



"Working Together to Make Trade Work"

OUTREACH February 11, 2013

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

NAEGA Office Hours – In honor of President's Day in the United States, the NAEGA office will be closed on Monday, February 18, 2013. We will reopen on Tuesday, February 19 at 9am Eastern Time.

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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 confirmed as guest speaker. 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](#).

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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.

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!

NAEGA member participation requested:

NAEGA Committee Meetings, Conference Calls – Three NAEGA Committees have scheduled meetings via conference call in the next few weeks:

1. Grades Committee Tuesday, February 19, 2013 at 3pm Eastern, 2pm Central, 12pm Pacific;
2. Biotech Committee Friday, February 22, 2013 at 1pm Eastern, 12pm Central, 10am Pacific; and
3. Contracts Committee Tuesday, March 5, 2013 at 2pm Eastern, 1pm Central, 11am Pacific.

Agendas for the meetings are being developed and will be distributed soon, along with the conference information for the calls. Each of the committees is planning to report to at the Board of Directors meeting on March 18 in San Francisco.

If you would like to take part in any or all of these calls, please contact the NAEGA office as soon as possible.

NAEGA Member Survey on FGIS Information Collection – USDA’s Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) has [asked for NAEGA comment](#) on what information it collects on grain and oilseed shipments should be held confidential for internal U.S. government use only.

FGIS uses the data it collects for annual export quality reports, evaluating grain standards, responding to inquiries, and to calculate administrative tonnage fees. The information is also used to generate reports for the Agricultural Marketing Service for their weekly Market News Report. Data is collected weekly from Friday to Thursday, and published following Monday.

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Some of the data is provided to the public sector. Information now provided to the public (not held as Confidential Business Information (CBI) for internal U.S. Government use only), includes vessel name, type of carrier, destination, field office, port area, FGIS region, and - for interior shipments only - city and state. Currently some in the public sector receive this information via a weekly or monthly subscription with FGIS

We are asking for membership input to help us respond to this request. If you would like to provide comment on this issue and have not already done so, please review the [FGIS request letter to NAEGA](#), the list of [data FGIS collects](#) and an FGIS provided [data file sample](#) and then please take the survey [found through this link](#). We thank you for your time and input.

IGTC Meeting in February in Washington, DC – NAEGA members are invited to participate in the February 12 & 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](#). NAEGA member participation is welcome!

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) or Patrick Hayden (phayden@naega.org) by February 19, 2013 to comment.

FGIS / Industry Regional Workshop – New Orleans – Tuesday, April 9, 2013 – A NAEGA regional Industry and Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 9, 2013. The 12:00 to 17:00 central time workshop will, space permitting, be held at the FGIS field office in Destrehan, LA. An agenda for the meeting is being developed and a formal invitation to members will be sent in the coming weeks.

The workshop is a continuation of series of workshops at export port locations which are intended to expand understanding and identify needs related to U.S. Official grain inspection. The workshops have proven to be an excellent venue for direct interaction with FGIS leadership and local personnel. All NAEGA member companies are welcome to attend these Workshops.

Another FGIS / Industry Regional Workshop is being planned for later this year in the Pacific Northwest.

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.

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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.

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

China, US Soybean Vessel Comparison Study - The first shipment of U.S. soybeans to be examined under the “Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Regarding the China-U.S. Cooperation Program for the Inspection and Quarantine of U.S. Soybeans Exported to China” has been confirmed. A China General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) team will work with U.S. Government Representatives, NAEGA members, Senior Advisor Arvid Hawk and the U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC) to conduct the vessel comparison study (VCS) of official and commercial practices at load and discharge port.

The MOU signed in 2010 by USDA Secretary Vilsack and AQSIQ and contemplates several additional shipments being included in the VCS. Part of NAEGA’s Grades & Inspections Committee work, the MOU and VCS is staffed by NAEGA Senior Advisor Arvid Hawk. Past MOU activity included [a tour of U.S. soybean facilities](#) in 2011.

The vessel is expected to begin loading at a Pacific Northwest facility on February 20. NAEGA members with an interest joining with Arvid in China to examine the discharge of the vessel should contact the NAEGA office.

We track MOU activity on the [NAEGA Grades & Inspections Committee](#) page and the [NAEGA Personal Pages Website](#).

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

2013

February

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

May

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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.

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New Issues & Opportunities for NAEGA Consideration

USDA/APHIS Holding Webinar on Phyto Export Database – USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service’s (APHIS) Plant Protection & Quarantine (PPQ) Export Services will host an hour-long webinar on March 6, 2013 from at 2pm Eastern to introduce the new system features of the Phytosanitary Export Database (PExD). PExD is PPQ’s repository of foreign countries phytosanitary import requirements for U.S. origin commodities. PPQ notes that organizations that plan on calling in should include employees that work with the Phytosanitary Issuance and Tracking (PCIT)/PExD system. Details on how to take part in the webinar [are available here](#).

U.S. - EU Trade Agreement Announcement Expected Soon – Although observers expected an announcement five weeks ago on the start of negotiations between the U.S. and the European Union (EU) on a comprehensive free trade agreement (FTA), officials for both the U.S and EU say discussions are moving forward a decision could come at any time. Both sides have said that any effort to further liberalize trans-Atlantic trade should be as wide-ranging as possible, though they caution that political and economic sensitivities could limit the scope of an FTA

The U.S-EU High Level Working Group on Jobs and Growth determined that a comprehensive agreement that addresses a broad range of bilateral trade and investment policies would provide the most significant benefits of the various options it considered. The working group envisioned a pact that includes the following elements:

- **Tariffs** – Eliminate all duties on bilateral trade, with a substantial elimination of tariffs upon entry into force, a phasing out of all but the most sensitive tariffs in a short time frame, and options for the treatment of the most sensitive products.
- **Regulatory Issues and Non-Tariff Barriers** – Progressively move to a more integrated transatlantic marketplace while respecting fully the right of each side to regulate in a manner that ensures the protection of health, safety and the environment at the level each side deems appropriate, including provisions that go beyond World Trade Organization (WTO) rules on sanitary and phytosanitary measures, including a bilateral forum for improved dialogue and cooperation on SPS issues and provisions that go beyond WTO

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rules on technical barriers to trade, including a forum for addressing bilateral trade issues arising from technical regulations, conformity assessment procedures and standards;

- Rules – Develop a set of 21st century rules that could not only be of relevance for bilateral commerce but also contribute to rulemaking in third-country policies and trade agreements and at the multilateral level.
- Intellectual Property Rights – The two sides already cooperate extensively on this issue and have concluded that it would not be feasible in negotiations to seek to reconcile across the board differences in the IPR obligations that each typically includes in its comprehensive trade agreements.

The working group also recommended that the two sides gather concrete proposals that address the impact of regulatory differences on trade and use those proposals in developing during the course of negotiations on a trade agreement specific action plans to reduce unnecessary regulatory costs and promote regulatory compatibility while respecting legitimate regulatory objectives. Details on the negotiations [can be found 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

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

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,

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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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