



## OUTREACH --- July 30, 2012

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

### **Member Action Opportunities:**

Upcoming Events Open to NAEGA Member Participation;  
NAEGA Board of Director's Meeting – August 20, 2012, Portland, Oregon;  
NAEGA/NGFA-FGIS Regional Workshop – August 21, 2012, Portland, Oregon  
The new NAEGA.org

### **Tracking NAEGA Actions:**

Canada-U.S. Grain and Seed Trade Information; World, TPP Sanitary & Phytosanitary Measures; World, International Movement of Grain; World, IMO IMSBC Code Training Provisions

### **FYI Related News:**

Trade Enforcement Center Reportedly Focused on Trade Barriers in China; New Container-Shipped Canadian Grain Sampling Programs

### **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](#)*

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

**Portland, Oregon – NAEGA/NGFA-FGIS Regional Workshop – August 21, 2012, Crown Center Portland Convention Center Hotel, 8AM-3PM**

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

**Amman, Jordan – U.S. Grain Industry Seminar with Iraq Ministry of Trade and Iraq Grain Board – November 13-14, 2012**

**NAEGA Board of Director's Meeting – August 20, 2012 in Portland, Oregon** – The NAEGA Board of Directors will hold their next meeting at 1:00pm, Pacific Time on August 20, 2012 in Portland, Oregon. The meeting will take place in the 21<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room of the Wells Fargo Center, located at 1300 SW Fifth Avenue in Portland. There are several hotels in the area, and if you need assistance in booking a room, please contact the NAEGA office. A draft agenda will be distributed to the Board and posted to the NAEGA Member's Only Website soon. Attendance is open to all NAEGA members. Please let us know if you plan to attend

**NAEGA/NGFA-FGIS Regional Workshop – August 21, 2012, Portland, Oregon** – NAEGA's Grades and Inspections Committee will co-host a NAEGA/NGFA-Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) Workshop in Portland, Oregon on August 21, 2012. The workshop location has been moved to the Bellmont Room at the Crowne Plaza Portland Convention Center Hotel, located at 1441 N.E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in Portland. NAEGA partners U.S. Grains Council, the U.S. Soybean Export Council and U.S. Wheat Associates will also be participating in the workshop. The workshop, a continuation of series of workshops at export port locations, is designed to expand understanding and identify needs related to U.S. Official grain inspection and to provide for expanded communication with local FGIS personnel.

All NAEGA member companies are welcome to attend the Workshop. A draft agenda for the meeting, prepared by FGIS, is available on the [NAEGA Member's Only Home Page](#) for your review and comment. Please contact the NAEGA office if you or any colleagues plan to attend.

**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.

## **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-US Grain & Seed Trade Information** – NAEGA and the Canada Grains Council have co-chaired a coalition of industry and producer trade associations to facilitate new trade opportunities between Canada and the United States arising from the passage of the Marketing Freedom for Grain Farmers Act. The centerpiece of the effort is the NAEGA-developed website, [www.Canada-USGrainandSeed.info](http://www.Canada-USGrainandSeed.info), which is now live on the internet. Currently, the website includes information for grain producers in the form of two sets of frequently asked questions and answers (FAQs) for producers from both the U.S. and Canada. The information will help

producers understand the similarities and differences between the two systems to help avoid issues in marketing and delivering their grain across the border.

Two additional information paths, one for the commercial grain trade and one for the seed trade, will be part of the second phase of the project. A press release announcing the launch of the website [is available here](#).

**World, TPP Sanitary & Phytosanitary Measures** – NAEGA joined with other industry partners in sending a letter to the U.S. Trade Representative, Environmental Protection Association Administrator and the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, Health & Human Services and State, stating that while the group strongly supports the objectives of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), in order for it to be commercially meaningful, the TPP must include “effective disciplines on the application of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures” which are fully enforceable and highlight the importance of science-based regulation.

The letter notes that SPS measures are considered a significant point for U.S. agriculture interests. Industry organizations have in particular noted the vital importance of “WTO-plus” SPS provisions, obligations that go beyond the World Trade Organization (WTO) SPS Agreement on issues like risk assessment, risk management, transparency, border checks/laboratory testing and facilitating trade through regulatory coherence measures. The letter notes that without stronger SPS measures, it is possible that gains from the TPP would be undermined if countries use arbitrary, non-science-based SPS measures to restrict access. For the TPP to be as beneficial as possible to U.S. agriculture, all of the SPS measures in the agreement, including the WTO-plus provisions, must be fully enforceable. The full text of the letter has been posted to the NAEGA public website under [“Current News & Press Releases”](#).

NAEGA continues to monitor and advocate on behalf of industry interests in the TPP. NAEGA and the National Grain & Feed Association are drafting a follow-up letter to the U.S. Administration. We are focusing on new language that incorporates the concepts of WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding, which calls for “the prompt settlement of situations in which a Party considers that any benefits accruing to it or exporters of that Party directly or indirectly under the covered agreements are being impaired by SPS measures taken by another Party is essential to the effective functioning of the TPP and the maintenance of a proper balance between the rights and obligations of Parties.” We will provide language for a “Rapid Response” mechanism for SPS issues designed to ensure that SPS administrative authorities establish procedures to receive and render decisions concerning issues raised by exporters, and that exporters are aware of those procedures. We will continue to track and report on this issue.

**World, International Movement of Grain** – With NAEGA’s support, USDA’s Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), has submitted a response in opposition to a proposal from the International Plant Protection Convention for a draft standard on the international movement of grain. We oppose a standard, and recommend a best practices guide be developed instead. A best practices guide meets the requirement of a technical document containing detailed information, a toolkit of risk assessment and mitigation tools. We believe a standard would result in too specific and prescriptive measures and that the enormous variability associated with types of grain, pest complexes and phytosanitary measures will make consensus challenging if not impossible. The response has been posted to the [NAEGA Grades & Inspections Committee](#)

[Page](#) under International Movement of Grain and added to the issue tracking page on the subject on the [NAEGA Personal Pages site](#).

**World, IMO IMSBC Code Training** – The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) has submitted a paper to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on shore-side training under IMO’s International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) code. In the paper, the USCG proposes non-mandatory training provisions that call for the training of shore-side personnel so that they are aware of the risks associated with the loading, unloading and handling of solid bulk cargoes and safety procedures that need to be followed. The IMSBC code does not currently address the training of shore-side personnel, though there are other efforts underway to develop training programs.

The U.S. plans to ask for provisional approval of their proposal at the September 2012 meeting of the IMO’s Subcommittee on Dangerous Goods, Solid Cargoes and Containers (DSC) in London. NAEGA Senior Advisor Jerry Cotter, who will attend the DSC meeting on behalf of NAEGA, advises that the U.S. may want to make their training proposal mandatory in the near future and does not want any real input or changes. Without input from other delegations or Non-Governmental Organizations, IMO procedures would result in the training becoming mandatory at one of the following year’s DSC meetings.

NAEGA is seeking other national delegations to ask for and support a Working Group or Correspondence Group on this issue ahead of the DSC meeting in September, particularly Canada or Australia as we think this impacts those countries bulk terminals and export facilities. The USCG proposal is available on the [NAEGA Grades & Inspections Committee Page](#) under “International Maritime Organization” and on an issue tracking page on the subject on the [NAEGA Personal Pages site](#).

### **FYI Related News:**

**Trade Enforcement Center Focused on Trade Barriers in China** –U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) stated that the Interagency Trade Enforcement Center (ITEC) established by President Barack Obama in January 2012 is focused on obstacles to U.S. exports in China and five other countries. ITEC is designed to improve the executive branch’s decision making concerning which foreign trade barriers to take action against. USTR thinks this process could result in additional complaints at the World Trade Organization (WTO) this year and that any such decisions will factor in the economic cost of the problems at issue and the precedent a WTO ruling would set.

ITEC is designed to improve the executive branch’s decision making concerning which foreign trade barriers to take action against. ITEC has three objectives : One is to coordinate among USTR, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and the departments of State, Justice, Agriculture, Commerce, Homeland Security and the Treasury on the enforcement of U.S. trade rights under international trade agreements and the enforcement of domestic trade laws ; Two is to coordinate among USTR, other agencies with trade-related responsibilities and the U.S. intelligence community the exchange of information related to potential violations of international trade agreements by foreign trade partners; Three is to conduct outreach to U.S. workers, businesses and other interested persons to foster greater participation in the identification and reduction or elimination of foreign trade barriers and unfair foreign trade practices.

**New Container-Shipped Canadian Grain Sampling Programs** – The Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) will launch the Accredited Container Sampler Program (ACSP) and Certified Container Sampling Program (CCSP) on August 1, 2012 following the successful completion of a four-year pilot project with industry partners. The programs, which are voluntary, were developed in response to an increased use of containers to ship grain to export markets and a demand for CGC inspection of these shipments.

The ACSP allows grain companies to obtain official CGC inspection of their container shipments based on a sample taken by a CGC-accredited third party. CGC then issues an Official Inspection certificate to grain companies registered in the program.

To become accredited, the third-party firm must:

- Have a quality management system in place and written sampling procedures compliant with CGC requirements.
- Have samplers CGC trained and tested.
- Be monitored through CGC audits that evaluate how samplers follow required procedures.

The CCSP certifies grain companies to take samples from their own shipping containers and submit these samples to the CGC for inspection. CGC then issues a Certified Submitted Sample certificate to the certified grain company. The certificate notes that the grade assigned to the sample was based on a submitted sample drawn by the company following approved sampling procedures.

To become certified, a grain company must:

- Have a quality management system in place and written sampling procedures compliant with our procedures.
- Have samplers trained in CGC sampling procedures.
- Have their site evaluated by the CGC to identify correct sampling locations, practices and equipment that ensures representative samples are taken.
- Be monitored through audits conducted by CGC accredited –auditors. These audits include practical evaluations of samplers to ensure they are following proper sampling protocols.

The programs are offered on a fee-for-service basis. Fee schedules and full details on both programs are available at the CGC website at <http://www.grainscanada.gc.ca/index-eng.htm>.

## **Calendar & Website:**

### **Official Comments Calendar**

#### **August**

**8** – 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>

**24** - Comments due to USDA on Proposed Rule requiring weekly export sales reporting from exporters of DDGs and Pork:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/06/25/2012-15437/export-sales-reporting-requirements>

## **September**

**4** – Comments due to USTR on U.S. TPP Objectives for Canada:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/07/23/2012-17932/request-for-comments-on-negotiating-objectives-with-respect-to-canadas-participation-in-the-proposed#p-34>

**4** – Comments due to USTR on U.S. TPP Objectives for Mexico:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/07/23/2012-17933/request-for-comments-on-negotiating-objectives-with-respect-to-mexicos-participation-in-the-proposed>

**11** – Comments Due to USDA/APHIS on BASF Plant Science’s Petition for Nonregulated Status for soybean event BPS–CV127–9: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-07-13/pdf/2012-17139.pdf>

**11** – Comments Due to USDA/APHIS on Bayer Crop Science’s Petition for Nonregulated Status for soybean event FG72: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-07-13/pdf/2012-17136.pdf>

**11** – Comments Due to USDA/APHIS on Dow AgroSciences’ Petition for Nonregulated Status for soybean event FG72: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-07-13/pdf/2012-17134.pdf>

**11** – Comments Due to USDA/APHIS on GENECTIVE SA’s Petition for Nonregulated Status for maize event VCO-01981–5: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-07-13/pdf/2012-17130.pdf>

**11** – Comments Due to USDA/APHIS on Monsanto’s Petition for Nonregulated Status for canola event MON 88302: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-07-13/pdf/2012-17132.pdf>

**11** – Comments Due to USDA/APHIS on Monsanto’s Petition for Nonregulated Status for maize event MON 87427: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-07-13/pdf/2012-17142.pdf>

**11** – Comments Due to USDA/APHIS on Monsanto’s Petition for Nonregulated Status for soybean event MON 87708: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-07-13/pdf/2012-17129.pdf>

**11** – Comments Due to USDA/APHIS on Monsanto’s Petition for Nonregulated Status for soybean event MON 87712: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-07-13/pdf/2012-17164.pdf>

**11** – Comments Due to USDA/APHIS on Pioneer Hi-Bred ‘s Petition for Nonregulated Status for canola event DP–073496–4: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-07-13/pdf/2012-17135.pdf>

## **Activities Calendar**

### **August**

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

**10** – Washington, DC – Export Credit Working Group Meeting with Deputy Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Service Darci Vetter to Discuss the GSM-102 Program

**20** – Portland, OR – NAEGA Board of Directors Meeting, Wells Fargo Center – 21<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room

**21** - Portland, OR - NAEGA/NGFA-FGIS Regional Workshop – Wheat Marketing Center

**30-September 1** – Puerto Vallarta, Mexico – 2012 APPAMEX-NAEGA Forum – Hard Rock Hotel

### **September**

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

### **October**

**1-5** – Hyderabad, India – COP/MOP 6 to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. NAEGA team to Join International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) effort at the Meetings.

**2** – Rome, Italy - Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) Roundtable Meeting <http://www.amis-outlook.org/> – NAEGA invited to attend

**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 Gary C. Martin to attend and present.

**13-14** – Amman, Jordan – Meeting with Iraq Minister of Trade - Minister Babakr has accepted our invitation for his staff to attend the proposed seminar on 13 - 14 of November, 2012. *Link to invite letter*

### **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

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