

OUTREACH January 7, 2013

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

In this Issue:

Member participation requested:

- Mark Your Calendars for the NAEGA Annual Meeting!
- Serving and working with you in 2013 – Thank you for your investment in NAEGA!
- Inter-market Survey of Official Inspection
- Rapid Response Mechanism and SPS TBT Enforcement - NAEGA policy papers posted for your consideration and use.

Action Reports

- U.S., Port Labor Negotiations
- U.S., TPP Food and Agriculture Task Force

New Issues

- Proposed U.S., Food Safety Modernization Act Rules Published
- U.S. FSIS Public Meeting on Food Import and Export Issues
- U.S. CRS Report Argues U.S. May Need to Rethink Trade Policy

NAEGA Calendar and Member Notices

- Upcoming events and notices for members

NAEGA member participation requested:

Mark Your Calendars! NAEGA 2013 Annual Meeting Date & Location Set!

We look forward to seeing you in San Francisco in March! The 2013 NAEGA Annual Meeting will take place on Monday, March 18, 2013 at the [Westin St. Francis Hotel](#) in San Francisco, California. NAEGA meetings will coincide with the March 17-19 2013 National Grain & Feed Association (NGFA) Convention. A special one-day NAEGA registration for the NGFA meetings and banquet on March 19 will be available, and rooms at the Westin St. Francis can be booked at the NGFA rate of \$229/night [through this link](#). A formal notice of the NAEGA meetings, including agendas and registration information will be mailed this week.

Looking forward to **Serving and working with you in 2013. Thank you for renewing your investment in NAEGA!** – Your membership year starts anew this month. Your Association needs your company's many contributions to the ongoing success of NAEGA. Invoices for

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"Working Together to Make Trade Work"

NAEGA's 2013 Membership Dues are being mailed this week and payment is due by February 1. Prompt payment is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact the NAEGA office.

Inter-market Survey of Official Inspection – NAEGA members are encouraged to participate in an Inter-Market Monitoring Survey of Official Inspections developed by NAEGA in cooperation with the USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers & Stockyards Administration (GIPSA). The goal of the survey is to test U.S. sampling methods for both the import and export of grains & oilseeds to provide a quicker response time to any grading differences between the origin and export system. A description of the Survey method is [available through this link](#). NAEGA launched the survey earlier in 2012, though delays in starting the project prevented the collection of enough data to be useful at that time.

In August, NAEGA Senior Advisor Arvid Hawk communicated to the Grades & Inspections Committee that they should have their companies begin work on the project as soon as possible. So far, GIPSA reports that they have only received a handful of samples, none complete, from just two participants.

For the project to be successful, greater participation and a large data sample is needed. NAEGA members who have already agreed to participate in the project are asked to check with their companies to check on the status of the project. NAEGA members who are not already participating are encouraged to take part. Please contact Arvid Hawk at ahawk@naega.org if you would like to take part of if you have an update on your company's participation status.

Rapid Response Mechanism and SPS TBT Enforcement - NAEGA UPDATED policy papers posted for your consideration and use – NAEGA has recently updated policy papers to improve the predictability and efficiency of trade:

1. A briefing paper urging the inclusion of a Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) in trade agreements. RRM would provide a commercially-meaningful method by which to resolve trade disputes related to plant quarantine and other risk management measures deployed by importing governments. The paper is [available through this link](#).
2. Second is a comprehensive set of recommendations for Sanitary & Phytosanitary (SPS) measures and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) enforcement for inclusion in the Trans Pacific Partnership. The paper is [available through this link](#).

Your review and assistance in communicating these policies is requested.

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

U.S., Port Labor Negotiations – Continuing our efforts to help avoid a strike at East Coast and Gulf Coast ports, NAEGA has signed onto a letter from over 50 industry associations to the leadership of the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) and the U.S. Maritime Alliance, LTD (USMX), praising them for reaching a strike-averting agreement in principle on key contract issues and approving a temporary contract extension in late December 2012. Additionally, the letter strongly urges both parties to continue efforts to reach a new long-term contract before the most recent extension expires on February 6, 2013.

The letter notes that failure to reach an agreement before that date would result in a coast wide shutdown will have serious economy-wide impacts, as just the threat of a shutdown in December created a strong level of uncertainty in the current economic climate, forcing businesses to implement costly contingency plans when the potential shutdown loomed. A final agreement between ILA & USMX will provide a level of certainty for businesses that has been absent for the past months

The letter urges both parties continue their negotiations and reach a long-term accord that will “ensure...continued success and competitiveness” in the future. The full text of the letter will be posted to the NAEGA Public website under [Public Comments & Policy Statements](#).

U.S., TPP Food and Agriculture Task Force – NAEGA will work with the [Emergency Committee for American Trade \(ECAT\)](#), to create and lead a Food and Agriculture Task Force of the ECAT. The New ECAT Task Force will focus on the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) and support our ongoing efforts towards a comprehensive TPP agreement which includes a [Rapid Response Mechanism](#) and Sanitary & Phytosanitary measures and [Technical Barriers to Trade enforcement](#). NAEGA has been tracking efforts on the TPP at the [NAEGA Grades & Inspections Committee Website](#) and the [Personal Pages site](#).

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

2013

January

19 – Comments due to Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada on the proposed Domestic Policy and Implementation Framework on the Management of Low-Level Presence of Genetically Modified Crops in Imports:

<http://www4.agr.gc.ca/AAFC-AAC/display-afficher.do?id=1347469689149&lang=eng>

28 – Comments due to BIS on Proposed Changes to Clarify Commerce Control list:

http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2012-28363_PI.pdf

February

TBD – 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

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May

16 – Comments due to FDA on the proposed rule for hazard analysis and preventive controls for human food: http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2013-00125_PI.pdf

16 – Comments due to FDA on the proposed rule for hazard analysis and preventive controls for produce: http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2013-00123_PI.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

GIPSA to Publish New User Fees & Final Rule on Container Standards – USDA’s Grain Inspection, Packers & Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) will soon publish a new rule for increased user fees and the final rule for the container standard.

1. The proposed user fee rule will change official inspection and weighing service fees charged under the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA), including national and local tonnage rates, fees charged in Canada, and remaining hourly and unit fees to cover as much as practicable, the costs of providing service. The proposed rule, which will include the details on the new fees, is expected to be published later this month, and will be available [through this link](#).
2. The final rule on Container Standards amends the regulations issued under the USGSA pertaining to grain exported in large reusable containers typically loaded onto export ships. GIPSA will add new definitions of composite and average grades, limit to 20 the number of such containers that could be averaged or combined to form a single lot to, restrict the inspection and weighing of such container lots to the official service provider's area of responsibility, specify a 60-day retention period for file samples representing such container lots, and make consistent the weighing certification procedures for container lots with those for inspection certification procedures. The original rule, first proposed in July, 2011 [is available here](#). The final rule will be [published on this page](#) in the coming month.

U.S. Food Safety Modernization Act – The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA), has posted new proposed rules for hazard analysis and preventive controls for human food and for produce, designed to implement those sections of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). The 680-page proposed rule for hazard analysis and preventive controls for human food is available online [through this link](#), and the 580-page proposed rule for produce is [available here](#). Due to the length of each set of rules, the comment period for each is 120 days, with comments due to the FDA on May 16, 2013.

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It is expected that FDA's proposed rules for hazard analysis and preventive controls for animal feed, feed ingredients and pet food will be published within the next 30 days. The feed/pet food proposed rules will closely mirror the human food proposed rules and the executive summary of the human food proposed rules provides a summary of the general principles and provisions that will apply to the animal feed/pet food rules. The current goods manufacturing practices specified in the human food proposed rules will be similar to those contained in the proposed rules for animal feed and pet food. NAEGA will continue work with the National Grain and Feed Association and plans to continue tracking issues surrounding the FSMA on the [NAEGA Grades & Inspections Committee Website](#) and the [Personal Pages site](#).

FSIS Public Meeting on Food Import and Export Issues - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) will hold a public meeting January 24, 2013 in Washington, D.C., to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions that will be discussed at the 20th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS), to be held in Thailand February 18-22, 2013. The following items on the agenda for the CCFICS session will be discussed during the public meeting.

- Principles and guidelines for national food control systems
- Burden of multiple questionnaires directed at exporting countries
- Monitoring regulatory performance of national food control systems
- Need for further guidance on food safety emergencies and the analysis of proposed changes to the CCFICS texts on emergencies and rejections to address feed

Please let us know if NAEGA should take action in this regard. Details on how to attend the meeting in person or call in via conference call are available online [through this link](#).

Report Argues U.S. May Need to Rethink Trade Policy – The Congressional Research Service (CRS) has released a new report arguing that U.S. trade policy may have to change as developing countries are becoming major players in the global economy. Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Russia and Turkey are listed as rising economic powers and the report finds that these countries have greater involvement in World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations and dispute settlement cases, have protested U.S. economic and trade policies with greater frequency, and are more able and willing to deflect or reject U.S. trade and market access demands.

The report states that market access for U.S. goods and services in these countries is increasingly important but at the same time is becoming more difficult to achieve. U.S. exports to these and other developing countries account for a growing source of U.S. economic growth, and that trend will need to continue if the U.S. is to maximize its export potential and boost its living standards. The CRS report finds that trade and investment barriers remain considerably higher in the countries and efforts to reduce those barriers have stalled. Moreover, the United States' ability to persuade these countries to embrace the principles of free and fair trade is constrained by growing differences over the role of the state in economic activity.

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The report concludes that U.S. trade policymakers may need considerable resources, incentives, flexibility and leverage as they try to tie countries with very different state-led economic models into the more market-oriented WTO system. For example, progress on trade liberalization within the WTO may require a reexamination of principles that have guided multilateral trade negotiations in the past such as unconditional most-favored-nation and special and differential treatment. Similarly, the U.S. may need to drop some of its own trade barriers and deviate from its standard free trade agreement template if it wishes to further open these markets. More broadly, reinvigorating its own economy could help the U.S. reestablish the appeal of an economic model based on free markets and democracy. The full report [is available here](#).

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

January

8 - Food and Agriculture Task Force under the TPP Coalition Conference Call – Contact NAEGA office for Call information

21 – NAEGA office closed for the U.S. Presidential Inauguration

24 – St. Cloud, Minnesota – Minnesota Grain and Feed Association Annual Meeting – Gary Martin Invited to attend & present

28 – Washington, DC – U.S. Wheat Associates/National Association of Wheat Growers Board Meeting - Gary Martin Invited to present

30 - Washington, DC - ASA Soybean Biotechnology Working Group - Gary Martin Invited to attend & present

February

12-13 – Washington, DC – International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) Face to Face Meetings and Meeting with Global Alliant for Ag Biotech Trade (GAABT) – NAEGA Offices

20 – Washington, DC – U.S. Coast Guard ASP User's Meeting – Hosted by NAEGA & NGFA at our offices

21-22 – Arlington, VA – USDA 2013 Agricultural Outlook Forum

March

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

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18- 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

Member Notices

The New NAEGA.org – NAEGA's public website at 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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