



"Working Together to Make Trade Work"

OUTREACH September 23, 2013

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

Member participation opportunity:

- NAEGA Board Meeting
- NAPPO Annual Meeting 2013 – Guelph, Ontario-Canada – October 28-November 1

Action Reports

- Panama-U.S. – Panama Accepts Single U.S. Phyto Cert. – Discontinues State Specific Requirements
- U.S. – Michigan State University/USDA-FAS International Agricultural Biotech Short Course
- World – Letter to World Food Prize
- World – Soy Global Trade Exchange

New Issues

- U.S. – Trade Promotion Authority

NAEGA Calendar and Member Notices

- Upcoming Events and Notices for Members

NAEGA Member Participation Opportunity

NAEGA Fall Board Meeting

At its meeting on September 18, NAEGA's Board of Directors considered briefings from all committees and NAEGA staff. Key decisions taken or accepted by the Board of Directors included:

1. Naming Randal Ritchie to fill the unexpired of Gary Truman on the NAEGA Board of Directors.
2. Establishing plans for NAEGA's budget taskforce to meet and consider changes to fees and expenses in advance of setting the 2014 budget.
3. Reviewing the Soy Sustainability Certification portal: <https://certification.ussec.org/>
4. Agreement with the Contracts Committee approach to the American Arbitration Association International Center for Dispute Resolution (AAA/ICDR) service provided for in the current NAEGA II model contract. The Committee will continue to **pursue acceptance of additional persons with extensive experience in the international grain trade and the NAEGA contract by AAA/ICDR for arbitration panelists.**

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5. Supporting the intentions of **the Biotech Committee** to:
 - a. **Survey and report on biotech developer’s world-wide intentions for commercialization and authorization of genetically modified events.** We expect a survey to be conducted during the month of October and results to be published in November. 1, 2013 and publish results on November 1, 2013.
 - b. Support further development of the **U.S. Value Chain Memorandum of Understanding on Crop Biotechnology**) to includes hiring of a MOU secretariat.
6. Establishing a Task Force of the **International Programs Committee** to consider and provide direction on **NAEGA’s approach and support for the International Grain Trade Coalition.**
7. Setting the next **NAEGA Annual Membership Meeting** will be held in conjunction with the National Grain and Feed Association Convention **on March 31, 2014**

The meeting was held at and hosted by Cargill. Draft Minutes will soon be available and posted to the NAEGA members website files.

NAPPO Annual Meeting 2013 – Guelph, Ontario, October 28

The 2013 North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) annual meeting is scheduled for October 28, 2013 to November 1, 2013 at the Delta Hotel in Guelph, Ontario in Canada. More information will be coming soon. NAEGA is planning to participate. In addition to concerns with official plant protection regulation in Mexico, Canada and the U.S. expect to focus on the International Plant Protection Organization’s intentions regarding a standard for Phytosanitary Measures for International Grain Movements. Updates on the agenda are forthcoming at: <http://www.nappo.org/en/>

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

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Reports on NAEGA Actions

Panama-U.S. – Panama Accepts Single U.S. Phyto Cert. – discontinues State specific requirements.

Panama made changes in its phytosanitary certification requirements as a result of communication from USDA APHIS following up on NAEGA and industry concern over the practice under which Panama applied State specific phytosanitary requirements. In effect the previous Panama requirement was for exporters to obtain certification unique to each and every U.S. State from which wheat might have been originated resulting in a trade restrictive need for U.S. State-specific plant risk assessments for bulk grains being shipped to Panama for consumption.

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In addition to our concerns about the State-by-State certification requirements for quarantine pests, we also requested that Panama revise its approach to new phytosanitary measures to provide for advance notice and sufficient time for comment and implementation. Ultimately we were successful and Panama has indicated it will regulate U.S. grains for consumption on a national basis, and that those new requirements are officially announced with sufficient time for comment and implementation.

NAEGA is seeking information on additional importing countries that have U.S. State or Canadian Province specific plant health import requirements in place or fail to provide for adequate notice and comment when implementing phyto sanitary risk management. Given that production regions span multiple States and Provinces and the supply chain is characterized consolidation of grain with similar attributes to meet specific customer requirements, the least trade distortive, practical and meaningful certification most often is the result of national or regional certification.

U.S. – Michigan State University/USDA-FAS Biotech Short Course

At the International Industry Roundtable panel conducted by Michigan State University for a USDA-FAS Biotechnology Short Course, NAEGA President Gary Martin emphasized trade facilitation via responsible actions by governments and technology providers. 31 fellows from 17 countries including India, Bangladesh, Ukraine, Burkina Faso, Malawi, Uganda, Mozambique, Kenya, Nigeria, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Panama, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Algeria, and USA were included in the extensive education program focused on biotechnology regulation. The Agenda and list of prepared questions put before the panel can be found [here](#). Other panelists included representatives from Pioneer, Monsanto, CropLife and ASTA.

World – Letter to World Food Prize

NAEGA signed on to a letter supporting World Food Prize’s commitment to science and its application to agriculture. In particular, the letter supported the World Food Prize’s decision to recognize three pioneers of modern agricultural biotechnology, Marc Van Montagu, Mary-Dell Chilton, and Robert Farley. A copy of a draft of the letter can be found [here](#).

World – Soy Global Trade Exchange

At the Soy Global Trade Exchange on September 16-18, NAEGA staff participated in several events including:

- A panel on “**Globalization and Agriculture Trade Policy.**” Panelists included Suzanne Hienan, Career Minister at USDA FAS, Franciso Mayorga, Mexico’s past Secretary of Agriculture, Nguyen Quoc Cuong, Ambassador to the United States from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and Dr, John Daris , First Secretary for Agriculture and Food at the Embassy of Ireland. Gary Martin chaired the discussion.
- A session on the **Sustainable U.S. Soy Certification Portal** at which participants were introduced the simple no-cost process that provides sustainability certification based on aggregate assessment of U.S. soy producer compliance with U.S. conservation and environmental for export shipments through a web-based application. More information

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can be found [here](#). NAEGA Senior Advisor Sam Bonilla and Gary joined the panel to help brief all interested.

- Kyle Liske managed a NAEGA display at the trade show.

The U.S. Soybean Export Council and the Midwest Shippers Association hosted event in Davenport Iowa was well attended and included a ceremony at which several NAEGA member companies signed acknowledgement of contract intentions with Chinese soybean importers.



Pictured above is the ceremony at which USSEC reports Chinese agricultural leaders signed 13 agreements to buy approximately \$2.8 billion worth of U.S. soy.

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

2013

Sept. 27 – Comments to APHIS on Canada-United States Perimeter Approach to Plant Protection. <http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAPHIS/bulletins/86a42b>

Oct. 11 – Comments to Office of Management and Budget on the U.S. – Canada Regulatory Cooperation Council’s progress to date and how to address regulatory divergence between the U.S. and Canada governments.

Oct. 22 – Comments to FAS on the proposed extension of an information collection in support of the export sales reporting program for U.S. agricultural commodities.

Nov. 26 – Comments to FDA’s proposed rule on importer/third-party accreditation of foreign foods: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/07/29/2013-17994/accreditation-of-third-party-auditorscertification-bodies-to-conduct-food-safety-audits-and-to-issue>

Nov. 30 – Comments to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) on current crop variety registration system in Canada. <http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/about-us/public-opinion-and-consultations/crop-variety-registration-engagement/?id=1374781777067>

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TBD – Comments to USDA on Agricultural Coexistence. The USDA will soon publish a notice in the Federal Register asking the public to comment on how agricultural coexistence in the U.S. can be strengthened. The comment period begins upon publication of the notice in the Federal Register and will be 60 days. More information can be found [here](#).

TBD – Comments to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) on draft directives D-12-05: http://www.naega.org/images/pdf/CFIA_Draft_D-12-05.pdf

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.

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New Issues & Opportunities for NAEGA Consideration

U.S. – Trade Promotion Authority

U.S. President Obama emphasized the importance of the two trade agreements currently being negotiated, Trans-Pacific Partnership and Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership during the President’s Export Council meeting last week. The president underscored the importance of trade promotion authority (TPA) in implementing those trade agreements. More information 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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NAEGA Calendar & Member Notices

September

22-24 – Santander, Spain – Dry Bulk Terminals Group Meeting – NAEGA’s senior advisor, Jerry Cotter, will attend the DBTG meeting which will address Transportation Moisture Limit issues as well as operational and shipping issues and a grain elevator tour.

27 – Washington, D.C. – Public hearing at USTR on Russia’s implementation of its WTO obligations.

October

4 – Washington, D.C. – Public hearing at USTR on China’s compliance with its WTO obligations.

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24-25 – Washington, D.C. Area – CBP East Coast Trade Symposium

28 – Nov. 1 – 2013 NAPPO Annual Meeting – NAPPO’s annual meeting has been scheduled for October 28, 2013 to November 1, 2013 at the Delta Hotel in Guelph, Ontario in Canada. More information will be coming soon.

November

TBD – Washington, DC – One Day USDA/USAID Food Aid & Development Meeting with Stakeholders

4-6 – San Antonio, Texas – American Nutrition Forum – Gary Martin attending and presenting

12-15 – Lisbon, Portugal - 6th International Conference on Coexistence between Genetically Modified (GM) and non-GM based Agricultural Supply Chains: www.gmcc13.org

13-16 - PNWER Economic Leadership Forum

18-19 - Canada Seminar/Canada Grains Council

18-22 - IPPC Standards Committee - Grain Movement

19-21 – Baltimore, Maryland – U.S. Agricultural Export Development Council (USAEDC) 2013 Annual Workshop – NAEGA Members invited to participate

20 – Riverdale, Maryland – APHIS BRS Annual Stakeholder Meeting – Attendees can participate in person or via webcast. Meeting details and registration information will be available soon.

2014

January -- TBD – Egypt – 2013 Middle East Regional Trade Conference hosted by U.S. Wheat Associates in cooperation with NAEGA, U.S. Grains Council and U.S. Soybean Export Council

March

31 – 2014 NAEGA Annual Meetings – Hilton Head, South Carolina

30-April 1 – 2014 NGFA Convention – Hilton Head, South Carolina

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