



"Working Together to Make Trade Work"

OUTREACH July 1, 2013

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 Thursday, July 4th. We will reopen on Friday, July 5th. We wish all of our Members a Happy 4th of July and a Happy Canada Day!

Member participation opportunity:

- U.S. Agricultural Export Development Council Agricultural Attaché Conference – Alexandria, Virginia, July 9-10
- FGIS and Industry Workshop – Portland, Oregon – August 13
- 2013 APPAMEX-NAEGA Forum– Cancun, Mexico – August 15-17
- USDA Agribusiness Trade Mission to Southern Africa – September 16-19

Action Reports

- North America – NAPPO's Strategic Plan
- Canada and U.S. – Pacific North West Economic Region Annual Summit
- U.S.-EU – Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership Negotiations

New Issues

- Canada Expands Customs Self-Assessment Program to U.S. Importers
- U.S. Changes to Duty Preference
- U.S. Generalized System of Preferences to Expire July 31, 2013
- U.S. Legislative Update: TPA, DHS Funding, Export Promotion

NAEGA Calendar and Member Notices

- Upcoming events and notices for members

NAEGA member participation opportunity

USAEDC Agricultural Attaché Conference – Alexandria, Virginia, July 9-10

The U.S. Agricultural Export Development Council (USAEDC) has announced the agenda and for its 2013 Agricultural Attaché conference, which will be held in Alexandria, Virginia on July 9-10. USAEDC is a non-profit trade association of U.S. commodity trade associations, farmer cooperatives and state regional trade groups. The approximately 80 members expect USAEDC to assist them in their export promotion efforts, specifically those in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS). NAEGA, because of our use of the Market Access Program (MAP) is a member of USAEDC.

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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. NAEGA member representatives are encouraged to attend, and if interested should contact the NAEGA office for information on registering. More information is available [through this link](#).

FGIS and Industry Workshop – Portland, Oregon, August 13

A NAEGA-NGFA hosted regional Industry and Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) Workshop is now scheduled for Tuesday, August 13, 2013. An agenda and details on location will be coming soon.

The Workshop is a continuation of a series of meetings at export port locations which are intended to expand understanding and identify needs related to U.S. Official grain inspection. The workshops have proven to be an excellent venue for direct interaction with FGIS leadership and local personnel. All NAEGA member companies are welcome to attend these Workshops.

2013 APPAMEX-NAEGA Forum – Cancun, Mexico, August 15-17

The 2013 Asociación de Proveedores de Productores Agropecuarios México (APPAMEX) - NAEGA Forum has been scheduled for August 15-17, 2013 at the in Cancun, Mexico. This year marks the 20th APPAMEX-NAEGA forum, and the theme is “Mexico’s Integration in the Global Food Security: 20 years of Commerce for the Service of the Mexican Agri-Food Industry”. An agenda for the forum is being developed and NAEGA members are invited to attend. 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. A draft agenda and registration information have been posted to the [NAEGA Member’s Only Website](#) and the [NAEGA Personal Pages site](#) under upcoming events.

USDA Agribusiness Trade Mission to Southern Africa – September 16-19

Small-and-medium-sized U.S. agribusinesses are invited to apply to attend a U.S.- Southern Africa Agribusiness Trade Mission (ATM) taking place in Johannesburg, South Africa during the week of September 16-19, 2013. Interested NAEGA members are welcome to apply.

The ATM seeks to provide U.S. small-and medium-sized enterprise participants with first-hand market information, access to government decision makers, and one-on-one meetings with business contacts, including potential agents, distributors and partners, so U.S. businesses can position themselves to enter or expand their presence in the African market. The Southern Africa ATM will highlight the following agriculture market sectors: processed products, food ingredients, livestock and poultry products (not including chicken leg quarters), beverages and spirits, dairy, and hides and skins.

While the ATM will physically take place in South Africa, business representatives from throughout the Southern, Eastern, and Western regions of Africa will participate in targeted, one-on-one meetings with selected U.S. agribusiness participants. Meetings with government and industry officials from both African countries and the United States, presentations by public/private sector experts, and site visits will be scheduled during the ATM.

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USDA will develop the agenda, facilitate logistics, and cover all on-ground expenses during the ATM. Participants maintain responsibility for their travel to South Africa, as well as their in-country lodging costs. USDA will work to secure reduced rates.

Applications, [which can be found here](#), are due to USDA by June 28, 2013. Application forms will be reviewed and a decision communicated to the point of contact by July 3, 2013. Please respond with your application to Shane.Danielson@fas.usda.gov (tel.: 202-720-1230) and Ammara.Bokhari@fas.usda.gov (tel.: 202-690-1339).

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

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Reports on NAEGA actions

North America - Plant Protection Organization’s Strategic Plan

The North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) recently requested comments from stakeholders on its Strategic Plan draft. The Strategic Plan is the result of joint efforts from Canada, Mexican and the United States to work with NAPPO to address several issues.

In its comments, NAEGA encouraged NAPPO to take into full consideration ways to facilitate trade and provide for enforceable dispute resolution related to sanitary and phyto-sanitary actions and measures. NAPPO’s strategic plan should incorporate timely and effective trade facilitation and enforcement of dispute resolution.

NAEGA highlighted its idea of incorporating a Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) to address these concerns. The RRM idea is an example of what is needed by the grains and oilseeds trade to improve vetting, notice, and review through better communication and sharing of experiences and knowledge.

NAEGA concluded its comments by stating the opportunity NAPPO has to be a leader in the area of plant health risk management and support the provision of a safe and affordable supply of food, feed and other products produced and marketed with diverse agricultural production and marketing methods.

A copy of the latest RRM briefing paper can be found at:

http://naega.org/members/images/pdf/11-30-12_RRM_Briefing_Paper.pdf

NAEGA members can review actions related to NAPPO on the Grades and Inspections Committee webpage [here](#).

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Canada and U.S. Pacific North West Economic Region (PNWER) Annual Summit

Over 600 key business leaders, legislators, and government leaders from the ten states, provinces, and territories will meet the week of July 15th to address the major policy issues impacting the region. During a Tuesday, July 16th session on agriculture, NAEGA President, Gary Martin, will participate and provide prepared remarks on Canada-U.S. wheat trade and efforts to address regulatory difference impacting cross-border trade. Other topics to be covered during the session include: The TransPacific Partnership, Impact of GMOs, Regulatory Cooperation Council (<http://trade.gov/RCC/>) and Country of Origin Labeling .More on the event can be found at: [PNWER Summit 2013](#)

U.S Food and Agriculture Working Group of the Business Coalition for Transatlantic Trade (BCTT)

On both sides of the Atlantic as well as around the world, consumers and the food and agriculture economies that serve their needs have much at stake in the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T -TIP negotiations. The first round of T-TIP negotiations will take place the week of July 8 in Washington, D.C.,

In 2012, Agricultural trade between the U.S. and the E.U. accounted for \$26.5 billion. The U.S. imports more agricultural products from the E.U. than any other country except Canada. The agricultural trade relationship between the U.S. and E.U. is already strong, but TTIP presents an opportunity to eliminate many unnecessary tariff and non-tariff barriers and increase the value of agricultural trade between the two.

While EU imports of agricultural commodities, food, and bioenergy increased greatly from 2000 to 2012, U.S. agricultural exports to the EU vastly underperformed as compared to the overall growth in U.S. agricultural exports to the world. The ability of U.S. agricultural, food, and bioenergy exporters to take full advantage of the world’s largest import market is constrained by tariff and non-tariff barriers in combination with increased global competition. These constraints to U.S. exports, and steadily increasing EU imports, have led to the largest U.S. agricultural trade deficit with any trading partner. This trade dynamic contrasts sharply with the experiences of other major U.S. trading partners with whom trade is relatively balanced, as in the case of Canada, or shifted to surplus such as China, Japan and Mexico.

The U.S. food and agriculture interests, recognizing that TTIP will also set global precedent, look forward to supporting the completion and timely implementation of an ambitious, complete, comprehensive and high standard trade and investment agreement between the United States and the European Union. The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership must result in agreement is trade facilitative ultimately supporting the provision of a safe and affordable supply of food, feed and other products produced and marketed with diverse agricultural production and marketing methods. Structural changes as well as revision of deeply entrenched norms will be necessary to achieve the high standard agreement that meets 21st century challenges and expectations.

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On Thursday, June 27 the s first formal meeting of the Food and Agriculture Working Group of the BCTT met to consider draft principles and increase understanding of the interests of the food and agriculture stakeholders in upcoming negotiations. The Working Group, Co-Chaired by NAEGA President Gary Martin, had a robust discussion. The final T-TIP principles document will soon be posted to the NAEGA website, along with other trade agreement negotiation material.

More information can be found at: <http://www.ustr.gov/ttip>

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

2013

TBD – Comments to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) on draft directives D-12-05:
http://www.naega.org/images/pdf/CFIA_Draft_D-12-05.pdf

July 17 – Comments due to USDA/APHIS on Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement regarding the regulatory status of soybean event MON 87708:
<http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=APHIS-2013-0043-0001>

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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New Issues & Opportunities for NAEGA Consideration

Canada Expands Customs Self-Assessment Program to U.S. Importers

The Canada Border Services Agency has amended its regulations to allow U.S. resident importers to participate in Canada’s Customs Self-Assessment program. Under the new rules, the CSA is now open to importing individuals who ordinarily reside in the U.S., importing partnerships in which at least one partner ordinarily resides in the U.S., and importing corporations that have their head offices in or operate a branch office in the U.S. (Carriers with their head offices in or operating branch offices in the U.S. are already eligible.)

This change represents Canada’s implementation of a joint commitment with the U.S. under the Beyond the Border Action Plan to expand membership in their respective self-assessment programs. U.S. Customs and Border Protection took a similar step last fall when it opened its Importer Self-Assessment program to Canadian resident importers who have been importing into the U.S. for at least two years and meet all other ISA application requirements.

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More information on Canada’s Self-Assessment Program can be found [here](#).

U.S. Changes to Duty Preference

A presidential proclamation issued June 27 adds a number of goods to, and removes some from, eligibility for duty-free treatment under the Generalized System of Preferences. In the coming months the Obama administration will also decide whether to add or remove entire countries from GSP, which itself will expire July 31 unless reauthorized by Congress. Businesses affected by these changes are urged to make their voices heard in Washington.

The full results of the GSP review can be found [here](#).

U.S. Generalized System of Preferences to Expire July 31, 2013

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) published a message on their website reminding the trade that the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) is scheduled to expire on July 31, 2013. The U.S. GSP is a program designed to promote economic growth in the developing world by providing preferential duty-free entry for up to 5,000 products when imported from one of 127 designated beneficiary countries and territories.

The CBP message is available [online through this link](#).

U.S. Legislative Update: TPA, DHS Funding, Export Promotion:

Trade Promotion Authority – Efforts to advance the trade agenda in Congress continue to move in fits and starts, with little apparent progress on major items in the last few weeks. A renewal of trade promotion authority to expedite a raft of new and ongoing trade negotiations is still somewhere on the horizon, as is a wide-ranging customs reauthorization bill. Looming closer is the expiration of two trade preference programs at the end of July, which could increase costs for U.S. manufacturers and consumers.

The last congressional grant of Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) (also known as fast track), which allows the president to submit trade agreements to Congress for a straight up-or-down vote, expired in 2007. However, with several multilateral negotiations underway or set to begin in the near future, the White House, Congress and the trade community are preparing to advance TPA legislation this year.

At his confirmation hearing before the Senate Finance Committee, U.S. Trade Representative Mike Froman said President Obama is asking that TPA be renewed “as soon as possible.” Committee leaders appeared to take that statement as a formal request, but no TPA bill has yet been introduced. In the House, Republican leaders on trade issues also support a TPA renewal but according to an *Inside US Trade* article there is growing opposition among Democrats concerned about delegating to the president the constitutional authority of Congress to regulate foreign trade.

DHS Funding – The House of Representatives approved June 6 a fiscal year 2014 appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security (H.R. 2217) that would cut U.S. Customs and

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Border Protection’s overall budget. The bill also directs DHS to submit by Jan. 1, 2014, an alternative strategy for the screening of all inbound cargo containers; requests a report from CBP by Feb. 1, 2014, on the extent and frequency of customs fraud, including the circumvention of duties and misclassification of imported goods from China; directs CBP to ensure that textile transshipment seizures, detentions and special operations are maintained at least at the level of prior years; and limits the expenditure of funds for preclearance operations in new locations until specific requirements are met.

Export Promotion – The House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Trade approved June 26 legislation (H.R. 1409) that aims to improve the promotion of exports of U.S. goods and services. Under this bill the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee would be required to, among other things, coordinate export promotion activities across the federal government, clearly outline the role of each agency in each part of the export process, and provide on the Internet a detailed listing of current and future federal and state-led trade missions, trade fairs and related activities. The State Department would have to direct ambassadors to develop country-by-country commercial diplomacy plans aimed at increasing U.S. exports and assess the effectiveness of U.S. embassies in carrying out commercial diplomacy and helping U.S. exporters. Similar legislation was introduced in the Senate on June 18.

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

July 2 – Washington, DC – Office of the U.S. Trade Representative Hearing on negotiations to address certain non-tariff measures that will be conducted bilaterally in parallel to the TPP negotiations

9-10– Alexandria, Virginia – U.S. Agricultural Export Development Council (USAEDC) 2013 FAS Attaché Meetings & Seminar – NAEGA staff attending, NAEGA Members invited to participate.

14-19 – Anchorage, Alaska – Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) Annual Summit – Gary Martin attending and presenting

August

13—Portland, Oregon FGIS and Industry Workshop

15-17 – Cancun, Mexico – APPAMEX NAEGA Forum – NAEGA Members Invited to Attend

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26 – Chicago, Illinois – Illinois Soy International Biotechnology Symposium – Gary Martin invited to attend

September

16-19 – Johannesburg, South Africa – USDA Agribusiness Trade Mission to Southern Africa – NAEGA Members invited to attend.

November

TBD – Washington, DC – One Day USDA/USAID Food Aid & Development Meeting with Stakeholders

4-6 – San Antonio, Texas – American Nutrition Forum – Gary Martin attending and presenting

12-15 – Lisbon, Portugal - 6th International Conference on Coexistence between Genetically Modified (GM) and non-GM based Agricultural Supply Chains: www.gmcc13.org

19-21 – Baltimore, Maryland – U.S. Agricultural Export Development Council (USAEDC) 2013 Annual Workshop – NAEGA Members invited to participate

2014

January -- TBD – Egypt – 2013 Middle East Regional Trade Conference hosted by U.S. Wheat Associates in cooperation with NAEGA, U.S. Grains Council and U.S. Soybean Export Council

March

31 – 2014 NAEGA Annual Meetings – Hilton Head, South Carolina

30-April 1 – 2014 NGFA Convention – Hilton Head, South Carolina

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