



OUTREACH -- August 27, 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;
The new NAEGA.org;
NAPPO Annual Meetings - October 15-18, 2012 - Louisville, Kentucky

Tracking NAEGA Actions:

Canada, Draft Directive on Weed Seeds; Europe, Biotech Policy; World, International Standards; Americas Region, Biotech Letter on Like Minded Partners; U.S, Biotech Meetings in St. Louis; U.S., NAEGA Comments to USDA on Proposed Rule adding DDGS to Weekly Export Reporting, U.S., End-Use Certificate Program Suspended; NAEGA Board of Director's Meeting in Portland; NAEGA/NGFA-FGIS Regional Workshop in Portland

FYI Related News:

Annual Hearing on China's Compliance with WTO Commitments and Treasury Department Publishes International Boycott List

Calendar and Website:

NAEGA office Hours, 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](#)

THIS WEEK!

- 1. Washington, DC - Meeting with a team of Colombian government and industry officials looking into regulation of grain imports that may contain biotechnology- NAEGA – NGFA Conference room – Monday, August 27, 2012, Conference Call-in available – please contact NAEGA office**
- 2. Conference Call - Grades and Inspections Committee Conference Call with entomologist Guy Hallman, researcher at the Stored Product Insect**

Research Unit in Manhattan, KS to discuss potential research topics benefiting grain trade – August 28, 2012

- 3. Puerto Vallarta, Mexico – 2012 APPAMEX-NAEGA Forum – August 30 September 1, 2012 [Details Available Here](#)**

September – November:

Louisville, Kentucky - NAPPO Annual Meetings – October 15-18, 2012 – [Details Available Here](#)

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

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.

NAPPO Annual Meetings – NAEGA plans to support the 2012 North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) Annual meeting, NAEGA is currently assembling sponsorship for dinner or reception at the meetings. NAPPO has been a key part of the discussion on setting standards on the International Movement of Grain, and recommendations from the [Vancouver Workshop where NAEGA presented the U.S. position](#) on the standards will be presented. This and several specific phyto-sanitary pest management issues impacting trade of agricultural products are likely to be discussed at this meeting of government officials from Canada, Mexico and the United States. NAEGA members are welcome to join NAEGA representatives at the meeting in Louisville, Kentucky from October 15-18, 2012. The invitation and draft agenda are posted to the Upcoming Events section of the NAEGA Member’s Only Site and the NAEGA Personal Pages website. More and updated information can be [found at the meeting website](#). Please let NAEGA know if you plan to attend.

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, Draft Directive on Weed Seeds – The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has issued an new World Trade Organization (WTO) notification that includes Canada’s proposed new draft directive D-12-01 describing the phytosanitary requirements to prevent the introduction of plants regulated as pests in Canada. The changes in D-12-01 include a large

number of species and will likely set considerable and global precedent. A list of species considered for regulation under the regulation can [be found here](#).

NAEGA has placed a high priority in responding to the proposed regulation. Comments are due to CFIA on October 9, 2012, and the regulations could go into effect on February 1, 2013. CFIA considers not only grain and seed, but also fresh produce, nursery stock, greenhouse plants and the like to be potential pathways for entry of prohibited weed seeds. Our outreach may extend beyond grain trade stakeholders and will certainly be part of our agenda for policy discussions under the Canada-US Grain and Seed Trade task group we lead with Canada Grains Council.

The WTO notice can be found on the Issue Tracking page on the [NAEGA Grade's & Inspections](#) website and the [NAEGA Personal Pages](#) site. If you have any suggestions for NAEGA's response, please contact us as soon as possible.

Europe, Biotech Regulation – The European Union (EU) has notified the World Trade Organization (WTO), both to the Committee on Sanitary & Phytosanitary Measures and the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade, of its updated regulation on “application for authorization of genetically modified food and feed” (codifying the European Food Safety Authority guidelines into a regulation). USDA's Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) has requested NAEGA input on a response to this notification.

The regulation and the notifications can be found on the [Biotech Committee Webpage](#) and the issue tracking for EU Biotech on the [NAEGA Personal Pages website](#). While members may decide to comment directly to the EU, NAEGA would appreciate receiving a copy of your comments to help us advise FAS. If you have specific issues that you would like addressed that we may be able to incorporate into our comments, please forward them to NAEGA with reference to the specific paragraph within the regulation.

World, Grain Standards – The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Committee on Agriculture is proposing changes to their *International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides*. The new code would broaden the scope of the voluntary framework to incorporate additional aspects of pesticide management. The code includes a definition of “Highly Hazardous Pesticides”, and all pesticides listed under the Montreal Protocol fall under this definition. The proposed changes are available on the [NAEGA Grades Committee Website](#) and under Issue Tracking for “International Standards” on the [NAEGA Personal Pages site](#).

While the FAO code is voluntary, it is widely referenced by many developing countries and could have possible trade implications. NAEGA is planning to meet with FAO in October on the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) plans for an international standard for grain and the Agriculture Market Information Service (AMIS) issues, and we may address this issue as well.

Americas Region, Biotech Letter on Like Minded Partners – A broad group of industry trade associations were included on a letter crafted largely by NAEGA and shepherded by the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) to the US Administration encouraging high level, focused and increased attention and urgent action to address trade barriers related to crop biotechnology. The letter makes specific suggestions to the U.S. State Department, U.S. Trade

Representative and Secretary of Agriculture to utilize a like-minded country partner's initiative to support the Global Low Level Presence Initiative that is being led by the Government of Canada. The letter can be found on the NAEGA Public Website under [“Recent News and Press Releases”](#).

U.S., Biotech Meetings in St. Louis – The American Soybean Associations (ASA) and the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) hosted the first of what may be several meetings of the signatories of the “Memorandum of Understanding on Strengthening Communications Throughout the Value Chain on Biotechnology and Market Issues” (MOU). 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. The meeting agenda is posted to the [NAEGA Biotech Committee webpage](#) and under issue tracking for the MOU on the [NAEGA Personal Pages](#) site.

The Wednesday, August 22, 2012 meeting included in depth presentations and discussions, on several relevant topics including U.S. and International Low-Level Presence (LLP) Policies; China & the EU Biotech Approvals; and U.S. regulatory requirements. The ultimate focus on the meeting was on the providing for risk Assessment, management & responsibility related to the market impacts from the innovation of crop biotechnology. The National Grain & Feed Association (NGFA) and NAEGA presentations reflecting on the perspective of the Value Added Biotech Coalition, comprised of the Grocery Manufacturers Association, Snack Food Association, Corn Refiners Association, National Oilseed Processors Association and North American Millers Association as well as NAEGA and NGFA led to robust, hopefully influential, consideration of legislative and commercial approaches to reduce or eliminate market barriers and provide for responsibility proportionate to reward to facilitate deployment of crop biotechnology.

On Thursday August 23 several member representatives and NAEGA and NGFA staff met with the biotechnology committee of the NCGA. The meeting successfully set an agenda for constructive work with NCGA to address many of the concerns of our Biotechnology committee.

U.S., NAEGA Comments to USDA on Proposed Export Sales Reporting for DDGs – Following a survey of NAEGA member opinions, we submitted comments to USDA's Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) on their proposal to require exporters of U.S. distillers dried grain (DDG) to report information on export sales of those products to USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service on a weekly basis. The rule, [which can be found here](#), would also require Pork exporters to report sales weekly. NAEGA's comments focused solely on the DDG requirements.

In our comments, NAEGA noted that we generally support more timely information collection and dissemination leading to greater market transparency and enhanced free market competition. DDGs are an important feed ingredient and more information on exports of this commodity could be of value to the U.S. industry and consumers.

However, we concluded that requiring the reporting of weekly sales through the FAS Export Sales Reporting Requirements would be a productive use of industry and USDA resources as doing so may not materially improve market information. DDGs unlike many commodities for which export sales reporting is now required are not traded on uniform or official terms or via an exchange contract. DDGs are traded with highly variable and specific quality terms that differ

greatly based on end use. Providing export sales reporting may skew the markets viewpoint on domestic values. The full comments have been posted to the NAEGA Public Website under [“Recent News and Press Releases”](#).

U.S., End-Use Certificate Program Suspended - The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) published final notice of Suspension of End-Use Certificate Program Requirements for wheat from Canada on Friday, August 24, 2012. The notice states that, effective August 31, 2012, FSA will suspend indefinitely the regulation requiring end-use certificates and tracking of wheat produced in Canada that enters the United States. This action is being taken in response to the discontinuation of Canada's end-use certificate program. As a result of these changes, importers and end- users of Canadian produced wheat are no longer required to provide FSA end-use certificates or consumption and resale reports on wheat produced in Canada. The full notice can be found at the [Federal Register website](#).

NAEGA Board of Director’s Meeting –The NAEGA Board of Directors met on August 20 to review progress and set NAEGA’s agenda for the balance of 2012. The agenda and Board Book for the meeting are posted to the [NAEGA Member’s Only Website](#) and the [NAEGA Personal Pages](#) site. The draft meeting minutes will be posted to the website soon.

NAEGA/NGFA-FGIS Regional Workshop - NAEGA’s Grades and Inspections Committee and the U.S. Soybean Export Council co-hosted a NAEGA/NGFA-Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) Pacific Northwest Regional Workshop in Portland, Oregon on August 21, 2012. Topics discussed included FGIS local and international issues; international grain quality issues; facility operations; a report on the NAEGA-FGIS Inter-market Survey, trade with Canada; the new UGMA moisture meters; an overview of the Pacific Northwest trade outlook; and other grading issues. The agenda for the meeting has been posted on the [NAEGA Member’s Only Home Page](#) and the [NAEGA Personal Pages](#) site for your review.

FYI Related News:

Annual Hearing on China’s Compliance with WTO Commitments - The U.S. interagency Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) has announced its intention to conduct its annual hearing and seek public comments on China’s compliance with its World Trade Organization commitments. This investigation will cover areas such as trading rights, tariffs, tariff-rate quotas, quotas and import licenses, export regulation, internal policies affecting trade such as subsidies, standards and technical regulations, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, intellectual property rights (IPR) and IPR enforcement, and other WTO commitments. In addition, given the U.S. view that China should be held accountable as a full participant in, and beneficiary of, the international trading system, the TPSC is asking parties to identify any unresolved compliance issues that warrant review and evaluation by the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative’s China Enforcement Task Force.

The hearing will be held on October 3, 2012 in Washington, D.C. If you wish to testify at the hearing, you must provide written notification as well as a copy of your testimony, by noon on September 19. Written comments must be submitted by noon on September 24. The Federal Register notice with information on how to register comments or attendance [is available here](#).

Treasury Department Publishes International Boycott List – The Department of the Treasury has published a current list of countries which require or may require participation in, or cooperation with, an international boycott. The list includes Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. Iraq has been added to the list after several months of review by the Department. U.S. companies that do business with these countries are required to file an annual International Boycott Report (IBR) with their federal tax returns. IBR's are required of U.S. taxpayers to report operations in, with, or related to, countries participating in boycotts not sanctioned by the U.S. government. Covered operations include any business or commercial transactions, even if they do not generate income. The full notice is available online at the [Federal Register](#).

USTR Seeking Comments on Foreign Trade Barriers - The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) is seeking comments for its annual National Trade Estimate report on foreign trade barriers. USTR is seeking input on one or more of the following categories of trade barriers:

- import policies such as tariffs and other import charges, quotas, import licensing and customs barriers
- government procurement restrictions
- export subsidies
- lack of intellectual property rights protection
- services barriers & investment barriers
- anticompetitive conduct of state-owned or private firms tolerated by foreign governments that restricts the sale or purchase of U.S. goods or services in the foreign country's markets
- trade restrictions affecting e-commerce
- other barriers, including barriers that encompass more than one category such as bribery and corruption, or that affect a single sector

The USTR is particularly interested in practices that may violate U.S. trade agreements as well as information on new barriers and new or updated information pertaining to the barriers covered in its 2012 NTE report. The Federal Register notice requesting [comments is available here](#).

NAEGA Office Hours, Calendar & Website:

NAEGA Office Hours

Due to NAEGA staff travel and the APPAMEX-NAEGA forum, and in recognition of Labor Day in the United States, the NAEGA office will be closed from Wednesday, August 29 through Monday, September 3. We will reopen at 9:00AM Eastern Time on Tuesday, September 4. We hope everyone has an enjoyable Labor Day weekend!

Official Comments Calendar

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>

October

9 – Comments due to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) on their new draft directive D-12-01 on Weed Seeds, describing the phytosanitary requirements to prevent the introduction of plants regulated as pests in Canada:

http://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2012/sps/CAN/12_1695_00_e.pdf

Activities Calendar

August

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>

28 - Grades and Inspections Committee Conference Call, Stored Product Insect Research Unit in Manhattan, KS to discuss potential research topics benefiting grain trade.

30-September 1 – Puerto Vallarta, Mexico – 2012 APPAMEX-NAEGA Forum – Hard Rock Hotel. NAEGA team consisting of Patrick Hayden with Senior Advisors: Jerry Cotter, Kendell Keith, Kirk Miller and Sam Bonilla to highlight NAEGA 100 year anniversary with events and remarks. http://appamex.com.mx/proximos_eventos.htm

September

3 – NAEGA Office Closed in observation of Labor Day

9 – Leesburg, Virginia – Stakeholder Meeting with Trans-Pacific Partnership Negotiators, Gary Martin planning to attend and promote Rapid Response Mechanism for SPS trade barriers

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>

17-22 – Rosario, Argentina – Global LLP Initiative Industry Day Meeting – Gary Martin attending, presenting and traveling with MAP program

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. Paul Green and Diana Felner traveling under NAEGA MAP program will 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

3 – Washington, DC – Annual Inter-agency Trade Policy Staff Committee hearing on China WTO Compliance

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. <http://www.cropworld-global.com/page.cfm/Link=12/t=m/goSection=4>

13-14 – Amman, Jordan – Seminar with Iraq Minister of Trade - [Current agenda available here](#)

December

6 – London, United Kingdom – IGC "Roundtable Discussion the trade issues caused by GMO/LLP issues"

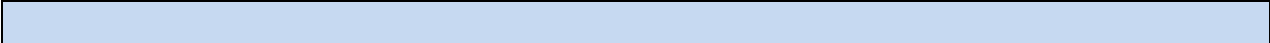
9-11 – Omaha, Nebraska – NGFA 2012 Country Elevator Conference & Trade Show

2013

March

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

TBD - San Francisco, California – NAEGA Annual Meetings



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