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## **OUTREACH February 4, 2013**

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

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

#### **Please 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's meetings will begin at 12pm with a Member's Luncheon, and USDA Undersecretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services Darci Vetter has been invited to speak. The schedule of events and meeting agendas are available on the [NAEGA Meeting website](#). Please let us know if you are attending by registering for the meetings [through this link](#).

The 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.

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

**2013 Membership Dues** – Thank you for renewing your investment in NAEGA! 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 now due. If you have not already paid your dues, please submit payment as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact the NAEGA office.

**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 meeting [is available here](#), and more details will be posted to the [NAEGA Members Only website](#) soon. NAEGA member participation is welcome!

**Input Requested on Alternative Security Program Implementation** – On February 20, 2013, NAEGA & the National Grain & Feed Association (NGFA) will host the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Alternative Security Program (ASP) User’s Meeting at our Washington, DC offices. NAEGA Senior Advisor Jerry Cotter will be representing NAEGA’s ASP users at the meeting. NAEGA members who use the NAEGA-NGFA ASP are invited to provide feedback about your experience in working with the USCG in implementing the ASP as well as any recommendations on how USCG could improve their communication with users. Please contact either Jerry ([jcotter@naega.org](mailto:jcotter@naega.org)) or Patrick Hayden ([phayden@naega.org](mailto:phayden@naega.org)) by February 19, 2013 to comment.

*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**

**World, International Working Group of the Biotech Value Chain MOU Report** – The International Working Group (IWG) of the Biotech Value Chain Memorandum of Understanding, which is co-chaired by NAEGA, (MOU) this week presented a report to the MOU Steering Committee (SC). The IWG is charged with assessing international risks and

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opportunities impacting the marketability of U.S. corn and soy bean products derived through modern biotechnology. by the SC during a meeting in December 2012. The members of the MOU believe the U.S. corn and soybean value chain needs common strategies and enhanced coordination to 1) improve market access for U.S. corn and soybeans, and 2) provide growers access to the latest biotech products.

Next steps in the MOU effort include completion of an implementation plan for the IWG recommendations and a discussion of major recommendations of the IWG and its counterpart Domestic Working Group via a webinar on Feb. 19. NAEGA’s Biotech Committee and member representatives will be invited to participate in the webinar. An industry wide summit is also anticipated sometime soon after the webinar

**World, TPP Safe Harbor Proposal** – NAEGA has signed onto a letter from a group of agriculture and foods industry partners to writing U.S. President Barack Obama expressing concerns regarding the draft “Safe Harbor Proposal,” which would introduce language in the “general exceptions” chapter of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement that would allow “health authorities to adopt regulations, even if those regulations otherwise would be inconsistent with the trade agreement’s rules. There is concern that the proposal would create a new and troubling precedent undermining existing trade disciplines.

The proposed clause would not require that a regulation be “necessary” to achieve a legitimate health policy objective in order to be shielded by the safe harbor. Based on nothing more than a subjective belief that a regulation might achieve the desired health objective, a country could take action in breach of the ordinary trade agreement obligations, potentially doing great harm to producers and exporters in the United States, opening up U.S. farmers and agricultural processors to a narrow, parochial set of regulatory interests in overseas markets.

The letter uses two recent examples to illustrate the harm that would result from the precedent that would be set by the proposed TPP safe harbor concept, where foreign regulations that were inconsistent with applicable trade rules but whose sponsors sought to justify them on dubious, non-science-based, health-related grounds. By abandoning the condition that regulations be “necessary” to achieve a legitimate health-related objective, trade agreement exceptions like the one now under consideration likely would create a justification for harmful measures.

The letter urges the administration not to proceed with the “safe harbor proposal” and to instead, focus on opening markets and ensuring fair treatment for U.S. agricultural and processed food exports. The full text of the letter is available on the NAEAG Public Webpage under [Public Comments & Policy Statements](#).

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

**2013  
February**

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**13** – Comments Due to GIPSA on Proposed Rule increasing Export User Fees: [http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2013-00455\\_PI.pdf](http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2013-00455_PI.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\\_PI.pdf](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](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.*

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

**Annual Export Strategy Reviews Progress & Future Efforts** – The U.S. Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee (TPCC) released recently the 2012 National Export Strategy (NES), which reviews progress made to date toward President Barack Obama’s goal of doubling U.S. exports by the end of 2014 and discusses additional efforts that will be made toward that goal in 2013.

The report notes that U.S. goods and services exports reached a record \$2.1 trillion in 2011, a 33% increase from 2009, and were up an additional \$76.5 billion through September 2012. Also in 2011 the U.S. ran record trade surpluses in services (\$178.5 billion) and agriculture (\$37.2 billion). A record 293,000 U.S. companies exported goods and services in 2010, up 6% from 2009, including an all-time high of 287,000 small and medium-sized enterprises.

The report highlights the following achievements in implementing the more than 70 recommendations for boosting U.S. exports that were made in the initial NES in June 2011.

- The Department of Commerce has collaborated with the Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program on its effort to help regional civic, business and political leaders create and implement customized metropolitan export plans. These localized plans apply market intelligence to develop better, targeted and integrated export-related services and strategies to help regions better connect their firms to global customers, as outlined by their individualized export goals. Pilot plans have been completed and made

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available online in Los Angeles, Portland, Ore., Minneapolis and Syracuse, NY. As a next step,

- The U.S. Trade and Development Agency launched “Making Global Local,” an initiative designed to build strategic partnerships between USTDA and local business organizations. Partner organizations include World Trade Centers, local non-profit economic development organizations, state or municipal governmental entities, and others.
- The Department of Transportation has provided credit assistance for inland port facilities in Joliet, Ill., and Kansas City, Mo to expand the availability of containers used for export. These ports allow double-stack container trains to move marine containers directly from West Coast ports to the Midwest, where they are unloaded into trucks for final delivery. The inland ports then have a ready supply of empty containers that can be filled with grain and manufactured goods for export.
- The Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Marketing Service has begun publishing a weekly report that provides data on the availability of ocean shipping containers at 18 intermodal locations around the U.S. Data provided in this report indicate that the worldwide supply of containers grew by 7.0% in 2010 and 8.5% in 2011.
- In 2011 the International Trade Administration initiated 246 compliance and market access cases (up 12% from 2010) and successfully resolved 91 (an 11% increase). The USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service reviewed 285 market access measures in 52 countries and preserved \$3.9 billion worth of market access for U.S. companies, a 70% jump from the previous year.

Looking ahead to 2013, the Obama administration has structured its fiscal year 2013 budget request to be able to allocate resources to priority markets and sectors with the greatest export potential for U.S. companies.

Other initiatives for 2013 include the following.

- Increasing Export-Import Bank activity in nine priority countries with the greatest potential for increasing exports: Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Nigeria, South Africa, Turkey, India, Indonesia and Vietnam;
- Continuing Ex-Im Bank focus on the following industries with high potential for U.S. export growth: agribusiness, aircraft and avionics, construction, medical technologies, mining, oil and gas, and power generation, including renewable energy;
- Strengthening trade policy engagement with major established partners including border management and regulatory harmonization with Canada and Mexico, the U.S.-Japan Economic Harmonization Initiative and free trade agreement with the European Union;
- Deepening engagement with major emerging markets such as China, India & Brazil with a focus on biotechnology, intellectual property rights, investment, indigenous innovation and agriculture.

The full report is available online [through this link](#).

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**USDA/FAS Announces Overseas Postings for 2013** – USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) has announced new overseas postings for FAS Foreign Service officers. The new assignments will begin in the summer of 2013. FAS personnel in foreign markets are often key to the planning and implementation of projects that are funded in part by NAEGA’s Market Access Program (MAP) allocation. A list of the new assignments [is available here](#). A full listing of FAS’s overseas offices and personnel is available [on the FAS website](#).

**USDA/APHIS Announces Expanded Stakeholder Registry** – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has announcing the expansion of its Web-based stakeholder registry, [GovDelivery](#), enabling subscribers to receive news and information about every APHIS program area. The registry enables stakeholders to proactively sign up to receive information about APHIS activities tailored to their specific interests. Stakeholders simply select those topics they want to hear more about, and APHIS will share information and timely updates.

Previously, the Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) and Veterinary Services (VS) were the only APHIS programs using the [GovDelivery](#) registry service. In addition to PPQ and VS, stakeholders can now sign up to receive updates related to the Agency’s Animal Care, Biotechnology Regulatory Services, International Services, and Wildlife Services programs. In addition to registering for APHIS topics, stakeholders will have the opportunity to sign up for updates from the many USDA Agencies, such as the Farm Service Agency, Food Safety and Inspection Service, and Natural Resources Conservation Service, already using the same registry platform.

The Web-based stakeholder registry is free to use. Stakeholders can choose to receive APHIS updates via email or text message and determine how often they would like to receive information from the Agency. Stakeholders who are already registered but interested in updating their profile, can do so by going to the [GovDelivery](#) site and entering their email address or wireless number. New stakeholders can [sign up through this link](#).

**USDA/APHIS Announces Completion of PPQ Restructuring** –USDA’s Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announces that it has completed the organizational restructuring of its Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) service that they announced in October of 2012. The PPQ service was reformed in an effort to “create a simpler organization that will be more adaptable and flexible”, reducing eight operational units to three core functional areas: Policy Management (PM), Field Operations (FO), and Science and Technology (S&T).

1. Plant Health Programs and Emergency and Domestic Programs have consolidated into a single PM unit called Plant Health Programs. Policy Management will create a strategic regulatory and policy framework and will support operations. Policy Management also includes units providing support functions such as management of IT projects, resource management, and training.
2. Field Operations for the Eastern and Western Regions have combined to form a single unit, while retaining hubs in Raleigh, North Carolina and Fort Collins, Colorado.

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3. S&T includes the Center for Plant Health Science and Technology and the National Clean Plant Network. S&T will provide the scientific and technical foundation to ensure practical policies, programs, and operational approaches, and will coordinate foreign and domestic issues of scientific concern.

Details on the new structure are [available through this link on](#) the APHIS website.

**USDA Reports 2012 Efforts to Remove Foreign Trade Barriers Saved \$4 Billion**– U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced that USDA efforts to resolve export issues related to foreign trade barriers in 2012 freed up an estimated \$4 billion in U.S. agricultural and forestry exports. These efforts include opening new markets, securing the release of U.S. shipments detained at foreign ports, and ensuring the safe movement of agricultural products in a manner consistent with science and international standards.

According to a USDA, in 2012 the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) successfully negotiated and resolved 150 issues involving U.S. agricultural exports. Examples include:

- Spearheading a six-month pilot program with China's animal and plant health authority that established the resumption of log exports;
- Supporting the shipment of U.S. cattle to new markets by engaging foreign counterparts in preparation for exports and approving seven temporary export inspection facilities to supplement the agency's permanent export facilities;
- Securing the release of 324 shipments of U.S. agricultural products detained at foreign ports.

USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) reported similar successes, including:

- Negotiating expanded access for U.S. beef to the United Arab Emirates and El Salvador;
- Engaging with China on a memorandum of understanding that prevented disruptions to over \$12 billion in U.S. exports of soybeans;
- Leading negotiations with Indonesia to exempt countries with food safety recognition, including the U.S., from new restrictions on a variety of imported fruit and vegetables;
- Helping to negotiate the organic equivalence arrangement with the European Union.

The full report presented by Secretary Vilsack is available on line [through this link](#).

**CBP Highlights Trade Transformation Initiatives for 2013** – U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has released an outline of their trade initiatives for 2013, as well as the actions they have taken regarding trade during 2012.

CBP goals for 2013 include:

- Establish six additional Centers for Excellence and Expertise (CEEs)
- Launch a pilot test of the Importer Self-Assessment Pre-Certification program

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- Expand the Cargo Release/Simplified Entry program to additional entry types and requirements, as well as to expand the pilot to ocean shipments
- Finalize the Role of the Broker regulatory revision project

2012 highlights include:

- The opening of two CEEs
- The expansion of the Simplified Entry Pilot for air shipments
- The introduction of the Role of the Broker initiative

The full Trade Transformation Initiatives document is available online at the [CBP website](#).

*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

### 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

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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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