



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

## OUTREACH February 10, 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](#).***

***All NAEGA meetings and activities, including joint NAGEA-NGFA committee meetings, are free to NAEGA members.***

***If you are interested in taking part in the NGFA convention activities on Sunday evening and Monday, please take advantage of the special NAEGA members rate of \$275 for the NGFA Convention. To take advantage of the rate register [here](#) and use the promo code NAEGA2016. A preliminary agenda for the NAEGA annual meetings can be found [here](#).***

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## NAEGA Calendar and Member Notices

- Upcoming Events and Notices for Members

### 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.**

#### 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 120<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention on March 13-15. NAEGA-NGFA joint committees likely being held on Sunday, March 13. On March 14 NAEGA will host a U.S.-Canada Grain Trade Luncheon and Issue Briefing at 11:30am, which will be free to all members. Following the luncheon NAEGA will begin its board of directors meeting, which will last until 6:00pm. A preliminary agenda can be found [here](#).

In addition to the free NAEGA events, including the NAEGA-NGFA joint committee meetings, the U.S.-Canada Grain Trade Luncheon and Issue Briefing and NAEGA Board Meetings, all NAEGA members are invited to attend the NGFA Annual Convention on Sunday and Monday for a reduced rate of \$275. This reduced rate will include the Sunday evening CoBank Welcome Reception, all of the NGFA Convention’s Monday sessions and the Monday evening Bunge North America Reception. Those who are interested in taking advantage of this special rate should register on the NGFA convention website [here](#). To secure the discounted rate apply the promo code NAEGA2016 to your registration. A copy of the NGFA Annual Convention’s preliminary program can be found [here](#).

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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 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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## **Action Reports**

### **USACC First Anniversary Event**

The U.S. Agriculture Coalition for Cuba (USACC), of which NAEGA is a member, held a successful first anniversary event today featuring a keynote address by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack. In addition to comments by Secretary Vilsack, the event celebrated growing trade and agriculture ties between the two nations with comments from the Hill, the ag community and state representatives. Prominent speakers included Senator Heidi Heitkamp, Congressman Rick Crawford, Congressman Ted Poe, Senator Amy Klobuchar, Virginia Secretary of Agriculture Todd Haymore and the Jose Ramon Cabanas, Ambassador of Cuba to the United States.

For more information on NAEGA participation in the USACC please visit the members only section of the NAEGA website by clicking [here](#) or visit the USACC’s website [here](#).

### **IGTC BA Meetings Trip Report**

NAEGA organized and supported International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) Meetings and a General Assembly from November 28-December 4, 2015 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In Buenos Aires NAEGA President and CEO Gary Martin, who is also president of the IGTC, was joined by NAEGA Contractors IGTC Science Advisor Marcel Bruins and now IGTC Acting Secretariat Katy Lee in support of three IGTC events: a grain trade reception at the Bolsa de Cereales, IGTC meetings and a General Assembly; and support and hosting of a Stakeholder Outreach Session. These meetings and a General Assembly included discussion and development of IGTC policy priorities surrounding key policy issues such as low level presence, electronic documentation, International Plant Protection Convention standards for the movement of grain, new plant breeding techniques (NPBT), hazardous material labelling, the Cartagena Protocol, financial regulation and Codex Process changes. In addition, IGTC received key input from stakeholders regarding these policy issues.

A trip report on the IGTC meetings and General Assembly in Buenos Aires can be found [here](#).

### **GHS and DBTG Meetings Trip Report**

Over the past year NAEGA, has been attending and monitoring meetings of the UN Globally Harmonized System (GHS) for the Classification of Chemicals Subcommittee as they relate to the reclassification and labelling of combustible dust. In support of these priorities, NAEGA Senior Advisor Jerry Cotter traveled to Geneva, Switzerland on December 7-15, 2015 to participate in the 30<sup>th</sup> session of the UN GHS Subcommittee. Representing NAEGA via the International Bulk Terminals Association, Jerry, along with other allies, engaged the subcommittee and its Correspondence Group (CG). As a result of this engagement the subcommittee decided to pursue a guidance annex to the GHS, a positive outcome for industry. While in Europe Jerry also attended

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a meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Dry Bulk Terminals Group (DBTG), of which he is a member. At the meeting the committee discussed in detail developments of the DBTG, including developments related to the UN GHS subcommittee and the International Maritime Organization’s (IMO) Subcommittee on the Carriage of Cargoes and Containers (CCC).

A copy of the trip report can be found [here](#).

### **NAEGA Responds to Russian Threats on Corn and Soybean Imports**

NAEGA is participating in 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. Last week the Russian Federal Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance Service (VPSS) 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.”*

On February 3, VPSS announced that they are preventing from entry U.S. popcorn shipments due to detection of *Stenocarpella maydis*, an escalation of the issue.

NAEGA is closely monitoring and advising APHIS and USDA Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS). A copy of the conference call memo with APHIS and FAS can be found [here](#). 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.

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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;

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**

### **USCG Waves on the Waterfront Newsletter and Cyber Update**

This week the U.S. Coast Guard’s (USCG) Office of Port and Facility Compliance released its February edition of *Waves on the Waterfront* newsletter focusing on safety, security and stewardship of American ports and export facilities. This month’s edition covers “see something, say something” reporting procedures, USCG’s waterside security of hazardous cargo report to Congress, cybersecurity and anti-terrorism standards for chemical facilities.

A copy of the newsletter can be found [here](#).

### **USCG Clarifies Cyber Inspection Policies**

In light of increased government and industry focus on cybersecurity challenges the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) has published on its blog clarification on cyber related inspections of facilities and marine environments. As cyber-based technologies become increasingly prevalent throughout the marine industry the USCG is stepping up its efforts to understand these systems. As a result, marine inspectors and facility inspectors may ask operators about which systems they employ in order to raise awareness and mutual understanding. These inquiries do not require operators to disclose sensitive or proprietary information about their systems, and instead are meant to encourage operators to think critically about cyber risks.

For more information on USCG efforts on cyber, click [here](#).

### **Key Sanctions Removed on Iran**

On January 16, 2016, the Iranian nuclear agreement, or Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was put into effect, reducing key international sanctions on the Iranian regime and opening up the economy to increased trade and investment. The agreement went into place as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) determined that Iran had fulfilled the obligations hammered out during nuclear negotiations concluded during the Summer of 2015. In compliance with the agreement, the U.S. has removed key secondary sanctions involving non-U.S. persons

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conducting business in Iran’s automotive sector and created General License H which allows U.S.-owned entities abroad to engage in certain transactions with Iran. Although the removal of key sanctions is ground-breaking, certain restrictions remain, such as U.S. domestic transactions and specific export regulations.

For detailed information on the removal of sanctions and remaining restrictions, click [here](#).

### **Roundup Ready 2Xtend Soybeans Launch Plans**

On February 3, 2016, the Monsanto Company announced launch plans for its Roundup Ready2 Xtend soybeans after it received import approval in China. Monsanto has plans to release the Roundup Ready2 Xtend soybeans in time for the 2016 season through more than 70 soybean products across eight maturity groups with traits that include resistance to nematodes and phytophthora. The seeds are also resistant to glyphosate and dicamba herbicides, however approval of dicamba herbicide over Roundup Ready2 Xtend seeds is still awaiting approval from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

For more information on Roundup Ready 2 Xtend’s launch, click [here](#) and [here](#).

### **Egypt actions on Imported Grain, Ergot and Ambrosia**

Earlier this month, Egypt’s General Authority for Supply Commodities adopted a zero tolerance policy for wheat that contained Ergot, a common wheat fungus. This policy contradicts long-standing Egyptian and international standards in which shipments containing up to 0.05 percent of Ergot are acceptable for import. This Ergot policy virtually halted wheat shipments to Egypt as international traders were unwilling to sell for fear that their shipments would not be able to meet the 0 percent threshold. Last week, however, Egyptian authorities announced that they would again accept ergot levels up to 0.05 percent after the Agriculture and Supply ministries agreed to apply the 0.05 percent threshold universally. For more information regarding on the ergot issue with Egypt, click [here](#).

More recently we understand that Egypt is implementing policies regarding Ambrosia that includes listing prohibited Ambrosia species on the import permit AND Egypt will reject cargos found to contain Ambrosia, without the possibility of cleaning. We are seeking additional information regarding the Ambrosia related actions

*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**

**February**

**12** – NAEGA Grades and Inspections Committee Conference Call – 1pm EST

**17** – NAEGA Contracts Committee Conference Call – 3pm EST

**15-17** – FAO International Symposium on “The Role of Agricultural Biotechnologies in Sustainable Food Systems and Nutrition,” Rome, Italy. NAEGA Member Volunteer Paul Green attending.

**17-18** – Fourth Meeting of Global Low Level Presence Initiative (GLI) – Rome, Italy. NAEGA Member Volunteer Paul Green attending.

**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 – 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

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**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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