

## Outreach

June 18, 2020

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

*Image of the Week:*  
*Selecting the next WTO General Director*

### Selecting the next WTO Director-General



- STEP 1** 

WTO members can submit nominations for the position. At the end of the nomination period, a list of all candidates is shared. (8 June - 8 July)
- STEP 2** 

Candidates meet with all WTO members to share their vision for the Organization and take questions.
- STEP 3** 

A committee led by the General Council Chair consults with members to assess their preferences and indicate which candidate is more likely to gather consensus. Several rounds may be held to narrow down the pool of candidates to one name.
- STEP 4** 

The name of the candidate most likely to attract consensus is introduced to WTO members.
- STEP 5** 

WTO members take the final decision and appoint the new DG.

[www.wto.org](http://www.wto.org)  WTO OMC

*Source: WTO, June 2020*

***Recent Actions:***

- AgriVida Petition for U.S. Nonregulated Status of GE Corn
- Thailand Ban on Chlorpyrifos & Paraquat
- Vietnam NTR 190

***Current Opportunities & Actions:***

- MRLs – South Korea Focus
- Bayer/Monsanto Petition for U.S. Nonregulated Status of GE Corn
- BASF Petition for U.S. Nonregulated Status of GE Soybean
- U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports to Sanctioned Countries Webinar
- USDA APHIS Invites Comment on NAPPO Documents
- USDA Agriculture Innovation Agenda

***News:***

- Letter to President Trump on U.S.-China Phase One
- U.S. Coast Guard Guidance on TWIC Verifications

***Ongoing Opportunities & Actions:***

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

***Recent Actions:***

**AgriVida Petition for U.S. Nonregulated Status of GE Corn**

NAEGA and NGFA submitted joint comments to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS), responding to AgriVida, Inc.'s [petition](#) seeking a determination of nonregulated status in the U.S. of Maize Event PY203. In the comments we thank AgriVida for its willingness to answer questions from industry and 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 AgriVida's petition be given "full, fair and prompt consideration" by APHIS. The comments as submitted [can be found here](#).

**Thailand Ban on Chlorpyrifos & Paraquat**

Progress! [Thailand's Food and Drug Administration \(TFDA\) extended the public comment period](#) on the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH)'s draft Notification implement bans on chlorpyrifos and paraquat used in crop protection products from June 15, 2020 to July 18, 2020.

To share information and discuss a response, NAEGA and USSEC are jointly convening virtual meetings with U.S. government and other stakeholders. If you would like to take part in these meetings please contact Gary or Patrick.

**Vietnam NTR 190**

New decisions by the Vietnamese government are a welcome development.

On March 9, 2020 Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) proposed new National Technical Regulations on Animal Feeds and Ingredients for production of Aquatic Feeds (NTR 190), was scheduled to go into effect on July 1, 2020. The proposed regulations, which included a criterion for "no detection" for salmonella in many agricultural products set new deviate from the application of sound science, risk-based regulation and internationally effective best practices and put agricultural exports from North and South America to Vietnam at risk.

We now understand that MARD will soon notify the National Technical Regulation 190 affecting all feed ingredients to the WTO and will provide trading partners 45 days to submit comments to the NTR.

Meanwhile our current understanding of the timeline for the amendment of the NTR is: below:

- Before July 1: MARD will issue a new Circular to suspend tolerances for Salmonella and heavy metals in the NTR190 for feed ingredients of plant origin until December 31, 2020. Other tolerances in Appendix I, II, III of NTR 190 (feed ingredients derived from terrestrial and aquatic animals) would still go into effect from July 1, 2020.
- June – end of July: Consultation with WTO members on NTR190
- August- September: Review of trading partners' comments and drafting an amendment
- End of Sep: Submission of an amendment to MARD for approval. According to Vietnam's Law on Standards and Technical Regulations, an NTR must be issued at least 90 days before the effective date, so this amendment should be issued no later than the beginning of October 2020 for the December 31, 2020 implementation deadline.

NAEGA is working with a Pan American Coalition of like-minded trade associations, trading partner governments and other stakeholders and will continue to monitor, act and inform on developments on NTR 190.

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

#### **MRLs – South Korea Focus**

On Tuesday, June 9 the NAEGA Production Technology Committee met to discuss the increase in potentially trade restrictive proposals for plant protection product Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs). Thailand, Vietnam, China, India and South Korea, among others, have recently announced new MRLs and many appear not to have been formulated using science-based methods.

We will continue to monitor, report and take actions to address these and other proposed MRL's. Please advise us of concerns about these proposals and suggestions for comments. Your input is always welcome

South Korea [has notified to the World Trade Organization \(WTO\)](#) "Proposed Amendments to the Standards and Specifications for Foods" which includes proposals for Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) for 117 pesticides. The list of MRLs, [can be found here](#), includes Peironyl batoxide, Triticanzole, Terbufos, Navluron, Flathiacel- methyl and Oxytetracycline. Comments are due to WTO on June 20.

#### **Bayer/Monsanto Petition for U.S Nonregulated Status of GE Corn**

Bayer/Monsanto has submitted a petition to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS) seeking nonregulated status in the U.S. of a corn variety intended for hybrid seed production genetically engineered for tolerance to dicamba, glufosinate, quizalofop, 2,4-D, and tissue-specific glyphosate tolerance. The petition [can be found here](#) and USDA/APHIS is accepting comments on the through July 7, 2020. NAEGA is considering [comments on this petition and any input from members would be welcome. Comments can be submitted through this link.](#)

#### **BASF Petition for U.S. Nonregulated Status of GE Soybean**

BASF Corporation (BASF) [has submitted a petition](#) to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) seeking nonregulated status in the U.S. of a soybean variety developed using genetic engineering for resistance to soybean cyst

nematode, a microscopic parasitic worm, and for herbicide tolerance. BASF has reached out to NAEGA [and provided a fact sheet on their product for members to review](#). We are considering submitting comments to APHIS on the petition, [which can be found here](#), and any input from members would be welcome. Comments are due July 27, 2020 [and can be submitted here](#).

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

NAEGA is leading the U.S. Food & Agriculture Dialogue for Trade (USFADT) to develop a virtual, confidential, and off the record briefing and discussion 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. 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](#). The webinar will be hosted by USFADT with OFAC and USDA and is entitled "U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports to Sanctioned Countries". The Webinar is likely to be conducted later this month or early in July

### **USDA/APHIS Invites Comment on NAPPO Documents**

As we reported in the June 2, 2020 edition of the Outreach, the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) has 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 will be asked to consider a response. Your advice is welcome.

### **USDA Agriculture Innovation Agenda**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) [is soliciting comments and suggestions](#) on objectives and opportunities leading to research goals and informed product goals to facilitate transformative breakthroughs to enable U.S. agriculture to meet the Department's goal of increasing agricultural production by 40 percent to meet the needs of the global population in 2050 while cutting the environmental footprint of U.S. agriculture in half. This effort is part of USDA's Agricultural Innovation Agenda, the Department's commitment to the success of American farmers, ranchers, producers, and foresters in the face of future challenges. NAEGA is considering providing input to this request. All comments are due August 1, 2020. More details [can be found here](#).

## ***News:***

### **Letter to President Trump on U.S.-China Phase One**

NAEGA joined a broad collation of food & agriculture interests in a letter to U.S. President Donald Trump regarding the U.S.-China Phase One Trade Agreement. Over 190 signatories covered a broad cross section of U.S food and agriculture value chain interests. The letter emphasized the industry support for the Phase One Agreement included a detailed product by product breakdown of the positive impact on the food & agriculture sector. A copy of the [letter can be found here](#).

### **U.S. Coast Guard on TWIC Verifications**

U.S Coast Guard provided some guidance on how to verify the validity of a Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) card without access to a TWIC Reader or a Physical Access Control System (PACS). The guidance, involving the use of the TWIC Cancelled Card list to verify TWIC validity, can be [found in this document](#).

### **U.S. Trade Policy**

U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer testified to both the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate on June 17 where he discussed President Donald Trump's trade priorities for 2020. Of note, Lighthizer stated that:

- The Trump administration intends to push countries to "reset" their tariff commitments at the World Trade Organization to get a better deal for the United States.
- China is on track to fulfill its commitments to buy U.S. agricultural goods.
- The U.S. will take action "early and often" to challenge violations of the new U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement once it takes effect on July 1.
- It is unlikely the U.S. will reach a deal with the U.K. before the November election, and nearly impossible to strike an agreement in time for Congress to consider it in 2020.

A copy of Lighthizer's prepared remarks [can be found here](#).

## ***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](mailto: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**

*27-28 – Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Trade Ministers Meeting – Malaysia - Postponed*

#### **July**

*7-9 – U.S. Agricultural Export Development Conference's 2020 USDA/FAS Attaché Seminar – Now taking place virtually*

#### **September**

**10** – NAEGA Board of Directors Meeting – Via MS Teams

**15-30** – 75th annual United Nations General Assembly - New York, NY

**23-24** - World Agri-Tech Innovation Summit – Sao Paul, Brazil

#### **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

#### **November**

**3-4** – IGTC General Assembly – Not 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

**2022**

**December**

**TBD** – COP 16 – CBD – Turkey

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