



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

OUTREACH January 11, 2016

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

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](#)

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Action Reports

The [International Grain Trade Coalition](#) continued to achieve results in 2015 and is looking forward to even greater accomplishments in 2016. All NAEGA members are considered Corporate Stakeholders in IGTC. You may be interested in following or participating in IGTC, for example:

IGTC General Assembly, Buenos Aires. The IGTC and Argentine member hosts CIARA-CEC conducted three successful meetings from 1-3 December in Buenos Aires, with 28 delegates from 11 countries at IGTC internal meetings; 40 international participants at the Stakeholder Outreach session; and around 100 international guests at the reception on 1 December.

The IGTC took center stage during the [International Grains Council’s](#) (IGC) high-profile International Grains Forum on December 1. IGTC representatives from four different continents engaged the audience giving the latest information on current IGTC policy files including Low Level Presence (LLP) and the International Plant Protection Convention’s (IPPC) upcoming international standard for phytosanitary measures (ISPM) for grain.

Outcomes include of the Buenos Aires meeting included:

1. Profile-raising for the IGTC through its Stakeholder Outreach meeting and the International Grains Forum.
2. Formal recognition of the IGTC as a valuable global actor in international grains discussions, including an announcement from the IGC President on future cooperation.
3. Internal agreements secured among IGTC members on Management Council membership and strategy for upcoming policy dossiers: LLP, Electronic Documentation including work with the IPPC on e-Phytos, Globally Harmonized System (GHS) classification and the IPPC ISPM for grain.

International Grains Council’s commitment to dialogue with the IGTC. In a major outcome from the Buenos Aires meetings, the International Grains Council (IGC) announced that the IGTC will be invited to participate in its sessions in order to facilitate a dialogue on major policy issues affecting the grains trade. IGTC President Gary Martin, representing the organization’s affiliated associations and corporate stakeholders, will be welcomed to attend the Council’s 43rd Session in June 2016 in London. The IGC believes that closer relationships with the IGTC will facilitate its objective to “foster improved links with international grains trade participants”. The IGC’s press release on this and other Buenos Aires outcomes can be read [here](#).

IGTC Intranet Prepares for Launch. As part of the roll-out of the IGTC’s 2016 communications plan, the password-protected section of the [IGTC website](#) will launch in the next few weeks. The “Intranet” aims to provide associations and Corporate Stakeholders with policy resources and a ‘who’s-who’ of IGTC, and key governance documents such as the IGTC Articles of Association.

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Subscribers will be invited to visit the ‘intranet’ section of the website and obtain their passwords in the coming weeks.

Electronic Documents and Industry input into the IPPC’s global ‘e-Phyto Hub.’ In 2016 the IGTC will roll out a comprehensive work program on e-documentation and phytosanitary certificates with the aim of facilitating trade. Key actions of the IGTC EDocs Working Group include strengthening the current communications related to the innovation of electronic conveyance and management of trade documentation via the and leading a cross-section of industry representatives in advising the IPPC as it develops a system for electronic phyto-sanitary certificates.

The IGTC EDocs Working Group is focused on informing industry and providing advise that will lead to improvement is trade documentation via systems that meet Corporate Stakeholder requirements including reliability, security, confidentiality and choice of competitive options.

IGTC Operations and Business Plan: Katy Lee is the Acting Secretariat for the IGTC as of January 1. Katy has over nine years of experience representing farm organizations and agri-businesses in international policy environments (EU & UN FAO). She can be contacted via secretariat@igtglobal.org.

Consistent with the current business plan of the IGTC in 2016 the IGTC Management Council is working to establish a revised business plan that may include IGTC establishing itself a self-funding entity. Under the current business plan, NAEGA provides for operations and treasury of the IGTC, contracts for the IGTC Secretariat and underwrites IGTC activity. Gary Martin serves as IGTC President, Ryan Olson acts extensively to support and maintain its operations including acting a webmaster to complete the development of www.igtglobal.org.

SAVE THE DATE! IGTC General Assembly, Winnipeg, April 11. The Canada Grains Council will host the upcoming IGTC meetings and General Assembly on April 11 in Winnipeg, Canada. IGTC Strategy as well as new business plans will be considered. All NAEGA members are considered Corporate Stakeholders in IGTC. You and your colleagues may register to attend by contacting Katy at secretariat@igtglobal.org. IGTC Participants will also soon be invited to attend the subsequent Canadian Global Crops Symposium on April 12-13.

IPPC EPhyto Symposium Trip Report

In support of ongoing NAEGA and IGTC priorities and to engage in the International Plant Protection Convention’s (IPPC) work with electronic documents management including the pending IPPC e-phyto “hub” system, NAEGA Senior Advisor Arvid Hawk traveled to Incheon, South Korea to participate in the IPPC EPhyto Symposium. NAEGA and IGTC have been working to provide key leadership in the coordination of stakeholders interested in promoting innovative electronic documentation technologies. Arvid’s presentation at the symposium helped provide and important grain trade perspective for the development of an EPhyto system.

A trip report on the IPPC EPhyto Symposium can be found [here](#).

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Success at the GHS Subcommittee on Explosive Dust Labeling

We are happy to report a positive outcome from the United Nations Subcommittee deliberations tied to effort to classify grains as a hazardous material due to the explosive nature of grain dust under the United Nations’ Globally Harmonized System of Labeling (GHS).

NAEGA Senior Advisor Jerry Cotter working with IGTC members including Argentina’s CIARA-CEC, NAEGA, NGFA and GAFTA formed an IGTC team over a year ago to focus on the UN developments. Jerry, Jess McClure of NGFA and June Arnold of GAFTA were joined by IGTC Corporate Stakeholder representatives from Cargill and Louis Dreyfus at a critical meeting of governments in Geneva, Switzerland on December 7-11, 2015 at which key decisions were made related to how grain will be identified in commerce and use.

Largely due the efforts of key countries like Argentina working in conjunction with IGTC and NAEGA partner organization the International Dry Bulk Terminals Group (DBTG) the UN Subcommittee agreed to take a more common sense approach to the classification of grain dust as a ‘hazardous’ substance. Although the devil will be in the details of the final agreement expected at the end of 2016, there has been preliminary agreement on the following elements:

- A more nuanced analysis by the UN Combustible Dust Correspondence Group (CG) of how agricultural commodities may or may not constitute a “combustible dust hazard”;
- A new, non-binding annex to the GHS focusing on a processing and risk management approach;
- An outline of the technical conditions necessary for a dust explosion hazard. First version to be drafted by mid-February.

If agreed, the change in direction will mean the avoidance of unneeded extra bureaucracy and cost for grain trade operators. IGTC members and corporate stakeholders continue to be pivotal in establishing policy dialogue with governments and other international trade officials on this issue. Please contact Jerry with any questions regarding NAEGA actions related to the United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Labeling or related International Maritime Organization classifications.

A copy of the Subcommittee Report can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

US-Cuba - USACC Meeting with US Government

On Thursday January 8 Ryan participated in a U.S. Agriculture Coalition for Cuba (USACC) meeting with U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Deputy Undersecretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services Alexis Taylor. The USACC is engaged with USDA on a number of issues related to normalizing trade relations with Cuba. At the meeting the USACC received input from USDA on the Coalition’s Cooperative Food and Agriculture Industry Agreement (CFAIA) that USACC will present to the Cuban agriculture industry during its learning journey on April 4. USACC also discussed USDA and State Department efforts to staff the new U.S. Embassy in Havana and invited Secretary Tom Vilsack to participate in the USACC’s 1st Anniversary event at the National Press Club in February.

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For more information on USACC, please visit their website [here](#). Please contact Ryan for more information on NAEGA participation in the USACC and on Cuba trade relations.

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Member Opportunities

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 13 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](#).

More information, including proposed meeting schedules and agendas, will be available early in 2016. 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, invites all NAEGA members 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. Over the past year NAEGA has been working with USACC to advocate for improved trade ties with Cuba at the domestic and bilateral level.

Seminars and Internships

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

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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:

2015

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. A public hearing will be held on January 13. 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.

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

Argentina Eliminates Export Permits for Grains and Oilseeds

In a further sign that the new administration in Argentina is committed to liberalizing agricultural export markets the Argentinian government on December 29 eliminated the export permit system for grains and oilseeds, replacing it with a reporting mechanism to track exports through Affidavits of Foreign Sale. This move, along with measures to devalue the Argentine Peso and reduce export taxes on soybeans and other crops should help boost the competitiveness of Argentine agricultural exports. The new system is part of new President Mauricio Macri’s attempts to reform the government data collection efforts and provide more accurate economic data.

For more information on recent Argentine reforms, click [here](#) and [here](#).

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PNWER Annual Report

The Pacific Northwest Economic Region is out with their annual report once again highlighting their success promoting economic engagement between the U.S. and Canada in the Pacific Northwest. This year’s PNWER successes include the repeal of country of origin labeling (COOL) on red meat imported into the United States, cybersecurity meetings that worked to improve the region’s readiness, a successful new graduating class from the Legislative Energy Horizon Institute (LEHI) and conclusion of the Fourth Annual North American Arctic Leaders Forum.

A copy of the PNWER’s annual report can be found [here](#).

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

January

13 – USITC Public Meeting on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) – Washington, D.C.

21 – Joint Meeting – Canada Grains Council and PMRA to discuss phosphine regulation.

February

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

March

14 – San Diego, California – NAEGA Annual Meeting

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](#).

11 – IGTC Strategy Meeting and General Assembly

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

14 – Winnipeg, Canada – Tentative IGTC Meeting

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June

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

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