



*“Working Together to Make Trade Work”*

## **OUTREACH September 15, 2014**

**Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA**

### **Member Opportunities**

- September NAEGA Committee Conference Calls and Board Meeting:
  - Grades Inspections - On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> : PM 3:30 Eastern, 2:30 Central, 12:30 Pacific
  - Biotechnology – On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> : PM 3:30 Eastern, 2:30 Central, 12:30 Pacific
  - Denver, Colorado – NAEGA Board of Directors Meeting – September 26, 2014
- Milwaukee, WI – USSEC Global U.S. Soy Trade Exchange – September 15-17, 2014
- Washington, DC – USDA Public Meeting on U.S. Position for Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS) – September 25, 2014
- Washington, DC – Regulatory Cooperation Council Stakeholder Event – October 8, 2014
- Honolulu, Hawaii – U.S.W.A. North Asia Marketing Conference – October 14-17, 2014
- St. Louis, MO – Wheat Innovation Alliance Wheat Forum – November 7-8, 2014

### **Action Reports:**

- NAEGA Contracts Committee Call
- NAEGA APPAMEX Trip Report
- Preparation for BSP COP/MOP 7
- U.S. Biotech Crops Alliance

### **Information for your consideration**

- Cargill v. Syngenta re MIR 162
- CropLife Now Hosting Biotadestatus.com
- USDA-FAS Announces GovDelivery System

### **NAEGA Calendar and Member Notices**

- Upcoming Events and Notices for Members

## **Member Opportunities**

### **September NAEGA Committee Conference Calls and Board Meeting:**

Interested NAEGA member personnel are welcome to join committee members convening in advance of the September 26 Board of Directors meeting. Two more Committee Conference Calls are planned:

- Grades Inspections – On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> : PM 3:30 Eastern, 2:30 Central, 12:30 Pacific
- Biotechnology – On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> : PM 3:30 Eastern, 2:30 Central, 12:30

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The proposed agenda for the Grades & Inspection committee meeting can be found [here](#). The agenda for the Biotechnology committee meeting can be found [here](#). Please let Gary or Kyle know if you plan to participate and we can send you additional documents that will be considered.

**Denver, Colorado – NAEGA Board of Directors Meeting – Friday, September 26, 2014**

Associate Member Co-Bank will host the next NAEGA Board of Directors Meeting at 5500 S. Quebec St., Greenwood Village, CO 80111 from 7:30am to 1:00pm (U.S. Mountain Time). NAEGA Members are encouraged to submit items for the consideration of the Board.

**Milwaukee, WI – USSEC Global U.S. Soy Trade Exchange – September 15-17, 2014**

The U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC) is bringing over 150 soy feed, food, and oil processing importers from around the world to meet with U.S. exporters at the Milwaukee Convention Center and the Hilton City Center. Along with the U.S. Soy Trade Exchange, USSEC is hosting a Trade Team Invitational. Over the course of the three days, your company will have the opportunity to sit down with representatives from the more than 150 soy companies from outside the U.S. at the Trade Team invitational.

A listing of participating importers can be found [here](#). To access the on-line appointment registration site, click [here](#). The opportunity to register for the Trade Team Invitational ends August 29 at 5:00pm Central. Schedules of meetings will be emailed to participants by the close of business on September 8, 2014.

**Washington, DC – USDA Public Meeting on U.S. Position for Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS) – September 25, 2014**

The USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is hosting a public meeting to provide and receive public comments on the U.S. positions to be discussed at the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS), which will take place in Australia on October 13-17.

The public meeting on U.S. positions will be on September 25 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm Eastern at the Jamie L. Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 107-A Washington, DC. The call-in number for the meeting will be 1-888-844-9904. The participant code will be posted [here](#).

A copy of the federal register notice for the public meeting can be found [here](#).

**Washington, DC – Regulatory Cooperation Council Stakeholder Event – October 8, 2014**

The U.S. and Canadian governments released the Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC) Joint Forward Plan (Forward Plan). The Forward Plan outlines departmental commitments to cooperate in 24 areas of regulatory business and new department-level partnerships to institutionalize the way U.S. and Canadian regulators work together to develop smarter and more effective regulatory approaches that avoid creating unnecessary requirements and costs.

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As part of the effort to rollout the Forward Plan, stakeholders are invited to participate in a bi-national RCC Stakeholder Event in Washington, D.C. on October 8, 2014. The meeting will provide interested stakeholders the opportunity to learn more about the Forward Plan, and provide input to regulators from both countries on its implementation.

For more information on the Forward Plan, stakeholder event, or to add names to the RCC email distribution lists Canadian stakeholders can go to: [www.actionplan.gc.ca/rcc](http://www.actionplan.gc.ca/rcc), and U.S. stakeholders can go to: [www.trade.gov/rcc](http://www.trade.gov/rcc).

**Honolulu, Hawaii – U.S.W.A. North Asia Marketing Conference – October 14-17, 2014**

The U.S. Wheat Associates will host the North Asia Marketing Conference (NAMC) on October 14-17, 2014 in Honolulu, Hawaii. This regional buyer’s conference is for both private and public organizations that procure wheat from the international market. The agenda will address the most pressing issues for the Korea, Taiwan, and Japan markets, including advanced application and end-use trends in U.S. wheat classes; world trade agreements – TPP impact and opportunities – and others that can influence agricultural trade; current factors and mega-trends in the world grain market may affect global wheat prices; and the connection between corn and wheat.

A copy of the most recent agenda can be found [here](#). The conference will be held at the Modern Honolulu hotel on Waikiki: <http://www.themodernhonolulu.com>. USW has arranged a special group rate of \$189 + 13.962% tax per night; this room rate is based on single or double occupancy with a maximum room occupancy of four people per room. This rate expires in early September.

The online registration can be done [here](#).

**St. Louis, MO – Wheat Innovation Alliance Wheat Forum – November 7-8, 2014**

The Wheat Innovation Alliance executive committee is hosting a “Wheat Forum” to introduce objectives of identifying and overcoming obstacles to innovation in wheat in order to improve wheat profitability. The National Association of Wheat Growers encourages all current and potential industry partners to participate in this important discussion surrounding current and future innovation in wheat.

A description of the Wheat Forum can be found [here](#) and a “Save the Date” can be found [here](#). Please direct any questions regarding this Wheat Forum to Bureson Smith at [technology@wheatworld.org](mailto:technology@wheatworld.org) or 202-547-7800.

***[Full Details on Upcoming Events can be found in the Meetings & Events Section of the NAEGA Member’s Only Page.](#)***

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## **Reports on NAEGA Actions**

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### **NAEGA Contracts Committee Call**

The NAEGA Contracts Committee met in preparation of the upcoming Board Meeting. The conference call meeting covered several key issues, including recent NAEGA Training Seminars and Sourcebook, recent Clause 20 reports, changes to American Arbitration Association’s (AAA) International Arbitration rules and other issues before the AAA, country specific risks, and intellectual property issues. The committee will meet again on September 23 to debate options for NAEGA contract guidance to address non-tariff trade barriers and destination country risk for both bulk and container trade.

A copy of the agenda and documents considered by the committee can be found on the Contract Committee page under the Members Only website, [here](#).

### **NAEGA APPAMEX Trip Report**

NAEGA President and CEO, Gary C. Martin, along with NAEGA Senior Advisor, Arvid Hawk, and NGFA/NAEGA volunteer, Todd Kemp reported on the recent trip to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico for the 21<sup>st</sup> NAEGA-APPAMEX Forum.

Our ongoing work with US and Mexican plant health risk assessment and management on imported grains and oilseeds continued to be a priority at the Forum. NAEGA will continue to pursue a least trade distortive approach to official phyto measures including both policy and enforcement measures as well as continue to support the annual Forum.

The trip report can be found on the “Members Only” page [here](#).

### **Preparation for BSP COP/MOP 7**

In anticipation for the upcoming Biosafety Protocol (BSP) COP/MOP 7 meeting in early October, NAEGA participated in a call with the U.S. government to prepare and coordinate. Discussion items during the call included Articles 15, 17, 18.2a, 18.3, and 26. NAEGA Senior Advisor, Kirk Miller and NAEGA Biotechnology Committee Chairman, Paul Green, both participated in the call as they will represent NAEGA in Korea at the COP/MOP 7 meeting.

### **U.S. Biotech Crops Alliance**

The U.S. Biotech Crops Alliance (USBCA) Executive Committee recently met and took several steps of actions. The National Corn Growers Association and the American Soybean Association will continue to Co-chair the Executive committee. A sub-committee will be appointed to conduct an evaluation of the organization and the secretariat, and work will continue work on the Business Plan, logo, and anti-trust compliance. It was decided a USBCA Plenary session will be held on Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup> in Washington, DC. Gary Martin of NAEGA staff serves on the Executive Committee and Co-Chairs the USBCA International Working Group. USBCA background documents can be found in the members section of [www.naega.org](http://www.naega.org) on the Biotechnology Committee pages.

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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.***

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

## **2014**

**Sept. 26** – Comments to USTR on Russia’s implementation of its obligations as a member of the WTO. These comments are in preparation for a public meeting on Oct. 10 in Washington, D.C. before USTR’s annual report to Congress. This report must evaluate Russia’s implementation of WTO rules on sanitary and phytosanitary measures and trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights. A copy of the federal register notice can be found [here](#).

**Oct. 6** – Comments to the Bureau of Industry and Security on the effectiveness of licensing procedures for exports of agricultural commodities to Cuba. A copy of the Federal Register notice can be found [here](#).

**Oct. 10** – Comments to USDA-Agricultural Marketing Service on proposed unified process to consolidate all Agency fee setting activities and rates into a single, annual rulemaking. A copy of the federal register notice can be found [here](#).

**Oct. 29** – Comments to USTR on TBT & SPS trade barriers for Annual National Trade Estimate Report

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) is seeking input for its annual national trade estimate (NTE) report on foreign trade barriers. Comments are due by October 29 and are encouraged to be made on any of the following topics:

- import policies (e.g., tariffs, quotas, import licensing and customs barriers)
- government procurement restrictions (e.g., “buy national” policies and closed bidding)
- export subsidies
- lack of intellectual property rights protection
- anticompetitive conduct of state-owned or private firms tolerated by foreign governments that restricts the sale or purchase of U.S. goods or services in the foreign country’s markets
- other barriers, including barriers that encompass more than one category, such as bribery and corruption, or that affect a single sector

The USTR is particularly interested in trade practices that may violate U.S. trade agreements and information on new barriers. The USTR also welcomes comments on trade restrictions through unwarranted sanitary and phytosanitary measures and standards (SPS), and conformity assessment procedures or technical regulations that can be implemented in less trade restrictive ways (TBT).

A copy of the federal register notice can be found [here](#).

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## **Information for your Consideration**

### **Cargill v. Syngenta re MIR 162**

Cargill recently filed a lawsuit against Syngenta Seeds, Inc. seeking damages from Syngenta for commercialization of its Agrisure Viptera® (MIR 162) corn seed. Since mid-November 2013 China has taken action to limit imports of U.S. corn and products that contain U.S. corn because of the presence of Syngenta’s MIR 162 trait which has not been approved for import into China. A copy of the complaint can be found on the NAEGA Members Only [Biotech Committee webpage](#).

### **CropLife Now Hosting Biotradestatus.com**

The Biotradestatus website (<http://www.biotradestatus.com>) recently transferred to CropLife International (CLI). CLI has succeeded the Biotechnology Industry Association and now hosts, maintains and manages the website and database which is intended to provide for limited resource for individuals seeking information about the commercial status of Agricultural Biotechnology seeds. NAEGA utilizes and monitors the site, we often make recommendations to improve its effectiveness for our members.

### **USDA-FAS Announces GovDelivery System**

The USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) recently announced they will be moving to GovDelivery to manage their electronic communications. GovDelivery provides the public with a more efficient and customizable way to manage information received from FAS. The system is already in use by a number of other USDA agencies.

If you currently subscribe to FAS press releases, your email address was automatically transferred into the new GovDelivery system. You may view your subscription [here](#). All messages from FAS will now come from “FAS.USDA@service.govdelivery.com”

*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**

**September**

**18** – Washington, D.C. – Michigan State University/USDA FAS Industry Roundtable International Agricultural Biotechnology Short Course. Gary Martin on the panel.

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**18 - 19** - Beijing China - Third APEC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security

**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 – 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties/Conference of the Parties for the Cartagena Biosafety Protocol under the Convention on Biodiversity, which governs trans-boundary movements of Living Modified Organisms for feed, food and processing. Kirk Miller and Paul Green will be attending on behalf of NAEGA. More information can be found at: <http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/>

### **October**

**1-3** – Panama – Dry Bulk Terminal Group (DBTG) Annual Meeting, Jerry Cotter and Gary Martin planning to present and attend.

**8** – Washington, D.C. – Forward Plan Rollout/RCC Stakeholder Bi-national Event

**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/>

**30** – Washington, D.C. – US Coast Guard Alternative Security Program (ASP) Workshop. NGFA/NAEGA hosting. Jerry Cotter attending.

**31-November 2** – Seoul, South Korea – Korea Food Security Research Foundation (KFSRF) seminar on economic impacts of asynchronous approvals/LLP in the context of food security. Gary Martin attending and presenting.

### **November**

**7-8** – St. Louis, MO – Wheat Innovation Alliance Executive Committee Wheat Forum

**10-11** – Beijing, China – APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting (TBD)

**17-20** – Baltimore, MD – USAEDC Annual Workshop

### **December**

**10-12** – Geneva, Switzerland – UN Globally Harmonized System (GHS) Subcommittee meeting. Jerry Cotter attending.

**14** – Washington, D.C. – U.S. China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT)

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**15 – Washington, D.C. – U.S. Biotech Crops Alliance Plenary Session**

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