



OUTREACH
June 20, 2017
Thank you for your membership in and work
with NAEGA

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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.

U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade – June 26

NAEGA member personnel are invited to RSVP for a meeting of the U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade on June 26 from 10:00am-12:00pm at Arent Fox, LLP on 1717 K Street NW, Washington, D.C. The U.S. Food and Ag Dialogue for Trade is an off the record broad based open forum that convenes as needed to discuss U.S. agriculture's interests in trade.

Please [RSVP here](#):

The preliminary agenda includes:

10:00-11:45am

U.S. Government update on trade policy objectives and NAFTA:

Sharon Bomer-Lauritsen, Assistant USTR for Agriculture and Commodity Policy (*Confirmed*)

Jason Hafemeister, Acting Undersecretary for Farm and Foreign Agriculture Services (*Confirmed*)

11:45pm-12:00pm

U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue Working Group Update

11:00-11:30am

Update on the Asia-Pacific Trade Environment,
Tien Li, Embassy of Vietnam (*Confirmed*)

11:30-12:00pm

Mexico Perspectives on NAFTA Negotiations:

Ken Smith Ramos, Director of the Trade and the NAFTA Office at the Embassy of Mexico
(Confirmed)

NAEGA Contracts and Best Practices – Vancouver – July 20

Please RSVP now for a Contracts and Best Practices Seminar at the Westin Grand Vancouver Hotel on July 20 in Vancouver, BC! Led by NAEGA Senior Advisor Sam Bonilla and President and CEO Gary Martin, 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:

U.S.D.A APHIS Part 340 Comments

On Monday, June 19 NAEGA joined the Corn Refiners Association (CRA), the National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA), the National Oilseed Processors Association (NOPA), and the North American Millers Association (NAMA) in comments to the U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) regarding proposed revisions to regulations under 7 CFR Part 340 (“Part 340”) applicable to the importation, interstate movement and environmental release of certain genetically engineered organisms.

The comments urge APHIS to withdraw the proposed Part 340 rule given insufficient interaction and consultation by the U.S. Government with the governments of major U.S. export markets. Instead, the U.S. Government should develop a comprehensive engagement strategy with regulatory agencies in other countries to build international regulatory compatibility and acceptance around a new, more science- and risk-based approach that ensures genetically engineered plants do not pose a plant pest or noxious weed risk. APHIS should also engage and consult adequately with relevant U.S. state governmental bodies concerning its proposed new regulatory approach to avert situations in which individual states may attempt – in the absence of APHIS regulatory oversight – to exercise their own regulatory control over field trials or commercial cultivation of plant-breeding innovation techniques.

Until such time as APHIS achieves broad-based acceptance through such international and domestic engagement of its new regulatory approach, the agency should not move forward with the proposed rule. Moving forward would endanger the marketability of U.S. agriculture products in global markets.

A copy of the comments can be found [here](#).

U.S. FDA Genome Editing Techniques Comments

On Monday, June 19 NAEGA joined the Corn Refiners Association (CRA), the National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA), the National Oilseed Processors Association (NOPA), and the North American Millers Association (NAMA) in comments to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regarding the use of genome-editing techniques to produce new plant varieties intended for use in human and/or animal foods.

The comments urge the FDA to require premarket notification of the agency by plant breeders and others intending to develop and commercialize plant gene-editing techniques – regardless of the

technique used. In addition, any future determinations regarding the level of safety consultation and risk assessment for a given biotech-enhanced trait should be based upon the characteristics of the resulting product, rather than on the technique used to develop the plant. Premarket notification should not necessarily trigger a full-fledged FDA safety review or risk assessment.

The comments also stressed the need for enhanced consultations with safety regulatory agencies in other countries, particularly main export markets. Such consultations improve the marketability of U.S. crops and help prevent trade disruptions due to the asynchronicity of domestic regulations.

A copy of the comments can be found [here](#).

USDA FAS 2018 UES Application

On Monday, June 19 NAEGA officially submitted its 2017 Unified Export Strategy (UES) to the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS). The UES sets the framework under which NAEGA will administer its Market Access Program funding in the 2018 program year. The 2018 UES highlights many past successes and planned initiatives NAEGA intends to engage in over the next year, including efforts to promote the electronic exchange of commercial and official trade documents and efforts to address market access barriers during negotiations of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

A copy of the 2018 UES can be seen [here](#). For more information, please contact Ryan.

U.S. Coast Guard ASP Workshop

On Wednesday, June 14 NAEGA Director of Operations Ryan Olson attended the biannual U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Alternative Security Program Workshop. NAEGA, along with the National Grain and Feed Association, administers an Alternative Security Program (ASP) on behalf of the USCG. The ASP is available for all NAEGA and NGFA member facilities that are interested in an alternative way to comply with the Maritime Transportation Security Act (MTSA). During Wednesday's workshop, ASP participants were briefed by Rear Admiral Paul Thomas, Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy as well as USCG staff and officers on compliance related issues, trends and new security initiatives.

Please contact Ryan if you would like more information on the Workshop or our interested in participating in the NAEGA-NGFA ASP.

Kenya IGTC Working Visit

IGTC Secretariat Katy Lee is back from Nairobi, Kenya where she held her fourth working visit of the year with Nairobi based IGTC member the East African Grains Council (EAGC). In Nairobi, Katy sought to deepen the IGTC's relationships with key regional players in the supply and trade of grains, oilseeds and other agri-bulks. During her stay, Katy presented at the EAGC's Annual Members and Stakeholders Luncheon, attended a leadership seminar with 12 members of EAGC staff regarding best practices for the management and success of international grain trade associations, briefed the EAGC, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, and Kenyan government officials on IGTC policy files, and visited three EAGC members.

A copy of Katy's trip report is available [here](#).

Upcoming Actions:

IGTC Meetings – Geneva – June 20-23

NAEGA President and CEO Gary Martin will travel to Geneva, Switzerland on June 20-23 for a series of meetings with NAEGA and IGTC corporate stakeholders and government officials. In Geneva, Gary has planned meetings to report on and receive recommendations for IGTC actions to: address the facilitation of trade with China, consider parameters for the establishment of new commercial and official practices related to information management and implementation of regulations and explore options for modification of the IGTC business plan. Please let Gary know if you are free to meet while he is in Geneva!

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 26-28. On June 29 Arvid will debrief NAEGA at our offices in Crystal City. NAEGA member personnel who would like to participate in Arvid's debrief should contact Ryan.

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](#).

IPPC ePhyto IAG Meetings – Arlington and Washington, D.C. – June 27-29

NAEGA will host and attend meetings related to the International Plant Protection Convention's development of Electronic Phyto-Sanitary Certification. On June 26-30 Katy Lee, Secretariat of the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) will travel to Arlington, VA to join Gary at three meetings: NAEGA will host the of IPPC ePhyto Hub Industry Advisory Group (IAG) on June 27. The IAG is also hosting an Outreach meeting with Foreign Embassy personnel and U.S. government agencies on June 28 at the Embassy of Canada in DC. On June 26, the Embassy of Australia is hosting a related meeting with Peter Neimanis, Director, Business Systems Program, Plant Export Operations for Australia

The ePhyto Hub IAG provides practical guidance and advice to the IPPC Secretariat on the design, development and deployment of an ePhyto (electronic phytosanitary certification) Solution which consists of a global hub and generic national system to facilitate the international exchange of electronic phytosanitary information by developing countries.

During her stay in Arlington Katy will also be meeting with IGTC member, corporate stakeholders and DC based U.S. government and foreign government stakeholders.

UN GHS Subcommittee Meeting – Geneva – July 10-12

On July 8-12 NAEGA Volunteer Jess McCluer will travel to London, UK to participate in the UN's Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and its Correspondence Group. During this mission Jess will be working closely with the International Dry Bulk Terminal Group (DBTG) and its sister organization the International Bulk Terminals Association (IBTA) to monitor and report on developments at the GHS to classify grain as combustible under a proposed chapter to the GHS. Jess, as a member of the GHS's Correspondence Group, will be monitoring responses and comments to a non-binding guidance on grain as a combustible material that will be presented to the Subcommittee by the Correspondence Group during this meeting.

A copy of the notice to post for this upcoming travel is available [here](#).

USAEDC Attaché Seminar and FAS Consultations – Arlington – July 12-13

NAEGA members and Washington Representatives are invited to attend the annual U.S. Agriculture Export Development Council's (USAEDC) annual Attaché Seminar in Arlington, VA on July 13. Gary and Ryan will be attending on behalf of NAEGA and representing NAEGA during the USAEDC Consultation meeting with FAS on July 12.

If you are interested in joining NAEGA Staff and attending the Seminar please [fill out this form](#) and submit it to USAEDC. A copy of the Attache Seminar agenda can be found [here](#). Please let Ryan or Gary know if you are interested in contributing to discussions with FAS attaches during the consultations.

Pending Actions:

Canadian Government NAFTA Consultations

The Government of Canada is seeking public and industry comment on the renegotiation of the North American free trade agreement (NAFTA). The Government is interested in We are in hearing about what aspects or elements of NAFTA have worked well for Canadians and should remain as is and where changes or improvements could be desirable. The notice is part of the Government of Canada's ongoing domestic consultation process with stakeholders, including provinces and territories, businesses, civil society organizations, labour unions, academia, Canada's Indigenous peoples, and individual Canadians, and was published in the Canada Gazette on June 3.

Comments can be emailed to NAFTA-Consultations-ALENA@international.gc.ca by the July 18 deadline. Please let Gary or Ryan know if you would like to participate in these comments.

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In the News

U.S. Administration Modifies Cuba Policies

On Friday, June 16 the Trump Administration announced modifications to its policy toward Cuba. The new policies seek to slow the normalization of political and economic ties begun under the Obama Administration. Under changes made by the U.S. Treasury's Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC), the administration will begin to strictly enforce exemptions that allow travel between the U.S. and Cuba and prohibit commerce with Cuban businesses owned by the military and intelligence services.

OFAC has released an FAQs document to assist businesses with the changes in regulations. A copy can be found [here](#).

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
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
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

26 – U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade – Washington, D.C.

26-27 – NAPPO International Symposium for Risk Based Sampling – Baltimore, MD

26 -28 – IPPC Ephyot meetings including NAEGA Industry Advisory Group on ePhyto Hub – NAEGA HQ – Arlington, VA on the 27th

27 – USTR hearing on NAFTA negotiations

July

10-12 – GHS Subcommittee Meeting – Geneva, Switzerland

12-13 – USAEDC Attache Seminar – Arlington, VA

18 – Comments on NAFTA Negotiations due to Canadian government

20 – Contracts and Best Practices Seminar – The Westin Grain Vancouver - Vancouver, BC

23-27 – PNWER Annual Summit – Calgary, Alberta, Canada

24-28 – IMO Council Session – London, UK

August

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, London, UK

11-15- IMO CCCC – London, UK

13 – NAEGA Board of Directors Meeting. Arlington, VA

14 – IGTC Management Council Meeting – Virtual

October

TBD –NAEGA Contracts and Best Practices Seminar – Tokyo, Japan

November

13-17 – IPPC Standards Committee – Rome, Italy

TBD – **USDA FGIS** 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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