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Member Opportunities

NAFTA and Asia-Pacific Policy Teams

With the 90 day NAFTA Congressional consultation period and the U.S.-China 100-day plan on trade underway we expect many more fast paced and dramatic developments that could greatly change the terms of trade for NAEGA members. Your involvement is needed!

NAEGA ad hoc policy teams of member personnel working largely through conference calls are helping to guide our multifaceted effort to address the evolving trade environment. Teams focused on the North American Free Trade Agreement and the Asia-Pacific Market are already established. The **NAFTA Policy Team** will be heavily engaged over the next three months to support NAEGA work with the U.S. Food and Ag. Dialogue for Trade, The Pacific Northwest Economic Region, the Canada U.S. Grain and Seed Trade Task Group and the NAEGA committees and Board of Directors to address NAFTA. A similar effort will soon start with an **Asia-Pacific Policy Team** that will be focused on U.S. trade relations with China, Japan, Korea and the Trans Pacific environment more generally.

Please contact [Ryan](#) if you have any questions or are interested in participating in NAEGA's ad hoc policy teams.

IGTC Strategy Session– London – June 5

The IGTC Secretariat is seeking corporate stakeholder participation in an IGTC Strategy Session in London on June 5. All NAEGA members are considered IGTC corporate stakeholders. The Strategy Session is a chance to join global grain trade leaders from Argentina, Australia, Canada, Eastern Africa, Europe, Mexico, Ukraine and the U.S. to discuss global issues affecting the grain and oilseed trade, including IGTC policy files. A copy of the preliminary agenda can be found [here](#). More details, including supporting documentation, can be found on the [IGTC website](#). Please contact the IGTC Secretariat to secure your place at the meeting.

ASP Users Meeting – Washington, DC – June 14

Subscribers to 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 June 14, 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. Ryan Olson will attend the workshop on behalf of NAEGA. Please contact [Ryan](#) if you are interested in attending.

NAEGA Contracts and Best Practices – Vancouver – July 20

Please "save the date" for a Contracts and Best Practices Seminar on July 20 somewhere in Vancouver, BC area! Led by NAEGA Senior Advisor Sam Bonilla, this seminar will 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 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 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!

More information on a location and time will be announced soon.

PNWER Annual Summit – Portland, OR – July 23-27

NAEGA is working to shape agriculture trade related discussion at the Pacific Northwest Economic Region's (PNWER) Annual Summit on July 23-27. NAFTA modernization, and infrastructure are the focus of the Summit that NAEGA is most interested in. The summit is an annual event that brings together leaders from Pacific Northwest states and Western Canada to discuss opportunities for growth within the region and address major challenges to the economy and our environment. NAEGA President and CEO Gary Martin will attend and speak on the importance of trade to North America during the PNWER Agriculture Working Group session on July 24.

A preliminary agenda can be found [here](#). Please register [here](#) if you are interested in attending.

Contracts and Best Practices Seminars

Proposed open seminars are under consideration in Tokyo, Japan in the 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.](#)

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Action Reports

Recent Actions:

China Decree 177

China's General Administration on Quality Supervision, Inspection, and Quarantine (AQSIQ) established Decree 177 as effective July 1, 2016. To support implementation of Decree 177, USDA has agreed to provide AQSIQ with a list of U.S. exporters of commodities covered by the U.S. Grain Standards Act. AQSIQ has indicated to USDA that it will use the list to monitor compliance with entry requirements

USDA is establishing a new process to update and maintain the list provided to AQSIQ. The process relies on exporter registration with GIPSA. GIPSA registration is one of the requirements for [exporting grain, oilseeds, or related commodities from the United States](#)

The application for registration (form "OMB No. 0580- 0013") includes a section 6: "List names and locations where applicant is engaged in buying, handling, weighing, or transporting grain for sale in foreign commerce".

To provide the list for AQSIQ, GIPSA will call each applicant and those who are currently registered to receive approval for use of the information in Section 6 in compiling the list for AQSIQ.

The current Registered Grain Exporter's Directory can be found on the [FGIS website here](#).

IMPORTANTLY the form OMB No. 0580- 0013, is used to provide for mandatory registration as well as registration of exporters that are exempt from mandatory registration requirement. If you are exempted (under 15,000 metric tons exporter annually) you can voluntarily register at no fee. For those that fall under the registered category, there are fees associated.

Implementing Decree 177 will take several months. For instance, USDA has just begun working with AQSIQ to provide for a list of exporters of commodities, including dry beans and pulses that are not covered by the Grains Standards Act. Plans are being made for an AQSIQ technical team to travel to the United States during the first two weeks of September 2017 to tour U.S. grain handling facilities and identify commercially viable solutions to complete the facility registration process. Another next step is for AQSIQ to implement develop a standard practice for CIQ offices on how these lists are used that does not place restrictions on shipping documents to minimize any issues upon arrival.

More complex elements of Decree 177, including concerning provisions related to traceability, biotechnology and phytosanitary measures will likely be subject to broad global consideration. Ultimately NAEGA has placed a high priority on working with all stakeholders, including governments of all supply countries, to minimize the impact of Decree 177 implementation on trade and insure that restrictions on imported commodities will not be a result. We are also working to establish acceptance of existing origin inspections and regulation as sufficient to meet AQSIQ needs

Clause 20 Procedures Policy

On Friday, May 26 the NAEGA Board of Directors approved a Clause 20 Procedures Policy. The Clause 20 Procedures policy sets out a series of processes and procedures for the administration of Clause 20 applications under the NAEGA 2 FOB Model Contract. The procedures are meant to provide increased certainty and transparency for companies applying for Clause 20 certifications. The procedures will go into place immediately, and copies will be posted at all times on the [NAEGA website](#) and provided to all Clause 20 applicants.

A copy the Clause 20 Procedures Policy is available [here](#) and [here](#).

IGTC Newsletter

The latest IGTC newsletter is now available! This week's newsletter includes an update from the EU on plant breeding innovation, and more information on upcoming IGTC events including the June 5 Strategy Session, the June 6 Management Council meeting and the Global Low Level Presence meeting on June 14-15.

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

Upcoming Actions:

Global Low Level Presence Initiative – Rome – June 14-15

NAEGA Senior Advisor Paul Green will travel to Rome, Italy and participate in the Global Low Level Presence Initiative (GLI) meeting on June 14-15. The meeting will take place at the UN FAO Headquarters and include participation from GLI members Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Mexico, Paraguay, Philippines, Russia, South Africa, United States, Uruguay and Vietnam and observers China, EU, Malaysia and Peru.

A copy of the preliminary agenda can be found [here](#). For more information or to participate please contact the [IGTC Secretariat](#).

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

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. Please let us know if you would like to join Arvid at the Symposium, to register, please click [here](#).

Pending Actions:

PNWER NAFTA Survey

The Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) is seeking industry input on renegotiations of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) via an online survey. The Pacific North West Economic Region (PNWER) recently implemented a NAFTA Modernization Taskforce with representatives from each of PNWER's U.S. and Canadian jurisdictions. PNWER is a statutory organization chartered by the Canadian provinces and territories of Alberta, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan, and Yukon, and the U.S. states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington.

The survey was developed in light of the renegotiation of the NAFTA and will help the Taskforce develop an overarching list of principles and recommendations for a modernized agreement.

To access the survey please [click here](#). **The deadline for the survey is June 5.**

NAFTA Renegotiation Priorities

The Office of U.S. Trade Representative is requesting comments ahead of a public hearing on modernizing the North American Free Trade Agreement. On May 18 the U.S. Trade Representative formally notified Congress of the Administration's intent to enter into negotiations with Canada and Mexico to modernize NAFTA. The notification kicks off a 90-day consultation period with Congress and stakeholders regarding negotiations. Comments should include information on specific tariff and non-tariff barriers and negotiating objectives of U.S. industry. Comments are due to the USTR staff by Monday, June 12. A public hearing will take place on Tuesday, June 27.

If you are interested in contributing to these comments please let Gary or Ryan know. A copy of the request for comments is available [here](#).

Market Access Program Unified Export Strategy

NAEGA is seeking member input as it develops its 2018 Market Access Program (MAP) Unified Export Strategy (UES). Over the past few years the MAP program has been vital for the execution of NAEGA's mission and objectives. NAEGA's UES lays out programming and policy priorities for 2018, and development of the UES is vital for the execution of NAEGA programming during the next program year. A copy of last year's UES can be found [here](#). Please let us know if you have any input!

APHIS Meetings and Comments on Part 340

The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has announced three public comment meetings on proposed revisions to 7 CFR Part 340 regulations regarding the importation, interstate movement, and environmental release of certain genetically engineered organisms. Meetings will take place at the following locations:

- June 6 – Kansas City, MO APHIS Center for Animal Welfare
- June 13 – Davis, CA University of California Davis Conference Center
- June 16 – Riverdale, MD USDA Center at Riverside

You can register to attend any of the above meetings by clicking [here](#).

The announcement also included a call for industry stakeholders to submit public comments ahead of the meetings. To submit a public comment, click [here](#). The deadline for public comment is June 19. More information on the proposed rule, direct contact information, and in-depth supplementary information can be found [here](#). Additionally, related information and official documents are available online in the Docket Folder [here](#).

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In the News

NAFTA Notice of Intent to Congress

On Friday, May 18 the U.S. Trade Representative addressed a letter informing Congressional leaders of the Administration's intent to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Notification of the Administration intent to renegotiate NAFTA is mandated by Trade Promotion Authority legislation and kicks off a 90-day consultation period with Congress and stakeholders. Following the 90-day period, and with Congressional input into negotiating objectives, the negotiations can move forward. A copy of the notice of intent can be found [here](#). Please click [here](#) for more information.

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		
Trade Representative	Robert Lighthizer	Confirmed
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	Appointed
Director of the Office of Science		

Selected Ambassadors	Name	Status
US Ambassador to China	Terry Branstad	Confirmed
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.

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Calendar & Member Notices

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

2017

June

- TBD** – Grain Inspection Advisory Committee Meeting
- 5** – 45th International Grains Council Session – London, UK
- 5** – IGTC Strategy Session – London, UK
- 5** – PNWER NAFTA Survey Due
- 6** – 26th IGC Grains Conference – London, UK
- 6** – USDA APHIS Public Meeting on Party 340 – Kansas City, MO
- 12** – Comments on NAFTA due to USTR
- 13** – USDA APHIS Public Meeting on Party 340 – Davis, CA
- 14** – IGTC Management Council Meeting – Virtual
- 14** – Spring ASP Workshop – American Chemistry Council – Washington, D.C
- 13-15** – Global Low Level Presence Meeting – Rome, Italy
- 16** – USDA APHIS Public Meeting on Party 340 – Riverdale, MD
- 19** – Public Comments due to USDA APHIS regarding 7 CFR Part 340
- 19** – NAEGA UES Due
- 26-27** – NAPPO International Symposium for Risk Based Sampling – Baltimore, MD
- 27** – USTR hearing on NAFTA negotiations
- 27-28** – IPPC Industry Advisory Group on ePhyto Hub – NAEGA HQ – Arlington, VA

July

- 10-12** – GHS Subcommittee Meeting – Geneva, Switzerland

20 – Contracts and Best Practices Seminar – Vancouver, BC

23-27 – 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

13 – NAEGA Board of Directors Meeting

14 – IGTC Management Council Meeting – Virtual

October

TBD – IGTC General Assembly – Location TBD

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

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