



## Outreach January 11, 2021

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

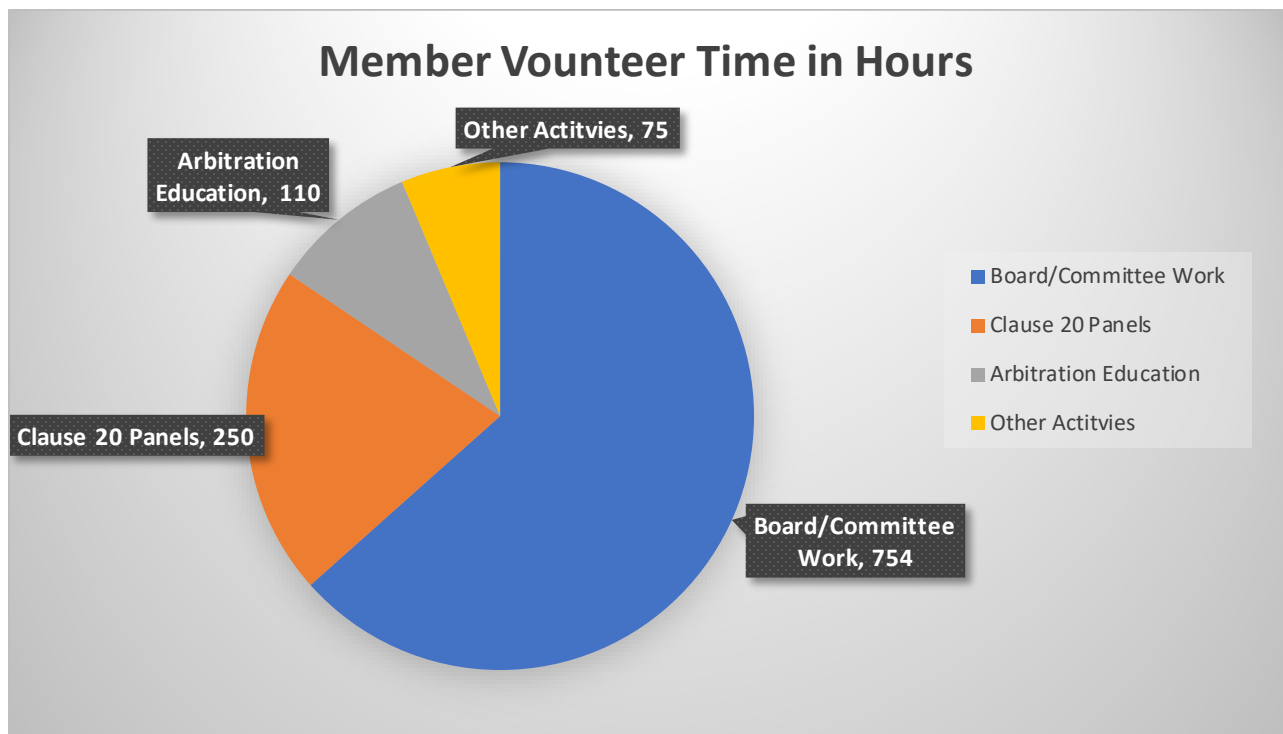
*2021 Member Engagement - Please join us this year as we:*

- *Unveil a new website with expanded member benefits.*
- *Hold Virtual Annual Meetings on March 9 & 10.*
- *Deploy the Precision Biotechnology Information Exchange.*
- *Conduct multiple exclusive virtual meetings for all member networking.*
- *Complete individual member virtual meetings to discuss your priorities.*

### Graphic of the Week

*NAEGA Member Volunteer Hours in 2020*

NAEGA's Member Volunteers remain our most valuable asset. In 2020, you logged over 1100 hours of collective time working on NAEGA Committees, Clause 20 Panels and other projects:



Source – NAEGA

### ***Current Opportunities & Actions:***

- 2021 Membership
- Mexico Announces Ban on GE Corn and Glyphosate
- Philippines Corn and Wheat Import Permit Changes
- U.K Government Announces Consultation on Biotech Crops
- UN Food Systems Summit
- U.S. EPA PID for Phosphine and Metal Phosphides

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

- Comment on Pioneer Petition for Nonregulated Status for GE Maize
- NAEGA Board of Directors Meeting

### ***News:***

- EU Survey of Consumer Expectations of Food and Sustainability
- U.S. Coast Guard Guidance on TWIC Operations
- USDA/FGIS Fees for 2021
- USTR 2021 Special 301 Investigation on IP

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

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

### ***Current Opportunities & Actions:***

#### **2021 Membership**

**2021 Member Packet** - Invoices for membership dues and export volume fees will be sent out January 11, 2021. Each member representative will receive an email with a membership invoice and the Annual Member Meeting notice. All dues and export volume fees are due by February 15, 2021.

**Member Engagement** – 2021 plans include expanded use of virtual meetings to increase networking and information exchange. Members will find more opportunities and easier access to Association actions and services via:

- A new website with expanded member benefits that include virtual contract and arbitration training. An overview of the updated site will be provided to members virtually.
- Virtual Annual Meetings, taking place on March 9 & 10, 2021.
- The Precision Biotechnology Information Exchange, a database and platform which provides critical information on plant breeding technology.
- Multiple exclusive opportunities for all-member virtual networking that include presentations from trade platform technology developers and from individual member companies.
- Complete individual member virtual meetings to discuss your priorities. Please keep an eye out for and email from us requesting your time for a brief meeting.

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

Mexico's Federal Register on December 31, 2020 included the decree from Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador that would ban use and imports of glyphosate and take actions to restrict the use genetically modified (GM) corn. The decree set an enforcement date of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. If and how the decree may be implemented is unknown. The Glyphosate ban would be phased in over several years. The GM corn action, apparently targeted at corn for use if food use, may resulting the revoke existing GM event authorizations and ending new authorizations. There does not appear to be any language regarding enforcement in the decree, and as of this writing we are not aware of any enforcement attempts by Mexico's competent authorities. [An untranslated copy of the decree can be found here](#). Some press reports are that meetings will be conducted this week in Mexico to discuss implementation including the application of GM corn ban to animal feed.

With the official publication of the decree, a response, either through formal legal action under the World Trade Organization or the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, is likely to come from governments. NAEGA continues to communicate with industry partners, including our sister organization in Mexico, APPAMEX. We are considering how or if there is an effective way to respond. We encourage NAEGA members 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**

We are seeking NAEGA member advice regarding the Philippines Department of Agriculture's [Memorandum #39 for 2020 of December 2](#). 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**

The United Nations (U.N.) and many of its member countries will be holding virtual events throughout 2021, [leading to a U.N. Food Systems Summit](#) in the Fall with the announced aim of “maximizing the co-benefits of a food systems approach across the entire [2030 Agenda](#) and meeting the challenges of climate change.” The U.S. Department of Agriculture will serve as the convener for the U.S. National Food System Dialogues ahead of the Summit, with their first event, “Initiating National Engagement in the Summit” will take place on Wednesday, January 13, 2021. NAEGA will engage with these events and their hosts whenever possible to represent member interests.

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

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking comments on the [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 due date for comments was extended in December, with a due date for submission to EPA of January 21, 2020.

The Grades & Inspections Committee is also considering submitting comments on this PID input from all members is welcome.

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

#### **Comments on Pioneer Petition for Nonregulated Status of GE Maize**

NAEGA and the National Grain & Feed Association have submitted comments to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) regarding a recent petition from Pioneer Hi-Bred International seeking a Determination of Nonregulated Status for DP23211, an insect resistant and herbicide-tolerant maize. In the comments we commend Corteva/Pioneer H-Bred for their [recently launched transparency initiative](#) and commitment in their petition to responsible commercialization. The comments reiterate our position that technology providers bear a responsibility to lead comprehensive educational efforts to inform other stakeholders and consumers about the benefits and risks, if any, associated with plant-breeding innovation. We also recommend Corteva/Pioneer’s petition be given “full, fair and prompt consideration” by APHIS. The comments as submitted [can be found here](#).

#### **NAEGA Board of Directors Meeting**

The NAEGA Board of Directors met on December 17, 2020 via Microsoft Teams. [Minutes from the September 30, 2020 meeting](#) were approved. Recent and ongoing NAEGA actions were considered. Approvals included an update to the [NAEGA Policies and Procedures document](#), a budget for 2021, and conducting of the 2021 Annual Meetings in a virtual setting. Draft minutes from the meeting will be available soon.

### ***News:***

**End of LIBOR**

Financial markets are preparing for the end of the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR), a key reference rate used in global finance. The end of LIBOR is the result of the rate manipulation scandals in the early half of the last decade and the UK Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) provided markets with several years to transition from LIBOR to alternate reference rates, such as the Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR). LIBOR benchmark rates will no longer be provided and financial markets will not list LIBOR contracts after December 2021. LIBOR provisions are common in loan agreements and swaps. They may also be found in commercial contracts, including contracts that incorporate provisions of the NAEGA 2 FOB contract. ***Members will want to consult with their counsel and review commercial contracts for references to LIBOR and consider the use of various alternative reference rates.***

### **EU Survey of Consumer Expectations of Food and Sustainability**

A European Commission Special Eurobarometer survey of 27,237 consumers across the 27 EU member states which was carried out in August and September has found that European consumers rank safety, cost and taste ahead of environmental issues when it comes to sustainability of their food. The report found that taste (45%), food safety (42%) and cost (40%) are the main factors influencing Europeans' food purchases, while environmental impact was cited by just 15% of respondents.

However, the survey also found that the global sustainability standards laid out in the EU's Farm to Fork strategy is supported by 87% of respondents who stated that the EU should be more proactive in promoting food sustainability worldwide and that 83% agree that regulations should force food producers and other food business operators to meet more stringent sustainability standards. Food producers and manufacturers are seen as key actors in making the food system sustainable, above public authorities, but not all Europeans recognized their own role as consumers

The full survey [can be found here](#)

### **U.S. Coast Guard Guidance on TWIC Operations**

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) has issued an update to Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) 13-20, which address Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) Operations in consideration of COVID-19. Among other updates, of particular interest to NAEGA members is updated allowances for Alternative Security Program (ASP) users. ASP users who are unable to comply with the requirements in an approved ASP due to COVID-19 may pursue temporary relief via noncompliance, which requires user to contact the Captain of the Port to request and receive permission to temporarily deviate from the ASP requirements. The updated MSIB [can be found here](#).

### **USDA/FGIS Fees for 2021**

USDA's Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) has released its 2021 directive on Service Fees and Billing Costs. Under this directive, increase inspection and weighing service fees increased by five percent beginning January 1, 2021. The reason given in that FGIS' operating reserve is below 4 ½ months of operating expenses by \$3,416,553.

FGIS also adjusted local tonnage fees to reflect fiscal year 2020 costs and a five-year average of export tons. The national tonnage fee is the national program administrative costs for the previous

fiscal year divided by the average yearly million metric tons (mmt) of exported grain. In 2021 the national tonnage fee decreased by 15% from 2020 while the local tonnage fees in Toledo and Portland have increased and the local tonnage fees in New Orleans and League City have increased. FGIS's Directive on fees [can be found here](#), and a chart with the 2021 fees [is available here](#).

### **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 the majority of the time and have no travel planned.

We continue to conduct our meetings through virtual platforms. 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**

**January**

**13** –U.S. National Food System Dialogue - Initiating National Engagement in the U.S. Food Systems Summit - Virtual

**20** – Inauguration Day – United States

**22** – International Grains Council 52nd Session - Virtual

### **March**

**9-10** – NAEGA Annual Meetings – 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 – San Diego, CA- 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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