U.S. – USBCA Executive Committee

New Issues

- U.S. – Rail Delays in Midwest
- U.S. – Trade Deficit Falls to Four Year Low

NAEGA Calendar and Member Notices

- Upcoming Events and Notices for Members

NAEGA Member Participation Opportunity

Mark Your Calendars for the NAEGA Annual Meeting Hilton Head, South Carolina – March 31, 2014

We look forward to working with you in Hilton Head, South Carolina in March! The 2014 NAEGA Annual Meeting will take place on Monday, March 31, 2014 in Hilton Head, South Carolina from 12:00pm to 6:30pm. A luncheon with a guest speaker will start at noon and the Members Meeting will begin at 1:00pm. The Board Meeting will immediately follow the Members Meeting. [Click here](#) to register for the NAEGA meetings.

NAEGA meetings will coincide with the March 30-April 1, 2014 National Grain & Feed Association (NGFA) Convention. Rooms at the Westin Hilton Head can be booked at the NGFA

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rate by clicking [here](#). A special NAEGA registration for the NGFA Convention is now available [here](#).

Thank you for your investment in NAEGA! – We very much appreciate and need your company’s many contributions to the ongoing success of NAEGA. Invoices for NAEGA’s 2014 Membership Dues have been mailed to member representatives and payment is due by February 17. Prompt payment is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact the NAEGA office.

USDA-FAS Industry Biotech Trade Policy Update – February 12, 2014

USDA-FAS will hold a discussion of biotechnology trade issues on February 12 at 1:30pm Eastern. The Agenda for discussion includes:

- Global Like Minded Initiative
- Like-Minded Group
- ISO Sampling Standard
- Korea
- Taiwan Labeling
- Kenya Delegation
- EU Cloning

NAEGA member personnel who would like to call in to or attend the meeting in person should contact us as soon as possible

U.S. – FDA Issues Proposed Rules on Sanitary Transportation of Food and Feed under FSMA

On January 31st, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) posted [proposed rules](#) on sanitary transportation of food and Feed under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). The proposed rule would apply to trucks and rail transportation conveyances, but not barges or vessels.

The comment period deadline is May 31. There will be three public meetings on the proposed rules:

February 27, 2014 in Chicago, Illinois;

March 13, 2014 in Anaheim, California; and

March 20, 2014 in College Park, Maryland (outside of Washington, D.C.).

Full Details on Upcoming Events can be found in the Meetings & Events Section of the [NAEGA Member’s Only Page](#).

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Reports on NAEGA Actions

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Americas and Asia – Trans-Pacific Partnership

The Steering Committee of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Coalition met on Friday, February 7 to discuss its next steps. The group was given an update on the TPP negotiations by Barbara Weisel, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

We are tracking the TPP’s progress on the U.S. Trade Representative’s Office, which can be found [here](#).

China – Biotech Approval Dilemma

We continue to pursue several actions related to NAEGA Board Directors decisions relative to Syngenta's premature (prior to approval for import into China and other markets) commercialization of two corn events. NAEGA is now focused on improving public and targeted stakeholder information as well as contract guidance.

NAEGA and NGFA sent a joint letter to Syngenta on January 22, 2014 asking the company to halt commercialization of its Agrisure Viptera® (MIR162) until it receives approval by the Chinese government. The letter expressed concerns about the serious economic harm to exporters, grain handlers and, ultimately, agricultural producers - as well as the United States' reputation to meet its customers' needs - that has resulted from Syngenta's current approach to stewardship of Viptera. The letter also encouraged Syngenta to halt its plans to commercialize their newest product, Duracade, until it receives approval in all major export markets in order to prevent similar damage.

NAEGA and NGFA also issued a [Press Statement](#) on the issue. NAEGA's Board of Directors continues to deliberate this issue and has established an ad hoc strategy committee to consider actions in response to the Syngenta's products Viptera™ (event MIR 162 corn) and Duracade™ trait (event 5307 Corn) which are not yet approved in corn. 162 was commercialized in 2011. Syngenta apparently commercialized 5307 in 2013 - the same year they first applied for Chinese approval. Chinese approval requires a minimum of 2 years to complete meaning 5307 will most likely be found in US corn beginning with the harvest of 2014 - at least a year before China would be able to complete its review to provide for import safety certificates.

Since the letter and press statement on the issue, Syngenta has told the media that they have almost sold out of the Duracade™ for the 2014 planting season and has released [this video](#) on YouTube.

A report on NAEGA’s recent travel to China related to the MIR-162 is now available. The report was filed on February 3 with USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) incompliance with the Market Access Program (MAP) Regulations. The trip report can be found [here](#).

Mexico – “Soil Pod” Issue

We have learned of another 75 car shuttle stoppage by Mexico’s SENASICA at the Nuevo Laredo boarder inspection yard (Laredo, Texas) from January 17th to February 2nd for phytosanitary requirements regarding the presence of soil. This issue has been a growing

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problem since October of 2012. Since then, Mexico has taken a zero tolerance stance to any present quantity or proportion of soil, but has yet to define soil or provide for a risk assessment that establishes a need for a zero tolerance.

A face to face meeting between USDA-APHIS and Mexico’s SENASICA is supposed to happen at some point, but it has yet to occur. We are involved in ongoing discussions with APPAMEX to decide how best to proceed in resolving this issue.

U.S. – USBCA Executive Committee

The U.S. Biotech Crops Alliance met on Tuesday, February 4 to discuss potential solutions to the biotech dilemma in China.

The group also planned for their upcoming meeting with USDA Undersecretary Darci Vetter.

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

2013

Feb. 17 – Comments to Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) on RSPM 41 “Guidelines for Oversight Programs” at North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO)
William.D.Wesela@aphis.usda.gov

Feb. 20 – Comments due by National Plant Protection Organization officials to International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). More information can be found at [IPPC Draft Specifications Member Consultations](#) and the [Grades and Inspections page](#).

Feb. 24 – Comments to Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) on Environmental Impact Statement for Determination of Nonregulated Status of Herbicide 2, 4-D Resistant Corn and Soybeans. <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2013-0042>

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

U.S. – Rail Delays in Midwest

On February 4, BNSF Railway issued a news release alerting the trade community that a winter storm system moving across the Midwest delayed rail and hub operations significantly. The snow storm was expected to continue through the week and impact arrival and departure times, as well as the train sizes between Chicago and the Pacific Northwest.

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To prevent further delays, the Chicago Transportation Coordination Office held a meeting with the Chicago rail and switch carriers, in which they “identified levers for all types of rail business coordination, including train blocking, right-sizing interchanges for maximum throughput, diverting traffic to alternate gateways, adjusting frequency of deliveries to match capabilities, etc.”

Normal operations were expected to resume after the storm system passed.

U.S. – Trade Deficit Falls to Four-Year Low

Despite a sharp increase in the U.S. trade deficit in December 2013, the U.S. Department of Commerce statistics show that the trade deficit is the lowest it has been since 2009. In 2013 exports were up 2.8% to a record \$2.27 trillion and imports were essentially unchanged at \$2.74 trillion. U.S. exports have risen almost \$700 billion since 2009 and supported nearly 10 million domestic jobs in 2013.

Supporters of trade liberalization argue export growth has consistently slowed over the past few years and to continue strong export growth, the U.S. must expand market access through trade agreements such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership.

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

2014

February

14 – Washington, DC – Conference call with USDA-FAS and Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) regarding AMS program to register plant-based feed manufacturers in the U.S. to meet People’s Republic of China (PRC) under their Decree 118 requirements for imports to China.

18 – Washington, DC – United States Soybean Export Council (USSEC), Soy Export Sustainability Advisory Council Members conference call meeting.

18 – Washington, DC – US Biotech Crop Alliance (USBCA) Meeting with Darci Vetter, USDA Undersecretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural programs and Obama Administration nominee for agricultural negotiator with the rank of ambassador in the Office of the United States Trade Representative.

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19 – Washington, DC – USSEC Industry Advisory Council (IAC) meeting via conference call. The USSEC IAC includes NAEGA and several other senior level representatives of US soy export stakeholders including bulk and container exporters, oilseed processors, soy food companies, food grade commodity suppliers, equipment manufacturers, seed and technology providers, and a port official.

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

26 – NAEGA Biotech Committee Biotech Conference Call, tentative

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.

11 – NAEGA Grades Committee Conference Call, tentative

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

April,

14-16 – Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada – Canadian Global Crops Symposium – Hosted by the Canada Grains Council

June

10 – London, United Kingdom – International Grains Council (IGC) Grains Conference – Tower Hotel, Tower Bridge – You can register [here](#).

July

1 – Washington, DC – NAEGA 2013 MAP Contribution Report Due

15-16 – Alexandria, VA – USAEDC Attaché Seminar

September

29-October 3 – 7th Meeting of the Parties/Conference of the Parties for the So-called Cartagena Biosafety Protocol under the Convention on Biodiversity, which governs trans-boundary movements of Living Modified Organisms for feed, food and processing. More information can be found at: <http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/>

November

17-20 – Baltimore, MD – USAEDC Annual Workshop

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