



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

OUTREACH June 30, 2014

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

To celebrate Canada Day and Independence Day in the U.S., the NAEGA office will be closed on Friday, July 4th. We will reopen on Monday, July 7th. We wish all of our Members a Happy 4th of July and a Happy Canada Day!

Action Reports:

- Advocating sound plant health and biotech policy in Mexico
- Addressing Country of Origin Labeling (COOL)
- Succeeding to improve Canada’s phyto-sanitary risk management regime

Member Participation Opportunities:

- USDA Agriculture Quarantine Inspection (AQI) Stakeholder Briefing – Webinar – July 9, 2014
- USAEDC Agricultural Attaché Conference – Arlington, Virginia – July 15-16, 2014
- Alternative Security Program Users Meeting – Kansas City, Missouri – July 28, 2014
- NAEGA Update and Contract Seminar – Kansas City, Missouri – July 28-29, 2014
- US Wheat Latin American Buyers Conference – Herradura, Costa Rica – July 29 – August 1, 2014
- USDA GIPSA-Industry Workshop – Pacific Northwest – August 7
- APPAMEX-NAEGA Forum – Puerto Vallarta, Mexico – August 21-24, 2014
- NAEGA September Board of Directors Meeting – Denver, Colorado – September 26, 2014
- U.S. Import Document Image System Pilot Test

Information for your consideration

- Obama presses to expand trade with Africa
- Russia WTO Compliance

NAEGA Calendar and Member Notices

- Upcoming Events and Notices for Members

Reports on NAEGA Actions

Advocating sound policy in Mexico

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On June 24 and 25 in Mexico City, NAEGA was featured at meetings organized by APPAMEX with relevant stakeholders in Mexican grain, oilseeds and pulses trade. Several meetings focused on the unjustified and inconsistently implemented zero tolerance for the presence of soil in commodity imports that has been the subject of ongoing trade frustration for over one year. As a result, stakeholders in Mexico have planned several steps that are intended to change the approach of the phytosanitary risk management and other policy related actions of SAGARPA SENISICA.

A meeting with representatives of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) member representatives resulted in plans for IICA and IGTC to work together in the Americas hemisphere over the next few months to advocate a trade facilitative outcome at seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 7). The 29 September to 3 October 2014 COP-MOP 7 in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea is one of three critical global policy initiatives we are currently addressing via the IGTC.

A report from NAEGA President Gary C. Martin and consultant Bryan Munoz who represented NAEGA at the meetings will soon be posted to the International Programs section of www.naega.org members only website.

Addressing Country of Origin Labeling (COOL)

NAEGA joined a number of agricultural groups to urge reform to U.S. Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) requirements. In a [letter](#) addressed to both Chairs and Ranking Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate, U.S. Congress is encouraged to establish U.S. law that is WTO-compliant and direct the Secretary of Agriculture to suspend indefinitely the COOL rule if the World Trade Organization (WTO) determines it violates trade obligations to the U.S.’s top export markets: Canada and Mexico.

A WTO ruling against the U.S. COOL rule could authorize Canada and Mexico to place retaliatory tariffs on U.S. products, including grain and grain products. Canada has already issued a [preliminary retaliation list](#) targeting a broad spectrum of commodities.

Canada’s phyto-sanitary risk management regime

Following NAEGA’s recent communication with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the US Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) we understand with respect to CFIA proposed new measures for plant health risk management on grain and oilseed imports from the US – [D-12-05](#), which outlines phytosanitary import requirements for grain and subjects the grain to inspection and monitoring by CFIA for regulation of pests – CFIA has agreed to:

- Postpone notification to WTO of addendum to until an agreement has been reached with APHIS on terms of entry.
- Seek higher level approval for removing corn from the pending measure (D-12-05), and
- Consider U.S.-based alternative documentation in lieu of import permits or phytosanitary certificates.

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APHIS will:

- Survey the U.S. corn crop for a third consecutive year, subject to an understanding about how the results will be reflected in Canadian policy, and
- Develop proposals for alternative documentation on targeted weed seed content. Such documentation would not require official inspection and certification of individual shipments, and avoid the need for import permitting or phytosanitary certificates. For instance CFIA might accept industry attestation of treatment, or an officially recognized certification of origin, or some other alternative proposed by APHIS. The certification of origin would have to correspond to Canada’s weed seed database, which they indicated parallels BONAP (Biota of North America Program’s North American Plant Atlas <http://bonap.net/NAPA/Genus/Traditional/County>), and be certified by an officially recognized grain surveyor.

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

2014

June 30 - Comments on US Food and Drug Administration’s Proposed Rule - Focused Mitigation Strategies To Protect Food Against Intentional Adulteration; Docket No. FDA–2013–N–1425. A copy of the Federal Register notice can be found [here](#).

Comments Extended July 24 (originally were due 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. A copy of the Federal Register Notice can be found [here](#).

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 Opportunities

USDA Agriculture Quarantine Inspection (AQI) Stakeholder Briefing

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The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Department of Homeland Security’s Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will hold a Webinar on **Wednesday, July 9, at 3 p.m. EDT** to overview the changes APHIS is proposing to recoup the costs of conducting agricultural quarantine inspection (AQI) activities at U.S. ports of entry. This briefing provides an additional opportunity for interested stakeholder to learn more about the rule and to ask questions.

To register for the briefing [click on this link](#) and provide your name, organization and email address. Once you submit your information, you will receive an email with the call-in number and a unique conference code to enter the call as well as a link to join the Webinar.

USAEDC Agricultural Attaché Conference

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 at the Westin Arlington Gateway hotel.

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. On Thursday, July 15th from 6:00 - 7:00 pm at the hotel, the US Biotech Crops Alliance will host a reception and information session in conjunction with the Conference.

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 Users Meeting

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.

NAEGA Update and Contract Seminar

NAEGA will hold two events in addition to the ASP users meeting at the Westin Crown Center Hotel in Kansas City late in July:

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Monday, July 28 Dinner - First, on Monday, July 28th NAEGA will host an update and dinner at the Brasserie Restaurant in the lobby of the Westin Crown Center Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri. All NAEGA members are invited. **Please RSVP for the July 28 dinner by [clicking here](#).**

Tuesday, July 29 Seminar - Then, on Tuesday July, 29th, NAEGA will hold a Commercial Contract Seminar. NAEGA staff, including Sam Bonilla, will provide an intensive review of current developments and practices in international grain trade contracts focused on the NAEGA 2. The Cost of the Contract Seminar is \$200 for NAEGA members and \$250 for non-NAEGA members. Seminar participants are also welcome to the dinner on July 28th. A proposed agenda can be found [here](#). **We welcome any additions/suggestions. Register for the Contracts Seminar by filling out [this registration form](#) and emailing it back to kliske@naega.org.**

Latin American Buyers Conference

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 conference starts at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, July 29 with a welcome reception and continues through Thursday, July 31. 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.

USDA GIPSA-Industry Workshop in the Pacific Northwest

NAEGA and NGFA will host a regional industry and Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) Workshop on Thursday, August 7, 2014. All NAEGA and NGFA members are welcome to attend. Details for the Workshop are still being worked out. If you have issues you would like on the agenda, please let us know as soon as possible.

2014 APPAMEX-NAEGA Forum

The 2014 Asociación de Proveedores de Productores Agropecuarios México (APPAMEX) <http://www.appamex.com.mx/> and 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

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.

U.S. Import Document Image System Test Pilot

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USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the U.S. Customs and Board Protection (CBP) will conduct a pilot test of the Document Image System (DIS) to upload required shipment documentation for products entering the U.S. under specified [Harmonized Tariff Schedule \(HTS\) Codes](#). Additional information pertaining to technical specifications (see DIS Implementation Guidelines) can be accessed on CBP.gov at the following link: <http://www.cbp.gov/document/forms/dis-implementation-guide>.

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

Obama presses to expand trade with Africa

At the June 19 meeting of the President’s Export Council U.S. President Obama highlighted the need to expand trade with Africa, noting that six of the ten fastest-growing economies in the world are located in that continent. The president observed that even though a number of African countries “are doing very, very well” the U.S. is “not penetrating those markets as well as we should.” In this regard, the president mentioned that the African Leaders Summit in August offers a “great opportunity” to talk about trade, development and private partnerships. The U.S. President also [briefly discussed](#) ongoing U.S. trade initiatives indicating his administration is working hard to finalize the two separate trade agreements Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP).

USTR report on Russia WTO Compliance

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative issued its second annual [report describing the enforcement actions](#) taken by the agency to ensure Russia’s full compliance with its World Trade Organization obligations. According to the report:

1. USTR has grown increasingly concerned about Russia’s implementation of its commitments as well as its dedication to the goals of the WTO with respect to trade liberalization, rule of law and transparency. U.S. trade officials have met with their Russian counterparts over the past year to raise these concerns and have “aggressively highlighted” potentially WTO-inconsistent behavior in WTO committee meetings. In addition, USTR has worked to establish alliances with like-minded trade partners to urge Russia to modify its behavior and avoid taking certain actions.
2. Russia has not adequately harmonized its sanitary and veterinary measures with relevant international standards, adopted inspection guidelines in accordance with the Codex Alimentarius, or ensured that domestic SPS measures that are more stringent than international standards are based on science and risk analyses.

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3. Russia has provided WTO members a significant number of laws, decisions, regulations, resolutions and other measures related to its foreign trade regime and its implementation of WTO rules. However, a transparent, standardized system for providing notifications on issues such as technical barriers to trade is not yet in place.

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

July

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

1 – New Orleans, Louisiana – USDA GIPSA Industry Workshop – Invitation and Agenda can be found [here](#).

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

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

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

14 – Washington, DC – Japan Feed Manufacturers (Association) (JFMA) Meeting at NAEGA/NGFA Conference Room.

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

15-16 – Arlington, VA – U.S. Agricultural Export Development Council (USAEDC) Attaché Seminar and USBCA reception. The agenda can be found [here](#).

17 – Arlington, VA – Africa Global Broad-based Initiative (GBI) meeting. NAEGA staff attending.

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>

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28 – Kansas City, MO – Alternative Security Plan (ASP) Users Meeting – 3:00pm – 5:00pm Central Time – ASP users only. NAEGA Dinner and Update - all NAEGA members and Contract Seminar participants invited. The invitation and agenda can be found [here](#).

29 – Kansas City, MO – Commercial Contract Seminar/Training. The invitation and agenda can be found [here](#).

August

4 – Washington, DC – South China Morning Post U.S. Business Report interview with NAEGA at NAEGA/NGFA Conference Room

7 – Vancouver, Washington – USDA GIPSA Industry Workshop.

8 – Vancouver, Washington – Potential NAEGA Update Commercial Contract Seminar/Training.

11-12 – Washington, DC – International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) Meeting at NAGEA/NGFA office.

13 – Washington, DC – American Soybean Association and Illinois Soybean Association Biotechnology Roundtable – NAEGA President, Gary Martin to participate on a panel.

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

September

5 – Washington, DC - NAEGA MAP compliance review by USDA FAS.

8-12 – London, England – International Maritime Organization (IMO) subcommittee meeting of Carriage of Cargoes and Containers (CCC). The agenda can be found [here](#).

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

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

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

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

20-24 – Huatulco, Oaxaca, Mexico – The North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) and the National Plant Protection Organization of Mexico. <http://www.nappo.org/>

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

November

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

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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