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Member Opportunities

New Orleans Industry Workshop – June 8

Please join us for an Industry and U.S. Government Workshop hosted by the North American Export Grain Association (NAEGA) and the National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) on Wednesday, June 8 from 7:30am to 3:30pm. The NAEGA-NGFA Industry Workshop will take place at the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) Offices at 104 Campus Drive, Suite 200 Destrehan, LA 70047.

Discussion will focus on NOLA region grain and oilseed export industry concerns. Reports and interaction with U.S. Government officials and guests will include representatives of: USCG, Corps of Engineers and National Cargo Bureau on maritime security and transportation issues; USDA APHIS on phytosanitary requirements on U.S. exports, USDA FGIS on their grain inspection and international services and U.S. FDA on product safety. News from China, Mexico and Korea will be featured.

Please register at the link [here](#). A copy of the final agenda is available [here](#).

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).

WTO Seminar on Electronic Documentation

The International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) has been invited to attend the World Trade Organization's seminar on electronic phytosanitary certification on June 28 in Geneva. As corporate stakeholders in IGTC all NAEGA members are also invited to attend. The seminar takes place under the leadership of the WTO's Standards and Trade Development Facility, with a view to more deeply engaging member governments in work on electronic data exchange. The seminar will be strictly government-led, though trade and industry participants will be allowed to speak

from the floor during the ‘open discussion’ sections of the seminar. Topic of discussion for the seminar will include:

- review existing international SPS and electronic data exchange standards and consider outstanding standard-setting gaps;
- review relevant initiatives aiming to streamline the automation of trade procedures and facilitate implementation of paperless trade to identify synergies and good practice; and
- present countries’ experiences in the area of exchange of electronic SPS certificates, share lessons learned, discuss challenges faced and consider capacity building needs for developing countries.

A preliminary agenda can be found [here](#). Participation is done on a first come, first serve basis by May 30. If you are interested in registering for the seminar please contact the Katy Lee, Acting IGTC Secretariat at secretariat@igtglobal.org.

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

IPPC Ephyto Industry Advisory Group Meetings

In line with the International Grain Trade Coalitions (IGTC) priority to engage relevant actors and participate in international forums on innovative electronic documentation technologies, NAEGA President and CEO and IGTC President Gary Martin travelled to Rome, Italy on May 9 on behalf of the IGTC. In Rome, at the invitation of the International Plant Protection Convention’s (IPPC) Secretary Jingyuan Xia, Gary participated in the first Industry Advisory Group (IAG) meeting on an EPhtyo Hub, a centralized server to facilitate exchange of electronic certificates between national plant protection organizations (NPPO). During the meeting, the IGTC confirmed its support for the eHub and highlighted the innovation that is taking place across the global grain trade, with important developments in e-documentation to increase the security of the transactions and cost efficiencies of the trade.

A report on the outcomes of the meeting is available [here](#). For more information, please contact Gary.

IGTC Meetings in Geneva

NAEGA President and CEO and IGTC President Gary Martin travelled to Geneva on May 9-12 for a series of outreach meetings with international organizations, governments, industry bodies and IGTC corporate stakeholders. The goal of this mission was to communicate IGTC priorities and global perspectives to stakeholders at the WTO, promote IGTC efforts on electronic documentation and gather information on private sector initiatives in international trade discussions. Priority issues included:

1. International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) development of a new International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) for Grain, with a sharp focus on phytosanitary measures.
2. Innovation in Electronic Document Management, E-docs. This includes the IAG on the IPPC and STDF pilot project; and the 28 June STDF seminar in the margins of WTO SPS committee.
3. ‘Low Level Presence’ - accommodating the presence of grain produced with GMO Seeds.
4. New plant breeding techniques
5. Cartagena Biosafety Protocol
6. International Labelling mandates and guidance for agri-bulks (UN GHS Sub-Committee).
7. Enabling the Business of Agriculture project with the World Bank.

A report on the outcome of this meeting is available [here](#). For more information, please contact Gary or IGTC Acting Secretariat Katy Lee (Secretariat@igtglobal.org).

Tokyo Contract Seminar and Reception

On May 16 NAEGA President and CEO Gray Martin and Senior Advisor Sam Bonilla held a successful “Contracts and Best Practices for the International Grain and Oilseed Trade Seminar” in Tokyo, Japan for a group of over 50 Japanese grain industry personnel. NAEGA Contract Seminars are 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 for the Tokyo seminar included 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 copy of the Sourcebook used during the Contract Seminar is available by clicking [here](#).

After the seminar NAEGA sponsored a reception at the Tokai University Club in Tokyo to honor the Japanese Grain and Oilseed Industry. The reception welcomed over 100 guests and included members of the Japanese grain and oilseed industry, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the U.S. Embassy and U.S. and Japanese grain and oilseed trade associations.

A report on the NAEGA’s programming in Tokyo will be available soon. For more information, please contact Gary or Ryan.

Meeting with Japanese Grain Executives

On May 2 NAEGA hosted a meeting with Japanese grain executives from the milling industry at NAEGA headquarters in Washington, D.C. The executives, on a U.S. Wheat Associates sponsored trip, featured individuals from organizations including the Japan Flour Milling Association (JFMA), Nippon Flour Mills, Nitto Fuji Flour Milling Co. and Nisshin Flour Milling, as well as

NAEGA member company Louis Dreyfus. Topics of conversation included the U.S. presidential election, prospects for passage of the Transpacific Partnership Agreement in both Japan and the U.S., the longstanding grain trade relationship between both countries and the reliability and quality of U.S. grain supplies.

For more information on the meeting, please contact Ryan or Gary.

Food and Ag Dialogue for Trade Agreements

On Friday, May 6 NAEGA President and CEO Gary Martin and the North American Meat Institute led a meeting of the U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade Agreements. The meeting, held at the American Farm Bureau Federation Headquarters in Washington, D.C., featured a briefing on Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations and an update on the prospects for passage of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) by USDA Deputy Undersecretary Jonathan Cordone, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative Sharon Bomer Lauritsen, and Bob Spitzer, Senior Trade Policy Advisor at USDA, among other participants. Members of the TPP Coalition also provided an update on their activities and preparation for World Trade Month.

For more information on the U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade Agreements, please contact Gary.

UPDATE: Follow-up Questions to Monsanto on RR2X

NAEGA has been closely following developments related to the commercialization of Monsanto Roundup Ready 2Xtend® (RR2X) soybeans in the North American market. Monsanto RR2X soybeans have begun to be commercialized and planted in the North American market this spring despite a lack of regulatory approval for their sale in the European Union.

Two weeks ago, NAEGA, the National Grain and Feed Association and the National Oilseed Processors Association submitted follow up questions to Monsanto regarding commercialization of RR2X Soybeans in the North American market. This questions were submitted after an initial letter was sent to Monsanto, which can be found [here](#), and a follow up meeting regarding RR2X's commercialization was held with Monsanto representatives. Rushed commercialization, without full regulatory approvals in major export markets, threaten the sustainability and reliability of U.S. grain exports. If RR2X soybeans were to enter the fungible, comingled export supply chain and were discovered by EU officials, this could threaten future exports to the European market.

A copy of the follow up questions submitted to Monsanto's Director of Industry Affairs, can be found [here](#).

Over the last week NAEGA has been working closely with its European counterpart organization COCERAL to help them understand and articulate the information and the impact of such actions by Monsanto. COCERAL understands now, from its discussion with Monsanto, that Monsanto is beginning to move RR2X seeds from storage to other uses in order to free up storage space for the harvest. This move is very concerning as it threatens to cause unnecessary disruptions in the supply chain if RR2X seeds are discovered in conventional stores of soybeans.

A copy of COCERAL's communication to its members can be found [here](#). For more information on this issue, please contact Gary.

IGTC Newsletter

The newest edition of the IGTC Newsletter is now available! This week's newsletter includes coverage of IGTC Vice-President Teresa Babuscio's interview on EU plant breeding regulation, a request for input on the World Bank's Enabling the Business of Agriculture and an invitation to all members to participate in the WTO's electronic phytosanitary certification seminar. A copy of the newsletter can be found on the IGTC intranet at www.igtcglobal.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:

ISF World Seed Congress – May 15-18

Biotech Committee chair Paul Green will attend and present on behalf of the IGTC at the World Seed Congress conference in Punta del Este, Uruguay from May 15-18 (<http://www.worldseed.org/events/isf-world-seed-congress/>). NAEGA is working with Paul to provide for his presentation on trade perspectives on plant breeding innovation at the Open Meeting of the Breeders Committee on 16 May from 08:00am to 1:00pm and in a roundtable discussion on '*Seed industry needs consistent policies for plant breeding innovation*' with other speakers from governments, seed industry and public breeding. A copy of the notice to post for this ongoing travel is available [here](#).

Meetings in Seoul, Korea – May 17-18

NAEGA President and CEO Gary Martin will travel to Seoul, South Korea on May 17 and 18 to discuss compliance with Korea's Special Act on Imported Food Safety Management with U.S. Embassy staff, the Korean Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS), Korea and U.S. trade association organizations and other interested groups. In March, FAS Seoul published a report (found [here](#)) on implementation of the Special Act on Safety Management of Imported Food, which provides a framework for imported food policies, and consolidates all policies and measures relevant to imported food that were scattered in multiple Acts to achieve an efficient management of imported food. In particular, the act requires pre-registration of foreign food facilities and livestock establishments by MFDS by August 3, 2016. Gary plans on gathering information on compliance in order to ensure that NAEGA members can achieve compliance with the law in the least trade distorting way.

If you would like to provide input ahead of these meetings, please contact Gary. A copy of the notice to post for this meeting can be found [here](#).

Balkan Livestock and Feed Nutrition Roadshow – June 1-10

NAEGA Senior Advisor Kirk Miller, at the invitation of FAS Rome, will be participating in and presenting at the Balkan Livestock and Feed Nutrition Roadshow on June 1-10 in Serbia, Bosnia and Croatia. During the roadshow Kirk will be giving a presentation on the current global market situation, how long the current period of abundant global grains and oilseeds supplies will last and the value of trade friendly policies that allow high quality sustainably produced US grains and soybeans to reach customers. In addition, Kirk will be traveling with the group, representing NAEGA during meetings with the Balkan livestock and feed industry and reporting back on developments in the Balkan livestock and feed market. During the roadshow NAEGA will also be sponsoring a luncheon in coordination FAS Belgrade for members of the Balkan grain, livestock and feed industry.

If you would like more information or are interested in participating in the Roadshow or the luncheon, please contact Gray or Ryan

NAEGA Unified Export Strategy Drafting – June 3

During the month of May NAEGA staff will be working hard to craft the 2017 Unified Export Strategy for NAEGA's participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Market Access Program (MAP). Each year NAEGA develops a UES in order to communicate a single consolidated and strategically coordinated proposal that incorporates requests for MAP funding. The UES provides the strategic and tactical framework around which NAEGA will execute MAP related activities in the year 2017. Throughout the month of May Ryan and Gary will be drafting and editing the UES in preparation for submission to USDA by June 3.

NAEGA welcomes any contributions or proposals from member companies throughout the UES process. To learn more about the UES application, click [here](#). Please contact Ryan if you would like to make a contribution or if you have any questions.

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Information for your Consideration

USDA Releases World Agricultural Supply and Other Reports

The U.S. Department of Agriculture released their World Agricultural Supply and Grain and Oilseed World Markets and Trade report on May 10. All three reports highlight global monthly changes on crop acreage, yield and production in major countries throughout the world. This month's report includes analysis on the tightening oilseed market, record grain supplies and how flooding and drought in South American will effect production.

For a copy of the report, please click here: [World Agricultural Supply, Grain World Markets and Trade, Oilseeds World Markets and Trade](#).

USACC Releases Report on Benefits of Cuba Trade

On May 11 the U.S. Agriculture Coalition for Cuba (USACC), which NAEGA is a member, and the Engage Cuba Coalition, released a comprehensive report on the benefits that increased agriculture trade between the U.S. and Cuba could bring to six states: Alabama, Indiana, Iowa, Mississippi, Missouri, and North Dakota. The report finds that each state has significant room to increase exports if changes in U.S. policies open opportunities for agricultural trade with Cuba and allow U.S. exporters to extend private credit to Cuba. Following President Obama's announcement in December 2014 that the U.S. would be renewing diplomatic ties with Cuba, the NAEGA as part of the USACC has been working to promote increased economic openness with the island and lay the groundwork for an eventual lifting of sanctions.

More information on the NAEGA participation in the USAA can be found on the "Members Only" section of the NAEGA website (www.naega.org). A copy of the state-based analysis released by the USACC and Engage Cuba can be found [here](#).

The Spring edition of GIPSA News, the newsletter of the U.S. Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration is now available. This Spring's edition covers ongoing developments throughout GIPSA's field offices, including a message from GIPSA Administrator Randall Jones.

A copy of the most recent edition of GIPSA News 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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Calendar & Member Notices

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

2016

May

15-18 – ISF World Seed Congress – Punta del Este, Uruguay – Paul Green presenting. For an agenda, please click [here](#).

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

17-18 – NAEGA Meetings in Seoul, Korea on Korea Special Act on Imported Food Safety Management

23-26 – USACC Learning Journey to Cuba II

24 – NAEGA Teleconference with Grain Board of Iraq and USDA FAS. Details forthcoming.

28 – WTO Conference on Electronic Phytosanitary Certifications – Geneva – All NAEGA Members invited to attend.

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

3 – NAEGA Unified Export Strategy due to USDA

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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