



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

## OUTREACH December 14, 2015

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

*From all of us at NAEGA, we wish you and your families a  
Happy Holiday Season!*

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## Member Opportunities

### **Annual Meetings – San Diego – March 14**

We hope to see you at the NAEGA Annual Meetings on Monday, March 14, 2016. The annual meeting will take place at the Hotel del Coronado in San Diego, California and coincide with the National Grain and Feed Association’s 120<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, March 13-15.

Hotel reservations in the NGFA room block should be completed as soon as possible. In order take advantage of the reduced guest room rate -- Please click [here](#).

More information, including proposed meeting schedules and agendas will be available early in 2016. Please contact Gary or Ryan with suggestions or questions.

### **Seminars and Internships**

**Contract Seminars:** Please click [here](#) for more information on NAEGAs in-depth, interactive education on contract practices.

**Internships:** Information on working for NAEGA as an intern in our Washington, D.C. office 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

### **Members meet to update and revise By-Laws and Board initiation of 2016 planning including implementing Bylaw Changes**

At the special meeting of members on November 12 NAEGA By-Laws were revised and updated to reflect the changing global business environment and improve on NAEGA’s ability to serve member interest.

A copy of the current bylaws, effective November 12, 2015 can be found [here](#). The two most substantial changes are:

1. **Welcoming State owned or controlled enterprises as Associate Members.** Restrictions on current and potential new members who are owned or have a degree of ownership and control by Governments have been removed.
2. **Clarification and Uniformity in Committees.** All committees will now operate under the same governance model. It is now mandatory for the Board of Directors to annually

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establish three committees: Contracts, Grades and Inspections and Production Technologies. The new Production Technologies Committee will address the multiple sources and increasing set of trade concerns related to use of all seed breeding (including crop biotechnology) and agronomic tools (including pesticides). The Strikes, Riots, Lockouts, and Embargoes Committee no longer exists as committee. Its function are moved to NAEGA service under the guidance of Contracts Committee and Board of Directors oversight.

Right after the Special Members meeting the NAEGA Board of Directors considered how best to implement approved changes to the Bylaws. Direction was also provided from the Board of Directors regarding actions to address crop biotechnology and establishment of a 2016 NAEGA Budget that may include revised membership dues and fees.

A copy of the Member meeting minutes can be found [here](#). A copy of the Board of Directors meeting minutes can be found [here](#).

Your comments and questions are welcome!

### **Budapest ISF Meeting**

On October 18 Science Adviser Marcel Bruins attended a meeting of the International Seed Federation’s (ISF) Plant Breeding and Innovation (PBI) Working Group on our behalf. A copy of the trip report can be found [here](#).

Since the 1980s many new plant breeding techniques have been developed. NAEGA, primarily via our International Grain Trade Coalition, is seeking alliances to address a lack of coherence and compatibility that exists between regulatory regimes addressing a host of technologies used in plant breeding. These “New Plant Breeding Techniques” (NPBT) threaten additional waves of trade frustration similar to what is being experienced with crop biotechnology.

### **Future Actions**

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

#### **2015**

**USITC Report on the Trans-Pacific Partnership:** The U.S. International Trade Commission is preparing a report on the economic effects of the recently concluded Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). This report is required by the Trade Promotion Authority legislation and must be published by USITC no later than 105 days after the president signs the agreement. USITC is seeking input from interested parties on the effects of the TPP. A public hearing will be held on January 13. Requests to appear at the hearing should be submitted no later than December 22. In addition, USITC will accept written comments on the TPP until February 15, 2016.

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For more information, click [here](#).

NAEGA is looking forward to hearing member comments on TPP. Please contact Gary or Ryan if you are interested in contributing to NAEGA comments to USITC.

***NAEGA Actions on Current Issues are tracked on the Members Only Section under their relevant committee pages.***

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## **Information for your Consideration**

### **USTR: Scrap Doha Round**

Writing in the Financial Times ahead of a meeting of the WTO’s 10<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference in Nairobi, U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman called for the Doha Round of trade negotiations to be abandoned after years of no progress and continued differences between developed and developing countries. According to Ambassador Forman: “If global trade is to drive development and prosperity as strongly this century as it did in the previous, we need to write a new chapter for the World Trade Organization that reflects today’s economic realities. It is time for the world to free itself of the strictures of Doha.” The ambassador goes on to say that the new way forward for global trade negotiations is “pragmatic multilateralism,” similar to agreements like the recently concluded Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

For more information on the WTO’s 10<sup>th</sup> Ministerial, click [here](#). To read Ambassador Forman’s op-ed, click [here](#).

### **USDA Decision on Wheat Trials**

On December 11 the USDA announced its decision to require developers of GE wheat to apply for permits for field trials beginning on January 1, 2016. According to the USDA’s APHIS Biotech Regulatory Service: “The decision to require growers to plant GE wheat under the more stringent permit process rather than the notification process employed in the past, will provide added protection that GE wheat will not persist in the environment after field trials are concluded, and will remain confined during the trials.” For the wheat exporting system this action would also prevent unintended mixing of non-GE wheat with GE wheat, which if detected can have negative impacts on trade flows.

For more information on the decision, please click [here](#).

### **Argentina Ag Export Taxes Repealed**

The newly elected president of Argentina, Mauricio Macri, has announced his administration’s plans to scrap or reduce export taxes on agricultural commodities. According to the Financial Times, Mr. Macri’s administration will eliminate export taxes on beef and grains, while reducing

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the 35 percent tax on soybeans by 5 percent per year. Mr. Macri, who took office last week, has indicated that broad reforms could be in order to revive Argentina’s failing economy and reintegrate its financial and trade sectors back into the global economy.

In October, NAEGA, the American Soybean Association (ASA) and the National Oilseed Processors Association (NOPA) submitted comments to the U.S. Trade Representative’s National Trade Estimate on Argentina’s soybean export tax. To read this report, please click [here](#).

For more information on Argentina’s export tax repeal, click [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

### 2015

#### December

**9-11** – Geneva, Switzerland – Globally Harmonized System (GHS) Subcommittee meeting. Jerry Cotter attending

**15-18** – Nairobi, Kenya – Tenth WTO Ministerial Conference. For more information, click [here](#).

### 2016

#### January

**11-14** – Washington, D.C. – Transportation Research Board (TRB) Agricultural Transportation Committee Annual Meeting. Gary Martin will present on multiple freight transportation modes related to the U.S. grain industry.

**13** – USITC Public Meeting on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) – Washington, D.C.

#### February

**18-19** – **PENDING** Fourth Meeting of Global Low Level Presence Initiative (GLI) – Rome, Italy

#### March

**14** – San Diego, California – NAEGA Annual Meeting

**23-24** – Orange, California – Chapman Phytosanitary Irradiation Forum

#### April

**14** – Winnipeg, Canada – Tentative IGTC Meeting

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**June**

**14** – London, UK – IGC Grains Conference

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