



"Working Together to Make Trade Work"

OUTREACH July 21, 2014

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

Member Event Schedule – July-September

- NAEGA Board of Directors to Meet in Emergency Session
- July 28, 29 Kansas City meetings include Contract Seminar
- August 7, 8 Vancouver Washington, FGIS Workshop and Contract Seminar
- August 11, 12 DC, IGTC meets
- August 21-14, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico APPAMEX Forum
- September 26, Denver, Board Meeting

Action Reports:

- Grain Inspection Disruption in Vancouver, WA
- Japan Feed Manufactures Meeting
- USAEDC FAS Attaché Seminar and Consultations

More Participation Opportunities:

- U.S. Import Document Image System Pilot Test
- Latin American Buyers Conference

Information for your consideration

- Sixth Round of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership Negotiations

NAEGA Calendar and Member Notices

- Upcoming Events and Notices for Members

Member Event Schedule – July-September:

All NAEGA member personnel are invited to participate in NAEGA activities over a significant number. Below is a list of NAEGA events we hope to see you at. Please let us know which events you plan to attend:

- 1. July 22 - NAEGA Board of Directors emergency meeting to consider NAEGA actions in response to FGIS and APHIS denials to provide service.**
- 2. July 28 -29, Westin Crown Center Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri** in conjunction with the [FDA Food Defense Workshop](#) on July 29 and the [NGFA/Grain Journal Safety Conference](#) July 29-31. NAEGA Events:

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- **July 28 - NGFA-NAEGA Joint Agroterrorism/Facility Security Committee meets from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.**
 - **July 28 - Alternative Security Program Users Meeting from 3:00-5:00 pm.**
 - **July 28 - NAEGA Dinner & Update – 7:00 PM – Location in KC is to be determined.**
 - **July 29 - 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.
- 3. August 7 and 8, Hilton Hotel in Vancouver, Washington. NAEGA Events:**
- **Thursday, August 7 - USDA GIPSA-Industry Workshop**
 - **Thursday August 7 - NAEGA Dinner & Update -** Location in Vancouver, Washington area is to be determined.
 - **Friday August 8 - 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.
- 4. August 11 and 12, Washington, DC IGTC Strategy Session and Meetings -** NAEGA members and International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) members are invited to attend the Strategy Session and Meetings. A proposed agenda can be found [here](#). The National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) and the North American Export Grain Association (NAEGA) will host the meeting at their conference room at 1250 Eye St NW Suite 1003 Washington, DC 20005.
- 5. August 21-24, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico 2014 APPAMEX-NAEGA Forum**
- 6. Friday, September 26, 2014 at CoBank’s offices in Denver, Colorado NAEGA Board of Directors Meeting.** NAEGA Members are encouraged to submit items for the consideration of the Board.

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Reports on NAEGA Actions

Grain Inspection Disruption in Vancouver, WA

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The NAEGA Board of Directors will convene for an emergency meeting on Tuesday, July 22 to consider additional actions in light of troubling developments in the provision of U.S. official grain inspection and phyto-sanitary certificate services for grain exports in the State of Washington. Reported decisions to deny service from both USDA GIPSA FGIS and USDA APHIS have prevented at least one export elevator from full operations. The actions of both agencies appear to be tied to a labor dispute and represent an extreme challenge to NAEGA’s purpose: “to eliminate abuses... to eliminate or secure freedom from unjust, unlawful and oppressive exactions of commerce... to promote certainty in the customs and usages of trade and commerce”. Ultimately sending a dangerous signal to entities wishing to disrupt the exports.

For the past year NAEGA has been working with NGFA, the National Association of Wheat Growers and with several other U.S. agricultural producer and agribusiness groups to address a disruption in U.S. official grain inspection services at the Port of Vancouver, WA. On July 1, Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) formally notified USDA that it was halting official services to one facility effective July 7 after the Washington State Patrol ended its escort service for WSDA inspectors for budget reasons. WSDA continues to allege generalized safety concerns to its inspectors emanating from the lockout of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union – concerns that have not been documented.

[This industry letter](#) was conveyed on Monday, July 14. It includes many more signatory organizations than the October letter. In it we urge FGIS to immediately step in to provide official inspection services with its own personnel, or with inspectors from other qualified third-party providers.

The USDA Grain Inspection Advisory Committee met last week in Kansas City, Mo and passed [these resolutions](#), including one urging that FGIS take whatever actions are necessary to immediately restore Official grain inspection and weighing service wherever and whenever it is disrupted, either by immediately replacing absent inspectors with FGIS Official personnel or with inspectors from available qualified providers, including other designated or delegated Official Agencies.

NAEGA members who would like to provide input for this meeting or in regard to the ongoing developments related to the provision of US official inspection and plant health certification for exports should contact Gary Martin as soon as possible.

Japan Feed Manufactures Meeting

Visitors from the Japanese Feed Manufacturers Association (JFMA) concerned with the quality of U.S. corn shipments met with NAEGA and NGFA staff. As you can see in [this attached powerpoint presentation](#), JFMA is monitoring intrinsic qualities, safety and supply characteristics of the U.S. corn imported in Japan. Much of JFMA’s report made comparisons imports from other countries. Key points include:

- US corn contains less protein than corn imported from South America and Ukraine,
- U.S. corn contains more fine material (flour / powder) than supplies from other origins,

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- Mycotoxin levels have been reduced in recent imports,
- Trap metal and other foreign objects continue to be found and need to be prevented.

It was noted that is most likely changing corn genetics, as well as growing conditions, have a major effect on corn quality. The meeting concluded with an acknowledgement that quality safety concerns of the Japanese feed manufactures would be good information for biotech providers, producers as well as grain handlers.

USAEDC FAS Attaché Seminar and Consultations

USDA officials were featured at the US Agricultural Export Development Council (USAEDC) USDA Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) attaché seminar. USDA Administrator, Phil Karsting, discussed how the Farm Bill has brought certainty to US agriculture because the USDA has been able to allocate money for programs like Market Access Program (MAP). His office now seeks appropriation legislation that would allow MAP to carry over 6% of its budget in the event the Farm Bill expires without reauthorization as it did in 2013. He also mentioned US Agricultural exports (\$149 billion) are 10% higher than last year. USDA Deputy Secretary for Agriculture, Krysta Harden, discussed her recent trip to China for the Strategic and Economic Dialogue where she attempted to insert biotechnology into the conversation. NAEGA also heard from USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Administrator, Kevin Shea, who briefly acknowledged the grain industry’s interest in a Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM). In response to a stakeholder meetings where he first learned of RRM, he is now looking to adopt third party inspections to speed up the process.

Private consultations between NAEGA and several USDA FAS Foreign Service Officers provided an opportunity to address our priorities and potential actions. Consultations were completed with FAS staff including teams and individuals posted in China, Mexico, Brazil, Egypt, Italy, Switzerland (WTO), Argentina, and Japan. Discussion on collaboration between FAS and NAEGA on several initiatives included: International Plant Protection Commission’s (IPPC) development of a standard for the international movement of grain, the Biosafety Protocol (BSP) and The Global Low Level Presence (GLI) initiative, the Mexico’s phyto-sanitary policy (soil issue), Egypt’s import quality and safety regime and quality, plant and biotechnology regulation in China.

NAEGA was also represented in a special meeting FAS called with Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Cooperators to discuss a pending participation in a Global Broad-based Initiative (GBI) in Africa. The GBI would potentially fund activity in Africa to promote U.S. agriculture such as a buyers’ conference/trade show or technical training.

More NAEGA Member Participation Opportunities:

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>.

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.

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

2014

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.

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

Sixth Round of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership Negotiations

The Sixth Round of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP) negotiations ended in Brussels last week. The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) put out this [press release](#) discussing the opportunities the trade negotiations present.

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

22 – Conference Call - NAEGA Board Meeting

22 – 23 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>

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 NAEGA/NGFA office.

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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

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/>

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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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