



In this Issue:

Member Opportunities

- Contracts and Best Practices Seminar - Kansas City, MO – May 3
- Japanese Wheat Milling Executives – Washington, D.C. – May 3
- U.S. Food and Ag Dialogue for Trade – May 11
- Contracts and Best Practices Seminar – Minneapolis, MN – May 17
- NAFTA and Asia-Pacific Policy Teams
- ASP Users Meeting – Washington, DC - May 24
- NAEGA-APPAMEX Forum – Cancun, Mexico – May 24-26
- International Symposium on Risk Based Sampling – Baltimore, MD – June 26-30
- NAEGA Contracts and Best Practices Seminars
- NAEGA Internships

Action Reports

Recent Actions:

- Clause 20
- China
- IGTC Newsletter
- World Food Prize Support
- GIPSA Comments on Delegated States

Upcoming Actions:

- IGTC Strategy Session and IGC Conference – London – June 5-6

Pending Actions:

- Consultation on Draft Plant and Animal Health Strategy for Canada
- Comments on Significant Trade Deficit Countries

News

- ICTSD Paper on Negotiating Global Rules on Agricultural Domestic Support
- U.S. Government Transition

NAEGA Calendar and Member Notices

- Upcoming Events and Notices for Members



Member Opportunities

Contracts and Best Practices Seminar – Kansas City, MO – May 3

Please [join NAEGA for a Contracts and Best Practices Seminar](#) on May 3 in Kansas City, MO! Led by NAEGA Senior Advisor Sam Bonilla, this seminar is an interactive, industry-wide opportunity to exchange and learn through an intensive and informative review of commercial and official practices to improve predictability, reduce risks, resolve trade barriers, and facilitate profitable trade. Ryan will assist Sam and be available to discuss NAEGA actions and member services.

The preliminary agenda includes:

- Open dialogue on current contracting practices as they relate to trade risks.
- A "Road Map" of the NAEGA II Model Contract
- Review of the 2017 revisions to the NAEGA II Model Contract.
- Perspectives on the global contracting environment in GAFTA, FOSFA and other contract models and practices.
- Case Study Exercises on:
 - Calculating laytime, despatch and demurrage.
 - Contract Terms.
 - Arbitration and other alternatives for dispute resolution.

The Seminar will take place at the [Courtyard Marriott Kansas City Airport](#) in Meeting Room B from 8:00am-4:00pm.

The cost of the seminar is \$250 per person. NAEGA member representatives are encouraged to invite others who may also be interested.

Japanese Wheat Milling Executives – Washington, D.C. – May 3

All NAEGA Member and Washington, D.C. representatives are invited to attend a meeting with team of Japanese milling executives at 1:45pm on May 3 at NAEGA's offices in Arlington, VA. Sponsored by U.S. Wheat Associates, the team is comprised of executives of four leading milling companies in Japan, and their goal is to get a better understanding of the U.S. wheat industry and develop close working relations and mutual reliance between U.S. wheat industry and Japanese millers to assure a steady supply of quality wheat. A list of members of the team can be found [here](#), and a background of the teams objectives can be found [here](#).

Please contact Ryan if you are interested in attending.

U.S. Food and Ag Dialogue for Trade – May 11

NAEGA member personnel are invited to [RSVP](#) for a meeting of the U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade on May 11 from 1:00-4:00pm at Arent Fox, LLP on 1717 K Street NW, Washington, D.C. The U.S. Food and Ag Dialogue for Trade is an off the record broad based open forum that convenes as needed to discuss U.S. agriculture's interests in trade. A formal invite will be available in the coming weeks.

A preliminary agenda includes:

1. Welcome and opening remarks

2. U.S. Government Speakers - Trade developments in North America and the Asia-Pacific:
 - a. Jason Hafemeister, Acting Undersecretary for Farm and Foreign Agriculture Services (confirmed)
 - b. Sharon Bomer Lauritsen, Assistant USTR for Agriculture Affairs and Commodity Policy (confirmed)
 - c. Others invited.
3. Update on the Asia-Pacific Region by invited Embassies
4. Reports from the Implementing Team and Working Groups:
 - a. Report on Dialogue organization and structure;
 - b. Report from Working Groups.

Contracts and Best Practices Seminar – Minneapolis, MN Area – May 17

Please join NAEGA for a [Contracts and Best Practices Seminar](#) on May 17 in the Calhoun Isles (Lake) Room at the Hilton Garden Inn in Minneapolis, MN! Led by NAEGA Senior Advisor Sam Bonilla, this seminar will again provide participants with a current and interactive, review of commercial and official practices to improve predictability, reduce risks, resolve trade barriers, and facilitate profitable trade. NAEGA staff will assist Sam and be available to discuss NAEGA actions and member services.

The seminar will be an important opportunity for newer trade professionals to become familiar with the industry and for more experienced trade professionals to consider recent events and discuss get to know the recent changes to the NAEGA 2 contract!

The Hilton Garden Inn is located in downtown Minneapolis at [1101 S 4th Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55404](#).

NAFTA and Asia-Pacific Policy Teams

NAEGA staff are recruiting member personnel to participate in policy teams focused on the North American Free Trade Agreement and China. The Board of Directors requested the creation of these policy teams during the January 31 Board meeting in Miami, Florida. Policy teams will monitor unfolding trade policy changes related to the U.S. government transition, including:

- **NAFTA Policy Team:** Work with NAEGA staff to monitor a potential renegotiation of NAFTA. Develop policy requests for a revised NAFTA agreement and communicate with U.S., Canadian and Mexican government officials the value of an efficient open North American marketplace.
- **Asia-Pacific Policy Team:** Work with NAEGA staff to monitor U.S. government trade relations with China. Topics include advising and communicating NAEGA positions on Decree 177, production technologies and U.S. trade policy developments.

Please contact [Ryan](#) if you have any questions or are interested in participating in these policy teams.

ASP Users Meeting – Washington, DC - May 24

All NAEGA members who utilize the NAEGA-NGFA Alternative Security Program (ASP) are invited to attend the Spring ASP Workshop in Washington, D.C. Coordinated by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), this Spring's meeting will be held at the offices of the American Chemistry Council on May 24, 2017. Along with presentations by the USCG on ASP compliance, the workshop's agenda will include discussion of the new TWIC reader rule and an update from the Federal Aviation Administration on unmanned aerial vehicles and managing airspace security. More information, including an agenda, will be available soon. NAEGA Senior Advisor Jerry Cotter will lead NAEGA's delegation at the workshop. Please contact [Ryan](#) if you are interested in attending.

NAEGA-APPAMEX Forum – Cancun, Mexico – May 24-26

All NAEGA members are invited to attend the 24th Annual NAEGA-APPAMEX Forum in Cancun, Mexico on May 24-26. This year's forum will take place at the Hotel Secrets the Vine in coordination with the Mexican feed mills association CONFAB. A preliminary agenda is available [here](#). Further information on hotel reservations and registration will be available soon.

International Symposium on Risk Based Sampling – Baltimore, MD – June 26-30

NAEGA member companies are invited to join NAEGA Senior Advisor Arvid Hawk at the North American Plant Protection Organization's (NAPPO) International Symposium on Risk Based Sampling in Baltimore, Maryland on June 26-30. The symposium's topics will include:

- International collaboration to frame agricultural quarantine policy around Risk Based Sampling;
- Risk Based Sampling concepts and their application in practice;
- Scientific, statistical and operational concepts that support regulatory strategies for Risk Based Sampling;
- Experiences with implementation of ISPMs 23 and 31 and technically justified inspection procedures used in international trade.
- Communication strategies for fostering acceptance of RBS by decision-makers and stakeholders.

The Symposium will take place at the Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor. To register, please click [here](#).

Contracts and Best Practices Seminars

Upcoming Seminars open to all interested are planned for May 3 in Kansas City, MO and May 17 in the Minneapolis MN region.

Proposed open seminars are under consideration for Tokyo, Japan and Vancouver, BC, Canada in last half 2017.

NAEGA also conducts company specific private seminars. Please let us know if you are interested attending or hosting a NAEGA seminar. Click [here](#) for more information the in-depth, interactive programs NAEGA conducts!

Internships

We have an open intern position starting May 2017 to work at the NAEGA office at 1400 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202. Information on working for NAEGA as an intern can be found [here](#).

Full Details on Upcoming Events can be found in the Meetings & Events Section of the [NAEGA Member's Only Page](#).

[Click here to return to Index](#)

Action Reports

Recent Actions:

Clause 20 Certification Process Underway

NAEGA received, and has begun the process to respond to, a request from one seller for Certification of Cause related to rail transportation impediments during February 2017.

China

Gary is back from Beijing where he met with China's AQSIQ to address U.S. compliance with Decree 177. Meetings with AQSIQ were successful in gaining acceptance of the existing U.S. list of exporting firms and progress on development of further clarification of compliance needs.

During the week, Gary also met with and established an understanding with The China Group Companies Association (CGCA, www.cgcpa.org) intended to provide for joint work to improve utilization of information systems to facilitate trade and regulatory compliance. As a result, NAEGA has taken under consideration and will be reporting on the work of a CGCA sponsored think tank: International Institute for the Development of Multinational Institutions (www.idmni.org).

Gary's trip report will soon be available. Please contact Gary if you would like to discuss.

IGTC Newsletter

The latest IGTC newsletter is now available! This week's newsletter contains details of IGTC Secretariat Katy Lee's two-week travel to the East Africa Grain Council, IGTC's Global Webinars on Plant Breeding Innovation, and a call for feedback on the IGTC MRL Work Plan. Also highlighted are upcoming events including the June 5 and 6 IGTC strategy session and meetings in London as well as the June 14-15 Global Low Level Presence Initiative (GLI) meeting in Rome.

For more details, read the IGTC Newsletter [here](#) or visit the IGTC website at www.igtglobal.org.

World Food Prize Support

On Monday, NAEGA President and CEO Gary Martin, who also serves as President of the International Grain Trade Coalition, addressed an open letter to the World Food Prize Foundation Selection Committee expressing his support for the nomination for the World Food Prize of Victor Villalobos, Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA). Mr. Martin expressed his fullhearted endorsement of Mr. Villalobos, highlighting his lifelong contributions to feeding the world and inspirational leadership in the agricultural industry.

The full letter to the World Food Prize Foundation Selection Committee is available [here](#).

GIPSA Comments on Delegated States

This week NAEGA and NGFA authored two letters to the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) regarding GIPSA's intent to certify Alabama and South Carolina Delegated Official Agencies. The letters express no objection to the certification of the states of Alabama and South Carolina for official inspection, and welcome the increased transparency regarding notice and comment on delegation being implemented under the reauthorization of the U.S. Grain Standards Act.

Comments submitted to GIPSA by NAEGA and NGFA for South Carolina and Alabama can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Upcoming Actions:

IGTC Strategy Session and IGC Conference – London – June 5-6

On June 5-6 Gary and Katy will travel to London, United Kingdom to attend the International Grains Council's 2017 Grain Conference and hold a Strategy Session for International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) members and corporate stakeholders. All NAEGA members are invited to attend the IGTC Strategy Session on June 5. IGTC Strategy Sessions are an opportunity for associations, councils and Corporate Stakeholders to provide strategic feedback on priority files and the activities of IGTC Policy Teams and Working Groups.

While in London, Gary also hopes to meet with NAEGA Colleagues as well as International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) members and corporate stakeholders. Please contact Gary or Ryan if you would like to arrange for meeting.

Pending Actions:

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

Consultation on Draft Plant and Animal Health Strategy for Canada

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) Draft *Plant and Animal Health Strategy for Canada* is now available for consultation. The goal of the Strategy is to ensure the protection of human health and the environment through animal and plant health. The Strategy was developed collaboratively by government, industry and other partners in plant and animal health, and builds on the feedback gathered during online discussion and at the National Plant and Animal Health Planning Forum. A copy of the draft strategy can be found [here](#).

CFIA will conduct consultation on the strategy until April 30, 2017. Please contact PAHS-SSVA@inspection.gc.ca if you have any questions about the consultation.

Comments on Significant Trade Deficit Countries

The U.S. Secretary of Commerce and the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) are requesting public comments regarding significant U.S. trade deficits. Pursuant to Executive Order 13786, Commerce and USTR are preparing to submit to the President an Omnibus Report on Significant Trade Deficits. In preparation for this report, the Secretary of Commerce will hold a public hearing on

May 18, 2017 at 9:30am Eastern. The deadline for submitting comments to this hearing regarding significant trade deficits is Wednesday, May 10.

A copy of the call for public comment can be found [here](#). Please let NAEGA know if you would like to participate in this comment period.

[Click here to return to Index](#)

In the News

ICTSD Paper on Negotiating Global Rules on Agricultural Domestic Support

This week the International Center for Trade and Sustainable Development published “Negotiating Global Rules on Agricultural Domestic Support: Options for the World Trade Organization’s Buenos Aires Ministerial Conference.” The paper looks to ideas presented at the WTO to evaluate potential methods for negotiating agricultural support, focusing on products of particular importance to low-income countries. It includes analysis of implications of several different methods for countries’ actual support levels, taking into account the maximum WTO permitted ceilings.

The paper is available for download [here](#) on the [ICTSD website](#).

U.S. Government Transition

Cabinet Nominations and Confirmations: NAEGA continues to monitor Cabinet nominations. Nominations hearings are currently ongoing. NAEGA understands the following nominations and confirmations have been made:

Cabinet Position	Name	Status
Vice President	Mike Pence	Elected
Secretary of State	Rex Tillerson	Confirmed
Secretary of Treasury	Steve Mnuchin	Confirmed
Secretary of Defense	James Mattis	Confirmed
Department of Justice-Attorney General	Jeff Sessions	Confirmed
Secretary of the Interior	Ryan Zinke	Confirmed
Secretary of Agriculture	Sonny Perdue	Confirmed
Secretary of Commerce	Wilbur Ross	Confirmed
Secretary of Labor	Alex Acosta	Confirmed
Secretary of Health and Human Services	Tom Price	Confirmed
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development	Ben Carson	Confirmed
Secretary of Transportation	Elaine Chao	Confirmed
Secretary of Energy	Rick Perry	Confirmed
Secretary of Education	Betsy DeVos	Confirmed
Secretary of Veterans Affairs	David Shulkin	Confirmed
Secretary of Homeland Security	John F. Kelly	Confirmed

High-Level Office	Name	Status
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Director of Office of Management and Budget	Mick Mulvaney	Confirmed
Director of the Central Intelligence Agency	Mike Pompeo	Confirmed
Ambassador to the United Nations	Nikki Haley	Confirmed
Admin. of the Small Business Administration	Linda McMahon	Confirmed
Admin. of the Environmental Protection Agency	Scott Pruitt	Confirmed
Admin Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Serv	Seema Verma	Confirmed
Deputy Commerce Secretary	Todd Ricketts	Nominated
Secretary of the Army	Mark Green	Nominated
Trade Representative	Robert Lighthizer	Nominated
National Aeronautics and Space Administrator		
Director of National Intelligence	Daniel Coats	Confirmed

Assistants to the President	Name	Status
White House Chief of Staff	Reince Priebus	Appointed
Senior Advisor	Jared Kushner	Appointed
Counsel to the President	Don McGahn	Appointed
Special Advisor on Regulatory Reform	Carl Icahn	Appointed
Economic Policy and National Economic Council	Gary Cohn	Appointed
Counselor to the President	Kellyanne Conway	Appointed
Deputy National Security Advisor	KT McFarland	Appointed
National Security Advisor	Michael Flynn	Appointed
National Trade Council	Peter Navarro	Appointed
Special Rep. International Negotiations	Jason Greenblatt	Appointed
Senior Counselor and Chief Strategist	Stephen Bannon	Appointed
Press Secretary	Sean Spicer	Appointed
Director of Strategic Communications	Hope Hicks	Appointed
Director of Social Media	Dan Scavino	Appointed
Homeland Security & Deputy Nat'l Security Advisor	Thomas Bossert	Appointed
Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers	Kevin Hassett	Nominated
Director of the Office of Science		

Selected Ambassadors	Name	Status
US Ambassador to China	Terry Branstad	Nominated
US Ambassador to Israel	David Friedman	Confirmed
US Ambassador to Canada	Kelly Knight Craft	Nominated
US Ambassador to Mexico		
US Ambassador to Japan	Bill Hagerty	Nominated
US Ambassador to the EU		

If you would like more information, or wish to provide comments on any of these news topics monitored by NAEGA, please contact us.

[Click here to return to Index](#)

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

2017

May

- 1-2** – NGFA 2017 Trade Rules Seminar – Kansas City, Missouri
- 3** – Contracts and Best Practices Seminar – Kansas City, Missouri
- 3** – Japanese Milling Team Meeting – NAEGA Offices – Washington, D.C.
- 8-12** – IPPC Standards Committee Meeting – Rome, Italy
- 10** – Comments on Significant Trade Deficits Due
- 11** - U.S. Food and Ag Dialogue for Trade – Washington, D.C.
- 8-12** – IPPC Standards Committee – Rome, Italy
- 17** – Contracts and Best Practices Seminar – Minneapolis, MN
- 22-24** – ISF World Seed Congress 2017 – Budapest, Hungary
- 24** – Spring ASP Workshop – American Chemistry Council – Washington, D.C.
- 24-26** – NAEGA-APPAMEX Forum – Hotel Secrets the Vine – Cancun, Mexico

June

- TBD** – IMO Council – London, UK
- TBD** – Grain Inspection Advisory Committee Meeting
- 5** – 45th International Grains Council Session – London, UK
- 5** – IGTC Strategy Session – London, UK
- 6** – 26th IGC Grains Conference – London, UK
- 14** – IGTC Management Council Meeting – Virtual
- 13-15** – Global Low Level Presence Meeting – Rome, Italy
- 26-27** – NAPPO International Symposium for Risk Based Sampling – Baltimore, MD
- 27** – IPPC Industry Advisory Group on ePhyto Hub – NAEGA HQ – Arlington, VA

July

10-12 – GHS Subcommittee Meeting – Geneva, Switzerland

19-21 – PNWER Annual Summit – Calgary, Alberta, Canada

24-28 – IMO Council Session – London, UK

August

1-3 – Australian Grains Industry Conference Australia and associated meetings – Melbourne, Australia

7-11 – IGTC Working Visit with GTA – Sydney, Australia

17 – APEC High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology - Vietnam

September

8 – IGC Market Conditions Committee

11-15- IMO CCCC – London, UK

14 – IGTC Management Council Meeting – Virtual

October

TBD – IGTC General Assembly – Location TBD

TBD – Contracts and Best Practices Seminar – Vancouver, BC

TBD – Contracts and Best Practices Seminar – Tokyo, Japan

November

13-17 – IPPC Standards Committee – Rome, Italy

TBD – Grain Inspection Advisory Committee Meeting

27 – IGTC General Assembly – Beijing, China

December

3 – NGFA Country Elevator Conference

5 – 46th IGC Council Session – London, UK

6-8 – GHS Subcommittee Meeting – Geneva, Switzerland

14 – IGTC Management Council Meeting – Virtual

2018

March

18-20 – NGFA Annual Convention – Scottsdale, Arizona

18-20 – NAEGA Annual Meetings – Scottsdale, Arizona

[Click here to return to Index](#)

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