



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

OUTREACH March 23, 2015

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

Member Opportunities

- London, England - International Grain Trade Coalition and International Grains Council – June 8 and 9, 2015
- Big Sky, Montana – PNWER Annual Summit – July 12-16, 2015

Action Reports:

- 2015 NAEGA Meetings in San Antonio, Texas
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- US Agricultural Sustainability GBI

Information for your consideration

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- Upcoming Events and Notices for Members

Member Opportunities

London, England - International Grain Trade Coalition and International Grains Council – June 8 and 9, 2015

The IGTC has set a roundtable and policy meeting on June 8 in London, UK. The IGTC meeting precedes the International Grains Council (IGC) conference on June 9.

NAEGA members are welcome to attend both events! Click here for more information on the IGC Conference: <http://www.igc.int/en/conference/confhome.aspx>

NAEGA Market Access Program funds may be available to fund NAEGA member personnel travel and attendance at the IGTC meeting as well as to the IGC Conference. Please contact Gary of Kyle for additional details.

Big Sky, Montana – PNWER Annual Summit – July 12-16, 2015

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The 25th Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) Annual Summit brings together over 500 key business leaders, legislators, and government leaders from the ten PNWER states, provinces, and territories to address the major policy issues impacting the region.

This year’s summit will be held in Big Sky, Montana from July 12-16. [Please click here to register.](#)

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

2015 NAEGA Meetings in San Antonio, Texas

Thank you to the many NAEGA member personnel who attended the annual meeting of NAEGA Members on March 16.

In addition to enjoying a Member appreciation luncheon, NAEGA members elected the following to two year terms on its Board of Directors: Steve Smalley of Cargill, Ron Williams of Columbia Grain, Tsuyoshi Nakano of Mitsui & Co., Charlie Colbert of Zen-Noh, Holly Womack of CoBank, and Dave Smoot of Viterra to terms ending in 2017 as Directors. These Board members join Wes Uhlmeier of ADM, John Griffith of CHS, Steve Campbell of Louis Dreyfus, Terry James of Richardson International, Steve Strong of Bunge, and Randy Ritchie of Gaviolon whose terms expire in 2016. Members were also advised of several changes to NAEGA By-Laws that will soon be proposed. The changes are needed to provide for changes to membership.

Right after the Annual Meeting, the new Board of Directors met. Among the first order of business for the Board was to elect officers. The NAEGA Board of Directors executives elected at the Board meeting are: Steve Smalley, Chairman of the Board; Steve Campbell, Charles Colbert, John Griffith, Steve Strong and Wesley Uhlmeier Vice-Chairmen; and Holly Womack, Secretary and Treasurer.

Reacting to the budget and committee reports, the Board made several important decisions, including:

1. Renew NAEGA’s USDA Market Access Program (MAP) application for 2016.
2. Revise committee appointments that included naming Anthony Reed as Co-Chair of the Biotechnology Committee.
3. Several updates to the NAEGA contact directory. A copy of the directory on the NAEGA Members’ site can be found [here](#). For immediate access to the directory, [click here](#). Please review the contact directory, and let us know if you have any changes.

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On Sunday March 15, NAEGA’s Grades and Inspections Committee met jointly with NGFA’s Grades and Weights Committee. Topics at this meeting covered the US Grain Standards Act reauthorization, official samples containing animal filth, GIPSA’s Advisory Committee meeting April 7 and 8, China soybean vessel comparison study, e-phytos, moisture meter accuracy, and more.

APPAMEX’s Ricardo Calderon, was hosted by NAEGA for both the NGFA Convention and the NAEGA meetings. NAEGA hosted a meeting with Ricardo to update on Mexico’s import requirements related to plant health and the troublesome approach Mexico has taken to its soil presence concerns.

NAEGA senior advisors Kirk Miller, Jerry Cotter, Arvid Hawk, and Warren Duffy joined NAEGA consultant and International Grains Trade Coalition’s (IGTC) Secretariat, Marcel Bruins at the meetings. Each of them provided an update on recent activities. Marcel was a featured speaker at the NGFA convention on March 17. The schedule of events from the Monday NAEGA meetings can be found [here](#).

Meeting minutes are being prepared and will soon be made available for your review.

IPPC E-phyto System Moves Forward

The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM), the governing body of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), agreed to develop a global system of electronic phytosanitary certificates, known as e-Phyto. – <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/e-phyto-gets-a-go-ahead/>. NAEGA and IGTC are both engaged supporting the deployment of a sound system to make E-phytos.

Report from CCCF on Don ML

Paul Green, working on behalf of coalition supported by NAEGA, recently attended the meeting of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food (CCCF). He reports that efforts of the last two years to keep Codex from imposing maximum limits on Deoxynivalenol in bulk wheat, corn and barley were successful “only in postponing the inevitable”. Paul’s initial report of the March 16-20 meeting in Delhi, India, is that the US and Canada were isolated in arguing that a maximum levels (ML) on unprocessed grains was not necessary. This despite the presentation by the American Association for Cereal Chemists (AACC) International of their paper demonstrating that it was very possible for grain millers to meet a 1 ppm on milled or semi-processed products using wheat of much higher levels than 2 ppm. NAEGA and others funded the AACC paper.

It is apparent the proposed MLs that 2 ppm on 'raw' grain will be established. While the unprocessed grain ML has never been fully justified and many of the CCCF delegations admit that the supply chain is capable of mitigating levels higher than 2 ppm to suitable levels in finished food, they were unwilling to budge on the level that has been in the proposed standard for several years. Now a determination will be made as to where in the supply chain the standard should apply.

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The ML proposed from 2014 that was being considered at this CCCF was to be applied to 'raw grain prior to sorting and removal of damaged kernels. Paul and others objected to that definition, since the only grain that would fit that definition is newly harvested grain coming directly from the field and prior to any comingling with other fields or other producer's products. The compromise language agreed to was 'raw wheat, corn or barley destined for further processing at 2 mg/kg'. There is also a footnote "destined for further processing means intended to undergo an additional process/treatment that has been shown to reduce levels of Don before being used as an ingredient in foodstuffs, otherwise processed, or offered for human consumption. Codex members may define the processes which have been shown to reduce levels."

While this is a Committee recommendation, it will likely be adopted at the Codex commission this summer. As result, we fear that commercial practice may gravitate toward contracting for unprocessed grain in North America based on the new Codex DON 2 mg/kg' maximum level and further discourage wheat production in competition with other crops.

US Agricultural Sustainability GBI

NAEGA is participating in a Global Broad-based Initiative (GBI) with a number of agricultural cooperators. The group recently met to discuss future plans of the GBI, including final preparations of the [Milan Expo](#), and to highlight the sustainability of the US dairy industry. The US dairy industry is one of the world's largest providers of dairy products and is increasingly dependent on exports. Overtime, the US dairy industry has decreased its carbon output by 63%. The US dairy industry is working with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to continue to tell the story of the industry's sustainability and how it compares to Europe.

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

2015

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.

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Information for your Consideration

GABBT Launches Website for Agricultural Trade

The Global Alliance for Ag Biotech Trade (GAABT) launched their website, GAABT.org, for agricultural trade policy development. GAABT is an industry coalition representing grower and producer groups, grain and feed handlers, food and seed industries, and technology providers. NAEGA and IGTC both participate in GAABT with the intention to support work that encourages the development of trade policies that facilitate the movement of food, feed, grain and processing

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ingredients and reduce the potential for trade disruptions. The new website offers a location for resources, including studies, articles and data, and industry positions which is intended to help policymakers and regulators create predictable, efficient and achievable trade policies.

New NAPPO Executive Director

The North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) has named Dr. Stephanie Bloem to be its next Executive Director. In this role, Dr. Bloem will manage the NAPPO Secretariat’s human and financial resources while leading the fulfillment of the NAPPO Executive Committee’s strategic plan and priority goals for North America. A copy of the press release can be found [here](#).

US-Korea FTA Third Anniversary

The US Trade Representative (USTR) issued a [press release announcing](#) the three-year anniversary of the United States-Republic of Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS) and the positive developments and improvements it has established since entering into force on March 15, 2012.

According to the release, “U.S.-Korea goods and services trade has risen from \$126.5 billion in 2011 to a record \$145.2 billion in 2014. The U.S.-Korea trade and investment relationship is substantially larger and stronger than in 2011, and KORUS has contributed to a strong and successful 2014 for American exporters. The agreement is unlocking opportunity for more Americans, supporting good-paying jobs, and contributing to our record overall exports of \$2.35 trillion in 2014.”

Since its founding, the KORUS implemented four rounds of tariff cuts and eliminations. Korea reduced its tariffs on imported U.S. automobiles by 50% and is expected to be eliminate the remainder of its tariffs by January 1, 2016.

US Request WTO Panel on Indonesian Agricultural Import Restrictions

The U.S. requested a World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute settlement panel over Indonesian agricultural import restrictions. In a [US Trade Representative \(USTR\) press release](#), Ambassador Michael Froman, said, “Indonesia bans the import of valuable U.S. agricultural products and imposes a variety of other import restrictions, on everything from potatoes to beef, and apples to grapes, and poultry. Such restrictions run afoul of Indonesia’s obligations under the WTO, and infringe U.S. trading rights.”

Ambassador Froman furthermore states that Indonesia’s import restrictions affect approximately \$200 million of America’s exports including, “\$50 million of apples, \$37 million of grapes, and \$63 million of animals and animal products.”

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

March

23 – Conference Call – Global Alliance for Agricultural Biotechnology Trade (GABBT) – Global Low Level Presence (GLI) planning.

April

6-8 – Kansas City, Missouri – USDA GIPSA Advisory Committee Meeting – National Grain Center (NGC)

10 – Panama – “Summit of the Americas” - <http://cumbredelasamericas.pa/en/>, The Seventh Summit of the Americas, with a focus on “Prosperity with Equity: The Challenge of Cooperation in the Americas”, will be held in Panama City, Panama on April 10 and 11, 2015.

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

May

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

28 – Washington, DC – US Coast Guard Alternative Security Program (ASP) Meeting – 1501 M Street, NW, Suite 500

June

2 – Washington, DC – International Trade Commission (ITC) Public Hearing on economic effects of the Cuban embargo.

2-3 – Jakarta, Indonesia – Grain and Feed Asia – Grand Hyatt www.grainandfeedasia.com

8 – London, United Kingdom – International Grain Trade Council Roundtable and Policy Discussion. Gary attending.

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

9 – Conference Call – GAABT – Outcomes and follow us on GLI

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

July

10-14 – Tokyo, Japan – IGTC trip to visit Japanese stakeholders – Gary and Marcel attending

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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

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.

30 – October 2 – Minneapolis, MN – 10th Oilseed & Grain Trade Summit

November

16-19 – USADEC Annual Workshop – Location TBD

17-20 – Amsterdam, The Netherlands – International Genetically Modified Conference on Coexistence (GMCC-15) Conference

December

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

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