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## Member Opportunities

### U.S. Food and Ag Dialogue for Trade

NAEGA member personnel are invited to attend a meeting of the U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade on February 9 at 3:00pm. The Dialogue will take place at Winston and Strawn at 1700 K Street NW in Washington, D.C. [Click here to RSVP](#)

A preliminary agenda includes:

3:00-3:10 pm:

Opening Remarks

3:10-3:40 pm:

Round table on North American Trade - NAFTA and Beyond;

Guest Speakers: Ken Smith Ramos, Minister for Trade and NAFTA, Embassy of Mexico;

Brad Wood, First Secretary (Agriculture and Fisheries), Embassy of Canada

3:40-4:00 pm:

PENDING - Trump Administration Guest Speaker

4:00-4:30pm:

Dialogue Update:

- North America Food & Ag Group Report
- Asia-Pacific Group Report
- Other Issues

### NAEGA Annual Meetings – March 19-21

[Hotel room blocks are now available at the Sheraton by clicking here. Please book your room as soon as possible to guarantee a space.](#)

All NAEGA member personnel are invited to attend and participate in all NAEGA meetings and events. A preliminary schedule of events is available below:

NAEGA Annual Meetings and Events – March 19-22			
<i>All events to take place at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel – 500 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA</i>			
Date	Time	Event	Location
<i>Sunday, March 19</i>	12:00-3:00pm	Contracts Committee Meeting <a href="#">RSVP here</a>	Grand Cocteau
	3:15-5:30pm	Joint NGFA Biotechnology and NAEGA Production Technology Committee Meeting <a href="#">RSVP here</a>	Nottoway Room

	6:00-7:30pm	NGFA Convention: CoBank Welcome Reception <i>(Included in Promo Rate for NAEGA members)</i>	Armstrong Room
<i>Monday, March 20</i>	9:00am-11:30am	NGFA Convention: Grand Opening Plated Breakfast Featuring Juan Luciano, Chairman and CEO, ADM <i>(Included in Promo Rate for NAEGA members)</i>	Grand Ballroom A/B/C
	12:00-5:00pm	NAEGA Members Lunch with Member and Board Meeting to follow <a href="#">RSVP here</a>	Nottoway Room
	1:00-4:00pm	NGFA Convention: Congressional Facility Tour <a href="#">RSVP here</a>	TBD
	6:30-7:30pm	NGFA Convention: Bunge North America Reception <i>(Included in Promo Rate for NAEGA members)</i>	Armstrong Room
<i>Tuesday, March 21</i>	7:30-8:45am	Joint NAEGA Grades and Inspections and NGFA Grain, Grades and Weights Committee Meeting <a href="#">RSVP here</a>	Nottoway
	12:00-4:00pm	Regional Industry Workshop <a href="#">RSVP here</a>	Rhythms 1
	1:00-4:00pm	Facility Tours <a href="#">RSVP here</a>	TBD
<i>Wednesday, March 22</i>	8:00am-3:00pm	NAEGA Contracts and Best Practices Seminar <a href="#">RSVP here</a>	Maurepas Room

NAEGA Committee members should also consider making plans to attend their Committee meetings on March 19-21. The following Committee events have been scheduled, including Joint meetings with NGFA Committees:

<b>NAEGA Committee Meetings</b>			
<b>All Committee Meetings to take place at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel – 500 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
<i>Sunday, March 19</i>	TBD	Contracts Committee Meeting <a href="#">RSVP here</a>	TBD

	3:15-5:30pm	Joint NGFA Biotechnology and NAEGA Production Technology Committee Meeting <a href="#">RSVP here</a>	Nottoway Room
<i>Monday, March 20</i>	12:00-5:00pm	NAEGA Members Lunch with Member and Board Meeting to follow <a href="#">RSVP here</a>	Nottoway Room
<i>Tuesday, March 21</i>	7:30-8:45am	Joint NAEGA Grades and Inspections and NGFA Grain, Grades and Weights Committee Meeting <a href="#">RSVP here</a>	Nottoway

Agendas for the NAEGA Annual Member, Board and Committee Meetings will be distributed in the coming days.

#### **NAEGA Member Promo Rate for NGFA Convention**

All NAEGA member personnel are invited to take advantage of a special \$250 promotional rate for the NGFA Convention. In addition, spouses are invited to attend for a special rate of \$200. This special rate includes the CoBank Welcome reception on Sunday, March 19 and all events on Monday, March 20, including the Grand Opening breakfast and the Bunge North America Reception.

<b>Events Included in NAEGA Promo Rate</b>			
<i>All events to take place at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel – 500 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA</i>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
<i>Sunday, March 19</i>	6:00-7:30pm	NGFA Convention: CoBank Welcome Reception <i>(Included in Promo Rate for NAEGA members)</i>	Armstrong Room
<i>Monday, March 20</i>	9:00am-11:30am	NGFA Convention: Grand Opening Plated Breakfast Featuring Juan Luciano, Chairman and CEO, ADM <i>(Included in Promo Rate for NAEGA members)</i>	Grand Ballroom A/B/C
	6:30-7:30pm	NGFA Convention: Bunge North America Reception <i>(Included in Promo Rate for NAEGA members)</i>	Armstrong Room

If you are interested in taking advantage of this special promotional rate, please use the following codes during registration.

[Register here for the NGFA Convention](#)

Member personnel code (\$250): NAEGA2017  
NAEGA Spouse Code (\$200): NAEGASPOUSE

### **NOLA Regional Industry Workshop – March 21**

NAEGA and NGFA will host a New Orleans Regional Industry Workshop on Tuesday, March 21 from 12:00-4:00pm in the Rhythms 1 Room of the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel. The Regional Industry Workshop will bring together members of industry and government to discuss safety, security and operational issues affecting the NOLA Port-Range. The Federal Grain Inspection Service has confirmed that they will attend the workshop. Past workshops have also included members of the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the National Cargo Bureau. More information, and a preliminary schedule, will be available soon.

### **NAEGA Contracts and Best Practices Seminar – March 22**

NAEGA will hold a Contracts and Best Practices Seminar on Wednesday, March 22 in New Orleans, LA following the Annual Meeting events on March 19-21. The Seminar will take place from 8:00am-3:00pm in the Maurepas Room of the Sheraton New Orleans.

NAEGA Seminars are an interactive opportunity to review commercial and official practices to improve predictability, reduce risks, resolve trade barriers and facilitate the profitable trade of grains and oilseeds. Topics of this seminar will include a review of the global contracting environment, industry wide standards, guidelines and model contracts, commercial compliance with international conventions and case studies of commercial topics. In addition, issues specific to the NOLA Port-Range will be discussed. A full agenda will be available soon.

Price and registration for this Seminar will be available soon.

### **Contracts and Best Practices Seminars**

Please let us know if you are interested in attending or hosting a NAEGA Seminar! Click [here](#) for more information the in-depth, interactive programs NAEGA conducts!.

### **Internships**

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:**

#### **Vietnam Fumigation**

NAEGA is currently working closely with industry and government stakeholders regarding fumigation of wheat and corn cargoes of U.S. origin. For shipments with bills of lading dates of December 1 or later, Vietnam has begun requiring methyl bromide fumigation for all shipments. In addition, shipments of DDGs with bills of lading dated December 17 or later are currently

suspended. This week, an U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service team is in Vietnam meeting with representatives of Vietnamese Plant Protection and Quarantine. Currently, APHIS is considering a proposing to Vietnam PPQ Aluminum Phosphide fumigation for bulk vessels as an alternative to methyl bromide. Alternatives for containerized shipments are still challenging, as container make poor fumigation chambers where it is difficult to retain the proper level of fumigation to kill insects. More information on APHIS's trip and developments will be available soon.

### **NAEGA Board of Directors Meeting**

On Tuesday, January 31 NAEGA's Board of Directors held a successful meeting in Miami, Florida. During the meeting, which was chaired by Board Chairman Steve Smalley, board members reviewed a preliminary 2017 budget and dues schedule, discussed the upcoming expiration of board terms, and were briefed on developments surrounding the U.S. government transition and new administration.

The board also moved to fill two unexpired board seats. Amer Badawi of Columbia Grain will serve Ron Williams' remaining term and Carsten Bredin of Richardson International to fill the remainder of Terry James' term. A copy of the meeting minutes will soon be available.

### **Decree 177**

Over the last few months NAEGA has been working closely with industry and government stakeholders to address U.S. industry compliance with export facility registration requirements under China's Decree 177. In December, NAEGA contracted Juhui Huang to study the registration requirements and make recommendations for achieving compliance. That report is now available. [Click here to read Juhui's report.](#)

### **India Trade Barriers**

NAEGA is currently beginning preparations for its Grain and Oilseed Market Access Index (GOMAI) report. GOMAI is an occasional report developed by NAEGA and other grain and oilseed industry associations that measures U.S. exporters market access in a select number of countries throughout the world. In preparation for this report, NAEGA retained contractor Patrick Hayden to analyze and report on Indian market access for U.S. grains and oilseeds. [A copy of Patrick's report can be found here.](#) Patrick's report will contribute to analysis in the GOMAI report and help NAEGA and membership better understand market access challenges in the Indian market.

### **India Working Visit**

On January 30-February 4 IGTC Secretariat Katy Lee and NAEGA contract representative Patrick Hayden travelled to New Delhi, India to meet with local government and industry stakeholders and attend the Global Grain, Food and Feed conference. A copy of Katy and Patrick's meeting schedule can be found [here](#).

Following meetings in New Delhi, Katy will continue on to Mumbai from February 6-15 to conduct a working visit with IGTC members the Soybean Processors Association of India (SOPA) and the Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA). During all meetings in India Katy and Patrick will discuss IGTC policy files and priorities. A trip report for this travel will be available once it is completed.

### U.S. Government Transition

NAEGA Continues to monitor developments in the U.S. Government transition, including nominations by the President-elect. Nominations hearings are currently ongoing. NAEGA understands the following nominations and confirmations have been made:

<b>Cabinet Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Status (2/6/17)</b>
Vice President	Mike Pence	Elected
Secretary of State	Rex Tillerson	Confirmed
Secretary of Treasury	Steve Mnuchin	Nominated
Secretary of Defense	James Mattis	Confirmed
Department of Justice-Attorney General	Jeff Sessions	Nominated
Secretary of the Interior	Ryan Zinke	Nominated
Secretary of Agriculture	Sonny Perdue	Nominated
Secretary of Commerce	Wilbur Ross	Nominated
Secretary of Labor	Andrew Puzder	Nominated
Secretary of Health and Human Services	Tom Price	Nominated
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development	Ben Carson	Nominated
Secretary of Transportation	Elaine Chao	Confirmed
Secretary of Energy	Rick Perry	Nominated
Secretary of Education	Betsy DeVos	Nominated
Secretary of Veterans Affairs	David Shulkin	Nominated
Secretary of Homeland Security	John F. Kelly	Confirmed

<b>High-level Offices</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Status (2/6/17)</b>
Director of Office of Management and Budget	Mick Mulvaney	Nominated
Director of the Central Intelligence Agency	Mike Pompeo	Confirmed
Ambassador to the United Nations	Nikki Haley	Confirmed
Admin. of the Small Business Administration	Linda McMahon	Nominated

<b>High-level Offices</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Status (2/6/17)</b>
Admin. of the Environmental Protection Agency	Scott Pruitt	Nominated
Admin Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Serv	Seema Verma	Nominated
Deputy Commerce Secretary	Todd Ricketts	Nominated
Secretary of the Army		
Trade Representative	Robert Lighthizer	Nominated
National Aeronautics and Space Administrator		
Director of National Intelligence	Daniel Coates	Nominated
<b>Assistants to the President</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Status (2/6/17)</b>
White House Chief of Staff	Reince Priebus	Appointed
Senior Advisor	Jared Kushner	Appointed
Counsel to the President	Don McGahn	Appointed
Special Advisor on Regulatory Reform	Carl Icahn	Appointed
Economic Policy and National Economic Council	Gary Cohn	Appointed
Counselor to the President	Kellyanne Conway	Appointed
Deputy National Security Advisor	KT McFarland	Appointed
National Security Advisor	Michael Flynn	Appointed
National Trade Council	Peter Navarro	Appointed
Special Rep. International Negotiations	Jason Greenblatt	Appointed
Senior Counselor and Chief Strategist	Stephen Bannon	Appointed
Press Secretary	Sean Spicer	Appointed
Director of Strategic Communications	Hope Hicks	Appointed
Director of Social Media	Dan Scavino	Appointed
Homeland Security & Deputy Nat'l Security Advisor	Thomas Bossert	Appointed
Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers		



<b>Assistants to the President</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Status (2/6/17)</b>
Director of the Office of Science		
<b>Selected Ambassadors</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Status (2/6/17)</b>
US Ambassador to China	Terry Branstad	Nominated
US Ambassador to Israel	David Friedman	Nominated

***Upcoming Actions:***

**IGC MCC and ISF Meetings – March 5-8**

On March 5-8 NAEGA President and CEO Gary Martin and International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) secretariat Katy Lee will travel to Zurich, Switzerland and London, England. In Zurich, Gary and Katy will attend the International Seed Federation’s (ISF) plant breeders meeting. Following that, they will travel to London to participate in a meeting of the International Grains Council’s (IGC) [Market Conditions Committee \(MCC\)](#) and meet with industry and government stakeholders.

A Notice to Post for this upcoming travel will be available soon. Please contact Gary or Ryan if you have any questions.

***Pending Actions:***

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

**Jones Act Proposed Revocations and Modifications Comments**

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is seeking comment on proposed modification and revocation of headquarters’ ruling letters (HQ) relating to the application of the coastwise laws to certain merchandise and vessel equipment that are transported between coastwise points. CBP is planning to update HQ 101925 to bring it more closely in line with new U.S. law passed following the letter. A copy of the request for comments can be found [here](#) and in the February 8, 2017 edition of the Customs Bulletin. Comments are due on April 18, 2017. Please contact Gary or Ryan if you would like to provide input.

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**In the News**

**House Testimony on Transportation Infrastructure**

On Wednesday, February 1, the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure held a Full Committee hearing to receive testimony concerning the challenges facing our Nation's current transportation infrastructure and hear visions for a modern, 21st century transportation infrastructure. Witnesses including executives from FedEx, Cargill, BMW, Vermeer, and AFL-CIO, discussed importance that infrastructure plays in promoting national competitiveness and job creation. You can watch the full Committee hearing and read the testimony on the [House Transportation website here](#).

### **Philippine Biotech Approval**

Monsanto has informed NAEGA that soybean DTxRR2Y (MON 87708 x MON 89788) has received biosafety permit approval for direct use as food, feed or for processing in the Philippines. The permit is valid through January 31, 2022 and is coded 17-001FFP. This is the first GM product approved for use in the Philippines under the country's new regulatory guidelines. More details can be found on [www.biotradestatus.com](http://www.biotradestatus.com).

*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**

#### **February**

**TBD** – IGTC Extraordinary Webinar on LLP – Virtual

**5-9** – IGTC Working visit with Solvent Extractors' Association – Mumbai, India

**6** - Contracts Committee NAEGA 2 Revisions Call – Virtual

**9** – Food and Ag Dialogue for Trade Agreements

**TBD** - Contracts Committee NAEGA 2 Revisions Call – Virtual

**TBD** - Contracts Committee NAEGA 2 Revisions Call – Virtual

**TBD** - Contracts Committee NAEGA 2 Revisions Call – Virtual

#### **March**

**TBD** – Global Low Level Presence (LLP) meeting

**1** – Publication of new IPPC ISPMs for consideration at Standards Committee

**1-2** – Global Grain Asia – Singapore, Singapore

**1-3** Global Grain MENA – Dubai, UAE

**5** – International Seed Federation plant breeders meeting – Zurich

**7** – International Grain Council’s (IGC) Market Conditions Committee (MCC) meeting - London

**7** – Australian Grains Industry Conference Asia – Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

**TBD** - Contracts Committee NAEGA 2 Revisions Call – Virtual

**9** – Australian Grains Industry Conference Asia – Shanghai, China

**14** – IGTC Management Council – Virtual

**TBD** - Contracts Committee NAEGA 2 Revisions Call – Virtual

**15-31** – IGTC Working Visit with CIARA-CEC

**19-21** – NGFA Convention – New Orleans, LA

**19** – NAEGA Contracts Committee Meeting – 12:00-3:00pm – Grand Cocteau, Sheraton New Orleans – New Orleans, LA

**19** – NAEGA Production Technology Committee Meeting – 3:15-5:30pm - Nottoway Room, Sheraton New Orleans – New Orleans, LA

**20** – NAEGA Annual Member and Board Meetings – 12:00-5:00pm – Nottoway Room, Sheraton New Orleans – New Orleans, LA

**21** – NAEGA Grades and Inspections Committee Meeting - 7:30-8:45am – Nottoway Room, Sheraton New Orleans – New Orleans, LA

**21** – NOLA Regional Industry Workshop – 12:00-4:00pm – Rhythms 1 Room, Sheraton New Orleans – New Orleans, LA

**22** – NAEGA Contracts and Best Practices Seminar 8:00am-3:00pm – Maurepas Room – New Orleans, LA

**29-31** – DBTG Operational Meeting – Santander, Spain

## **April**

**5-11** – IPPC CPM-12 – Incheon, South Korea

**10-12** – Canadian Global Crops Symposium – Calgary, Canada

**10-14** – IGTC Working Visit with Eastern Africa Grains Council – Nairobi, Kenya and other EAGC member countries

**17-23** – Eastern African Grains Council (EAGC) Annual General Meeting – Nairobi, Kenya

**18** – CBP Jones Act Comments Due

**24-25** – Global Low Level Presence (GLI) Meeting – Location TBD

## **May**

**1-2** – NGFA 2017 Trade Rules Seminar – Kansas City, Missouri

**8-12** – IPPC Standards Committee – Rome, Italy

**22-24** – ISF World Seed Congress 2017 – Budapest, Hungary

## **June**

**TBD** – IMO Council – London, UK

**TBD** – Grain Inspection Advisory Committee Meeting

**5– 8** – 46<sup>th</sup> International Grains Council Session, IGC International Grains Conference and IGTC meetings– London, UK

**14** – IGTC Management Council Meeting – Virtual

**27** – IPPC Industry Advisory Group on ePhyto Hub – Washington, DC

## **July**

**10-12** – GHS Subcommittee Meeting – Geneva, Switzerland

**24-28** – IMO Council Session – London, UK

## **August**

**1-3** – Australian Grains Industry Conference Australia and associated meetings – Melbourne, Australia

**7-11** – IGTC Working Visit with GTA – Sydney, Australia

**17** – APEC High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology - Vietnam

## **September**

**11-15**- IMO CCCC – London, UK

**14** – IGTC Management Council Meeting – Virtual

**October**

**TBD** – IGTC General Assembly – Location TBD

**TBD** – NAEGA-APPAMEX Forum

**November**

**13-17** – IPPC Standards Committee – Rome, Italy

**TBD** – Grain Inspection Advisory Committee Meeting

**December**

**3** – NGFA Country Elevator Conference

**6-8** – GHS Subcommittee Meeting – Geneva, Switzerland

**14** – IGTC Management Council Meeting – Virtual

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