



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

Tom Hammond - 1952-2013



NAEGA Board of Directors Chairman and Columbia Grain President & CEO Thomas J. Hammond passed away from a sudden illness at the age of 60 on Thursday, February 14, 2013. Tom became a member of the Board on December 6, 2001. He became a Vice Chairman in 2007 and was elected Chairman of the Board on February 22, 2012.

A graduate of Vanderbilt University, Tom started working in the grain industry right out of college, moving to Iowa to work for Cook Industries. He was soon transferred to Portland, Oregon and when Cook sold its grain division to Marubeni Corporation in 1978, he stayed on as it became Columbia Grain, becoming the Company’s President & CEO in 2000.

Tom was a longtime friend and business associate of many NAEGA Members and his passing is a great loss to our industry. We know that you join us in mourning his loss and that your thoughts are with his family. A celebration of life for family, friends and business associates will be held March 9 in Portland. We will have more details on this event as they become available.

Tom is survived by his wife of 33 years, Cheryl Hammond; his son, Robert Hammond; and his daughter, Katherine Hammond.

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“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

OUTREACH February 20, 2013

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

Please Register Now for the NAEGA Annual Meeting!

Member participation requested:

- NAEGA Committee Meetings
- NAEGA Member Survey on FGIS Information Collection
- TPP and U.S.-EU Trade Agreements meeting with USTR
- FGIS Regional Workshop – New Orleans – Tuesday, April 9, 2013
- 2013 Membership Dues

Action Reports

- World, IGTC Meetings
- U.S., Comments to GIPSA on User Fees
- U.S. ,Sequestration Impact on FGIS Services

New Issues

- U.S.-EU Trade Agreement Negotiations Announced
- House Ways and Means Committee Plans 2013-2014 Trade Agenda
- CBP Advisory Committee to Meet on Trade Modernization and Facilitation Efforts
- USDA/APHIS Webinar on Phyto Export Database

NAEGA Calendar and Member Notices

- Upcoming events and notices for members

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. Biotech Committee Friday, February 22, 2013 at 1pm Eastern, 12pm Central, 10am Pacific; and
2. 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.

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

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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](#). The survey will close on Friday, February 22, 2013. We thank you for your time and input.

TPP and U.S.-EU Trade Agreements meeting with USTR - NAEGA will host 2 meetings with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) and a broad cross section of agricultural trade stakeholder on Tuesday, February 26, 2013. NAEGA member representatives are welcome to join in both.

1. **First**, at 10 AM, we will meet with USTR negotiating staff assigned to the recently announced **U.S.-EU Trade Agreement Negotiations** (see below in the [New Issues section](#)). The meeting will provide for an initial discussion on process and objectives related to upcoming negotiations.
2. **Second**, at 11 AM, we will co-host a meeting with **U.S. Government Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiators and the Agricultural Trade Task Force of the Business Coalition for TPP**. This meeting will be used to provide input and convey updated information in advance of the 16th round of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations will take place in Singapore from March 4-13, 2013

Please let us know as soon as possible who plans to attend these meetings. We will name an appropriately sized venue once we have a good headcount. At the request of USTR, we do not plan to provide for a conference call option to personal attendance.

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](#)

[Click here to return to Index](#)

Reports on NAEGA actions

World, IGTC Meetings – The International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC), coalition of national and international non-profit trade associations and councils including NAEGA and the National Grain & Feed Association met at NAEGA’s offices Washington, DC to discuss planning for 2013. The IGTC much of the discussion focused on NAEGA requests for support by the IGTC for our approach to the International Plant Protection Convention work related to the international movement of grain and Low Level Presence of Biotechnology in Grains and Oilseed. The IGTC also met with the Global Alliance for Ag Biotech Trade to discuss issues of mutual concern. Minutes from the meeting will be posted to the [NAEGA Biotech Committee webpage](#) and the [NAEGA personal pages website](#) when they become available.

U.S., Comments to GIPSA on User Fees – NAEGA and the National Grain & Feed Association (NGFA) have submitted joint comments to USDA’s Grain Inspections, Packers & Stockyards Administration’s (GIPSA) proposed changes to the fee schedule for official inspection and weighing services performed under the U.S. Grain Standards Act.

In considering the proposed changes, the comments make clear that any proposed changes to the fees for official inspection need to be considered carefully to make certain they are justified and will facilitate the marketing of U.S. grains and oilseeds; and to not unduly disrupt the U.S. official standards and grading system, which set the standard for marketing grains and oilseeds worldwide. After a review of the proposed changes and the current financial status of the U.S. inspection and weighing system, NAEGA and NGFA wrote that they support the proposed changes to the fee schedule, contingent upon GIPSA adopting the recommendations NAEGA & NGFA included with the comments.

NAEGA & NGFA recommend that to enhance U.S. export competitiveness, the fee structure needs to: 1) be more predictable for system users and responsive to market conditions; 2) improve flexibility and reduce the time and costs needed to make changes; and 3) reduce the impact of subjective forecasting of export volumes. Rather than continuing to rely only upon the subjective and time- and resource-consuming rulemaking process to modify fees, NAEGA & NGFA suggest that GIPSA approach the establishment of fees as an ongoing and market-responsive process.

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In addition, NAEGA & NGFA recommend that instead of some fee increases, GIPSA should determine what programs can be terminated, scaled back or consolidated to reduce its administrative overhead further; GIPSA should seek ways to reduce indirect employee expenses, such as workers compensation; and GIPSA should review cooperative agreements that it has with other federal agencies, such as the Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS). APHIS’ use of GIPSA to sample and inspect grain and grain-product shipments for phytosanitary certification information is bringing more business to the official system.

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

U.S., Sequestration Impact on FGIS Services – Amid the warning of mass government layoffs and services collapsing when the budget "sequestration" that now seems likely to begin on March 1, NAEGA is monitoring potential actions that might impact grain and oilseed exports from the U.S. Perhaps most important is the news that in a conversation last week with NGFA, Randall D. Jones deputy administrator of the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) indicated that the "potential" sequestration will not impact the daily operations of grain inspection and weighing services. The only impact will be on parts of FGIS that provide support to the inspectors, such as the National Grain Center and others who operate under appropriated funds.

Unless the gridlocked U.S. Congress finds a way to circumvent the start of the mandatory \$85 billion in federal budget cuts will, implementation will begin on March 1, 2013. The spending cuts (established in 2011 by the U.S. Congress) were seen then as a way to press Congress into reaching an alternative agreement on where to cut back. It may take some time after March 1 for the Congress to act on the alternatives.

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

2013

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

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

U.S.-EU Trade Agreement Negotiations Announced – Following President Barack Obama’s announcement during the State of the Union Address of his intention to seek a comprehensive free trade agreement (FTA) between the U.S. and the EU, President Obama, European Council President Herman Van Rompuy, and European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso announcing that both the U.S. and the EU will begin internal procedures to initiate talks on a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership.

The three leaders state that "a high-standard Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership would advance trade and investment liberalization and address regulatory and other non-tariff barriers." It's also noted that negotiations between both parties would not only help facilitate trade between the U.S. and the European Union, but it would also promote the development of stronger global trade policy. More details on the negotiations are [available through this link](#).

OFAC Publishes Guidance on Humanitarian Assistance Exports to Iran – The U.S Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) published a Clarifying Guidance document regarding the exports of Humanitarian Assistance and other related items to Iran, as some humanitarian assistance exports might or might not require a license depending on the commodity.

The guidance document explains that "the sale and export of nearly all types of food and medicine to Iran are broadly authorized, and require no specific license or special authorization from...OFAC or any other agency of the U.S. government. The sale and export of basic medical supplies are likewise broadly authorized. Other types of humanitarian exports may be authorized pursuant to a specific license from OFAC."

Some of the information covered by this document includes:

- Current policies on humanitarian assistance and exports to the Iranian people for U.S. persons and financial institutions;
- Current policies on humanitarian assistance and exports to the Iranian people for third-party financial institutions
- Specific procedures for license applications

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

House Ways and Means Committee Plans 2013-2014 Trade Agenda – The U.S House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee and its Trade Subcommittee have announced that they anticipate handling a wide range of international trade issues in the 113th Congress, which

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extends through 2014. A letter sent by the Committee indicates that hearings and other oversight-related activities are planned on the following topics:

- Trade promotion authority
- The miscellaneous trade bill, which would eliminate or reduce import duties on products not made in the U.S.
- Systemic problems in U.S.-China trade relations, including issues related to intellectual property rights protection, indigenous innovation requirements, use of industrial subsidies, export restraints on key products such as rare earth minerals, and currency undervaluation
- Customs reauthorization legislation, with a particular emphasis on streamlining and facilitating legitimate and compliant trade at the border.
- Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations and U.S. negotiating positions.
- Prospects for additional trade negotiations, including the International Services Agreement, a U.S.-European Union free trade agreement and bilateral investment treaties
- Major U.S. trade preference programs, including the Generalized System of Preferences (expiring July 2013), the Andean Trade Preferences Act (expiring July 2013) and the African Growth and Opportunity Act (expiring 2015)
- U.S. goals at the World Trade Organization, dispute settlement, the prospect for a trade facilitation agreement and expansion of the Information Technology Agreement, and WTO accessions
- Enforcement of U.S. rights under trade agreements, including the WTO agreements and bilateral and regional FTAs
- Proposals to strengthen border enforcement related to U.S. intellectual property rights, import safety and illegal transshipment
- The role of trade in creating U.S. jobs and how to create new market access for U.S. manufactured goods, agriculture and services
- Trade Adjustment Assistance programs for workers, firms, communities and farmers
- International Trade Commission priorities and operations

The letter also indicates that priorities and concerns may change as the trade environment evolves over the next 2 years. More details on the Ways and Means trade agenda are [available through this link](#).

CBP Advisory Committee to Meet on Trade Modernization and Facilitation Efforts – The Advisory Committee on Commercial Operations (COAC) of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will hold an open meeting March 6 in Washington, D.C to discuss and review the statements of work and next steps for the Trade Modernization Subcommittee, which will address Centers of Excellence and Expertise, the Automated Commercial Environment, and role of the broker issues.

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COAC will also review the work of the following subcommittees:

- The One U.S. Government at the Border subcommittee, including the master principles document approved January 15;
- The Trade Enforcement and Revenue Collection Subcommittee, which will address revenue, intellectual property rights and antidumping/countervailing duty issues;
- The Trusted Trader Subcommittee, which will address the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism, the Importer Self-Assessment program and authorized economic operator issues;
- The Global Supply Chain Subcommittee, which will address air cargo security and land border issues;
- The Exports Subcommittee;

Full details on the meeting and how to attend [are available here](#).

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](#).

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

February

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

22 – NAEGA Biotech Committee Conference Call – 1pm Eastern, 12pm Central, 10am Pacific

March

5 – NAEGA Contracts Committee Conference Call – 2pm Eastern, 1pm Central, 11am Pacific

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

18- San Francisco, California – NAEGA Annual Meetings

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April

9 – New Orleans, Louisiana – NAEGA-FGIS Regional Workshop

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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