



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

OUTREACH May 1, 2015

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

Member Opportunities

- NAEGA Contract Seminars – Minneapolis First Week in June – Kansas City TBD
- New Orleans, LA – NAEGA/NGFA Industry Workshop – May 13, 2015
- London, England – International Grain Trade Coalition and International Grains Council – June 8 and 9, 2015
- Washington, DC – 2015 OFAC Spring Symposia – May 11, 2015
- Big Sky, Montana – PNWER Annual Summit – July 12-16, 2015

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Member Opportunities

NAEGA Contract Seminars – Minneapolis First Week in June – Kansas City TBD

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 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 will hold its first Contracts Seminar the first week of June in Minneapolis. A private session will be held on June 2nd and 3rd. If you are in the Minneapolis area and are interested in a general seminar on **June 1st**, please let Gary or Kyle know ASAP.

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We also plan to hold a Contract Seminar in Kansas City over the summer. NAEGA Senior advisor Sam Bonilla, who is a much sought after instructor for our Seminars, and staffing for Seminars are currently available: **June 19-27 • July 20-31 • August 1-11, 17-21**. If you are interested in holding a Contract Seminar in Kansas City, please let us know as soon as possible.

If you are interested in holding a Contract Seminar in a location other than Minneapolis and Kansas City, please let us know where you would like it held and your preferred date.

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 of Kyle for additional details.

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

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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](#).

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

Biotech Approvals

In a [press release](#), the European Union (EU) Commission announced the adoption of 17 GMOs authorizations for import and food and feed uses, ending a de facto moratorium on authorizations that started in November 2013. Having gone through a full authorization procedure, including a favorable scientific assessment by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), the 17 authorizations are valid for 10 years and cover the authorization for food and feed uses, import and processing but not for cultivation.

The GMO's adopted are:

10 new authorizations:

MON 87460 maize; MON 87705 soybean; MON 87708 soybean; MON 87769 soybean; 305423 soybean; BPS-CV127-9 soybean; MON 88302, oilseed rape; T304-40 cotton; MON 88913 cotton; LLCotton25xGHB614 cotton

7 authorization renewals:

T25 maize; NK603 maize; GT73 oilseed rape (renewal and scope extension); MON 531 x MON 1445 cotton; MON 15985 cotton; MON 531 cotton; MON 1445 cotton.

One of the traits approved by the EU, Roundup Ready 2 Xtend Soybeans (MON 87708) is currently in Phase IV of Monsanto’s R&D Pipeline, but will not be approved in China until next spring at the earliest. It anticipated that 175,000 seed will be produced this year and 3 million

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acres will be planted next year. The soybeans will provide tolerance to dicamba and glyphosate herbicides, offering consistent and flexible weed control, especially with tough-to-manage and glyphosate-resistant weeds. This will be the first biotech product with tolerance to both glyphosate and dicamba herbicides.

NAEGA/NGFA Comments on USCG Cybersecurity Policy

NAEGA and NGFA submitted joint comments in response to the U.S. Coast Guard's (USCG) request for input on developing a policy to assist vessel and facility operators identify and address cyber-related vulnerabilities.

In the comments the NGFA and NAEGA recommend that the USCG utilize the resources in the DHS's National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center which contains an evaluation self-assessment tool for use by industry facilities. The NGFA and NAEGA also recommend that the USCG allow facilities under the ASP to include a cybersecurity system as an annex to the facility-specific part of the ASP, if the facility so chooses. Further, NGFA and NAEGA state that while security and high levels of deterrence are very important, there is concern that the additional requirements of a general cybersecurity program will result in undue administrative burden and capital costs to each facility.

The comments can be found on the [NAEGA website](#).

NAEGA MAP Activity Report – Competitiveness Study

NAEGA submitted a MAP Activity report on a survey conducted on the competitiveness of the US grain inspection services. According to information gathered from the surveys, the U.S. grain supply chain and export trade is well served by the existence of the USDA FGIS regulatory and standard setting body and official U.S. inspection certificates, but the actual delivery of export inspection and weighing services could be improved.

The report can be found on the [International Programs Committee webpage](#) on the “Members Only” site.

US Grain Standards Act Reauthorization

The U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Agriculture will meet to consider and mark up the United States Grain Standards Act Reauthorization Act of 2015. NAEGA and NGFA have been actively engaged on this issue. Last week Nick Friant, the Co-Chairman of NAEGA's Grades and Inspections Committee and the Chairman of the NGFA's Grain Grades and Weights Committee, testified at a hearing on the reauthorization of the U.S. Grain Standards Act (USGSA) before the Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management.

Nick's [testimony](#) centered on reauthorized legislation that would:

1. Strengthen the obligation of the Secretary of Agriculture to restore official inspection and weighing service in a prompt manner when disruptions occur in the official services,

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2. Make the process of delegating or designating authority to perform official inspection and weighing service at export elevators more transparent and open to public comment,
3. Maintain the Federal Grain Inspection Service’s current authority to designate qualified, accredited state or private entities to perform official inspection and weighing services within the domestic market,
4. Require FGIS to base the tonnage component of export inspection user fees on a fluctuating and more market-responsive basis that takes into account shifts in actual shipment volumes that are officially inspected, rather than the current static formula that is based on what were erroneously low projections in export volumes, and
5. Require reauthorization in five years, instead of the current 10 years.

Next week, NAEGA Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors, Steve Campbell of Louis Dreyfus, is scheduled to testify before the Senate Agriculture Committee along with Tim Paurus of CHS on behalf of NGFA.

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

2015

June 22 – Comments to USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) on the regulation of biotechnology products: <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2015-0036>

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

Court Decision on Vermont’s GMO Law

A U.S. district court in Vermont denied a preliminary injunction to stop Vermont’s GMO labeling law from going into effect. The court, however, denied the state of Vermont’s motions to dismiss certain issues brought up by industry groups seeking the injunction.

Vermont’s Act 120 still is scheduled to go into effect on July 1, 2016. It will require food intended for humans and offered for retail sale in Vermont to be labeled as genetically engineered if it is produced entirely or in part from genetic engineering.

The court dismissed the industry groups’ claim that Act 120 violates the Commerce Clause, but the court sided with the industry groups on a “natural” restriction. The court took issue with Vermont’s Act 120 prohibiting manufacturers from using labeling, advertising or signage indicating that a genetically engineered food product is “natural,” “naturally made,” “naturally grown,” “all natural,” or any words of similar import that would have a tendency to mislead a consumer.

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The court pointed out Act 120 does not define the term “natural” or the phrase “any words of similar import.” Act 120 also purports to restrict the use of “natural” terminology in signage and advertising nationwide and on the Internet, according to the court.

The court also sided with the industry groups and did not dismiss their claim that the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act “expressly preempt all state regulation of labeling of meat and poultry products, including products Act 120 does not exempt.”

The court took issue with the industry groups’ argument of a potential 50-state patchwork of GMO labeling policies. The court said currently no actual conflict exists between Vermont’s Act 120 and any mandatory GMO labeling law elsewhere.

General System of Preference

The U.S. Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee introduced legislation that would retroactively reinstate the General System of Preference (GSP), which expired in July, 2013. The bill would also renew the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), as well as provide enhanced trade benefits for Haiti.

According to Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch, “The proposal amends Section 505 of the Trade Act of 1974 to extend the GSP program until December 31, 2017, and retroactively applies benefits to articles imported on or after July 31, 2013 that would have been eligible for duty-free treatment under the GSP program as of the date of enactment.”

Trade Promotion Authority Legislation

The U.S. Senate Finance Committee approved Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), along with a handful of other trade liberalization measures. TPA is generally seen as a key part to successfully passing the pending free trade agreements, including the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP).

Shortly after TPA legislation passed the Senate Finance Committee, the House Ways and Means Committee passed its own version of TPA legislation. The full House and Senate could take up their respective bills in early May. Differences in the two versions of TPA legislation will have to be resolved either by amendments on the floor or by conference committee.

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

May

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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.](#)

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.

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

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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.

21 - 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.

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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