



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

OUTREACH June 16, 2014

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

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- Preparing for Biosafety Protocol Meetings
- Addressing USDA APHIS Proposed Fee Increases
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- Alternative Security Program Meeting – Kansas City, Missouri – July 28, 2014
- US Wheat Latin American Buyers Conference – Herradura, Costa Rica – July 29 – August 1, 2014
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Reports on NAEGA Actions

Preventing Treated Seeds

NAEGA continues efforts to communicate the need to prevent treated seeds from entering the grain supply and to continue the successful history of preventing any presence of treated seeds in U.S. exports.

Seeds for planting that are often treated with one or more pesticides include corn, sorghum, wheat, and soybeans. Maintaining the stellar US reputation for appropriately managing all pesticides is one key element of providing for customer satisfaction and official acceptance for exports of these crops. Few concerns can be as damaging to supplier reputation for quality and safety of agricultural

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products as one over the presence of seed treatment compounds in commodities intended for use in food and feed.

As spring planting season moves toward completion, it is important that we draw attention to compliance with U.S. law prohibiting the intentional addition of treated seeds to commodities and continuing the U.S. system-wide diligence that prevents treated seeds in commodity grain and oilseed shipments. NAEGA members are also asked to join the industry wide effort to communicate the need to maintain our past success, comply with U.S. law and prevent treated seeds from entering the commodity supply.

A copy of our most recent communication to colleagues from producer and grain industry associations in can be found [here](#) on the Members’ Only site under the Grades and Inspection page.

Preparations for Biosafety Protocol Meetings

NAEGA, working with the International Grain Trade Coalition, is preparing for a key meeting of the countries party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, otherwise known as the Biosafety Protocol (BSP). Beginning on September 29 in Pyongyang, South Korea decision makers from the 167 countries representing over 80% of the world’s grain imports will meet and may agree on requirements for the handling, transport, packaging and identification of living modified organisms” in products intended for Food, Feed and Processing (Article 18.2a) that may contain Living Modified Organisms (LMO). The decisions taken under article 18.2a have, for the past 2 decades, been a primary and critical concern for the international grain trade. Joining the IGTC team in Korea will be NAEGA member volunteers Diana Felner (Bunge) and Paul Green (Mitsui). In addition to the key article 18.2a developments, the IGTC will weigh in on BSP decisions related to Liability and Redress for damages the and risk assessment and management related to the trans-boundary movement of LMO.

The Cartagena Protocol on the Biosafety to Convention on Biological Diversity is an international agreement which aims to ensure the safe handling, transport and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) that may have adverse effects on biological diversity and human health. Part of our preparation includes gathering information and contacts from several of the key grain trading countries who are in the process of implementing the BSP. NAEGA provided the IGTC with an assessment on the Japanese approach to the Biosafety Protocol completed by our summer intern, Mikiko Shigimitsu. The assessment addresses the overview of the regulatory structure on LMOs in Japan and focuses on the Japanese compliance approach on the Protocol’s Article 18.2a, Handling, Transport, Packing and Identification when exporting and importing LMO food products. The report also summarizes the answer from the Japanese Agriculture Ministry staff regarding the current Japanese position on the Article 26 of the Protocol, Socio-Economic Considerations of LMOs. The copy of the assessment can be found [here](#) on the Biotechnology page of the Members’ Only site.

Working with Canada-U.S. Trade via PNWER’s Agriculture Working Group

NAEGA continues its support of the agriculture working group of the [Pacific Northwest Economic Region \(PNWER\)](#). We advised and participated in a webinar on Low Level Presence (LLP) on

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June 11. The webinar focused on its relationship to trade and the various U.S. and Canadian initiatives in advancing LLP policy and awareness globally. NAEGA is also providing guidance on programing for the [24th Annual Summit](#) will be held July 20 – 24, 2014 at the Whistler Fairmont Chateau in Whistler, B.C.

Addressing USDA APHIS Proposed Fee Increases

NAEGA, along with other industry groups, wrote to the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) requesting:

1. An extension of the comment period on proposed changes to the fees it charges to recoup the costs of conducting agricultural quarantine inspections (AQI) at U.S. ports of entry and;
2. Overtime rates worked by APHIS officers.

The letters [on user fee increase](#) and [overtime fee increase](#) include a large group of organizations representing a variety of sectors including agriculture, manufacturing, and transportation which would be greatly impacted by this policy change. More information on the proposed AQI fee structure can be found [here](#), and adjustment of the hourly rates charge associated with overtime AQI activities can be found [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](#).

July 28 – Comments to U.S. Department of Commerce on a proposal to reinstate the reporting requirements for the BE-13, Survey of New Foreign Direct Investment in the United States, which was discontinued in 2009 due to budget reductions. The Department of Commerce is proposing this action to better measure its efforts through the “Build It Here, Sell It Everywhere” initiative to expand foreign business investment in the U.S.

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 GIPSA-Industry Workshop – New Orleans, LA – July 1

NAEGA and NGFA will host a regional industry and Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) Workshop on Tuesday, July 1, 2014. The workshop is scheduled to be held at the FGIS New

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Orleans Field Office in Destrehan, LA from 7:30am to 5:30pm. A proposed agenda for the workshop has been prepared and is available [through this link](#).

All NAEGA and NGFA members are welcome to attend. Please register by clicking [here](#). Details for a similar workshop in the Pacific Northwest are still being worked out.

USAEDC Agricultural Attaché Conference – Arlington, Virginia – July 15-16, 2014

The U.S. Agricultural Export Development Council (USAEDC) is hosting the 2014 Agricultural Attaché conference in coordination with the USDA FAS. This year’s conference will be the first Full Global Attaché Conference since 2008 – meaning all USDA FAS personnel working outside the U.S. are invited to attend. The Conference will be held in Arlington, Virginia on July 15-16. The attaché conference gives USAEDC members an opportunity to meet with overseas FAS attachés and staff and to discuss country-specific issues facing U.S. agricultural exports.

NAEGA members interested in joining NAEGA staff at the conference should contact us as soon as possible. USAEDC is a non-profit trade association of U.S. commodity trade associations, farmer cooperatives and state regional trade groups. NAEGA, because of our use of the Market Access Program (MAP) is a member of USAEDC.

Alternative Security Program

NAEGA-NGFA will host an ASP meeting for users on July 28 from 3:00-5:00pm in Kansas City, MO. This meeting will immediately follow NGFA-NAEGA Joint Agroterrorism/Facility Security Committee meeting on July 28th and in conjunction with the [FDA Food Defense Workshop](#) on July 29 and the [NGFA/Grain Journal Safety Conference](#) July 29-31.

NAEGA recently completed Alternative Security Program (ASP) certificates and letters of good standing to all subscribers/users of the ASP.

Please let Kyle Liske know if you plan to attend by emailing kliske@naega.org.

Latin American Buyers Conference – Herradura, Costa Rica – July 29 – August 1, 2014

NAEGA members are invited to attend U.S. Wheat Associate’s Latin American Buyers Conference in Herradura, Costa Rica. Wheat purchasing decision makers from Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Mexico, Central America, Venezuela, and the Caribbean are expected to attend this event focused on promoting U.S. Wheat exports.

The overview schedule for the LABC is:

Tuesday, July 29: Welcome Reception at 7:00pm

Wednesday, July 30: LABC Meetings

Thursday, July 31: LABC Meetings

Friday, August 1: Departure

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The hotel is the Marriott Los Suenos, located about 1 1/2 hours west of the San Jose airport. Everyone who plans to attend the LABC should make hotel reservations directly using [this link](#). Please let us know if you plan to attend.

2014 APPAMEX-NAEGA Forum – Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, August 21-24, 2014

The 2013 Asociación de Proveedores de Productores Agropecuarios México (APPAMEX) <http://www.appamex.com.mx/> - NAEGA Forum has been scheduled for August 21-24, 2014 in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. This year marks the 21st APPAMEX-NAEGA forum. An agenda will be developed during the week of June 23 as part of NAEGA meetings in Mexico City. If you or a member of your company would like to be a speaker at the forum or take part in a panel, please contact the NAEGA office.

NAEGA September Board of Directors Meeting – September 26, 2014 – Denver Colorado

NAEGA’s next Board of Directors meeting will be held on the morning of Friday, September 26, 2014 at CoBank’s offices in Denver, Colorado. The agenda for the meeting is under development. NAEGA Members are encouraged to submit items for the consideration of the Board.

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

U.S. – OFAC Upgrades its SDN Search Tool

The Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) has upgraded its SDN Search tool. This upgraded version of the tool (now renamed “Sanctions List Search”) provides the users the ability to search for a name on the Specially Designated Nationals (SDN) List, the Foreign Sanctions Evaders (FSE) List, or both the SDN and FSE Lists simultaneously.

Sanctions List Search makes use of character, string, and phonetic matching algorithms to look for potential name matches. These results are viewable on-screen, are printable, and can be saved as a spreadsheet. Sanctions List Search has replaced SDN Search and can be found [here](#).

President Obama Signed the Water Resources Reform and Development Act

President Obama signed the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) into law. Passed in Congress with strong bipartisan support, the legislation authorizes 34 well-overdue new water projects for flood protection, port improvements and upgrades to the nation's aging locks and dam infrastructure. The law contains several key provisions important to agriculture, including the funding mix for completing the long-delayed and over-budget Olmstead lock-and-dam project on the Ohio River. Under the new bill, the federal government assumes 85 percent of the cost of

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completing the project, with funds from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund (comprised of barge diesel fuel user fees) used to finance the remaining 15 percent. This change in the former 50:50 cost-share formula will free up approximately \$56 million a year in industry-paid user fees to fund much-needed restoration of dilapidated locks on the Upper Mississippi and Illinois River System. In addition, the bill reforms the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund that will make more money available for port-dredging activities, as well as numerous key reforms to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ operations designed to streamline its project-delivery process and promote fiscal responsibility.

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

June

16 – Washington, DC – Codex Mycotoxin Standards developments stakeholders Meeting

18 – Washington, D.C. - U.S. CODEX Committee Public Meeting – 1:00pm to 4:00pm – USDA Whitten Building Room 107A

19 – Washington, D.C. - Commodity Futures Trading Commission Roundtable for Limits on Physical Commodity Derivatives – CFTC Headquarters lobby-level Hearing Room – Washington, DC

23-26 – Mexico City – NAEGA President and CEO, Gary C. Martin, will meet with APPAMEX, governments and other stakeholders regarding Mexico’s phytosanitary measures involving the presence of soil. Also on the agenda are plans for the upcoming APPAMEX – NAEGA Forum (August 21 – 24) and the Biosafety Protocol’s COP MOP (September 29 – October 3) meeting in Korea.

July

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

1 – New Orleans, Louisiana – USDA GIPSA Industry Workshop

2-4 – Geneva, Switzerland – United Nations Globally Harmonized System (GHS) meeting discussing explosive dust. Jerry Cotter attending on behalf of NAEGA representing International Bulk Terminals Association (IBTA).

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

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9-18 – USA – US Biotech Crops Alliance (USBCA)-US Grain Council (USGC) Sponsored China Regulatory & Biosafety Committee Team to the US

14 – Fortaleza, Brazil – Brazil Russia India China South Africa (BRICS) Summit

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

17 – Arlington, VA – Africa Global Broad-based Initiative (GBI) meeting

22 – Chicago, IL – U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC) Industry Advisory Council Meeting – NAEGA President and CEO, Gary C. Martin attending

20 -24, Whistler, B.C - PNWER 24th Annual Summit <http://www.pnwer.org/2014summit.html>

28 – Kansas City, MO – Alternative Security Plan (ASP) Meeting – 3:00pm – 5:00pm Central Time – ASP users only

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.

21-24 – Puerto Vallarta, Mexico – APPAMEX – NAEGA Forum – Velas Hotel. <http://www.appamex.com.mx/>

September

5 – NAEGA MAP AUDIT

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

11-12 – Beijing, China – Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (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 – Tentative

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

14 – Geneva, Switzerland; Rome, Italy – USBCA-The International Maize Alliance (MAIZALL) Mission to the WTO & FAO

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18 – Washington, D.C. – Michigan State University/USDA FAS Industry Roundtable International Agricultural Biotechnology Short Course. Gary Martin on the panel

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

26 – Denver, Colorado – NAEGA Board Meeting – Hosted by CoBank

29-October 3 – Pyeongchang, Korea 7th 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/>

October

1-3 – Panama – Dry Bulk Terminal Group (DBTG) Annual Meeting, Gary Martin planning to present and attend.

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

24-25 – Beijing, China – Development Research Center Food Security and Sustainability Summit

November

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

17-20 – Baltimore, MD – USAEDC Annual Workshop

December

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

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

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