



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

OUTREACH July 22, 2013

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

Member participation opportunity:

- FGIS and Industry Workshop – Portland, Oregon – August 13
- 2013 APPAMEX-NAEGA Forum – Cancun, Mexico – August 15-17
- NAEGA Fall Board Meeting – Minneapolis, Minnesota – September 18
- NAPPO Annual Meeting 2013 – Guelph, Ontario-Canada – October 28-November 1

Action Reports

- Canada and U.S. – PNWER Summit
- EU-U.S. – Transatlantic Trade and Investment Talks Start
- Japan-U.S. – GM Wheat: Japan’s Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery Visits U.S.
- U.S. – USDA, GIPSA Amends Regulations

New Issues

- U.S. – Coast Guard Announces Area Maritime Security Plans

NAEGA Calendar and Member Notices

- Upcoming Events and Notices for Members

NAEGA Member Participation Opportunity

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. The Workshop will be held at the Courtyard Hotel by Marriott at 435 NE Wasco St. Portland, Oregon. APHIS is invited to attend and cover both Phyto-sanitary and Biotechnology regulatory actions.

The Agenda for the workshop will be developed during the week of July 22, 2013. **Please let us know what issues you want on the agenda by Wednesday, July 24.**

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.

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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.

NAEGA Fall Board Meeting

NAEGA’s fall board meeting is scheduled to meet on September 18, 2013 from 10:00am (CDT) to 3:00pm (CDT) at Cargill, 15407 McGinty Road West, Wayzata, Minnesota.

All NAEGA Members are invited to attend. A draft agenda, including reports from all NAEGA Committees will be developed in August. **Please let us know what issues you want on the agenda by Friday August 23.**

NAPPO Annual Meeting 2013

The 2013 NAPPO annual meeting has been scheduled for October 28, 2013 to November 1, 2013 at the Delta Hotel in Guelph, Ontario in Canada. More information will be coming soon. In the meantime, feel free to contact Steve Cote at steve.cote@inspection.qc.ca or call 613-773-7368.

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

Canada and U.S. – PNWER Summit

At the Pacific Northwest Economic Region Summit in Anchorage, Alaska, Gary Martin attended meetings of the Agricultural Working Group. The Agriculture Working Group accepted written comments submitted by Gary as the basis for further actions to:

1. Endorse of the Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC)
2. Review the Rapid Response Mechanism supported by NAEGA and its colleagues.
3. Address U.S. Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) via outreach to U.S. Congress.
4. Review efforts related to accommodating a Low Level Presence (LLP) of GM in imported agricultural products currently threatening importing and exporting countries alike and global food security in general.

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5. Consider ways to impact negotiations for a Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement that encourages all governments to work toward an ambitious agreement that liberalizes agriculture trade by resolving the negotiations should include:
6. Build a stronger relationship between the PNWER and the Canada-U.S. Grain and Seed Trade Task Group that includes facilitating PNWER industry input into the ongoing activities and agenda of the Task Group.

The 2013 PNWER Summit’s homepage can be found [here](#), and a report on the conference will soon be posted on the NAEGA website under the Board of Directors section.

EU-U.S. – Transatlantic Trade and Investment Talks Start

On July 8-12 the U.S. and EU began negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) in Washington, D.C. The primary purpose of the first round of TTIP discussions was to establish a foundation for future discussion. In his opening statement, U.S. Trade Representative, Mike Froman said, “We have an opportunity to spur growth and to generate significant increases in the already substantial number of jobs supported by transatlantic trade and investment. We have the opportunity to complement one of the greatest alliances of all time with an equally compelling economic relationship. And we have the opportunity to work together to establish and enforce international norms and standards that will help inform and strengthen the multilateral, rules-based trading system.”

After the first round of negotiations, the U.S. Trade Representative was optimistic the U.S. and EU could complete an agreement in a timely fashion. The official press release can be found [here](#). The next round of talks is scheduled for the week of October 7, 2013 in Brussels.

NAEGA president and CEO, Gary Martin, is scheduled to meet with U.S. Trade Representative, Mike Froman, at a roundtable discussion on Monday, July 29 to express NAEGA’s priorities in both the Transpacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) and TTIP.

If you have comment or questions about the negotiations - Please contact Gary or Kyle this week.

Japan-U.S. – GM Wheat: Japan’s Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery Visits U.S.

A delegation from the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture and Fishery and Forestry (MAFF) visited United States this last week to learn more about the circumstances related to the finding of biotech event CP4, 71800 in plant material in a single field in Oregon. The trip was part of the Japanese effort to restart tender of U.S. wheat after it ceased imports due to a field escape of the regulated biotechnology event that is not approved in Japan.

In Washington, DC the MAFF team met with USDA including APHIS, FGIS and FAS as well as their own embassy. On Wednesday in a meeting hosted by NGFA and NAEGA the team met with the industry associations and U.S. Wheat Associates and National Association of Wheat Growers. The Wednesday meeting focused on U.S. wheat growers' use of glyphosate and

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tentative plans by Japan to restore western white wheat to its tender list (including likely testing requirements, at least initially, for U.S. cargoes). After its visit to Washington, the MAFF delegation visited Portland for additional meetings and a visit to TEMCO export facility at Irving Street, and Overseas Merchandise Inspection Company (OMIC). MAFF will also meet with the Japan Grain Import Association member companies in Portland.

The delegation from MAFF consisted of:

- Tetsuaki YAMASHITA, Managing Director, Grain Trade and Operation Division
- Takaya KOMINE, Manager of Grain Imports, Grain Trade and Operation Division
- Hiroaki SATO, Section Chief, Trade Policy for Wheat and Barley, Grain Trade and Operation Division.

In Washington, D.C. the MAFF delegation was joined by:

- Takashi SADAKANE, First Secretary of Agriculture, Embassy of Japan; and
- Naritoshi TAKAYAMA, Counselor, Embassy of Japan.

In Portland, it was joined by:

- Masaru IJIMA, Consul, Consular Office of Japan in Portland; and
- Takashi (Terry) NAGASAKA, General Manager, OMIC Portland.

After the DC meetings, USDA officials indicated that MAFF’s intent, supported by USDA, was to gradually restore U.S. wheat trade to normalcy – including a return of Soft White Wheat to the regular MAFF tender. Further USDA thought the MAFF delegation obtained sufficient answers on the status of the APHIS investigation to make recommendations to the MAFF leadership, the Ministry of Health and the Japanese legislature.

Subsequent reports indicate that MAFF is still seeking some additional information but is proceeding to consider returning SWW to the tender as well implement a testing regime to meet the needs of the Ministry of Health Labor and Welfare (MHLW). We understand the testing regime to facilitate MHLW monitoring for all U.S. origin wheat is to begin immediately. A portion of the wheat sample obtained by USDA FGIS at load port will be submitted for testing to either the OMIC lab in the U.S. or a lab in Japan. Negative tests will allow the shipment to proceed without delay to Japan. Details on what happens should a confirmed positive test result are not yet clear.

In summary we believe the visit from MAFF officials was very constructive and very much appreciated the time they spent to examine the CP4 71800 circumstance. And:

- We understand MAFF can’t say when it will announce a decision on resumption of tenders for western white. We know that MAFF will first brief the MAFF minister, get his approval. Then MAFF will need to brief the Prime Minister’s office (get his approval) as well the Ag Caucus Diet members.
- In addition to the testing regime for MHLW, we also believe MAFF HQ will consider discontinuing the current state of origin language requirements.
- We think MAFF will continue to announce test results from the MHLW testing.

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NAEGA continues to be very much engaged in the industry association response to CP4 71800. We will report on outcomes as we become aware. We are now pressing for a conclusion to the USDA investigation that includes the identification of the class of wheat the suspect plant material was from. Importantly we continue to stress the need for an exit strategy from any testing regime, and that does seem to be getting some traction with both MAFF and the U.S. government.

Comments or questions from NAEGA members – especially regarding concerns over costs and risks imposed on the grain trade as result of any official actions related to CP4 71800 in wheat are much appreciated.

U.S. – USDA, GIPSA Amends Regulations

The Department of Agriculture (USDA), Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has issued a final rule, amending the regulations that cover the official grain inspection and weighing service procedures that GIPSA's Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) performs under the authority of the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA), as amended.

Specifically, GIPSA is amending the regulations issued under the USGSA pertaining to grain exported in large reusable containers typically loaded onto export ships. In this final rule, GIPSA will add new definitions for “composite” and “average” grades, limit the number of containers that may be averaged or combined to form a single lot, restrict the inspection and weighing of container lots to the official service provider's area of responsibility, specify a 60-day retention period for file samples representing such container lots, make consistent the weighing certification procedures for container lots with those for inspection certification procedures, and make other miscellaneous changes. GIPSA believes that these revisions will help facilitate the marketing of U.S. grain shipped for export.

The full rule can be found [here](#). If you have questions, comments or concerns about this final rule, please feel free to contact NAEGA.

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

TBD – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced the Agency will be sending several biotechnology regulatory actions to the *Federal Register* for publication in the coming weeks. A preliminary decision to grant non-regulated status to Glyphosate resistant Canola was recently notified. The next actions are preliminary deregulations of the following genetically engineered (GE) plants include Glyphosate Resistant Corn (Genective), Hybridization System Corn (Monsanto)

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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

U.S. – Coast Guard Announces Area Maritime Security Plans

The U.S. Coast Guard released an update to its Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) entitled “Guidelines for the Area Maritime Security Committees and Area Maritime Security Plans required for U.S. Ports.” The document clarifies that an AMS assessment is to be conducted every five years and updates the marine transportation system recovery and salvage response plan templates. The plan also introduces elements of cybersecurity in to the AMSP template.

The Coast Guard also published a Commandant Instruction entitled, “Area Maritime Security Plan (AMSP) and Area Maritime Security (AMS) Assessment Development and Maintenance Process” providing internal guidance clarifying responsibilities for this program.

The update to the NVIC can be found [here](#), and the Commandant instruction can be found [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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NAEGA Calendar & Member Notices

July

29 – Washington, D.C. – NAEGA President, Gary C. Martin, has been invited to discuss NAEGA’s trade priorities with the new Trade Ambassador, Michael Froman.

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 – Champaign, Illinois – Illinois Soy International Biotechnology Symposium – Gary invited to attend

September

16-20 – London, England – IMO/DSC Meeting – NAEGA’s senior advisor, Jerry Cotter, will attend the IMO/DSC meeting which will cover reception facilities for cargo and access to stockpiles by vessel representatives.

18 – Wayzata, Minnesota – NAEGA Fall Board Meeting at Cargill

18-20 - Durban, South Africa - Third Meeting of the Global Low Level Presence Initiative (GLI). NAEGA participation pending

22-24 – Santander, Spain – DBTG Meeting – NAEGA’s senior advisor, Jerry Cotter, will attend the DBTG meeting which will address Transportation Moisture Limit issues as well as operational and shipping issues and a grain elevator tour.

October

28 – Nov. 1 – 2013 NAPPO Annual Meeting – NAPPO’s annual meeting has been scheduled for October 28, 2013 to November 1, 2013 at the Delta Hotel in Guelph, Ontario in Canada. More information will be coming soon.

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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