



**OUTREACH**  
**June 13, 2017**  
Thank you for your membership in and work  
with NAEGA

### Member Opportunities

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- NAEGA Contracts and Best Practices – Vancouver – July 20
- PNWER Annual Summit – Portland, OR – July 23-27
- NAEGA Contracts and Best Practices Seminars
- NAEGA Internships

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- Ports Alliance Letter to ILWU and PMA
- IGTC Activities in London

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- International Symposium for Risk Based Modeling – Baltimore – June 26-30
- IPPC ePhyto IAG Meeting – Arlington – June 27-29
- UN GHS Subcommittee Meeting – Geneva – July 10-12
- USAEDC Attaché Seminar and FAS Consultations – Arlington, VA – July 12-13

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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.

### **ASP Users Meeting – Washington, DC – June 14**

Subscribers to the NAEGA-NGFA Alternative Security Program (ASP) are invited to attend the Spring ASP Workshop in Washington, D.C. Coordinated by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), this Spring's meeting will be held at the offices of the American Chemistry Council on June 14, 2017. Along with presentations by the USCG on ASP compliance, the workshop's agenda will include discussion of the new TWIC reader rule and an update from the Federal Aviation Administration on unmanned aerial vehicles and managing airspace security. More information, including an agenda, will be available soon. Ryan Olson will attend the workshop on behalf of NAEGA. Please contact [Ryan](#) if you are interested in attending.

### **NAEGA Contracts and Best Practices – Vancouver – July 20**

Please "save the date" for a Contracts and Best Practices Seminar on July 20 somewhere in Vancouver, BC area! Led by NAEGA Senior Advisor Sam Bonilla, 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:***

#### **NAEGA Policy Team Work Comments to USTR on NAFTA**

Over the last week NAEGA staff and the NAFTA Policy Team have been working to inform three different comments related to the U.S. Trade Representative's request for comments on a negotiation of NAFTA.

### *NAEGA-NGFA Comments on NAFTA Negotiating Objectives*

On Monday, June 12 NAEGA and NGFA submitted joint comments to the U.S. Trade Representative regarding negotiating objectives of the North American Free Trade Agreement. On May 18, President Trump announced his intention to enter into renegotiations of NAFTA with Canada and Mexico, kicking off a 90-day consultation period with industry, Congress and the public. NAEGA and NGFA joint comments laid out five negotiating objectives, including:

- Maintaining all market access and tariff concessions.
- Creating a Rapid Response Mechanism.
- Enhancing science based SPS rules.
- Adopting risk management and risk assessment procedures that prevent the use of non-tariff barriers that lack scientific merit.
- Promoting regulatory consistency and cooperation provisions.
- Strengthening efforts to address TBT matters.
- Increasing transparency and cooperation on modern agricultural production technologies.
- Enabling the innovation of information technologies that improve logistics and regulatory implementation to facilitate trade.
- Ensuring safe, orderly and secure passage for rail and truck freight transportation with member countries.

A copy of the comments can be found [here](#) or on the [Federal Register](#).

### *U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade and NAFTA Comments*

On Thursday, June 1 the North American Market Working Group of the U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade held its first consultative meeting with U.S. government ahead of the beginning of NAFTA negotiations. During the meeting, members of the working group met with Sharon Bomer-Lauritsen, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Agricultural Affairs and Commodity Policy and Jason Hafemiester, Acting Undersecretary for Farm and Foreign Agriculture Services. Jason and Sharon briefed the group on the NAFTA negotiation process and the timeline for consultation with industry and Congress.

Following discussion with Sharon and Jason, the working group met in a closed door session to discuss the ongoing chapter-by-chapter analysis of NAFTA being conducted by a sub-group of the working group. The analysis helped inform the working groups comments on negotiating objectives that were submitted to USTR on June 12. A copy of the chapter-by-chapter analysis can be found [here](#). A final copy of the working groups comments to the Administration on NAFTA negotiations can be found [here](#).

### *USBCA Comments on NAFTA Negotiating Objectives*

This week the U.S. Biotech Crops Alliance (USBCA), which NAEGA is a participant in, submitted comments to the U.S. Trade Representative on negotiating objectives in the upcoming negotiations of the North American Free Trade Agreement. In the comments USBCA calls on U.S. negotiators to include in NAFTA: 1) a mutual recognition agreement concerning the safety determination of crops intended for use as food, feed and/or for further processing; and 2) development of a consistent approach for managing low-level presence (LLP) of products that have undergone a safety assessment and are approved for use in a third country, but not yet approved for import by a NAFTA-member country.

A copy of the comments can be found [here](#) and on the [Federal Register](#).

### **Ports Alliance Letter to ILWU and PMA**

Last week, NAEGA joined a letter from members of the Ports Alliance to the International Longshoreman and Warehouse Union (ILWU) and the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) regarding early discussion on contract negotiations on the west coast. The letter expresses the signees support of early discussion that have so far resulted in a three-year contract extension offer, and calls for ILWU members to support this extension offer when they consider it later this summer.

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

### **IGTC Activities in London**

On June 2-12 Gary Martin and Katy Lee travelled to London, United Kingdom to attend and participate in an IGTC Strategy Session, IGTC Management Council meeting, the International Grains Council (IGC) 2017 Grains Conference and the Grain and Feed Trade Association (GAFTA) Annual Dinner. During the IGTC Strategy Session the IGTC brought together grain trade leaders from Argentina, Australia, Canada, Europe, Mexico, Ukraine and USA in London to discuss IGTC policy, dedicating the most time to two “Focus Sessions” on Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) and plant breeding innovation. As a result of the meeting in London, and the work of the IGTC’s Policy Team on MRLs over the last months, there was the approval of the IGTC’s position on MRLs which is intended to be used as a reference point for global advocacy efforts. The group also agreed on the importance of engaging with the annual meeting of the “Global Low Level Presence Initiative” (GLI) in Rome this week (June 14-15), which will see the governments of Canada and Colombia lead discussions on practical solutions to trade disruptions resulting from unworkable approaches to LLP in the supply chain.

Following the Strategy Session the Management Council met to discuss IGTC operations and finances. On June 6 Gary and Katy attended the IGC 2017 Grains Conference, led by IGC Executive Director Etsuo Kitahara. The sessions included presentations by U.S. grain actors, including Randy Ritchie of Gavilon, Vince Peterson of U.S. Wheat Associates, Jeff Zyskowski of Ardent Mills and Seth Meyer of the USDA. On June 7 Gary attended and represented NAEGA and the IGTC at the GAFTA Annual Dinner.

### ***Upcoming Actions:***

#### **Global Low Level Presence Initiative – Rome – June 14-15**

NAEGA Senior Advisor Paul Green will travel to Rome, Italy and participate in the Global Low Level Presence Initiative (GLI) meeting on June 14-15. The meeting will take place at the UN FAO Headquarters and include participation from GLI members Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Mexico, Paraguay, Philippines, Russia, South Africa, United States, Uruguay and Vietnam and observers China, EU, Malaysia and Peru.

A copy of the preliminary agenda can be found [here](#). For more information or to participate please contact the [IGTC Secretariat](#).

### **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 26-30. 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 Meeting – Arlington – June 27-29**

On June 26-30 Katy Lee, Secretariat of the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) will travel to Arlington, VA to join Gary at a meeting of the International Plant Protection Convention's ePhyto Hub Industry Advisory Group. 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 Corespondence 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 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:***

#### **Market Access Program Unified Export Strategy**

NAEGA is seeking member input as it develops its 2018 Market Access Program (MAP) Unified Export Strategy (UES). Over the past few years the MAP program has been vital for the execution of NAEGA's mission and objectives. NAEGA's UES lays out programming and policy priorities for 2018, and development of the UES is vital for the execution of NAEGA programming during the next program year. A copy of last year's UES can be found [here](#). Please let us know if you have any input!

#### **APHIS Meetings and Comments on Part 340**

The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has announced three public comment meetings on proposed revisions to 7 CFR Part 340 regulations regarding the importation, interstate movement, and environmental release of certain genetically engineered organisms. Meetings will take place at the following locations:

- June 13 – Davis, CA University of California Davis Conference Center
- June 16 – Riverdale, MD USDA Center at Riverside

You can register to attend any of the above meetings by clicking [here](#).

The announcement also included a call for industry stakeholders to submit public comments ahead of the meetings. To submit a public comment, click [here](#). The deadline for public comment is June 19. More information on the proposed rule, direct contact information, and in-depth supplementary information can be found [here](#). Additionally, related information and official documents are available online in the Docket Folder [here](#).

#### **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](mailto: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

### Sugar Deal Reached with Mexico

On Thursday, June 6 the U.S. and Mexican government reached an agreement in principle regarding antidumping and countervailing duties against Mexican sugar imports. The agreement, commonly known as a suspension agreement, will limit imports of refined Mexican sugar to address concerns raised by the U.S. sugar industry that Mexican sugar is dumped on the U.S. market at unfair prices.

A copy of the U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross's statement on the suspension agreement 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

<b>Assistants to the President</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Status</b>
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		

<b>Selected Ambassadors</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Status</b>
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**

- TBD** – Grain Inspection Advisory Committee Meeting
- 13** – USDA APHIS Public Meeting on Party 340 – Davis, CA
- 14** – IGTC Management Council Meeting – Virtual
- 14** – Spring ASP Workshop – American Chemistry Council – Washington, D.C
- 13-15** – Global Low Level Presence Meeting – Rome, Italy
- 16** – USDA APHIS Public Meeting on Party 340 – Riverdale, MD
- 19** – Public Comments due to USDA APHIS regarding 7 CFR Part 340
- 19** – NAEGA UES Due
- 26-27** – NAPPO International Symposium for Risk Based Sampling – Baltimore, MD
- 27** – USTR hearing on NAFTA negotiations
- 27-28** – IPPC Industry Advisory Group on ePhyto Hub – NAEGA HQ – Arlington, VA

## **July**

- 10-12** – GHS Subcommittee Meeting – Geneva, Switzerland
- 18** – Comments on NAFTA Negotiations due to Canadian government
- 20** – Contracts and Best Practices Seminar – Vancouver, BC
- 23-27** – PNWER Annual Summit – Calgary, Alberta, Canada
- 24-28** – IMO Council Session – London, UK

## **August**

- 1-3** – Australian Grains Industry Conference Australia and associated meetings – Melbourne, Australia
- 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
- 11-15** – IMO CCCC – London, UK

**13** – NAEGA Board of Directors Meeting

**14** – IGTC Management Council Meeting – Virtual

**October**

**TBD** – IGTC General Assembly – Location TBD

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

**November**

**13-17** – IPPC Standards Committee – Rome, Italy

**TBD** – Grain Inspection Advisory Committee Meeting

**27** – IGTC General Assembly – Beijing, China

**December**

**3** – NGFA Country Elevator Conference

**5** – 46<sup>th</sup> 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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