



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

OUTREACH June 5, 2013

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

Member participation opportunity:

- IGC International Grains Conference – London, United Kingdom, June 10-11
- USAEDC Agricultural Attaché Conference – Alexandria, Virginia, July 9-10
- 2013 APPAMEX-NAEGA Forum– Cancun, Mexico, August 15-17
- USDA Agribusiness Trade Mission to Southern Africa – September 16-19

Action Reports

- World, Unauthorized Release of Biotech Wheat
- World, Global Grain Stocks Analysis

New Issues

- NAPPO Releases New Draft Strategic Plan for Comments
- U.S. and Caribbean Community Sign Trade and Investment Agreement
- U.S. Notes Lack of Progress in WTO Trade Facilitation Talks

NAEGA Calendar and Member Notices

- Upcoming events and notices for members

NAEGA member participation opportunity

IGC International Grains Conference – London, United Kingdom, June 10-11, 2013 – NAEGA member personnel are invited to participate in the 2013 International Grain Council (IGC) International Grains Conference. The theme of this year’s conference is *“Assessing prospects, addressing challenges”*. The IGC Grains Conference brings together key decision makers, industry representatives and other stakeholders to discuss the latest developments in the grain and oilseed markets together with the policy challenges they present. We continue to find the conference to be an excellent venue during and around which to meet with key government and industry leaders. NAEGA President Gary C. Martin plans to attend and looks forward meeting with NAEGA members at the Reception and Meetings

NAEGA may be setting up meetings with key attendees. We will keep you informed.

Meanwhile your participation is welcome in 3 different ways:

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1. **Literature distribution:** We will have a table top display at the IGC Exhibition. NAEGA members are welcome to send us promotional material to include on the table top. Please contact Patrick to make sure your company’s material is included on the NAEGA display.
2. **Workshop Participation:** We are sponsoring a workshop at the IGC Conference on June 11, 2013 entitled “Prospects and Challenges Key to the International Grain Trade and Markets”. There is still time for NAEGA member company personnel to join the panel discussion. Please contact Gary if you or a colleague would like to make remarks.
3. **Discount Registrations:** A limited number of discounted registrations are available to NAEGA members for the IGC Conference. Please contact Patrick and let us know as soon as possible if you would like to take advantage of this discount offer.

An agenda for the full IGC Conference and registration information is [available on the IGC website](#).

USAEDC Agricultural Attaché Conference – Alexandria, Virginia, July 9-10 – The U.S. Agricultural Export Development Council (USAEDC) has announced the agenda and for its 2013 Agricultural Attaché conference, which will be held in Alexandria, Virginia on July 9-10. USAEDC is a non-profit trade association of U.S. commodity trade associations, farmer cooperatives and state regional trade groups. The approximately 80 members expect USAEDC to assist them in their export promotion efforts, specifically those in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS). NAEGA, because of our use of the Market Access Program (MAP) is a member of USAEDC.

The attaché conference gives USAEDC members an opportunity to meet with overseas FAS attachés and staff and to discuss country-specific issues facing U.S. agricultural exports. NAEGA member representatives are encouraged to attend, and if interested should contact the NAEGA office for information on registering. More information is available [through think link](#).

2013 APPAMEX-NAEGA Forum – Cancun, Mexico, August 15-17 – The 2013 Asociación de Proveedores de Productores Agropecuarios México (APPAMEX) - NAEGA Forum has been scheduled for August 15-17, 2013 at the in Cancun, Mexico. This year marks the 20th APPAMEX-NAEGA forum, and the theme is “Mexico’s Integration in the Global Food Security: 20 years of Commerce for the Service of the Mexican Agri-Food Industry”. An agenda for the forum is being developed and NAEGA members are invited to attend. If you or a member of your company would like to be a speaker at the forum or take part in a panel, please contact the NAEGA office. A draft agenda [can be found here](#), and more details will be posted to the [NAEGA Member’s Only Website](#) and the [NAEGA Personal Pages site](#) as they become available.

USDA Agribusiness Trade Mission to Southern Africa – September 16-19 – Small-and-medium-sized U.S. agribusinesses are invited to apply to attend a U.S.- Southern Africa Agribusiness Trade Mission (ATM) taking place in Johannesburg, South Africa during the week of September 16-19, 2013. Interested NAEGA members are welcome to apply.

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The ATM seeks to provide U.S. small-and medium-sized enterprise participants 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 African market. The Southern Africa ATM will highlight the following agriculture market sectors: processed products, food ingredients, livestock and poultry products (not including chicken leg quarters), beverages and spirits, dairy, and hides and skins.

While the ATM will physically take place in South Africa, business representatives from throughout the Southern, Eastern, and Western regions of Africa will participate in targeted, one-on-one meetings with selected U.S. agribusiness participants. Meetings with government and industry officials from both African countries and the United States, presentations by public/private sector experts, and site visits will be scheduled during the ATM.

USDA will develop the agenda, facilitate logistics, and cover all on-ground expenses during the ATM. Participants maintain responsibility for their travel to South Africa, as well as their in-country lodging costs. USDA will work to secure reduced rates.

Applications, [which can be found here](#), are due to USDA by June 28, 2013. Application forms will be reviewed and a decision communicated to the point of contact by July 3, 2013. Please respond with your application to Shane.Danielson@fas.usda.gov (tel.: 202-720-1230) and Ammara.Bokhari@fas.usda.gov (tel.: 202-690-1339).

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, Unauthorized Release of Biotech Wheat – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced on Wednesday May 29 the confirmed detection of a biotech-enhanced glyphosate-resistant wheat event in a single field on a farm in Oregon.

Event Monsanto 71-800 was apparently discovered by an unnamed producer after attempting to treat volunteer wheat plants with glyphosate herbicide on an 80-acre field. The planting reportedly occurred in 2011, with the wheat harvested in 2012, and the field laying fallow until 2013. The producer sent the surviving plants to Oregon State University for testing, which subsequently notified USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) on May 3.

In a one-page statement, USDA APHIS said its testing of the wheat plants confirmed that the biotech trait involved was the same glyphosate-resistant event that Monsanto Co. had been

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authorized to field test in 16 states from 1998 to 2005. An estimated 50 volunteer wheat plants located on another field on which the same farmer applied glyphosate herbicide showed no signs of glyphosate resistance when tested.

APHIS stressed that the biotech-enhanced wheat event “does not pose a food safety concern,” as Monsanto in 2004 had completed a voluntary consultation with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that determined the glyphosate-resistant wheat was safe for food and feed. APHIS said it was continuing its “formal investigation” to determine “as quickly as possible...the circumstances and extent of the situation and how it happened.” During a mid-afternoon stakeholders’ call on May 29 a briefing conducted only well after the agency had alerted the media and key foreign governments – Michael Gregoire, APHIS acting associate administrator, and other APHIS and USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) officials maintain to date that the agency had not determined yet the specific variety or class of wheat involved.

It has subsequently been reported that 14 APHIS investigators are on-site. The investigators work included collecting samples from a nearby grain elevator in the vicinity of the affected farm field.

APHIS has issued a [three-page question-and-answer document](#) to accompany its [statement](#).

In related and important development **FGIS confirmed to NAEGA it will continue issuing a letterhead statement to facilitate U.S. wheat exports.** The official letterhead statement attests that “there are no transgenic wheat varieties for sale or in commercial production in the United States at this time.”

Meanwhile, APHIS said – and Monsanto confirmed – that there is no rapid validated test available at this time for detecting the glyphosate-resistant biotech event in wheat. In a statement, Monsanto said commercial test strips used to detect the presence of glyphosate tolerance in soybeans, canola, cotton and sugar beets generate a “very high incidence of false-positive detections (greater than 90 percent) and are not reliable for wheat.”

Monsanto also said it will work with USDA to “get to the bottom” of the Oregon incident, but that the company had not yet verified APHIS’s findings because the agency has not provided the company with its own samples. “We have asked for information necessary to confirm the presence of the Roundup Ready™ trait in the samples that were tested,” Monsanto’s statement said. “Up to this point, Monsanto has not received details about the testing USDA has performed. Nor has USDA provided us with samples necessary to verify (its) findings.”

Monsanto has established a website, <http://www.monsanto.com/gmwheat>, to provide related information.

NAEGA has been intensely involved and leads efforts to reduce and identify international markets risks, establish commercial assurances from responsible parties and to maintain and

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recover markets. Working along with the National Association of Wheat Growers, U.S. Wheat Associates and the National Grain & Feed Association we have been successful in engaging USDA FAS on international market communication and possible actions.

We expect to hear more from APHIS before the end the week. Thanks to all for your patience and advice as we focus in this dilemma.

World, Global Grain Stocks Analysis – The International Food & Agriculture Policy Council (IPC) has released a discussion paper entitled “Food Security: New Market Variables and Rational Public Policy Choices”, authored by NAEGA Senior Advisor Kendell Keith. The publication is part of NAEGA’s efforts to engage with The Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS). The AMIS is an initiative made up of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors from 20 major economies also known as the G-20 and Group of Twenty, designed to enhance food market transparency and encourage coordination of policy action in response to market uncertainty. The initial focus of AMIS is on four grains that are particularly important in international food markets, namely wheat, maize, rice and soybeans. Joe Glauber, Chief Economist for USDA and Chairman of AMIS provided a forward to the discussion.

The approach taken in the analysis is to examine the downward trend of grain stocks and national and global food security following recent commodity price spikes in 2008 and 2012. A key conclusion is that government holding of large stocks discourages private stock accumulation, distorts market signals and impedes timely supply and demand responses in private markets. Recommendations include that governments should:

1. avoid significant intervention in markets (such as trading futures or accumulating large stocks) which could distort efficient distribution of grain and food;
2. invest in the collection of stocks data and work cooperatively with other countries to make such data public for a more efficient global food distribution system;
3. participate in ongoing dialogue with other countries on methods to discourage government policy shifts that aggravate impacts of temporary shortages; and
4. if viewed as necessary, supplement private grain stocks with low levels of stocks held for strictly humanitarian and emergency needs.

The discussion paper is available on the IPC [website through this link](#).

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

June

9 – Comments due to USTR on negotiation objectives with regards to Japan's participation in the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Trade Agreement:

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<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-05-07/pdf/2013-10724.pdf>

9 – Deadline to request to attend USTR hearing on negotiation objectives with regards to Japan's participation in the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Trade Agreement:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-05-07/pdf/2013-10724.pdf>

17 – Written comments due to International Trade Commission on ITC investigation of the probable economic effect of the TPP: <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=ITC-2013-0136-0001>

18 – Written comments due to International Trade Commission on ITC investigation of the probable economic effect of duty-free imports under T-TIP:

http://www.usitc.gov/secretary/fed_reg_notices/332/131_037_notice04182013sgl.pdf

25 – Comments due to USDA/APHIS on the proposed extension of information collection associated with the regulations for the importation of seed and screenings from Canada:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/04/26/2013-09911/notice-of-request-for-extension-of-approval-of-an-information-collection-importation-of-seed-and>

28 – Comments due to the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) on their revised Draft Strategic Plan:

<http://www.nappo.org/en/?sv=&category=Draft+Documents&title=Strategic+Plan+2013-15>

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

NAPPO Releases New Draft Strategic Plan for Comments – The North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) has released a new Draft Strategic Plan for review by stakeholders. NAPPO began to revise its strategic plan in March 2013 to ensure that the needs of member countries, the U.S., Canada and Mexico, and stakeholders are being met, improve the organization's efficiency and efficacy, and to improve processes and results of NAPPO work for the benefit of member countries and stakeholders.

The draft NAPPO strategic plan, [available here](#), is now open for comments. NAPPO would like input on how the Draft Strategic Plan deals with the following:

- Reduced resources in all three countries requiring greater focus on prioritized work
- Promoting more transparent work in NAPPO
- Ensuring the work is relevant to the three countries and their stakeholders, the region and has potential application to a wider audience (i.e. the IPPC)

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- Promoting greater scientific and technical rigor in NAPPO standards and other work

The deadline for comments is June 28, 2013. NAEGA is considering commenting on the plan. Final comments and any questions from U.S. stakeholders can be directed to USDA/APHIS via Christina Devorshak at Christina.Devorshak@aphis.usda.gov, Canadian stakeholders should submit comments to CFIA via Steve Côté at Steve.Cote@inspection.gc.ca and Mexican stakeholders should submit comments through SENASICA to Ana Lilia Montealegre at ana.montealegre@senasica.gob.mx.

U.S. and Caribbean Community Sign Trade and Investment Agreement -The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) has announced that a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) was signed between the U.S. and the 15 member countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) as a platform to discuss ways to improve trade and investment between both regions.

In the release, USTR notes that the TIFA will replace the a U.S.- CARICOM Council on Trade and Investment, which was created in 1991. Some of the issues to be addressed by the new Agreement include:

- Facilitation of trade and investment
- Multilateral cooperation
- Intellectual property rights
- Worker rights
- Environmental protection
- Removing barriers to bilateral trade

The CARICOM is made up of 15 member countries - Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. The Agreement was signed by U.S. Vice President Joe Biden and Haiti's President Michel Martelly.

More details can be found on the USTR website [through this link](#).

U.S. Notes Lack of Progress in WTO Trade Facilitation Talks – U.S. Ambassador to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Michael Punke noted at a recent meeting of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, (OECD) that the WTO is again in danger of failing to conclude a trade liberalization agreement at this December’s ministerial meeting in Bali, Indonesia. With the long-running Doha Round negotiations at an impasse, WTO members are working to craft a more limited agreement covering trade facilitation, agriculture and least-developed country issues but progress is proving to be difficult.

Punke blamed the situation on unnamed WTO members who are holding up progress in trade facilitation until they get “all they want on agriculture.” He asserted that to be able to conclude a trade facilitation agreement this year there needs to a dramatic reduction in the nearly 600 areas of disagreement currently listed in the trade facilitation text. He also noted that current proposals Thank you for your membership and work with NAEGA. [This copyrighted report is intended for the use of NAEGA membership only](#). The accuracy of the information reported and interpreted is not guaranteed. All contents are subject to correction and revision. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture NAEGA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or disability. NAEGA is an equal opportunity employer

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from various emerging and developing economies on agriculture are overly ambitious and need to be scaled back if there is to be an agreement at the ministerial meeting.

Following Punke’s remarks other trade ministers participating in a “mini-ministerial” on the sidelines of the OECD meeting agreed to intensify technical discussions on trade facilitation in an effort to remove the existing disagreements in the draft agreement text. Ministers are expected to evaluate progress on the trade facilitation issue by the beginning of August.

NAEGA is pursuing the inclusion of the concepts included in the widely endorsed concept of a Rapid Response Mechanism, which you can find [through this link](#).

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

June

5 – Washington, DC – International Trade Commission Hearing on the probable economic effect of duty-free imports under T-TIP. Written comments due June 18, 2013:

http://www.usitc.gov/secretary/fed_reg_notices/332/131_037_notice04182013sgl.pdf

5-7 – Opatija, Croatia - 2013 Zagreb and Croatian Association of Feed Producers, Technologists and Nutritionists (KRMIVA) Feed Conference – NAEGA Industry Volunteer attending

10-11 - London, United Kingdom - 2013 IGC International Grains Conference - NAEGA Members invited to participate

10-14 – Istanbul & Izmir, Turkey – USDA U.S.-Turkey Agribusiness Trade Mission – NAEGA Members invited to participate

11 – Washington, DC – International Trade Commission Hearing on the probable economic effects of Duty Free Imports under the TPP. Written Comments due June 17, 2013:

<http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=ITC-2013-0136-0001>

19-20 – Minneapolis, Minnesota – Possible NAEGA Contracting & Best Practices Seminar

26-27 – Kansas City, Missouri – Possible NAEGA Contracting & Best Practices Seminar

July

2 – Washington, DC – Office of the U.S. Trade Representative Hearing on negotiations to address certain non-tariff measures that will be conducted bilaterally in parallel to the TPP negotiations

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

14-19 – Anchorage, Alaska – Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) Annual Summit – Gary Martin attending and presenting

August

15-17 – Cancun, Mexico – APPAMEX NAEGA Forum – NAEGA Members Invited to Attend

September

16-19 – Johannesburg, South Africa – USDA Agribusiness Trade Mission to Southern Africa – NAEGA Members invited to attend.

November

TBD – Washington, DC – One Day USDA/USAID Food Aid & Development Meeting with Stakeholders

4-6 – San Antonio, Texas – American Nutrition Forum – Gary Martin attending and presenting

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

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 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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