

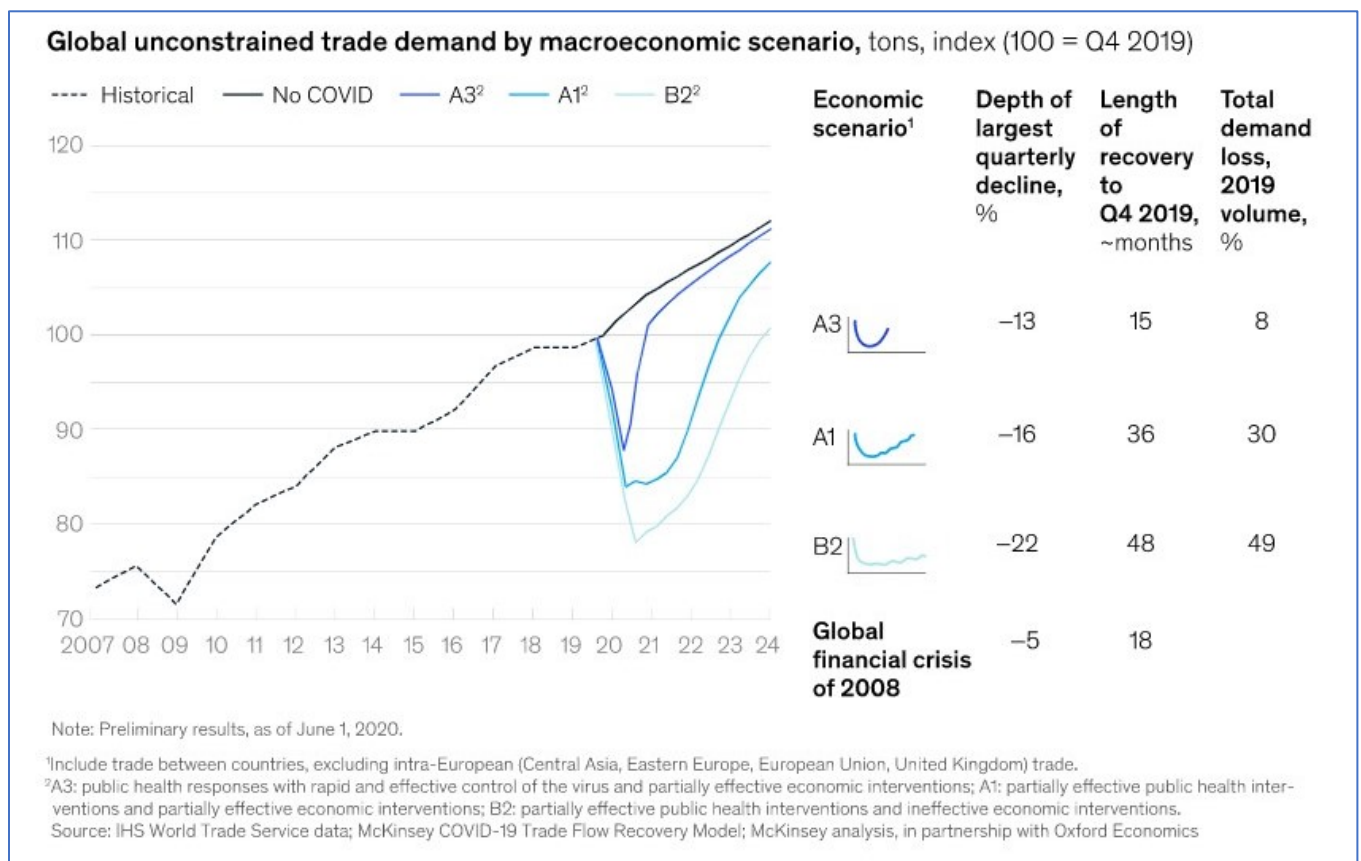
Outreach

July 29, 2020

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

Image of the Week:

Potential Decline in Global Trade Demand Due to COVID 19 – Est. as of July 2020



Source: [McKinsey & Company: Global Trade Flows After COVID-19](#)

Recent Actions:

- Clause 20 Applications
- Comments Submitted on BASF GE Soybean
- NAEGA Website RFP

Current Opportunities & Actions:

- MRLs – Japan
- MRLs Korea
- NGFA Barge Digital Transformation Project - Sneak Peek
- U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports to Sanctioned Countries Webinar
- USDA APHIS Invites Comment on NAPPO Documents

News:

- FAO COVID-19 Response and Recovery Program
- Fumigation of U.S. DDG Shipments to Thailand
- Unsolicited Seeds from China
- U.S. TSA TWIC Extension Policy

Ongoing Opportunities & Actions:

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

Recent Actions:

Clause 20 Applications

Applications as provided for in Clause 20 of the [NAEGA 2 F.O.B Contract resulted in certifications that a](#) valid cause existed that delayed the delivery of the commodity and/or prevented forwarding of the commodity to Prince Rupert Grain Terminal in British Columbia. Circumstances including the unprecedented nature and volume of impact from a rail blockade related to social unrest were determined to have resulted in an exceptional impediment to transportation as provided for in 20 (b) (2). NAEGA thanks the volunteer panelists who provided for expert and thorough vetting and recommendations of the applications.

Comments Submitted on BASF GE Soybean

NAEGA and NGFA submitted joint comments to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS), responding to BASF's petition seeking a determination of nonregulated status in the U.S. for "Plant-Parasitic Nematode-Protected and Herbicide Resistant Soybean (GMB-151)" In the comments we commend BASF for its quick outreach to our Associations and for its willingness to answer questions from industry. 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 BASF's petition be given "full, fair and prompt consideration" by APHIS. The comments as submitted [can be found here](#).

NAEGA Website RFP

A Request for Proposals (RFP) for a redesign and update of the NAEGA website is being circulated. As a result a modern, user-friendly website that provides easy access to both public

and member's only services and information, provides for a digital archives and contains a portal for future web-based video and educational projects should be available soon.

NAEGA members that have suggestions for potential contractors who would be able to deliver a proposal before the due date of August 3, 2020 are encouraged to either forward them [a copy of the RFP, found here](#), or to contact Patrick Hayden at phayden@nagea.org directly.

Current Opportunities & Actions:

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, 20. 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](#).

U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports to Sanctioned Countries Webinar

NAEGA and the U.S. Food & Agriculture Dialogue for Trade (USFADT) will host a virtual, confidential, and off the record 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](#). Invitations with registration information will be sent to all NAEGA members soon.

USDA/APHIS Invites Comment on NAPPO Documents

The North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) opened the 2020 NAPPO Country Consultation period, which provides an opportunity for stakeholders to comment and review, for the three NAPPO documents on Regional Phytosanitary and Science & Technology Documents, [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 and for 60 days (June 1 – July 31, 2020) for the new Science and Technology Document

NAEGA’s Grades and Inspections Committee is considering a response. Your advice is welcome.

News:

FAO COVID--19 Response and Recovery Program

The U.N.’s Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) has introduced the “COVID-19 Response and Recovery Program”, with a goal of preventing a global food emergency during and after the COVID-19 pandemic while working on medium to long-term development response for food security and nutrition. FAO’s Program calls for immediate action in seven key priority areas:

- Reinforce a Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19
- Improve Data for Decision-making
- Ensure Economic Inclusion and Social Protection to Reduce Poverty
- Bolster Trade and Food Safety Standards
- Boost Smallholder Resilience for Recovery
- Prevent the Next Zoonotic Pandemic through a strengthened One Health Approach
- Trigger Food Systems Transformation

FAO is working on convening governments and multiple stakeholders to put the program into action. More details are available [through this link](#).

Fumigation of U.S. DDG Shipments to Thailand

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS) reports issues remain with the government of Thailand regarding U.S. Dried Distillers Grains (DDGs) fumigated with phosphine and that they are not able to issue phytosanitary certificates for

U.S. DDGs that were fumigated with phosphine. APHIS notes that they will continue to issue phytosanitary certificates for cargos fumigated with methyl bromide and that they are working with Thai authorities to provide for acceptance of DDGs that has been fumigated with phosphine.

Unsolicited Seeds from China

Recent news that U.S. residents have received unsolicited packages of seeds from China reminds us to protect agriculture from invasive pests and noxious weeds. Preventing planting of seeds from unknown origins and stopping the unlawful entry of prohibited seeds is a priority.

If you or someone you know receives an unsolicited package of seeds from China, immediately contact your State plant regulatory official or [APHIS State plant health director](#). Those who receive these packages should hold onto the seeds and packaging, including the mailing label, until contacted by their State department of agriculture, Customs and Border Protection or USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) with further instructions. APHIS asks all U.S. residents not to plant seeds from unknown origins.

U.S. TSA TWIC Extension Policy

As reported in the edition of April 14, 2020 edition of OUTREACH, the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) issued a 180 day "grace period" for Transportation Worker Identification Credentials (TWICs) that expired during the period March 1 through July 31, 2020. The TWIC exemption extends the validity of a TWIC for 180 days for an individual whose TWIC® would otherwise expire during the effective period of the exemption (March 1 to July 31, 2020).

The TSA does not plan to publish an extension of the temporary TWIC exemption. While some enrollment centers were required to close for a temporary duration due to COVID-19, TSA reports that of the approximately 350 enrollment centers nationwide that provide TWIC services, more than 80 percent are open and operational. Current temporary TWIC holders with a security threat assessment expiring on or after August 1, 2020 will no longer maintain a valid TWIC after their expiration date, and the cardholder must re-enroll if they require a valid TWIC. For TWIC holders who are currently using the grace period, if your 180-day period extends past July 31, 2020, your TWIC will be valid for the remainder of those 180 days. If you have comments or questions, please contact twic.issue@tsa.gov.

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

July

30 – Australian Grain Industry Conference - Taking Place Virtually

August

13 - U.S. Food & Agriculture Dialogue for Trade Webinar on Sanctions

4-6 - *U.S. Grain and Soy Buyers Conference – Taking Place Virtually, Gary Martin to present*

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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