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Member Opportunities

New Orleans Industry Workshop – June 8

Please join us for an Industry and U.S. Government Workshop hosted by the North American Export Grain Association (NAEGA) and the National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) on Wednesday, June 8 from 7:30am to 3:30pm. The NAEGA-NGFA Industry Workshop will take place at the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) Offices at 104 Campus Drive, Suite 200 Destrehan, LA 70047.

Discussion will focus on NOLA region grain and oilseed export industry concerns. Reports and interaction with U.S. Government officials and guests will include representatives of: USCG, Corps of Engineers and National Cargo Bureau on maritime security and transportation issues; USDA APHIS on phytosanitary requirements on U.S. exports, USDA FGIS on their grain inspection and international services and U.S. FDA on product safety. News from China, Mexico and Korea will be featured.

Please register at the link [here](#). A copy of the final agenda is available [here](#).

IGTC Strategy Meeting and IGC Grains Conference – June 13-14

The International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) will meet on for June 13 at the Club Quarters Hotel, 61 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London. You and company colleagues are invited to attend. The meeting will begin at 12:30pm with a working lunch, followed by an update on key policy items and agreement on IGTC next steps and action. More information is to come; please let us know if you plan to attend by registering [here](#) with IGTC.

IGTC will be prominent at the upcoming International Grains Council (www.igc.int) meetings on June 13 and 14. IGTC has arranged for display tables at the IGC Conference at the Jumeira Carlton Tower Hotel. NAEGA members are welcome and encouraged to send promotional materials and information to be included at the tables. Following a report to the IGC on Monday June 13, IGTC will update conference attendees on developments related to electronic management of trade documents and sponsor the Conference Luncheon. IGTC President Gary Martin will address the IGC Conference on IGTC views related to the Conference theme '*Changing dynamics: the new trading environment*'.

You can take advantage of an IGTC 20% discounted registration for the IGC Conference (<http://www.igc.int/en/conference/confhome.aspx>) at the Jumeira Carlton Tower Hotel. To access the discounted registration please email directly to: conf@igc.int quoting the discount code: (IGTC16).

WTO Seminar on Electronic Documentation – June 28

Via the IGTC NAEGA member personnel are invited to attend the World Trade Organization's seminar on electronic phytosanitary certification on June 28 in Geneva. The seminar takes place under the leadership of the WTO's Standards and Trade Development Facility, with a view to more deeply engaging member governments in work on electronic data exchange. Topics of discussion for the seminar will include:

- review existing international SPS and electronic data exchange standards and consider outstanding standard-setting gaps;

- review relevant initiatives aiming to streamline the automation of trade procedures and facilitate implementation of paperless trade to identify synergies and good practice; and
- present countries' experiences in the area of exchange of electronic SPS certificates, share lessons learned, discuss challenges faced and consider capacity building needs for developing countries.

A preliminary agenda can be found [here](#). Participation is done on a first come, first serve basis by May 30. If you are interested in registering for the seminar please contact the Katy Lee, Acting IGTC Secretariat at secretariat@igtglobal.org.

USAEDC Attaché Seminar

On July 13-14 the U.S. Agriculture Export Development Council (USAEDC) will be holding its USAEDC Attaché Seminar and Consultations at the Westin Arlington Gateway in Arlington, Virginia. This annual seminar is an opportunity for industry to engage with members of the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) on one-on-one and group consultations. USAEDC will be hosting one-on-one consultations between industry and FAS attachés on July 13. On July 14 a seminar training will be held for industry and attaches to address some of the issues raised. A final agenda is currently being developed.

For more information on the USAEDC Attaché Seminar please click [here](#). If you would like NAEGA to raise any specific issues with FAS attachés, please contact Gary and Ryan.

NAEGA/APPAMEX Forum – October 5-8

Please save the date for the 23rd Annual NAEGA/APPAMEX Forum to be held on October 5-8 in Cancun, Mexico. This year's forum will take place at the [Iberostar Hotel](#) in Cancun. All NAEGA member representatives and their colleagues are invited to attend. More information, including a link to registration and a preliminary agenda, will follow. A copy of last year's agenda can be found [here](#).

For more information, please contact Gary or Ryan.

Seminars and Internships

NAEGA Seminars: Please click [here](#) for more information on NAEGAs in-depth, interactive education on contract practices.

Internships: Information on working for NAEGA as an intern in our Washington, D.C. office 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

NAEGA 2017 UES Submitted to FAS

On Friday NAEGA successfully 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 2017 program year. The 2017 UES highlights

a number of past successes and planned initiatives NAEGA intends to engage in over the next year, including a new Grain and Oilseed Market Access Index (GOMAI) report and a commitment to underwrite the International Grain Trade Coalition for at least 2 more years, with an option for a third.

A copy of the 2017 UES can be seen [here](#). For more information, please contact Ryan.

IGTC Newsletter

The newest edition of the IGTC Newsletter is now available! This week's newsletter includes an update on responses to IGTC phytosanitary survey, new information on coalition interaction with the World Bank's Enabling the Business of Agriculture project, and an update on recent developments at the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the WTO. A copy of the newsletter can be found on the IGTC intranet at www.igtcglobal.org or by clicking [here](#).

USACC Learning Journey

On May 23-26 the U.S. Agricultural Coalition for Cuba (USACC), which NAEGA is a member, completed a successful learning journey to the island. During the trip USACC members met with several key Cuban government officials and interacted with Cuban farmers and industry. In addition, USACC signed its first Memorandum of Understanding with a Cuban agribusiness entity. During the trip, USACC representatives joined members of the Grupo Empresarial Agrícola, an agribusiness housed under the Ministry of Agriculture, for a formal signing ceremony. USACC hopes this historical agreement will allow for deeper and more meaningful trade ties between the two countries.

A copy of the USACC-Grupo Empresarial Agrícola MOU can be found [here](#). For more information, please contact Ryan.

Winnipeg Trip Report for

The report on the NAEGA and IGTC travel to Winnipeg, Canada for the Canada Global Crops Symposium and a NAEGA Contract Seminar in April 2016 is now available. In Winnipeg, NAEGA and IGTC personnel Gary Martin, Sam Bonilla, Katy Lee, and Marcel Bruins engaged in a number of activities aligned with NAEGA UES objectives. These included: IGTC Strategy Session and General Assembly; meeting with Mexican authorities on soil presence; the Canada Global Crops Symposium; *Commercial Practice in International Grain Trade Seminar* luncheon; and a *Contracts and Best Practices for the International Grain and Oilseed Trade Seminar*. A copy of the trip report can be found [here](#).

Maritime Container Scanning

On June 3 NAEGA joined a National Retail Federation (NRF) and a group of 53 other organizations in a letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Jeh Johnson regarding the 100 percent overseas scanning rule of U.S. bound shipping containers. Scanning requirements of the Port Act of 2006 require that 100 percent of inbound U.S. containerized shipping be scanned by 2012. However, difficulties in complying with the rule have resulted in the May 2, 2016 decision to extend, for another two years, the extension of the deadline for 100 percent scanning. The letter argues that the current multi-layered risk-based strategy employed by DHS is the right approach to secure U.S. commerce and enhance global supply chain security and that Congress needs to re-evaluate the 100 percent scanning mandate. Statutory provisions under the Act do not take into account key operational questions that make implementation of 100 percent scanning costly and difficult.

A copy of the letter can be found [here](#). Please contact Gary or Ryan if you have any questions.

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Future Actions

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

NAFTA Certificate of Origin Under Review

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is seeking comments through July 25 on a proposed extension of NAFTA Certificate of Origin and Verification of Origin Questionnaire forms. The Certificate of Origin is used in NAFTA trade to certify that a good being exported in the trilateral North American trade qualifies as an originating good for preferential trade purposed under NAFTA. The Verification Questionnaire is used to gather sufficient information from exporters and producers to determine whether goods imported into the U.S. qualify as originating goods for the purpose of preferential tariff treatment under NAFTA.

CBP is seeking comment on the proposed extension of these forms by July 25. Please let either Gary or Ryan know if you have any comments or input on these forms.

Russian Suspension of U.S. Soybean Imports

NAEGA is working closely with the USDA's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) regarding the recent suspension of soybean imports into Russia by the Russian Federal Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance Service (VPSS). VPSS has suspended U.S soybean imports due to the presence weed seeds, including ambrosia, in soybean shipments. This suspension of imports follows a series of letters, actions and meetings between VPSS and APHIS regarding the presence of quarantine weeds in soybean shipments, including letter in 2012, and February, March, and June of 2016. In APHIS' most recent letter on June 2 the agency lays out a point by point clarification of the information sought by APHIS regarding this emergency action and reiterates its belief that this suspension is unjustified and trade distorting under the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

NAEGA will continue to follow this issue closely as events unfold. A copy of the APHIS letter to VPSS can be found [here](#). For more information, please contact Gary or Ryan.

CFTC Supplement to Position Limits Rule

On May 26 the Commodities and Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) announced that it will issue for public comment a supplement to its position limits proposal. The proposal will modify the procedures for those seeking exemptions from speculative position limits for non-enumerated bona fide hedging. The supplement would provide a new process for exchanges to recognize certain positions in commodity derivative contracts as non-enumerated bona fide hedges or enumerated anticipatory bona fide hedges, as well as to exempt from federal position limits certain spread positions, in each case subject to CFTC review.

Comments on the supplemental may be submitted electronically though the CFTC's website. If you are interested in contributing to comments on the supplemental, please contact Gary or Ryan. For more information, click [here](#).

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Information for your Consideration

BSP Supplementary Biosafety Protocol Closer to Ratification The Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Biosafety Protocol is one step closer to entry into force after the ratification by Congo, Liberia and Togo. The supplementary protocol aims to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by providing international rules and procedures for response measures in the event of damage resulting from living modified organisms. The protocol will come into force 90 days after the 40th party submits its notice of ratification. So far, 35 countries have submitted their notice of ratification.

A copy of the press release regarding the Supplemental Protocol most recent ratification can be found [here](#). For more information on the protocol, please click [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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Calendar & Member Notices

Click [here](#) for a Copy of the IGTC Calendar

2016

May

31-June 10 – Croatia, Bosna and Herzegovina and Serbia – Balkan Livestock Genetics and Feed Nutrition Program – NAEGA Senior Advisor Kirk Miller plans to attend and present. Please click [here](#) for a preliminary itinerary.

June

8 – Destrehan, LA – NGFA-NAEGA Industry Workshop. For a proposed agenda, click [here](#).

13 – London, UK – IGTC Strategy Meeting

14 – London, UK – IGC Grains Conference, Register [here](#).

28 – WTO Conference on Electronic Phytosanitary Certifications – Geneva – All NAEGA Members invited to attend.

June- October

TBD – Regional Workshop USG Government Agencies and Industry– Pacific Northwest

July

6-8 – UN GHS Subcommittee Meeting – Geneva, Switzerland – Cotter Attending.

13-14 – USAEDC Attaché Seminar – Westin Gateway Arlington – Arlington, VA.

August-September

TBD – IGTC General Assembly and Strategy Session

TBD – NAEGA Board Meeting

September

TBD – IMO Subcommittee on the Carriage of Cargoes and Containers Meeting – London, United Kingdom – Cotter Attending.

October

5-8 – NAEGA/APPAMEX Forum, Iberostar Hotel, Cancun, Mexico.

December

7-9 – UN GHS Subcommittee Meeting – Geneva, Switzerland – Cotter Attending.

2017

March

19-21 – NGFA Annual Convention – New Orleans, LA

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