



*“Working Together to Make Trade Work”*

## **OUTREACH September 2, 2014**

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

### **Member Opportunities**

- 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
- Denver, Colorado – NAEGA Board of Directors Meeting – September 26, 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

### **Action Reports:**

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- NGFA Updates Q&A on Biotech Traits not Approved by U.S. Export Markets
- Longshore Members Ratify Contract with Grain Operators

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- Upcoming Events and Notices for Members

## **Member Opportunities**

### **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.

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**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](#).

**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.

**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.

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.

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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](#).

*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

### **China – USDA-AMS/FAS Feed Export Certification Plan Postponed**

Multiple trade groups from U.S. Industry, including NAEGA, have been working with the USDA-Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to support exploratory pilot audits by Chinese officials of U.S. feed and feed ingredient manufacture and export facilities. A preliminary itinerary was established for several U.S. facilities to host a team of auditors from China’s General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ). The audits are a condition to comply with China’s Decree 118.

However, the AQSIQ has recently indicated they are unwilling to move forward with the audits until there is some progress or solution on the pending biotech/MIR 162 issues in DDGS. As expected, AQSIQ is asking biotech to be tied to the certification process and requests that 30% of all facilities be audited instead of the initially agreed upon 30% of the participating companies. Given the fact that AQSIQ is not willing to move forward with the audit, the industry groups and the USDA have agreed to hold off on proceeding with Decree 118 compliance until the biotech situation with China changes and there is a path to move forward.

*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. 10** – Comments to FDA on a draft guidance for industry for “**Use of Nanomaterials in Food for Animals.**” The draft guidance is intended to assist industry and other stakeholders in identifying potential issues related to safety or regulatory status of food for animals containing nanomaterials or otherwise involving the application of nanotechnology. A copy of the federal register notice can be found [here](#).

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**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. 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**

### **CRS Report on China’s Economic Challenges and Policy Implications for U.S.**

The U.S. Congressional Research Service (CRS) recently issued a report entitled, “China’s Economic Rise: History, Trends, Challenges, and Implications for the United States.” The report states that China’s ability to maintain rapidly growing economy in the long run will depend largely on the ability of its government to manage challenges. China’s economic challenges also pose significant implications for the U.S.

China has challenges over the long term, which includes major reforms to its economy. These include taking action on challenges including completing the transition to a market economy, currency evaluation, growing pollution, corruption, and overdependence on exports.

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The report states that the key challenges for the U.S. are to convince China that it has a stake in maintaining the international trading system and China should take a more active leadership role in maintaining that system; and further economic and trade reforms are the surest way for China to grow and modernize its economy. Failure by China to take meaningful steps to rebalance its economy could increase tensions with its trading partners, especially if China’s share of global exports continues to increase rapidly and if that increase is viewed as being the result of non-market policies that give Chinese exports an unfair competitive advantage.

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

### **NGFA Updates Q&A on Biotech Traits not Approved by U.S. Export Markets**

The National Grain and Feed Associations (NGFA) has updated its [May 1 publication](#) to assist grain buyers with a pre-harvest communications with farmer customers regarding biotech-enhanced seeds that have not been approved for import by U.S. export markets, but have been commercialized in the U.S.

The four-page NGFA document, titled [“Legal Obligations and Potential Market Impacts Associated with Biotech-Enhanced Seeds Producing Grain Not Approved for Import into U.S. Export Markets – An Update,”](#) informs producers of a new economic analysis by NGFA concerning the impact of China’s detection of Syngenta Seeds Inc.’s Agrisure Viptera MIR 162 biotechnology-enhanced corn technology in U.S. exports of distillers dried grains with solubles (DDGS). In that regard, the analysis by NGFA Director of Economics and Government Relations, Max Fisher, found DDGS prices declined by an estimated 50 percent between May and August 2014. This decline is largely attributable to China’s decision to stop issuing import permits for U.S. DDGS, and its request for official test reports for all future U.S. DDGS shipments.

### **Longshore Members Ratify Contract with Grain Operators**

Longshore workers who work at grain export terminals in Vancouver and other Northwest ports voted overwhelmingly to ratify a new collective bargaining agreement with several multinational grain companies, ending two years of negotiations.

The tally was 88.4 percent in favor, with 1,475 supporting and 193 opposed to an agreement with United Grain Corp. in Vancouver, Louis Dreyfus Commodities in Portland and Seattle, and Columbia Grain Inc. in Portland. The contract will be in effect until May 31, 2018.

ILWU members have resumed their jobs at the locked-out facilities. All picketing has ceased, and the parties have agreed to drop all pending claims before the National Labor Relations Board and other legal actions associated with the dispute.

***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**

**3-4** – Washington, DC - NAEGA MAP compliance review by USDA FAS.

**8-12** – London, England – International Maritime Organization (IMO) subcommittee meeting of Carriage of Cargoes and Containers (CCC). The agenda can be found [here](#).

**11-12** – Beijing, China – Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Food Safety Cooperation Forum: Special Session and APEC High-Level Regulatory-Industry Food Safety Dialogue.

**14** – Beijing, China – U.S.-China Agriculture and Food Partnership Symposium – Tentative

**14** – Seoul, Korea – Korean Rural Economic Institute Food Security Symposium.

**14** – Geneva, Switzerland; Rome, Italy – USBCA-The International Maize Alliance (MAIZALL) Mission to the WTO & FAO

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

**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 So-called Cartagena Biosafety Protocol under the Convention on Biodiversity, which governs trans-boundary movements of Living Modified Organisms for feed, food and processing. 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

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**20-24** – Huatulco, Oaxaca, Mexico – The North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) and the National Plant Protection Organization of Mexico. <http://www.nappo.org/>

**24-25** – Beijing, China – Development Research Center Food Security and Sustainability Summit

**30** – Washington, D.C. – US Coast Guard Alternative Security Program (ASP) Workshop

#### **November**

**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)

**14** – Seoul, Korea – USGC Sponsored Technical Workshop for Biosafety Committee Members

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