



"Working Together to Make Trade Work"

OUTREACH February 22, 2016

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

Schedule set for NAEGA meetings in March!

Please complete your plans for our meetings in Coronado, CA. A newly revised and final schedule of meetings for March 12 through 15 including the NGFA convention can be found [here](#). The NAEGA meetings on March 14 and 15 are open at no charge for NAEGA member personnel and their guests. ***Watch your email inbox for an invitation with a request for reply and to register for the NAEGA meetings. We need a head count for seating and meals!***

Before, during and after the NAEGA meetings the National Grain Feed Association Convention will occur. NGFA has provided to a promotional rate for NAEGA members who want to attend NGFA events on March 13 and 14. To take advantage of this special limited attendance (\$275 for the 2 days) please register with NGFA [here](#) using the promo code NAEGA2016. A copy of the NGFA Annual Convention's preliminary program can be found [here](#).

Still need a hotel guest room? We have options! If you are looking for guest rooms, we may be able to assist!

Please contact Ryan to discuss any assistance you may require.

Member Opportunities

- IGTC ISPM for Grain Survey
- Annual Meetings – Coronado, CA – March 14
- USACC Cuba Learning Journey
- NAEGA Seminar plans - tentative general / open in Winnipeg on April 14
- Seminars and Internships

Action Reports

- Letter on U.S. APHIS EIS Comments
- Grades and Inspections Committee Call
- Contracts Committee Conference Call
- Cybersecurity Task Force Meeting
- South African White Corn Imports

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Member Opportunities

IGTC ISPM for Grain Survey

The International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) is requesting input from IGTC member associations and corporate stakeholders, which includes all NAEGA members, on the International Plant Protection Organization’s (IPPC) development of an International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) for grain. In order to ensure the IPPC ISPM on grain provides for the use of the most trade enabling and least trade distortive measures while improving trade and official practice, the IGTC would like stakeholders to answer questions on a survey to enable IGTC to better engage with the IPPC and ensure the requirements of the trade are met.

The survey can be found [here](#). *All survey responses are anonymous and will be compiled into one to ensure confidentiality.* Please send completed surveys to the [IGTC Secretariat](#) or [IGTC Science Advisor Marcel Bruins](#) no later than **February 26, 2016.**

NAEGA Meetings – Coronado, CA – March 14

The schedule of NAEGA meetings can be found [here](#).

On Monday, March 14 we will be in the Carousel Room at the Hotel Del Coronado. We begin at 7:00 am on March 14 with a Production Technology Committee breakfast meeting. Then at 9:00am the Contracts Committee meets. At 11:30 am we convene all NAEGA representatives with a U.S.-Canada Trade Panel Discussion and working lunch. Following lunch will be the Annual Members meeting. After the Members meeting at approximately 2 PM the NAEGA Board of Directors will meet until 5:00 pm. All meetings on March 14 will take place in the Carousel Room.

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On March 15 the NAEGA Grades and Inspections Committee will meet in a joint session with the NGFA Grades and Weights Committee for a working breakfast beginning at 7:00 am in the Bayside/Strand Room.

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.

NAEGA Seminar plans - tentative general / open in Winnipeg on April 14

NAEGA is setting the 2016 schedule for Seminars. One private / single company seminar is scheduled for March 7. We have tentatively schedule a “General” NAEGA Seminar which will be open to all interested on April 14 in Winnipeg, Canada. All NAEGA seminars provide for classroom, interactive intensive review of current developments and practices in international grain trade contracts focused on the NAEGA II contract.

More information will be available soon. Please contact Gary or Ryan if you are interested in attending. We will design the Winnipeg seminar to meet your needs.

Seminars and Internships

NAEGA 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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Action Reports

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US APHIS EIS Comments

On February 18 NAEGA joined 24 other industry groups in a letter to the U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) requesting an extension of the comment period on APHIS’s notice of intent (NOI) in connection with potential changes to biotechnology regulations. On February 5 APHIS posted a request for comments in the Federal Register regarding its preparation of a programmatic environmental impact statement (EIS) in connection with potential changes to biotech regulations under the Federal Coordinated Framework for the Regulation of Biotechnology. At the request of the president, the three agencies responsible for implementing the coordinated framework, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency, are reviewing current regulations in an effort to modernize the regulatory structure governing plant biotechnology.

Last week’s letter to APHIS calls for an extension of the comment period deadline of March 7, 2016 given the possibility that major changes to the regulatory framework could occur. In light of this a 60-day extension to the comment period is requested in order to allow industry an appropriate amount of time considering the magnitude of the proposed changes.

More information on APHIS’s response to this letter will be shared once it becomes available. In the last few month NAEGA has been heavily engaged on the Executive Branch’s review of the coordinated framework. A copy of the letter can be found [here](#), and more information on this topic can be found on the [members only section](#) of the NAEGA website. Please contact Gary if you have any questions.

NAEGA Grades and Inspections Committee Call

On February 12 NAEGA’s Committee on Grades and Inspections held a conference call ahead of NAEGA Annual Meetings on March 14. Discussion of the Federal Grain Inspection Service’s (FGIS) implementation of the U.S. Grain Standards Act (USGSA), which was reauthorized last year, dominated the agenda of the meeting, pushing many agenda topics over to a subsequent committee call which will occur before the NAEGA Annual Meetings. The Committee is considering responses to FGIS’s proposed changes to the financial management of reserve accounts, Schedule A fees and National and Local Tonnage Fees, as well as a NAEGA/NGFA economic analysis of these changes. A copy of the notes from the committee conference call will soon be available, with appropriate attachments. Ryan will soon be reaching out to committee members to schedule a second committee call to complete the agenda. More information about the NAEGA/NGFA economic analysis and proposed response to FGIS USGS implementation can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

NAEGA Contracts Committee Conference Call

On February 17 NAEGA’s Contracts Committee held a conference call to discuss its 2016 plan of work. The Committee’s expansive agenda includes implementing NAEGA by-laws changes including the elimination of the “Strikes” committee, change and opportunities for arbitration and other alternative dispute resolution with AAA ICDR, improving destination risk management, electronic documentation and potential upcoming NAEGA seminars.

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The most important topic is the expectation that the Contracts committee will propose a 2016 revision of the NAEGA 2 F.O.B contract. The current revision of the NAEGA 2 was completed in 2000.

The Committee has several sub-committees now operating to complete its work plan. Another meeting of the Contracts Committee at the NAEGA Meetings in Coronado, CA has been scheduled for 9:00 am on March 14. A copy of the meeting minutes from the February 17 meeting will be available soon.

Cybersecurity Task Force

The Joint NAEGA/NGFA Cybersecurity Task Force held an inaugural meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana on February 18. Director of Operations Ryan Olson represented NAEGA at the meetings, which included NGFA staff and participation from NAEGA members ADM and Zen-Noh Grain Corporation. Cybersecurity poses a growing threat to the grain industry, and the Cybersecurity Task Force is working on developing a set of best practices for protecting grain trade facilities from cyber threats based off Department of Homeland Security guidelines. With these best practices the task force hopes to help firms manage cyber threats.

Please contact Ryan if you have any questions or would like to provide any input on the cybersecurity threat.

South African White Corn Imports

NAEGA, along with other industry groups and tech providers, is engaging with the Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) and the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) to help the import of white corn into South Africa. Significant drought in South Africa has damaged domestic producer’s ability to provide white corn to the market, a staple of the South African diet. As a result, prices for South African white corn have surged as trader’s attempt to deal with the shortage. In order to help fill this market NAEGA is engaging with industry and government stakeholders to communicate to the South African Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries the status of biotech events of white corn seeds to clarify information about these traits and accommodate imports. Technology providers Monsanto and DuPont have submitted letters to the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) that will act as a basis for FAS communication with DAFF. A letter from FAS to DAFF is currently being drafted.

This issue is evolving quickly and NAEGA will update members as new information becomes available. A copy of the Monsanto and DuPont letters can be found [here](#) and [here](#), respectively. For more information, please contact Gary.

FGIS Implementation of the Grain Standards Act

NAEGA is currently working with NGFA and industry stakeholders in the NAEGA Grades and Inspections Committee to respond to a Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) request for comments on the implementation of the U.S. Grain Standards Act (USGSA), whose reauthorization was signed into law in September 2015. Currently NAEGA and NGFA are

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analyzing proposed changes to Schedule A fees, financial management of the reserve account and changes in National and Local tonnage fees, among other issues that are proposed under the rule change. NAEGA’s Grades and Inspections Committee is working to develop comments and proposed policy options in revising these rules. An economic analysis of the proposed rule, developed by NAEGA and NGFA, is available [here](#). A summary of the proposed rules changes and NAEGA/NGFA comments is available [here](#).

This week, after successful lobbying of the Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration, NAEGA and NGFA achieved a 60-day extension to the comment period on proposed rule changes to the USGSA. Comments on the proposed rule, which were due on February 24, 2016, will now be due in April. A final due date has yet to be determined.

NAEGA is seeking member input on any of these proposed rules changes. If you would like to provide input, please contact Gary or Ryan.

Russian Threats on Corn and Soybean Imports

On February 15, 2016 Russia [began the suspension of U.S. corn and soybean imports](#) due to the threat of quarantine pest in U.S. shipments. This ban follows our ongoing discussions and consultations with the U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and USDA Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) regarding Russian Federal Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance Service (VPSS) actions to prevent the importation of U.S. popcorn and soybeans.

The suspension of imports was initiated by two letters sent in January to the U.S. Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) by the Russian Federal Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance Service (VPSS) 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.*”

We continue to closely monitor the situation and advise APHIS and USDA Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS). NAEGA members who have advice on how to proceed or have questions should contact Gary or Arvid.

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Future Actions

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

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;

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

Commercial Air Travel Restored to Cuba

In a further sign of loosening restrictions on travel and trade between the United States and Cuba, the two governments signed a commercial aviation agreement on February 16 in Havana that will open the door to up to daily flights to Havana and other Cuban cities from the United States. The agreement, which authorizes the first commercial flights between the two countries in over 50 years, will allow a maximum of 20 daily flights between U.S. international airports and Havana, and up to 10 daily flights between U.S. international airports and nine other Cuban cities. A total of 110 daily flights are possible under the agreement and travel could begin in just a few months.

NAEGA, a member of the U.S. Agriculture Coalition for Cuba (USACC), has been heavily engaged in promoting better trade and investment ties between the two countries. More information on NAEGA participation in the USACC can be found on the members only website [here](#).

FAS Recruiting New Officers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) is announcing new vacancies in its foreign service, which promotes U.S. trade and agriculture in the U.S. and at foreign missions overseas. More information on what it means to become an FAS officer can be found here. Those who are interested can apply for the currently available positions on USAJobs.gov or by clicking [here](#). Applications will be accepted until February 17, 2016.

NAPPO Secretariat Opens in Raleigh

The North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) held the grand opening of the Secretariat’s offices in Raleigh, North Carolina on February 11. U.S. NAPPO Representative Osama El-Lissy was joined by Executive Committee members from Canada and Mexico, as well as 50 state, federal government and university officials at the opening ceremony. Full transition from the Ottawa office is expected to occur by June 2016. For more information on NAPPO, click [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
Click [here](#) for a Copy of the IGTC Calendar

2016

March

7 – APHIS Comments on Joint Biotech Framework Due

7 – Private NAEGA Contracts Seminar for ADM – Decatur, Illinois

14 – 15 – Coronado, California – NAEGA Meetings. The schedule can be found [here](#).

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 invited.

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

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

14 – NAEGA Contracts Training Seminar – Winnipeg, Canada

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

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

May

31-June 10 – Croatia, Bosna and Herzegovina and Serbia – Balkan Livestock Genetics and Feed Nutrition Program – NAEGA Senior Advisor Kirk Miller plans to attend and present. Please click [here](#) for a preliminary itinerary.

June

13 - 14 – London, UK – IGTC Strategy Meeting and IGC Grains Conference, registration pending.

July

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

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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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