



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

OUTREACH February 17, 2015

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

Plans are set for the NAEGA Member Appreciation Luncheon, Annual Membership and first Board of Directors meeting of 2015 – in San Antonio, Texas – March 16, 2015

We look forward to working with you in San Antonio, Texas next month! Beginning at 12:00 PM on Monday, March 16 the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 123 Losoya St, San Antonio, Texas – NAEGA member representatives will convene:

- We will start at noon with a member appreciation luncheon for NAEGA member personnel and their guests.
- An annual meeting of all NAEGA members will be conducted concurrent with lunch.
- A meeting of the Board of Directors elected at the Members Meeting will immediately follow.

All NAEGA member personnel are welcome for the entire afternoon on March 16th at the Hyatt Regency. At the Members Meeting each member attending is entitled to one vote on all membership matters; like election of the Board of Directors. No registration fee is required. Please let us know if you plan to attend!

The NAEGA meetings will coincide with the March 15-17, 2015 National Grain & Feed Association (NGFA) Convention at the Hyatt. A special NAEGA registration for the NGFA Convention is available for \$275.

A schedule of events for the entire 3 days can be found [here](#).

If you have not made room reservations yet, we understand the nearby Emily Morgan Hotel has space. You can reserve guest rooms at the Emily Morgan hotel at a NGFA rate by clicking [here](#).

Member Opportunities

- Learning Journey to Cuba – March 1-4, 2015
- IGTC meeting in Singapore – March 5 and 6.
- NAEGA Annual Meeting and NGFA Convention, San Antonio, Texas — March 16, 2015

Action Reports;

- Annual Grain Industry Sector Meeting with USDA APHIS
- Mexican Soil Issue
- USBCA – NAEGA Suspends of Activity
- USTR on TTIP and RED

Information for your consideration

Thank you for your membership and work with NAEGA. This copyrighted report is intended for the use of NAEGA membership only. The accuracy of the information reported and interpreted is not guaranteed. All contents are subject to correction and revision. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture NAEGA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or disability. NAEGA is an equal opportunity employer

To be removed from the NAEGA OUTREACH email list please send a message to membersonly@naega.org with the phrase “Unsubscribe from OUTREACH” in the subject line.



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

- US Soy Sustainability Assurance Protocol (SSAP) Certification Program
- US Trade Enforcement against China
- West Coast Port Labor Dispute

NAEGA Calendar and Member Notices

- Upcoming Events and Notices for Members

Member Opportunities

Learning Journey to Cuba – March 1-4, 2015

Registration for the U.S. Coalition for Cuba (USACC) U.S. Agri-business group visit to Cuba is now closed. Scheduled for March 1st through March 4th, 2015, the travel will likely be the first major U.S. business delegation to Cuba since U.S. President Obama announced changes to the Administration’s policy toward Cuba in December 2014. USACC has titled the travel mission as a **“Learning Journey to Cuba”** and notes the Cuban government has already indicated they welcome the visit. More information about USACC can be found at: <http://www.usagcoalition.com/>.

International Grain Trade Coalition meeting in Singapore – March 5-6, 2015

NAEGA member personnel are invited to attend the upcoming International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) meetings in Singapore. Meetings will start on Thursday, March 5th and run through March 6th at the [Intercontinental Hotel](#), 80 Middle Road, Singapore 188966. Participation via web conference will also be available.

Roundtable discussions of recent developments of the structure of the IGTC and policy strategies will take place. If you or a colleague from your company would like to participate in these meetings, please contact the NAEGA office or IGTC Secretariat, [Marcel Bruins](#). A copy of the draft agenda can be found [here](#).

See you in San Antonio!

The 2015 NAEGA Annual Membership Meeting and Board of Director’s meeting will coincide with the National Grain and Feed Association’s Annual Convention. NAEGA meets on March 16th, 2015 at the Hyatt Regency at 123 Losoya St, San Antonio, Texas.

While we understand the Hyatt Regency is sold out of guest rooms, the nearby Emily Morgan Hotel is likely available and can be booked by clicking [here](#).

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

Thank you for your membership and work with NAEGA. This copyrighted report is intended for the use of NAEGA membership only. The accuracy of the information reported and interpreted is not guaranteed. All contents are subject to correction and revision. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture NAEGA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or disability. NAEGA is an equal opportunity employer

To be removed from the NAEGA OUTREACH email list please send a message to membersonly@naega.org with the phrase “Unsubscribe from OUTREACH” in the subject line.



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

[Click here to return to Index](#)

Reports on NAEGA Actions

Annual Grain Industry Sector Meeting with USDA APHIS

NAEGA and other stakeholders of the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) met with APHIS Administrator, Kevin Shea, and members of the leadership team. At the meeting NAEGA primarily focused on the issues such as: the Mexican soil issue, Canada Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) directives, International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) for the movement of grain, and weed seeds in China. A copy of the agenda of topics discussed can be found [here](#) and a list of participants can be found [here](#).

Mexican Soil Issue

NAEGA has been informed by its Mexican counterpart, APPAMEX, that there have been unusual control measures for all rail grain and oilseed shipments since the middle of the January primarily at the Eagle Pass-Piedras Negras crossing. It has been reported that the El Paso-Ciudad Juarez border crossing is more flexible in their criteria for the presence of soil, but the electronic system there is not working consistently and many shipments are being rerouted to Eagle Pass-Piedras Negras.

There have also been increased complaints from rail companies that there is extreme inspection for mud or filth at the Eagle Pass-Piedras Negras. This has led to increased delays and demurrage fees for cleaning. NAEGA continues to follow this issue and is working with USDA APHIS in attempts to bilaterally resolve the soil issue.

USBCA – NAEGA Suspends Activity

NAEGA has informed the US Biotech Crops Alliance (USBCA) that it will suspend all activity with the USBCA after it became clear that there was no path forward in determining risk responsibility (liability) in the USBCA Domestic Working Group (DWG). It is NAEGA’s understanding that technology owners participating in the DWG, through their membership in BIO, recently determined collectively and unilaterally that:

1. There is **NO CONCEIVABLE APPROACH** for the value proposition tied to risk responsibility for stewardship actions to work for technology owners.
2. Technology owners consider stewardship plans to be proprietary and a matter of competitive advantage and differentiation for their companies.
3. Technology owners participating in the DWG as representatives of BIO will **NOT** accept as part of the DWG recommendations **ANY** risk responsibility (liability protection) for the grain handling, processing, feed and export industries if the technology owners’ respective stewardship plan fails and results in demonstrable economic damage.

Thank you for your membership and work with NAEGA. This copyrighted report is intended for the use of NAEGA membership only. The accuracy of the information reported and interpreted is not guaranteed. All contents are subject to correction and revision. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture NAEGA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or disability. NAEGA is an equal opportunity employer

To be removed from the NAEGA OUTREACH email list please send a message to membersonly@naega.org with the phrase “Unsubscribe from OUTREACH” in the subject line.



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

Unfortunately, these unilateral determinations by technology owner representatives of BIO effectively:

1. Truncate an effort of USBCA and the DWG that was a key pillar of the value proposition in USBCA for NAEGA and its members.
2. Have major adverse impacts on the ability to provide for successful and sustainable implementation of a regulatory accommodation for the LLP as is currently being addressed and supported by NAEGA policy and through its involvement with USBCA, the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC), and the Global Alliance for Agricultural Biotechnology and Trade (GAABT).
3. Will cause NAEGA to consider alternative approaches to achieve comprehensive and effective measures to provide for innovation of new technologies and marketability of US Crops including those measures NAEGA thought were contemplated for in the policies related to product stewardship and risk responsibility of BIO and Crop-Life International. NAEGA had hoped to establish such measures collectively with the value chain through the USBCA process. NAEGA will likely turn to a more direct and individual interaction with technology owners, value chain stakeholders and our industry association colleagues.

Given the gravity of the aforementioned unilateral determination which has undermined significantly the investment and promise NAEGA once saw in USBCA, NAEGA is reconsidering participation in USBCA. Thus, NAEGA’s involvement with USBCA is suspended, with the exception that NAEGA will meet its initial 18-month financial commitment to USBCA.

NAEGA could, with the acceptance of the USBCA, continue its participation in the USBCA but restrict further involvement to another key pillar of the value proposition in USBCA—information sharing and dialog. NAEGA designees could continue to participate in the DWG and the International Working Group (IWG) recognizing the restriction to information sharing and dialog. Gary could continue to serve on any or all of the IWG, Board of Directors, or Executive Committee with the same information sharing and dialog only restriction. Alternatively, NAEGA will respect the right of USBCA to discontinue NAEGA membership or further restrict NAEGA involvement with USBCA.

If you have input on how NAEGA should proceed with the USBCA, please contact the NAEGA office.

US Trade Representative on TTIP and RED

Several US Trade Representative (USTR) Office and US Department of Agriculture (USDA) officials met with US soybean value chain stakeholders to discuss the positioning in the Transatlantic Trade Investment Partnership (TTIP), and the US concerns with the trade distortions inherent in the European Union’s (EU) Renewable Energy Directive (RED). During the 8th round of TTIP negotiations in Brussels earlier this month, the RED was apparently was not discussed. NAEGA President Gary Martin attended the meeting, along with Senior Advisor, Kirk Miller, who has been following developments related to sustainability mandates like those contained in RED.

Thank you for your membership and work with NAEGA. This copyrighted report is intended for the use of NAEGA membership only. The accuracy of the information reported and interpreted is not guaranteed. All contents are subject to correction and revision. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture NAEGA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or disability. NAEGA is an equal opportunity employer

To be removed from the NAEGA OUTREACH email list please send a message to membersonly@naega.org with the phrase “Unsubscribe from OUTREACH” in the subject line.



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

The concerned soy-value chain stakeholder group will continue to seek opportunities to mitigate problems with RED.

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 2015 Membership Dues were mailed to member representatives and payment is now due. If you have any questions, please contact the NAEGA office.

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

2015

Mar. 23 – Comments to USDA on Monsanto’s petition to deregulate Genetically Engineered corn for increased ear biomass: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/fedregister/BRS_20150120b.pdf

Apr. 15 – Comments to US Coast Guard on cyber security: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-02-17/pdf/2015-03205.pdf>

NAEGA Actions on Current Issues are tracked on the Member’s Only Section under their relevant committee pages.

[Click here to return to Index](#)

Information for your Consideration

US Soy Sustainability Assurance Protocol (SSAP) Certification Program

The US Soybean Export Council’s (USSEC) [US Soybean Sustainability Assurance Protocol \(SSAP\)](#) Certification Program was recently approved by NEVEDI, the Dutch Feed Industry Association. This means a SSAP certificate will now satisfy NEVEDI’s need for sustainable feedstuffs for feed manufactured in the Netherlands to be exported within Europe.

USSEC Regional Director, Brent Babb states, “This is an extremely positive development for the US soy industry. Sustainability is an increasing important purchase criteria to our European customers. Previously, the European Feed Manufacturers’ Federation (FEFAC) stated that all of its soy requirements needed to come through ‘verified sustainable practices’ by 2015. NEVEDI’s approval of the SSAP formally recognizes the US soy industry and soybean farmers’ efforts in conservation and sustainability and increases global customers focus on US soy.”

The US Soy Sustainability Assurance Protocol was developed by USSEC in conjunction with other members of the US soy family including the American Soybean Association (ASA), United Soybean Board (USB), and Qualified State Soybean Boards (QSSBs), along with industry partners North American Export Grain Association (NAEGA) and National Oilseed Processors Association (NOPA). This multi-year process involved many revisions as input and suggestions were received

Thank you for your membership and work with NAEGA. This copyrighted report is intended for the use of NAEGA membership only. The accuracy of the information reported and interpreted is not guaranteed. All contents are subject to correction and revision. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture NAEGA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or disability. NAEGA is an equal opportunity employer

To be removed from the NAEGA OUTREACH email list please send a message to membersonly@naega.org with the phrase “Unsubscribe from OUTREACH” in the subject line.



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

from US soy customers and other stakeholders around the world. The SSAP is now recognized as an Industry Standard Sustainability Assurance process, allowing US exporters to efficiently and cost-effectively communicate the sustainability of US soy and provide assurance to buyers worldwide with a simple certification tool.

US Trade Enforcement against China

The US Trade Representative (USTR) Office [filed a World Trade Organization \(WTO\) case](#) against China for its export subsidy program. The USTR alleges that China provides free and discounted services in seven different sectors, including specialty chemicals, and agricultural products. The US contends that these programs violate the express prohibition on export subsidies in the WTO rules.

At the same time, legislation has been introduced in both the US House of Representatives and US Senate. In the Senate the Currency Undervaluation Investigation Act would require the Commerce Department to investigate whether currency undervaluation by a government provides a countervailable subsidy if a US industry requests an investigation. The legislation would define “fundamentally undervalued currency” and clarifies that a benefit is conferred when a currency of a subsidizing country is exchanged for foreign currency obtained from export transactions.

West Coast Port Labor Dispute

In the latest developments of the labor dispute saga that has substantially slowed down container shipments, the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) shutdown West Coast terminals from February 12th to February 16th—four days when workers would receive premium pay. Robert McEllrath, President of the International Longshore Workers Union (ILWU) responded to this announcement with this [video address](#) to the members of the ILWU.

This dispute between PMA and ILWU is gaining attention in the US Congress after a [letter](#) was sent to US President Obama on behalf of a number of interested groups, including NAEGA, discussing the importance of the slowdown on the American economy. A [resolution](#) is now pending in the US House of Representatives encourages the PMA and ILWU to resolve their differences and end the labor dispute as soon as possible. The resolution also urges the US President to use all tools at his disposal to end the dispute, including his authority under the Labor-Management Relations Act, 1947 (Taft-Hartley Act) to protect the Nation’s economy, should a shutdown occur.

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](#)

NAEGA Calendar & Member Notices

Thank you for your membership and work with NAEGA. This copyrighted report is intended for the use of NAEGA membership only. The accuracy of the information reported and interpreted is not guaranteed. All contents are subject to correction and revision. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture NAEGA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or disability. NAEGA is an equal opportunity employer

To be removed from the NAEGA OUTREACH email list please send a message to membersonly@naega.org with the phrase “Unsubscribe from OUTREACH” in the subject line.



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

2015

February

19-20 – Arlington, Virginia – USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum – Gary attending.

March

1-4 – Cuba – U.S. Agriculture Coalition for Cuba travel to Cuba– “A Learning Journey to Cuba”

5-6 – Singapore – International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) Meetings and General Assembly

9-10 – Richmond, Virginia – 7th Annual Conference on Agricultural Trade, co-hosted by Governor McAuliffe – Gary attending for NAEGA

10 – London, UK – International Grains Council (IGC) Market Conditions Committee Meeting. Marcel Bruins attending for IGTC

16 – San Antonio, Texas – 2015 NAEGA Annual Meetings – Hyatt Regency Hotel (in conjunction with NGFA’s Convention). NAEGA Staff and Senior Advisors planning to attend.

April

10 – Panama – “Summit of the Americas”

14-17 – Bristol, United Kingdom – International Dry Bulk Terminal Group (DBTG) Annual Operations Meeting – Jerry Cotter attending.

May

4-7 – Guadalajara, Mexico – Global Low Level Presence Initiative (GLI) – Dr. Randal Giroux and Marcel Bruins attending for NAEGA and IGTC

June

9 – London, United Kingdom – International Grains Council 2015 Conference – 86-90 Park Lane, London W1K 7TN. Gary attending.

29 – July 1 – Geneva, Switzerland – UN Globally Harmonized System (GHS) Subcommittee meeting – Jerry Cotter attending.

July

12-16 – Big Sky, Montana – 2015 Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) Annual Summit <http://www.pnwer.org/2015summit.html>

14-15 – U.S. Agriculture Export Development Council (USAEDC) Attaché Seminar – Location TBD

September

Thank you for your membership and work with NAEGA. This copyrighted report is intended for the use of NAEGA membership only. The accuracy of the information reported and interpreted is not guaranteed. All contents are subject to correction and revision. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture NAEGA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or disability. NAEGA is an equal opportunity employer

To be removed from the NAEGA OUTREACH email list please send a message to membersonly@naega.org with the phrase “Unsubscribe from OUTREACH” in the subject line.



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

14-18 – London, United Kingdom – International Maritime Organization (IMO) Carriage of Cargoes and Containers (CCC) Meeting – Jerry Cotter attending.

30 – October 2 – Vancouver, British Columbia – International Dry Bulk Terminals Group (DBTG) Annual Meeting – Jerry Cotter attending.

November

16-19 – USADEC Annual Workshop – Location TBD

17-20 – Amsterdam, The Netherlands – International GMCC-15 Conference

December

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

[Click here to return to Index](#)

Thank you for your membership and work with NAEGA. This copyrighted report is intended for the use of NAEGA membership only. The accuracy of the information reported and interpreted is not guaranteed. All contents are subject to correction and revision. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture NAEGA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or disability. NAEGA is an equal opportunity employer

To be removed from the NAEGA OUTREACH email list please send a message to membersonly@naega.org with the phrase “Unsubscribe from OUTREACH” in the subject line.