



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

OUTREACH January 25, 2016

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

NAEGA office in DC is temporarily closed due to transportation conditions related to winter storm Jonas. We are teleworking and will respond to email and telephone calls as soon as possible.

Make your plans Now! The 2016 NAEGA annual meeting will be held in the Carousel Room at the Hotel del Coronado in San Diego, California from 11:30 to 5 PM on March 14. Please reserve your hotel guest room now at: [NGFA NAEGA HOTEL Del Coronado room block for March 2016](#). Please let us know if you have any questions or we can be of assistance. A preliminary March 12-15 agenda for both NGFA and NAEGA can be found [here](#).

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Action Reports

Annual APHIS Grain Sector Meeting

On January 21 NAEGA President and CEO Gary Martin attended the Annual Grains Sector Meeting Hosted by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The meeting was hosted by (APHIS) Administrator Kevin Shea and attended by his executive program staff as well as representatives from NGFA and several commodity groups.

During the three-hour session APHIS leadership discussed and received feedback on the agencies activity in 2015 as well as priorities for 2016. Much of the dialog was on NAEGA priorities and work with APHIS. Initiatives related to Canada, China, Mexico and Turkey were covered in detail. APHIS use of non-regulatory approaches to the detection of wheat flag smut in Kansas was recognized as being very effective in minimizing impact on U.S. exports. Work with the NAEGA organized Canada-U.S. Grain and Seed Trade Task Group and the U.S.-Canada Regulatory Cooperation Council, our concerns with Mexico’s implementation of restrictions on soil presence in grain shipments and several North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) initiatives were examined. Our work with the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) related to electronic documentation, including the International Plant Protection Convention’s (IPPC) E-Phyto initiative and the development of an International Phyto-Sanitary Measure (ISPM) for Grain, were discussed as global priorities for which APHIS and NAEGA are in leadership positions.

We are concerned with APHIS’s current plans to modify and reduce its requirements for deregulation, which will be announced in February, due to potential trade impacts and the lack of international regulatory coherence for plant breeding techniques, including crop biotechnology and new plant breeding techniques (NBPT).

While much of the discussion was expected as well as consistent with NAEGA priorities and policy, we were pleasantly surprised by the agency response to questions about how APHIS planned to make the provision of APHIS certifications more reliable. After reviewing the impact of unreliable service in 2014 in Vancouver, Washington and the changes in U.S. Grain Standards Act that might result in more occasions when the U.S. Federal Grain Inspection Service is not available to provide for phyto examinations at export, APHIS revealed that it was in discussions with FGIS on a pilot program to certify the use of independent third-parties. The pilot is being developed for shipments of seeds for planting.

IGTC Intranet Launch

NAEGA member personnel can be part of the International Grain Trade Coalition **INTRANET!** Log in credentials are now available for the IGTC intranet which provide a one-stop resource of IGTC documents, policy files and events for IGTC members and corporate stakeholders. The

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IGTC intranet site is available to via password protected access on the new IGTC website www.igtglobal.org. All NAEGA members are considered corporate stakeholders in IGTC. If you are interested in accessing the IGTC website and would like to be issued credentials, please contact Gary or Ryan.

Post-Marketing Monitoring Plan for EU GMOs

Now that Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) with nutritional characteristics are subject to additional requirements in the EU, including a Post-Marketing Monitoring Plan (PMMP), NAEGA Biotech Committee is working with COCERAL and other EU grain trade interests. These GMOs with nutritional characteristics are included in the many possible Products with Unique Functional Characteristics (PUFC) which may negatively impact market access for conventional grains and oilseeds. Right now, GM events with nutritional characteristics are being commercialized in US soybeans and while we do not see import to the EU of soybeans for crushing, we do foresee import of soybean oil that will require EU PMMP. Under the EU legislation, the PMMP is the sole responsibility of the authorization holder (i.e., biotech company), which is required to submit data. The data required includes “quantities...imported”.

NAEGA is working to support a standardized framework for the biotech company to communicate and collect information it needs to meet the requirements of the EU legislation. We expect to prevent liability for the trade and limit any distortions to commerce of grains, oilseeds and their products.

On Tuesday, January 26, NAEGA representatives will meet via conference call with COCERAL to clarify expectations and the possible roles of NAEGA and exporters within a framework being developed by the EU industry. If you would like to participate in the call, or would like more information about this engagement or to provide input, please contact Gary.

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Member Opportunities

Balkan Livestock Genetics Feed and Nutrition Program

NAEGA, at the invitation of USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), hopes to be represented in the Balkan Livestock Genetics Feed and Nutrition Program from May 31-June 10 in Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia. During the three country program, a to be named NAEGA representative is needed to speak about current grain and feed market situation, how long the current period of abundant global grain and oilseeds supplies will last and the value of trade friendly policies that allow high quality sustainably produced grains and soybeans to reach customers in the Balkans. The agenda includes meetings with local organizations and companies participating in the meat and dairy industries.

If you or a colleague are interested in volunteering to represent NAEGA please contact Gary. A provisional itinerary can be found [here](#).

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USACC First Anniversary Event

The U.S. Agriculture Coalition for Cuba (USACC) first anniversary will be celebrated at the National Press Club on February 10. Speakers from across the U.S., including Keynote speaker U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, will join Coalition representatives working to improve U.S. agriculture’s trade and investment opportunities with Cuba. 2015 was a successful first year for USACC that included intensive lobbying of the U.S. Congress and a well-attended “Learning Journey” to the island nation that focused on introducing U.S. food and agribusinesses. The coalition will build on these successes with increased outreach to the U.S. government and another learning journey in April.

All NAEGA members are invited to attend. More details will follow as the USACC prepares for the event. Please contact Ryan with any questions.

Annual Meetings – San Diego – March 14

We hope to see you at the NAEGA Annual Meetings on Monday, March 14, 2016. The annual meeting will take place at the Hotel del Coronado in San Diego, California and is scheduled to begin at 11:30 AM in the Carousel Room.

Once again, NAEGA meetings will coincide with the National Grain and Feed Association’s 120th Annual Convention on March 13-15. A more complete agenda, including committee and events tied to the NGFA convention, is under development. Committees will likely meet on Sunday the 13th and Tuesday morning the 15th.

Hotel reservations in the room block should be completed as soon as possible. In order take advantage of the reduced guest room rate -- please click [here](#). NAEGA is also working to secure additional rooms at the Glorietta Bay Inn in Coronado, just across the street from the Hotel Del Coronado. If you are interested in a room at the Glorietta Bay Inn, please contact Gary or Ryan.

A preliminary agenda is available [here](#). Please contact Gary or Ryan with suggestions or questions.

USACC Cuba Learning Journey

The U.S. Agricultural Coalition for Cuba (USACC) will be organizing a learning journey to Cuba on April 4-7. The USACC will be holding workshops in Havana to develop a Cooperative Food and Agriculture Industry Agreement (CFAIA) between the USACC and Cuba’s food and agriculture industry. The workshops and CFAIA will include trade, supply chains, production, sustainability and investment.

NAEGA, as a member of the USACC, is currently very active on shaping the CFAIA. All NAEGA members are welcome to participate. For more information, click [here](#). Please let us know if you are interested in participating in the USACC and U.S. policy developments toward Cuba.

The USACC is a coalition of more than forty agriculture groups founded on the improvement of trade ties between the U.S. and Cuba.

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Seminars and Internships

Contract Seminars: Please click [here](#) for more information on NAEGAs in-depth, interactive education on contract practices.

Internships: Information on working for NAEGA as an intern in our Washington, D.C. office can be found [here](#).

Full Details on Upcoming Events can be found in the Meetings & Events Section of the [NAEGA Member’s Only Page](#).

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Future Actions

NAEGA is considering making comments on the following items. Please contact us with your advice or suggestions:

USITC Report on the Trans-Pacific Partnership: The U.S. International Trade Commission is preparing a report on the economic effects of the recently concluded Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). This report is required by the Trade Promotion Authority legislation and must be published by USITC no later than 105 days after the president signs the agreement. USITC is seeking input from interested parties on the effects of the TPP. USITC will accept written comments on the TPP until February 15, 2016.

For more information, click [here](#).

NAEGA is looking forward to hearing member comments on TPP. Please contact Gary or Ryan if you are interested in contributing to NAEGA comments to USITC.

GIPSA Requests Comments on Marketing of Grains, Oilseeds and Related Products: The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration has issued a request for information (RFI) on the marketing of grains, oilseeds, pulses and other related products, including distillers dried, grains and solubles (DDGS). GIPSA would like feedback on three issues:

1. Are there any market-identified quality attributes that GIPSA does not currently describe (or provide testing) that would facilitate the marketing of grain, oilseeds, and related products?
2. What role should GIPSA take, if any, in standardizing the testing of inputs and outputs of ethanol co-product processing? Has anything changed in the marketing of ethanol and ethanol co-products since GIPSA's last ANPR in 2007 related to standardization, product description, or quality assessment?
3. Are there any other services that GIPSA could offer to facilitate the marketing of grain, oilseeds, or related products?

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GIPSA last issued a review on the marketing of these products back in 2007 with an advance notice of proposed rulemaking. As a result of the 29 comments received GIPSA but did not continue the rulemaking process.

GIPSA comments on this RFI are due on April 18. A copy of the notice can be found [here](#). Please contact Gary or Ryan if you have advice for NAEGA comments.

NAEGA Actions on Current Issues are tracked on the Members Only Section under their relevant committee pages.

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Information for your Consideration

USDA: Rising Dollar May Impact Exporters

On January 19th, 2016, USDA’s Economic Research Service (ERS) released its nominal and real monthly country exchange rates report. Nominal averages have gone up across the board, including with countries important to the GRNOS trade, including Japan, China and Korea. From December to January, the Canadian dollar, Mexican Pesos, U.K. Pound and Euro have also incrementally depreciated in relation to the dollar. This appreciation represents a trend the U.S. Dollar has followed since 2011, and is expected to follow until 2025, according to USDA. While this denotes more U.S. imports, the U.S. could find it more difficult to export products as U.S. goods become more expensive on the international market. This poses an acute challenge to ag exporters, as they battle higher global prices for their products.

For more information on the USDA report, please click [here](#).

WTO: Nairobi Package Will Boost Trade

World Trade Organization head Ambassador Roberto de Azevêdo hailed the recently concluded “Nairobi Package” on agricultural subsidies and urged members to move quickly with implementation at a speech in Jamaica on January 19. Praising the agreement, the Ambassador said it will improve the global trading environment. He also added that the decision will provide a better framework for international food aid and will allow developing countries to obtain stronger integration in the global economy. The “Nairobi Package” on agricultural export subsidies was concluded during the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference in Nairobi, Kenya last month. The agreement includes compromises between developed and developing countries on subsidies for farm exports, public stockpiling, special safeguard mechanisms for developing countries and measures related to cotton. Limitations on subsidies of farm exports include immediate elimination of subsidies by developed countries and a phase out of some subsidies by developing countries that is to be completed by 2018. WTO member nations also agreed to continue work plans for food stockpiling and special safeguard mechanisms.

For the full transcript of Ambassador Azevêdo’s speech, please visit [here](#).

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If you would like more information, or wish to provide comments on any of these news topics monitored by NAEGA, please contact us.

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Calendar & Member Notices

2016

February

18-19 – Fourth Meeting of Global Low Level Presence Initiative (GLI) – Rome, Italy.

March

14 – San Diego, California – NAEGA Annual Meeting. A preliminary agenda can be found [here](#).

23-24 – Orange, California – Chapman Phytosanitary Irradiation Forum.

April

4-7 – Havana, Cuba – USACC Learning Journey. For more information, click [here](#).

4-8 – Rome, Italy – 11th Session FAO Commission on Phytosanitary Measures – for a preliminary agenda, click [here](#).

9-15 – U.S. Wheat Associates 60th Anniversary Events – Tokyo, Japan and Taipei, Taiwan – NAEGA Attending.

11 – IGTC Strategy Meeting and General Assembly, Winnipeg, Canada

12-13 – Canada Global Crops Symposium – Winnipeg, Canada – for more information click [here](#).

18 – GIPSA request for information on marketing grains, oilseeds, pulses DDGS and related products.

20 – DBTG Operational and Technical Seminar – Rotterdam, Netherlands – Cotter Attending.

May

31-June 10 – Croatia, Bosna and Herzegovina and Serbia – Balkan Livestock Genetics and Feed Nutrition Program – NAEGA attending. Please click [here](#) for a preliminary itinerary.

June

14 – London, UK – IGC Grains Conference – to register please click [here](#).

July

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TBD – UN GHS Subcommittee Meeting – Geneva, Switzerland – Cotter Attending.

September

TBD – IMO Subcommittee on the Carriage of Cargoes and Containers Meeting – London, United Kingdom – Cotter Attending.

December

TBD – UN GHS Subcommittee Meeting – Geneva, Switzerland – Cotter Attending.

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