



Outreach April 5, 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

Ministers Attending March 31, 2021 G7 Trade Track



Source: [U.K. Department for International Trade](#)

Current Opportunities & Actions:

- Canada Proposes Guidance on Novel Foods
- China Standards for Soybean and Wheat
- Kenya Limits on Contaminants in Feed
- Mexico Ban on GE Corn and Glyphosate
- South Korea Labeling Standards for Genetically Modified Foods
- U.S. Standards for Sorghum

Recent Actions:

- Comments to USDA/FGIS on Mycotoxin Test Kit Standards
- Comments to USDA/FGIS on Proposed Changes to Service Fees
- Letter to U.S. Government on China Phase One
- Meeting with Ecuadorian Trade Ministry Delegation
- Production Technology Committee Meeting
- U.N. Food Systems Summit

News:

- G7 Trade Ministers Meeting
- USITC Report on the Trade Impact of MRLs
- USTR 2021 National Trade Estimate

Ongoing Opportunities & Actions:

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

Current Opportunities & Actions:

Canada Proposes Guidance on Novel Foods

The Canadian Government has released [a proposed update to its guidance for novel foods](#) to “provide better clarity and predictability in how the Novel Food Regulations are applied to products of plant breeding.” The purpose of the update is to provide “greater clarity, predictability and transparency regarding the regulation of novel foods derived from plants, including those developed using gene editing technologies” and to provide an “efficient and predictable pathway to commercialization” for new products. The proposed update is split into two documents. The first, [available here](#), addresses when a food that was derived from a plant developed through breeding is a “novel food” and the second, [available here](#), is on the pre-market assessment of foods derived from “Retransformants “

There is an open consultation period through May 24, 2021. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) is leading a U.S. government review and comment submission and will be asking for industry input, and the Production Technology committee will be considering a response. Your input or comments are welcome.

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](#).

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.

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.

U.S. Standards for Sorghum

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Federal Grain Inspection Services (USDA/FGIS) [is requesting comments on the U.S. Standards for Sorghum](#). FGIS is required to request public comments regarding the standards for sorghum under the U.S. Grain Standards Act to ensure that

standards and official grading practices remain relevant, and whether the current sorghum standards and grading practices need to be changed. The current U.S. standards for sorghum [can be found here](#).

Comments are due by June 24, 2021. The Grades & Inspections 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](#).

Recent Actions:

Comments to USDA/FGIS on Mycotoxin Test Kit Standards

NAEGA, the North American Millers Association (NAMA) and the National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) have submitted joint comments to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) regarding proposed changes to mycotoxin test kit performance standards. The proposed changes are the result of an FGIS investigation into the causes of variation in mycotoxin testing. FGIS identified five areas of variation: Analyst proficiency; test kit performance; number of performance verified test kits; quality control at the local level; and sample drawing. To date, FGIS has only proposed a tightening of test kit performance standards

The comments request that FGIS included an examination of the other causes of variances in test kit performance, including the impact of grinding, sample size and extraction processes. The comments ask that FGIS examine synchronizing each factor for both performance testing and at the field level and offer the assistance of NAEGA, NAMA and NGFA in addressing those factors. The comments as submitted [can be found here](#).

Comments to USDA/FGIS on Proposed Changes to Service Fees

NAEGA and the National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) have submitted comments to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) in response to its proposal to implement a standardized formula model for calculating supervision fees. The comments support the proposed changes and commend FGIS on the formula used to calculate both the 6-month operating reserve goal and the Supervision of Official Agencies tonnage fee. NAEGA and NGFA note that the proposed change would enable FGIS to adjust supervision fees annually to maintain an appropriate operating reserve as required by the U.S. Grain Standards Act. The Comments as submitted [can be found here](#).

Letter to U.S. Government on China Phase One

NAEGA joined a broad collation of food & agriculture interests in letters to U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack regarding the U.S.-China Phase One Trade Agreement. The letters emphasized the industry support for the Phase One Agreement and included a detailed product by product breakdown of the positive impact on the food & agriculture sector. The letters as submitted [can be found here](#).

Meeting with Ecuadorian Trade Ministry Delegation

NAEGA staff met virtually with Ecuador's Minister of Production, Foreign Trade, Investments and Fisheries, Iván Ontaneda Berrú, and other top Trade Ministry officials during their virtual mission to the U.S. The meeting featured a robust discussion on the agricultural trade between the U.S. and Ecuador, as well as broader NAEGA and International Grain Trade Coalition efforts to promote trade in the Americas.

Production Technology Committee Meeting

The Production Technology Committee met on April 1, 2021 to discuss a number of issues of concern to the industry, including pesticide MRLs and plant biotechnology. 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).

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.

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

G7 Trade Ministers Meeting

On March 31, Trade ministers from the G7 group of countries met for the first time under the inaugural G7 Trade Track, a meeting designed to “make the case globally for free and fair trade.” The Ministers [released a joint statement](#) following their meeting, citing trade as way to speed recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic and to explore ways that trade can address issues including climate, the digital economy and creating more opportunities for women. The Ministers also hosted newly selected World Trade Organization Director General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala and committed to tackling WTO reform at the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference.

The statement also included a pledge to address “harmful industrial subsidies” and other market-distorting practices. [Some commentators have taken this line as a slight against China](#), despite not mentioning the country by name, as Chinese industrial subsidies have been increasingly cited as a key market-distorting practice, including the U.S.'s the 2021 National Trade Estimate on Foreign Trade Barriers, which was released the same day as the meeting.

USITC Report on the Trade Impact of MRLs

The U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) has released the second of two volumes of its report on the global economic impact of pesticide maximum residue level (MRL) policies, including missing or low MRLs, for plant protection products. The first report was issued on July 30, 2020, and the investigation into MRLs began in 2019. The report documents the impacts of pesticide MRLs, including when they are missing or low, on farmers and exporters globally.

The information in [volume two](#) of the report includes specific case studies describing the costs and effects of MRL compliance and noncompliance for U.S. producers and a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the global impact of MRLs, including how MRLs affects production, exports, farmer income, and prices. The first volume report included a broad description of the approaches taken by national and international bodies in setting MRLs and described regulations and practices governing the use of pesticides and the setting of MRLs in major U.S. agricultural export markets. Both reports as delivered [can be found here](#).

USTR 2021 National Trade Estimate

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) has released the 2021 National Trade Estimate (NTE) on Foreign Trade Barriers. The 2021 NTE addresses describes significant foreign barriers to U.S. exports of goods and services, foreign direct investment, and e-commerce trade barriers in the largest export markets for the United States, covering 61 countries, the European Union, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and the Arab League.

The 2021 report notes that U.S. agricultural products face "an array of tariff and nontariff barriers" that hamper exports, including food and plant health safety measures the U.S. says are not based on sound science, burdensome import licensing and certification requirements, and restrictions imposed by the EU and others on the ability of U.S. producers to use the common names of the products that they produce and export. The report as published [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.

Calendar & Member Notices:

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

2021

May

30-31 – G7 Trade Minister Meeting – U.K

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

11-24 – Meeting of the Convention on biological diversity (CBD) COP 15 and COP-MOP 10 - Kunming, China

30-31 – G-20 Summit – Rome, Italy

November

15-18 – USAEDC Annual Workshop – Baltimore, MD

29 - 12th WTO Ministerial Conference – Geneva, Switzerland

2022

March

13-15 – NGFA Annual Convention – Charleston, SC

December

TBD – COP 16 – CBD – Turkey

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