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Member Opportunities

NAFTA and Asia-Pacific Policy Teams

With NAFTA negotiations underway 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.

To register for the reception, [please click here](#).

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. The event will take place at McDermott, Will and Emery at 500 North Capitol Street NW Washington, D.C. beginning at 9:00am. A preliminary agenda includes remarks by:

Jaime Castaneda, Senior Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Trade Policy, U.S. Dairy Export Council (USDEC) & National Milk Producers Federation

Gary Martin, President & CEO, North American Export Grain Association

Melissa San Miguel, Senior Director of Global Strategies for the Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA)

Tom Stenzel, President & CEO, United Association Fruits & Vegetables

Moderator: Ambassador Darci Vetter, Diplomat in Residence, Clayton K. Yeutter Institute of International Trade and Finance, University of Nebraska

Additional Speakers TBA

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 from 1:00-5:00pm at NAEGA Headquarters in Arlington, VA. NAEGA member representatives are invited to attend and submit topics for discussion during the Board meeting.

In addition to the Board meeting, Board members and member representatives are invited to attend the following events on September 12-14, including:

Tuesday	September 12, 2017 Events	Location
4:00-6:00pm	Taiwan Goodwill Mission Reception <i>Please RSVP Here</i>	Marriott Metro Center 775 12 th Street NW, D.C.
7:00-9:30pm	NGFA Board of Directors Reception and Dinner <i>Please RSVP Here</i>	Willard Intercontinental 1401 Pennsylvania Ave NW, D.C.
Wednesday	September 13, 2017 Events	
9:00-11:00am	Washington International Trade Association NAFTA Series Event – <i>What’s in Store for Food and Agriculture?</i> <i>One seat for each NAEGA Board member company is already reserved.</i> RSVP here if you can attend	McDermott Will & Emery 500 North Capitol Street, NW Washington, DC
12:00-1:00pm	NAEGA Board of Directors Working Lunch <i>Lobby Conference Room</i>	1400 Crystal Drive Arlington, VA
1:00-5:00pm	NAEGA Board of Directors Meeting <i>Lobby Conference Room</i>	1400 Crystal Drive Arlington, VA
	NAEGA Offices Tour	1400 Crystal Drive Arlington, VA
6:00-7:00pm	NAEGA Board Appreciation Reception <i>1400 Crystal Drive Rooftop</i>	1400 Crystal Drive Arlington, VA

Thursday	September 14, 2017 Events	
8-10:00 am	IGTC Management Council – Meet, Conf. Call <i>Lobby Conference Room</i>	1400 Crystal Drive Arlington, VA

Please contact Gary or Ryan if you need travel assistance or have any questions.

Reception with the Board of Directors – Arlington, VA – September 13

NAEGA member personnel are invited to a small reception to celebrate our work together and to meet and network with the NAEGA Board of Directors.

Please RSVP and join us on September 13th at 1400 Crystal Drive in Arlington, VA.

The reception will begin at 6 PM on the Potomac Overlook rooftop. An optional tour of the building and the new NGFA/NAEGA office will start at 5:30pm. In case of inclement weather, the reception will be held in the Paragon Room on the 2nd Floor. Beer, wine and hors d'oeuvre will be served.

This invitation is non-transferable. Please RSVP below.

USTDA China Biotech Delegation – Arlington, VA – September 20

Member personnel are invited to attend a meeting at NAEGA offices with a Chinese biotechnology delegation sponsored by U.S. Trade and Development Agency on September 20 at 9:30am. The group includes officials from key provinces where biotech developers would like to develop a deeper relationship as domestic trials are conducted in many of these locations and their input is important to MOA. The delegation is meeting with NAEGA to learn more about grain movement and the global regulatory environment.

Please contact [Ryan](#) for more information.

IGTC General Assembly and Meetings – Arlington, VA – November 16

Please join us for International Grain Trade Coalition meetings in November! You are welcome at the 2017 Ordinary Meeting of the IGTC General Assembly of Members and associated meetings. The National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) and the North American Grain Export Association (NAEGA) are hosting the IGTC meetings. We are scheduling events around from 8am-5pm on November 16 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Ballroom, 1480 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, USA 22202. Other events on 15, 16 and 17 of November are pending.

The current schedule for November 16 includes:

1. A Strategy Session in the morning. IGTC policy teams and working groups will report and provide us the opportunity to consider and comment on IGTC policy and actions.
2. In the afternoon, the 2017 Ordinary Meeting of the IGTC General Assembly of Members will take place. IGTC Members act to effect governance and advise future direction of the IGTC. During the General Assembly, revisions to the IGTC Business Plan including membership

NAEGA Contracts and Best Practices Seminar and Reception – Tokyo, Japan – November 28

NAEGA members are invited to register for a Contracts and Best Practices Seminar and Reception in Tokyo, Japan on November 28. NAEGA seminars are a current and interactive, review of commercial and official practices to improve predictability, reduce risks, resolve trade barriers, and facilitate profitable trade. If you are interested in attending, please [REGISTER HERE](#).

The Contracts and Best Practices Seminar will be followed by a reception honoring the U.S.-Japan grain trade and featuring participants from the Japan Feed Trade Association, U.S. Grains Council, the U.S. Embassy, Japanese Government and U.S. and Japanese industry.

A formal invitation to the seminar and reception will be available soon.

Contracts and Best Practices Seminars

NAEGA is beginning to plan seminars for 2018! Let us know where we should hold 2018 Seminars and what topics you would like us to cover. 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 January 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:

NAEGA/NGFA Statement on USDA Reorganization

On September 7, 2017 NAEGA, along with the National Grain and Feed Association, issued a statement commending the Secretary of Agriculture for his decision to relocate the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) with the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). Last week, Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced this decision as part of a second tranche of USDA reorganization designed to strengthen and enhance the department's customer-service focus and maximize efficiency. In doing so, Perdue separated FGIS from the Packers and Stockyards Administration within the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) – two agencies with significantly different missions, functions and roles. This reorganization will provide the impetus for FGIS to improve its cross-agency interaction with other government departments that share roles in facilitating the marketing of U.S. agricultural products, such as USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, which is responsible for issuing phytosanitary certificates for U.S. grain export shipments.

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

IGC MCC Presentation

On Friday, September 8 Katy Lee, Secretariat of the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) presented before the International Grain's Council's (IGC) Market Conditions Committee (MCC) on *Current Developments in Policy and Practice* as part of the IGTC's continued and regular engagement with the IGC. This is the third time this year that the IGTC has had the opportunity to represent the grain trade and present before the IGC. Engagement with the IGC remains a critical component of the IGTC Business Plan.

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

Upcoming Actions:

U.S.-China AQSIQ Survey Team – Mid-West – September 10-20

On September 10-20 NAEGA Senior Advisor Kirk Miller will join a group of China AQSIQ officials for a survey tour of grain supply chain facilities in the Mid-West. The trip is meant to educate AQSIQ officials on the U.S. export supply chain and the fungible, comingled nature of U.S. grain and oilseed exports as part of U.S. government and industry efforts to comply with Decree 177 facility registration requirements. During their travel, the team will be visiting facilities along the Mid-West, Mississippi River and Gulf Coast in Kansas City, St. Louis, Memphis and New Orleans. The trip will conclude with a briefing in Washington, D.C.

The current itinerary for this travel is available [here](#).

IMO CCC – London, UK – September 11-15

On September 11-15 Katy Lee, Secretariat of the IGTC, will travel to London, UK to participate in the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Subcommittee on the Carriage of Cargoes and Containers (CCC). In London, Katy will be working closely with the International Dry Bulk Terminals Association, to monitor and respond to developments impacting the global grain and oilseed trade. A notice to post for this travel will be available shortly.

A copy of the IMO CCC agenda can be found [here](#).

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

Vietnam Import Permits

Vietnam's Plant Protection Department (PPD) has announced it will begin issuing import permits for U.S. origin DDGs and grains immediately. Import permits may be valid for up to one year (depending on the product). Importers should apply to PPD for the import permit first, and then translate it and send it to the U.S. exporter. The U.S. exporter will then present the import permit to APHIS to request the phytosanitary certificate. PPD will not accept any shipment with a phytosanitary certificate issued prior to the date on the import permit.

More information can be found in the attached [USDA GAIN report](#).

USCG Suspicious Activities Reporting

At the request of the U.S. Coast Guard, NAEGA members are invited to review the Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative's *Suspicious Activity Reporting Indicators and Behaviors: Tools for Analysts and Investigators* worksheet. The worksheet includes helpful information on identifying and reporting suspicious activity. The worksheet 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

September

10-20 – U.S.-China AQSIQ Survey Team visit – Mid-West

11-15- IMO CCC – London, UK

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

13 – WITA Event – Agriculture Perspectives on NAFTA Modernization – Washington, D.C.

13 – NAEGA Board of Directors Meeting – Arlington, VA

14 – IGTC Management Council Meeting – 8:00-10:00am – Virtual

20 – China Compliance with WTO Commitments Comments Due

22 – USTR Comments on Russia WTO Implementation Due

23-27 – Third Round of NAFTA Negotiations – Ottawa, Canada

28 – USTR Hearing on Russia WTO Implementation – Washington, D.C.

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

October

4 – Hearing on China Compliance with WTO Commitments – Washington, D.C.

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

25 – National Trade Estimate Report Comments Due

November

5-8 – American Association of Port Authorities Latin America Congress – Punta del Este, Uruguay – Ryan attending

8-10 – Dry Bulk Terminals Group Technical and Operational Seminar – Punta del Este, Uruguay – Ryan attending

13-17 – IPPC Standards Committee – Rome, Italy

14-16 – Global Grain Geneva – Geneva, Switzerland

16 – IGTC Strategy Session – Arlington, VA

16 – IGTC General Assembly – Arlington, VA

TBD – USDA FGIS Grain Inspection Advisory Committee Meeting

28 – NAEGA Contracts and Best Practices Seminar and Reception – Tokyo, Japan

December

3 – NGFA Country Elevator Conference – Louisville, KY

5 – 46th IGC Council Session – London, UK

6-8 – GHS Subcommittee Meeting – Geneva, Switzerland

10-13 – WTO Ministerial Conference – Buenos Aires, Argentina

14 – IGTC Management Council Meeting – Virtual

2018

January

18 – Annual Grain Sector Meeting with APHIS Administrator

28-30 – Commodity Markets Council State of the Industry – Miami, FL

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 – **Biosafety Protocol COP 14** – Egypt

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