



*“Working Together to Make Trade Work”*

## **OUTREACH January 22, 2013**

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

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### **NAEGA member participation requested:**

#### **Register Now for the NAEGA 2013 Annual Meeting!**

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, and there will be a joint NGFA-NAEGA Grades Committee Meeting from 1pm-3pm on Sunday, March 17. You can register for the NAEGA meetings [through this link](#).

A special one-day NAEGA registration rate of \$275 is available for the NGFA meetings and banquet on March 19, and a [registration form for NGFA’s convention is available here](#). 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 registration information, had been sent to all NAEGA Member Representatives, and all of the above information has been posted to the

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[NAEGA Member’s Only Page](#). Please let us know your plans for the meetings as soon as you can!

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 NAEGA’s 2013 Membership Dues have been mailed and payment is due by February 1. Prompt payment is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact the NAEGA office.

**Confidentiality of FGIS collected information** – USDA’s Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) asked for NAEGA comment on what information FGIS collects on export grain shipments as well as interior and outbound non-export shipments should be considered to be confidential business information (CBI)

FGIS collects a wide variety of data from export grain shipments, such as vessel name, type of carrier, destination, field office, port area, FGIS region, city and state, among others. Data is collected weekly from Friday to Thursday, and published following Monday. FGIS provided an example list of the data in [this letter requesting NAEGA input](#). Your thoughts on how NAEGA should respond are requested.

**IGTC Meeting in February in Washington, DC** – NAEGA members are invited to participate in the February 12,13 & 14, 2013 meetings of the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC). IGTC is a coalition of national and international non-profit trade associations and councils. NAEGA and the National Grain & Feed Association are hosting meetings of the IGTC at our offices in Washington, DC. If you are interested in attending, please contact the NAEGA office for more information. An agenda for the meetings will be posted to the [NAEGA Members Only website](#) soon. NAEGA member participation is welcome!

**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 the survey was open for samples. 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 and larger data sample is needed. NAEGA members who have already agreed to participate in the project are asked 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](mailto:ahawk@naega.org) with comments or questions

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***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**

**Canada, Proposed LLP Policy** – NAEGA and the National Grain and Feed Association responded to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada on Canada’s proposed domestic policy implementation framework for the low-level presence (LLP) of genetically modified crops in imports. Submitted in response to World Trade Organization Notification G/SPS/N/CAN/640, the letter is on the NAEGA Public Website: [“Public Comments & Policy Statements”](#).

As you will read, our comments draw extensively from the work of the Biotechnology Committee and NAEGA policy. Ultimately we encourage a process-based authorization for LLP of certain GM novel traits in designated imported agricultural products intended for use in food, feed and further processing. This LLP authorization is tied to the ultimate full authorization. It provides the technology owner with an option to manage its product’s exposure in the commercial grain supply until such time as full authorization is granted or a determination of no adverse impacts is made. The policy we suggest addresses, in a globally consistent and practical manner, the lack of synchronization of regulatory approvals. It is consistent with LLP as it has been defined by the International Statement on LLP and related International Grain Trade Coalition recommendations.

We do not address in detail the AAFC proposed establishment of “action” and “tolerance” levels for unapproved (illegal) presence of novel traits in imported shipments of grain and oilseeds. While we may support such an approach for management of adventitious presence, we encourage policy makers and stakeholders around the world place an urgency and priority on synchronization of approvals.

**World, Dow Announces New Biotech Launch** - Dow AgroSciences has announced its intention to further its launch activities with the Dow “Enlist” system, which contains a new 2-4-D herbicide resistance trait for corn. NAEGA is concerned with the biotech event’s commercialization while lacking of approval in many export markets.

The company says it continues to execute on its launch strategy as it awaits final regulatory approvals for the Enlist system. While Dow AgroSciences now expects the first sale of Enlist later in 2013 for planting in the 2014 crop year, a broad introduction of regional and local field experience plots and on-farm technical plots have been planned for the months ahead.

NAEGA will seek to better understand and communicate to stakeholders what sort of corporate responsibility Dow is accepting with respect to its: “broad introduction of regional and local field

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experience plots and on-farm technical plots”. Details on Dow’s plans for Enlist [are available here](#). We will track our efforts on the [NAEGA Biotech Committee Webpage](#) and the [NAEGA Personal Pages](#) site.

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

## **2013**

### **January**

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

[http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2012-28363\\_PL.pdf](http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2012-28363_PL.pdf)

### **February**

**13** – Comments Due to GIPSA on Proposed Rule increasing Export User Fees:

[http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2013-00455\\_PL.pdf](http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2013-00455_PL.pdf)

**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](http://www.naega.org/images/pdf/CFIA_Draft_D-12-05.pdf)

### **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\\_PL.pdf](http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2013-00125_PL.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\\_PL.pdf](http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2013-00123_PL.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.*

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

**CBP Warns of Refusal of Food from Unregistered Foreign Food Facilities** - U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has issued a message warning importers to ensure that the foreign food facilities from which they import food into the U.S. are registered with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The 2002 Bioterrorism Act requires all domestic and foreign facilities that manufacture, process, pack or hold food, beverages, food ingredients, pet foods or dietary supplements for consumption in the United States to register as a food facility with the FDA. The initial renewal deadline was December 31, 2012, but the FDA extended the deadline through January 31, 2013. Facilities are encouraged to renew their registrations as early as possible. The FDA may suspend the

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registration number of any facility that fails to comply, resulting in a prohibition on the importation, distribution or sale of food from the suspended facility. CBP adds that after January 31, if a foreign food facility fails to renew its registration, food from that facility that is being imported or offered for import into the U.S. could be held at the port or refused upon arrival into the U.S.

The FDA is therefore encouraging import filers who file prior notices for food shipments to contact clients with high-volume food shipments, inquire about the registration renewal status of foreign manufacturing facilities associated with their shipments, and confirm any new registration numbers as soon as possible to avoid delays or refusals once the January 31 deadline passes.

**Report on Improving Transportation Infrastructure to Avoid Trade Losses – The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) has released its 2013 “Failure to Act” report asserting that improving the condition of U.S. ports, roads, waterways, bridges and other infrastructure is “critical” to avoid trade losses. The report summarizes the ASCE’s previous findings and examines the cumulative effect of failure to adequately invest in surface transportation, airports, inland waterways and marine ports, electricity, and water/wastewater.**

ASCE asserts that current investment needs across key infrastructure sectors total \$2.75 trillion while planned expenditures are about \$1.66 trillion, leaving a gap of \$1.1 trillion. If this gap is not addressed, the report warns, the U.S. economy is expected to lose almost \$1 trillion in business sales, and a potential loss of 3.5 million jobs. ASCE claims that if current trends are not reversed, the cumulative cost to the U.S. economy from 2012 to 2020 will be more than \$3.1 trillion in gross domestic product and \$1.1 trillion in total trade, including \$484 billion in exports. Sectors likely to be most negatively affected by degrading infrastructure in terms of value of exports in both 2020 and 2040 are finance and insurance (\$9 billion loss in 2020/\$50 billion loss in 2040), wholesale trade (\$7 billion/\$35 billion), aerospace (\$6 billion/\$47 billion), agriculture, forestry and fisheries (\$5 billion/\$18 billion), and air transport (\$4 billion/\$31 billion).

The report emphasizing that the U.S. economy relies on low transportation costs and the reliable delivery of clean water and electricity to businesses and households to offset higher wage levels and costs of production when compared with many competitors. However, business costs and therefore prices will increase if surface transportation systems are not improved, ports and inland waterways become outdated or congested, and water, wastewater and electricity infrastructure systems deteriorate or fail to keep up with changing demand. Greater costs to transport the wide array of imported goods that supply U.S. domestic manufacturers and rising costs for exports will affect the nation’s ability to compete in global markets for goods produced in the U.S., while the irregular delivery of water and wastewater services and electricity will make production processes more expensive and divert household disposable income to these basic necessities. 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.***

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## **NAEGA Calendar & Member Notices**

### **January**

**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**

**12-14** – Washington, DC – International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) Face to Face Meetings and Meeting with Global Alliance 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

**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](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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