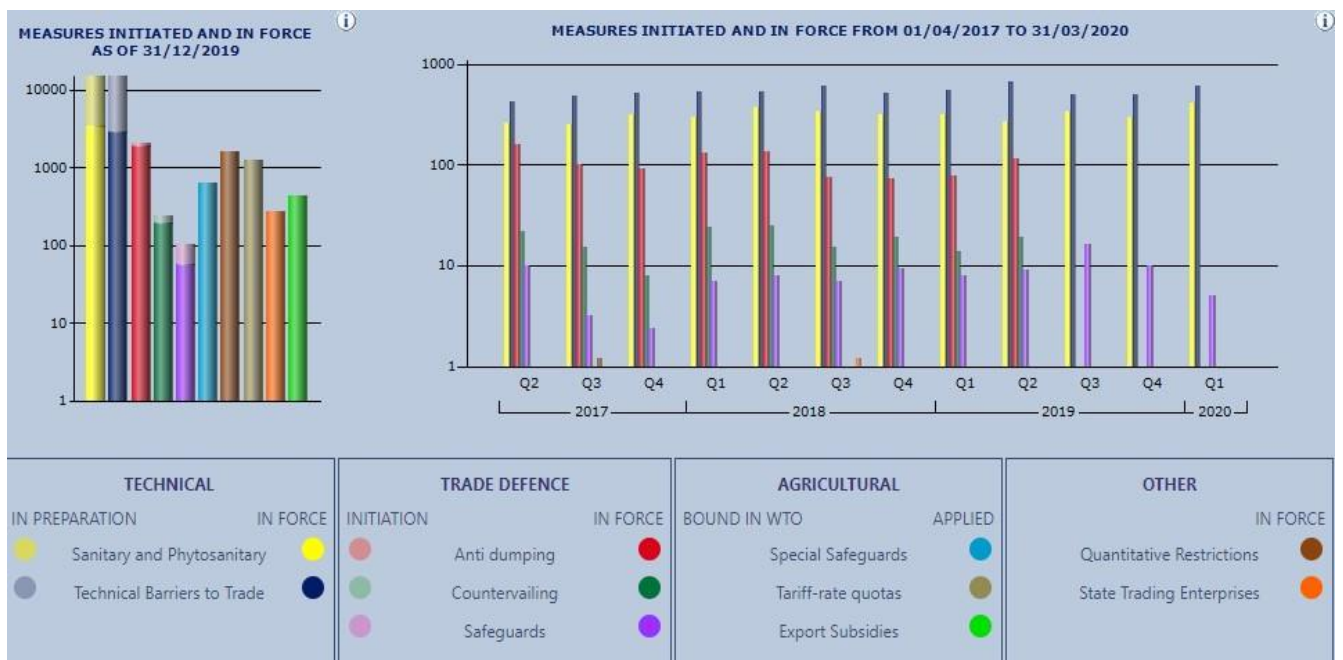


Outreach

June 2, 2020

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

Image of the Week:
Trade Restrictive Measures Initiated and in Place – April 2017 through March 2020



Source: World Trade Organization - <https://i-tip.wto.org/goods/Forms/GraphView.aspx>

Recent Actions:

- COVID-19 Response
- Saudi Arabia MRLs

Current Opportunities & Actions:

- India MRLs
- China MRLs
- Korea MRLs
- BASF Petition for Nonregulated Status of GE Soybean
- AgriVida Petition for Nonregulated Status of GE Corn
- Bayer/Monsanto Petition for Nonregulated Status of GE Corn

- NAPPO Country Consultation
- USDA Agriculture Innovation Agenda

News:

- U.S. FMC Rule on Detention and Demurrage
- USDA Agricultural Transportation Open Data tool
- USDA SECURE Rule

Ongoing Opportunities & Actions:

- U.S. ITC Investigation of MRL Impacts on Trade
- Advancing Virtual Communication
- Policy Teams
- Contracts and Best Practices Seminars – Your advice requested

Recent Actions:

COVID-19 Response

The Global Pandemic continues to be the priority for Association action. In the March 23, 2020 edition of Outreach, we described NAEGA's message on the war against COVID-19 and our information sharing plans related to COVID 19 response and mitigation. We welcome and appreciate your advice and comment.

Recent related actions include:

The Contracts Committee has considered implications of the COVID-19 pandemic. Takeaways from the Committee discussion were reported in the May 11, 2019 edition of Outreach and are available [through this link](#)

The International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) is providing intelligence on developments in trade and supply chains around the world related to COVID-19. IGTC is now convening bi-weekly MS Teams meeting to facilitate information. The next scheduled meeting is on Thursday, June 4, 2020. If you would like more details on IGTC's reporting, please contact NAEGA staff.

We now working with NGFA to provide for limited reopening of the office in Arlington, VA on June 9, 2020. Until at least August 31, 2020 staff will be in the office for a few days each week whilst official guidance on personal protective equipment including social distancing will be utilized in an effort to minimize exposure to COVID-19. Staff will continue to work remotely for the majority of time. Meetings in the office will be minimized.

We continue to monitor the impact of the pandemic on our industry and are updating entities who value and bear the risk for transboundary movements of grain, oilseeds and other agri-bulks with relevant information as it becomes available.

Saudi Arabia MRL's

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) recently issued a domestic notification, [found through this link](#), proposing to discontinue or lower many pesticide maximum

residue levels (MRLs) for several US products exported to Saudi Arabia. After a review of the proposed MRL's and consultation with Members, NAEGA provided comments to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) to include in their response to SFDA.

NAEGA highlighted many positive aspects of the SFDA proposal, including that the Saudi's appeared to base their MRLs on research and sound science, an adherence to CODEX, and a "unique, needed and appropriate separation of systemic exposure from topical exposure that notes that the MRL accommodates the post-harvest treatment of the commodity." NAEGA suggested that SFDA be thanked for diligence and presented as an example of sound practice for other trading partners. [NAEGA's comments can be found here.](#)

Current Opportunities & Actions:

India MRLs

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) reports that on May 18, 2020 India's Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MAFW) published in the India Gazette a draft notification that would ban the import, use, sale, manufacture, distribution and transport of 27 pesticides. The draft notification ([found here - English begins on page 10](#)) allows for a comment period of 45-days from the notice's publication.

The affected chemicals include: Acephate; Atrazine; Benfuracarb; Butachlor; Captan; Carbendazim; Carbofuran; Chlorpyrifos; 2,4-D; Deltamethrin; Dicofof; Dimethoate; Dinocap; Diuron; Malathion; Mancozeb; Methomyl; Monocrotophos; Oxyfluorfen; Pendimethalin; Quinalphos; Sulfosulfuron; Thiodicarb; Thiophanate methyl; Thiram; Zineb; Ziram

FAS is asking industry to let them know if the proposed ban will have an impact on your trade with India and is taking comments until the end of the day on Friday, June 12, 2020. NAEGA is considering comments. If you have any concerns regarding the proposed ban, or suggestions for comments, please let us know as soon as possible.

China MRLs

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) has provided an unofficial translated version of China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) public notice and three draft pesticide maximum residue limits (MRL) measures that were released in Chinese domestically and had a comment due date of May 31, 2020. The translated documents can be downloaded [in a zip file here.](#)

While the MARA public comment date has passed, FAS expects that the MRLs will be notified to the World Trade Organization for comments by trading partners sometime in the future and NAEGA will continue to monitor and report on these developments.

Korea MRLs

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, [which can be found here](#), includes Peironyl batoxide,

Triticanzole , Terbufos, Navluron, Flathiacel- methyl and Oxytetracycline. NAEGA is considering submitting comments on the proposed MRLs through USDA and any input from members would be welcome. Comments are due to WTO on June 20.

BASF Petition for 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 deregulation 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](#).

AgriVida Petition for Nonregulated Status of GE Corn

AgriVida, Inc. has submitted a petition to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS) seeking a determination of nonregulated status of Maize Event PY203, a corn variety genetically engineered for the production of phytase enzyme for nutritionally enhanced food and feed use. As we reported in the May 11, 2020 edition of Outreach, the NGFA Crop Technology Committee and NAEGA Production Technology Committee held a consultation with AgriVida on their plans for PY203. NAEGA is considering submitting comments to APHIS on the petition, [which can be found here](#), and any input from members would be welcome. Comments are due June 15 [and can be submitted here](#).

Bayer/Monsanto Petition for 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 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.](#)

NAPPO Country Consultation

The North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) opened the 2020 NAPPO Country Consultation period for the three NAPPO documents:

- Revision of NAPPO REGIONAL STANDARD FOR PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES 09 - RSPM 09 – Authorization of Laboratories for Performing Phytosanitary Testing + Appendix 1
- Revision of NAPPO REGIONAL STANDARD FOR PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES 05 - RSPM 05 – Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms
- New NAPPO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DOCUMENT – Risks associated with the introduction of exotic lymantriid species (Lepidoptera: Erebiidae: Lymantriinae) of potential concern to the NAPPO region.

The NAPPO Country Consultation period provides an opportunity for stakeholders to comment and review a new or revised NAPPO product. The country consultation is open for 90 days (June

1 – August 31, 2020) for the two regional standards - RSPM 09 and RSPM 05 and for 60 days (June 1 – July 31, 2020) for the new Science and Technology Document on lymantriids of potential concern to the NAPPO region.

More information on participating in the 2020 NAPPO Country Consultation can be found here: <http://nappo.org/index.php?CID>.

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:

U.S. FMC Rule on Detention and Demurrage

In the [April 7, 2020 edition of Outreach](#), we reported that NAEGA had co-signed a letter, along with 79 other agricultural associations, to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue and Director of the United States National Economic Council Larry Kudlow regarding the adoption of an Interpretive Rule on detention and demurrage penalty guidance by the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC). The letter urged them to convey to FMC the need for the Commission to finalize a proposed rule on when a detention and demurrage penalty can or cannot be fairly imposed.

On May 18, 2020, [FMC finalized "Docket No. 19-05, Interpretive Rule on Demurrage and Detention under the Shipping Act."](#) According to the FMC, "Under the new interpretive rule, the commission will consider the extent to which detention and demurrage charges and policies serve their primary purpose of incentivizing the movement of cargo and promoting freight fluidity." The rule also provides guidance on how the commission may apply that principle in the context of cargo availability and empty container return. Other reasonableness factors the FMC will consider include the clarity of ocean carrier and marine terminal operator policies and terminology for assessing demurrage and detention fees.

USDA Agricultural Transportation Open Data tool

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has released an upgraded version of its free Agricultural Transportation Open Data Platform. The web-based tool – known as Ag Transport 2.0 – was first unveiled in June 2019. Ag Transport 2.0 enables users to access and customize rail, truck, barge and ocean vessel transportation data and information. Users can view, access and download data related to several USDA transportation

reports, including the weekly Grain Transportation Report – an alternative to the previous static PDF files and Excel versions of USDA data on the ag transportation.

The newest upgrades to Ag Transport 2.0 include:

- New rail dashboard with expanded data, maps and analysis, featuring Surface Transportation Board public waybill data dating to 2005 in an easy-to-use, accessible format;
- New ethanol transportation dashboard;
- New dashboard for selected grain price and basis data;
- New ocean vessel fleet data for bulk and container shipments;
- Digitized ocean port profiles;
- Digitized and updated modal-share dataset for transportation of U.S. grains; and
- Three short videos, including an overview video about AgTransport 2.0 and two instructional videos on integrating data with Tableau and Excel.

More information about Ag Transport 2.0 is available at: <https://agtransport.usda.gov>. Users that previously relied upon the earlier version of Ag Transport 2.0 need to perform a full refresh of the page by pressing Ctrl-F5 on their keyboards to view the new content.

USDA SECURE Rule

Following the release of U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Final Rule for 7 CFR Part 340, updating and modernizing the USDA’s biotechnology regulations under the Plant Protection Act, Deputy Administrator of USDA’s Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Bernadette Juarez, gave a power point presentation on the impact of the rule. APHIS has now published that presentation, along with a number of other relevant documents on the “Sustainable, Ecological, Consistent, Uniform, Responsible, Efficient (SECURE)” rule [on their website](#).

Ongoing Opportunities & Actions:

U.S. ITC Investigation of MRL Impacts on Trade

In 2019 the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) began an investigation into the global economic impact of maximum residue level (MRL) policies for pesticides. In response to a request by the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), ITC indicated that MRLs, particularly those that are missing or low, can serve as barriers to U.S. agricultural exports.

The ITC will release two reports on the impact of MRL policies. The first report will be issued on June 30, 2020. The second report is scheduled for a November 2, 2020 release and submissions for the second report are due June 5, 2020. [The notice from ITC can be found here](#).

Advancing Virtual Communication

We continue to increase use of new tools to provide for improved communication. One key tool is the Microsoft Teams platform for virtual meetings. Since the beginning of the pandemic, NAEGA and IGTC have hosted over 30 meetings of committees, working groups and policy teams, as well as consultations with industry and U.S. Government, via the Teams platform. We continue to be encouraging members to [review this 5-minute video tutorial](#) that 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 Hayden at phayden@naega.org.

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!

NAEGA ad hoc policy teams of member personnel working largely through conference calls are helping to guide our multifaceted effort to address the evolving trade environment. A policy team focused on the Asia-Pacific Market is already established. 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

Due to COVID-19, NAEGA is currently only available to hold virtual Contracts and Best Practices Seminars, with the direction of the NAEGA Contracts Committee. Please let us know when, how and where you and your colleagues are interested in participating in the NAGA Senior Advisor led seminars. The Committee will consider locations for in person contract seminars once it is safe for the NAEGA team to travel.

NAEGA seminars are an intensive and informative review of commercial and official practices taught in an interactive environment.

NAEGA conducts both public and private seminars, and curriculum can be tailored to your needs. Please contact NAEGA staff if you are interested in hosting a private, tailored Virtual Seminar. [Click here](#) for more information on the in-depth, interactive programs NAEGA conducts!

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

June

3 – NAEGA Board of Directors Virtual Meeting via MS Teams

8 – *Global Low-Level Initiative Meeting – Indonesia - Postponed*

8-12 – *International Grains Week – London, UK – Now taking place virtually*

8-11 – *World Trade Organization 12th Ministerial Conference – Kazakhstan - Cancelled*

9-10 – *IGC Grains Conference – London, UK – Now taking place via videoconference - [Details Here](#)*

10-12 – *G-7 Meeting - Camp David, MD – Now taking place via videoconference*

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

July

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

September

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

TBD – China World Grain Forum

November

2-6 – IGTC General Assembly – Singapore - Working with several others IGTC is planning for a series of meetings in Singapore 2 – 6 November 2020.

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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