



OUTREACH --- June 18, 2012

Working Together to Make Trade Work – Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

Member Action Opportunities:

The New NAEGA.org;
Upcoming Events Open to NAEGA Member Participation;
Container logistics and Canada grain marketing Task Forces

Tracking NAEGA Actions:

Canada; U.S.-Canada Task Group; U.S., Biotech Testing; U.S., New Moisture Meter Technology; U.S.; Comments on Proposed Changes to U.S. Wheat Standards

FYI Related News:

New FDA Electronic Application System for CFS;
WTO Study Claims Open Trade Can Boost Agricultural Productivity

Calendar and Website:

Upcoming events and Website News

Member Action Opportunities:

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.

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](#)

**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**

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. The Container Task will begin work with consideration of the Federal Maritime Commission's (FMC) request for comments on creating FMC container freight indices for U.S. agricultural exports which is due July 9.
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.

Canada, U.S.-Canada Task Force – The industry wide Task Group on U.S. and Canada Grain Trade met via conference call on June 14, 2012. The Task Group agreed with steering committee recommendations and is now working to provide factual materials to on US and Canada cross-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. The Task Group also agreed that the Steering committee should consider policy recommendations to further facilitate trade between Canada and the U.S.

The Task Group plans to complete work on preliminary information collection and communication in the next two weeks. The information will be assembled in the form of questions and answers (Q&As) on related topics as identified by the Task Group. The Q&As will be available on a new website managed by NAEGA: www.Canada-USGrainandseedTrade.info. The Website will provide for users to ask the task group for

additional information. Still in development the website will most likely be organized around topics like:

1. The Regulatory Environment – Canada Federal, Provincial, Local, USA: Federal, State, Local
2. Common Grain Trade Practices to include Producer Delivery to Elevators, Processors and Feed Mills as well commercial party transactions in the interior as well as export and import.
3. Seed Related Practices to include Varietal Registration in Canada and the Import / Export of Seed.

NAEGA and the Canada Grains Council are acting to co-host and chair both the Task Group and the Steering Committee. Both U.S. and Canadian governments have several participants acting ex-officio to contribute to the work. Other organizations contributing include Steering Committee members from the Grain Growers of Canada, the Flax Council of Canada, U.S. Wheat Associates and U.S. National Grain and Feed Association. Organizations participating on Task Groups include from Canada: Canadian Seed Trade Association, Canadian National Millers Association, Canadian International Grains Institute, Western Wheat Growers, Grain Farmers of Ontario, the Western Grain Exporters Association and from the U.S.: National Association of Wheat Growers, North American Millers Association, American Seed Trade Association, Montana Wheat and Barley Committee and North Dakota Wheat Commission.

U.S., Biotech Testing – NAEGA has received a request from USDA’s Grain, Inspection, Packers & Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) to assess the need for any change in GIPSA’s involvement in Biotech testing. GIPSA wishes to know if there has been a shift in market needs that GIPSA should consider filling.

NAEGA members may recall that in 2000 GIPSA and the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) issued an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking seeking public comment on the need for USDA to provide testing services for biotech traits. At the time, response was that no, as there was adequate capacity in the commercial testing sector. The response also noted that it would be helpful for USDA to provide guidelines on sampling, and to provide standardization in the marketplace by initiating a proficiency study for labs providing DNA testing, and by having a program to validate the performance (manufacturers’ claims) of commercially available protein based test kits. NAEGA notes that GIPSA activity is now consistent with this direction.

NAEGA would appreciate any input from members on GIPSA’s current request as we consider a response to their inquiry.

U.S., New Moisture Meter Technology – USDA’s Grain, Inspection, Packers & Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has notified NAEGA that the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) has finalized the implementation scheduled for the new Unified Grain Moisture Algorithm (UGMA)-Compatible moisture meters for use within the Official inspection system and established a website dedicated to the UGMA-Compatible meters. The page, located at www.gipsa.usda.gov/fgis/egquipment.html, includes information about the UGMA-Compatible moisture meters and information about implementation of the moisture meters, including the planned commodity implementation schedule. FGIS recently concluded coordination of the planned implementation schedule with the affected commodity groups and has finalized its schedule. The major changes to the implementation schedule are that all types of rice, dry beans

and lentils will be implemented in the second implementation phase, May 1, 2013. The full implementation schedule for all affected commodities is available on the above website and has been posted to the [NAEGA Grades Committee Webpage](#) and under Moisture Meter Issue Tracking on the [NAEGA Personal Pages](#).

U.S., Proposed Changes to U.S. Wheat Standards – NAEGA and the National Grain and Feed Association have submitted a joint letter to USDA’s Grain, Inspection, Packers & Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) commenting on GIPSA’s notice of proposed rulemaking on potential changes, including a change in the definition of contrasting classes and grade limits for shrunken and broken (SHBN) kernels to U.S. wheat standards.

The letter first notes that, in the past, adjustments to the U.S. wheat standards have been made to accommodate such issues as variety, class and industry operational changes. Proposed changes to the Official grading and inspection system need to be considered carefully to make certain a change is justified and will facilitate the marketing of grains and oilseeds and to not unduly disrupt the U.S. Official standards and grading system, which the letter notes is considered the “gold standard” worldwide.

The letter states that NGFA & NAEGA support the proposal. to revise the current wheat standards to change the definition of contrasting classes to include Hard Red Winter and Hard Red Spring in Hard White Wheat. The letter also states opposition to the proposal to revise the grade limits on SHBN for wheat that grades U.S. No. 1 or U.S. No. 2. NGFA & NAEGA feel that this could have an adverse and disproportionate effect on producers in Oklahoma and Texas. The full text of the comments are available on the [NAEGA Public Website](#) under Current News.

FYI Related News:

New FDA Electronic Application System for CFS - The U.S Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has unveiled a new automated system for companies exporting food from the U.S. to file electronically for certificates of free sale (CFS). Such certificates are often requested by international customers or governments to verify that the products being exported meet certain standards.

The FDA Unified Registration and Listing Systems Certificate Application Process allows exporters of conventional foods, including seafood, to apply online for a CFS, reducing the amount of time required for the FDA to process requests and issue certificates. Exporters who create a CAP account will be able to apply for new certificates, modify existing applications and check the status of pending applications. The FDA notes that while companies will now be able to apply for a CFS electronically they can still request certificates by mail. In addition, even if the application is made electronically, at this time certificates are available only as hard copies that are mailed to the applicant. Full details on the new system are available at [FDA’s website](#).

WTO Study Claims Open Trade Can Boost Agricultural Productivity – A new study released by the World Trade Organization (WTO) claims that that “substantially reducing trade and production distorting domestic support, improving market access opportunities, eliminating export subsidies and strengthening the disciplines on export restrictions will improve the enabling environment for investment and productivity growth” in the agricultural sector. The

study is a result of a G20 initiative to examine practical actions that could be undertaken to sustainably improve agricultural productivity growth. The reports calls upon the G20 governments to take action on increasing agricultural productivity in a sustainable manner in their own countries and to support non G20 developing countries in their efforts to address the challenges global agriculture faces. The full study is available on the [WTO website through this link](#).

Calendar & Website

Official Comments Calendar

July

5 - Comments due to USDA on the proposed extension of information collections associated with the end-use certificate program.

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=coop&topic=pai-eu>

9 – Comments due to the Federal Maritime Commission on the possible development of FMC container freight indices for U.S. agricultural exports.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/05/24/2012-12666/notice-of-inquiry-solicitation-of-views-on-requests-to-develop-and-release-container-freight-rate>

9 – Comments due to USDA on the public release time of the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, Acreage, Cattle, Cattle on Feed, Crop Production, Grain Stocks, Prospective Plantings, Quarterly Hogs and Pigs, and Small Grain Summary.

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-06-08/pdf/2012-13951.pdf>

Activities Calendar

June

19 – Washington, DC – Food and Drug Administration (FDA) holding public Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) meeting on [“International Capacity Building with Respect to Food Safety”](#)

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

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

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

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/>

November

6-7 – London, United Kingdom – CropWorld 2012 Grains Congress – NAEGA invited to attend and present

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.

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