



North American Export Grain Association

Outreach

October 14, 2020

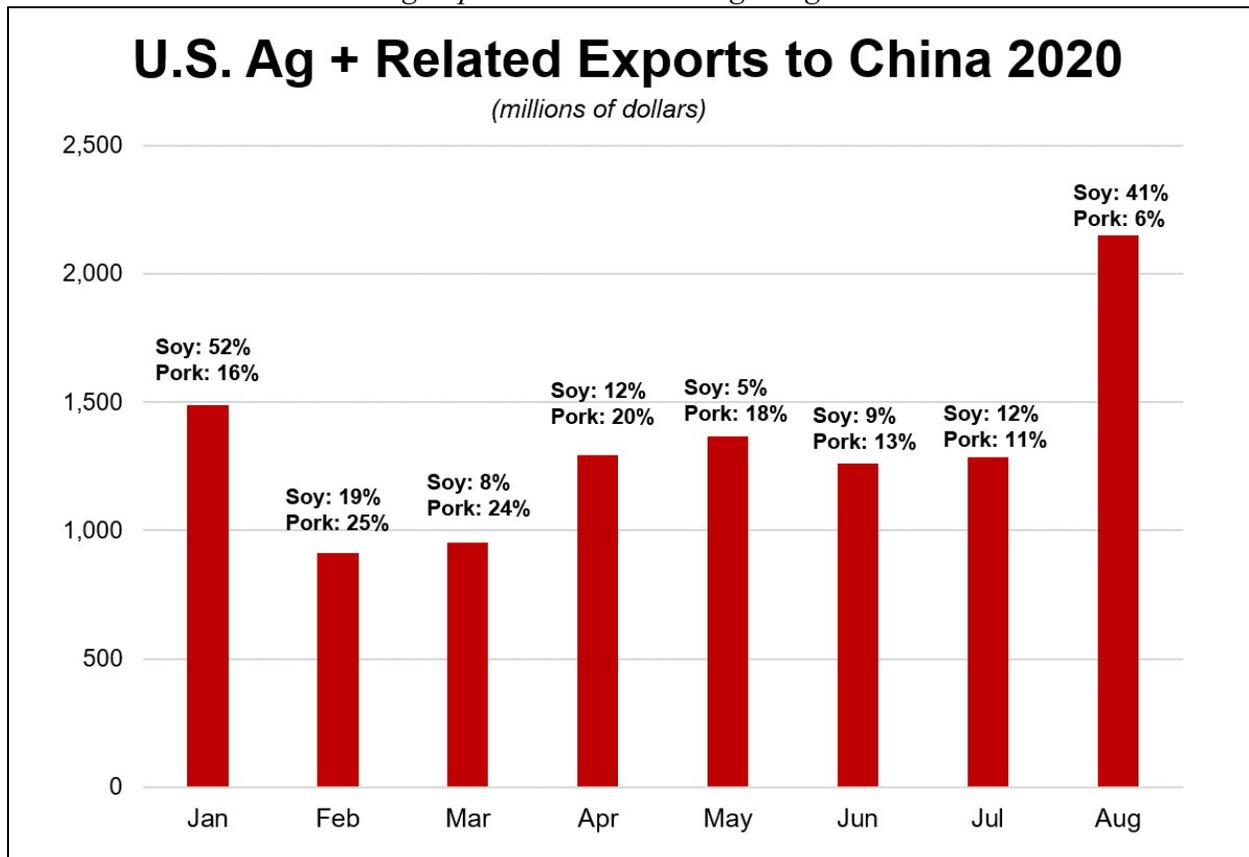
Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

Patrick Hayden now Vice President

Please join us in congratulating Patrick Hayden for advancing to Vice President of NAEGA.!

Graphic of the Week

U.S. Ag Exports to China Through August 2020



Source: [U.S. Census Bureau & Reuters](#)

News:

- Argentina Approves GMO Wheat

- OFAC Issues Ransomware Advisory
- U.S. ITC Releases Report on Trade Impact of MRLs

Recent Actions:

- NAEGA Board of Directors Minutes
- Japan Phytosanitary Requirements

Current Opportunities & Actions:

- China MRLs
- India – Non-GM Certification Requirement
- USITC Investigation of Trade Agreements
- USTR requests input on Foreign Trade Barriers
- USDA APHIS List of Animal and Plant Pest and Disease Threats

Ongoing Opportunities & Actions:

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

News:

Argentina Approves GMO Wheat Variety

Argentina's Ministry of Agriculture [has granted approval](#) of Bioceres Crop Solutions Corp.'s HB4 Wheat for growth and production, becoming the first nation to grant regulatory approval to a genetically modified wheat strain. HB4 has been developed for drought tolerance. Commercialization of HB4 Wheat in Argentina is contingent upon import approval in Brazil.

OFAC Issues Ransomware Advisory

The U.S. Department of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) [issued an advisory to companies](#) that pay a ransom in the wake of a cyberattack. The advisory warned that ransomware attack victims and third-parties who assist these victims could be in violation of federal law if they pay or facilitate the payment of a ransom to persons or entities designated on OFAC's Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List (SDN List) — intentionally or otherwise.

OFAC advises that U.S. individuals and entities – including ransomware victims, financial institutions, incident response companies, and insurers that process ransomware-related payments – should avoid engaging in transactions involving SDNs in the ransomware context. Transactions could include directly or indirectly receiving customer funds, exchanging them for convertible virtual currency, transferring them to the attacker's accounts, or making the ransom victim whole through an insurance payment related to a ransom payment. OFAC encourages ransomware victims to self-report attacks and ransom payments to law enforcement. [More information is available here.](#)

U.S. ITC Releases Report on Impact of MRLs on Agricultural Trade

The U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) released the first volume of its report on the impact that policies related to pesticide maximum residue levels (MRLs) have on international agricultural trade. The investigation, *Global Economic Impact of Missing and Low Pesticide Maximum Residue Levels*, was requested by the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) in August 2019.

This volume documents the impacts of pesticide MRLs, including when they are missing and low, on farmers and exporters in countries representing a range of income classifications. The report as delivered to USTR, including an executive summary, [can be found here](#).

Recent Actions:

NAEGA Board of Directors Minutes

Draft minutes from the September 30, 2020 meeting of the NAEGA Board of Directors Meeting [can be found here](#). The Board will next meet on December 17, 2020.

Japan Phytosanitary Requirements

Japan's Ministry of Agriculture Forests and Fisheries (MAFF) [has implemented a 3-year transition period](#) for imports previously exempted from phytosanitary certificate requirements. First proposed in November of 2019, MAFF had originally planned to implement the new requirements in June of 2020. Product requiring a PC will include grains & oilseeds, which had previously been exempted. A detailed list of all products impacted is expected to be published by the end of 2020, and the U.S Department of Agriculture reports that MAFF plans to finalize the list by August 2022 and implement the new requirement by August 2023.

There is still an opportunity to provide comments to MAFF. NAEGA [commented](#) last year and is considering additional comment after the detailed list is published. We have been, and will continue, to work with colleagues in the U.S. and Japan and will continue to track and report on this issue as it develops.

Current Opportunities & Actions:

China MRLs

China notified 1,673 maximum residue limits (MRLs) for 187 pesticides to the World Trade Organization (WTO). Included are new pesticide MRLs grains and oilseeds. An English translation of the list of proposed MRLs, provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) [can be found here](#). China has not set a date for these proposed MRLs to enter into force.

Comments are due to China's SPS Enquiry Point at sps@customs.gov.cn before November 16, 2020. NAEGA's Production Technology Committee is considering comments. Your input is welcome.

India- Non-GM Certification Requirement

India notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) that the Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) plans to require a “non-GM (genetically modified) origin free and GM free certificate” issued by the “Competent National Authority” of the exporting country, on every shipment of 24 specified agricultural imports beginning January 1, 2021. A sample certificate format that FSSAI would like these Certifications to follow and the list of the 24 affected crops, [can be found here](#).

NAEGA’s Production Technology Committee is developing comments. We are communicating with national and international colleague associations to share intelligence and consider how best to respond including working with national governments. Your input is welcome. Comments are due to the WTO on November 1, 2020.

USITC Investigation of Trade Agreements

The U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) [is conducting on an investigation](#) of the economic impact on the United States of the following trade agreements: Uruguay Round Agreements, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), and U.S. free trade agreements with Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic and five Central American countries (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua), Israel, Jordan, Korea, Morocco, Oman, Panama, Peru, and Singapore. This investigation is the second of two required by U.S. law, with the first completed and submitted to Congress in 2016.

The USITC is welcoming input from all interested parties. NAEGA is considering comments and your advice is welcome. Comments are due to USITC on November 6, 2020 and can be submitted here <https://edis.usitc.gov/>.

USTR requests input on Foreign Trade Barriers

The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) [is seeking comments](#) for the National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers (NTE Report). USTR is inviting interested persons to submit written comments to assist in identifying significant barriers to U.S. exports of goods and services. Comments related to the following categories of foreign trade barriers are encouraged: agricultural commodities, U.S. intellectual property, U.S. foreign direct investment by U.S. persons, especially if such investment has implications for trade in goods or services, and U.S. electronic commerce. The NTE report is published annually and is used U.S. negotiations aimed at reducing or eliminating these barriers and is a valuable tool in enforcing U.S. trade laws and strengthening the rules-based trading system. USTR will use this information to prepare 2021 report. The deadline to submit comments is October 29, 2020.

NAEGA is evaluating if and how to respond. Your advice is welcome. USTR indicates it is most interested in practices that violate U.S. trade agreements, new or updated information on the barriers covered in the [2020 report](#), or information on new barriers.

USDA/APHIS List of Animal and Plant Pest and Disease Threats

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has announced that it is “seeking feedback on its proposed list of pests and diseases of concern that are likely to pose a high risk to U.S. agricultural and natural resources.” The 2018

Farm Bill APHIS to develop a uniform list of pests and diseases that represent the gravest threat to the United States and to develop comprehensive response plans to ensure Federal and State governments are prepared to respond to them. APHIS will review comments regarding the list, including suggestions of pests or diseases that should be added or removed and APHIS may adjust the list based on these comments. APHIS's current list of 59 pests and disease can be found [through this link](#).

NAEGA is evaluating if and how to respond. Your advice is welcome. Please review the list on the APHIS website, linked above, and let us know if there are any pests or diseases of concern that are not included on the list or do not need to be included on the list.

Ongoing Opportunities & Actions:

Contracts and Best Practices Seminars – Your interest requested

NAEGA concluded a private Virtual Contracts and Best Practices Seminar. 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. 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!

Policy Teams

With the evolving global trade and political 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](#).

Office Reopening and Communication

The NAEGA office in Arlington, VA continues to operate under a limited reopening. We 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. 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

15 – APEC Policy Partnership on Food Security – Virtual

27-28 - Global Low-Level Presence Initiative (GLI) 2020 - Virtual

November

2-3 – IGTC General Assembly –Virtual

3 - U.S. Presidential Election

12 - APEC Annual Meeting - Virtual

21-22 – G-20 Annual Summit – Virtual

16-19 – Extraordinary Meetings of the Convention on biological diversity (CBD) COP 15 and COP-MOP 10 - Virtual

December

17– NAEGA Board of Directors Meeting

2021

March 14-16 – NAEGA Annual Meeting Alongside NGFA Annual Convention – San Diego, CA

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

2022

December TBD – COP 16 – CBD – Turkey

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