



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

OUTREACH June 22, 2015

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

Please join us in welcoming Ryan Olson to NAEGA! Beginning on July 6 Ryan will serve as NAEGA Director of Operations. Ryan, who has a MA degree in International Commerce and Policy from George Mason University, looks forward to meeting and working with you. You can contact Ryan via email at ROlson@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
- RCC Joint Forward Plan Stakeholder Teleconference – June 30th
- 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

- USDA APHIS commitments following the Grain Industry Sector Meeting
- Ports Transparency Act

Information for your consideration

- Canada’s LLP Policy
- U.S. - China Commission
- U.S. Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) and Trade Promotion Authority (TPA)
- Panama Canal Expansion
- Global Wheat Trade Agreement

NAEGA Calendar and Member Notices

- Upcoming Events and Notices for Members

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

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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.

The Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC) Joint Forward Plan Stakeholder Teleconference – June 30th

The RCC was established to ensure cooperation between the United States and Canada’s national authorities. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) will be hosting a Joint RCC conference call on June 30 at 2:00 PM EST.

The objectives of this discussion will be: to provide an update on the implementation of the Joint Forward Plan including the development of Department-Level Regulatory Partnership Statements and Work Plans as they relate to key agriculture and agri-food items; and to provide an opportunity for you to ask questions and provide feedback to USDA and CFIA regulators. The discussion will cover RCC efforts in the areas of meat inspection and certification, plant health, and animal health.

More information on the RCC can be found [here](#). [Click here to preregister](#).

Big Sky, Montana – PNWER Annual Summit – July 12-16, 2015

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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.

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!

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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, 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.

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

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Reports on NAEGA Actions

APHIS commitments following the Grain Industry Sector Meeting

We received this letter ([click here](#)) from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) describing APHIS commitments following the grain industry sector meeting held on February 9, 2015. The purpose of the meeting was to help APHIS better set goals, determine program direction and allocate resources effectively.

Port Transparency Act

Last month, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation introduced a Port Transparency bill in order to help with early identification of port disruptions, caused by labor strife or other factors, before they inflict serious damage on businesses and the broader U.S. economy. This bill is intended to create a new level of transparency and accountability for ports. More information on the bill itself can be found [here](#).

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The committee plans to mark up the bill this Thursday. A letter in support of the Ports Transparency Act, signed by 100 trade associations, can be found [here](#). Also, a copy of a joint letter from the Ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach and Oakland can be found [here](#). Additional articles of interest regarding the bill can be found [here](#).

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

2015

June 22 – Comments to USDA APHIS on the regulation of biotechnology products found [here](#).

August 14 – Comments to USDA on proposed changes to the Facility Guarantee Program that would expand program coverage and streamline the application process, enhancing the program’s ability to support U.S. agricultural exports. The proposed rule can be found [here](#).

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

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Information for your Consideration

Canada’s LLP Policy

Canada has revised its draft policy on the *Management of LLP of GMO Crops in Imported Grain, Food and Feed*. Revised Draft Policy on the Management of Low-Level Presence of Genetically Modified Crops in Imported Grain, Food and Feed and its Associated Implementation Framework for Grain can be found [here](#).

This draft is the result of the Government of Canada public consultation on Canada’s 2012 *Proposed Domestic Policy on the Management of Low-Level Presence (LLP) of Genetically-Modified Crops in Imports and its Associated Implementation Framework* from November 6, 2012 to January 19, 2013. Feedback received through this consultation has led to a number of changes to the 2012 draft LLP policy and implementation framework. To facilitate the understanding of the policy development process, the revised draft LLP policy and implementation framework includes a preamble that describes changes made to the 2012 policy proposal and lists the outstanding policy and implementation issues.

The Canadian government indicates that resolving these outstanding complex issues will require further analysis and work with stakeholders and international partners. A decision regarding when to implement the policy will take place once the policy is finalized, and will take into account benefits and potential risks. It is planned that Canada will release their revised Model LLP policy in the near term (could be as early as end of June). Additionally, Canada plans to table this at the

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next meeting of the Global LLP Initiative (GLI), with the aim that the Canadian policy could be utilized by governments to develop their own LLP policy.

NAEGA will evaluate the revised draft and the Canadian industry submission “[Industry Guidance on Setting a Low Level Presence Marketing Threshold in Canada](#)”. This Canada Grains Council (CGC) submitted document advocates for an LLP threshold of 5%. In the new draft policy the Canadian Government provides for threshold level of 3%, cumulative for stacked traits, and a requirement the technology owners provide a full regulatory submission with a short form risk assessment.

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)

Last week, the legislative package in the U.S. House of Representatives that combined TAA with TPA failed. The House passed TPA on June 12, 219-211, but because a rule governing floor debate stipulated TPA could not advance to the president’s desk without passage of TAA, Democrats sank TAA to slow down the process, forcing the chamber to hold another vote on TPA by itself Thursday.

On Thursday, June 18, the House approved Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), better known as fast-track, on its own, decoupled from Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA). Attention is now turned to the Senate, and is expected to take up legislation that would also separate TPA from TAA before the upcoming July 4 U.S. Congress recess.

They have received assurances from House Speaker John Boehner and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell that TAA will get a quick vote. But there has been no indication from the 14 Senate Democrats who backed the TPA/TAA package that they’re on board with the plan.

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Whatever happens in the Senate, some trade supporters believe this is President Obama's last chance to pass TPA.

More information can be found in this Roll Call report [here](#).

Panama Canal Begins Filling Atlantic Locks Complex

On June 11, 2015 the Panama Canal started to fill the Atlantic Locks Complex, an important milestone of the Expansion Program. The filling of the chambers will require the use of freshwater from Gatun Lake and will take place in several stages over three to four months. As part of this first phase, the lower chamber will receive about 50 thousand cubic meters of water per hour. The flooding of the locks will be conducted in phases, chamber by chamber. The test will confirm that each gate, valve and their respective electromechanical systems are functioning correctly.

The \$5.25 billion expansion was passed by Panamanian voters in 2006, and is the first major improvement program since the canal's opening in 1914. The program consists of the construction of two new sets of locks - one on the Pacific and one on the Atlantic side of the Canal. Each lock will have three chambers and each chamber will have three water reutilization basins. The program also entails the widening and deepening of existing navigational channels in Gatun Lake and the deepening of Culebra Cut.

More information on the expansion and its progress can be found [here](#).

Global Wheat Trade Agreement

Major grain importing and exporting nations met in Geneva last week to discuss an agreement aimed at opening up the global wheat trade. The Wheat Sectoral Global Food Security Initiative is a proposal for which U.S. Wheat Associates is seeking Australian, Canadian and European support. Their proposal is reportedly designed to reduce the distortion in global wheat trade created by domestic support, market access restrictions and export competition restrictions.

The purpose of the meetings Geneva was to assess international acceptance of such an agreement, identify any obstacles, and develop a strategy forward. We are awaiting a report.

We have been advised that the intent is for the negotiation of the agreement to include measures to abolish export taxes, import tariffs, export subsidies, export embargoes, import and export quotas, and export state trading enterprises. Concessions on distorting domestic subsidies are expected and as well as are measures to provide to the use of science-based health and safety standards.

A view from Australia with more information on the agreement and meetings held in Geneva can be found [here](#).

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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

2015

June

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.

30 – The Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC) Joint Forward Plan Stakeholder Teleconference.

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](#).

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

30 – September 2 – Mérida, Mexico – Global LLP Initiative Meeting

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

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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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