



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

OUTREACH February 29, 2016

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

Please join us in welcoming EssDocs as NAEGA’s newest Associate Member! EssDocs is the world’s leading enabler of paperless trade, providing customer-led solutions that automate and accelerate trade operations & finance. You can read more about EssDocs on their website [here](#).

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REGISTER NOW for NAEGA meetings in March!

Registration is under way for NAEGA Annual Meeting at the Hotel del Coronado in Coronado, CA in March! Please register below for the exciting events we have planned for NAEGA membership, including the U.S.-Canada Trade Panel Discussion on March 14.

Monday, March 14 – Carousel Room

7:00 - 8:30 am

Production Technology Committee Breakfast

[Register Here](#)

9:00 - 11:00am

Contracts Committee Meeting

[Register Here](#)

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

U.S.-Canada Trade Panel Discussion

[Register Here](#)

1:00 - 2:00 pm

NAEGA Annual Members Meeting

[Register Here](#)

2:00 - 5:00 pm

NAEGA Board of Directors Meeting

[Register Here](#)

Tuesday, March 15 – Bayside/Strand Room

7:00 - 9:00 am

Joint NAEGA Grades and Inspection Committee and
NGFA Grains, Grades and Weights Committee Meeting

[Register 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.

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Member Opportunities

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- Annual Meetings – Coronado, CA – March 14
- NAEGA Seminar plans - tentative general / open in Winnipeg on April 14
- USACC Cuba Learning Journey – *NEW DATE*
- Seminars and Internships

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- Upcoming Events and Notices for Members

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Member Opportunities

NAEGA Guest Rate at NGFA Convention – Coronado, CA – March 13-15

Going to the NAEGA Annual Meetings in Coronado, CA? Also interested in attending the NGFA Annual Convention? If you answered yes to both of these questions, please consider taking advantage of a special deal for NAEGA members only. NGFA has provided NAEGA members with a special promotional rate for the NGFA Annual Convention. With this promotional rate NAEGA members can attend NGFA events on March 13 and 14 for a reduced price of \$275. This rate includes all general sessions, as well as the CoBank and Bunge Receptions. 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/NAEGA schedule of events can be found [here](#).

NAEGA Meetings – Coronado, CA – March 14

Our final schedule is set and registration is open for the NAEGA Annual meetings! We look forward to see you in Coronado, CA in March! A final schedule for the NAEGA meetings can be found [here](#).

We kick off the meetings of broader interest at 11:30 am with a U.S.-Canada Trade Panel luncheon on March 14. The working lunch will feature discussion of key issues facing the U.S.-Canada grain trade. For example, selected panelists will discuss managing crop biotechnology, the U.S. Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), phosphine regulation and the coordination of CFIA and APHIS on phyto-sanitary certificates. Of course questions and comments from all attending are expected! After lunch we will move directly to the Annual NAEGA membership meeting and it will be followed by a NAEGA Board of Directors meeting.

Please sign up [here](#) for the luncheon and below for the other events.

After the luncheon NAEGA Members will meet at 1:00pm. In addition to electing the NAEGA Board of Directors, Members will contribute to 2016 plans and review recent activity including by-laws changes.

Following the Member Meeting the Board of Directors will hold a meeting at 2:00pm.

In the morning on Monday, March 14 NAEGA committee meetings begin with a breakfast meeting of the Production Technology Committee at 7:00 am. This will be followed by a meeting of the Contracts Committee on March 14 at 9:00 am.

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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.

All NAEGA members are welcome at any NAEGA meeting. Please register below for those meetings that you are interested in attending!

Monday, March 14 in the Carousel Room at the Hotel del Coronado:

7:00 - 8:30 am

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[Register Here](#)

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7:00 - 9:00 am

Joint NAEGA Grades and Inspection Committee and
NGFA Grains, Grades and Weights Committee Meeting

[Register Here](#)

Please contact Ryan (rolson@naega.org) or Gary (gcmartin@naega.org) with questions or comments. We are here to help!

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

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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.

USACC Cuba Learning Journey – NEW DATE

The U.S. Agricultural Coalition for Cuba (USACC) has changed the date for its 2015 learning journey to Cuba to accommodate the President’s March visit to Havana. The learning journey will now take place from March 23-26. During the trip 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 a preliminary itinerary please 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.

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

FGIS Implementation of USGSA Comment Period Extended

At the request of NAEGA and NGFA, the Grain Inspectors, Packers and Stockyards Administration has officially [announced an extension](#) of its comment period on the implementation of the U.S. Grain Standards Act (USGSA). Comments will now be due on April 25, 2016.

Since the comment period was announced we have been working to respond to a Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) request for comments on the implementation of the USGSA. Currently

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we are 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 is available [here](#). A summary of the proposed rule changes and NAEGA/NGFA comments is available [here](#).

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

IGTC News

This edition of the newsletter includes a report on IGTC meetings in Geneva on electronic documentation, publication of the IGTCs Survey on ISPM for grain and an update on the upcoming IGTC meetings in Winnipeg on April 11. A copy of the IGTC newsletter can be found on the IGTC Intranet at www.igtglobal.org or by clicking [here](#). If you would like to be issued credentials for the IGTC Intranet, please contact Gary or the IGTC secretariat at secretariat@igtglobal.org.

IGTC Letter to Philippine Department of Science and Technology

The International Grain Trade Coalition sent a letter to the Philippine Department of Science and Technology regarding the Joint Department Circular “Rules and Regulations for the Research and Development, Handling and Use, Transboundary Movement, Release into the Environment, and Management of Genetically Modified Plant and Plant Products Derived from the Use of Modern Biotechnology.” The letter is in response to the Department’s call for consultation related to the Filipino Supreme Court’s decision on *International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications, Inc v. Greenpeace Southeast Asia* and public consultation on implementation the Cartagena Protocol. The IGTC letter emphasizes that all documentation requirements for the transboundary shipment of living modified organizations for food, feed or processing be implemented in a commercially acceptable manner in order to avoid trade diversion or inflated trade costs by importers or exporters of the LMO. In addition, the letter supports the use of “May Contain” terminology in the labelling of shipments of LMOs, similar to that used in the North American grain trade. This terminology encourages transparency simplicity and clarity and minimizes costs throughout the supply chain.

A copy of the Philippine Department of Science and Technology Joint Department Circular can be found [here](#). The IGTC letter to the Department can be found [here](#). For more information, please contact Gary.

Clause 7 and Clause 20 Subcommittees Meet

The Clause 7 and Clause 20 Subcommittees of the NAEGA Contracts Committee met to discuss proposed changes to the NAEGA II FOB contract. The Clause 7 Subcommittee is seeking to address destination risk by updating language related to final certification at the port of loading.

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The Clause 20 subcommittee is working to develop guidance for the issuance of NAEGA certifications as required by the NAEGA II contract. Both Subcommittees plan to make recommendations to the Contracts Committee by the end of the week. Ultimately, NAEGA members will consider revising the NAEGA II contract by the end of 2016. Changes will be subject to consideration during the Annual Meetings on March 14. For more information, please contact Gary or Ryan.

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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?

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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

Coast Guard Won't Delay New Weight Rule

The U.S. Coast Guard will not push back implementation of a new International Maritime Organization container weight rule, which is scheduled to take effect on March 1. The rule, implemented under the IMO's Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) convention, requires that shippers certify and submit the verified gross mass (VGM) of the container and the cargo to port terminal operators in advance of vessel loading. According to the Coast Guard Rear Admiral Paul Thomas, speaking before a Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) meeting, implementation of the rule will occur through normal inspection protocols – detaining a vessel and requiring it to clear detainment by meeting VGM and other safety and environmental requirements. So far, it is unclear whether the Coast Guard will fine vessel operators specifically over the VGM rule.

Further concerns about the weighing of agricultural products, whose weight can vary by temperature, are unlikely to be addressed in an upcoming Coast Guard policy letter on the VGM rule. As the VGM rule comes into practice shippers and exporters are also considering a host of other compliance issues, including communication of the containers weight through manual documentation and terminal access for un-weighted containers.

NAEGA has been closely following developments as the VGM rule comes into effect. For more information regarding the new VGM rule, click [here](#) or contact Gary.

U.S. Trade Facilitation and Enforcement Bill Signed into Law

On February 24 President Obama signed into law a long delayed, bipartisan customs reauthorization bill, the Trade Facilitation and Enforcement Act. This bill is the first major customs legislation since the Customs Modernization Act in 1993 and will focus on facilitating trade and enforcing existing trade laws. Particularly, import safety, intellectual property rights, duty-free entries, customs brokers and trade partnership program are all addressed in the new bill. As promised, the bill will include strengthened provisions for enforcing AD/CVD decisions and increase the de-minimus duty free rate.

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For more information regarding the Trade Facilitation and Enforcement bill, 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.

[25 – Comments Due to FGIS on USGSA Implementation](#)

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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.

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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