



Outreach January 21, 2021

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

Register Now

Virtual Networking & Information Session – January 26, 2020

Member representatives and any co-workers with an interest in NAEGA, are invited and welcome to join us at our first Virtual Membership Networking & Information Session, this Tuesday, January 26, from 3pm-4pm Eastern Time.

This is the first of many NAEGA member exclusive one-hour sessions we have planned for Tuesdays in 2021. Before our Annual Meeting on Wednesday, March 10, seven Tuesday afternoon sessions are being scheduled. 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.

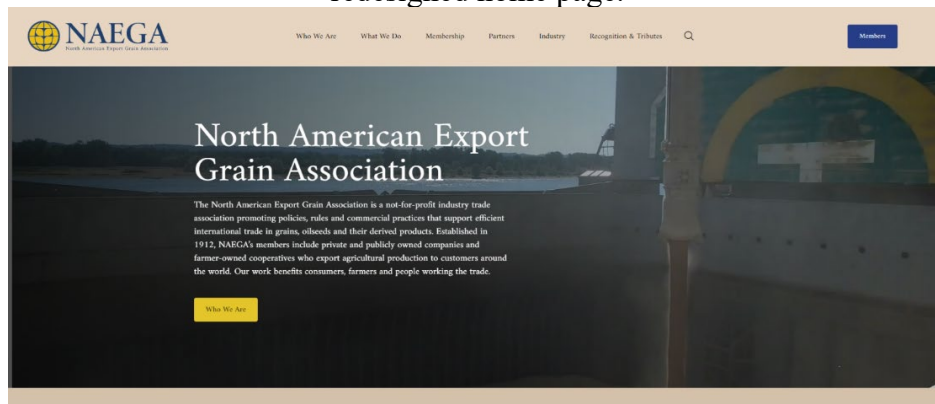
The Tuesday January 26 session will feature an introduction from our newest member [POSCO International](#) and the unveiling of the new NAEGA website. [You can register through this link.](#)

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.

Graphic of the Week

The new NAEGA.org

NAEGA will be unveiling our new website on January 26. Please enjoy this sneak peak of the redesigned home page.



Source – NAEGA

Current Opportunities & Actions:

- Register Now - Virtual Networking & Information Session – January 26, 2021
- 2021 Membership
- Mexico Ban on GE Corn and Glyphosate
- Philippines Corn and Wheat Import Permit Changes
- Production Technology Committee Meeting – January 28, 2021
- U.K Government Announces Consultation on Biotech Crops
- U.S. EPA PID for Phosphine and Metal Phosphides

Recent Actions:

- Letter in Support of Biden Trade & Agriculture Nominees
- Letter to USDA/AMS on TCK Testing Labs
- UN Food Systems Summit

News:

- New Position Limits Rule Published
- Report on Major Trade Issues in U.S. Congress
- 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:

2021 Membership

2021 Member Packet - 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.

Production Technology Committee Meeting – January 28, 2021

The Production Technology Committee will meet on Thursday, January 28 at and the Contracts Committee will meet of The NAEGA Contracts Committee will meet on Thursday, July 23 at 2:30pm Eastern Time. If you are not a member of the Committees and would like information on taking part in this calls or joining the Committee, please contact NAEGA staff (Patrick Hayden, phayden@naega.org and Gary Martin, gcmartin@naega.org) for assistance.

Mexico Ban on GE Corn and Glyphosate

NAEGA continues to monitor developments and communicate with 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 1st, 2021.

In a joint statement issued on January 15, [Mexico's Agriculture and Economy Ministers](#) announced that at least one meeting with industry representatives has taken place since the decree was issued and that during that meeting measures to "gradually substitute" the use of GM yellow corn with increased domestic production were outlined. No details on these measures have been released, and as of this writing we are not aware of any enforcement attempts by the Mexican authorities.

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.

Recent Actions:

Letter in Support of Vilsack Nomination

NAEGA joined a broad coalition of food and agriculture trade associations in signing a letter to U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Chair Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Ranking Member Sen. John Boozman,(R-AR) of in support of the nomination of Thomas Vilsack to serve as Secretary of Agriculture. The letter as submitted [can be found here](#).

Letter to USDA/AMS on TCK Testing Labs

NAEGA, along with the National Grain & Feed Association (NGFA) and U.S. Wheat Associates (USW), have sent a letter to USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Deputy Administrator Arthur L. Neal regarding TCK testing availability and the current Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) practice of designating a single private lab to provide TCK testing services, which is located in Portland, OR. Increased Wheat shipments to China from ports in the Gulf of Mexico have shown a need for FGIS to certify additional laboratories in the Gulf area to provide TCK testing, which is a requirement for wheat exports to China. The letter offers NAEGA, NGFA and USW assistance to AMS in encouraging FGIS to certify new private labs for TCK testing and provides an outline on how new labs could be properly certified. The letter as submitted [can be found here](#).

U.N. Food Systems Summit

On Wednesday, January 13, NAEGA attended the [U.S. National Food System Dialogue : Stage 1](#) - Initiating National Engagement in the Summit: Initiate an inclusive process to identify food system challenges from multiple perspectives, convened by the U.S. Department of agriculture as part of the preparation for the [U.N. Food Systems Summit](#). This was the first of three National Dialogues ahead of the Summit, scheduled to take place in the Fall of this year. The Dialogue featured 5 breakout sessions and findings from these sessions will be posted to the U.N. Summit website. Other countries will be holding similar events throughout the year. NAEGA will engage with these events and their hosts whenever possible to represent member interests.

News:

New Position Limits Rule Published

The U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) [final rule](#), Position Limits for Derivatives, was published in the January 14, 2021, Federal Register. While the effective date is March 15, 2021, the decade-long rule making effort has three key effective dates for traders that extend to January 1, 2023.

Key Changes effective March 15, 2021

- Bona fide hedge exemption provisions, including expanded enumerated hedges for spreads and anticipatory merchandising transactions.
- Increased speculative position limits in the nine legacy agricultural core referenced futures contracts: CBOT Corn, Soybeans, Soybean Oil, Soybean Meal, Wheat, Hard Winter Wheat; ICE Cotton No. 2; and MGEX Hard Red Spring Wheat.

Key Changes effective by January 1, 2022

- Expected elimination of current Forms 204 and 304 reporting obligations corresponding with implementation of exchange hedge exemption processes no later than January 1, 2022. Revised 304 reporting for cotton.
- Speculative position limits for 16 additional core referenced futures contracts, including: CBOT Rough Rice; CME Live Cattle; ICE Cocoa, Coffee, FCOJ-A, U.S. Sugar No. 11, U.S. Sugar No. 16; NYMEX Light Sweet Crude Oil, NY Harbor ULSD, RBOB Gasoline, Henry Hub Natural Gas; COMEX Gold, Silver, Copper; and NYMEX Palladium, Platinum.

Key Changes effective January 1, 2023

- Termination of existing risk management exemptions.
- Position limits apply to equivalent swaps.

Report on Agriculture Trade Issues in the U.S. Congress

The U.S. Congressional Research Service (CRS) has issued a report on [Major Agricultural Trade Issues](#) faced by the new U.S. Congress. The report identifies current major trade issues for U.S. agriculture that may be taken up by this Congress. Top issues Congress may address include:

- Trade Agreement Negotiations
- The impact of COVID-19
- Continued Implementation of the China Phase One Agreement
- Addressing Non-Tariff Trade Barriers
- The future of the WTO

[The report can be found 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.

Calendar & Member Notices:

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

2021

January

- 22 – International Grains Council 52nd Session – Virtual
- 26 – NAEGA Member Virtual Networking & Information Session
- 28 – Production Technology Committee Meeting

March

- 9-10 – NAEGA Annual Meetings – 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 – 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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