



Outreach

August 4, 2020

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

*NAEGA/USFADT Webinar on Food and Agricultural Exports to Sanctioned Countries
Thursday, August 13, 2020 -1:00pm Eastern Time*



[Registration is now open](#) for the NAEGA and the U.S. Food & Agriculture Dialogue for Trade (USFADT) webinar with the U.S. Department of Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) and the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) experts from the Foreign Agriculture Service on US exports to sanctioned countries. The webinar, entitled “U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports to Sanctioned Countries”, will take place on Thursday, August 13 from 1:00pm-2:30pm. Topics such as utilizing the general license for agricultural commodities and current developments related to Iran sanctions will be covered, as well as a number of different sanction programs that OFAC administers, which can be found at [OFAC programs](#). Registration for this confidential, off the record event closes on Wednesday, August 12 at 12pm Eastern. You may [register for the webinar through this link](#).

Current Opportunities & Actions:

- A Message from Degesch America
- Grades & Inspections Committee Meeting
- MRLs – Japan
- MRLs - Korea
- NGFA Barge Digital Transformation Project - Sneak Peek
- USDA APHIS Invites Comment on NAPPO Documents

Recent Actions:

- Letter to USTR on Seasonable Perishable Trade Policies

News:

- U.S. Treasury Announces New Sanctions

Ongoing Opportunities & Actions:

- Policy Teams
- Contracts and Best Practices Seminars – Your advice requested
- Office Reopening and Communication

Current Opportunities & Actions:

A Message from Degesch America

We welcomed and are please to convey this from NAEGA Member Degesch America: “Degesch America and the entire Detia-Degesch Group (DDG) remains up and running providing essential services to protect the world's food supply. Pest pressures don't let up, especially while we're experiencing the effects of this ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. It becomes even more apparent the battle will be ongoing for years to come, with response and recovery efforts needed on multiple fronts. We extend our stored product pest control expertise to NAEGA and its membership to help whenever needed. As a global service provider through our network of companies and DDG affiliates we're available around the world. Our consulting services are an important part of our product stewardship program and provided without charge. We welcome the opportunity to work with stakeholders and government entities in this "ever evolving global trade environment".

Contact information for Degesch American personnel working with NAEGA can be found in the [NAEGA Membership Directory, located here](#).

Grades & Inspections Committee Meeting

The NAEGA Grades & Inspections Committee will meet via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, August 13 at 3:30pm Eastern. If you are not a member of the Committees and would like information on taking part in this meeting or joining the Committee, please contact NAEGA staff (Patrick Hayden, phayden@naega.org; Sydnie Sousa, ssousa@naega.org and Gary Martin, gcmartin@naega.org) for assistance.

MRLs – Japan

Japan notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of proposed changes in their Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) for the agricultural chemicals Heptachlor and Fipronil. The notifications [can be found through this link](#).

USDA's Foreign Agriculture Service (USDA/FAS) is collecting comments and is asking industry for comment on if these proposed changes concerns. Input from members on if and how we should comment is welcome. Please review the documents linked above and let us know if there are any MRLs you are concerned about. Comments are due to the WTO on August 30, 2020. If you have any items of concern please let us know as soon as possible so we can submit them to FAS.

MRLs – South Korea

South Korea [notified the World Trade Organization \(WTO\)](#) of proposed regulations that potentially impacts many commodities, including wheat, corn and soybeans, and proposes a large number of new Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs). USDA's Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) has provided an English translation of these MRLs, [which can be found here](#).

FAS is collecting comments and is asking industry if these proposed changes raise concerns. Input from members on if and how we should comment is welcome. NAEGA is considering submitting comments to the WTO through FAS. Please review the documents linked above and let us know if there are any MRLs you are concerned about by Tuesday, August 11, 2020.

NGFA Barge Digital Transformation Project - Sneak Peek

NGFA will be holding a "Sneak Peek" free Webinar of their Barge Digital Transformation (BDT) project on Thursday, August 6 at 12pm Eastern. The project, directed by National Grain and Feed Digital Solutions (NGFDS), is expected to digitize the approximate 70,000 to 100,000 negotiable barge bills of lading each year. NGFA staff members and newly appointed NGFDS Officers Charlie Delacruz and Mary Hitchcock, along with newly-appointed NGFDS Chairman and Bunge Logistics manager Brittany Schaefer and Alexander Goulandris, Co-CEO, essDOCS, will provide a walk-through of the BDT platform's key functionality and security measures, as well as updates on next steps. [Registration for the webinar is available through this link](#).

USDA/APHIS Invites Comment on NAPPO Documents

The North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) 2020 NAPPO Country Consultation period, which provides an opportunity for stakeholders to comment and review, is open until the end of August 2020 for the two NAPPO documents on Regional Phytosanitary Standards [found here](#).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is encouraging U.S. stakeholders to submit comments on these documents, through the APHIS Plant Protection & Quarantine (PPQ) service. Comments should fall into one of three categories: substantial, technical, or editorial. Details on how to comment to NAPPO through PPQ [can be found here](#). The country consultation is open for 90 days (June 1 – August 31, 2020) for the two regional standards.

NAEGA's Grades and Inspections Committee will be considering a response during its meeting on Thursday, August 13. Your advice is welcome.

Recent Actions:

Letter to USTR on Seasonable Perishable Trade Policies

NAEGA has joined with industry partners in signing a letter to U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer in response to USTR's request for comments on the impact of trade distorting policies that may be contributing to unfair pricing in the U.S. market and causing harm to U.S. seasonal and perishable producers in U.S. commerce.

The letter raises concerns that punitive measures levied against seasonal fruits and vegetable imports from Mexico would inflict undue retaliatory harm on U.S. agricultural producers while supporting the Administration's efforts to address unfair trade practices and to hold trading partners accountable. A copy of the letter as submitted [can be found here](#).

News:

U.S. Treasury Adds New Chinese Company to SDN List

The U.S. Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) had placed China's Xinjiang Production and Construction Corporation (XPCC) on its Specially Designated Nationals (SDN) List. XPCC's placement on this list means that all U.S. entities or non-U.S. entities subject to U.S. jurisdiction are now banned from engaging, directly or indirectly, with XPCC without a license from OFAC.

OFAC states that XPCC was added to the SDN List for serious rights abuses against ethnic minorities in China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. OFAC may consider any transaction by a covered person that directly or indirectly benefits XPCC as a violation of these sanctions, including apparel-related transactions made anywhere in the world that contain XPCC cotton. A general license is available through Sept. 30 for companies to wind down their supply chains to exclude XPCC. More details are [available on OFAC's website](#).

Ongoing Opportunities & Actions:

Policy Teams

With the evolving global trade environment, we expect many more fast-paced and dramatic developments that could greatly change the terms of trade for NAEGA members. Your involvement is needed!

Ad hoc policy teams of member personnel working largely through virtual meetings to help guide our multifaceted effort to address the evolving trade environment. A policy team focused on the Asia-Pacific Market is very active at this time. Full Details on policy team activity can be found in the Meetings & Events Section of the [NAEGA Member's Only Page](#).

Contracts and Best Practices Seminars – Your advice requested

We are currently scheduling virtual Contracts and Best Practices Seminars. Please let us know when, how and where you would like to participate in the NAEGA Senior Advisor led seminars.

The seminars are an intensive and informative review of commercial and official practices taught in an interactive environment. Both public/multiple company and private/single company seminars are available and can be tailored to your needs. [Click here](#) for more information on the in-depth, interactive programs NAEGA conducts!

Office Reopening and Communication

The NAEGA office in Arlington, VA is operating under a limited reopening until at least August 31, 2020 staff will continue to work remotely the majority of the time and have no travel planned.

We are conducting and participating in many virtual meetings. Most NAEGA hosted virtual meetings use Microsoft Teams. Teams ability to share documents and instantly connect with multiple users will enhance our ability to serve you. All you need to do is email NAEGA staff and request a consultation via Teams and we will set up a virtual meeting with you as soon as we can. We can always be reached via email or cell phone as well.

This [5-minute video tutorial](#) provides an introduction to using Microsoft Teams for virtual meetings. If you have had trouble using Teams and would like additional assistance, please contact Patrick at phayden@naega.org.

Calendar & Member Notices:

Click [here](#) for a copy of the IGTC Calendar

2020

Events that have been cancelled, postponed or changed to virtual events due to COVID-19 are italicized

August

- 4-6** - *U.S. Grain and Soy Buyers Conference – Taking Place Virtually, Gary Martin to present*
- 13** - U.S. Food & Agriculture Dialogue for Trade Webinar on Sanctions
- 13** – NAEGA Contracts Committee Meeting – Via MS Teams

September

- 10** – NAEGA Board of Directors Meeting – Via MS Teams
- 15-30** – 75th annual United Nations General Assembly - New York, NY

October

- TBD** - *DBTG Operational & Technical Conference – Rotterdam, The Netherlands – Postponed from April 2020*
- 5** – G-20 Meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- TBD** – *Convention on biological diversity (CBD) COP 15– Kunming, China – Postponed*
- TBD** – *China World Grain Forum - Postponed*

November

- 3-4** – *IGTC General Assembly – Now Taking Place Virtually*

3 - U.S. Presidential Election

12 - APEC in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

21-22 – G-20 Annual Summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

TBD – *NAEGA Contracts & Best Practices Seminar – Tokyo, Japan - Tentative*

December

TBD – International Grains Council’s 52nd Session – London, UK

2021

March

14-16 – NGFA Annual Convention – San Diego, CA

June

7-11 – London Grains Week – London, UK

2022

December

TBD – COP 16 – CBD – Turkey

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