



OUTREACH
April 26, 2016
Thank you for your membership in and work
with NAEGA

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Member Opportunities

Please **REGISTER NOW!** – for May 16 events in Tokyo, Japan

You and company colleagues are invited to attend upcoming NAEGA events in Tokyo, Japan on May 16-18, 2016. NAEGA events will include:

Monday, May 16, 1:00 to 5:30pm JST: *Contracts and Best Practices for the International Grain and Oilseed Trade Seminar* at the Tokai University Club.

Monday, May 16, 6:00 to 7:30pm JST: *Cocktail Reception* at the Tokai University Club to follow the Seminar.

Contracts and Best Practices for the International Grain and Oilseed Trade Seminar: Please join NAEGA Senior Advisor Sam Bonilla and President and CEO Gary Martin for 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. A full agenda will be available soon.

The Seminar will take place from 1:00 to 5:30pm JST at the Tokai University Club at the Kasumigaseki Building 35th Floor 3-2-5 Kasumigaseki Chiyoda-Ku in Tokyo. If you or your colleagues are interested in attending the trade seminar, please [REGISTER HERE](#).

Cocktail Reception: Following the contracts seminar on May 16 NAEGA will sponsor a Japanese Grain and Oilseed Industry Cocktail Reception at the Tokai University Club from 6:00 to 7:30pm JST. Members of the Japanese grain and oilseed trade, MAFF and Japanese government officials, and U.S. Embassy staff are invited to attend. If you would like to attend the cocktail reception, please [REGISTER HERE](#).

Meeting with Japan Grain Executives – May 2

NAEGA member representatives and colleagues are invited to join us at NAEGA offices in Washington, D.C. on May 2 from 2:00-4:00pm for a meeting with Japanese milling executives as they tour U.S. facilities and meet with key stakeholders in the U.S. The group of five executives will be visiting NAEGA to learn more about the North American grain export system and gain a better understanding of the U.S. wheat industry and its future and marketing system.

Please contact Ryan if you will be in Washington and are interested in attending the meeting.

NAEGA Team seeking meetings with NAEGA member companies

While Gary Martin and Sam Bonilla are in Tokyo for the May 16 NAEGA seminar and cocktail reception, see above, they are seeking private meetings with NAEGA member companies. Please contact Gary if you are interested arranging a meeting on either May 17 or 18.

USACC Cuba Learning Journey – NEW DATE

The U.S. Agricultural Coalition for Cuba (USACC) has changed the date for its 2015 learning journey to Cuba to accommodate the President's March visit to Havana. The learning journey will now take place from May 23-26. During the trip the USACC plans workshops to develop a Cooperative Food and Agriculture Industry Agreement (CFAIA) between the USACC and Cuba's food and agriculture industry. The workshops and CFAIA will include trade, supply chains, production, sustainability and investment. NAEGA, as a member of the USACC, is currently very active on shaping the CFAIA. All NAEGA members are welcome to participate. For a preliminary itinerary please click [here](#). Please let us know if you are interested in participating in the USACC and U.S. policy developments toward Cuba.

IGTC Strategy Meeting and IGC Grains Conference – June 13-14

The International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) will meet on for June 13 at the Club Quarters Hotel, 61 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London. You and company colleagues are invited to attend. The meeting will begin at 12:30pm with a working lunch, followed by an update on key policy items and agreement on IGTC next steps and action. More information is to come; please let us know if you plan to attend by registering [here](#) with IGTC.

IGTC will be prominent at the upcoming International Grains Council (www.igc.int) meetings on June 13 and 14. IGTC has arranged for display tables at the IGC Conference at the Jumeira Carlton Tower Hotel. NAEGA members are welcome and encouraged to send promotional materials and information to be included at the tables. Following a report to the IGC on Monday June 13, IGTC will update conference attendees on developments related to electronic management of trade documents and sponsor the Conference Luncheon. IGTC President Gary Martin will address the IGC Conference on IGTC views related to the Conference theme '*Changing dynamics: the new trading environment*'.

You can take advantage of an IGTC 20% discounted registration for the IGC Conference (<http://www.igc.int/en/conference/confhome.aspx>) at the Jumeira Carlton Tower Hotel. To access the discounted registration please email directly to: conf@igc.int quoting the discount code: (IGTC16).

NAEGA/APPAMEX Forum – October 5-8

Please save the date for the 23rd Annual NAEGA/APPAMEX Forum to be held on October 5-8 in Cancun, Mexico. This year's forum will take place at the [Iberostar Hotel](#) in Cancun. All NAEGA member representatives and their colleagues are invited to attend. More information, including a link to registration and a preliminary agenda, will follow. A copy of last year's agenda can be found [here](#).

For more information, please contact Gary or Ryan.

Seminars and Internships

NAEGA Seminars: Please click [here](#) for more information on NAEGAs in-depth, interactive education on contract practices.

Internships: Information on working for NAEGA as an intern in our Washington, D.C. office 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

GIPSA Comments on USGSA Reauthorization

On April 25 NAEGA joined the National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) in Comments on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on the 2015 reauthorization of the U.S. Grain Standards Act. The NAEGA/NGFA comments suggest that, among other things, GIPSA:

- Revise its definition of the term “emergency” to reflect the language of the reauthorization;
- Adopt a 4.5-month target trigger on the 3 to 6 month operating reserve, review Schedule A fees annually and consistently, accurately and transparently report financial data regarding fee collection and FGIS operating costs;
- Adopt a 72 hour notice period in advance of discontinuation of service;
- Recommend that FGIS confirm that all certification costs for delegated states come from appropriated funds;

A copy of the comments to GIPSA can be found [here](#).

Support for the NAEGA/NGFA comments was also expressed in a joint letter by 15 state grain and feed, agribusiness and national trade associations. A copy of the letter of support can be found [here](#).

Thank you to all the members of the Joint NAEGA/NGFA Grades and Inspections and Grains, Grades and Weights Committees who helped craft these comments over the last few months!

Joint Statement on APHIS EIS Part 340

On April 24 NAEGA joined the Corn Refiners Association (CRA), National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA), the National Oilseed Processors Association (NOPA), and the North American Millers Association (NAMA) in a statement of response to the U.S. Animal Plant Health Inspection Service’s (APHIS) request for comments on its notice of intent to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement (EIS) regarding potential changes to regulations under 7 CFR Part 340. Part 340 is applicable to the importation, interstate movement and environmental release of certain genetically engineered organisms.

In the joint statement, NAEGA and the co-signed organizations conclude that it is premature for APHIS to propose significant revisions to Part 340 regulations at this time. The far-reaching consequences of pursuing such sweeping regulations without adequate outreach to domestic stakeholders and foreign market authorities, and with poor coordination with proposed changes to the Coordinated Framework of biotechnology regulation, could result in trade disruptions that have grave economic consequences. Instead, APHIS should only pursue “conditional deregulation” in changes to Part 340. Conditional deregulation would require technology owners to implement sufficiently robust and appropriate trait-specific stewardship plans and assume associated risk-responsibility if their defined risk-management plans fail to protect the value of U.S. crops until such approvals are granted.

A copy of the joint statement can be found [here](#).

IGTC Update – Newsletter, GA Minutes, Strategy Session Report

The International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) is excited to report on its successful General Assembly meeting and Strategy Session in Winnipeg, Canada on April 11. Minutes from the General Assembly and notes from the Strategy Session are now available. Both can be found on the IGTC intranet at www.igtglobal.org. All NAEGA members are also corporate stakeholders in the IGTC and have access to the IGTC intranet. If you would like to receive credentials to access the IGTC intranet please contact Gary or the IGTC Secretariat (secretariat@igtglobal.org).

Strategy Session and Roundtable Discussion

Members and Corporate Stakeholders of the IGTC met on the morning of April 11 to hold a Strategy Session and Roundtable Discussion on relevant IGTC policy priorities, including Electronic Documentation, Low Level Presence, IPPC ISPM on Grain, NPBTs, hazardous material labelling, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, MRLs and the World Bank’s “Enabling the Business of Agriculture” project. IGTC members were also given the opportunity to update the coalition on relevant developments in their countries. Action items were developed for the policy teams to implement and the session gave the coalition the opportunity to lay out priorities and divide labor on important issues in the coming months, including: development of a delegation to the Cartagena Protocol COP-MOP 8 in December, naming an IGTC speaker for the World Seed Congress and continuing outreach for new members and participants in the June IGTC meetings in London. A copy of the Strategy Meeting Report can be found [here](#).

General Assembly

Following the Strategy Session and Roundtable, the IGTC General Assembly met to discuss and vote on ongoing business affecting the coalition. After an activity report by IGTC Vice President Teresa Babuscio, the General Assembly made decisions on Team and Working Group leads, laid out a member recruitment strategy, and conducted an extensive review of the business plan. Included in the review of the business plan was discussion of NAEGA’s continued role as the underwriter of the IGTC, contribution levels of members and budgetary estimates. A copy of the General Assembly minutes can be found [here](#).

IGTC Newsletter

The newest edition of the IGTC Newsletter is now available! This week’s newsletter includes a report on the IGTC General Assembly, Strategy Session and Roundtable Discussion in Winnipeg on April 11, an update on IGTC engagement with the World Bank’s “Enabling the Business of Agriculture,” and a call for nominations for COP_MOP 8 in Cancun. A copy of the newsletter can be found on the IGTC intranet at www.igtglobal.org or by clicking [here](#).

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Future Actions

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

New York Round of TTIP Negotiations

The U.S. and EU negotiators will be meeting in New York City this week for the 10th Round of Negotiations of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). On Thursday, April 28 the U.S. Trade Representative will be holding a Stakeholder Forum and Chief Negotiator Briefing on the TTIP. Ryan will attend and represent NAEGA. The forum and briefing will feature

presentations by registered stakeholders on TTIP and meetings with Chief U.S. Negotiator Dan Mullaney and Chief EU Negotiator Ignacio Garcia-Bercero. NAEGA has been following TTIP negotiations closely through its participation and leadership of the U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade Agreements. Ryan will report on the TTIP negotiations after this week's meetings. Please let Ryan or Gary know if you have any questions.

A copy of the invitation and itinerary can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

EPhyto IAG and NAEGA/IGTC meetings – Rome and Geneva

NAEGA and IGTC President and CEO Gary Martin plans to travel to Rome, Italy and Geneva Switzerland on May 7-12 to advance the following NAEGA Unified Export Strategy (UES) objectives:

1. **Participation in the IPPC's EPhyto Industry Advisory Group (IAG) in Rome:** At the invitation of International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretary Jingyuan Xia, NAEGA President and CEO and IGTC President Gary Martin plans to participate in the IPPC's Industry Advisory Group (IAG) to support the exchange of electronic phytosanitary certificates particularly between developing countries. At the meeting Gary will engage with relevant stakeholders on the IPPC's development of an e-phyto hub for the exchange and communication of electronic phytosanitary certifications. The IAG is operating under a grant from the WTO's Standard and Trade Development Facility (STDF). For an agenda of the IAG's first meeting please click [here](#).
2. **Meetings with NAEGA members and staff in Geneva:** In coordination with the IGTC Gary will be meeting with various stakeholders and NAEGA members in Geneva to discuss ongoing priorities including: production technologies, electronic documentation, IPPC's ISPMs for Grain and IGTC input into the World Bank's "Enabling the Business of Agriculture" project.

A copy of the Notice to Post for this mission can be found [here](#).

More information on these NAEGA UES objectives can be found in the "Members Only" section of the NAEGA website (www.naega.org) or the "Intranet" of the IGTC website (www.igtglobal.org). Please contact Ryan or Gary if you have any questions.

UPDATE - Glyphosate Regulation

NAEGA is closely tracking global efforts in Italy, at the European Union (EU), and at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, surrounding the regulation of the herbicide glyphosate. These efforts include major changes in the regulation of glyphosate at national and supranational level.

UPDATE – Italy and Glyphosate

The Italian Farmers Union and an NGO coordinated on an Earth Day campaign to claim that Italian produced products have lower pesticide residues in Europe than imported products due to pre-harvest treatments that increase health risks. In response, the Italian pasta manufacturers continued their public outreach to emphasize that their products are wholesome and that imported wheat meets strict testing and safety requirements. In response, the USDA's Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) in Rome is currently reaching out to Italian counterparts, including the Ministries of Agriculture, Health and Environment and Prime Minister Mateo Renzi. U.S. Ambassador John Phillips has spoken to the Health Minister Beatrice Lorenzin and joined a letter to Mr. Renzi co-signed by the Canadian Ambassador.

These developments follow a recent meeting between Ambassador Phillips and Minister Lorenzin regarding residues of the herbicide glyphosate in imported wheat. During the meeting Minister Lorenzin confirmed that if the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has made a determination that if glyphosate is safe when present at levels under an EFSA established maximum residue level (MRL), then Italy will adopt the respective EFSA guidance. EFSA has established such guidance. Minister Lorenzin also indicate that exporting countries like the U.S. and Canada should “look at the long term given commercial issues could come up after Italy phases out glyphosate by 2020. She suggested an education campaign to North American farmers advising them that they might want to voluntarily adopt practices to prevent any glyphosate presence in order to avoid trade problems in the future. NAEGA is supporting a joint Canada-U.S. letter from our Ambassadors to all relevant Italian Ministers encouraging the complete adoption of the sound science and acceptance of the MRL. A related public information publication from the Italian Association of Confectionery and Pasta Industries posted to the NAEGA website [here](#).

Related to these efforts, NAEGA is working closely COCERAL on efforts surrounding an April 13 vote by the European Parliament (EP) that recommended that the EU re-authorization the use of glyphosate for another 7 years.

Prior to the vote, the European Commission (EC) proposed before the EP a re-authorization for the use of glyphosate for another 15 years based on the European Food Safety Authority’s (EFSA) science based determination that glyphosate is non-threatening to human health overall. However, strong opposition to the re-authorization proposal occurred in EP’s Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, which on March 22 objected to the herbicides reauthorization in a non-binding resolution. Ahead of formal consideration of the re-authorization at a plenary session of the EP on April 13 which voted to extend re-authorization of glyphosate of just 7 years, COCERAL issued a statement to EU decision-makers and Members of the EU Parliament calling on them to abide by commitments to science based decision making. A copy of the COCERAL statement can be found [here](#).

Meanwhile, in the United States the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has announced plans to begin testing for glyphosate residues in corn and soybeans even though residues remain well below tolerances established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). More information on FDA testing for glyphosate can be found [here](#).

NAEGA will be closely monitoring these issues as they develop. For further updates please follow the NAEGA Outreach and refer to the Members Only Section of the NAEGA website www.naega.org. Please contact Gary if you have any questions.

Input into Work Plans for U.S.-Canada Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC)

NAEGA is considering submitting comment via the Pacific-Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) into the U.S.-Canada Regulatory Council’s (RCC) 2016-2017 work plan. PNWER has been closely involved in the development of the RCC and has sent several combined submissions to the RCC initiative since the inception of the Beyond the Border Action Plan.

If you have any suggestions or comments on potential regulatory alignments between the U.S. and Canada, please contact Gary or Ryan. Comments are due by April 16.

You and company colleagues are also invited to attend RCC joint private sector stakeholder meeting in Washington, D.C. on May 4-5. If you are interested in participating, please contact Gary or Ryan.

NAEGA Actions on Current Issues are tracked on the Members Only Section under their relevant committee pages.

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Information for your Consideration

OFAC Releases FAQs on New Cuba Regulations

The U.S. Treasury's Office of Foreign Asset Control has released a helpful Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document on trade and finance with Cuba. The document answers questions regarding OFAC and the Obama Administration's recent efforts to liberalize trade with Cuba, including regulatory compliance related to the new amendments to the Cuban Assets Control Regulations. This opening up of trade and dialogue with Cuba following President Obama's December 2014 decision to reopen diplomatic relations with the Communist island after nearly 50 years of political and economic embargo.

A copy of the FAQs can be found on OFAC website, or by clicking [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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Calendar & Member Notices

Click [here](#) for a Copy of the IGTC Calendar

2016

May

2 – Meeting with Japanese Milling Executives at NAEGA Offices – Washington, D.C.

4-5 – RCC Joint Private Sector Stakeholder Meeting – Washington, D.C.

9 – IPPC EPhyto IAG meeting – Rome, Italy – preliminary agenda available [here](#).

16 –NAEGA Contract Seminar and Grain Trade Reception – Tokyo, Japan – to register, click [here](#) and [here](#).

23-26 – USACC Learning Journey to Cuba II

31-June 10 – Croatia, Bosna and Herzegovina and Serbia – Balkan Livestock Genetics and Feed Nutrition Program – NAEGA Senior Advisor Kirk Miller plans to attend and present. Please click [here](#) for a preliminary itinerary.

June

8 – Destrehan, LA – NGFA-NAEGA Industry Workshop. For a proposed agenda, click [here](#).

13 – London, UK – IGTC Strategy Meeting

14 – London, UK – IGC Grains Conference, Register [here](#).

23-25 – Odessa, Ukraine – Grain Ukraine Conference, Gary attending and speaking.

25-28 – Pending NAEGA Seminar – Kansas City, MO

June- October

TBD – Regional Workshop USG Government Agencies and Industry– Pacific Northwest

TBD – Regional Workshop USG Government Agencies and Industry – New Orleans

July

TBD – UN GHS Subcommittee Meeting – Geneva, Switzerland – Cotter Attending.

August-September

TBD – IGTC General Assembly and Strategy Session

TBD – NAEGA Board Meeting

September

TBD – IMO Subcommittee on the Carriage of Cargoes and Containers Meeting – London, United Kingdom – Cotter Attending.

October

5-8 – NAEGA/APPAMEX Forum, Iberostar Hotel, Cancun, Mexico.

December

TBD – UN GHS Subcommittee Meeting – Geneva, Switzerland – Cotter Attending.

2017

March

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

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