



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

OUTREACH April 14, 2015

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

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Member Opportunities

NAEGA Contract Seminars – Now Setting Schedule for 2015

Please make arrangements and indicate your interest in hosting and attending upcoming NAEGA seminars!

The NAEGA Contracts Committee is again providing for Seminars to provide in depth and interactive education on contract practices. These Seminars provide for intensive review of current

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developments and practices in international grain trade contracts focused on the NAEGA II. Other NAEGA services and policy can also be added content for a Seminar that is designed to meet your needs.

NAEGA Senior advisor Sam Bonilla, who is a much sought after instructor for our Seminars, and staffing for Seminars are currently available: **June 1-5, and 16-27 • July 13-31 • August 1-23 • September (all) • October (all) • November 2-13**

When and Where NAEGA Seminars are held is up to YOU! We are open to consider providing for NAEGA Seminars anywhere in the World!

If you have preference on time and location you would like to see a Contract Seminar held, please contact Gary or Kyle as soon as possible.

New Orleans, LA – NAEGA/NGFA Industry Workshop – May 13, 2015

NAEGA & NGFA members are invited to attend a regional Industry Workshop on Wednesday, May 13, 2015. The Workshop is scheduled to be held at the Hilton New Orleans Airport in Kenner, LA from 7:30am-4:30pm. A proposed agenda for the workshop has been prepared and is available [through this link](#).

The Workshop seeks to expand understanding and identify needs related to Grain and Oilseed exports. The workshop will feature the US Coast Guard, Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

All NAEGA & NGFA members are welcome to attend. Please register using form linked below so we can ensure an accurate headcount and keep in touch with you. There is no fee to attend. [Please click here to register](#).

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

An IGTC roundtable and policy meeting will be conducted the day before the International Grains Council (IGC) conference on June 9.

The June 8 International Grain Trade Coalition meeting is open to all IGTC Members and Corporate Stakeholders. You and colleagues are welcomed and encouraged to attend the June 8 IGTC meeting. Please contact Gary or Kyle so we may provide you with related information.

The June 9 IGC Conference requires registration with the International Grain Council. Please contact us if you would like to take advantage of a discounted registration. 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 or Kyle for additional details.

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Webinar – Examination of Recent OFAC Enforcement Actions – April 22, 2015

US Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control will present a webinar on Thursday, April 22, 2015 from 2:00pm to 2:45pm Eastern. The free webinar entitled, *“An Examination of Recent OFAC Enforcement Actions and Key Takeaways for Financial Institutions.”* Information included in the webinar:

1. Conduct that led to the apparent violations in these instances,
2. In-depth overview about trends in sanctions compliance enforcement,
3. Common OFAC compliance mistakes by financial institutions,
4. Practical compliance tips your institution may want to consider implementing as part of your global compliance program.

Questions will be accepted at the conclusion of the webinar session. Sign up by [clicking here](#).

Washington, DC – US FDA FSMA Public Meeting – April 23-24

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will hold a public meeting to discuss the agency’s on-going efforts to implement the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). The public meeting will take place at the Washington Marriott Hotel at Metro Center, 775 12th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005 on April 23-24. Attendance is available in person or via webcasts. [Click here to register](#).

USDA Seeks Nominations for Trade Advisory Committees – April 30, 2015

The USDA, in cooperation with the Office of the U.S. Trade representative (USTR), is renewing the charters and accepting nominations for new members to serve on its agricultural trade advisory committees. Members of the Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee (APAC) advise USDA and USTR on the operation of existing U.S. trade agreements, on negotiating objectives for new agreements, and on other trade policy matters.

Committee members serve four-year terms and must be a U.S. citizen, qualify for a security clearance, and serve without compensation for time, travel, or expenses. The committees generally meet in Washington, DC at least twice a year. Nominations must be received by 5:00 p.m. on April 30, 2015. All nomination materials should be mailed in a single complete package to: Thomas Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 202501001, Attn: APAC/ATACs. [Click here](#) for additional information.

Washington, DC – 2015 OFAC Spring Symposia – May 11, 2015

The US Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC) will hold its 2015 Spring Symposia in Washington DC on May 11, 2015. The Symposia will provide a comprehensive review of current US economic sanctions. This will include presentations on OFAC regulations as well as targeted reviews of sanctions concerns for new and updated OFAC-administered programs.

The event will take place at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center 801 Mount Vernon Place NW Washington, DC 20001. It is free but registration is required to attend the event. Registration will soon follow. For more information, visit [here](#).

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

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

Canada’s Low-Level Presence (LLP) Policy

NAEGA is working with the Canada Grains Council and the Canada US Grain and Seed Trade Task Group to provide input to the Government of Canada regarding changes to Canada’s *Proposed Domestic Policy on the Management of Low-Level Presence (LLP) of Genetically-Modified Crops in Imports and its Associated Implementation Framework*. Feedback received has led to a number of changes to the 2012 draft LLP policy and implementation framework (see www.agr.gc.ca/llp or [new revised draft](#)).

Ag Canada explains that to facilitate the understanding of the policy development process, the revised draft LLP policy and implementation framework includes a preamble that describes changes made to the 2012 policy proposal and lists the outstanding policy and implementation issues.

Resolving these outstanding complex issues will require further analysis and work with stakeholders and international partners. A decision regarding when to implement the policy will take place once the policy is finalized, and will take into account benefits and potential risks.

Comments on this revised draft policy and implementation framework may be sent to NAEGA or directly to the Ag. Canada at: LLP-PFC@agr.gc.ca

EU Biotech Approval Process

Regarding the European Union’s (EU) approval process for biotechnology, the EU food and feed chain partners sent a [press release](#) urging the European Commission (EC) to reject any attempt to renationalize the EU market authorizations of genetically modified crops for feed and food use.

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The EU food and feed chain also shared a Review of the [EU’s decision-making process to authorize GMOs for food and feed uses](#).

EU Sampling and Analysis Harmonization Survey

USDA’s Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) asked for input regarding a European Commission “*Study on Methods of Sampling and Analysis for GM Material in Food*”. Since the FAS request provided for only one day to respond, Gary Martin, using previously established NAEGA policy and input from a few industry sources, crafted a response. His response, including answers to an accompanying survey, can be found [here](#).

Customer Specifications Preferences Survey

A study NAEGA commissioned: “*U.S. Grain and Oilseed Inspection Services Competitiveness Study: Customer Specifications and Preferences*” is now available. The study reviews the global marketplace and examines motives of foreign customer importers to request additional independent third party testing services above and beyond what is mandated under the U.S. Grain Standards Act. The Study is part of our annual effort to support the Grain and Oilseed Market Access Index (GOMAI), which is a foundation of the NAEGA’s Unified Export Strategy (UES) application to USDA FAS for Market Access Program and available on the [International Programs Committee webpage](#) on the Members Only site.

Korea Testing for Glyphosate in Grains

The World Health Organization’s International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) recently raised concerns that glyphosate may be a carcinogenic. Korea has been particularly concerned with the report and there have been some meetings with Korean regulators—particularly the Rural Development Administration (RDA) and the Ministry of Food & Drug Safety (MFDS). RDA will have a pesticide review committee meeting on April 15 and adopt the interim measures for glyphosate. RDA plans as interim measures are:

1. RDA will set a cap of annual production volume of glyphosate at the same level of the production volume in the previous year. Chemical companies will submit the annual production plan to RDA and the total production volume of glyphosate in Korea will not exceed the total production volume in the previous year.
2. RDA will carry out its own assessments. RDA requested that companies submit the data and the relevant information for their assessments.
3. RDA requested companies to submit the exposure assessment data.
4. Until RDA completes its own review, all pending applications for formulated products made of glyphosate will be on hold. This will also apply to the other two chemicals that IARC classified into the 2A category.
5. If the interim measures are adopted by the committee, RDA will implement the measures beginning the end of April.

RDA thinks that it may take the minimum five months for them to complete the assessments. Until then, they plan to implement the interim measures.

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MFDS already started testing incoming grains for glyphosate. At the same time, they also requested safety information of glyphosate from companies. There are two testing programs in place:

1. MFDS instructed testing of glyphosate in corn, soybean, canola and cotton and this was resulted from IARC’s classification. According to FAS contacts at MFDS, MFDS will test these four commodities on a packing house basis. If a shipment passes the first test, the subsequent shipments from the same packing house will not be tested. MFDS plans to continue this testing program until the end of this year. As for MRLs for these four commodities, MFDS applies CODEX MRLs as Korea does not have the national MRL. MFDS does not think that they would find any excessive residue.
2. MFDS started testing of some chemicals including glyphosate from April 1 as they set new MRLs or heightened existing MRLs. For glyphosate testing, it is not because of IARC’s classification but it is because MFDS set the new MRL for rice in February, 2015 and this new rice MRL applies to some grains following their default path. Therefore, MFDS instructed field offices to test glyphosate in some grains for which new rice MRL applies to. Some grains include barley, wheat, sorghum, oat, quinoa, etc.

NAEGA will work with FAS and others communicate information and assist in avoiding trade disruptions worldwide. We would appreciate any information or recommendations for action you might have in this regard. Since glyphosate is such a widely used herbicide – we are seeking information on how other grain origins and destinations are addressing the Korean and other new glyphosate related regulations on grain trade.

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

Canadian Wheat Board Case

The Supreme Court of Canada said on April 9 that it will not hear an appeal from a farmer-led group that seeks damages from the government for dismantling the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) marketing monopoly.

The decision upheld the previous decisions of the Federal Court from 2013 and the Federal Court of Appeal from October 2014, which ruled in favor of the government.

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The lawsuit was initially filed in 2012 on behalf of former wheat board members and other stakeholders. They argued that the decision to end the monopoly effectively seized collective assets farmers had paid for over decades. Farmers have called the new marketing system “highly dysfunctional,” and say it cost producers as much as C\$5 billion in 2013-14. The price spread between what farmers received and what the grain was ultimately sold at in 2014-15 caused C\$3 billion in losses, they said.

Iranian Sanctions Remain in Place

The US Treasury Department Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) issued [guidance](#) relating to the April 2nd announcement of parameters for a Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran's Nuclear Program. As of today and until a JCPOA is concluded, other than the sanctions relief provided for under the JCPOA, all US sanctions remain in place and will continue to be vigorously enforced.

Syngenta MIR-162 Lawsuit

Recently, about 1,400 cases against Syngenta for allegedly tainting the US corn supply with genetically modified seed, MIR-162, have been added to the Multidistrict Litigation (MDL) in Kansas district court. The US Judicial Panel on MDL lifted a stay on transfers in late March after plaintiffs withdrew their oppositions to the transfer. There are currently roughly 2,000 consolidated cases against Syngenta regarding MIR-162.

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

April

13-15 – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada –and Canadian Global Crops Symposium – For the latest speaker bios and information on our sponsors, check out the website at www.canadiancrops.ca. A Canada US Grain and Seed Task Group Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, April 13 in advance of the Symposium. Gary Martin plans to attend.

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

17 – Washington, DC – US Trade Representative (USTR) briefing on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and agriculture interests related to implementation of the agreement.

23-24 – Washington, DC – US FDA FSMA Public Meeting to discuss the implementation of FSMA.

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30 – Deadline for USDA Agriculture Trade Advisory Committee Nominations.

May

4-7 – Guadalajara, Mexico – Global LLP Initiative (GLI) – The GLI is a group of countries that have endorsed an [International Statement on Low Level Presence](#) and committed to working collaboratively to develop international approaches to manage LLP. We are assembling a team of NAEGA and IGTC participants for the meeting. Please contact Gary if you would like to join the team!

11 – Washington, DC – 2015 OFAC Spring Symposia – [More information here](#).

19 - London, England - Chatham House expert workshop on Chokepoints and Vulnerabilities in the Global Food Trade. This meeting forms part of a Chatham House research project which seeks to map chokepoints, vulnerabilities and disruptive risks onto major production hubs and global trade routes for coarse grains, soybeans and fertilizers. It will identify supply chain nodes – including producing regions, inland transport networks, ports in exporting and importing countries, and maritime corridors – that are particularly exposed to disruption. Jerry Cotter attending and representing NAEGA. Jerry will present on the major challenges facing grain and fertilizer trade in the US, with a particular focus on the resilience and capacity of inland transportation and port infrastructure.

28 – Washington, DC – US Coast Guard Workshop for Alternative Security Program (ASP) sponsoring organizations – 1501 M Street, NW, Suite 500 – Jerry Cotter attending and representing NGFA and NAEGA ASP.

June

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

8 – London, United Kingdom – International Grain Trade Coalition Roundtable and Policy Discussion. All IGTC Members and Corporate Stakeholders are invited and encouraged to participate in person at all sessions. IGTC members and corporate stakeholders are also encouraged to invite prospective IGTC members and Stakeholders to participate. Unless otherwise notified the sessions will all be conducted at: GAFTA office, 9 Lincoln’s Inn Fields, London WC2A 3BP, UK. Please notify Marcel Bruins via email at mbruins1964@gmail.com or Kyle Liske via email at Kliske@naega.org, by telephone +1 202 682 4030 or Fax +1 202 682 4033 of your intentions to attend in person. Gary Martin & Marcel will be at the meeting.

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 up on GLI.

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

July

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

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.

August

13-15 – Puerto Vallarta, Mexico – 2015 APPAMEX-NAEGA Forum at the Hyatt Ziva <http://www.puertovallarta.ziva.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html>

September

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

22 – Washington, DC – 2015 OFAC Fall Symposia

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 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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