



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

OUTREACH February 1, 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 Coronado, 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

NAEGA Dues and Export Volume Fees

As NAEGA prepares for another successful year of “Making Trade Work” we thank our members for their participation and financial support.

Thanks to the successes of the past year, we have several new and expanded opportunities for NAEGA members in 2016 including implementation of the new [NAEGA by-laws](#) and the three committees (Contracts, Production Technology, Grades and Inspection) the by-laws provide for, even more effective achievement of our global policy goals that includes working with the [International Grain Trade Coalition](#), and pressing forward with critical trade policy and commercial practice initiatives in Canada, China, Japan, Mexico, the Middle East the United States and beyond.

Member support is crucial. This week NAEGA member company representatives received a request for payment of annual dues and export volume fees and a corresponding invoice. All Member and Associate Members invest \$US6000 as annual dues. If you are an exporting principle – meaning you buy or sell export grain in North America – we expect an additional annual investment “export volume fee”. Instructions for determining the export volume fee are included on the invoice for the dues and export volume fee. Please remember to pay dues and export volume fees by **February 15, 2016**.

If you have any questions on the annual dues notice, invoice or annual meeting notice, please do not hesitate to contact Gary or Ryan immediately.

Russia Threatens U.S. Imports of Corn and Soy – NAEGA Responds

The Russian Federal Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance Service (VPSS) recently sent two letters to the U.S. Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) threatening to take action against U.S. Corn and Soybean imports. The strongly written letters to APHIS regarding the presence of pests in [shipments of U.S. oilseeds](#) and the [presence of Diplodia stem rot](#) in popcorn, refer to incidents of non-compliance occurring throughout 2015 and 2016, including: a January 25 corn notice listing 71 cases of *Stenocarpella maydis* detection encompassing 3,045mt and a January 26 soybean notice listing 64 cases of 7 different species of quarantine weed seeds (*Impomoea hederacea*, *I. lacunose*, *Ambrosia trifida*, *A. artemisiifolia*, *A. psilostachya*, *Cenchrus longispinus*, *Bidens pilosa*) in 21 shipments encompassing over 500mt. The letters state that shipments of infested corn and soybeans to Russia, “...can no longer continue, and that reluctance of the US side to undertake the effective measures...may result in consideration of the question of imposing temporary restrictions on the shipments from the US to Russia.” VPSS called on APHIS to engage in technical talks to occur January 29th. USDA responded that the 29th was too soon, and suggested Feb 4th for a digital video conference (DVC) with APHIS.

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NAEGA is closely monitoring and advising APHIS and USDA Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS). NAEGA members who have advice on how to proceed or have questions should contact Gary or Arvid.

The proposed video conference has yet to occur. When it does, NAEGA will provide input on how to respond. APHIS currently intends to press for no action by VPSS and remind them that:

1. Russian regulations allow for lots containing 1 to 10 total quarantine seeds per kilogram to be treated to de-vitalize them;
2. 100 percent of Russian soy imports enter through Kaliningrad, which is non-contiguous with the rest of Russia. All soybeans are crushed at the port and tested for weed seeds and, according to the crusher, no whole weed seeds have been found.
3. APHIS will request a pest risk assessment for several of the plant pests of concern.

NAEGA Participation in the NAPPO Khapra Beetle Project

On January 22 NAEGA President and CEO Gary Martin and Senior Advisor Arvid Hawk were notified by the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) of their qualification for participation in NAPPO’s 2016 Khapra beetle project. Endorsed by the NAPPO Executive Committee as one of the 6 new projects for the 2016 work program, the Khapra beetle project will develop a “Discussion document: A North American approach to preventing introduction, establishment and spread of Khapra beetle (*Trogoderma granarium*) in various pathways.” In the end the project seeks for an expert group to evaluate each of the NAPPO country’s current regulatory approaches to Khapra Beetle (prevention, detection and response) and to identify similarities, differences and gaps.

If you have any questions about this ongoing initiative or would like to provide input into the Khapra beetle project, please contact Gary or Arvid.

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Member Opportunities

USACC First Anniversary Event

All NAEGA members are invited to attend the U.S. Agriculture Coalition for Cuba’s (USACC) first anniversary to be celebrated at the National Press Club on February 10. An invitation can be found [here](#). Speakers from across the U.S., including Keynote speaker U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, and U.S. Representatives Bustos, Crawford, Davis, Emmer and Poe, 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.

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Please contact Ryan with any questions or if you would like to attend.

Annual Meetings – Coronado, CA – March 14

NAEGA member representatives have received formal notice of our upcoming annual meetings. The annual meeting will take place at the Hotel del Coronado, 1500 Orange Ave, Coronado, CA

We hope to see you there!

NAEGA meetings will coincide with the National Grain and Feed Association’s 120th Annual Convention on March 13-15. A preliminary agenda can be found [here](#). NAEGA will hold its annual meetings on March 14, with meetings of NAEGA-NGFA joint committees likely being held on Sunday, March 13. NAEGA is currently working with NGFA on a reduced NGFA Convention rate for NAEGA members for Tuesday, March 15. A more complete agenda is under development that includes committee schedules and events tied to the NGFA convention.

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.

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.

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

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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](#).

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.

Comments to USDA on Regulatory Efficiency

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued a request for public comment regarding ongoing administrative efforts to identify and reduce regulatory burdens. As part of this effort, USDA is seeking public comment on departmental efforts to:

1. Identify and reduce regulatory burdens;
2. Remove unintended regulatory obstacles to participation in and compliance with USDA programs;
3. Improve current regulations to help USDA agencies advance the USDA mission;

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In particular, USDA would appreciate comments on how to reduce burdens through technological advances. Comments should be submitted by March 28, 2016. If you would like to provide and input or have any comments you would like to submit to USDA, please contact Gary or Ryan.

US 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?

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

BIMCO Releases Onboard Ship Cybersecurity Guidelines

The Baltic and Maritime International Council (BIMCO) has released a new set of guidelines for cybersecurity onboard ships. A first for the shipping industry, the guidelines aim is to provide the industry with clear and comprehensive cybersecurity threats and vulnerabilities, and their implications for ship-owners. In particular, the report highlights:

- How to raise awareness of the safety, security and commercial risks for shipping companies if no cyber security measures are in place;
- How to protect shipboard OT and IT infrastructure and connected equipment;
- How to manage users, ensuring appropriate access to necessary information;
- How to protect data used onboard ships, according to its level of sensitivity;

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- How to authorize administrator privileges for users, including during maintenance and support on board or via remote link; and
- How to protect data being communicated between the ship and the shore side.

A copy of the BIMCO report can be found [here](#). NAEGA, as a co-administer of an Alternative Security Plan (ASP) with NGFA, is very interested in how cyber threats impact the grain and oilseed trade, particularly export facilities. For more information on the NAEGA-NGFA ASP, please contact Ryan.

EU industry wins decision on GM Authorizations

On January 19 EuropaBio, COCERAL, and FEFAC welcomed the European Ombudsman’s decision on their complaint regarding the European Commission’s (EC) handling of authorization applications for genetically modified (GM) food and feed for importing and processing. On September 12 the three organizations jointly filed a complaint with the Ombudsman concerning the unduly delayed authorizations for GM products and resulting trade disputes, arguing that delays during two stages of the authorization process were illegal and unreasonable. As a result of this complaint the Ombudsman’s office decided that between 2012 and 2014 the EC “failed to meet the three months legally binding deadline for submitting draft decisions to the Standing Committee and to make its decisions within a reasonable time following the failure of the Appeal Committee to deliver an opinion.” As a result, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has started approving risk-assessed GM events for food and feed imports. A copy of the related press statement 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

February

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

March

14 – Coronado, 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](#).

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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

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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