



OUTREACH --- August 13, 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;
U.S. Biotech Meetings in St. Louis – August 22-23, 2012, St. Louis, Missouri;
USSEC Soy Exporter Meeting – August 22, 2012, St. Louis, Missouri
The new NAEGA.org

Tracking NAEGA Actions:

Asia, Americas and the Pacific Region TPP / RRM ; Burma, OFAC Publishes General Licenses Related to Sanctions Program; ; U.S., Biotech Update; U.S., Comments to the FMC on Container Shipping Indices; World, Low Level Presence; North America, Canada-U.S. Grain and Seed Trade Information Site Update

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, 2012,
1-5 PM, Wells Fargo Center**

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

**St. Louis, Missouri – US Biotech Meetings and USSEC Soy Exporters
Meeting – August 22 and 23, 2012**

**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 21st 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 has been posted to the [NAEGA Member’s Only Website](#) and the [NAEGA Personal Pages](#) site. Attendance is open to all NAEGA members. If you have not already done so, 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 will be held in Belmont Room at the Crowne Plaza Portland Convention Center Hotel, located at 1441 N.E. 2nd 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. An updated draft agenda is available on the [NAEGA Member’s Only Home Page](#) and the [NAEGA Personal Pages](#) site for your review. If you or a colleague are planning to attend and you have not yet contacted the NAEGA office, please do so as soon as possible.

U.S. Biotech Meetings in St. Louis– On Wednesday, August 22, 2012, at the invitation of the American Soybean Associations (ASA) and the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA), the signatories of the “Memorandum of Understanding on Strengthening Communications Throughout the Value Chain on Biotechnology and Market Issues(MOU)” will participate in an inaugural meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. Signatories in addition to ASA and NCGA include NAEGA, the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA), the Biotechnology Industry Association (BIO) and the National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA). The MOU was created 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. A draft agenda has been posted to the [NAEGA Biotech Committee webpage](#) and under issue tracking for the MOU on the [NAEGA Personal Pages site](#). Attendance at the event is limited and on an invitation only basis. Please contact us if you would like to be invited.

The next day, Thursday, August 23, NAEGA and NGFA will meet with NCGA’s leadership and Biotech committee at the Westin Hotel in St. Louis. The meeting will provide for more detailed discussion of issues covered by the MOU as applied to corn. If you or a member of your organization would like to attend the meeting, please contact the NAEGA office as soon as possible.

USSEC Soy Exporter Meeting – August 22, 2012, St. Louis, Missouri – The U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC) has invited NAEGA members to participate in a meeting for U.S. soy exporters in St. Louis on August 22, 2012. The objective of the meeting is to discuss USSEC’s “High Impact” projects which are targeted toward market diversification to build and rebuild markets for U.S. soybeans. USSEC is seeking industry input on the strategic direction of the multi-year, checkoff-funded projects. In addition, the meeting will address industry’s ideas for new projects and include a review of sustainability related efforts.

NAEGA members who are interested in attending should contact us soon as possible to be included in the 10 AM to noon session at the Hilton Ball Park Hotel. A draft agenda for the event has been posted to the [NAEGA Member’s Only Home Page](#) and added to the Meetings section of the [NAEGA Personal Pages site](#).

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.

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.

Asia, Americas and the Pacific Region, TPP / RRM. - NAEGA has initiated an effort to include Rapid Response Mechanisms (RRM) to address sanitary and phyto-sanitary (SPS) measures that may inappropriately disrupt movement of agricultural products across international borders, in the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) regional trade agreement.

We are seeking TPP agreement to provide for two RRM:

1. An immediate detailed notification to the importer or exporter of record (shipper or consignee) of risk detection, assessment, and management measures. A prompt notification that details methodology, findings, enabling authority and recourse or compliance measures related to the action taken provided by the official body upon request by either the importer or exporter of record. The notification will provide for actions, acceptable to the relevant official body, which may mitigate the trade disruption.
2. An expedited review at the request of the any TPP party. The expedited review would be conducted by neutral experts from TPP countries of issues raised by TPP nationals and provided in and 15 days. The expedited review will result in a (likely non-binding) public recommendation.

Adding these RRM to TPP provisions will provide for practical implementation of World Trade Organization Dispute Settlement Understanding concepts calling for “the prompt settlement of

situations...being impaired by sanitary & phytosanitary (SPS) measures taken by another Party...” RRM for SPS issues would help 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.

NGFA is assisting NAEGA and several of our joint member’s trade policy experts to engage as broad as possible TPP party country and agriculture trade entity support for this TTP / RRM.

Tracking of this new initiative will be in the [NAEGA Grades & Inspections Committee webpage](#) and under the TPP/ RRM Issue tracking section of the [NAEGA Personal Pages site](#).

Burma, OFAC Publishes General Licenses Related to Sanctions Program – In early July, NAEGA wrote to the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee in support of the Obama Administration’s nomination of Derek Mitchell to be the first full Ambassador to Burma since 1990. As we reported in the July, 2012 edition of OUTREACH, one of our goals in seeing an Ambassador confirmed was to hasten the issuance of a General License to enhance the agricultural trade with Burma. With Ambassador Mitchell’s appointment approved and in response to the Obama Administration’s request to ease economic sanctions on Burma, the U.S. Treasury Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC) has now published General License No. 16 and General License No. 17 issued under the Burma sanctions program. General License No. 16 authorizes the exportation or re-exportation of financial services to Burma, directly or indirectly, from the United States or by a U.S. person wherever located, subject to certain limitations. General License No. 17 authorizes new investment in Burma by U.S. persons, subject to certain limitations and requirements. Full details on the new General License are available [on the OFAC website](#).

U.S., Comments to the FMC on Container Shipping Indices - NAEGA and the National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) have submitted comments to the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) on their Notice of Inquiry on creating U.S. Container Shipping Indices.

NAEGA and NGFA supported the establishment and public release by FMC of container freight indices for U.S. agricultural exports, as they could be a useful tool for the industry. NAEGA and NGFA members showed a considerable interest in utilizing a FMC-maintained Container Freight Export Index. Our comments noted:

1. Many of our members find the market for container freight currently lacks sufficient exchange- or forward-pricing information in advance of a general rate increases.
2. FMC container freight indices could be the critical element in providing much-needed improvement in the ability to manage the volatility inherent in container freight used to transport U.S. grains, oilseeds and their primary products.
3. A container freight index would facilitate the exports of agricultural commodities by increasing the ability of the industry to effectively utilize contracting and hedging tools.
4. Competition for containers is greater than for just agricultural commodities, and as such, agricultural price indices need to be correlated easily to the entire market, not just to agriculture products
5. An idea that FMC could develop an aggregate index of the top three or four bulk commodities transported in containers, such as agricultural products, paper, scrap plastic and scrap metal.

6. Ideally there would be multiple export rates indexed, but due to a lack of liquidity, only a few benchmark routes would be practical.

In responding to their request we emphasized and urged the FMC to maintain and provide for necessary confidentiality of all information including each service contract's terms.

These comments will be tracked as part of the work of our Container Task Force and are available on the NAEGA public website under the new Container Task Force section in the Members section and in [“Current News and Press Releases”](#).

World, Low Level Presence (LLP) – NAEGA will provide remarks on the topic of why biotech LLP policies are necessary at the Global Low Level Presence (LLP) Initiative meeting in Rosario, Argentina on September 17, 2012. NAEGA President Gary C. Martin plans to join colleagues from the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC), Biotechnology providers and several governments at this second meeting following the initiative of the Government of Canada. Countries attending the previous meeting Vancouver, BC included: Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Mexico, United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Russia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines and Chile. The Rosario meeting has the same countries participating plus China, Japan, Colombia and the EU.

The trip will be funded in part by NAEGA's Market Access Program allocation. A draft agenda for Industry Day has been posted to the [NAEGA Biotech Committee Webpage](#), and Issue Tracking for the Initiative has been set up on the [NAEGA Personal Pages site](#).

North America, Canada-US Grain & Seed Trade Information –On August 1, 2012 Canada's Marketing Freedom for Grain Farmers Act went into force. 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 Act. The centerpiece of the effort is the NAEGA-developed website, www.Canada-USGrainandSeed.info, which was launched on July 30, 2012 ahead of the implementation of the act. 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. Since the July 30 launch, the site has had over 1500 unique visitors and a total of 5 questions have been submitted by users through the site. New questions and future updates to the site will be tracked on the site's [“News and Updates” page](#).

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.

Calendar & Website:

Official Comments Calendar

August

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

20 – Portland, OR – NAEGA Board of Directors Meeting, Wells Fargo Center – 21st Floor Conference Room

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

22 – St. Louis, MO - USSEC Soy Exporters Meeting – Ballpark Hilton Hotel, 10AM-Noon

22 – St. Louis, MO – MOU on Biotech Communication Signatory Meeting – Ballpark Hilton Hotel, 1:30PM-4PM

22 – St. Louis, MO – NAEGA-NGFA meeting with the National Corn Growers Association Biotechnology Committee – NAEGA members invited to attend.

27 – Washington, DC - International Trade Administration stakeholder meeting to discuss new biotechnology standardization work proposed by Germany in the International Organization for Standardization – 10:30AM-Noon

27-28 – Washington, DC – USDA Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture Meeting. Details available online at: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-08-06/html/2012-19113.htm>

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

12 – Washington, DC – Public Hearing by the International Trade Commission on the U.S.-Trans-Pacific Partnership Free Trade Agreement Including Canada and Mexico: Advice on the Probable Economic Effect of Providing Duty-Free Treatment for Imports. Details on attending are here: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-08-10/html/2012-19636.htm>

17 – Regina, Argentina – Global LLP Initiative Industry Day Meeting – Gary Martin attending

20 – Washington, DC – Industry Biotech Roundtable at USDA – Gary Martin Participating

26-28 – New Orleans, Louisiana – Dry Bulk Terminal Group Annual Meeting – Westin Hotel New Orleans, NAEGA invited to attend

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. [Invitation Letter Available here](#)

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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