



*"Working Together to Make Trade Work"*

## **OUTREACH May 19, 2014**

**Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA**

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### **Completion and Submission of the 2015 Unified Export Strategy (UES) Application**

NAEGA completed and submitted its 2015 Unified Export Strategy (UES) application to the USDA Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS). The UES is a document that sets forth our international strategy and action plan so that FAS can make a determination regarding FAS allocation of funding in 2015. The comprehensive document meets FAS requirements for the Market Access Program (MAP) reimbursement of NAEGA expenses in conducting analysis, advocacy, travel and other activities related to work to facilitate trade globally. The NAEGA International Programs committee is currently working with a budget of \$280,000 for 2014 expenses that we expect will be reimbursed from the USDA FAS programs addressed in the UES. A copy of the 2015 UES application can be downloaded and reviewed by Members [here](#). A decision on 2015 funding from MAP and the other USDA programs is expected before the new year.

### **World – Trip Report on International Dry Bulk Terminal Group Operations Meeting**

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NAEGA Senior Advisor, Jerry Cotter, reported on the recent International Dry Bulk Terminal Group (DBTG) Operations meeting in Izmir, Turkey. Topics of interest to NAEGA were cargo residue requirements of MARPOL Annex V, availability of berth space for vessel cleaning, the number of days required to wash down cargo residues, and the movement to add a chapter on explosible dusts to the Globally Harmonized System of Chemical Classification and Labeling (GHS).

NAEGA is cooperating with NGFA as well as DBTG and other international counterparts to focus on the movement to add a GHS chapter on explosible dusts. If explosible dusts are ultimately defined and a chapter developed in the GHS, the result will likely be that any commodity containing dusts meeting the chapter’s definition of hazard will have to be shown on the Safety Data Sheet (SDS). This would likely result in customs clearance problems, as well as raise contract and insurance issues. It is even possible that a new classification of commodities under the International Maritime Organization’s (IMO) International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargo Code (IMSBC Code) would result.

The trip report can be found on the “Members’ Only” page [here](#).

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

#### **2014**

**June 24** – Comments to USDA-APHIS on Proposed Rules for 1. Changes to User Fees and Agricultural Quarantine and Inspection Services (AQI) and 2. Fee Increases for Overtime Services. A copy of the Federal Register notice for changes to user fees can be found [here](#) and the Federal Register notice for increases for overtime services can be found [here](#).

*NAEGA Actions on Current Issues are tracked on both the Member’s Only Section under their relevant committee pages and the on the Personal Page’s site. Updates to tracked issues are posted in this section.*

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### **NAEGA Member Participation Opportunity**

#### **USDA APHIS Stakeholder Informational Briefings on AQI Fee Changes – Webinars – Thursday, May 29, 2014**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) invites interested stakeholders to one of two informational briefings on **Thursday, May 29 at 10am and 3pm Eastern**. The briefings will provide a detailed overview of the changes APHIS is proposing to make to recoup the costs of conducting agricultural quarantine inspections (AQI) at U.S. ports of entry.

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The briefings will be conducted as webinars. Stakeholders interested in participating in one of the briefings should register for the event by clicking on the link below. Instructions for accessing the webinar will be emailed to registered participants before the event.

**To register:** <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/forms/aqi-webinar>

### **Your Input Needed – USDA APHIS Proposed Fee Increases**

The United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced proposed changes to the fees it charges to recoup the costs of conducting agricultural quarantine inspections (AQI) at U.S. ports of entry and overtime rates worked by APHIS officers. APHIS indicates adjustments are essential for the AQI program to have the financial stability it needs to continue the critical work of keeping U.S. agriculture safe and productive agriculture.

The [proposed AQI fee](#) structure ensures that no one party pays more than the costs of the services they incur. APHIS is proposing to add a \$2 fee per sea passenger to recover costs associated with inspecting cruise vessels and passenger baggage, and to add a \$375 fee to recover the costs of APHIS services for monitoring the application of or providing treatments to imported cargo to minimize pest risks. APHIS also proposes to raise user fees for inspections of commercial trucks with a transponder from \$105 to \$320 a year, and commercial trucks without a transponder from \$5.25 to \$8 per crossing.

APHIS is also concurrently proposing to adjust the hourly rates charged when APHIS employees perform work associated with AQI activities on Sundays, holidays or other after-hours periods so APHIS can recover the true cost of providing the services. The overtime rates would be raised commensurate with the anticipated cost of providing AQI services through 2018. [This proposed rule](#) will also be available for a 60 day comment period. This is the first proposed change to overtime rates since 2002.

A [Questions and Answers](#) factsheet on the AQI Program Cost and Fees has been made available.

### **NAEGA to Host Brazilian Trade Team – Washington D.C. – June 2, 2014**

In coordination with the U.S Wheat Associates, NAEGA will host a Brazilian trade team at its office at 1250 I St. NW Washington D.C. on Monday, June 2 at 2:30pm Eastern. NAEGA members are welcome to join the meeting.

The Brazilian team members are:

- 1) Mr. Adriano Campos, Director - Grande Moinho Cearense S.A.
- 2) Mr. Sergio Chesini, Supply Director - Predileto Alimentos S.A.

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- 3) Mr. Edson Csipai, Manager of Wheat Origination - Bunge Alimentos S.A.
- 4) Mr. Irineu Pedrollo, Wheat Supply Manager - J. Macedo S.A.
- 5) Mr. Antonio, Bolzani, Suppy Manager, M. Dias Branco S.A.
- 6) Mr. Osvaldo Seco, Assistant Regional Director - US Wheat Associates, Inc.

A brochure outlining the trip and includes biographies of the Brazilian Team can be found [here](#).  
And Background and objectives of the trip can be found [here](#).

### **PNWER Agriculture Working Group LLP Discussion – Webinar – June 11, 2014**

You are invited to participate in a webinar on Wednesday, June 11 at 4:00 Eastern (2:00 MDT) about low level presence (LLP). The webinar will be presented by Mr. Ed Porter, Director of the New Technologies and Production Methods Division at the United States Department of Agriculture’s Foreign Agriculture Service, and Mr. Luis Barnola, Senior Trade Policy Analyst in the Technical Trade Policy Division at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Our guests will present on LLP, its relationship to trade and speak to the various U.S. and Canadian initiatives in advancing LLP policy and awareness globally. Below are details needed to participate in the webinar.

#### **PNWER LLP Webinar Login and Call-In Details**

1. Please join my meeting.

**<https://global.gotomeeting.com/meeting/join/289056509>**

2. Join the conference call: **1-888-909-7654**

3. Code: **410646**

3. Meeting ID:**289-056-509**

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

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### **New Issues & Opportunities for NAEGA Consideration**

#### **Mexico – Monsanto Loses Court Battle on Biotechnology**

In late April a Mexican Judge ruled against Monsanto by declining to open Mexico up to the commercial cultivation of genetically modified (gm) corn. The judge ruled to up hold an injunction to halt the testing or commercial planting of gm corn, citing “risk of imminent harm to the environment.” Mexico is home to many diverse types of corn and experts fear gm corn could alter the varieties and undermine the diversity.

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## **US – National Export Initiative NEXT**

The Obama administration recently announced the next phase of the National Export Initiative (NEI), known as NEI/NEXT, which the Department of Commerce said will help American companies export by improving data, and providing information on specific export opportunities.

The NEI was launched in 2009 as a way to double US exports within five years. Now NEI/NEXT will be a data-based, customer service-driven initiative designed to further help US companies get involved in exports by focusing on the following five strategies: 1) Export assistance, 2) Trade facilitation, 3) Export financing, 4) State and local partnerships, and 5) Foreign markets. Specific measures in each of these five areas are expected to be announced in the coming months.

*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**

#### **2014**

##### **May**

**19-20** – Singapore – Ministerial talks on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

**19-23** – Arlington, VA – United States and European Union hold fifth round of Transatlantic Trade and Investment (TTIP) Partnership discussions.

**29** – Webinars – USDA APHIS Stakeholder Informational Briefings on AQI Fee Changes – <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/forms/aqi-webinar>

##### **June**

**2** – Washington, D.C. – NAEGA and US Wheat Associates meet with Brazilian Trade Team at 2:30pm at its office, 1250 I St. NW, Washington, D.C.

**10** – London, United Kingdom – International Grains Council (IGC) Grains Conference – Tower Hotel, Tower Bridge – You can register [here](#).

**11** – Webinar – PNWER Agriculture Working Group LLP Discussion

##### **July**

**1** – Washington, DC – NAEGA 2013 Market Access Program (MAP) Contribution Report Due

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**2-4** – Geneva, Switzerland – United Nations Globally Harmonized System (GHS) meeting discussing explosive dust.

**7** – Geneva, Switzerland – WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) Committee Meeting

**9-18** – USA – US Grain Council (USGC) Sponsored Regulatory & Biosafety Committee Team to the US

**14** – Fortaleza, Brazil – BRICS Summit

**15-16** – Alexandria, VA – U.S. Agricultural Export Development Council (USAEDC) Attaché Seminar

### **August**

**13** – Washington, DC – American Soybean Association and Illinois Soybean Association Biotechnology Roundtable – 2:45pm at the Washington Court Hotel – NAEGA President, Gary Martin to participate on the panel.

### **September**

**TBT** – Denver, Colorado – NAEGA Board Meeting – Hosted by CoBank

**8-12** – London, England – International Maritime Organization (IMO) subcommittee meeting of Carriage of Cargoes and Containers (CCC)

**11-12** – Beijing, China – APEC Food Safety Cooperation Forum: Special Session and APEC High-Level Regulatory-Industry Food Safety Dialogue

**14** – Beijing, China – U.S.-China Agriculture and Food Partnership Symposium

**14** – Seoul, Korea – Korean Rural Economic Institute Food Security Symposium

**14** – Geneva, Switzerland; Rome, Italy – MAIZALL Mission to the WTO & FAO

**18** – Washington, D.C. – Michigan State University/USDA FAS Industry Roundtable International Agricultural Biotechnology Short Course

**18-19** – Beijing, China – APEC Food Security Ministers Meeting, High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology

**29-October 3** – 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties/Conference of the Parties for the So-called Cartagena Biosafety Protocol under the Convention on Biodiversity, which governs trans-boundary movements of Living Modified Organisms for feed, food and processing. More information can be found at: <http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/>

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**October**

**1-3** – Panama – Dry Bulk Terminal Group (DBTG) Annual Meeting

**13** – Geneva, Switzerland – WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) Committee Meeting

**24-25** – Beijing, China – Development Research Center Food Security and Sustainability Summit (Potential MAIZALL Mission to China)

**November**

**10-11** – Beijing, China – APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting

**17-20** – Baltimore, MD – USAEDC Annual Workshop

**December**

**14** – Washington, D.C. – Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT)

**14** – Seoul, Korea – USGC Sponsored Technical Workshop for Biosafety Committee Members

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