



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

Mark Sackmaster, 1964-2013

It is with deep regret that we report on the tragic death of Mark Sackmaster of CHS, Inc. Mark was killed in a car accident while in Mexico on Friday, March 8. He was 48 years old.

Mark was a longtime collaborator with NAEGA and served as a member of the Biotech committee from 2010-2012. NAEGA shares the grief of our colleagues at CHS in this time of bereavement with deepest sympathy and condolence

Mark is survived by his wife Colleen and his children Sydney, Owen and Cole. Funeral arrangements are being made and details will be [posted to this site](#). We know you join us in mourning his loss. NAEGA will convey condolences to Mark’s family.

OUTREACH March 11, 2013

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

Last Chance to Register for the March 18, 2013 NAEGA Annual Meeting!

Member participation opportunity:

- President’s Export Council Public Meeting – Tuesday, March 12, 2013
- FAO survey on Low Level Presence – Due Thursday, March 14, 2013
- AAFC Marketing Freedom in Canada Seminars - North Dakota, Minnesota and Montana, March 14, 15, and 21, 2013
- CFIA Grain Biosecurity Symposium – Ottawa, Canada - March 19, 2013
- Ag & Food Trade Task Force Meeting –Washington, DC – Friday, March 22, 2013
- CFIA Meeting with Stakeholders on Canada SPS Issues – A.M Tuesday, March 26, 2013
- Canada-U.S. Grain and Seed Trade Task Group Seminar - P.M. Tuesday, March 26.
- U.S. Export-Import Bank Annual Conference – Washington, DC – April 4-5, 2013
- FGIS Regional Workshop – New Orleans – Tuesday, April 9, 2013
- U.S.-Turkey Agribusiness Trade Mission - June 3-7, 2013
- 2013 Membership Dues – PAST DUE

Action Reports

- NAEGA Board of Directors – Special Meeting to Elect a Chairman and appoint a Director to fill the unexpired terms of Tom Hammond
- U.S., Comments to the President Export Council

New Issues

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“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

- Meeting on U.S-EU Regulatory Cooperation

NAEGA Calendar and Member Notices

- Upcoming events and notices for members

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 celebration of Tom’s life for family, friends and business associates was held in Portland, Oregon on March 9. NAEGA President Gary C. Martin presented Tom’s family with the statue in the picture below. The inscription reads: “Presented to the Family of Thomas J. Hammond by the North American Export Grain Association in Memory of Tom’s Life and in Honor of his Service to Our Industry. March 9, 2013”



As a way to remember and pay tribute to Tom’s life we have created a Tribute Page for Tom on the NAEGA website. Please take look [by clicking on this link.](#)

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You are invited to help make this lasting tribute to Tom even more memorable and significant. Please submit something you think appropriate and we will post and maintain the remembrances on the Tribute page. You can send photos, stories, or just a few paragraphs for inclusion on the site. An email to TomHammondTribute@naega.org will get this process started.

If you know of anyone else who would like to contribute to the page, please forward the webpage and email to them for their consideration

The Columbia Grain Portland office is conveying to the family any cards, packages and personal notes it may receive. Please contact Annalise Bischel at abischel@columbiagrains.com, for additional questions.

Last Chance to Register for the March 18, 2013 NAEGA Annual Meeting!

We look forward to seeing you in San Francisco next week! 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](#). If you have not already done so please let us know if you are attending by registering for the meetings AS SOON AS POSSIBLE [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.

A special one-day NAEGA registration rate of \$275 is still available for the NGFA meetings and banquet on March 19, and a [registration form for NGFA’s convention is available here](#). NGFA’s block of rooms at the Westin St. Francis is no longer available, but rooms can be booked at the hotel’s regular rates [through this link](#). If you need assistance finding a room, please contact the NAEGA office. 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 opportunity:

President’s Export Council Public Meeting – Tuesday, March 12, 2013 – The President’s Export Council (PEC) will hold a public meeting on March 12, 2013 at 9:30am Eastern time to deliberate on recommendations related to promoting the expansion of U.S. exports. Topics are likely to include two focal points of NAEGA priority and leadership:

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1. To establish a **rapid response mechanism for sanitary and phytosanitary issues** in the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement
2. **U.S.-Canada trade facilitation**

NAEGA has submitted comments to the PEC ([See article in NAEGA Actions section below](#)). The PEC meeting will be broadcast via live webcast on the Internet at <http://whitehouse.gov/live>.

FAO survey on Low Level Presence – Due Thursday March 14, 2013 – The UN’s Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) is carrying out a survey to better understand the issues related to Low-Level Presence (LLP) and Adventitious Presence (AP) of GMOs, and their potential impact on trade flows. In order to make the technical analysis the most accurate and up-to-date, FAO has distributed a questionnaire to all member countries.

NAEGA is considering advising U.S. government on how to respond to this request and would like member input on the questions that FAO has submitted. You can find the [questionnaire by clicking here](#). U.S. government must submit their response on Monday, March 18, 2013. Please submit your suggestions to NAEGA by close of business on Wednesday, March 14, 2013 as we consider how to advise U.S. government.

AAFC Marketing Freedom in Canada Seminars - North Dakota, Minnesota and Montana - March 14, 15, and 21, 2013 – NAEGA members are invited to attend any of three seminars being held by Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) in Minneapolis, Minnesota on March 14, 2013; Minot, North Dakota in March 15, 2013; and Great Falls, Montana on March 21, 2013. The seminars, entitled “Marketing Freedom in Canada: What It Means for the U.S. Grain Industry” are designed to provide an overview of how grain trade can occur in the marketing environment created by the passage of Canada’s *Marketing Freedom for Grain Farmers Act* in 2012 and to allow attendees to pose questions to Canadian and U.S. industry representatives. The seminars will also highlight the work of the Canada-U.S. Grain and Seed Task Group, of which NAEGA is a steering committee member. Registration information for the Minneapolis seminar [is available here](#). Registration information for the Minot seminar [is available here](#). Registration for the Great Falls, Montana seminar is not yet available. If you would like to be notified when registration is available, please contact the NAEGA office.

CFIA Grain Biosecurity Symposium – Ottawa, Canada - March 19, 2013 – NAEGA members and interested parties are invited to attend a Canadian Food Inspections Agency (CFIA) Grain Biosecurity Symposium to be held at the Delta Ottawa City Centre Hotel, on March 19, 2013 from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm in Ottawa, Canada.

This Symposium is one element of the CFIA’s stakeholder engagement initiative on designing an import framework to regulate imports of grains and oilseeds to manage phytosanitary risks. The purpose of the symposium is to inform and bring together stakeholders and hold facilitated discussions to obtain informed feedback to assist the CFIA in refining the phytosanitary requirements for grain imports.

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There is no fee to attend. RSVP via email by March 12, 2013 to CFIA-Grains-ACIA@inspection.gc.ca to register for this Symposium

Ag & Food Trade Task Force Meeting – Washington, DC – Friday, March 22, 2013 – NAEGA members and interested parties from across agriculture are invited to a series of meetings on March 22. A Food & Agriculture Task Force working with both the U.S. Business Coalition for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the U.S. Business Coalition for the Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership (T-TIP) will meet with U.S. Government officials to continue work on the two pending trade agreements. NAEGA President Gary Martin Co-Chairs the Food & Agriculture Task Force. During the meeting on Friday, March 22, 2013 at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington D.C., U.S. government representatives will attend and update the group on recent TPP and T-TIP negotiations. The Task Force will also meet privately to consider its advocacy plans. We expect the meeting to include representatives of about 40 U.S. stakeholders. An agenda is being developed and an invitation will be sent this week. If you would like more information, please contact us.

CFIA Meeting with Stakeholders on Canada SPS Issues – Tuesday, March 26, 2013 – NAEGA and NGFA will host a meeting with USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service and representatives of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) on March 26, 2013. CFIA will explain their plans to change the way they regulate imports of grains and oilseeds to manage phytosanitary risks. Organized as part of the ongoing work of the Canada-U.S. Grain and Seed Trade Task Group, the meeting will provide comments and questions as we seek to increase understanding of the practical implications of CFIA’s plans. Representatives of key stakeholder groups from the U.S. will join us in our conference room at 1250 Eye Street N.W., Suite 1003 Washington, DC. Call-ins from NAEGA members are welcome. An agenda is being developed and an invitation will be sent soon.

Canada-U.S. Grain and Seed Trade Task Group Seminar- Tuesday, March 26, 2013 – NAEGA members should also consider attending this update and new information on Canada U.S. cross-border trade. Plans are to begin a 1pm, on the Tuesday, March 16 at the Canadian Embassy Theatre at 501 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. NAEGA is also hosting this event and will be sending invitations to include U.S. government and the wide spectrum of interests in Canada- U.S. agricultural trade. Topics will include updates on Canada’s changes to the grain and seed marketing and phyto-sanitary regulations, and reports from the Task Group. Lessons learned from meetings held by the Government of Canada on March, 14, 15 and 21 in the U.S. and on March 19 in Canada will be discussed. If you would like to attend the meeting, please contact the NAEGA office for more information.

U.S. Export-Import Bank Annual Conference – Washington, DC – April 4-5, 2013 – A U.S. Export-Import Bank Annual Conference will be held on April 4-5, 2013 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. USDA’s Credit Program Division, part of the Office of Trade Programs, is encouraging more agribusinesses in the USDA network to participate in this event which provides a forum to meet buyers of U.S. agricultural products and services and U.S. and foreign lenders. U.S. export agency staff, including the Department of Agriculture’s Credit

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Program Division, the Export-Import Bank, the Small Business Administration and the Department of Commerce, are planning to attend and meet with U.S. stakeholders. This event offers exporters of agricultural products a chance to meet face-to-face with potential customers as well as financing experts or banks that may be able to provide options for export financing needs. Details for registration, hotels, speakers and exhibition information are [available through this link](#). NAEGA members are invited to attend and any questions you may have can be directed via email to Michele.Kouadio@fas.usda.gov.

FGIS / Industry Regional Workshop – New Orleans – Tuesday, April 9, 2013 – A NAEGA-NGFA hosted regional Industry and Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) Workshop is 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 meetings 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.

U.S.-Turkey Agribusiness Trade Mission - June 3-7, 2013 – NAEGA members are invited to participate in USDA’s upcoming U.S.-Turkey Agribusiness Trade Mission (ATM). The Turkey ATM will be held in Istanbul and Izmir. Turkish business representatives will participate in targeted, one-on-one meetings with selected U.S. agribusiness participants in both locations. The goal of the mission is to provide small-and medium-sized U.S. businesses with first-hand market information, access to government decision makers, and one-on-one meetings with business contacts, including potential agents, distributors and partners, so U.S. businesses can position themselves to enter or expand their presence in the Turkish market.

USDA will develop the agenda, facilitate logistics, and cover all on-ground expenses during the Mission. Participants would maintain responsibility for their travel to and within Turkey, and their in-country lodging costs. If you would like to participate in this mission, applications are available through [this link](#), and are due on March 22, 2013. Please let NAEGA know if you would like more information on this mission.

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 PAST 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.

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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](#)

[Click here to return to Index](#)

Reports on NAEGA actions

NAEGA Board of Directors – Special Session March 4 - The NAEGA Board of Directors met for a special session on Monday, March 4, 2013. During the conference call meeting the Board considered critical actions ahead of NAEGA’s Annual Meeting in San Francisco on March 18.

In order to fill the unexpired terms of Tom Hammond the Board named Steve Smalley of Cargill as the Chairman of the NAEGA Board of Directors and Ron Williams of Columbia Grain as a Board Member.

Both Steve’s term as Chairman and Ron’s term on the Board will expire at the NAEGA Membership Meeting on March 18. The NAEGA member representatives will be asked to vote for all Board members with expiring terms during that meeting. NAEGA Board terms as of the meeting are as follows:

Seats with Terms Expiring at 2013 NAEGA Membership Meeting

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Steve Smalley | Cargill, Inc. |
| 2. Ron Williams | Columbia Grain |
| 3. Yutaka Sano | Mitsui & Co. |
| 4. Bob Steele | Nidera, Inc. |
| 5. Charles Colbert | Zen - Noh Grain Corp. |
| 6. Holly Womack | CoBank |
| 7. Bob Miller | Viterra, Inc. |

Seats with Terms Expiring at 2014 NAEGA Membership Meeting

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 8. Joe Taets | ADM |
| 9. Brain Schouvieller | CHS Inc. |
| 10. Steve Campbell | LD Commodities |
| 11. Terry James | Richardson, Inc. |
| 12. Dave Houts | Bunge, Inc. |
| 13. Gary Truman | Gavilon Grain |

The Board asked NAEGA staff to create a tribute page for Tom Hammond on the NAEGA public website, [viewable through this link](#). Following these decisions, time was taken to review plans for the Annual Meeting and approved the NAEGA Biotech Committee’s request to maintain the current NAEGA Biotech Product Launch policy, [which you can view here](#). Meeting minutes will be available on the [NAEGA Board of Directors Website](#) soon and considered for approval at the upcoming meeting on March 18. .

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U.S., Comments to the President Export Council – NAEGA joined in two sets of comments for the consideration of the President’s Export Council (PEC) at their meeting on March 12, 2013: One on behalf of the Food & Agriculture Task Force of the U.S. Business Coalition for the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the second a joint set of comments with the National Grain & Feed Association (NGFA)

1. The letter on behalf of the Food & Agriculture Task Force of the U.S. Business Coalition for the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) was co-authored with NAEGA’s Task Force co-chair, the American Meat Institute, and focused on the inclusion of a Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) in the TPP as a timely, transparent and commercially-meaningful method to help governments implement the least trade distortive measures and resolve trade interruptions related to sanitary and phyto-sanitary (SPS) measures and technical barriers to trade (TBT).

The comments note that an RRM is now at the forefront of the trade facilitation priorities of U.S. agricultural trade interests who are considering government policies and programs that affect U.S. trade performance; ways to promote export expansion; and who work to provide for the resolution of trade-related problems. A .pdf of the letter is posted to the [“Public Comments and Policy Statements”](#) section of the NAEGA Public Website.

2. The joint letter with NGFA provided input for PEC analysis of and advice related to the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), the recently announced Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership (T-TIP) and the state of U.S.-Canada Trade.

The letter has been posted to the [“Public Comments and Policy Statements”](#) section of the NAEGA Public Website.

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: http://www.naega.org/images/pdf/CFIA_Draft_D-12-05.pdf

March

14 – Deadline to provide feedback to NAEGA on the FAO survey on Low Level Presence. The survey can be found here: http://www.naega.org/members/images/pdf/FAO_LLQ_Questions_3-2013.pdf

20 – Deadline to request to present an oral statement at the meeting of the U.S.-European Union High Level Regulatory Cooperation Forum. Send email requests to: International-OIRA@omb.eop.gov

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29 – Comments Due to USDA/APHIS on Preliminary Decision for an Extension of a Determination of Nonregulated Status for Corn Genetically Engineered for Herbicide Tolerance: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/fedregister/09_06301p_fr_ext_noa.pdf

April

29 – Comments Due to USDA/APHIS on Petition for a Determination of Nonregulated Status for Dow Soybean Genetically Engineered for Insect Resistance: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/fedregister/12_27201p_fr_noa.pdf

29 – Comments Due to USDA/APHIS on Petition for a Determination of Nonregulated Status for Syngenta Soybean Genetically Engineered for Herbicide Tolerance: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/fedregister/12_21501p_fr_noa.pdf

29 – Comments Due to USDA/APHIS on Petition for a Determination of Nonregulated Status for Maize Genetically Engineered for Herbicide Tolerance and Insect Resistance http://www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/fedregister/11_24401p_fr_noa.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.

[Click here to return to Index](#)

New Issues & Opportunities for NAEGA Consideration

Meeting on U.S-EU Regulatory Cooperation – The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the European Commission will host a public meeting of the U.S.-European Union High Level Regulatory Cooperation Forum on April 10-11 in Washington, D.C., to gather input on priorities and next steps for promoting greater transatlantic regulatory compatibility. The two sides have been working to reduce unnecessary regulatory differences and cut red tape while respecting each other's right to protect their environment and safeguard the health, safety and welfare of their citizens, and their deliberations will likely impact negotiations on the Trans-Atlantic Trade & Investment Partnership. Input provided at the forthcoming meeting will help to identify both immediate and longer term goals in this area as well as potential mechanisms to accomplish them. Email is the only way to request a chance to speak to the Forum. If you wish to present an oral statement at the meeting, you may [email OMB through this link](#) no later than March 20, 2013.

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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

March

12 - President’s Export Council Public Meeting – Available to view online at <http://whitehouse.gov/live>

14 – Minneapolis, Minnesota - Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada Seminar – Marketing Freedom in Canada: What It Means for the U.S. Grain Industry – NAEGA members invited to attend. [Details available here.](#)

15 – Minot, North Dakota – Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada Seminar – Marketing Freedom in Canada: What It Means for the U.S. Grain Industry – NAEGA members invited to attend. [Details available here.](#)

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

18 – San Francisco, California – NAEGA Annual Meetings

19 – Ottawa, Canada - CFIA Grain Biosecurity Symposium – Ottawa, Canada - March 19, 2013 - NAEGA members invited to attend.

21 – Great Falls, Montana – Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada Seminar – Marketing Freedom in Canada: What It Means for the U.S. Grain Industry – NAEGA members invited to attend. Details coming soon

22 – Washington, DC – U.S. Food & Agriculture Task Force Meeting with U.S. Government – 9:30am, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

26 – Washington, DC – CFIA Meeting with Stakeholders on Canada SPS Issues – NAEGA Office

26 – Washington, DC – Canadian Food Inspection Agency Meeting with U.S. stakeholders on Canadian SPS Measures for Grain Exports – 12:00pm, Canadian Embassy

April

8-12 – Rome, Italy – Meeting of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

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

11-13 - Gdansk, Poland – Dry Bulk Terminals Group Operations Meeting. Topics for discussion include the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Annex V and reporting for the International Maritime Organizations (IMO) Sub-Committee on Dangerous Goods, Solid cargoes and Containers meeting (DSC 18) on the status of ports and terminals having adequate reception facilities and the number of requests for and acceptance of cargo residues – Jerry Cotter Attending

June

3-7 – Istanbul & Izmir, Turkey – USDA U.S.-Turkey Agribusiness Trade Mission – NAEGA Members invited to participate

July 9-10, 2013 – Alexandria, Virginia – U.S. Agricultural Export Development Council (USAEDC) 2013 FAS Attaché Meetings & Seminar – NAEGA Members invited to participate.

November

12-15 – Lisbon, Portugal - 6th International Conference on Coexistence between Genetically Modified (GM) and non-GM based Agricultural Supply Chains: www.gmcc13.org

19-21 – Baltimore, Maryland – U.S. Agricultural Export Development Council (USAEDC) 2013 Annual Workshop – NAEGA Members invited to participate

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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