



## Outreach February 3, 2021

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

### **The Redesigned NAEGA.org is Live!**

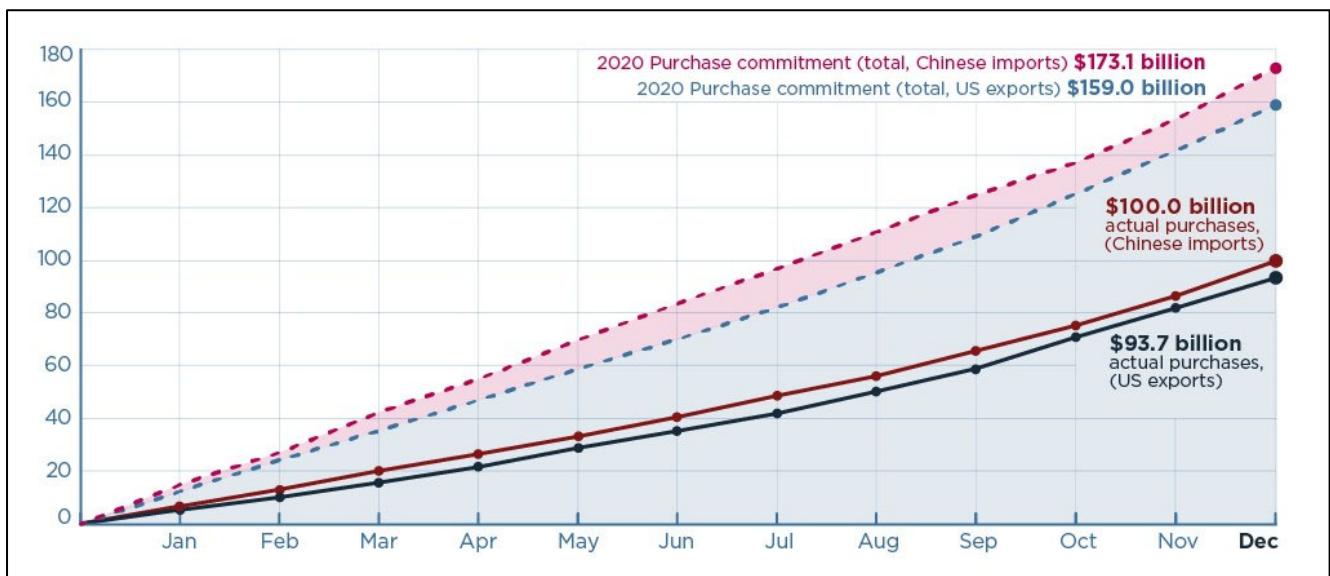
You are invited to login to the redesigned NAEGA public and Member's Only website at [www.NAEGA.org](http://www.NAEGA.org). You should be able to use your existing credentials to access the Member's Only site. If you do not have a login, please contact Patrick at [phayden@naega.org](mailto:phayden@naega.org).

We plan to spotlight NAEGA members on both the public and Member's Only site. If you are interested in providing material of any kind for the website, please let us know. Your feedback on is appreciated as we refine this new platform to help up Work Together to Make Trade Work!

### ***Graphic of the Week***

#### *China's Purchases of U.S. Goods Under the Phase One Agreement*

*The U.S.-China Phase One Trade Agreement had its 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary on January 15, 2021. This chart shows the dollar value of U.S. Exports and Chinese Imports in 2020 of all goods covered under the agreement.*



*Source – [Peterson Institute for International Economics and the U.S. Government](#)*

***Current Opportunities & Actions:***

- Register Now - Virtual Networking & Information Session – February 9, 2021
- 2021 Membership
- Dry Bulk Terminal Group Benchmarks
- Grain Terminal Project in Mozambique
- Mexico Ban on GE Corn and Glyphosate
- Philippines Corn and Wheat Import Permit Changes
- U.K Government Announces Consultation on Biotech Crops
- U.N. Food Systems Summit

***Recent Actions:***

- Letter in Support of Biden Trade Nominee
- Comments to U.S. EPA on PID for Phosphine and Metal Phosphides
- Production Technology Committee Meeting

***News:***

- Floyd Gaibler – 1950-2021
- USTR 2021 Special 301 Investigation on IP

***Ongoing Opportunities & Actions:***

- Contracts and Best Practices Seminars – Your interest requested
- Office Operation Status and Communication

***Current Opportunities & Actions:***

**Register Now - Virtual Networking & Information Session – February 9, 2021**

You and any co-workers with an interest in NAEGA are invited and welcome to join us at our next Virtual Membership Networking & Information Session, Tuesday, February 9 from 3pm-4pm Eastern Time. This session will feature a presentation from member T. Parker Host on the services that they offer.

[Please register here](#). Once registered you will be sent the weblink you will need to join the session.

This is the third in a series of seven NAEGA member exclusive one-hour sessions we have planned for Tuesdays in 2021, leading up to our Annual Meeting on Wednesday, March 10. During the MS Teams meetings, we plan to:

1. explain new NAEGA benefits, programs and policy;
2. provide NAEGA members with an opportunity to introduce their company;
3. and, in a series sponsored by the Contracts Committee, welcome providers of web-based trade execution services to introduce their products.

**All members have the opportunity to be a featured presenter during our upcoming Tuesday sessions.** If your company is interested, please contact Patrick or Gary.

## **2021 Membership**

Invoices for membership dues and export volume fees were sent out via email on January 11, 2021. Each member representative should have received an email with a membership invoice and the Annual Member Meeting notice. If you are the primary members representative for your company and have not received your packet via email, please contact NAEGA staff as soon as possible. All dues and export volume fees are due by February 15, 2021.

## **Dry Bulk Terminal Group Benchmarks**

The [Dry Bulk Terminal Group \(DBTG\)](#) is renewing its Terminal Benchmark Platform (TBP) for operational, technical and HR indicators. The DBTG TBP was started in 2014 to collect information provided by its members that can be used by facility operators to assess performance for all types of bulk ocean vessel facilities including grain. TBP currently includes data on personnel health and safety as well as equipment and facility maintenance and efficiency. Consideration of additional information that might be included is underway. DBTG works with NAEGA on common concerns including International Maritime Organization measures and welcomes our advice on what types of data and input the platform might include

The Grades & Inspections Committee is considering the TBP. Your questions and advice are welcome

## **Grain Terminal Project in Mozambique**

You may be interested in a Grain Terminal Project at the port of Nacala in Mozambique. Mitrelli Udoyen Lda, a joint venture by Israeli and Mozambique-based companies, is looking for partners for the construction of a bulk grain terminal at the port. A presentation on the infrastructure around the [port can be found here](#), and details on the scope of the project [can be found here](#). Please contact Paul Goris of K1 BVBA at [K1@korin.nl](mailto:K1@korin.nl) for more information.

## **Mexico Ban on GE Corn and Glyphosate**

We continue to monitor developments and communicate with government and industry partners including our sister organization in Mexico, APPAMEX, regarding the December 31, 2020 decree from Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador that bans the use and imports of glyphosate and take actions to restrict the use genetically modified (GM) corn, effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

Since the release of the decree, there have been no details on how these measures might be enforced, and as of this writing we are not aware of any enforcement attempts by the Mexican authorities. We encourage you to let us know of any attempts to enforce the decree, and input on what action, if any, should be considered, is welcome. We will continue to update you as the situation develops.

## **Philippines Corn and Wheat Import Permit Changes**

Your advice regarding the Philippines Department of Agriculture's [Memorandum #39 for 2020 of December 2](#) is welcome. The new requirements are perplexing as they are issued by the plant health risk management authority to address concerns of local corn producers by managing supplies of corn and wheat. Included in the apparently trade restrictive measures is a considerable shortening of time to use issued import permits for corn and wheat from some origins.

We would greatly appreciate your advice on how the Memorandum is being implemented and its impact on trade.

### **U.K. Government Announces Consultation on Biotech Crops**

The U.K.'s Department for Environment, Food, Rural Affairs (Defra) has opened a consultation, or public comment period, on both gene edited and transgenic biotech crops and is soliciting comments through March 17, 2020.

Defra is asking for comments on two issues:

1. The regulation of genetically modified organisms which could have been developed using traditional breeding methods.
2. Questions on broad reform of legislation governing organisms produced using genetic technologies,

The consultation document, which includes details on the questions Defra is asking, [can be found here](#). The Production Technology Committee is following this issue and input from all members is welcome.

### **U.N. Food Systems Summit**

On Friday, February 5, the U.S. Food & Agriculture Dialogue for Trade is hosting a discussion on the [U.N. Food Systems Summit](#) with Robynne Anderson, Director General of the International Agri-Food Network, which serves as the secretariat of the Private Sector Mechanism through which the food and agriculture sector has a voice into the Summit. You are invited to attend this off the record briefing and can [register through this link](#).

A number of events related to the Summit's "[Action Tracks](#)" are open to the public and may be of interest to you. UN Summit organizers are hosting multiple rounds of virtual Action Tracks Public Forum discussions on the which are open to the public and provide attendees with insight as to how the tracks are developing and allow questions and ideas to be submitted. Details about upcoming Action Track Public Forum discussions and registration links, as well as recordings of past events, can be found on the Summit's Action Track page, found [here](#).

### ***Recent Actions:***

#### **Comments to U.S. EPA on PID for Phosphine and Metal Phosphides**

NAEGA, the National Grain & Feed Association (NGFA) and the North American Millers' Association (NAMA) submitted joint comments in response to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on their [Proposed Interim Registration Review Decision](#) (PID) for aluminum phosphide and magnesium phosphide, also known as metal phosphides, and phosphine. The PID recommends that fumigant applicators establish treatment and aeration buffer zones around all phosphine and metal phosphide commodity application sites.

The comments note that no justification has been provided by the EPA for the proposed minimum 10-foot buffer zone for all fumigations and that imposing a minimum buffer zone in situations where it is not needed "would effectively eliminate fumigations at many sites, as in many

instances, a 10-foot buffer zone would be challenging or impossible to implement.” The comments recommend that the EPA maintain its current registration requirements for aluminum phosphide, magnesium phosphide and phosphine and [can be found here](#).

### **Letter in Support of Tai Nomination**

We joined a broad coalition of food and agriculture trade associations in signing a letter to U.S. Senate Committee on Finance Chair Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Ranking Member Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID) in support of the nomination of Katherine Tai to serve as U.S. Trade Representative. The letter as submitted [can be found here](#).

### **Production Technology Committee Meeting**

The Production Technology Committee met on Thursday, January 28 . The committee reviewed the Plant Breeding Information Exchange and addressed current industry concerns on plant breeding and crop protection. If you are not a member of the Committee and would like information on joining, please contact NAEGA staff (Patrick Hayden, [phayden@naega.org](mailto:phayden@naega.org) and Gary Martin, [gcmartin@naega.org](mailto:gcmartin@naega.org))

### ***News:***

#### **Floyd Gaibler – 1950-2021**

We were saddened to learn that Floyd Gaibler, Director of Trade Policy and Biotechnology at the U.S. Grains Council (USGC), [passed away due to complications from heart surgery](#) on January 21. In his 10 years at USGC, Floyd worked closely with NAEGA staff on a number of key issues and was a member of the International Grain Trade Coalition Management Council. Before joining USGC he served as Deputy Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services at USDA in the George W. Bush administration. He also worked for the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture; the Agriculture Retailers Association; and the International Dairy Foods Association, among others. He is survived by his wife and two children, as well as family in his home state of Nebraska. A memorial service will be held in the Spring of 2021. Remembrances can be sent to [grains@grains.org](mailto:grains@grains.org) to be passed on to his family.

NAEGA offers its condolences to Floyd’s family.

#### **USTR 2021 Special 301 Investigation on IP**

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative has begun seeking comments for the 2020 Special 301 Investigation on Intellectual Property (IP). This investigation occurs annually, with the goal being to identify countries that deny adequate and effective protection of IP rights or deny fair and equitable market access to U.S. based entities who rely on IP protection. Based on this review, USTR determines which, if any, of these countries to identify as Priority Foreign Countries or should be placed on the Priority Country Watch List. Written comments, which identify acts, policies, or practices that may form the basis of a country's identification as a Priority Foreign Country or placement on the Priority Watch List, are due January 28, 2021. The Federal Register Notice, which also includes instructions on how to submit comments, [can be found here](#).

## ***Ongoing Opportunities & Actions:***

### **Contracts and Best Practices Seminars – Your interest requested**

We recently completed extensive work with Senior Advisors built around company specific and confidential Virtual Contracts and Best Practices Seminar. The work included critical review of documents being used by the NAEGA member company.

Both public/multiple company and private/single company seminars are available and can be tailored to your needs. The seminars are an intensive and informative review of commercial and official practices taught in an interactive environment. Please let us know when, how and where you would like to participate in the NAEGA Senior Advisor led seminars. [Click here](#) for more information on the in-depth, interactive programs NAEGA conducts!

### **Office Operation Status and Communication**

The NAEGA office in Arlington, VA continues to operate under a limited and tentative reopening. We will continue to work remotely and via virtual platforms the majority of the time and have no travel planned. Most NAEGA hosted virtual meetings use Microsoft Teams. 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](mailto:phayden@naega.org).

## ***Calendar & Member Notices:***

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

### **2021**

#### **February**

- 3** – Arbitration Education Sub-Committee Meeting – Virtual
- 4** – UN Food Systems Summit Action Track 5 Public Forum – [Details here](#)
- 9** – NAEGA Member Virtual Networking & Information Session
- 16** – NAEGA Member Virtual Networking & Information Session
- 23** – NAEGA Member Virtual Networking & Information Session
- 25** – UN Food Systems Summit Action Track 1 Public Forum – [Details here](#)
- 26** – UN Food Systems Summit Action Track 3 Public Forum – [Details here](#)

#### **March**

- 2** - NAEGA Member Virtual Networking & Information Session
- 9** - NAEGA Member Virtual Networking & Information Session
- 9** – NAEGA Committee Meetings – Virtual
- 10** – NAEGA Annual Meeting & Board of Directors Meeting – Virtual
- 16 & 18** – 15th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures , International Plant Protection Convention – Days 1 and 2 – Virtual

#### **April**

- 1** – 15th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures , International Plant Protection Convention – Day 3 – Virtual

**May**

**TBD** – Meeting of the Convention on biological diversity (CBD) COP 15 and COP-MOP 10 - Kunming, China - Tentative

**June**

**7-11** – London Grains Week – London, UK – In person/Virtual Hybrid

**2-4** - NGFA Annual Convention – Tentative

**July**

**7-8** – USAEDC’s FAS Attaché Seminar – Arlington, VA

**September**

**TBD** - U.N. Food Systems Summit

**November**

**15-18** – USAEDC Annual Workshop – Baltimore, MD

**2022****March**

**13-15** – NGFA Annual Convention – Charleston, SC

**December**

**TBD** – COP 16 – CBD – Turkey

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