



Outreach March 17, 2021

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

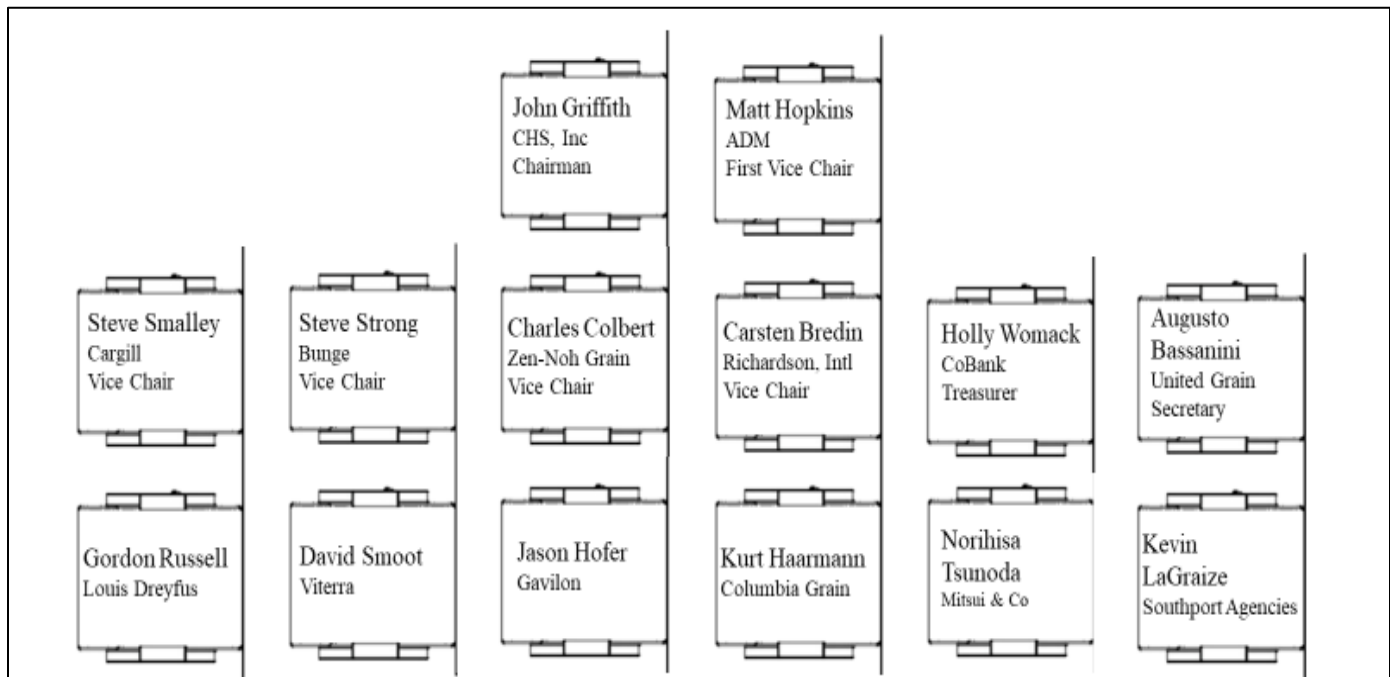
The PBIE Is Open for NAEGA Members

Members can now access the [NAEGA Plant Biotechnology Information Exchange \(PBIE\)](#). Developed by and at the request of membership, the PBIE contains detailed information on commercialized and pre-commercialized gene-edited and transgenic seeds used to produce the crops you use and market. To our knowledge, the PBIE is the first and only platform to contain a searchable database of gene-edited seeds.

Currently, only NAEGA members have access to this unique tool. **As part of membership your company is allowed up to 5 unique users for the PBIE at no cost.** Member representatives should send the names and email addresses of their company’s users to Patrick at phayden@naega.org. He will connect with them individually with login information and guide them in the use of the platform. Please let us know if you have any questions!

NAEGA Graphic of the Week

NAEGA Board of Directors as of March 11, 2021



Current Opportunities & Actions:

- China Standards for Soybean and Wheat
- Kenya Limits on Contaminants in Feed
- Mexico Ban on GE Corn and Glyphosate
- Philippines Corn and Wheat Import Permit Changes
- South Korea Labeling Standards for Genetically Modified Foods
- USDA/AMS Grain Export Registration Renewal
- USDA/FGIS Proposed Changes to TCK Directive

Recent Actions:

- NAEGA Annual Meetings
- U.N. Food Systems Summit

News:

- Biden Administration Defends Section 301 Tariffs
- Tai Confirmed as U.S. Trade Representative

Ongoing Opportunities & Actions:

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

Current Opportunities & Actions:

China Standards for Soybeans and Wheat

China has proposed new National Standards for [soybeans](#) and [wheat](#). The Standards specify the terms and definitions, classification, quality requirements, test methods, inspection rules, labelling, packaging, storage and transportation requirements.

Comments are due to the WTO on April 9, and the Grades & Inspections committee is considering comments. Your input or comments are welcome.

Kenya Limits on Contaminants in Feed

Kenya has proposed new limits on contaminants for feed imports designated for cattle and dairy production. The proposed new limits, which apply to total Aflatoxins and Aflatoxin B1, [can be found here](#).

USDA/FAS is asking for comments by March 26, 2021 and comments to the WTO are due April 10, 2021 and the Grades & Inspections committee is considering comments. 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 1st, 2021.

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.

South Korea Labeling Standards for Genetically Modified Foods

South Korea has released a proposed revision to its labeling standards for genetically modified (GMO) foods. The changes would set a threshold for GMO content in identity preserved commodities that wish to make an absence claim such as “non-GMO” or “GMO free”, allowing Non-GMO labeling when adventitious presence of approved GMO components is up to 0.9% and clarifying GMO labeling exemption subjects. The WTO notification and a translation of the proposed changes [can be found here](#).

Comments are due to the WTO on April 30, and the Production Technology Committee is considering comments. Your input or comments are welcome.

USDA/AMS Grain Export Registration Renewal

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) recently announced details on [grain export registration renewal](#) authorized by the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA). USGSA regulations specify that all persons or entities engaged in the business of buying grain for sale in foreign commerce and in the business of handling, weighing, or transporting grain for sale in foreign commerce in excess of 15,000 metric tons during the preceding or current calendar year must register annually. NAEGA encourages exporting members to ensure they are registered, and the most recent registration list [can be found here](#).

USDA/FGIS Proposed Changes to TCK Directive

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) has released a draft revision to its' directive for the “[Examination of Grain for the Presence of TCK Smut Spores](#)” The revision updates the background; sample size; testing procedures; and certification and billing information and adds FGIS as a TCK service provider; sections on Authorizing Official Personnel; and Performance Verifications. [The draft revision is available here](#).

FGIS has requested comments from industry on the draft revision by March 25, 2021. The Grades & Inspections Committee is considering comments. Your input or comments are welcome.

Recent Actions:

NAEGA 2021 Annual Meetings

Thank you to all who joined us for our virtually 2021 Annual Meetings on March 10th & 11th! NAEGA held a series of successful events, including meetings of the Contracts and Production Technology Committees on March 10 and meetings of the Membership and Board of Directors on March 11. Minutes will be available for all these meetings in the coming weeks. Actions taken during the meetings include:

Board of Directors Elected by Members

On Wednesday, March 11 the NAEGA Membership renewed the terms of five expiring Board Members – Charles Colbert, Matthew Hopkins, David Smoot, Kurt Haarmann and Kevin LaGraize, Jr. - for an additional three-year period expiring in 2024.

Name	Company	Term Expiration
Steve Smalley	Cargill, Inc.	March 2023
Gordon Russell	Louis Dreyfus Company	March 2022
Charles Colbert	Zen-Noh Grain Corp.	March 2024
Steve Strong	Bunge North America	March 2023
John Griffith	CHS, Inc.	March 2022
Matthew Hopkins	ADM	March 2024
Carsten Bredin	Richardson International	March 2023
Holly Womack	CoBank	March 2022
David Smoot	Viterra	March 2024
Norihisa Tsunoda	Mitsui & Co.	March 2023
Jason Hofer	Gavilon Grain, Inc.	March 2022
Kurt Haarmann	Columbia Grain, Inc.	March 2024
Augusto Bassanini	United Grain Corporation	March 2022
Kevin LaGraize	Southport Agencies, Inc.	March 2024

Board of Directors Actions

Following the NAEGA Members meeting, the new Board of Directors organized itself and elected a chairman and executive committee. Board leadership for 2020 will include:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Company</u>
John Griffith, Chairman	CHS Inc.
Matt Hopkins, First Vice Chair	ADM
Steve Smalley, Vice Chair	Cargill, Inc.
Charles Colbert, Vice Chair	Zen-Noh Grain Corp.
Steve Strong, Vice Chair	Bunge

Carsten Bredin, Vice Chair	Richardson International
Holly Womack, Treasurer	CoBank
Augusto Bassanini, Secretary	United Grain Corporation

The Board also approved the NAEGA lists of Arbitrators and Special Grain Arbitrators for 2021. Both can be found on NAEGA.org. here:

- [List of Arbitrators \(effective March 11, 2021\)](#)
- [List of Special Grain Arbitrators \(effective March 11, 2021\)](#)

U.N. Food Systems Summit

We continue to engage with governments and relevant stakeholders on the [U.N. Food Systems Summit \(Summit\)](#). We continue to take part in events organized by the [Private Sector Mechanism](#) through which the food and agriculture sector has a voice into the Summit.

The U.N. has just announced that there will be a Pre-Summit gathering in Rome, Italy from July 19 to July 21, 2021. The three-day event will be held in a hybrid virtual format and is expected to bring stakeholders from all sectors together to “deliver the latest evidence-based and scientific approach from around the world, launch a set of new commitments through coalitions of action, and mobilize new financing and partnerships”. NAEGA is making plans to engage in these Pre-Summit events and will provide updates as available.

A number of events related to the Summit’s five [Action Tracks](#) are open to the public and may be of interest to you.. 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:

Biden Administration Defends Section 301 Tariffs

The Biden administration [is defending former U.S. President Donald Trump’s 2018 expansion of Section 301 tariffs](#) on Chinese goods against lawsuits brought by thousands of U.S. companies, which claim Trump overstepped his authority. In a brief filed March 12 at the U.S. Court of International Trade in New York, the Biden administration argued that president’s trade policy is “due substantial deference” and that the Section 301 tariffs are not clearly violating the law. Plaintiffs in the suit argue that trade law gives the President the authority to modify preexisting Section 301 duties, but not to add new ones, and that the previous administration failed to give the public sufficient notice and opportunity to comment. The lawsuits are not expected to be resolved quickly, with some legal observers expecting them to take several years.

Tai Confirmed as U.S. Trade Representative

Katherine Tai, U.S. President Joseph Biden’s nominee for U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), [was confirmed by a unanimous vote of 98-0](#) on Wednesday, March 17, 2021. Tai, who served as the Office of the USTR's chief counsel for China trade enforcement and the chief Democratic trade lawyer for the House Ways and Means Committee, becomes the first Asian-American and first

woman of color to hold the position. Tai has pledged greater cooperation on trade with U.S. allies and stronger enforcement of trade agreements, including those with China.

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.

Calendar & Member Notices:

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

2021

March

18 –15th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures , International Plant Protection Convention – Day2 – 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

19-21 – U.N. Food Systems Summit Pre-Summit Events – Rome, Italy & Virtual

September

TBD - U.N. Food Systems Summit

October

30-31 – G-20 Summit – Rome, Italy

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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