



*“Working Together to Make Trade Work”*

## **OUTREACH December 23, 2015**

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

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

*The NAEGA office will be closed on December 24, 25, 31 and on January 1.*

### **Member Opportunities**

- Annual Meetings - San Diego – March 14
- Seminars and Internships

### **Action Reports**

- USBCA IWG Letter on SAID

### **Future Actions**

- USITC Report on the Trans-Pacific Partnership

### **Information For Your Consideration**

- WTO Members Conclude Ag Agreement in Nairobi
- U.S. Repeals Country of Origin Labeling for Meat
- Update: Canada Phosphine Regulation

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

- Upcoming Events and Notices for Members

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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**

### **USBCA IWG Letter on SAID**

In response to a request from the U.S. Trade Representative for recommendations on a theme for the 2016 China-U.S. Strategic Agriculture Innovation Dialogue (SAID), NAEGA worked with the U.S. Biotech Crop Alliance’s (USBCA) and its International Working Group (IWG) to complete the following letter, which can be found [here](#). NAEGA, a member of the USBCA, continues to attempt to shift the focus of USBCA advocacy away from instructing China’s regulatory process and toward a mutual effort to improving conditions for the trade of grains and oilseeds.

To learn more about the NAEGA’s participation in the USBCA please visit the USBCA section of the *Members Only* page of the NAEGA website.

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## **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. USITC will accept written comments on the TPP until February 15, 2016.

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**

### **WTO Members Conclude Ag Agreement in Nairobi**

WTO members, meeting for the 20<sup>th</sup> ministerial in Nairobi, Kenya, concluded an agreement that addresses the most measures impacting the agricultural trade since the Uruguay Round agreement in 1995. Dubbed the “Nairobi Package” the agreement includes compromises between developed and developing countries on subsidies for farm exports, public stockpiling, special safeguard mechanisms for developing countries and measures related to cotton. Limitations on subsidies of farm exports include immediate elimination of subsidies by developed countries and a phase out of some subsidies by developing countries that is to be completed by 2018. WTO member nations also agreed to continue work plans for food stockpiling and special safeguard mechanisms.

The corresponding failure of the WTO ministers to reaffirm the Doha Round work program at the ministerial likely mean the Doha Development Round negotiations, in their current form, have ended. Many developed country governments see ending the Doha talks and moving away from broad global negotiations as the only way to move forward and influence the terms of international trade and investment. For example, the U.S. is now seeking to engage a post-Doha agenda centered around the concept of “pragmatic multilateralism.”

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For more information on the Nairobi Package click [here](#). For the USTR’s press release on the WTO ministerial meeting and, click [here](#).

### **U.S. Repeals Country of Origin Labeling (COOL)**

The COOL dispute between the United States, Mexico and Canada is nearing its conclusion days after the WTO authorized retaliatory tariffs on cuts of U.S. meat. On Friday, President Obama signed a \$1.8 trillion omnibus budget bill that included a provision to remove U.S. government requirements for country of origin labeling (COOL) on cuts of imported beef and pork. In May the WTO ruled in favor of Canada and Mexico, saying that the use of COOL for meat in the United States was discriminatory and violated U.S. trade obligations. This decision opened up U.S. producers of unrelated products to more than \$1 billion in annual retaliatory tariffs. Passage of the omnibus bill removes the requirements that the WTO found discriminatory.

NAEGA is a member of the COOL Reform Coalition and has acted to support reforms in U.S. policy. More information on COOL reform can be found in the *Members Only* section of the NAEGA website and at the COOL Reform Coalition home page [here](#).

### **Update: Canada Phosphine Regulation**

Thanks to the Canada Grains Council (CGC) and the Phosphine Producers Association of Canada (PPA), industry efforts are moving forward to secure a reevaluation of the proposed implementation of a 50-meter buffer zone for application of phosphine gas in Canada. At meetings in November with the Canadian Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), CGC, PPA and PMRA agreed to collect relevant information, if available, for a risk assessment and move toward a potential June 2016 regulatory amendment if data supports industry efforts. Currently, CGC, PPA and PMRA are targeting a joint meeting for January 21, 2016 to discuss these objectives. In the meantime, PPA plans on gathering air monitoring and data on treatment facilities to support its opposition to the buffer zones. Meanwhile, CGC members will be conducting their own monitoring program over the coming months to provide additional real time data to the PMRA as part of its reconsideration of the buffer zone.

NAEGA is closely following this situation and will keep members up to date as information becomes available. For more information and a background on phosphine gas regulation in Canada, 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**

**2016**

**January**

**11-14** – Washington, D.C. – Transportation Research Board (TRB) Agricultural Transportation Committee Annual Meeting. Gary Martin is planning to 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.

**21** – Joint Meeting – Canada Grains Council and PMRA to discuss phosphine regulation.

**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**

**4-8** – Rome, Italy – 11<sup>th</sup> Session FAO Commission on Phytosanitary Measures – for a preliminary agenda, click [here](#).

**11-13** – Canada Global Crops Symposium – Winnipeg, Canada – for more information click [here](#).

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

**June**

**14** – London, UK – IGC Grains Conference – to register please click [here](#).

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