



*“Working Together to Make Trade Work”*

## **OUTREACH February 9, 2015**

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

**Hope you can join us in San Antonio! Make Plans Now for the 2015 NAEGA Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas on March 16, 2015. Rooms at the Hyatt Regency can be booked at the NGFA rate by clicking [here](#).**

### **Member Opportunities**

- Learning Journey to Cuba – March 1-4, 2015
- NAEGA Annual Meeting and NGFA Convention, San Antonio, Texas — March 16, 2015

### **Action Reports:**

- Alternative Security Program
- Canada-US Grain and Seed Trade Commercial Module
- Contracts Committee
- Mission to Rome, Italy

### **Information for your consideration**

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- IPPC Newsletter
- USITC Economic Effects of Cuba

### **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

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welcome the visit. More information about USACC can be found at:  
<http://www.usagcoalition.com/>.

**Mark Your Calendars for the NAEGA Annual Meeting  
San Antonio, Texas – March 16, 2014**

We look forward to working with you in San Antonio, Texas in March! The 2015 NAEGA Annual Meeting will take place on Monday, March 16, 2015 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in San Antonio, Texas. The Board Meeting will immediately follow the Members Meeting.

NAEGA meetings will coincide with the March 15-17, 2015 National Grain & Feed Association (NGFA) Convention. Rooms at the Hyatt Regency can be booked at the NGFA rate by clicking [here](#). A special NAEGA registration for the NGFA Convention is available for \$275.

*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

**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 this past week. Payment is due by February 16. Prompt payment is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact the NAEGA office.**

### Alternative Security Program

NAEGA-NGFA Alternative Security Program (ASP) Subscribers met via conference call. The primary purpose of the call was to discuss the renewal of the ASP, which must be submitted to the US Coast Guard by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Changes will have to be made to the ASP in order for renewal. Subscribers on the call described what was working well in their ASP and explained what they would like to see changed. Items that will likely be addressed in the renewal of the ASP include cyber security, and Seafarers access at maritime facilities. Subscribers on the call discussed the possibility of an in person meeting to further discuss the ASP renewal. This meeting would likely take place with the Joint NGFA-NAEGA Agri Terrorism Committee.

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On a related topic, the US Coast Guard is asking for comments on cyber security due February 17<sup>th</sup>. Currently NAEGA and NGFA intend to provide comments suggesting cyber security be handled by individual companies to best address their specific needs. Please let Gary or Kyle know if you have specific suggestions for these comments.

### **Canada-US Grain and Seed Trade Commercial Module**

The Canada-US Grain and Seed Trade Task Group (Task Group) issued a [press release](#) announcing the new commercial module that has been posted to the [Task Group website](#). NAEGA provides for the website in coordination with several not-for-profit associations from the U.S. and Canada, including: the National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA), U.S. Wheat Associates, and Canada Grains Council (CGC). The Task Group is working to provide information to facilitate the marketing of grain and seed between the U.S. and Canada. The website provides several FAQ databases such as: [Canadian Grain Producers](#), [U.S. Grain Producers](#) and [Seed Trade](#) in addition to the recently added [commercial module](#).

### **Contracts Committee**

The Contracts Committee convened via conference call. Topics during the call included: Destination Risk Subcommittee Survey Results, Contracts and Rules, Clause 20, Laytime Deductions for West Coast Loading, NAEGA Arbitrators, and AAA Arbitrators. A representative from [essDocs](#) presented on electronic bills of lading and other electronic documents. The agenda can be found [here](#) and a report on the meeting will soon be available.

### **Mission to Rome, Italy**

NAEGA President, Gary C. Martin, and International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) Secretariat, Marcel Bruins, traveled to Rome, Italy and met with officials from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (UN FAO) to discuss the International Plant Protection Convention’s (IPPC) pending International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) on the movement of grain, E-Phytosanitary Certificates, Agriculture Market Information Service (AMIS), and the Global Low Level Presence Initiative (GLI).

Gary also presented at U.S. Soybean Export Council’s (USSEC) U.S. Soy Trade and Sustainability Buyers Conference February 4-6. Gary participated in two sections of the [agenda](#). His first [presentation](#) included comments biotech approvals and industry impact. The second [presentation](#) discussed NAEGA priorities as part of the U.S. Soy Industry Panel. USSEC had about [120 participants](#), including a large number of soy buyers from around the world to attend.

A report on this NAEGA activity will soon be posted to the International Programs section of [www.naega.org](http://www.naega.org)

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

**2015**

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**Feb. 17** – Comments to US Coast Guard on Cyber Security: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2014/12/18/2014-29658/guidance-on-maritime-cybersecurity-standards>

**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](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/fedregister/BRS_20150120b.pdf)

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

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## Information for your Consideration

### EU GM Import Authorizations

FEFAC, FEDIOL and COCERAL issued a [joint statement](#) urging the European Union (EU) Commission to lift immediately the present “de-facto” moratorium on Genetically Modified (GM) import authorizations for food, feed and technical uses to prevent further threats to the EU food security as well as to the economic sustainability of the food, feed and EU livestock sector. As of Friday, February 6, the 13 GM products pending approval the EU College of Commissioners have not yet been authorized for import. At its meeting outside of Brussels, there was no progress toward finding an agreement on the pending authorizations.

The joint statement said, “Despite these increasing threats, the EU authorization system for GM import is on hold since November 2013 due to merely political considerations. There are currently 13 GM crop import authorizations (Soybean MON 87769, Maize MON 87460, Rapeseed GT 73, Soybean 305423, Soybean MON 87708, Soybean MON 87705, Soybean BPS-CV127-9, Maize T25, Cotton T304-40, Maize NK603, Rapeseed MON 88302, Cotton LL25xGHB614 and Cotton MON 88913) awaiting final decision by the EU College of Commissioners, following completion of the EFSA scientific assessment and EU risk management process.

By continuing pledging political misconceptions, the EU risks facing a situation of serious shortages of the much needed import of agricultural commodities for food, feed and technical uses. The risk is increasing that entire shipments of agricultural commodities, regardless of whether GM, non-GM or organic products, will be blocked at EU borders because of technically unavoidable traces of the “blocked” GM products detected in imported consignments.”

### IPPC Newsletter

NAEGA members are welcome to subscribe to a newly launched newsletter from the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). To sign up to receive the newsletter, go to the [IPPC website](#) and enter your email information. The newsletter will have updates on the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) and other IPPC current events.

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### **USITC Economic Effects of Cuba**

The U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) issued a [press release](#) announcing the launch of an investigation on the economic impact of the U.S. trade embargo against Cuba. According to the release, “The investigation, Overview of Cuban Imports of Goods and Services and Effects of U.S. Restrictions, was requested by the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance in a letter received on December 17, 2014.”

USITC will report on the following elements:

1. An overview of Cuba’s imports of goods and services from 2005 to the present, including identification of major supplying countries, products, and market segments,
2. A description of how U.S. restrictions on trade, including those relating to export financing terms and travel to Cuba by U.S. citizens, affect Cuban imports of U.S. goods and services,
3. For sectors where the impact is likely to be significant, a qualitative and quantitative estimate of U.S. exports of goods and services to Cuba, in the event that statutory, regulatory, or other trade restrictions on U.S. exports of goods and services as well as travel to Cuba by U.S. citizens are lifted.

A public meeting for the investigation will be held on March 24, 2015. Written comments must be submitted by April 15, 2015.

***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**

### **2015**

#### **February**

**9** – Washington, D.C. – Annual Grain Industry Sector Meeting with USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) – 1:00pm – 5:00pm Eastern

**11** – Washington DC – Global Alliance for Ag Biotech Trade (GAABT) meeting – Gary and Randy Giroux attending.

**11** – Washington, D.C. – Meeting at Ann Heilman-Dahl at USTR on TTIP and RED – Gary Martin attending for NAEGA.

**12-13** – Washington, D.C. – US Biotech Crops Alliance (USBCA) Domestic Working Group (DWG) Meeting

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

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## **March**

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

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

**9-10** – Richmond, Virginia – 7<sup>th</sup> 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 PNWER Annual Summit

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

## **September**

**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.

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**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.

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