



Outreach July 8, 2022

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

Media of the Week: *Tracking the Movement of Ukrainian Grain Seized by Russia*



Source: *BBC/Institute for the Study of War*

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Member Notices & Opportunities:

NAEGA Production Technology Committee Meeting – July 13, 2022

The NAEGA Production Technology Committee will meet on Wednesday, July 13, 2022 at 9am Eastern time via MS Teams. The Committee's agenda includes a review of the Plant Biotechnology Information Exchange, GMO Wheat, Glyphosate, MRLs and other key issues facing the industry. If you are not a member of the Committee and would like more information on its activities, or would like to take part in this meeting, please contact Gary or Patrick.

U.S. Agricultural Export Development Council FAS Attaché Seminar – July 13-14, 2022

NAEGA members are invited to join NAEGA staff at the U.S. Agriculture Export Development Council's (USAEDC) annual Attaché Seminar and Workshop on July 13-14 at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner in McLean, VA. An agenda has not yet been released. USAEDC will be hosting its "speed dating" session between cooperators and USDA FAS attaches. The seminar is being held in-person for the first time since 2019. USAEDC is not offering a virtual option.

Registration is still open and an agenda can be found here. If you have an interest in attending, please contact Gary or Patrick.

Featured Event: NAEGA-NGFA Great Lakes Regional Industry Workshop – July 21, 2022

All NAEGA Member Personnel and interested parties are invited to attend the in-person and virtual NAEGA-NGFA Great Lakes Regional Industry Workshop on **Thursday, July 21, 2022 from 8am-3:30pm Eastern time** at the at The Andersons Corporate office, 1947 Briarfield Blvd., Maumee, OH 43537.

If you cannot attend in person, the workshop can be attended virtually. When you register, please indicate if you will attend in person or virtually. A continental breakfast and lunch will be served for in person attendees.

Our current agenda, attached to this invitation, features presentations from, and discussions with, the USDA's Federal Grain Inspection Service, and the American Association of Grain Inspection and Weighing Agencies. The workshop will primarily focus on domestic inspection issues including the responsibilities of the officially delegated/designated agencies and the rights of grain handling facilities during the appeals process.

We would like to thank The Andersons for their sponsorship of the workshop.

[Please register here! Space is limited so reserve your seat now.](#)

We look forward to seeing many of you on July 21st!

Compliance Considerations for Russia Sanctions

Governments around the globe continue to issue economic sanctions against Russia, its central bank and financial sector, as well as numerous individuals close to and including Russian President Vladimir Putin in the wake of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Exporters from all origins must contend with increased compliance obligations that may affect commercial operations. Members are reminded that violations of sanctions can occur in various places in an export contract from the direct counterparty to indirect counterparties, vessels, vessel owners/charterers and financial institutions.

The U.S. Treasury's Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC) issued a fact sheet entitled "Preserving Agricultural Trade, Access to Communication, and Other Support to Those Impacted by Russia's War Against Ukraine". OFAC states that U.S. sanctions issued in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine "do not stand in the way of, agricultural and medical exports, nongovernmental organization (NGO) activities, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) relief, the free flow of information, humanitarian assistance, and other support to people impacted by Russia's war". The document, [found here](#), offers guidance to the Trade on navigating OFAC sanctions and General Licenses.

NAEGA will continue to monitor government actions related to sanctions, most notably those of the United States and Canada as they may have more direct implications on exports from North America. Additional U.S. sanctions information from the OFAC can be [found through this link](#). Canadian sanction information [can be found here](#).

Contracts and Best Practices Seminars

Our seminars are much valued NAEGA member service. They provide intensive and informative reviews of commercial and official practices and include interaction with participants. NAEGA seminars can be conducted in-person and / or virtually. A private in-person seminar was held recently and both in-person **private** (staff from only one company) and **public** (staff from two or more companies) are being scheduled in 2022. Given the strong attendance and interest from Members, we expect to hold another public virtual seminar in 2022.

The Members only section of www.naega.org includes video of the public seminar on Wednesday, September 8, 2021. Your comments about the utility of the digital content on the Website as well as advice and questions about the NAEGA 2 Contract are welcome – please use this new email address for comments and questions: MemberQuestions@naega.org.

Please let us know when, how and where you would like to participate in the NAEGA Contracts and Best Practice seminars. [Click here](#) for more information on the in-depth, interactive programs NAEGA conducts!

Trade and Global Food Security Library

Several new entries related to Mexico and the Presidential Decree that phases out Glyphosate were posted this week to the NAEGA Trade and Global Food Security Library.

The Library is constantly being updated with reports on initiatives related to food systems, trade and global food security as well as outcomes from the UNFSS. The recent entries include several new documents and statements from governments regarding the UN's Working Group on Biodiversity.

NAEGA members can access the Library [through this link](#) or through [the Trade and Global Food Security](#) page on the NAEGA website. If you have a NAEGA Member's Only website login, you should not have any issues accessing the site at its new address. If you need login credentials, or are having any trouble logging in, please let Patrick know.

Plant Biotechnology Information Exchange

The [NAEGA Plant Biotechnology Information Exchange \(PBIE\)](#) continues to be improved and updated. Your feedback is welcome! 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 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. To gain access NAEGA Member representatives send the names and email addresses of designated company users to Patrick at phayden@naega.org. Each designated person is provided unique login information and instructions on use of the platform. Please let us know if you have any questions!

U.S.-Canada Grain Trade Website

The modernized U.S.-Canada Grain Trade Resources website can be found at <https://uscanadagrainsite.org/>. This website, initially launched in 2012 during the implementation of Canada's Marketing Freedom for Grain Farmers Act, is updated and modernized to reflect the impact of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, as well as other developments, on the cross-border grain trade between the U.S and Canada. The site contains question and answer modules for [American](#) and [Canadian](#) grain producers, as well as the [commercial grain trade](#), and will be updated regularly. Users are encouraged to review the modules and submit additional questions, which may be included in future updates.

Recent Actions:

Letter to U.S. Senate in Support of McKalip Nomination to USTR

NAEGA joined a broad coalition of industry partners in signing onto a letter to U.S. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Ranking Member Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID), supporting the nomination of Doug McKalip to serve as Chief Agricultural Negotiator at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. The letter notes McKalip's "numerous leadership positions in USDA...(representing) American farmers, ranchers and agriculture around the world and advocated for U.S. agricultural products and technology and requests that the committee consider the nomination as soon as possible. The letter as submitted [can be found here](#).

London Grains Week– June 6-8, 2022

NAEGA staff traveled to London from June 6-8, 2022 to attend and participate in meetings and activities surrounding the International Grains Council (IGC)'s London Grains Week, including a full day of meetings of the International Grain Trade Coalition. NAEGA President Gary C. Martin moderated a IGC roundtable on "Supporting and advancing our common Grain Trade interests" in his capacity as IGTC President, and NAEGA Senior Advisor Tom Erickson was a featured panelist for IGC's discussion of "Trade finance: the future of carbon trading".

NAEGA staff also took part in a Global conversation on Glyphosate, co-hosted by IGTC and Bayer Crop Science, and held discussions with USDA/FAS and Chatham House. IGTC's report on the week's events [can be found here](#). A NAEGA Trip Report will be available on the NAEGA Member's Only website soon.

U.S. Grain Inspection Advisory Committee Meeting

[USDA's Grain Inspection Advisory Committee \(GIAC\) met on June 22-23 in Kansas City, Missouri](#). NAEGA Grades & Inspections Committee Chairman and GIAC member Nick Friant, pictured at right, worked with industry colleagues to produce the following recommendations from the Committee:

- That FGIS engage with the U.S. Food & Drug Administration to update the existing MOU to incorporate additional reconditioning plans & procedures.
- That USDA lead a U.S. Government task group to provide for a trade facilitative and least trade distortive U.S. approach and coordinate internationally in response to an increase in an increase in foreign requests for U.S. export facility registration requirements.



- That FGIS solicit, initiate, and support independent research to determine if functionality is impacted by seed coat discoloration associated with currently commercially available genetically engineered seeds.
- That USDA engage with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to require greater transparency within the railroad industry as a means of removing unpredictable scheduling for grain handling facilities and provide reliable timetables to grain handlers.
- That in the event new committee appointments are not finalized prior to the next GIAC meeting, committee members whose terms have just ended should continue on until such appointments are, or that the reauthorization of the U.S. Grain Standards Act include the appointment of at least 3 alternate members to be added to the GIAC to maintain the work of the committee.

More details on the Committee's recommendations [can be found here](#).

Current & Ongoing Actions

Australia MRL Harmonization Proposal

The Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ)'s issued a call for requests for its 2022 MRL harmonization proposal, [which can be found here](#). FSANZ issues this request for submissions once per year and will only accept submissions for MRLs to be established/changed on products where trade is already occurring or an opening of the Australian market is currently being considered. [The MRL proposals page on the FSANZ website](#) provides guidance on which MRLs are being considered.

NAEGA's Production Technology Committee is considering a response and your advice is welcome. NAEGA members are welcome to submit harmonization requests on their own. Completed harmonization requests are due by 6pm Eastern time on Thursday, July 28, 2022. Please contact Patrick & Gary for more information.

China Draft Domestic MRLs

China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) issued two documents proposing pesticide maximum residue limits (MRL) for multiple agricultural commodities. English translations, provides USDA/FAS-Beijing, [can be found here](#). MARA is requesting comments in response to the draft standards, containing MRLs for 43 pesticides and 55 pesticides respectively, by July 15, 2022. Foods covered under the standards include corn, soybean, barley, rye, sorghum, rice, rapeseed, ginseng, tomato, cherry, strawberry, blueberry, and oranges, among others.

The Production Technology Committee will be considering these proposed MRLs at their upcoming meeting on July 13. Any input or comments are welcome.

U.S. ITC Request for Comments Impact of Section 232 and 301 Tariffs

At the request of the U.S. Congress, the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) is conducting a fact-finding investigation on U.S. trade, production, and prices in the industries directly and most affected by the Section 232 and Section 301 tariffs that were in effect as of March 15, 2022A

public hearing in connection with this investigation will be held beginning at on Thursday July 21, 2022, and written comments are due on August 24, 2022. The notice from ITC [can be found here](#).

NAEGA is considering a response and your advice is welcome.

News:

Tracking Ukrainian Grain Taken by Russia

A number of news sources are tracking the movements of grain allegedly stolen by Russia from Ukrainian farmers. In May, [the United States alerted 14 countries that Russian cargo vessels were leaving ports near Ukraine](#) laden with what the U.S. State Department described as “stolen Ukrainian grain”.

Using GPS tracking, satellite imagery, and discussions with farmers in Ukraine, analysts have noted increased truck and rail movement into Russian controlled grain storage facilities in Crimea and increased activity in the port of Sevastopol. The U.S. and Ukraine have identified 9 ships from Crimea that they say “transported stolen Ukrainian grain abroad.” Some analysts believe this increased activity can be attributed to supply chain issues impacting wheat harvested in Russia. A report on the techniques being used to transport this grain and where it is being shipped [can be found here](#).

Transgenic Wheat Clears U.S. FDA Safety Evaluation

Argentina-based Bioceres Crop Solutions announced that its genetically modified, proprietary, drought-tolerant HB4 wheat variety [has cleared an evaluation by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\) with no further questions regarding its safety](#).

The finding by the FDA is not an approval for HB4 to be planted for commercial sale in the United States. To date, the HB4 wheat has been approved for commercial production within a closed system in Argentina only. The trait has been approved for human consumption by regulators in Brazil in the form of flour, and in Australia, New Zealand and now in the United States.

Calendar & Member Notices:

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

2022

July

13-14 - U.S. Agricultural Export Development FAS Attaché Seminar – McLean, VA

15 – NAEGA Production Technology Committee Meeting

21 – NAEGA/NGFA Regional Industry Workshop – Maumee, OH/Virtual

September

15– NAEGA Board of Directors and Committee Meetings – Washington, DC/Arlington, VA

21-23 – Inaugural International Plant Health Conference – London, UK

October

TBD – NAEGA/NGFA Regional Industry Workshop – Vancouver, WA/Virtual

November

TBD – IGTC General Assembly

17-18 – U.S. Agricultural Export Development Council Annual Workshop – Baltimore, MD

December

TBD – COP 16 – CBD – Turkey

2023**March**

21-21 – NGFA 2023 Convention - La Quinta, California

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