



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

OUTREACH June 15, 2015

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

NAEGA is searching for a **Director of Operations**. The ideal candidate should possess a varied set of skills necessary to successfully contribute to a fast paced trade association business. A position description can be found [here](#). If you know of anyone that would be a good fit for NAEGA, please let Gary know ASAP.

Until a new Director of Operations is on the job, please use these **NAEGA Staff Contact Email addresses: Gary: gcmartin@naega.org – Trevor: Intern@naega.org**

Member Opportunities

- GIPSA Seminar – UGMA Moisture Meters – Fargo, ND June 25, 2015
- New Orleans, LA – USGC Mexico Biosafety Regulators – June 25, 2015
- USDA Grain Inspection Advisory Committee – June 25, 2015
- Big Sky, Montana – PNWER Annual Summit – July 12-16, 2015
- Rosemont, Illinois – Ag Transportation Summit – August 4-5, 2015
- Puerto Vallarta, Mexico – APPAMEX/NAEGA Forum – August 13-15, 2015
- Portland, Oregon - Government and Industry Workshop in Portland – August 27, 2015

Action Reports

- IGTC
- IGC Conference
- LLP Policy - GLI
- PORTS Act of 2015
- CFTC - Customer Protection and End-User Relief Act
- NAEGA Trip Report – Saskatoon, Canada

Information for your consideration

- U.S. OSHA Hazard Communications
- U.S. Chemical Facility Anti- Terrorism Standards (CFATS) Guidance
- U.S.-Cuba Relations
- U.S. Country of Origin Labeling (COOL)
- U.S. China Commission
- U.S. Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) and Trade Promotion Authority (TPA)

NAEGA Calendar and Member Notices

- Upcoming Events and Notices for Members

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Member Opportunities

GIPSA Seminar – UGMA Moisture Meters – Fargo, ND June 25

The Department of Agriculture’s Grain Inspection, Packing & Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) plans to hold a seminar regarding Unified Grain Moisture Algorithm (UGMA) Moisture Meter technology. The seminar is scheduled for Thursday, June 25 at the Northern Crops Institute in Fargo, ND. You may find a preliminary agenda [here](#). The session is geared toward grain elevator operators/managers in North Dakota, Minnesota, and South Dakota. Space is limited at the Northern Crops Institute, so attendees should register in advance, **by June 12, 2015**. If you would like to register, you may contact Marsha Schwartz by email at marsha.k.schwartz@usda.gov.

New Orleans, LA – USGC Mexico Biosafety Regulators – June 25, 2015

NAEGA will join the U.S. Grains Council (USGC) in New Orleans, as they host a team of biotech regulators from Mexico, to educate them on the U.S. grain export system. NAEGA members are invited to join the group for lunch on Thursday, June 25th at noon. Please contact Gary for details.

USDA Grain Inspection Advisory Committee applications due!

June 25, 2015

The Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Grain Inspection, Packers & Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is seeking nominations in a [Federal Register notice](#) to serve on the USDA Grain Inspection Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee). These nominations are for individuals to serve on the Advisory Committee to replace two members whose terms will expire in August 2015, and three members whose terms expire October 2015. Candidates who wish to be considered for membership on the Advisory Committee should submit an [AD-755 application form](#). All nomination material can be emailed to: Terri.L.Henry@usda.gov, faxed to: (202) 690-2173, or mailed to: Terri L. Henry, Management Analyst, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Stop 3642, Washington, DC 20250. The deadline for submission is **June 25, 2015**.

If you or a colleague would like to serve on the Advisory Committee and wish to have NAEGA’s support for your application – please contact Gary.

NAEGA Contract Seminars

The NAEGA Contracts Committee conducts seminars for in-depth and interactive education on contract practices. NAEGA Seminars are conducted in two different ways: first, “Privately” funded and designed for a single member company, and attended by persons invited by that member company; second, “Generally” funded by registration fees, designed to cover the interests of many companies, and attended by persons from several companies. In most cases, the Seminars provide intensive review of current developments and practices in international grain trade contracts, and often focus on the NAEGA 2. In-depth examination of regulatory compliance,

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NAEGA services and policy concerns can also be added content for a Seminar designed to meet your needs. Invitations for General Seminars are sent to all NAEGA member company representatives, and a per person registration fee will be required for attendance.

For example, on June 2-3, NAEGA Senior Advisor and NAEGA Director of Operations, Sam Bonilla and Kyle Liske, conducted a Private seminar in Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota.

Our tentative plans for a General Seminar in Kansas City are on hold as we seek a date in near future that can be accommodated. NAEGA members interested in attending a General Seminar should contact Gary (gcmartin@naega.org) or Sam (sbonilla@naega.org). We have several open dates during which Seminars may be conducted; currently July 20-31 and August 1-11, 17-21 are available. Please let us know, at your convenience, if you would like to discuss options for holding a seminar.

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. U.S. and Canada Ambassadors, Bruce Heyman and Gary Doer, have confirmed their attendance and will be speaking. [Please click here to register.](#)

Rosemont, Illinois – Ag Transportation Summit – August 4 and 5, 2015

This will be the second Ag Transportation Summit hosted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National Grain and Feed Association, and the Soy Transportation Coalition. The title of the 2015 summit is “Transportation Capacity: Overcoming the Challenges”.

Goals of the summit include: raising awareness of the importance of transportation to the success and profitability of U.S. agriculture; precipitate and motivate further action to promote a transportation infrastructure that better serves the interests of U.S. agriculture; provide a venue for advocates of U.S. agriculture to network and develop collaborations for the purpose of promoting the transportation needs of U.S. agriculture; and build bridges between government and agricultural interests that will result in more effective promotion of agricultural transportation issues.

The summit will be held all day on Tuesday, August 4, and the morning of Wednesday, August 5. The Westin O’Hare is located a short distance from Chicago O’Hare Airport. [Please click here to register.](#)

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico – APPAMEX/NAEGA Forum – August 13-15, 2015

The 22nd APPAMEX/NAEGA Forum will take place in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico at the [Hyatt Ziva Hotel](#) from August 13-15. The registration fee will be \$380 USD for participants. Invitations and more details will be available soon.

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Government and Industry Workshop in Portland – August 27, 2015

Mark your calendars! NAEGA and NGFA are working with the Pacific Northwest Grain and Feed Association (PNWGFA) to host a FGIS/Industry Workshop in Portland on Thursday August 27, 2015. NAEGA members will soon be invited to attend the regional workshop on Thursday May 13, 2015.

These regional workshops are intended expand understanding and identify needs related to Grain and Oilseed trade. We expect the Portland 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).

Agenda and Registration are being developed. Your suggestions for topics and speakers are welcome!

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](#)

Reports on NAEGA Actions

IGTC

IGTC meetings took place on June 8-9, 2015 in London, UK. Paul Green, NAEGA Biotech Committee Chair joined Gary Martin to represent NAEGA. Gary serves as the President of IGTC which is staffed by NAEGA Contractor Marcel Bruins. 28 participants representing Members and Corporate Stakeholders participated in an IGTC roundtable and policy discussion on Monday June 8. Gary and the IGTC Management Council used the day on Tuesday June 9 to consider IGTC performance and plans.

A report on this NAEGA International Program activity will soon be available.

Key developments at this meeting included:

1. Continue its efforts related to the impact of crop biotechnology regulation and acceptance including a near term focus on:
 - a. Working to provide information and an industry support for progress in reducing trade restrictions related to Low Level Presence (LLP). The IGTC has expanded its effort to support progress by the Global LLP Initiative (GLI) of governments.
 - b. Informing governments of the impact of policies like the European Commission’s proposal to grant EU member states an “opt-out” authority for imports of biotech-enhanced crops that have been authorized by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). To that end, IGTC hosted a working lunch with high level representatives from different sectors of the EU value chain: Howard Minigh from Croplife

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International, Beat Späth from Europa-Bio and Alexander Döring from FEFAC. IGTC will provide a letter to be used for outreach to EU embassies and other stakeholders.

2. Expand efforts to minimize trade distortion resulting from regulation of New Plant Breeding Techniques (NPBT). Michael Keller, Secretary-General of the International Seed Federation (ISF), met with IGTC and conveyed concerns that NPBT posed a problem for both the seed as well as the grain trade, as a lack of coherence in regulation risks a repeat of the problems related to crop biotechnology for several, perhaps as many as 5 NPBT. IGTC urged ISF to lead a value chain side effort to provide for a global solution.
3. Since IGTC’s strength lies in the ability to pull together significant expertise from its members and corporate stakeholders to build consensus and advocate policy at the global level, a focus on the deployment ad-hoc teams to address key policy files and operations. Current IGTC teams are:
 - a. LLP - Lead: Marcel Bruins (IGTC) / Team members: Elena Berloni (COCERAL); Ricardo Calderon (APPAMEX); Francisco de la Torre (USSEC); Jim Everson (CGC) Randy Giroux (Cargill); Paul Green (NAEGA); Eric Heismeyer (Bunge); Brian Innes (CGC);
 - b. NPBT - Lead: Marcel Bruins (IGTC) / Team members: Andrew Conner (USGC), David Hudson (GTA); Rosemary Richards (AGEA); Randall Giroux (Cargill); Yves Le-bail-collet (Cargill); Gary Martin (NAEGA); Jim Everson (CGC)
 - c. Communication Team - Lead: Marcel Bruins (IGTC) / Team members: Tyler Bjornson (CGC); Randy Gordon (NGFA); Geoff Honey (GTA); Gary Martin (NAEGA)
 - d. BSP / Cartagena Team - Lead: Ricardo Calderon (APPAMEX) / Team members: Andrew Conner (USGC); Geoff Honey (GTA); Tiago Dos Santos Moreno (Cargill); Marcel Bruins (IGTC)
 - e. e-Phytos - Lead: Geoff Honey (GTA) / Team members: Vicki Manzoli (TRC), Sonia Tomassone (CAPECO); Rosemary Richards (AGEA); Marcos Amorim (Cargill); Jaine Chisholm Caunt (GAFTA); April Morgan (Cargill); Gary Martin (NAEGA); Sam Bonilla (NAEGA); Marcel Bruins (IGTC).
 - f. IPPC Grain ISPM - Lead: Marcel Bruins (IGTC) / Team members: Gerard McMullen (GTA); Sonia Tomassone (CAPECO); Jaine Chisholm Caunt (GAFTA); Nick Friant (Cargill); Vincent Jallier (Cargill); Arvid Hawk (NAEGA); Gary Martin (NAEGA)
 - g. Africa Team - Lead: Marcel Bruins (IGTC) / Team members: Gerald Masila (EAGC); Andrew Conner (USGC); Andrew Potter (Cargill); Gary Martin (NAEGA); Cam Dahl (Cereals Canada)

Your participation in IGTC work is welcome! NAEGA member personnel and staff are key to IGTC effectiveness. The teams often meet via telephone conference call in order to plan IGTC actions and advocacy.

IGTC has scheduled a General Assembly and Policy meetings to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina before or after International Grains Council International Grain Forum on December 1, 2015.

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IGTC’s first newsletter, IGTC Update, as well as additional information on last week’s meetings in London can be found [here](#).

IGC Conference

Several representatives of NAEGA member companies, IGTC members and Corporate Stakeholders were joined by Gary Martin and NAEGA Contractor and IGTC Secretariat Marcel Bruins, at the International Grains Council (IGC) - <http://www.igc.org.uk> - Grains Conference on June 9.

The Conference and an evening reception on June 8, followed the biannual Session of the now 60 year old IGC on June 8.

IGC is an intergovernmental organization that administers the Food Aid Convention, as well as the International Grains Agreement, which together comprise the Grains Trade Convention (GTC). The GTC is the latest in a long series of official agreements in operation since 1949 with these objectives:

1. Further international cooperation in grains trade;
2. To promote expansion, openness and fairness in the grains sector; and
3. To contribute to grain market stability and to enhance world food security.

Since IGC claims to address these objectives by improving market transparency through information-sharing, analysis and consultation on grain market and policy developments, NAEGA has long sought an expanded role for the commercial grain trade in IGC proceedings. In this regard we understand the June 8 IGC session resulted in a decision by IGC to examine a role for the IGTC to participate more directly in IGC.

A record number of participants from over 50 countries attended the IGC’s June 9 Grains Conference to consider the outlook for grains and oilseeds and how this may be affected by the global economic crisis. Speakers representing industry and government from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Egypt, the EU, Indonesia, Nigeria, Switzerland, the UK and the US addressed this topic and gave their views on current and likely future challenges. Particular attention was given to food security concerns, the flour milling industry, the oilseeds sector, rice, futures markets, ocean freight rates and national policy developments, including GM issues.

A NAEGA International Programs report on the IGC Session and Conference will soon be available.

LLP Policy - GLI

A NAEGA Policy Q and A regarding LLP policy, for biotech events in agricultural grain and oilseed crops and crop products, can be found [here](#).

The tentative dates for the next Global LLP Initiative (GLI) meeting is the week of August 30 through September 2, 2015. It is currently scheduled to take place in Mérida, Mexico.

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Success of the next GLI meeting depends to a large extent on the availability of regulatory decision leaders from countries with, or contemplating the establishment of, regulatory regimes for Low Level Presence policy (LLP) situations. We are confident that if a sufficient number and diversity of key regulatory decision leaders confirm attendance, IGTC will be there and very capable of representing the global grain trade.

Protecting Orderly and Responsible Transit of Shipments (PORTS) Act of 2015

NAEGA, along with 71 other associations, signed a letter last week to Senator Gardner in support of the “Protecting Orderly and Responsible Transit of Shipments Act of 2015” (PORTS Act). A letter was also sent this week to the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC), following up a letter sent in late April, meant to address this same issue. The letter, signed by 95 associations including NAEGA, can be found [here](#).

The PORTS Act was recently introduced by Senator Gardner in an effort to provide certainty to future negotiations as well as avoid the significant and costly impact of port labor negotiations; as experienced recently in the West Coast. This bill will provide an important tool to ensure our ports remain open and cargo continues to flow during future negotiations.

The letter sent to Senator Gardner in support of this legislation can be found [here](#).

CFTC - Commodity End-User Relief Act

NAEGA has signed an NGFA led coalition letter in support of the Commodity End-User Relief Act which will reauthorize and improve the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC). The bill passed in a vote on the House floor on Tuesday.

The Commodity End-User Relief Act is a bill to reauthorize the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to better protect futures customers, to provide end-users with market certainty, to make basic reforms to ensure transparency and accountability at the Commission to help farmers, ranchers, and end-users manage risks, to help keep consumer costs low, and for other purposes. The bill is very similar to last year's bill that was voted out of committee and approved on the floor with bipartisan support.

More information on the CFTC Reauthorization can be found [here](#).

Canada-U.S. Grain and Seed Task Group and Canadian Global Crops Symposium

Consistent with advancing NAEGA Unified Export Strategy objectives, Gary C. Martin traveled to Saskatoon from April 12-15, 2015 to meet with the Canada-U.S. Grain and Seed Task Group and participate in the Canadian Global Crops Symposium.

The Task Group focused on facilitating cross border trading, and the ongoing concern of some U.S. wheat producers shared by the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) and U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) regarding the Canadian government’s varietal registration system and Canada Grains Act.

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The Canadian Global Crops Symposium was held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Canada Grains Council giving Gary the opportunity to network with leaders of Canada’s largest agribusiness corporations and grain merchants, and witness presentations of international customers.

For more information on these events, a trip report can be found [here](#).

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

2015

June 21 – Comments to USDA APHIS on draft environmental assessment (EA) and preliminary plant pest risk assessment (PPRA) seeking deregulation for corn genetically engineered (GE) found [here](#), and seeking for the deregulation of cotton GE found [here](#).

June 22 – Comments to USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) on the regulation of biotechnology products found [here](#).

NAEGA Actions on Current Issues are tracked on the Member’s Only Section under their relevant committee pages.

[Click here to return to Index](#)

Information for your Consideration

U.S. OSHA Hazard Communications

The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) will begin implementation of a revised standard for hazard communications on **June 1, 2015**. As we understand it, revision requires Safety Data Sheets for grain and oilseeds be provided to buyers from sellers for all U.S. transactions. An industry guidance document can be found [here](#).

U.S. Chemical Facility Anti- Terrorism Standards (CFATS) Guidance

The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced the availability of a new guidance document for expedited approval of Tier III and IV facilities, and continues to strengthen security at the Nation’s high risk chemical facilities through the Chemical Facility Anti- Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program. NGFA has advised that an indefinite exception remains in effect for agriculture, and that DHS is developing an advance notice of proposed rulemaking that will lead to the development of a proposed rule, that it hopes to finalize in the ‘next couple of years’. DHS is also developing a list of frequently asked questions-and-answers that it hopes to issue relatively soon. DHS noted that there are a lot of misunderstandings about what is and isn’t covered under the agriculture exception, which it hopes to clarify with the FAQ document. A link

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to the 92-page guidance document can be found [here](#), and an updated CFATS fact sheet (May 1) can be found [here](#).

U.S.-Cuba Relations

The United States formally dropped Cuba from a list of state sponsors of terrorism on Friday, May 25; an important step toward restoring diplomatic ties, but one that will have limited effect on removing U.S. sanctions on the Communist-ruled island. President Obama had announced on April 14 that he would drop the former Cold War rival from the list, initiating a 45-day review period for Congress that expired on Friday.

U.S. Country or Origin Labeling (COOL) Requirements - Canada

On June 10, the House of Representatives voted to repeal the mandatory country of origin labeling requirements for meat products, which the World Trade Organization has determined violate U.S. multilateral obligations by discriminating against livestock imports from Canada and Mexico. Those two countries have threatened to pursue billions of dollars’ worth of retaliatory measures against U.S. exports, but quick congressional action to repeal the COOL requirements would prevent that from happening. However, the path forward for the repeal legislation in the Senate is uncertain at this time. Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts believes, however, that a “repeal remains the surest way to protect the American economy from retaliatory tariffs.”

More information on COOL and its progress in the legislative process can be found [here](#).

U.S. - China Commission

The U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission will hold a series of open meetings in the next few months to prepare its 2015 annual report to Congress on the national security implications and impact of the bilateral trade and economic relationship between the United States and China. The meetings will take place in Washington, D.C. on July 8-9, August 12-13, September 16-17 and October 7-8. Public seating for these meetings is limited and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

The commissioners will consider the following topics: U.S.-China economic and trade relations, including the foreign investment climate in China, China’s economic reforms, and commercial cyber espionage, and barriers to digital trade in China; security and foreign policy issues involving China, including China’s space and counter space programs, and China’s offensive missile forces; China and the world, including China and Central Asia, China and Southeast Asia, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

More information on the upcoming meetings and this year’s annual report can be found [here](#).

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) and Trade Promotion Authority (TPA)

In a dramatic and confusing set of events on the House floor, members of Congress rejected legislation to renew Trade Adjustment Assistance but then proceeded to approve Trade Promotion Authority by a bipartisan 219-211 vote.

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Absent an affirmative vote on TAA by the House, the conjoined TPA/TAA bill cannot be sent to the president’s desk. However, following the failed TAA vote, Speaker Boehner moved to reconsider the motion.

According to multiple reports, the House is likely to reconsider the vote on TAA as soon as Tuesday. If the TAA provision passes, the bill will go to the president for signature. If it does not, there is some speculation that “the House could move to pass the TPA bill without TAA and insist on a conference with the Senate, with the House’s position being that TPA stands alone,” according to one expert, who adds: “Any further action would require the passage of a new rule next week to pass the bill without TAA, since the existing vehicle dies without the TAA provision.”

More information 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.

[Click here to return to Index](#)

NAEGA Calendar & Member Notices

2015

June

19 – Washington D.C. – FAS Locally Employed Staff Briefing – Gary Martin presenting.

22-24 – Washington D.C. – IGP-FAS Training Course – Gary Martin and Sam Bonilla presenting.

25 – New Orleans, LA – US Grains Council hosting Mexican biosafety regulators – Gary Martin presenting.

29 – July 1 – Geneva, Switzerland – UN Globally Harmonized System (GHS) Subcommittee meeting – Jerry Cotter attending.

July

12-16 – Big Sky, Montana – 2015 Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) [Annual Summit](#).

14-15 – Arlington, VA U.S. Agriculture Export Development Council (USAEDC) 2015 USDA Attaché Seminar – Westin Arlington Gateway. NAEGA members welcome to join NAEGA staff at the meeting.

August

13-15 – Puerto Vallarta, Mexico – 2015 APPAMEX-NAEGA Forum – [Hyatt Ziva Hotel](#).

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27 – Portland, Oregon - Government and Industry Workshop hosted by NAEGA,NGFA and PNWGFA. Agenda forthcoming.

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 and Gary Martin attending and representing NAEGA and IGTC. 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. Gary will focus on a more global view on market structure and access.

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).

December

9-11 – Geneva, Switzerland – Globally Harmonized System (GHS) Subcommittee meeting – Jerry Cotter attending.

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