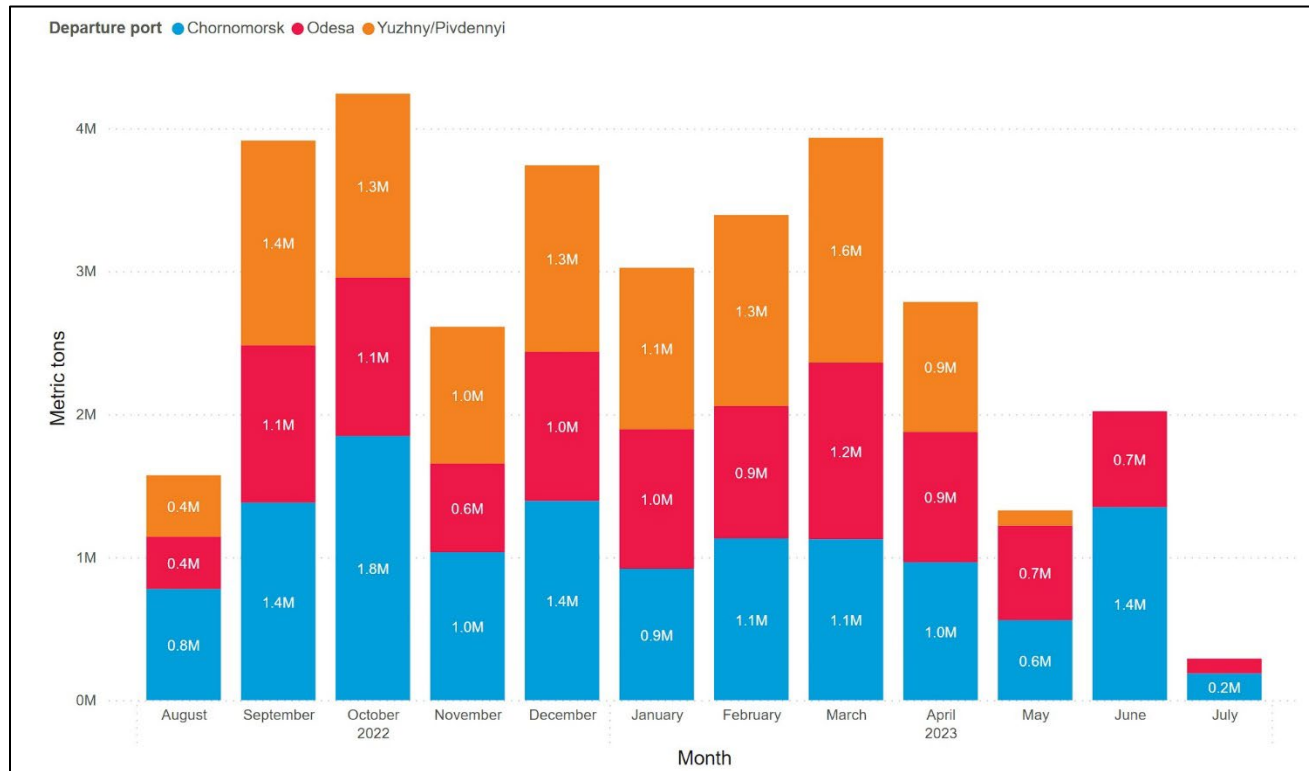




Outreach July 21, 2023

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

NAEGA Graphic of the Week *Ukraine Grain Export Volumes by Port – August 2022-Present*



Source – [UN FAO](#)

This OUTREACH includes:

Current and Ongoing Actions

- Japan Phytosanitary Certificates
- Website Review and Enhancement

Recent Actions

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Our Trade and Global Food Security Library now has a Mobile App!

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Current and Ongoing Actions

Japan Phytosanitary Certificates

Japan's Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) will require Phytosanitary Certificates (PCs) for imports beginning with shipments arriving August 5, 2023. We are aware that:

- 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.
- Modifications to fumigation practices like ensuring holds are loaded no more than 20 meters to allow for trench-in fumigant application to avoid tubing holds have been suggested. Such modification may require FGIS to revise its fumigation manual.

NAEGA's Grades & Inspections Committee will be assessing the situation. If you have ideas about how NAEGA might act and/or have relevant experience to share, please contact us.

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 NAEGA members to provide us with your advice and input on the content, resources and design of 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 with your suggestions, questions, or content submissions.

Recent Actions

Biotechnology and Trade Presentation for U.S. State Department

At the invitation of the U.S. State Department, NAEGA President & CEO Gary C. Martin presented and took part in a panel discussion on trade as part of a course on "Biotechnology & Global Challenges – Trade, Food Security and Innovation" for U.S. Foreign Service Officers at the National Foreign Affairs Training Center.

[The presentation covered](#) the need for sound, responsible, predictable commercial and official measures for products derived from biotechnology, [NAEGA's policy on crop biotechnology](#) and the role of the grain trade in providing for global food security. Attendees were also invited to access the NAEGA Trade & Global Food Security Library.

Comments to USDA on Revisions to Export Sales Reporting

NAEGA [submitted comments to the U.S. Department of Agriculture](#) regarding s proposed revision to the information collection activities in support of the Foreign Agricultural Service's (FAS) Export Sales Reporting program. NAEGA's comments focused on FAS's efforts to upgrade the Export Sales Reporting and Maintenance System (ESRMS).

The comments note industry interest in maintaining an ESRMS that improves data quality, reliability, and market confidence and raised our areas of concern that need to be sufficiently addressed before the new ESRMS will achieve those objectives: the system must be technology neutral; the system must demonstrably reduce reporting burdens; the system is collecting only that information authorized by law; and the system cannot be deployed into the market during the peak of the U.S. harvest and export cycle.

USAEDC Attaché Seminar and Workshop

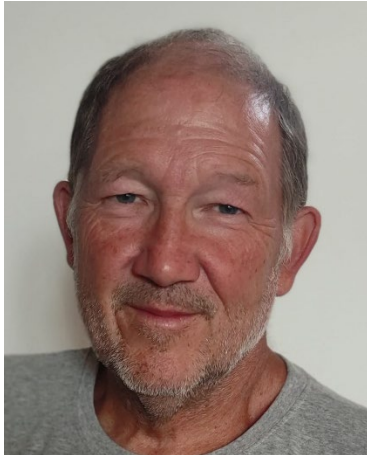
NAEGA staff consulted with USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) officers working in or assigned to China, Japan, Geneva, Egypt, Morocco, and South Korea, discussing NAEGA and IGTC policy files as well as country-specific agricultural issues. Attachés were invited to become users of the NAEGA Trade and Global Food Security Library. The consultations were part of our

participation at the [2023 U.S. Agricultural Export Development Council Attaché \(USAEDC\) Seminar and workshop](#).

For more information about NAEGA's involvement in USAEDC contact Gary or Patrick.

Welcome to New NAEGA Senior Advisors Craig Fedchock and Nezar Abu-Ismaïl!

Please join us in welcoming Senior Advisors Craig Fedchock and Nezar Abu-Ismaïl to the NAEGA team! Craig joins as Senior Advisor for Innovation and Safe Trade Practices and Nezar as Senior Advisor for Middle East and North African Trade.



Craig, based in Rome, Italy, previously served as a Senior Advisor to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat and was the Director of the IPPC ePhyto Solution, a successful effort to digitize the exchange of phytosanitary certificates. Craig previously held positions with USDA APHIS PPQ, including Associate Executive Director of Plant Health Programs, and Director of Phytosanitary Issues Management. Before joining PPQ, Mr. Fedchock was the Director of Bilateral Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Affairs at the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR). Craig attended the Universities of Massachusetts and Maryland (Global Campus) as well as Carleton University for undergraduate and graduate studies. He also received diplomas from the Defense Language Institute for Russian

language and the Federal Executive Institute. In addition to his Senior Advisor role with NAEGA, Craig will also serve as Innovation Emissary for the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC).

Nezar, an Egyptian and Moroccan citizen based in Cairo, currently serves as an advisor and board member for [Fortuna DMCC](#), a UAE-based commodity trading company and one of the leading players in the agricultural trading and processing industry in the Middle East and Africa. Nezar also serves on the board of HARM Trade, and [Bright Skies Geoscience](#), where he was CEO from 2019-2023. Prior to these positions, Nezar was managing director in Egypt and North Africa for ION Geophysical, an American Oil and Gas company, and was Ambassador for the Disarmament and Mine Clearance Program in Africa. He has worked for both the Moroccan and Egyptian trade ministries. Nezar will also act as Middle East and North Africa Ambassador for IGTC.



Member Notices & Opportunities

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.

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. Technical questions or login issues can be directed to Amy Harding at ESR@usda.gov

News:

Black Sea Grain Initiative Terminated

Russia pulled out of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, a U.N.-brokered accord that has made it possible for Ukraine to export almost 33 million tons of crop via the Black Sea since it was signed in July 2022. Russia blamed Western sanctions and harm to its own food and fertilizer exports as the reason for terminating its participation in the agreement. Shipments under the initiative had significantly slowed since May of 2023, and Ukraine will now attempt to move grain out of the country through Europe's Danube River.

U.S. Food and Agriculture Interim Risk Review

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Homeland Security released the [120-Day Food and Agriculture Interim Risk Review](#), which provides a review of critical and emergent risks to the U.S. Food and Agriculture sector, as well as ways to mitigate those risks.

The review includes proposed short-term, mid-term, and long-term actions for improved coordination and integration within the Food and Agriculture Sector in strategic planning, information sharing and engagement, and understanding of sector risks. Some of the proposed actions include:

- Identify communication gaps;
- Take actions to improve information sharing on threats; and
- Convene a Food and Agriculture Defense Summit.

This review will help inform the Federal Risk Mitigation Strategy.

U.S. Soybean Standards

The U.S. Department of Agriculture published a final rule to remove “Soybeans of Other Colors” (SBOC) as a grade-determining factor for U.S. soybeans. SBOC will remain in the standards as part of the definition of the class Yellow Soybeans. As reported in the [Outreach on May 3, 2023](#), NAEGA joined other industry partners in supporting this course of action. The rule will go into effect on September 1, 2023.

Information Services:

NAEGA Trade & Food Security Library

Recently uploaded resources to our Trade & Global Food Security Library include the WTO Director-General's response to the Russian termination of the Black Sea Grain Initiative and details on the upcoming "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 2,835 transgenic products from approximately 420 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. 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

July

24-26 - [United Nations Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment](#) - Rome, Italy & Virtual

September

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

21 – NAEGA Board of Directors Meeting – Arlington, VA

October

TBD - NAEGA-NGFA Regional Grain Industry Workshop – Pacific Northwest

November

13-15 – USAEDC Annual Workshop – Baltimore, MD

16 – IGTC General Assembly – Cairo, Egypt

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