



"Working Together to Make Trade Work"

OUTREACH September 22, 2014

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

Member Opportunities

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

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- Upcoming Events and Notices for Members

Member Opportunities

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 Exchange.
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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 21st 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.

As part of the effort to rollout the Forward Plan, stakeholders are invited to participate in a binational 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, and U.S. stakeholders can go to: 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-

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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 Burlson Smith at 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

IGTC Meeting Report

At its first in-person meeting in 2014, International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) members from Australia, Canada, Europe, Mexico and the United States attended two days of intensive and informative planning meetings. NAEGA and NGFA hosted the meetings.

Decisions were taken to provide for alignment and action plans to address several key international grain trade concerns. As result of the meeting IGTC has plans to address:

1. The upcoming COP-MOP 7 meeting to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity (BSP),
2. International Plant Protection Commission’s (IPPC) International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM),
3. Low Level Presence initiatives,
4. Opposition to efforts to regulate grain via labeling as an exposable chemical in UN Global Harmonization Standard in collaboration with the policy articulated by International Bulk

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Terminals Association, NGFA and NAEGA. The report was created to document decisions that were made at the meeting and provide a path forward for the IGTC.

The meetings also resulted in important steps forward for IGTC organization. The IGTC adopted a revised business plan as proposed by NAEGA. Around the meetings candidates for the Secretariat position were interviewed. The new IGTC business plan includes:

1. Establishing IGTC as a formal international non-governmental organization (incorporation) that provides for funding from both member non-profit trade associations and councils as well as their for-profit members.
2. Retaining operational governance as currently established.
3. Engagement of a person to act as Secretariat via a consultancy similar to that provide by Canada Grains Council in the past but now managed by NAEGA and NGFA.

The report can be found on the NAEGA “Members Only” site under the [International Programs page](#).

NAEGA Biotech and Grades Committee Calls

The NAEGA Biotech Committee and Grades Committee met in preparation of the upcoming Board Meeting. The Biotech Committee conference call meeting covered several key issues, including recent updates about China and the MIR-162 issue, EU biotech approval process, activity with the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) and the U.S. Biotech Crops Alliance (USBKA), and the upcoming Wheat Forum to discuss the future of biotech wheat.

A copy of the agenda for the Biotechnology committee meeting can be found [here](#).

The Grades & Inspection Committee conference call included topics such as a report on the recent regional GIPSA-FGIS meetings in New Orleans and Vancouver, Washington, CODEX-DON, progress on the China Vessel Comparison Study, Canada’s Grain Import Framework, Mexico’s border/phytosanitary measures, the Standard for International Movement of Grain, UN Globally Harmonized System of Labeling, and FGIS reauthorization and the U.S. Grain Standards Act. A copy of the agenda for the Grades & Inspection committee meeting can be found [here](#).

USDA/Michigan State University International Agricultural Biotech Roundtable

NAEGA President and CEO, Gary C. Martin served on a panel at the International Industry Roundtable panel conducted by Michigan State University for a USDA-FAS Biotechnology Short Course. Gary emphasized trade facilitation via responsible actions by governments and technology providers. A number of participants from more than 30 countries were included in the extensive education program focused on biotechnology regulation. The Agenda can be found [here](#).

World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Letter

NAEGA, along with 39 other agricultural associations and agribusinesses, signed on to a [letter](#) addressed to U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), Ambassador Michael Froman. The letter expresses the group’s appreciation to the USTR for defending the U.S. interests and integrity of commitments under taken at the World Trade Organization (WTO). Specifically, the letter

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addresses the U.S. refusal to acquiesce to the demands by India to reopen agreements reached at the WTO Ministerial in Bali and the threat to the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA).

The TFA is the first multilateral agreement reached since the establishment of the WTO. It will reduce the costs of trade by streamlining and harmonizing customs rules and procedures to the benefit of all countries.

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

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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

President’s Advisory Council on Doing Business in Africa

The Department of Commerce is establishing a President’s Advisory Council on Doing Business in Africa. The purpose of the Council will be to promote broad-based economic growth in the United States and in Africa by encouraging U.S. companies to trade with and invest in Africa.

The [Federal Register notice](#) announcing the Council also solicits applications to apply to be on the 15 person council. The deadline to apply is September 30, 2014. If you have any questions, please contact dbia@trade.gov, ATTN: Tricia Van Orden.

Trans Coastal v. Syngenta re MIR 162

Trans Coastal is the most recent company to file 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](#).

USDA Announces Decision on Deregulation of Dow’s 2,4-D Resistant Corn and Soybeans

The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced a determination of the nonregulated status for Dow AgroSciences, corn and soybeans that are resistant to several herbicides, including 2,4-D. A copy Dow’s petitions, determinations, and supporting documents can be found on APHIS’s website [here](#). The corn and soybeans’ non-regulated status will become effective upon publication in the Federal Register.

USDA Blog on Soybean Competitiveness

The USDA posted a blog that highlights a paper recently published about U.S. soybean competitiveness and global market share. You can visit the blog [here](#). The paper about U.S. soybean market share and competitiveness can be found [here](#).

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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

26 – Denver, Colorado – NAEGA Board Meeting – Hosted by CoBank

29-October 3 – Pyeongchang, Korea – 7th 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

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December

8-10 – Brussels, Belgium – International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) Meeting

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)

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

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