



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

OUTREACH March 3, 2014

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

Member Participation Opportunity:

- NAEGA Grades Committee Meeting – New Orleans – Friday, March 14, 2014
- Looking forward to seeing everyone at the NAEGA Annual Meeting – Hilton Head, South Carolina – March 31, 2014
- U.S. – FDA Issues Proposed Rule on Sanitary Transportation of Food and Feed Under FSMA
- USTR Public Interest Trade Advisory Committee Nominations – March 25, 2014

Action Reports:

- Canada – Grain Import Framework – D-12-05
- China – Biotech Dilemma
- Mexico – Soil Issue
- U.S. – U.S. Biotech Crops Alliance

New Issues

- Asia-Americas – Trans Pacific Partnership
- China Sues Ukraine for Breach of Grain Deal
- U.S. – ERS Report on GMOs in the U.S.

NAEGA Calendar and Member Notices

- Upcoming Events and Notices for Members

NAEGA Member Participation Opportunity

NAEGA Grades and Inspection Committee Meeting – New Orleans – March 14, 2014

The NAEGA Grades and Inspection Committee will meet on March 14, 2014 from 8:00am to 12:30pm Central time. The meeting will take place at the Hilton New Orleans Airport Hotel in Kenner, LA. A detailed agenda can be found [here](#). The schedule will be as follows:

8:00am Welcome Continental Breakfast

8:30am NAEGA Grades Committee Meeting

10:30am NAEGA Grades Committee Meeting with Roger Brockway, Director General, International Federation of Inspection Agencies ([IFIA Federation](#)) - Regarding the use of third party private inspection agencies for U.S. official grain inspection.

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[Click here](#) to register.

**Looking forward to seeing you at the NAEGA Annual Meeting
Hilton Head, South Carolina – March 31, 2014**

Plans are just about complete for the day of meetings to NAEGA’s Annual Meeting in Hilton Head, South Carolina. Please join us on Monday, March 31, 2014 in Hilton Head, South Carolina from 10:30am to 6:30pm. The current **schedule** for the day includes:

10:30am – NAEGA Biotechnology Committee Briefing Elliot Room
Open to all NAEGA Member Representatives

11:30am – Joint NAEGA/NGFA Biotechnology Discussion Elliot Room
Open to all NAEGA Representatives and NGFA Biotech Committee Industry Members

12:30pm – Luncheon Elliot Room
Hosted by NAEGA Grades Committee and NGFA Grain Grades and Weights Committee
Randall Jones, Deputy Administrator GIPSA’s Federal Grain Inspection Service,
Guest speaker. Open to all NAEGA Member representatives and invited guests

2:00pm – NAEGA Annual Membership Meeting Elliot Room
Open to all NAEGA Members and invited guests – Agenda forthcoming.

2:30pm – NAEGA Board Meeting Elliot Room
Open to all NAEGA members and invited guests – Agenda forthcoming.

6:30pm – Bunge North America Inc. Reception Calibogue/Danner
Ballroom

All attendees invited!

The above meetings are all available without paid registration – please let us know you plan to attend by registering with NAEGA by [clicking here](#).

IMPORTANT NAEGA meetings will coincide with the March 30-April 1, 2014 National Grain & Feed Association (NGFA) Convention. The current agenda for the NGFA convention can be accessed [here](#). Rooms at the Westin Hilton Head can be booked at the NGFA rate by clicking [here](#). A special NAEGA registration for the NGFA Convention is now available [here](#).

For example, on Monday, March 31 to kick off the Biotech related discussions, NGFA has confirmed that Howard Minigh, President and CEO of CropLife International will address the entire Convention. Mr. Minigh will discuss “Biotechnology: Accommodating Innovation While Preserving Markets” at 9:50 in the Archer/Barnwell room. This discussion, and all other sessions at the NGFA convention will require NGFA registration.

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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) requested comments on [FDA proposed transport rules](#) for 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:

March 13, 2014 in Anaheim, California; and

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

More information on the meetings can be found at

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/ucm383763.htm>

USTR Public Interest Trade Advisory Committee Nominations – March 25, 2014

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative seeks nominations to the Public Interest Trade Advisory Committee (PITAC). The PITAC will provide the USTR with policy advice on issues involving trade from a public health and international development perspective. The committee will provide reports on trade agreements to the U.S. president, USTR and Congress.

Nominations must be submitted to the USTR by March, 25 and the applicant must be a U.S. citizen; not a full time employee of a U.S. governmental entity, a federally-registered lobbyist or registered with the Department of Justice under the Foreign Agents Registration Act; be able to obtain and maintain a security clearance; and represent a U.S. organization whose members have a demonstrated interest in international trade.

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

Canada – Grain Import Framework – D-12-05

NAEGA looks forward to further work with several like-minded industry groups including [Canada-US Grain and Seed Task Group](#), NGFA, and the Animal Nutrition Association of Canada (ANAC) on Canada’s regulation of grain and oilseed imports. The ANAC recently shared its comments to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) on the Grain Import Framework (GIF) issue with NAEGA. The comments can be found [here](#) and [here](#). The Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC) working group on the Perimeter Approach to Plant Protection also continues to work on this issue. More information on the RCC working group can be found [here](#). NAEGA is expecting more information on the next draft of D-12-05 this week. NAEGA’s previous comments on D-12-05 can be found [here](#).

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China – Biotech Dilemma

Following up on Syngenta’s announced plans for a “Limited Launch,” of its Duracade® corn product and agreement with Gavilon Grain LLC to assist in the marketing of the product, NAEGA and NGFA sent Syngenta a [Duracade® letter](#) asking for specifics about the limited launch of Duracade®. The letter outlines the type of information our members have told us they would find helpful and useful in evaluating market risk that may be posed by the Duracade® product launch.

During a meeting with Syngenta and Gavilon representatives, Mr. Morgan agreed to respond to the extent he deems appropriate to the 13 questions in the [Duracade® letter](#). **A copy of Syngenta’s Right to Grow Zone Map can be found [here](#) and their Right to Grow material on Duracade can be found [here](#).**

Mexico – Soil Issue

NAEGA is coordinating messages with Mexico’s APPAMEX and Pulse Canada to all three governments on the trade frustration regarding soil pods on grain being imported to Mexico. Pulse Canada will be in Mexico on March 12th to have meetings on the issue. NAEGA, APPAMEX and Pulse will debrief after the March 12th meetings. At that point NAEGA will consider a trip to Mexico to meet with relevant industry and government leaders to try to resolve the issue.

U.S. – U.S. Biotech Crops Alliance

The U.S. Biotech Crops Alliance (USBCA) Executive Committee continues to meet and discuss the corn situation in China as well as plans to address both domestic and international trade frustration tied to the innovation of Crop biotechnology. NAEGA and NGFA are very encouraged by and committed to the open dialog and opportunities for information-sharing made possible by the USBCA to improve the environment for technology innovation and the market for U.S. agricultural products. In that spirit of collaboration, we shared the recent [Duracade® letter](#) to David Morgan on the “Limited Launch” of Duracade®. We view the situation with Syngenta and the “Limited Launch” of Duracade® as a separate and distinct issue from the positive ongoing deliberations occurring within the USBCA.

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

2013

Mar. 4 – Comments to USDA on coexistence of biotech and non-biotech farms. <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/12/31/2013-31192/enhancing-agricultural-coexistence-extension-of-comment-period>

Mar. 11 – Comments to USDA-APHIS on draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) evaluating one corn and two soybean varieties genetically engineered by Dow AgroSciences, LLC, to be resistant to the herbicide known as 2,4-D. These were originally due on Feb. 24, but were extended. <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=APHIS-2013-0042-0051>

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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

Asia-Americas – Trans-Pacific Partnership

The latest round of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) concluded on February 25 in Singapore. A [joint statement](#) said the 12 participants “agreed on the majority of the landing zones.” The press reports that one of the obstacles to finalizing the TPP is a stalemate between the U.S. and Japan over lowering Japan’s import tariffs on hundreds of agricultural products. There is some indications that the U.S. may be considering a proposal to drop Japan from the negotiations if the impasse continues. NAEGA, along with many other agricultural stakeholders, recently sent U.S. Ambassador Froman a [letter](#) stressing the importance of Japan liberalizing their agricultural markets. Without major market access to Japan, TPP would be difficult for the U.S. agricultural sector to support.

China Sues Ukraine for Breach of Grain Deal

China has sued Ukraine for \$3 billion for the breach of a contract where China loaned Ukraine money in exchange for grain. China alleges that Ukraine has used part of the \$3 billion Chinese loan to provide crops for other countries, including Ethiopia, Iran, Kenya, and Syrian opposition groups instead of supplying China. Chinese importers have only received \$153 million worth of Ukrainian grain.

U.S. – USDA-ERS Report on GMOs in the U.S.

The USDA-Economic Research Service (ERS) issued a report on the presence of Genetically Engineered (GE) crops in the U.S. 169 million acres of GE crops were planted in the U.S. in 2013, which is about half the U.S. land used for crops. The report finds that adoption of GE crops has saved farmers time, reduced insecticide use, and enabled the use of less toxic herbicides.

A copy of the report and executive summary can be found [here](#).

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

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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.

14 – New Orleans – NAEGA Grades Committee Meeting -- You can register [here](#).

19 – Washington, DC – ASP Workshop Dinner

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

May

17-18 – Qingdao, China – APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting

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

18-19 – Beijing, China – APEC Food Security Ministers Meeting

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

10-11 – Beijing, China – APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting

17-20 – Baltimore, MD – USAEDC Annual Workshop

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 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

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Membership Dues have been mailed to member representatives and payments were due February 17. If you have not already paid, please do so as soon as possible.

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