



Celebrating 100 Years

May 14, 2012

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA.

Member Action Opportunities:

Upcoming Events Open to NAEGA Member Participation
More Member Benefits from NAEGA.org;
Container logistics and Canada grain marketing Task Forces;

Tracking NAEGA Actions:

Canada, Task Group for U.S. and Canada Grain Trade; Colombia, Certificate of Origin Issue; U.S. NAEGA-NGFA Letter to CFTC on Expanded Trading Hours

Calendar and Website:

Upcoming events and Website News

Member Action Opportunities:

The Following Events are open to NAEGA Member Participation. Full Details on Each Event can be found in the Meetings & Events Section of the [NAEGA Member's Only Page](#) and the [Personal Pages Website](#)

**Tokyo, Japan – Industry Dialog and NAEGA Centennial Celebration Event
– May 23, 2012**

**Seoul, Korea – Industry Dialog and NAEGA Centennial Celebration Event –
May 25, 2012**

**London, UK – 2012 International Grains Conference, International Grain
Trade Coalition Meeting, and pending meeting with Iraq Trade Minister and
Grain Board – June 6-8, 2012**

**Bogota, Colombia – U.S. Wheat Associates Latin American Buyers
Conference – June 27-29, 2012**

**Alexandria, Virginia – 2012 U.S. Agricultural Export Development Council
FAS Attaché Meetings & Seminar – July 11-12, 2012**

Portland, Oregon –NAEGA Board of Directors Meeting – August 20 – 1 -5 PM.

Portland, Oregon – NAEGA/NGFA-FGIS Regional Workshop – August 21, 2012

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico – 2012 APPAMEX-NAEGA Forum – August 30 – September 1, 2012

More Member Benefits from NAEGA.org – As NAEGA prepares to launch our new public website in early June, NAEGA members and staff will be able to enhance their own use of the NAEGA Members Personal Pages website.

- The Members only password protected website will be fully integrated with the new Public Site.
- Members only “Personal Pages” will be used to facilitate business networking and easy information access.
- NAEGA members and staff, using their own, individual “Personal Page” will now be able to post new documents to, as well as directly search and retain files from, NAEGA's growing digital library. Each personal page is unique, with contact information, retained information and news relevant to committee and other interests of the subscribed individual.

Container logistics and Canada grain marketing – Member personnel are invited to join new industry efforts established at the NAEGA Board of Director’s Meeting on February 23, 2012 that are intended to:

1. Identify and address changes in the procedures and policies related to shipment of grains and oilseeds with containers; and
2. Review the impact of Canada’s changes in regulation of grain marketing including the Marketing Freedom for Grain Farmers Act and to make recommendations for industry actions to support a successful transition as well as long term successful commercial market environment resulting from those changes.

The two approved briefing memos proposing the task forces have been posted to the [Board of Director’s Website](#) and Issue Tracking for each has been set up at the [NAEGA Personal Page’s website](#). Please let us know if you would like to be included in the work of these new task forces.

Tracking NAEGA Actions:

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.

Task Group for U.S. and Canada Grain Trade - The steering committee for the NAEGA and Canada Grains Council (CGC) organized Task Group for U.S. and Canada Grain Trade met this week. The effort to develop a communications strategy and factual materials to inform

stakeholders on U.S. and Canada cross-border trans-border trade of grains and oilseeds, with an immediate focus on what Canadian and U.S. farmers need to know about each country's system for a typical shipment of wheat or barley, and consider any policy recommendations that will to further facilitate the trade between the two countries, is off to strong start.

CGC is planning on a meeting of the overall task group during the second week of June. The Task Group will include provincial, state and national representation from stakeholders that includes producer groups, the seed trade, milling industry and governments as well as the grain trade.

Look for tracking of the Task Group for U.S. and Canada Grain Trade on the [NAEGA Grades Committee Webpage](#) and on the [NAEGA Personal Pages](#).

Colombia, Certificate of Origin Issue - NAEGA will begin work with USDA's Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) to clarify Decreto 0730/2012 which provides instructions for issuing a Certificate of Origin for goods covered under the recently enacted Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Unfortunately consistent with some past experience the Colombia's implementation could be interpreted to require that the certificate show the name and address, telephone number and e-mail of the "producer", and if the exporter is different, then the exporter's name and address, telephone number and e-mail must also be shown. Since grain is often sourced from many farmers and with logistics that rely on efficiencies of comingling transportation and handling, identifying producers is practically impossible.

U.S., NGFA - NAEGA- Letter to CFTC on Expanding Trading Hours – NAEGA joined the National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) in submitting a letter to Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) Chairman Gary Gensler, requesting that CFTC institute a 30-day public comment period to take input and further analyze plans by both The Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) and the CME Group to commence 22-hour per day electronic trading of grain and oilseed futures contracts.

While neither NAEGA nor NGFA are opposed to the idea of expanded hours, the letter notes that both ICE's plans for new contracts with greatly expanded trading hours and the CME Group's plans to expand hours raise serious issues that could lead to competitive inequalities and impose significant additional costs due to personnel and systems changes. The letter points out that neither the ICE contracts nor the CME Group's plans to expand electronic trading hours were properly vetted with appropriate market participants, and that there is "significant and substantive opposing views" as to whether the current plans would be beneficial to the industry. The letter highlights objections to the policy which include:

- **Futures markets being open during release of key reports issued periodically by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.** Market participants utilize USDA crop production reports, crop progress and grain stocks reports, planted acreage reports and others to adjust their risk management strategies and futures positions. Trading through release of these reports could lead to extreme volatility immediately following their release and with current unequal access to USDA report data due to Internet connection speeds and analysis capabilities.
- **Concern about the expense and the strains that the exchanges' current plans will place on industry systems and personnel.** Trading staying open through late afternoon

or early evening may force firms to hire extra personnel and/or paying overtime to work into the evening hours. In addition, firms are struggling to assess – in an extremely short period of time – software and systems changes needed to manage the new hours and different closing times for open outcry and electronic trading.

The letter concludes that these issues would be better understood by the exchanges, the industry and the Commission given the benefit of a 30-day comment period and that there is no compelling reason why 22-hour trading needs to begin immediately. The letter notes that the impact of expanded hours and new contracts need to be analyzed in a deliberate fashion for effects on cash and futures markets, volatility and producer-customer relationships than to rush to implementation unnecessarily.

NAEGA appreciates Member input and plans to continue to support NGFA leadership in this regard. The full letter is available on the [NAEGA Public Website](#) under “Current News”

Calendar & Website

Official Comments Calendar

22 – Comments due to USTR on Ecuador’s eligibility for benefits under the Andean Trade Preference Act: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/04/24/2012-9838/andean-trade-preference-act-atpa-as-amended-request-for-public-comments-regarding-beneficiary>

Activities Calendar

May

14 – Washington, DC – Colombian Embassy Reception Celebrating the U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement

23 – Tokyo, Japan – Industry Dialog & NAEGA Centennial Celebration

25 – Seoul, South Korea – Industry Dialog & NAEGA Centennial Celebration

25 – Market Access Program 2013 Universal Export Strategy Due to USDA/FAS

28 – NAEGA Office Closed for Memorial Day Holiday in the U.S

June

6-10 – London, United Kingdom – 2012 International Grains Council Grains Conference: www.igc.int and meeting of the International Grain Trade Coalition (www.igtglobal.com)

14 – St. Louis, Missouri – Soybean Industry Advisory Council Meeting with USSEC Regional Directors & Staff – NAEGA Invited

27-29 – Bogota, Colombia – 2012 US Wheat Associates Latin American Buyers Conference – NAEGA Member Volunteers attending

July

14-15 – Alexandria, VA – U.S. Agricultural Export Development Council USDA FAS Attaché Meetings & Seminar – NAEGA Members Invited to Attend

August

7 – Washington, DC – U.S. Coast Guard Alternate Security Program Workshop – Jerry Cotter Attending

20 – Portland, OR – NAEGA Board of Directors Meeting – Tentative

21 - Portland, OR - NAEGA/NGFA-FGIS Regional Workshop

22-23 - St. Louis, MO - Biotech Summit – meetings regarding the US Biotech MOU to establish improved, more consistent and transparent communication regarding issues that potentially threaten the development, production or delivery of agricultural products derived from modern crop biotechnology.

30-September 1 – Puerto Vallarta, Mexico – 2012 APPAMEX-NAEGA Forum – Sheraton Bunganvilas Resort & Convention Center

September

10-11 – Santa Fe, New Mexico – NGFA Board of Directors Meeting

17-19 – New Orleans, Louisiana – 2012 Soy & Grain Trade Summit

<http://www.cvent.com/events/soy-and-grain-trade-summit-2012/event-summary-e825f86219fe423296fd676fcca69a70.aspx>

October

1-5 – Hyderabad, India – COP/MOP 6 to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

4-12 – Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom - 52nd European Commodities Exchange

<http://www.ece-edinburgh2012.com/>

15-18 – Louisville, Kentucky – 2012 North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) Meeting: <http://www.nappo.org/en/>

December

9-11 – Omaha, Nebraska – NGFA 2012 Country Elevator Conference & Trade Show

2013

March

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

TBD - San Francisco, California – NAEGA Annual Meetings

NAEGA Website Changes & News – In June of 2012, NAEGA plans to launch a redesigned public web page and complete the transition to the NAEGA Personal Pages website. The new public site will be fully integrated with the Personal Pages and will eliminate the current Member's Only website. If you have not yet registered for the Personal Pages, or have forgotten your log in information, please contact Patrick Hayden at phayden@naega.org. He will set up

your account or reset your log in information and send you a temporary password. You can find a user's guide for the [Personal Pages here](#).

NAEGA Issues & Decision Memos have been added to the site under the "Current Issues" section, and each Issue has its own page, containing background information on the issue and updates on current progress on the issue. The Issue Pages can be updated by Board, Committee and other persons who have been granted access to add information. New issues will be posted as NAEGA begins work on them. The issues will be sorted by the most recent updates, and the Personal Pages site can be searched by subject.

Thank you for your membership and work with NAEGA.

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