



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

OUTREACH June 29, 2015

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA



Happy Independence Day!

To celebrate Canada Day (July 1) and US Independence Day (July 4),
the NAEGA office will be closed on Friday July 3.

Action Reports

- Addressing Flag Smut in US wheat
- Canada’s Directive D-12-05 - APHIS Formal Request to NAEGA
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- U.S. GIPSA Grain Inspection Advisory Committee Recommendations
- U.S. Ports Transparency Act

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- Big Sky, Montana – PNWER Annual Summit – July 12-16, 2015
- Montreal, Quebec, - US Biotech Crops Alliance Technology meeting July 29-30
- 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

Information for your consideration

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- IARC Classification of 2,4-D
- Panama Canal Expansion
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- Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) and Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)
- U.S. - China Commission

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Reports on NAEGA Actions

Addressing Flag Smut in US wheat

NAEGA, in close coordination with NGFA, has worked over the past several weeks to assist USDA in response to findings of flag smut in US wheat fields. With our collaboration in hand, USDA APHIS, on June 26, 2015, issued a press release to explain that in May 2015, APHIS confirmed the detection of the fungal disease *Urocystis tritici*, also known as flag smut, in Kansas. After surveying commercial and research wheat fields throughout the state, APHIS determined that the disease appears to be limited to small areas in Kansas. The total known affected area is less than 3,000 acres, a small fraction of the 9.4 million planted acres of wheat in Kansas.

Flag smut presents no human or animal health concern and has no impact on grain quality, but can reduce wheat yield. Flag smut has been found periodically in the United States since the early 1900s and has been effectively controlled through the use of treated seed, crop rotation and modern production practices. In the last 30 years, the disease has been detected on only a few plants on individual farms in the Pacific Northwest.

In addition, NAEGA and NGFA APHIS is working closely with state and industry officials to communicate directly with affected growers about recommended safeguarding measures for harvesting, storing and distributing wheat from commercial fields where flag smut has been detected. These safeguarding measures include delaying the harvest of infested fields until uninfested fields are harvested; communicating with market outlets to avoid commingling of wheat from infested fields with wheat from uninfested fields; cleaning, harvesting and transportation equipment; treating wheat that will be used as seed for planting; and marketing wheat from infested fields for non-export uses, such as domestic milling and animal feed. These measures will help prevent the spread of this disease to other areas and keep infected wheat grain out of export market channels. APHIS is also working with state and industry officials to strengthen and implement best management practices that will reduce the likelihood that this disease will re-appear in the 2016 wheat crop.

Canada’s Directive D-12-05 - APHIS formal request to NAEGA

NAEGA received this letter from USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) (linked [here](#)). The letter requests our assistance in providing for alternative measures to support U.S. exports and provide for compliance with Canada’s Directive D-12-05. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) directive provides for new import requirements for grain (other than barley, oats, rye, triticale, and wheat) from the Continental United States. **NAEGA members who wish to work with our efforts to respond to this request should contact Gary immediately. We plan to respond formally before July 15**

Canada’s LLP Policy

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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 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” ([click here](#)). 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. Biotechnology Regulation – NAEGA comments

NAEGA and NGFA submitted a joint statement to U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) regarding their request for comment on their approach to future biotechnology regulations. Recommendations to APHIS in the statement include discussion of: APHIS’s role in protecting the economic value of U.S. agriculture, the scope of regulation of crop biotechnology, the reevaluation of biotech research trials, and the pursuit of adopting a global low level presence (LLP) policy.

These NAEGA and NGFA comments can be found [here](#).

USDA APHIS Commitments to NAEGA re 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.

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U.S. GIPSA Grain Inspection Advisory Committee Recommendations

NAEGA joined NGFA to encourage the USDA Grain, Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) accept the applications of Maria Reintz and Nick Friant to serve on the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee. Our letters endorsing them can be found here: Nick [here](#), and Maria [here](#).

U.S. 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](#).

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

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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Member Opportunities

The Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC) 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

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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

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](#).

Montreal, Quebec - US Biotech Crops Alliance Technology meeting July 29-30

Integral to the new US Biotech Crops Alliance business plan as endorsed by NAEGA, the Alliance will conduct a “Technology Meeting” on July 29-30 in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

The meeting will bring together value-chain stakeholders with technology providers to discuss:

- 1) specific biotech-enhanced events in the developmental pipeline,
- 2) status of efforts to obtain approvals/authorizations of foreign countries and
- 3) stewardship plans that the technology provider intends to implement

The agenda includes a plenary discussion of biotech traits in U.S. export markets and projections on anticipated foreign import markets and a full day of two hour discussions with each technology provider.

NAEGA is invited to participate and the Biotechnology Committee is in the process of assembling a team of NAEGA representatives to join NAEGA President Gary Martin in Montreal.

Please contact us as soon as possible if you or a colleague are interested!

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.

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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!

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.

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

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Information for your Consideration

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](#).

IARC Classification of 2,4-D

The 2,4-D Research Task Force responded to an International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) ranking, saying the IARC classification of 2,4-D as a “2B – possible” carcinogen, is at odds with comprehensive cancer reviews completed by health and safety regulators worldwide.

Toxicologist, Dr. Jim Bus, stresses in an interview regarding 2,4-D that “it’s the dose that makes the poison”. Studies have consistently shown that 2,4-D exposure is traceable, but in levels consistently well below what have been determined as protective of human health. In addition, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has stated that, based on available data, 2,4-D should be classified as “not likely to be carcinogenic to humans”.

More information can be found in this 2,4-D Research Task Force news release ([click 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

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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](#).

Russia Extends Trade Embargo

Russia extended a trade embargo, Wednesday, June 24, on agricultural products from the U.S., EU, Australia, Norway, and Canada for another year. This decision comes only two days after the EU chose to extend sanctions against Russia, originally enacted in response to the gravity of Russia’s violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine in 2014. The Russian Prime Minister, Dmitry Medvedev, claimed that this response was economic rather than politically motivated, and that exports listed in the embargo remain unchanged from last year.

The U.S. is the third largest food supplier to Russia, and with this embargo originally enacted in August, 2014, exports to Russia dropped to \$644 million in January of this year from \$891 million in January, 2014. Exports to Russia had dropped 3.3% in 2014 from the previous year, but has dropped 31.8% in the same period of 2015 compared to 2014, representing the percentage of exports that have been placed on the embargo list. Altogether, Russia has banned \$9 billion worth of food imports from western countries.

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

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

On Tuesday, June 23, the Senate passed the Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), or fast track, in a decisive 60-37 vote. The bill will be on the President’s desk and signed today, June 29, and will become essential as he negotiates the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

The Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) bill finally passed the House on Thursday, June 25, in a 286-138 vote. This worker entitlement program passed with overwhelming support from Democrats, who reversed themselves on the legislation after losing the battle with the White House and GOP over TPA. The TAA and TPA will be signed by the President together this afternoon.

More information can be found [here](#).

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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](#).

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

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. Gary 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](#).

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

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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 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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