



*“Working Together to Make Trade Work”*

## **OUTREACH April 1, 2013**

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

**NAEGA Office Closure – April 5, 2013** – Due to travel by NAEGA staff, the NAEGA Office will be closed on Friday, April 5, 2013. We will reopen on Monday, April 8, 2013.

### **Member participation opportunity:**

- U.S. Export-Import Bank Annual Conference – Washington, DC – April 4-5, 2013
- FGIS Regional Workshop – New Orleans – Tuesday, April 16, 2013
- 2013 OFAC International Trade Symposium – Washington, DC, April 19, 2013

### **Action Reports**

- Canada, Canada-U.S. Grain & Seed Trade Task Group Meetings & Symposium
- U.S., Biotech Value Chain MOU International Working Group Report
- U.S., Comments to USDA/APHIS on Biotech Deregulation

### **New Issues**

- USTR Seeking Comments on Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership
- 2013 Asian Gypsy Moth Notice

### **NAEGA Calendar and Member Notices**

- Upcoming events and notices for members

## **NAEGA member participation opportunity:**

**U.S. Export-Import Bank Annual Conference – Washington, DC – April 4-5, 2013** – U.S. Export-Import Bank will hold its annual conference 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. The Conference is intended to provide a forum to meet buyers of U.S. agricultural products and services and U.S. and foreign lenders. U.S. export agency staff including representatives of the Department of Agriculture’s Credit Program Division the Export-Import Bank, the Small Business Administration and the Department of Commerce, are planning to attend. Financing experts and are also expected to attend and discuss options for export financing.

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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](mailto:Michele.Kouadio@fas.usda.gov).

**FGIS / Industry Regional Workshop – New Orleans --Tuesday, April 16, 2013 –** A NAEGA-NGFA hosted regional Industry and Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) Workshop is now scheduled for Tuesday, April 16, 2013. The final time for the meeting, which is tentatively scheduled to be held at the FGIS Field Office in Destrehan, Louisiana, is being determined. An agenda for the meeting will be available soon and a formal invitation to members will be sent soon. If you wish to attend we urge you to register [through this link](#) ASAP to ensure an accurate headcount and to keep you up to date on any changes to the schedule or location of the Workshop.

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.

**2013 OFAC International Trade Symposium – Washington, DC – April 19, 2013 –** The Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC) will hold its annual International Trade Symposium at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC on April 19, 2013. The Symposium will feature presentations by key OFAC personnel on topics such as:

- Changes to the Iranian Transactions and Sanctions Regulations, NDAA and CISADA
- Enforcement guidelines and enforcement actions
- SDN List updates and information on the designation process
- Licensing procedures and guidance
- Compliance with U.S. economic and trade sanctions

In addition to formal presentations, OFAC staff will be available throughout the day for individual questions and ad hoc roundtable discussion on issues unique to the trade community. Details on registration can be found on [the OFAC website](#).

*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

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**Canada, Canada-U.S. Grain & Seed Trade Task Group Meetings & Symposium** – NAEGA & the National Grain & Feed Association (NGFA) hosted meetings and a symposium between U.S. & Canadian stakeholders and government on behalf of the Canada-U.S. Grain & Seed Trade Task Group. Meetings hosted at the NGFA-NAEGA offices provided an update on U.S. and Canada grain and seed trade and covered topics such as: a current assessment of cross border trade; trade progress and policy report from the Canada-U.S. Task Group. Following the meetings at the NGFA-NAEGA Office, the Task Group held a symposium and reception at the Canadian Embassy celebrating U.S. and Canadian agricultural trade. The symposium featured speakers from U.S. and Canadian government, including Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Agricultural Affairs and Commodity Policy Sharon Bomer Lauritsen, who welcomed Canada to the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations. The symposium provided for a forum for both sides to discuss the future of U.S.-Canadian cross-border trade.

Two presentations from the events are available for review. The first, from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), entitled “[Grain Import Framework: Invasive Pests in the Grains](#),” provides an overview of the agency’s proposed regulatory approach to protecting Canada’s agricultural resource base by preventing entry of invasive pests via the grain pathway. The other, from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), “[Marketing Freedom in Canada: What it Means for the U.S. Grain Industry](#)”, provides a review and analysis of the Marketing Freedom for Grain Farmers Act on Canada-U.S. trade in the year since the law was passed.

The next meeting of the Task Group will take place on Wednesday, April 3, 2013 in Winnipeg, Canada. The meeting will serve to debrief members on the meetings between USDA & CFIA and the stakeholder symposium in Washington, DC, discuss CFIA’s next steps on their draft phytosanitary regulations and address the future direction & focus and activities of the Task Group. NAEGA will be tracking this meeting and other developments related to Canada’s phytosanitary requirements on the [Grades & Inspections Committee Webpage](#) and the [NAEGA Personal Pages](#) site.

**U.S., Plenary Meeting of the Biotech Value Chain MOU** – The members of the Memorandum of Understanding on Improving Communication throughout the Value Chain on Biotechnology and Trade Issues (MOU) will meet in plenary session on April 2, 2013, outlining proposed next steps from the Domestic and International Working Groups (DWG & IWG) of the MOU and allowing questions and feedback from stakeholders.

As reported in the February 25, 2013 edition of OUTREACH, the DWG & IWG delivered initial reports and recommendations at the February 19, 2013 meeting of the signatories. The IWG will be presenting implementation plans for those recommendations at the plenary meeting on Tuesday.

In November 2012 the original six trade association signatories to the MOU, including NAEGA, agreed to develop the DWG & IWG to prepare reports and recommendations on Domestic and International issues related to the marketability of U.S. corn and soybeans derived from

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agricultural biotechnology. The IWG, which is co-chaired by NAEGA President Gary Martin, was charged with assessing challenges and opportunities to the international marketability of U.S. corn and soybeans derived from agricultural biotechnology.

Both presentations from the February 19 meeting are posted under MOU issues tracking the [NAEGA Biotech Committee webpage](#) and the [NAEGA personal pages website](#) and the recommendations will be posted to those sites following their presentation at the plenary session.

**U.S., Comments to USDA/APHIS on Biotech Deregulation** – NAEGA & the National Grain & Feed Association have submitted comments to USDA’s Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) on their Preliminary Decision for an extension of a determination of Nonregulated Status Stine Seed Farm corn line GA21 to apply to its maize line HCEM485, which is genetically engineered for herbicide tolerance.

NAEGA and NGFA note they strongly support agricultural biotechnology and other scientific and technological innovations that contribute to agricultural production efficiencies. However, the two organizations believe biotechnology providers have several corporate responsibilities associated with the commercial introduction of biotechnology events they intend to introduce into the U.S. commodity system.

The comments note that Stine Seed Farm has not made any applications nor been successful in obtaining any international authorizations for import of HCEM485. There is also no public information on Stine Seed Farm’s plans to control exposure of commodity corn to the HCEM485 trait – corn that is subject to export to significant U.S. international markets. Failing to obtain such authorizations in such key corn import markets as Japan, Canada, China, Mexico, the European Union, the Philippines, South Korea and Taiwan would create a risk of significant economic losses to U.S. corn producers, grain handlers, exporters and others in the value chain if this event becomes present in shipments intended for such countries.

Given the lack of actions and commitment by Stine Seed Farm, NGFA and NAEGA strongly object to a determination of nonregulated status for this biotech-enhanced corn trait and urge APHIS to “take into full account what appears to be Stine Seed Farm’s lack of responsibility in assessing export market risk as part of its commercialization plans” prior to granting deregulation of this event. The comments note that doing so would be consistent with APHIS’s mission to “protect the health and value of American agriculture and natural resources.” The full text of the comments can be found on the “Public Comments & Policy Statements” page 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](http://www.naega.org/images/pdf/CFIA_Draft_D-12-05.pdf)

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## **April**

**18** – Comments due to USDA/FAS on the reopened Proposed Rule to add distillers dried grain (DDG) to the Export Sales Reporting program (ESR).

[http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2013-06084\\_PI.pdf](http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2013-06084_PI.pdf).

**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](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](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](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/fedregister/11_24401p_fr_noa.pdf)

## **May**

**10** – Comments due to USTR on Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-04-01/pdf/2013-07430.pdf>

**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**

**USTR Seeking Comments on Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership** – The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) is gathering public input on the proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (T-TIP) agreement with the EU, including U.S. interests and priorities, to help it develop U.S. negotiating positions. Comments submitted to USTR may address the reduction or elimination of tariffs or non-tariff barriers on any articles provided for in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States that are products of the EU, any concession that should be sought by the U.S. or any other matter relevant to the proposed agreement.

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Comments are sought on the following issues:

- General and product-specific negotiating objectives
- Economic costs and benefits to U.S. producers and consumers of the removal of tariffs and the removal or reduction of non-tariff barriers
- The treatment of specific goods including product-specific import or export interests or barriers, experience with particular measures that should be addressed, and approaches to tariff negotiations, including recommended staging and ways to address export priorities and import sensitivities
- Adequacy of existing customs measures to ensure that duty rates apply only to goods eligible to receive such treatment
- Appropriate rules of origin
- Existing sanitary and phytosanitary measures and technical barriers to trade that should be addressed
- Opportunities for greater transatlantic regulatory compatibility without diminishing the ability to continue to meet legitimate regulatory objectives as well as which sectors should be the focus of such efforts
- Opportunities to reduce unnecessary costs and administrative delays stemming from regulatory differences
- Opportunities to enhance customs cooperation, ensure the transparent, efficient and predictable conduct of customs operations, and ensure that customs measures are not applied in a manner that creates unwarranted procedural obstacles to trade
- Relevant services, electronic commerce, cross-border data flow, investment, competition, government procurement, labor, environmental, transparency and anticorruption, and intellectual property rights issues that should be addressed
- New principles or disciplines addressing emerging challenges in international trade that should be pursued in the negotiations

NAEGA is considering submitting comments and member input is welcome. Written comments are due to USTR no later than May 10, 2013 and USTR will host a hearing on May 29-30, 2013 in Washington, D.C. Details on submitting comments and the hearing are [available through this link](#).

**2013 Asian Gypsy Moth Notice** – USDA’s Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service has requested that industry be notified that we are entering Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM) interception season. Please find the memo from APHIS [through this link](#).

Asian gypsy moth (AGM) is a serious pest that can be carried on the superstructure of ships and cargo. AGM populations are prevalent in some seaport areas in Far East Russia, Japan, Korea, and Northern China. If introduced, AGM would pose a significant risk to the North American plant resource base, businesses that rely on plant resources, and to market access. **Vessels must arrive to North American ports with required pre-departure certification and free of AGM.** It is vital that the maritime industry and the United States (U.S.) and Canadian authorities

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collaborate on measures to minimize the risk of AGM incursion. Although the agricultural agencies of the U.S. and Canada are independent and have variances in their laws, AGM risk mitigation and exclusion efforts are a joint effort and considered a high priority.

For 2013, there is guidance on flight periods for all regions on AGM procedures at the following website: [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/gypsy\\_moth/index.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/gypsy_moth/index.shtml)

*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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### **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”



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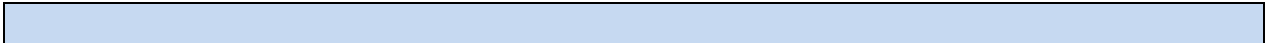
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As a way to remember and pay tribute to Tom’s life we have created a Tribute Page for Tom on the NAEGA website. Please take look [by clicking on this link](#).

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](mailto: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](mailto:abischel@columbiagrains.com), for additional questions.



## **NAEGA Calendar & Member Notices**

### **April**

**2** – Washington, DC – Plenary Session of the Signatories of the Biotech Value Chain MOU

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

**16** – New Orleans, Louisiana – NAEGA-FGIS Regional Workshop

**19** – Washington, DC - 2013 Office of Foreign Asset Control International Trade Symposium

**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

**23** – Washington, DC – Stakeholder Reception for U.S.-China Technical Working Group and Biotech Working Group

### **May**

**29-30** – Washington, DC – Office of the U.S. Trade Representative Hearings on T-TIP

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## **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](http://www.gmcc13.org)

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

## **2014**

### **March**

**31** – 2014 NAEGA Annual Meetings – Hilton Head, South Carolina

**30-April 1** – 2014 NGFA Convention – Hilton Head, South Carolina

### **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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