



# Celebrating 100 Years

March 26, 2012

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA.

## Member Action Items:

Container and Canada Task Forces formed - participation open to NAEGA Members; Latin America, Wheat Buyers Conference; NCGA Seeks Input on Industry Vision; NAEGA History Updates, NAEGA Membership Dues, and Kendell Keith joins NAEGA Senior Advisors

## NAEGA Action Items:

China, Feed & Grain Laws; Colombia, Biotech Labeling; Turkey, Phytosanitary Certificates;

World: LLP Workshop Event in Vancouver; New IMO Classifications;

U.S., Biotech Communication MOU; GSM-102 Program; and NAEGA-NGFA Letter to GIPSA Regarding New Moisture Meter Technology

## Related News:

APHIS Stakeholder Meeting Transcript Posted to Web; OFAC issues Iran Sanctions Update and U.S.-Mexico High-Level Regulatory Cooperation Council Work Plan Released

## Calendar and Website:

Upcoming events and Issue Tracking

## **Member Action Items:**

### *Schedule your NAEGA seminar now!*

*NAEGA members are encouraged to make plans now to host a "NAEGA Seminar". Customized to each audience, NAEGA seminars take a close look at best commercial practices and compliance issues while often focusing on applications of the NAEGA 2 model contract.*

*Nearby dates are available April 19-20, April 24-27, May 1-10, and the first two weeks of June. If you would like to host a seminar for your company or one that includes other interested parties, please contact the NAEGA office for more information.*

**Container logistics and Canada grain marketing:** Member personnel are invited to join new industry efforts established at the NAEGA Board of Director's Meeting on February 23, 2012 that are intended to:

1. Identify and address changes in the procedures and policies related to shipment of grains and oilseeds with containers; and
2. Review the impact of Canada's changes in regulation of grain marketing including the Marketing Freedom for Grain Farmers Act and to make recommendations for industry actions to support a successful transition as well as long term successful commercial market environment resulting from those changes.

The two approved briefing memos proposing the task forces have been posted to the [Board of Director's Website](#) and Issue Tracking for each has been set up at the [NAEGA Personal Page's website](#). Please let us know if you would like to be included in the work of these new task forces.

**Latin America, Wheat Buyers Conference** – U.S. Wheat Associates has invited NAEGA to participate in their 2012 Latin American Buyer's Conference, to be held at the Bogota Hilton in Bogota, Colombia on June 27-29. We will be posting more information on registering for the conference as it becomes available. If you are interested in attending the conference as a NAEAG representative, please contact the NAEGA office.

**NCGA Seeks Input on Industry Vision** - The National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) has invited NAEGA to comment on its vision for the corn industry between now and 2020. Among the questions the US corn producer organization asks are: What changes in world trade for corn and corn products do you see occurring between now and 2020?

1. Will exports be a larger, the same or a lesser share of corn use by 2020?
2. Will biotechnology require a relative increase, decrease or the same – level of investment for NCGA between now and 2020?
3. Will trade require a relative increase, decrease or the same – level of investment for NCGA between now and 2020?
4. What advice or counsel do you have for with respect to trade issues as they work on the NCGA Vision for 2020?
5. What are the biggest opportunities and challenges that you see from your perspective for the US corn production sector by 2020?

NAEGA members who would like to work with staff to draft a response to the NCGA request should contact us now.

**NAEGA History Booklet Updates – Your comments and suggestions are requested!** The NAEGA history booklet that was first published in February at the NAEGA 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration has been updated and re-posted to the web. The updated booklet includes a listing of NAEGA Members and the year they first joined the Association, an update on NAEGA actions through March of 2012, and other details and photos from NAEGA's 100 year history. The updated booklet can be found on [the public section of the NAEGA web page](#). Please let us know if you have any comments or suggestions for edits or additions to the next edition.

**NAEGA Membership Dues** – Payments for NAEGA's 2012 Membership Dues were due on February 1. If you have not yet submitted your payment, prompt action is appreciated. Thank you to all NAEGA members who have already submitted their payments. If you have any questions, please contact the NAEGA office.

**Kendell Keith joins NAEGA Senior Advisors** – Please join us in welcoming former National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) President Kendell Keith as a NAEGA Senior Advisor. Building on his vast experience and interest in economic analysis and agricultural policies, we very much look forward to Kendell’s participation and advice!

## NAEGA Action Items:

### China

**Soybean Export Program Review** – NAEGA’s Grades and Inspections Committee continues to work with USDA on joint programs with China’s General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ). Most recently ASIQ requested initiation of a “Soybean Export Program Review”. A project proposal for the soybean vessel comparison study has been completed to provide for structure and transparency in implementing the work. The proposal has been posted to [NAEGA’s Grades & Inspections Committee](#) website under China and this issue is being tracked on the [NAEGA Personal Pages](#) website.

**Feed & Grain Law** – Issue tracking for both the Grain Law and Feed Regulations has been set up at the [NAEGA Grades & Inspections Committee webpage](#) and the [NAEGA Personal Pages site](#). If you have any comments on these proposed laws and regulations, or suggestions on how NAEGA should respond, please contact the NAEGA office.

**Colombia, Biotech** - On September 22, 2011, the Colombian Ministry of Social Protection issued resolution 4254 [Colombia WTO Notification COL/155/COL (COL/155, Add.1)], establishing the requirements for labeling foods derived from modern biotechnology. The resolution enters into force nine months after its publication in the official journal on September 26, 2011 (in June 2012). The government of Columbia is expected to soon issue guidelines for implementing the resolution.

NAEGA’s Biotech committee will be asked to review the pending guidelines; related documents are posted to the [Biotech committee website](#).

**Turkey, Phytosanitary Certificates** – Several NAEGA members have reported problems with time limit requirements for Phytosanitary Certificates for imports into Turkey as they have been reported in USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Phytosanitary Export Database (PEXD).

NAEGA has been informed that the Turkish officials are enforcing the following:

“Phytosanitary certificates to Turkey must be issued no more than 14 days prior to shipment. Any Phytosanitary certificate issued after the shipment leaves the port (post departure) will not be accepted. ACOs may issue a Phytosanitary certificate if it is to be issued on the same day as the ship departs. The period between the inspection date of the product and the shipment date of the product must be at most 14 (fourteen) days.”

The Turkish Officials are reportedly very serious about enforcing this regulation. NAEGA and APHIS are reviewing the regulations and considering options for addressing the problem

**World, LLP Workshop in Vancouver** – NAEGA and industry colleagues from around the world were very successful in conveying concerns related to international biotech approvals at the International Workshop on Low Level Presence hosted by the Canadian Ministry of Agriculture and Agri-Food. Official delegations from Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico, Russia, Paraguay, The Philippines, Vietnam and the United States met with Canadian officials in to examine and consider potential actions related to one of our key initiatives for 2012. The March 20-23 events included a NAEGA (on behalf of the International Grain Trade Coalition and CropLife International (on behalf of the Global Adventitious Presence Coalition) co-sponsored a harbor tour of grain export operations and the Port of Vancouver. During the cruise, attendees observed loading operations at the grain export elevators and heard explanations from Port Metro Vancouver along with global grain experts, including NAEGA President Gary Martin. The Tour highlighted the Port's relationship with the international grain handling and transportation system and what is required to move grain from areas of surplus to areas of deficit to meet world food security demands. Gary also made a presentation and attended meetings of industry during the meetings. A full report on the "International Event on Low Level Presence" will soon be available on the [NAEGA MAP Committee webpage](#).

**World, New IMO Classifications** – NAEGA Senior Advisor Jerry Cotter reports from an International Maritime Organization (IMO) Editorial and Technical Working Group (E&T) meeting in London, England that the U.S. proposal to have Corn Gluten Meal (CGM) and Corn Gluten Feed Pellets (CGFP) classified as non-hazardous was accepted by IMO's E&T Working Group. The next step will be to present the report of the Working Group to the Sub-Committee on Dangerous Goods for acceptance at their meeting in September 2012. That report would then go to Maritime Safety Committee for acceptance at their meeting in May 2013 and the classification of CGM and CGFP as non-hazardous under the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code will be voluntary on January 1, 2014 and be mandatory on January 1 2015. Until the CGM and CGFP schedules under the IMSBC Code become effective the products can be shipped under the exemption letters issued by the U.S. Coast Guard which are in effect until January 2015.

**U.S., Biotech Communication MOU** – At the recent meeting of the National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) Board of Directors, the Board approved NGFA's signing of the "Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Improving Communication throughout the Value Chain on Biotechnology and Trade Issues". The MOU, which NAEGA's Board approved in February, states that the signatories will agree to work together to expand communication and understanding across the value chain addressing the lifecycle of U.S. biotech traits. The MOU has now been approved by NAEGA, NGFA, the American Soybean Association, the American Seed Trade Association, the Biotechnology Industry Organization, and the National Corn Growers Association. The MOU has been posted to the [NAEGA Biotech Committee webpage](#) and the issue is being tracked on the [NAEGA Personal Pages site](#).

**U.S, GSM-102 Program** – The U.S. Congress has begun debate on the 2012 Farm Bill, and Committees on both sides of the Hill are working on issues that are of interest to NAEGA, including the GSM-102 export credit guarantee program. Senate Agriculture Committee staff requested guidance from industry related to the GSM-102 program. On Wednesday, March 28, at 2pm, NAEGA plans to host a meeting of the Export Credit Working Group (ECWG) to discuss how the GSM-102 program might be addressed in the new Farm Bill. On Monday, April 2, the ECWG expects to meet with Obama Administration officials in the same regard and to get

an update on the related World Trade Organization case. NAEGA Members should contact the office if they would like to be included in the ECWG.

**U.S; NAEGA-NGFA Letter to GIPSA on New Moisture Meter Technology** – NAEGA and NGFA submitted a joint letter to USDA’s Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) asking questions of the agency regarding the implementation of new moisture meter technology. The letter requests that GIPSA answer questions regarding how the new technology will be implemented, and recommends that because of the uncertainty regarding how the new technology transfer will be administered, the length of time it will take to do so, and the time and learning curve required to inform and educate stakeholders of the upcoming change, GIPSA delay implementation of new moisture meters until April 2013, at the earliest. Based on past experience, the letter also recommend that implementation of the new equipment transfer be done prior to the start of the crop marketing year; for example, April for winter wheat; July for spring wheat; and September for corn and soybeans. NAEGA & NGFA have requested an expedited response from GIPSA. The letter can be found on [NAEGA’s Grades & Inspections Committee](#) webpage and issue tracking will be set up on the [NAEGA Personal Pages](#) site.

## **RELATED NEWS:**

**APHIS Stakeholder Meeting Transcript Posted to Web** – USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has posted a written transcript as well as the recorded Webcast from their February 27, 2012 stakeholder meeting to their website. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Agency's budget, process improvement efforts, and modernization initiatives and give stakeholders the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on the Agency's critical services. The transcript and webcast record can be downloaded from [APHIS’s stakeholder webpage](#).

**Iran, OFAC issues Sanctions Update** – The Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) has issued a final rule effective March 20, 2012 that amends the Iranian Transactions Regulations (ITR) to redefine the term “entity owned or controlled by the government of Iran” to substantially conform to the definition in the amended Iranian Financial Sanctions Regulations. As revised, this term includes any corporation, partnership, association or other entity in which the government of Iran owns a 50% or greater interest or a controlling interest as well as any entity otherwise controlled by that government. OFAC states that it intends to issue more thorough amendments to the ITR to implement Executive Order 13599 of February 5, 2012, “Blocking Property of the Government of Iran and Iranian Financial Institutions”, at a later date. The final rule is available here: [http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2012-06606\\_PI.pdf](http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2012-06606_PI.pdf)

**U.S.-Mexico High-Level Regulatory Cooperation Council Work Plan Released** – The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released the United States-Mexico High-Level Regulatory Cooperation Council (HLRCC) Work Plan which identifies a number of areas of mutual interest between the two countries and outlines the regulatory reform activities to be carried out over a period of two years. U.S. President Barack Obama and Mexico President Felipe Calderón Hinojosa first announced the creation of the HLRCC on May 19, 2010 with a goal of enhancing the economic competitiveness and well-being of both countries through improved regulatory cooperation. The Work Plan will seek to:

- Develop common approaches to food safety in ways that will benefit consumers and the food industry on both sides of the border;
- Reduce burdens on U.S. and Mexican businesses, while maintaining the safety and reliability of products, by bringing the two countries together to develop compatible electronic certification programs for plants and plant products;
- Improve the safety of our citizens by ensuring that all trucks in each country are inspected to a consistently high standard, regardless of the vehicle's country of origin;
- Foster innovation while reducing risks to environmental and human health by ensuring that the United States and Mexico share information about each nation's respective regulatory approaches to nanomaterials at an early stage;
- Decrease costs and reduce the time required to implement electronic health record systems in each country, by increasing cooperation and sharing best practices on Electronic Health Record certification;
- Minimize risks in oil and gas exploration, production activities, and drilling, by developing a common approach to managing contingencies in the Gulf of Mexico that will ensure coordinated actions between the two countries.

The United States and Mexico plan to implement the Work Plan through bilateral regulatory-agency-led working groups which will be monitored by the HLRCC. Quarterly meetings will be held to discuss progress and resolve any outstanding challenges. The OMB announcement is available online at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2012/02/28/supporting-us-economic-growth-through-north-american-regulatory-cooperation>.

## **CALENDAR & WEBSITE**

### **Official Comments Calendar**

#### **April**

**9** – Comments due to U.S Customs and Border Patrol on the proposed extension without change of the following information collections: Country of Origin Marking Requirements for Containers or Holders ([Click here](#)) and CBP Form 300, Bonded Warehouse Proprietor's Submission ([Click here](#))

**27** - Comments due to USDA/APHIS on the Dow AgroScience Petition for nonregulated status of GMO corn DAS-40278-9, genetically engineered for resistance to broadleaf herbicides: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-12-27/pdf/2011-33009.pdf>

#### **May**

**7** – Comments due to USDA on the Proposed Rule to add Distiller's Dried Grains (DDGs) to the export sales reporting requirements: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/03/08/2012-5486/export-sales-reporting-requirements>

### **Activities Calendar**

#### **March**

**29-31** – Brighton, England – Dry Bulk Terminal Group Meetings. Jerry Cotter attending for NAEGA

#### **April**

**10** – New Orleans, LA - 4th Annual Port of New Orleans Critical Commodities Conference – Gary Martin attending and presenting

**16-17** – Winnipeg, Canada – Canada Grains Council 2012 Annual Meeting. Gary Martin attending and presenting.

### **May**

**1** – New Delhi, India – Assocom India’s 3<sup>rd</sup> National Grains Conference – NAEGA Invited to attend

**7-8** – Istanbul, Turkey – U.S. Industry Seminar on International Grain Trade Issues for the Iraq Ministry of Trade

**7-9** – Kansas City, Missouri – 2012 International Food Aid & Development Conference

**23** – Tokyo, Japan – Tentative NAEGA 100 year celebration in Tokyo, Japan.

### **June**

**6-10** – London, United Kingdom – 2012 International Grains Council Grains Conference: [www.igc.int](http://www.igc.int) and meeting of the International Grain Trade Coalition ([www.igtglobal.com](http://www.igtglobal.com))

**27-29** – Bogota, Colombia – 2012 US Wheat Associates Latin American Buyers Conference

### **October**

**1-5** – Hyderabad, India – COP/MOP 6 to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

**4-12** – Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom - 52nd European Commodities Exchange <http://www.ece-edinburgh2012.com/>

### **2013**

#### **March**

**TBD** - San Francisco, California – NAEGA Annual Meetings

**NAEGA, Issue Tracking** – NAEGA has updated the NAEGA Personal Pages website to include the new Issue Tracking system, which will improve the way NAEGA communicates to members regarding progress on issues.

NAEGA Issues & Decision Memos have been added to the site under the section currently titled “Events”. The events section will be retitled to “Current Issues”, and each Issue has its own page, containing background information on the issue and updates on current progress on the issue. The Issue Pages can be updated by Board, Committee and other persons who have been granted access to add information. New issues will be posted as NAEGA begins work on them. The issues will be sorted by the most recent updates, and the Personal Pages site can be searched by subject. All persons who have set up a Personal Page can access this information.

If you have not yet registered for the Personal Pages, or have forgotten your log in information, please contact Patrick Hayden at [phayden@naega.org](mailto:phayden@naega.org). He will set up your account or reset your

log in information and send you a temporary password. You can find a user's guide for the [Personal Pages here](#).

Thank you for your membership and work with NAEGA.  
To be removed from the NAEGA OUTREACH email list  
please send a message to [membersonly@naega.org](mailto:membersonly@naega.org) with the phrase  
"Unsubscribe from OUTREACH" in the subject line.

This copyrighted report is intended for the use of NAEGA membership only. The accuracy of the information reported and interpreted is not guaranteed. All contents are subject to correction and revision. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture NAEGA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or disability. NAEGA is an equal opportunity employer