



*“Working Together to Make Trade Work”*

## **OUTREACH November 26, 2012**

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

### **In this Issue:**

#### **Events open to Members**

- USSEC Regional Meetings – January 2013

#### **Action Reports**

- Canada, Canada Grain Symposium
- EU, Briefing on RED Update
- Germany, Proposal on Biotech Standards
- U.S., Agriculture Transportation Waterway Issues
- U.S., Press Release on BIO & ACTA Accord
- U.S., NGFA & NAEGA Submit Comments to DHS

#### **New Issues**

- FAO Releases Latest Food Outlook
- U.S. Discusses Trade Issues with ASEAN Leaders

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

- Upcoming events and notices for members

### **The following events are open to NAEGA member participation**

**USSEC Regional Meetings – January 2013** - NAEGA’s MAP committee is seeking volunteers who might accept the invitation of the U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC) to NAEGA for involvement in their buyer conferences and regional meetings in January 2012. During the regional meetings the USSEC works on project plans through 2014. Around their regional meetings the USSEC arranges for meetings and conferences with buyers of Soybeans and Soybean Products.

We are hoping to accept the invitation and send a NAEGA representative to:

1. Jan 6–9, 2013 USSEC North Asia Regional Meeting & Select Customer Meetings in Guangzhou, China
2. The Jan 11-12, 2013 USSEC Southeast Asia Regional Meeting & Select Customer Meetings in Jakarta, Indonesia

If you or a colleague is interested in representing NAEGA at one of the above, please let us know as soon as possible.

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

**[Click here to return to Index](#)**

## **Current reports on NAEGA actions**

**Canada, Canada Grain Symposium**– With the assistance of NAEGA Market Access Program (MAP) funding NAEGA President Gary Martin & Senior Advisor Kendell Keith attended and presented at the 2012 Canada Grain Industry Symposium, entitled “2012: The Dawn of a New Era in Canada’s Grain Industry”, sponsored by the Grain Growers of Canada (GGC) and the Canada Grains Council (CGC) in Ottawa, Canada. Gary presented on “Grain Industry Transformation - Near term International Game Changers”, and Kendell delivered a presentation entitled “Latest Developments in Global Supplies and Government Policies”. Both presentations have been posted to the [NAEGA MAP Committee Website](#) and under issue tracking for Symposium on the [NAEGA Personal Pages site](#). A trip report will be uploaded to both locations soon.

**EU, Briefing on RED Update** – In the November 5, 2012 edition of OUTREACH, NAEGA reported that the Soy Export Sustainability LLC (SES), a subsidiary of the U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC) had submitted an application to the Government of the Netherlands for national approval of a voluntary sustainability scheme to govern future shipments of U.S. soybeans to the Netherlands. The scheme was developed by U.S. industry and government as an alternative to the European Union’s Renewable Energy Directive (RED).

This week, NAEGA and other industry partners will meet with Stephan Raes, Economic Minister at the Netherlands Embassy in Washington, DC to discuss the status of RED implementation and its impact on U.S. soybean exports to EU Member States, including the Netherlands. NAEGA will report on the outcome of the meeting, and we have been tracking work on Sustainability and the RED on the [NAEGA Board of Directors Website](#) and the [NAEGA Personal Pages website](#). The application from SES to the Netherlands and related documents has been posted to those sites.

**Germany, Proposal on Biotech Standards** – In September 2012, the German government submitted a proposal to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) for the creation a new Technical Committee on Biotechnology. The purpose of the Technical Committee would be to seek internationally recognized and accepted terms and definitions, analytical and diagnostic methods, computing tools and technology for international comparability and integratability of data.

According to the proposal, the initial deliverables will include:

- ISO Standard Terminology, possibly as a multi-part series,

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- ISO Standards for validated analytical and diagnostic methods (proteomics, metabolomics, and pharmacogenomics); ISO Technical Specifications for non-validated methods,
- ISO Technical Specifications and/or Standards for computing tools, metrology, enzymology and sequencing data, and
- ISO Standards for disposable laboratory products.

The proposal does not acknowledge any work in agricultural biotech done by Codex and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

NAEGA is very concerned this work will lead to restrictions and frustration of trade in grains and other agricultural products that may contain or have been produced with modern biotechnology. For example sampling and testing regimes unique from those used to determine other attributes in grain.

In an October 25, 2012 meeting, the ISO voted to approve the German proposal and create the Technical Committee on Biotechnology, despite opposition from the U.S. While this is a setback, NAEGA is continuing to work with our industry partners to keep agricultural biotechnology standards out of the Technical Committee’s work. Later this week the International Trade Administration is hosting American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Senior Director for International Policy Steve Cornish to discuss new areas of work currently under review by ISO members. ANSI, as the United States representative to ISO, will take comments from interested U.S. stakeholders and there are plans to provide them with as much information as possible on the appropriate scope for the Technical Committee and what language, if included in the standards, would be damaging for agricultural biotech. Further work will continue to focus on educating key players in the ISO about the potential negative impact on agricultural biotech ahead of the next ISO Technical Management Board meeting in February 2013. We will continue tracking the issue of Biotech standards on the [NAEGA Biotech Committee Webpage](#) and on the [NAEGA Personal Pages site](#). The German proposal and responses from industry have been added to those sections.

**U.S., Agriculture Transportation Waterway Issues**– NAEGA is planning on attending a meeting to discuss major developments affecting the transport of agricultural commodities and crop inputs on the inland waterway system. The National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) will be hosting the meeting to discuss U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plans to begin scaling back water releases from Missouri River dams. If that occurs, the reduced water levels will restrict barge transportation south of St. Louis and Cairo, Ill., starting December 1.

The meeting will also discuss the revived interest, particularly in the Senate, for passage of a Water Resources Development Act or some other form of waterway legislation to provide funding for inland waterway lock construction and rehabilitation projects and harbor dredging.

The chairman of NGFA’s Waterborne Commerce Committee, Rick Calhoun, and the staff leadership of Waterways Council, Inc. will be taking part in the meeting. If you would like to attend, please contact the NAEGA office as soon as possible.

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**U.S., NAEGA-NGFA Press Release on BIO-ACTA Accord** – NAEGA & the National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) issued a joint press release concerning the successful implementation of the Generic Event Marketability and Access Agreement (GEMAA) portion of the Accord by Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) and American Seed Trade Association (ASTA). NGFA & NAEGA praised both organizations for their leadership in completing the GEMAA. Following its launch on October 31, 2012 five BIO and ASTA member companies and agriculture biotech providers - BASF Plant Science, Bayer Crop Science, Dow Agro Sciences, DuPont Pioneer and Monsanto Company - have all signed on as signatories. GEMAA is the first part of the Accord, the framework developed to address the transition of commercial biotechnology events as they go off patent.

NAEGA President Gary C. Martin & NGFA President Randy Gordon stated that they “have been following the progress of the discussions that have led to this part of the Accord, and believe it is an important step toward much-needed changes in how this important technology is used...The practices incorporated in GEMAA that provide for comprehensively obligating signatories to maintain and obtain export authorizations, and appropriately steward products that are coming off-patent, are significant and welcome progress.” The full press release is available on the [“News & Press Releases”](#) section of the NAEGA public website.

**U.S., Comments to DHS on Facility Security Officer Training** – NAEGA joined with the National Grain & Feed Association (NGFA) in submitting comments on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) proposal to develop and establish comprehensive training requirements for Facility Security Officers (FSOs), in coordination with the U.S. Department of Transportation’s (DOT) Maritime Administrator and in consultation with stakeholders.

Current law mandates that comprehensive FSO training requirements be developed that would lead to certification of FSO officers. NAEGA & NGFA believe that that the mandate does **not** require DHS or the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) to develop or implement a comprehensive model course that apparently is intended to apply across-the-board to all FSOs, regardless of the type of facility at which they operate. The comments state that this would undermine and complicate effective training by exposing FSO’s to additional, possibly irrelevant training that does not apply to their operations or work responsibilities. Extensive training on international codes, conventions and regulations would be irrelevant to most grain-handling facilities.

The comments also point out that current law requires that DHS “evaluate...existing port security training programs developed by the federal government...” NAEGA & NGFA find this provision to be extremely important, because it expresses Congress’s direction that the USCG recognize training that already occurs for FSOs serving at facilities covered by Alternative Security Programs (ASP), such as the one that exists between the Coast Guard and NAEGA, which also encompasses facilities of NGFA-member companies that wish to participate. The proposed training does not take ASP user’s into account.

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NAEGA & NGFA believe the combination of a single overarching FSO Model Training Course and the failure to consider differentiated training requirements for maritime facilities regulated under ASPs would result in a massive, inflexible, excessive and costly FSO training regime for which a demonstrated need does not exist. The comments urge DHS & DOT to revamp their approach to:

- Transform any future draft FSO model course into individual modules that are tailored and targeted specifically to the type of facility and their unique facility-security needs.
- Recognize training already developed and being provided or FSOs at facilities operating under ASPs with the Coast Guard, such as grain-handling and grain export facilities.
- Consider grandfathering FSOs who have demonstrated proficiency in duties relevant to their responsibilities and facility operations.

The full comments have been posted to the [“Public Comments & Policy”](#) section of the NAEGA public website.

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

## **2013**

### **January**

**9** – Comments due to BIS on proposed 180-day Deadline to Complete Voluntary Self-Disclosures: [http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2012-27206\\_PI.pdf](http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2012-27206_PI.pdf)

### **February**

**15** – Comments to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) on draft directives D-12-05 & D-12-05: [http://www.naega.org/images/pdf/CFIA\\_Draft\\_D-12-05.pdf](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.*

[Click here to return to Index](#)

## **New Issues & Opportunities for NAEGA Consideration**

**FAO Releases Latest Food Outlook** – The U.N. Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) has released the latest FAO Food Outlook, which finds that, on average, global food prices have been 8 percent lower during 2012 than they were in 2011. Global food import bills are forecast at \$1.14 trillion, which is 10 percent lower than the record imports seen in 2011.

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The global cereal supply and demand balance is expected to tighten in 2012/2013; this decline will be driven mainly by reductions in wheat and maize production. World cereals production is expected to drop by 2.7 percent from 2011's record levels. Reductions in wheat production will continue to keep wheat prices above 2011 levels, and stocks are expected to be drawn down sharply. World rice production, on the other hand, is expected to surpass 2011 levels. The FAO report is [available through this link](#).

**U.S. Discusses Trade Issues with ASEAN Leaders** – U.S. President Barack Obama met with the leaders of the 10 member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) during his tour of Asia as part of ongoing efforts to deepen economic, diplomatic and security relations. The leaders welcomed the launch of the U.S.-ASEAN Expanded Economic Engagement (E3), a new framework for economic cooperation designed to expand trade and investment ties between the U.S. and ASEAN. According to a White House fact sheet, E3 identifies specific cooperative activities to facilitate U.S.-ASEAN trade and investment, increase efficiency and competitiveness of trade flows and supply chains throughout ASEAN, and build greater awareness of the commercial opportunities that the growing U.S.-ASEAN economic relationship presents. The fact sheet adds that this effort will lay the groundwork for ASEAN countries to prepare to join high-standard trade agreements such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement currently under negotiation.

Our work to establish a [Rapid Response Mechanism](#) (RRM) may fit nicely into E3 intentions to negotiate a U.S.-ASEAN trade facilitation agreement which is intentioned to provide for simplified customs procedures and increased transparency of customs administration;

The White House indicates that E3, which will be reinforced by trade facilitation capacity-building assistance provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development, will help ASEAN countries integrate their markets further as they seek to build an ASEAN economic community by 2015.

*If you would like more information or wish to provide comments on any of these news topics monitored by NAEGA, please contact us.*

[Click here to return to Index](#)

## **NAEGA Calendar & Member Notices**

### **November**

**27-28** – Baltimore, Maryland – 2012 USAEDC Annual Workshop – NAEGA members invited to attend: <http://usaedc.org/events.cfm>

**28** – Washington, DC – Meeting with Dutch Economic Minister Stephan Raes to discuss the U.S. soybean sustainability scheme

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**28** – Washington, DC – Meeting on Agricultural Transportation Waterway Issues – NAEGA Offices

### **December**

**4** – Washington, DC – Public Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Commercial Operations (COAC) of U.S. Customs and Border Protection

**6** – London, United Kingdom – IGC "Roundtable Discussion the trade issues caused by GMO/LLP issues"

**9-11** – Omaha, Nebraska – NGFA 2012 Country Elevator Conference & Trade Show

**12-18** – Dubai, UAE – 2012 USSEC Middle East Regional Meeting & Select Customer Meetings

### **2013**

#### **January**

**6-9** – Guangzhou, China – USSEC North Asia Regional Meeting & Select Customer Meetings

**11-12** – Jakarta, Indonesia - 2013 USSEC Southeast Asia Regional Meeting & Select Customer Meetings

#### **February**

**20** – Washington, DC – U.S. Coast Guard ASP User’s Meeting – Hosted by NAEGA at the NAEGA offices

#### **March**

**17-19** – San Francisco, California – NGFA Annual Convention

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

#### **November**

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

### **Member Notices**

**The New NAEGA.org** – NAEGA’s public website at [www.NAEGA.org](http://www.NAEGA.org) has been redesigned and launched as of June 18, 2012. The new NAEGA.org features a more user-friendly interface, a better search engine, and integration with the NAEGA Personal Pages website. The new site also features social media tools for sharing public NAEGA actions on a wider scale. NAEGA accounts have been established at LinkedIn and Twitter, and stories on the public site can be shared on Google Plus. NAEGA members and staff should take the opportunity to enhance their experience with a NAEGA Members Personal Page. NAEGA Director of Operations Patrick Hayden is will assist you to setup and maintain your NAEGA Personal Page.

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