



North American Export Grain Association

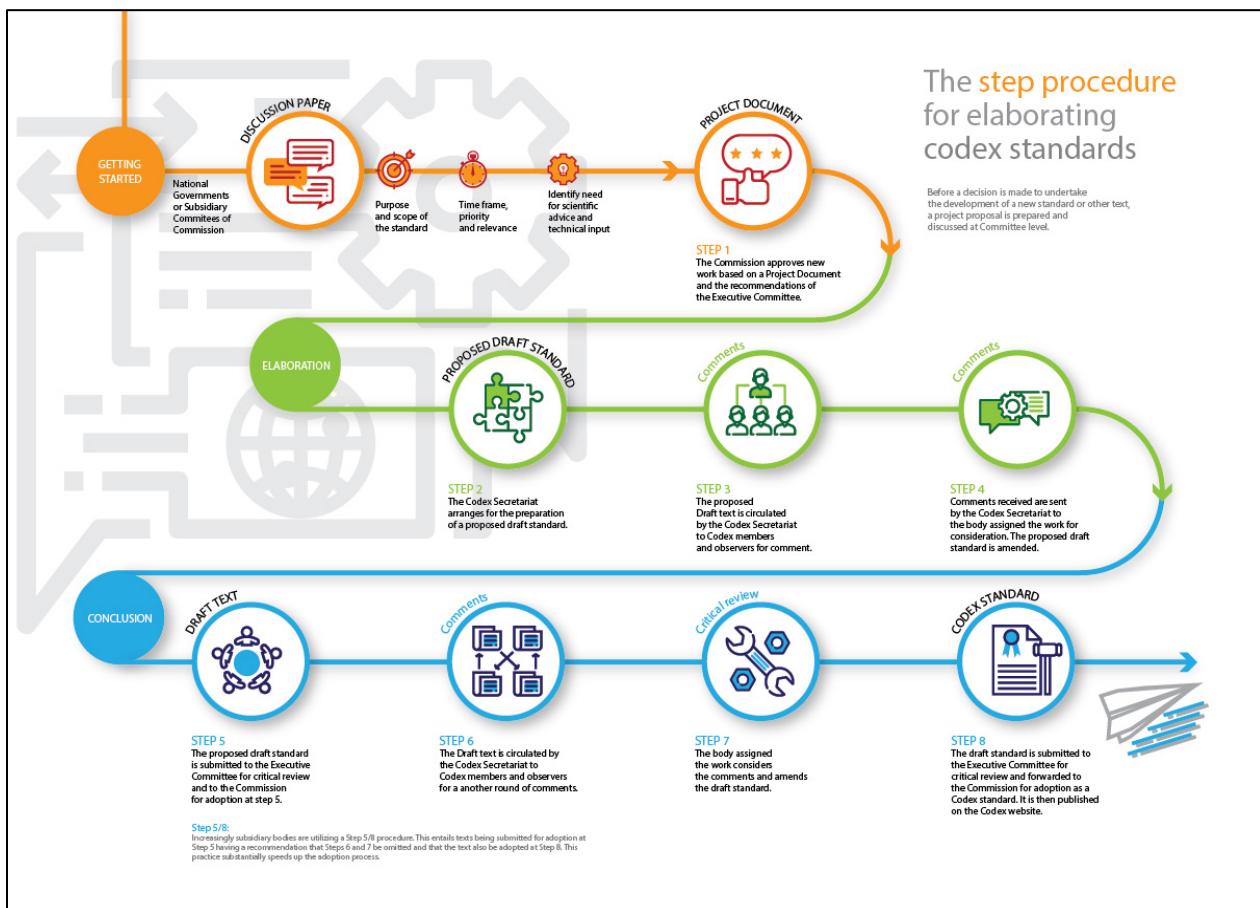
Outreach September 11, 2020

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

Our thoughts today are with those impacted by the tragedies of September 11, 2001

Graphic of the Week

The Codex Alimentarius, or "Food Code" are the WTO recognized standards, guidelines and codes of practice to protect consumer health and promote fair practices in food trade. This "Procedure for Establishing Codex Standards is often key to NAEGA work related to production technologies and product safety.



Source: [FAO/Codex Alimentarius](#)

Current Opportunities & Actions:

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

Recent Actions:

- Production Technology Committee Meeting

News:

- Detection Method for Gene Edited Crops
- FGIS Grain Inspection Handbook – Inspection Procedures
- Industry Advisory Group (IAG) of the IPPC ePhyto Solution
- U.S. ITC Releases Report on Trade Impact of MRLs

Ongoing Opportunities & Actions:

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

Current Opportunities & Actions:

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 considering comments and we would appreciate input from all concerned members. We plan to convene with national and international colleague associations to share intelligence and consider how best to respond including working with national governments. For example, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) is asking for comment by Friday, September 25, 2020. Comments are due to the WTO on November 1, 2020

Saudi Arabia- MRLs

Saudi Arabia notified the WTO of a proposed regulation that potentially impacts the Saudi Arabian import requirements for feed and grains. The regulation, “Conditions for Clearing Imported Fodder Products”, includes feed for farm animals including poultry and dairy. A translation provided by U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) [can be found here](#).

NAEGA is evaluating if and how to respond. Your advice is welcome. FAS is asking for comment by Friday, October 2, 2020. Comments are due to the WTO on October 13, 2020

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's list of 60 pests and disease can be found [through this link](#).

APHIS will review comments regarding the list, including suggestions of pests or diseases that should be added or removed. In providing comments, please note that the Farm Bill definition of a pest or disease of concern is one that is "likely to pose a significant risk to the food and agricultural critical infrastructure sector" and is not meant to be a list of all possible pests or diseases. APHIS may adjust or update its current list based on these comments, and then develop response plans to address each pest or plant disease.

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.

Recent Actions:

Production Technology Committee Meeting

The NAEGA Production Technology Committee met on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 to discuss and address key issues facing the industry. The meeting featured a discussion on Low Level Presence, China's biotechnology policies, the increase in MRLs and their impact on the grain trade, and other topics related to plant breeding and crop protection. If you are not a member of the Committee and would like information on joining, please contact NAEGA staff (Patrick Hayden, phayden@naega.org and Gary Martin, gcmartin@naega.org).

News:

Detection Method for Gene Edited Crops

The scientific journal “Foods” had published a paper describing the successful development of a public detection method for a gene-edited crop. The article, titled “*A Real-Time Quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction (qPCR) Method Specific for Detection and Quantification of the First Commercialized Genome-Edited Plant*”. The method is for a variety of canola with a single base pair edit conferring herbicide tolerance, though the authors of the paper note that “having developed a qPCR method for the most challenging class of genome edits, single-nucleotide variants, this research suggests that qPCR-based method development may be applicable to virtually any genome-edited organism.” The paper and associated material [can be found through this link](#).

FGIS Grain Inspection Handbook

[USDA’s Federal Grain Inspection Service \(FGIS\)](#), has issued a new edition of the Federal Grain Inspection Handbook Book III, Inspection Procedures. Book III sets forth the policies and procedures relevant to uniform loading and certification of lots under the Uniform Shipment and Combined Lot Inspection Plan (CuSum) in accordance with the U.S. Grains Standards Act (USGSA). The information is applicable to official grain inspection services performed by the FGIS, delegated State agencies, and designated State and private agencies. Official inspection personnel and agricultural commodity graders licensed or authorized to inspect grain must follow the procedures in this book when applying CuSom. The handbook can be [found through this link](#).

Industry Advisory Group (IAG) of the IPPC ePhyto Solution

The Industry Advisory Group (IAG) of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) ePhyto Solution, of which the International Grain Trade Coalition is a member and Co-Chair, [has issued a press release](#) calling on governments to “support the adoption of ePhyto to facilitate international agricultural trade, which would be crucial in safeguarding global food security beyond the COVID-19 recovery period.” The IAG release notes that “electronic certification as part of a broader endeavor for trade facilitation has proven itself indispensable during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic to maintain continuity of agricultural trade despite limitations on air traffic and courier services.” The ePhyto Solution is led by the IPPC Secretariat with the involvement of other international organizations and governments. Over 90 countries are currently registered.

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](#).

The second volume of the report, delayed in part due to COVID-19, is expected to be released in January 2021 and will include case studies that describe the costs and effects of MRL compliance and noncompliance for U.S. producers and a quantitative analysis on the global impact of MRLs.

Ongoing Opportunities & Actions:

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](#).

Contracts and Best Practices Seminars – Your interest 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 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

Events that have been cancelled, postponed or changed to virtual events due to COVID-19 are italicized

September

15-30 –75th annual United Nations General Assembly - Taking Place Virtually
30 – NAEGA Board of Directors Meeting – Via MS Teams

October

5 - 6 - DBTG Operational & Technical Conference – Rotterdam, The Netherlands – Hybrid with virtual participation

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 –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 - Postponed

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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