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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.

Taiwan Goodwill Mission Reception – Washington, D.C. – September 12

NAEGA member Washington representatives are invited to attend a reception at the Marriott Metro Center for a Taiwan Goodwill Mission on September 12 from 4-6pm. The reception will honor the Taiwan Goodwill Mission travelling throughout the United States on September 10-21 and the U.S.-Taiwanese relationship.

A formal invitation will be available soon. Please contact Ryan for more information.

WITA Agriculture's Perspectives on NAFTA Modernization panel - Arlington, VA – September 13

NAEGA member Washington representatives are invited to attend a Washington International Trade Association (WITA) panel on *Agriculture's Perspectives on the NAFTA Modernization* on the morning of September 13. U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue has been invited. In addition, NAEGA President and CEO Gary Martin will be presenting on behalf of NAEGA, and the Board of Directors will attend as special guests. A registration link will be available soon.

Board of Directors Meeting – Arlington, VA – September 13

The next meeting of the NAEGA Board of Directors will take place on Wednesday, September 13 in Arlington, VA. An comprehensive agenda will be available soon. Among other things, the NAEGA Board has been invited as special guests to a Washington International Trade Association event on *Agriculture's Perspectives on the NAFTA Modernization* during which Gary will present. The event will take place during the morning of September 13.

NAEGA member representatives are invited to attend and submit topics for discussion during the Board meeting. Please contact Gary or Ryan if you need travel assistance or have any questions.

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:

USTR Comments

This week, NAEGA and the National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) submitted comments to the U.S. Trade Representatives (USTR) regarding the [Administration's reviews and report to the president on trade agreement violations and abuses](#). The comments outline the performance of U.S. free trade agreement on the grain and feed trade and the performance of WTO agreements on multilateral trading arrangements. In the comments, NAEGA and NGFA highlight the overwhelming success of free trade agreements in promoting trade and opening up markets for grain and feed trade products. The comments also list some on-going tariff and non-tariff barrier challenges industry currently faces with trade agreement partners and WTO partners with which the U.S. has a significant trade deficit.

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

U.S. Food and Ag Dialogue Comments

On Monday, July 31 the North American and Asia-Pacific Working Groups of the U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade submitted comments to the U.S. Trade Representatives (USTR) regarding the [Administration's reviews and report to the president on trade agreement violations and abuses](#). The comments highlighted the success of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in promoting trade and expanding opportunities for the U.S. food and agriculture industry. The comments also requested that the Administration consider pursuing additional free trade agreements in overseas markets, particularly the Asia-Pacific Region, to maintain U.S. industry's competitiveness on the global stage.

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

Mexico NAFTA Comments

On Tuesday, July 26 NAEGA submitted comments to the Government of Mexico following a request for consultations by the Secretaria de Economia on negotiations of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). NAEGA's comments laid out negotiating priorities, 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](#).

PNWER Summit

On Monday, July 24 Gary presented before a two panels at the 2017 Pacific Northwest Economic Region's (PNWER) Annual Summit in Portland, OR on the *Economic Impact of Trade in the Agriculture Sector* and at a *Rountable on Border and Trade*. During the *Economic Impact of Trade in the Agriculture Sector* Gary was joined by Alexis Taylor, Director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture and Frederic Seppey, Chief Trade Negotiator of Agrifoods Canada. During this presentation, Gary discussed the great success that trade has been for the North American grain and feed sector and the importance of the North American Free Trade Agreement in promoting trade in the Pacific Northwest region. In addition, Gary laid out NAEGA negotiating objectives for the upcoming NAFTA negotiations.

A copy of Gary's presentation can be found [here](#).

McKinney and Censky Letter

This week, NAEGA joined two letters supporting the confirmation of Steve Censky as Deputy Secretary of Agriculture and Ted McKinney as Under Secretary of Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The first letter, to members of the U.S. Senate, applauds President Trump's nomination of Mr. Censky and calls for his prompt confirmation. The second letter to Senators Pat Roberts and Debbie Stabenow, Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, call for the expeditious confirmation of Mr. McKinney by the committee and the Senate

A copy of the letters can be found [here](#) (Censky) and [here](#) (McKinney).

London IGC and IGTC Trip Report

A trip report is now available for Gary, Katy and Marcel's travel to London, United Kingdom to participate in a number of activities that support NAEGA UES programming and the IGTC business plan. In London, Gary, Katy and Marcel participated and hosted:

- IGTC Strategy Session
- IGTC Management Council Meeting
- 2017 International Grains Council (IGC) Grains Conference
- GAFTA Annual Dinner.

The primary purpose of this mission to London was implementation of the IGTC Business Plan through the enhancement of IGTC Policy Teams, Working Groups and operations, engagement and information exchange with IGTC members and corporate stakeholders and new member recruitment.

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

IGTC Newsletter

The latest IGTC newsletter is now available! This week's newsletter includes an update on the IGTC's work on the IPPC's ISPM for grain, an invitation to a Codex Commission event in Geneva, and an update on IGTC work at the World Trade Organization on e-certifications.

For more details, read the IGTC Newsletter [here](#) or visit the IGTC website at www.igtglobal.org.

Upcoming Actions:

MSU/USDA-FAS Biotechnology Industry Roundtable

On Thursday, August 10 from 8:30am-12:00pm Gary will participate in the Michigan State University (MSU)/USDA-FAS Biotechnology Industry Roundtable in Washington, D.C. The roundtable is part of MSU's International Agricultural Biotechnology Short Course and will be attended by 25-30 international participants. The short course raises education and awareness for international students, government officials and scientists on various aspects of agricultural biotechnology, including environmental biosafety and food safety issues in order to help assist government agencies and stakeholders in making informed decisions on genetically engineered crops and products.

Pending Actions:

APHIS Consultations on IPPC Activities

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is accepting consultations on three draft specifications and 13 draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) from the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

Draft Specifications:

- [Revision of ISPM 12](#)
- [Audit of phytosanitary context](#)
- [Supplement to ISPM 11](#)

Draft ISMPs:

- [2017 Amendments to ISPM 5: Glossary of phytosanitary terms](#)

- [International movement of cut flowers and foliage](#)
- [Requirements for the use of fumigation as a phytosanitary measure](#)
- [Diagnostic protocols: Bactrocera dorsalis complex](#)
- [Diagnostic protocols: Conotrachelus nenuphar](#)
- [Diagnostic protocols: Ips spp](#)
- [Diagnostic protocols: Xylella fastidiosa](#)
- [Diagnostic protocols: Puccinia psidii](#)
- [Revision of Diagnostic Protocol: Plus pox virus](#)
- [Revision of ISPM 6: Surveillance](#)
- [Requirements for the use of temperature treatments as a phytosanitary measure](#)
- [Draft revision of Annexes 1 & 2 to ISPM15](#)
- [Draft 2015 and 2016 amendments to ISPM 5 Glossary of phytosanitary terms](#)

Please contact Gary or Ryan if you are interested in contributing to any of these comments.

CFIA Consultations for Canada-U.S. RCC

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is seeking input from stakeholders for the development of new cooperation opportunities and prioritization of existing initiatives under the Canada-United States Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC). The purpose of this consultation is to provide an additional mechanism to seek stakeholder feedback on the prioritization of work plan initiatives currently being pursued between the CFIA and its U.S. regulatory counterparts, and to solicit input on potential opportunities for the future. There is no firm deadline for completion of this consultation. However, CFIA's tentative timeframe for collecting input is by fall of this year. Input [can be submitted at this link](#).

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In the News

Italy COOL Developments

The Italian Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry policies has issued a decree ordering new country of origin labeling policies for all packets of rice and pasta sold in Italy. The new packaging must reveal where the wheat contained in the food was grown and milled into semolina for pasta-making. Rice packaging will have to state where the rice was grown, treated and packaged.

More information on the new decree can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

NAFTA Negotiations Set

U.S., Canadian and Mexican negotiators have announced that the first round of negotiations for the modernization of the North American Free Trade Agreement will begin on August 16-20 in Washington, D.C. The negotiations will begin on the first day allowed in the U.S. Trade Promotion Authority legislation. The U.S. Trade Representative has named John Melle, the current U.S. assistant trade representative for the Western Hemisphere, as the Chief Negotiator.

More information 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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Calendar & Member Notices

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

2017

August

7-11 – IGTC Working Visit with GTA – Sydney, Australia

10 – MSU/USDA-FAS Biotechnology Industry Roundtable – Washington, D.C.

16-20 – First Round of NAFTA Negotiations – Washington, D.C.

17 – APEC High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology - Vietnam

September

8 – IGC Market Conditions Committee, London, UK

11-15- IMO CCCC – London, UK

13 – NAEGA Board of Directors Meeting. Arlington, VA

14 – IGTC Management Council Meeting – Virtual

28 – European Commission high-level conference on modern biotechnology in agriculture – Brussels, Belgium

October

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

16-19 – 41st Annual NAPPO Meeting - Merida, Mexico

November

13-17 – IPPC Standards Committee – Rome, Italy

14-16 – Global Grain Geneva

16 – IGTC General Assembly – Arlington, VA

TBD – USDA FGIS Grain Inspection Advisory Committee Meeting

27 – IGTC General Assembly – Beijing, China

December

3 – NGFA Country Elevator Conference

5 – 46th 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

26-28 – Canadian Global Crops Symposium – Toronto, Canada

December

TBD – COP 14 – Egypt

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