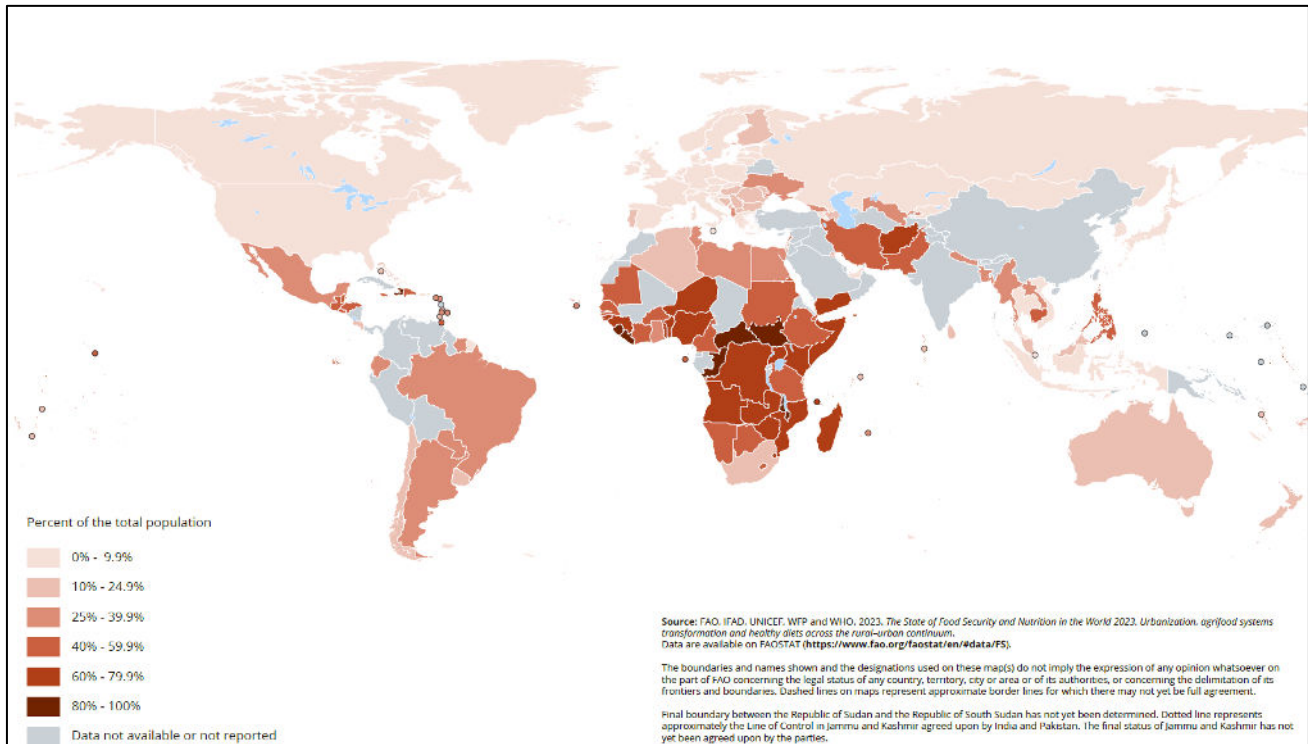




**Outreach**  
**August 25, 2023**

**Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA**

***NAEGA Graphic of the Week***  
***Percentage of Food Insecure Population by Country 2020-2023***



Source – [UN FAO](#)

***This OUTREACH includes:***

***Current and Ongoing Actions***

- NAEGA-NGFA Pacific Northwest Regional Industry Workshop
- Japan Phytosanitary Certificates
- Soybeans of Other Color
- Thailand Fumigation Requirements
- USDA Grain Inspection Advisory Committee

- Website Review and Enhancement

#### *Recent Actions*

- Grades & Inspections Committee Meeting
- IGTC Electronic Documentation Webinar
- International Agricultural Biotechnology Roundtable
- Vietnam Ends Canada Thistle Regulation

#### *Member Notices & Opportunities*

- Board of Directors Meeting – September 21, 2023
- Committee Meetings – September
- ESRMS 2.1 User Acceptance Training

#### *News*

- USDA & USTR Appoint Agricultural Trade Advisors

#### *Information Services*

- Trade and Global Food Security Library
- Plant Biotechnology Information Exchange
- U.S.-Canada Grain Trade Website

#### *Current and Ongoing Actions*

**NAEGA-NGFA Pacific Northwest Regional Industry Workshop – October 12, 2023**  
[Registration is now open](#) for the NAEGA and the National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) in-person and virtual Pacific Northwest Regional Industry Workshop at the [Wheat Marketing Center in Portland, Oregon](#) on Thursday, October 12, 2023. An agenda as well as a formal invitation including registration information, will be available soon. Invitations to attend and present are being sent to the U.S. Coast Guard, USDA's Federal Grain Inspection Service and Washington State Department of Agriculture. If you have any suggestions for guest speakers or topics to cover, please let us know.

**Opportunities for sponsorship of the workshop are available.** If you are interested in sponsoring, please contact Patrick at [phayden@naega.org](mailto:phayden@naega.org) for details.

#### **Japan Phytosanitary Certificates**

We continue to monitor the implementation of Japan's requirement of Phytosanitary Certificates (PCs) for imports beginning with shipments arriving August 5, 2023. We are not aware of any disruptions to date. If you are aware of any issues or have relevant experience to share, please contact us. The Grades & Inspections Committee will be assessing the situation.

We can report the following regarding implementation and continue to monitor developments:

- The controversial change has resulted in increased scrutiny and awareness of fumigation practices and phytosanitary requirements for Japan’s import of all bulk grains and oilseeds.
- MAFF has recently removed several weevil and Trogoderma species from their quarantine list. The US [PCIT PeXD](#) has been and will be updated as changes are notified.
- Communication at loading will be critical. USDA’s Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) pest tolerances differ from those of MAFF. A complete understanding of Japanese pest quarantine status may be needed to make arrangements for inspections to avoid delays in the issuance of PCs by USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).
- Japanese importers may be resistant to using in-transit recirculation fumigation. Costs and disposal of the associated tubing have been cited as concerns.
- FGIS is proposing modifications to fumigation practices to allow for [surface or subsurface application on Japan destined vessels](#).

### **Soybeans of Other Color**

On September 1, 2023, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) final rule to remove “Soybeans of Other Colors” (SBOC) as a grade-determining factor for U.S. soybeans, will go into effect. SBOC will remain in the standards as part of the definition of the class Yellow Soybeans. Please let us know if you experience any disruptions or confusion in the grading of U.S. soybeans during implementation of the revised standards.

### **Thailand Fumigation Requirements**

USDA’s Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) proposed changes to the Federal Grain Inspection Service’s Phosphine Fumigation Requirements for Dried Distillers Grains (DDG) being exported to Thailand. The proposed changes, [which are tracked in red in this draft revision](#), will change how temperature ranges are reported, and will add a minimum dosage for phosphide applied to containerized DDG. APHIS reports that these proposed changes are at the request of the Government of Thailand.

The Grades & Inspections Committee is reviewing the changes and NAEGA is considering a response. Your input is welcome.

### **USDA Grain Inspection Advisory Committee**

- [USDA’s Grain Inspection Advisory Committee](#) (GIAC) will meet on August 30 and 31, 2023 in Kansas City, MO. Agenda items for the upcoming meeting include Federal Grain Inspection Services User Fees and Budget; Vessel Fumigation Policy; and Data Standards, among others. [The meeting can be attended virtually](#).
- [USDA is seeking nominations for individuals to serve on the GIAC](#). The Committee meets no less than once annually to advise AMS on the programs and services it delivers under the U.S. Grain Standards Act. [Applications are due to USDA on September 22, 2023](#). If you or a colleague are interested in applying to the Committee, NAEGA staff are happy to assist.

### **Your Input Requested - Website Review and Enhancement**

NAEGA staff are in the process of reviewing and enhancing both the Public and Member’s Only section of the NAEGA website. As part of this effort, we are asking members to provide us with your advice and input on the content, resources, and design of [www.naega.org](http://www.naega.org). Members are also welcome to provide any graphics or video that NAEGA could use on the site. Visual content

submitted by Members will be attributed to your company with our thanks. Interested Members are also invited to consider providing content for the “Member Spotlight” section, which is located on the front page of the website. Please reach out to Patrick at [phayden@naega.org](mailto:phayden@naega.org) with your suggestions, questions, or content submissions.

## ***Recent Actions***

### **Grades & Inspections Committee Meeting**

The Grades & Inspections Committee met on Wednesday, August 16, 2023. The Committee discussed the implementation of Japan’s new Phytosanitary Certificate requirements, topics for the upcoming USDA Grain Inspection Advisory Committee meeting, plans for the October 12, 2023, Pacific Northwest Regional Workshop, and other key issues facing industry. If you are not a member of the Committee and would like more information on its activities, please contact Gary or Patrick.

### **IGTC Electronic Documentation Webinar**

The International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) held a webinar on electronic documentation on August 24, 2023. The program featured presentations from Covantis and NAEGA Senior Advisor for Innovation and Safe Trade Practices Craig Fedchock, as well as a roundtable discussion on developments in digital trade documentation. NAEGA members [can view a recording of the webinar here](#).

### **International Agricultural Biotechnology Roundtable**

NAEGA staff took part in an International Agricultural Biotechnology Roundtable with a group of 32 high-level international participants from 13 countries in Africa and Asia organized by Michigan State University and hosted by USDA’s Foreign Agriculture Service. The group was in Washington as part of [MSU’s International Short Course in Agricultural Biotechnology, Biosafety and Technology Transfer](#). This training program focuses on biotechnology research, policies and regulations, management, and public outreach components as well as biotechnology related trade issues. Attendees were invited to become users of the [Trade and Global Food Security Library](#) and informed on [NAEGA Production Technology Policy](#).

### **Vietnam Ends Canada Thistle Regulation**

Vietnam’s Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) [announced that as of September 29, 2023](#) Vietnam will no longer regulate Canada thistle, and a certification of freedom from Canada thistle will no longer be required for shipments of U.S. wheat or soybeans. USDA/APHIS will be removing the requirement from the Phytosanitary Certificate and Issuance Tracking system on October 1, 2023.

## ***Member Notices & Opportunities***

### **Board of Directors Meeting – September 21, 2023**

The Board of Directors will meet on **Thursday, September 21, 2023 from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Eastern Time** in the main conference room of the American Intellectual Property Lawyers Association at 1400 Crystal Drive, Suite 600, Arlington, VA and Via Microsoft Teams.

Board meetings are open to NAEGA Member Representatives to attend. If you would like to attend a portion or the entirety of the September 21 meeting, please contact Gary or Patrick. For those of you who cannot attend in person, a virtual option will be available.

### **Committee Meetings –September**

Committees are preparing to meet via MS Teams in August and September ahead of the Board of Directors meeting on September 21, 2023:

- Contracts: Thursday, September 7, at 4:00pm Eastern/3:00pm Central/2:00pm Mountain/1:00pm Pacific Time.
- Production Committee: Wednesday September 13 at 1:00pm Eastern/12:00pm Central/11:00am Mountain/10:00am Pacific Time.

Agendas for each meeting are being developed and your input on topics for each committee to cover is welcome.

If you are not a member of a committee and would like more information on how to participate, please contact staff.

### **ESRMS 2.1 User Acceptance Training**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) is encouraging exporters to complete User Acceptance Training (UAT) for the Export Sale Reporting and Maintenance System (ESRMS) 2.1 platform as soon as possible.

FAS is requesting that all exporters enter the ESRMS 2.1 Test System to perform user acceptance testing to become familiar with the system and to test the bulk electronic upload process. USDA also requests feedback from all exporters to ensure the functionality and compatibility of the final system design. ESRMS 2.1 and the ESRMS 2.1 Query System are for testing only and are not to be used for any other purpose. All data entered in the test site will be removed before the launch of ESRMS 2.1. The Test System will remain open for UAT until all exporters have completed the training.

NAEGA submitted comments to USDA regarding the proposed revision to the information collection activities in support of the Foreign Agricultural Service's (FAS) Export Sales Reporting program on July 4, 2023. We will inform members when USDA responds.

The ESRMS 2.1 test site can be found at: <https://esrms.fas.usda.gov/>. Users can access the site with their existing ESRMS eAuthentication. Members who are not sure if their company has completed the UAT program can contact Patrick at [phayden@naega.org](mailto:phayden@naega.org). Technical questions or login issues can be directed to Amy Harding at [ESR@usda.gov](mailto:ESR@usda.gov)

### ***News:***

#### **USDA & USTR Appoint Agricultural Trade Advisors**

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) [have appointed 130 new private-sector representatives](#) to four-year terms on the Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee (APAC) and six Agricultural Technical Advisory Committees

(ATACs). These committees advise the USDA and USTR about a wide range of agricultural trade issues. NAEGA Vice President Patrick Hayden is a member of the ATAC for Trade in Grains, Feed, Oilseeds, and Planting Seeds. [The application process is open to interested parties year-round.](#)

### ***Information Services:***

#### **NAEGA Trade & Food Security Library**

Recently uploaded resources to our Trade & Global Food Security Library include a United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on climate-smart agricultural practices and the UN Secretary-General's remarks on Food Systems Transformation, delivered at the recent "U.N. Food System Summit +2 Stocktaking" event in Rome.

The Library is available cost-free to NAEGA members and partners. Access via a web browser or an App for both Android and Apple mobile devices. [Instructions on installing the app and connecting to your account can be found here.](#)

If you need login credentials or are having any trouble using the app, please click [here](#).

#### **Plant Biotechnology Information Exchange (PBIE)**

There are currently 2862 transgenic products from approximately 450 unique transgenic events and 506 gene-edited products in the [NAEGA 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. Currently, only NAEGA members have access to this unique tool. As part of membership, your company is allowed up to five 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](mailto:phayden@naega.org). Each designated person is provided with unique login information and instructions on the use of the platform. Please let us know if you have any questions!

#### **U.S.-Canada Grain Trade Website**

Your comments and advice are welcome in response to the U.S.-Canada Grain Trade Resources website: <https://uscanadagraintrade.org/>. The public website is intended to facilitate trade between Canada and the U.S. and inform future NAEGA actions. The site contains regularly updated question-and-answer modules for [American](#) and [Canadian](#) grain producers, as well as the [commercial grain trade](#). Users are encouraged to review the modules and submit additional questions, which may be included in future updates.

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

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

**2023**

## **August**

**30** – USDA Grain Inspection Advisory Committee Meeting – Kansas City, MO and Virtual

## **September**

**7** – Contracts Committee Meeting – Virtual

**13** – Production Technology Committee Meeting

**12-15** – WTO Public Forum: “[It is Time for Action](#)” – Geneva, Switzerland

**21** – NAEGA Board of Directors Meeting – Arlington, VA

## **October**

**12**- NAEGA-NGFA Regional Grain Industry Workshop – Portland, OR and Virtual

## **November**

**13-15** – USAEDC Annual Workshop – Baltimore, MD

**15-16** – IGTC General Assembly – Cairo, Egypt & Virtual

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