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Member Opportunities

NAFTA and Asia-Pacific Policy Teams

With NAFTA negotiations upcoming and the evolving U.S.-China trade relationship 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 personnel 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 personnel 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. To register, [click here](#).

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. A 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.

China CIQ Cochran Fellows visit – Arlington, VA – September 14

NAEGA member personnel are invited to attend a meeting with nine U.S. Department of Agriculture Cochran Fellows from China Inspection and Quarantine (CIQ) on Thursday, September 14 at 10:30am. The Cochran Fellowship provides education on how U.S. inspection and food safety laws and regulations are created, monitored and enforced on a national and port level. The goal of the fellowship opportunity is to demonstrate the effectiveness of U.S. port inspections and U.S. food safety regulations along with the safety of U.S. food products in order to reduce interruption of U.S. Shipment of Agricultural products at China ports.

If you are interested in attending please [register here](#).

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:

China and Decree 177 Implementation

Despite ongoing uncertainty over the specific needs of China's General Administration on Quality Supervision, Inspection, and Quarantine (AQSIQ), we continue to support USDA efforts to provide for compliance with its Decree 177. Most urgent is the requirement from AQSIQ for USDA to provide a list of companies or facilities that export to China. While AQSIQ has indicated they intend to use the list to monitor compliance with entry requirements, AQSIQ has yet to indicate if or how the names on the list are to be specifically used. If the AQSIQ uses the USDA provided list for a comparison to names listed on the various and multiple forms required for entry, a serious problem arises. USDA does not have authority or capacity to collect all possible permutations of names used on the many (we count at least 8) documents that include official documents as well as commercial documents that accompany import consignments.

As we have been reporting, USDA has agreed to provide AQSIQ with a list of U.S. exporters of commodities covered by the U.S. Grain Standards Act. USDA's Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) is working with the USDA Foreign Agriculture Service to update and maintain the list provided to AQSIQ. FGIS is relying on exporter registration and exemption from registration with the USDA Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) to compile a list provided to AQSIQ by USDA. GIPSA registration is a requirement for international commerce from the U.S. of U.S. Grain Standards Act Commodities. To provide the list for AQSIQ, GIPSA

is working to be sure the names provided for registration or exemption from registration are updated.

NEW DEVELOPMENT - Unfortunately, the FGIS process has recently been altered. It now appears that any entity that wants to be on the list provided to AQSIQ by USDA will have to complete registration or exemption from registration. This is despite the application for registration (form “OMB No. 0580 - 0013”) including a section 6: ”List names and locations where applicant is engaged in buying, handling, weighing, or transporting grain for sale in foreign commerce”. FGIS has determined they do not have authority to share the information in section 6.

AS A RESULT: IMMEDIATELY ANY entity who wants to be listed on the list provided to AQSIQ by USDA should complete registration or receive approval for an exemption from registration with GIPSA.

The current Registered Grain Exporter's Directory can be found on the FGIS website [here](#), the list of those exempt from registration [here](#). They will be combined and updated every two weeks in a list USDA provides AQSIQ. AQSIQ is periodically posting to its website the lists it indicates apply to Decree 117 at this location http://dzwjyigs.aqsiq.gov.cn/fwdh_n/qymd/zwjcp/gwqymd/201706/t20170623_491694.htm

AQSIQ has acknowledged that implementing Decree 177 will take several months. Changes are likely as we try to sort out and learn more. Just what the list provided to AQSIQ by USDA needs to contain or how it is to be used remains uncertain. For instance, USDA has just begun working with AQSIQ to provide for a list of exporters of commodities, including dry beans and pulses that are not covered by the Grains Standards Act. Moreover, the lists that AQSIQ has accepted from other countries vary widely in their source and content.

To get to the bottom of how to best comply with Decree 177 implementation, plans are being made for an AQSIQ technical team to travel to the United States. On September 10-20, 2017 an AQSIQ team will be in the U.S. to conduct a survey of U.S. grain and oilseed production and export system demonstrating its safety and existing compliance with the Chinese government policy Decree 177. NAEGA will be highly engaged in the tour and hope to secure commercially viable solutions to complete the facility registration process.

Call with Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

On Wednesday, July 2 NAEGA’s NAFTA and Asia-Pacific Policy Teams participated in a call with James Kettel, Executive Director of the Trade and Value Added Branch of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture to discuss the Ministry’s work on trade and the upcoming NAFTA agreement. During the call, NAEGA communicated its efforts on NAFTA, including a brief on the comments already submitted to the U.S., Canadian and Mexican governments.

A copy of NAEGA NAFTA comments can be found here:

- [United States](#)
- [Canada](#)
- [Mexico](#)

Washington State Delegated Authority Comments

On Wednesday, August 2 NAEGA and the National Grain and Feed Association submitted a joint statement to the Grain Inspectors, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) regarding the agency's notice of intent to certify the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) as a delegated official agency. In the comments, NAEGA and NGFA strongly recommend that GIPSA, FGIS and the WSDA implement procedures to prevent disruptions of work and meet the statutory obligations of the Grain Standards Act, including:

1. Prohibiting the intervention of political influence in determining whether, how and by whom Official inspections by Delegated State agencies are conducted at export port locations.
2. Requiring FGIS to act with expedited due process to prevent illegal actions that impede or prohibit Official Grain Inspection and Weighing Services.
3. Developing processes and procedures if a Delegated Official State agency is to be replaced by FGIS inspectors.
4. Provide for GIPSA to meet its obligations to USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service regardless of its ability to meet the Statutory Obligation to Provide Official Grain Inspection and Weighing Services at Export Port Locations.
5. Make the Delegation of Authority Agreements Uniform, Transparent and Consistent.

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

Clause 20 Issued in PNW

On Thursday, July 20 Gary Martin, President and CEO of NAEGA, issued a Clause 20 certificate related to exceptional impediments to transportation in the Pacific Northwest region. The request for certification resulted when impediments to transportation, caused by the closure of multiple rail lines due to rockslides and other events, prevented the forwarding of the commodity to the port to the point where loading was prevented. The panel recommended and the President confirmed that this was a valid cause and NAEGA provided a certificate that established the start of the cause at 0000 PST on February 18, 2017 and the end of the cause to be 1553 CST on February 19, 2017.

Geneva IGTC and IGC Meetings

A trip report is now available for Gary's travel to Geneva, Switzerland to support NAEGA 2017 and 2018 UES objectives largely executed via the IGTC. In Geneva, Gary reported on and received recommendations for IGTC actions to address facilitation of trade with China, to consider parameters for the establishment of new commercial and official practices related to information management and implementation of regulations and to explore options for modification of the IGTC business plan. These included meetings to advance IGTC priorities and developments at the global level, including:

- The digitization of trading documentation;
- The IPPC International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures for grain;
- The endorsement of the Global Low-Level Presence Initiative (GLI);
- The IGTC's position on MRLs.

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

Global Low Level Presence Initiative

A trip report is now available for NAEGA Senior Advisor Paul Green's travel to Rome, Italy for the 5th annual meeting of the Global Low Level Presence Initiative (GLI). In Rome, Paul monitored, reported and analyzed developments and work with like-minded governments and the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) to provide for:

- The GLI as an active, ongoing and relevant forum where government can work together to harmonize LLP policy globally;
- Information to GLI members on how an LLP policy might be implemented.
-

A primary goal of Mr. Green's participation in this GLI was to convey grain trade practical experience and knowledge as part of a broader effort to move GLI countries to endorse and begin implementing the "Practical Approaches Paper" that was a prominent part of the agenda.

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

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](#).

USTR Comments on Russia, China and the NTE

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) is seeking public comments on China and Russia's obligations and implementation efforts in connection to their accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and requesting assistance with identifying significant trade barriers for preparation of the annual National Trade Estimate report.

Russia's Implementation of its WTO Commitments

The USTR will convene a public hearing and seeks comments to assist in the preparation of its annual report to Congress on Russia's implementation of its obligations as a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The deadline for filing written testimony is September 22, 2017. The hearing will take place on September 28, 2017.

China's Compliance with WTO Commitments

The USTR is seeking comments and will convene a public hearing to assist in preparing its annual report to Congress on China's compliance with the commitments made in connection with its accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). The deadline for filing written testimony is September 20, 2017. The hearing will take place on October 4, 2017.

National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers

The USTR is seeking comments to help identify significant barriers to U.S. exports of goods, services, and U.S. foreign direct investment for inclusion in the National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers (NTE). All written comments must be received by 11:59pm on October 25, 2017.

If you are interested in contributing to any of these comments please contact Gary or Ryan.

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In the News

Ballast Water Management Deadline Extended

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has decided to extend the deadline for compliance with the Ballast Water Management Convention (BWM) to September 8, 2017. Following the September 8 deadline, all covered vessels will be subject to the new ballast water performance standard. The U.S. Coast Guard is already enforcing ballast water management rules more stringent than the IMO convention. For more information, please click [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

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

20 – China Compliance with WTO Commitments Comments Due

22 – USTR Comments on Russia WTO Implementation Due

28 – USTR Hearing on Russia WTO Implementation

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

October

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

4 – Hearing on China Compliance with WTO Commitments

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

25 – National Trade Estimate Report Comments Due

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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