



## Outreach

February 25, 2021

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

### ***Welcome to New NAEGA Member Southport Agencies, Inc!***

*Southport Agencies, Inc provides vessel agency services in the Gulf of Mexico, Eastern Seaboard, and Pacific Northwest. Founded in 1981, Southport is headquartered in Metairie, LA and has offices in Houston, TX and Kalama, WA.*

*We are looking forward to serving Southport Industries and its contributions to NAEGA*

### **Register Now for Upcoming Member Events!**

Registration is now open for these upcoming NAGEA Member Events. Updates will be posted to the [Member's Only Website](#):

- March 2, 2021 – Membership Networking & Information Session – [Click Here to register!](#)
- March 4, 2021 – Grades & Inspections Committee Meeting – Contact Staff for more information!
- March 9, 2021 – Production Technology Committee Meeting - Contact Staff for more information!
- March 9, 2021 – Membership Networking & Information Session – [Click Here to register!](#)
- March 10, 2021 – Annual Members Meeting & Board of Directors Meeting – [Click Here to Register!](#)

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

- NAEGA Annual Meeting – March 10, 2021
- NAEGA Committee Meetings
- Register Now - Virtual Networking & Information Sessions – March 2 & 9, 2021
- Japan Amendment on Handling of Gene Edited Feed
- Mexico Ban on GE Corn and Glyphosate
- Philippines Corn and Wheat Import Permit Changes
- U.K Government Announces Consultation on Biotech Crops

### ***Recent Actions:***

- FGIS Response to Letter on TCK
- U.N. Food Systems Summit

*News:*

- Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala Named WTO Director-General
- U.S. Sanctions on Burma

*Ongoing Opportunities & Actions:*

- Contracts and Best Practices Seminars – Your interest requested
- Office Operation Status and Communication

*Current Opportunities & Actions:*

**NAEGA Annual Meeting – March 10, 2021**

Registration for the NAEGA 2021 Annual Members Meeting is now open. All Member Representatives and guests they invite [can register through this link](#). Our meeting will take place virtually via Microsoft Teams on **Wednesday, March 10 from 11:00am-12:00pm Central time**. Each NAEGA full member company in good standing has one vote on all matters, including election of Directors, that are considered at the members meeting.

Following the Members Meeting the newly convened Board of Directors will meet at 12:30pm Central, which all Members Representatives are welcome to attend.

**NAEGA Committee Meetings**

NAEGA Committees will meet ahead of the Annual Meeting on March 10. The Grades & Inspections Committee will Meet on Thursday, March 4 at 1:30pm Central Time; the Production Technology Committee will meet on March 9 at 12:00pm Central Time; and the Contracts Committee will meet at a date and time to be announced soon. If you are not a member of one of these committees and would like information on joining, please contact either Patrick ([phayden@naega.org](mailto:phayden@naega.org)) or Gary ([gcmartin@naega.org](mailto:gcmartin@naega.org))

**Virtual Networking & Information Sessions – March 2 & March 9, 2021**

You and any co-workers with an interest in NAEGA are invited and welcome to join us at our next Virtual Membership Networking & Information Sessions, on Tuesday, March 2 and Tuesday March 9 from 2pm-3pm Central Time. These sessions will include updates on NAEGA programs and initiatives and presentations from two digital trade service providers on the products they offer. The March 2 session will feature a non-member presentation by Covantis and the March 9 session will include a non-member presentation by Maryville Consulting.

[Please register here](#) for the March 2 event and [register here for the March 9 event](#). Once registered you will be sent the weblink you will need to join the session.

**All members have the opportunity to be a featured presenter during our Tuesday sessions.** If your company is interested, please contact Patrick or Gary.

### **Japan Amendment on Handling of Gene Edited Feed**

Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) has opened a public comment period for [a proposed amendment](#) to the handling of crossbred progeny in the Feed Safety Handling Procedures for Genome Edited Feed and Feed Additives. If adopted, MAFF would not require developers of products derived from the crossbreeding of genome edited varieties previously notified to MAFF to complete MAFF's consultation process for genome edited products or notify the final product to MAFF.

We will be connecting with our colleagues at the Japan Feed Trade Association to get their thoughts on the proposed amendment and the Production Technology Committee is considering a response. Your input or comments are welcome.

### **Mexico Ban on GE Corn and Glyphosate**

We continue to monitor developments and communicate with government and industry partners including our sister organization in Mexico, APPAMEX, regarding the December 31, 2020 decree from Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador that bans the use and imports of glyphosate and take actions to restrict the use genetically modified (GM) corn, effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

Despite [a recent statement](#) by Deputy Agriculture Minister Victor Suarez that the Mexican Government is moving towards implementation, since the release of the decree, there have been no details on how these measures might be enforced, and as of this writing we are not aware of any enforcement or implementation attempts by the Mexican authorities. We encourage you to let us know of any attempts to enforce the decree, and input on what action, if any, should be considered, is welcome. We will continue to update you as the situation develops.

### **Philippines Corn and Wheat Import Permit Changes**

Your advice regarding the Philippines Department of Agriculture's [Memorandum #39 for 2020 of December 2](#) is welcome. The new requirements are perplexing as they are issued by the plant health risk management authority to address concerns of local corn producers by managing supplies of corn and wheat. Included in the apparently trade restrictive measures is a considerable shortening of time to use issued import permits for corn and wheat from some origins.

We would greatly appreciate your advice on how the Memorandum is being implemented and its impact on trade.

### **U.K. Government Announces Consultation on Biotech Crops**

The U.K.'s Department for Environment, Food, Rural Affairs (Defra) has opened a consultation, or public comment period, on both gene edited and transgenic biotech crops and is soliciting comments through March 17, 2020.

Defra is asking for comments on two issues:

1. The regulation of genetically modified organisms which could have been developed using traditional breeding methods.
2. Questions on broad reform of legislation governing organisms produced using genetic technologies,

The consultation document, which includes details on the questions Defra is asking, [can be found here](#). The Production Technology Committee is following this issue and input from all members is welcome.

### ***Recent Actions:***

#### **TCK Testing**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) has responded to [a letter sent by NAEGA](#), U.S. Wheat Associates and the National Grain and Feed Association regarding TCK testing availability. In response to the request that FGIS certify additional private laboratories to conduct TCK testing in the Gulf of Mexico region, FGIS Deputy Administrator Arthur Neal wrote that the agency is in the process of setting up a testing laboratory at its League City, TX field office with a goal of opening the lab in March of 2021. The response from FGIS [can be found here](#).

#### **U.N. Food Systems Summit**

We continue to engage with governments and relevant stakeholders on the [U.N. Food Systems Summit](#). We recently attended a private sector consultation for Action Track 5 through the [Private Sector Mechanism](#) through which the food and agriculture sector has a voice into the Summit. Action Track 5 covers building "resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress"

A number of events related to the Summit's five [Action Tracks](#) are open to the public and may be of interest to you. UN Summit organizers are hosting multiple rounds of virtual Action Tracks Public Forum discussions on which are open to the public and provide attendees with insight as to how the tracks are developing and allow questions and ideas to be submitted. Details about upcoming Action Track Public Forum discussions and registration links, as well as recordings of past events, can be found on the Summit's Action Track page, found [here](#).

### ***News:***

#### **Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala Named WTO Director-General**

Former Nigerian Finance Minister Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala has been selected by the World Trade Organization's (WTO) General Council [as the next Director-General of the WTO](#). She is the first woman and first African selected to lead the WTO. Her term begins on March 1 and fills a vacancy created in May 2020 when former Director-General Roberto Azevêdo of Brazil announced he was stepping down a year before his term was set to expire.

#### **U.S. Sanctions on Burma**

The U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) has moved to restrict exports to, and impose sanctions on, various entities and individuals in Burma following a military coup in that country. Under these sanctions all property and interests in property of the specified individuals and entities, and of any entities of which they directly or indirectly own 50 percent or more (individually or with other blocked persons), that are in the U.S. or in the possession or control of U.S. persons, are blocked and must be reported to OFAC. Unless authorized by a general

or specific license issued by OFAC or otherwise exempt, all transactions by U.S. persons or within (or transiting) the U.S. that involve any property or interests in property of designated or otherwise blocked persons are generally prohibited. [Detail can be found here.](#)

### ***Ongoing Opportunities & Actions:***

#### **Contracts and Best Practices Seminars – Your interest requested**

We recently completed extensive work with Senior Advisors built around company specific and confidential Virtual Contracts and Best Practices Seminar. The work included critical review of documents being used by the NAEGA member company.

Both public/multiple company and private/single company seminars are available and can be tailored to your needs. The seminars are an intensive and informative review of commercial and official practices taught in an interactive environment. 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!

#### **Office Operation Status and Communication**

The NAEGA office in Arlington, VA continues to operate under a limited and tentative reopening. We will continue to work remotely and via virtual platforms the majority of the time and have no travel planned. 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](mailto:phayden@naega.org).

### ***Calendar & Member Notices:***

Click [here](#) for a copy of the IGTC Calendar

#### **2021**

##### **March**

**2** - NAEGA Member Virtual Networking & Information Session – [Register Here!](#)

**4** – Grades & Inspections Committee Meeting

**9** – Production Technology Committee Meeting

**9** - NAEGA Member Virtual Networking & Information Session – [Register Here!](#)

**10** – NAEGA Annual Meeting & Board of Directors Meeting – [Register Here!](#)

**11** – USDA/ FAS Customer Engagement Center Webinar on Panama

**16 & 18** –15th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures , International Plant Protection Convention – Days 1 and 2 – Virtual

##### **April**

**1** – 15th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures , International Plant Protection Convention – Day 3 – Virtual

##### **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 – In person/Virtual Hybrid

**2-4** - NGFA Annual Convention – Tentative

**July**

**7-8** – USAEDC’s FAS Attaché Seminar – Arlington, VA

**September**

**TBD** - U.N. Food Systems Summit

**November**

**15-18** – USAEDC Annual Workshop – Baltimore, MD

**2022**

**March**

**13-15** – NGFA Annual Convention – Charleston, SC

**December**

**TBD** – COP 16 – CBD – Turkey

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