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CEC 2023

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DECEMBER 3-5



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NGFA

NEWS

Alejandra Castillo named NAEGA Successor President and CEO

The [North American Export Grain Association](#) (NAEGA) Board of Directors announced on Nov. 2 the appointment of Alejandra Castillo as NAEGA's successor president and CEO.

Castillo brings 15 years of industry experience having worked previously as regional director for South Asia based in Singapore and India and most recently as director of global programs in Washington, D.C. for the U.S. Grains Council. Before this, Alejandra also worked in trade execution for Cargill, Inc.



The successor president and CEO position was created to support a transition as current NAEGA President and CEO Gary C. Martin plans to step away from the role in 2024.

“As NAEGA works with those who feed the world to advocate for and support international trade of grain, we are confident that Alejandra is a forward-looking and strategic leader who will guide NAEGA into the future,” said John Griffith, Chairman of the Board.

Alejandra is now working with current NAEGA staff to provide for her transition to president and CEO in 2024.

NGFA is co-located and has a strategic alliance with NAEGA, a not-for-profit trade association established in 1912, consisting of private and publicly owned companies and farmer-owned cooperatives that are involved in and provide services to the agri-bulk products international trading industry. NAEGA members are exporters of and serve the vast

majority of all U.S. grain and oilseeds in international markets. Contact info@naega.org with questions or comments.

Talks continue over Snake River dams

Discussions about the role of the Lower Snake River Dams in salmon population declines in the Columbia-Snake River Basin are set to continue after a pause in litigation announced this week.

A stay on litigation in federal court over dam operations on the Snake and Columbia rivers was set to expire Oct. 31, but parties agreed on an additional 45-day pause. By Dec. 15, all parties in the lawsuit must either reach an agreement, go to court or request a multi-year pause on the lawsuit while they continue to negotiate a plan to address the Snake River salmon population.

Negotiations managed by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS) began after a district court judge stayed a federal lawsuit over the dams in 2021. The lawsuit against five federal agencies was brought by a coalition of conservation groups, Northwest Tribal nations including the Nez Perce Tribe and the Couer d'Alene Tribe, and the state of Oregon. The federal agencies named in the 2021 lawsuit – the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, Bonneville Power Administration, Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service – own and operate four dams on the lower Snake River, the main tributary to the Columbia River.

Throughout this mediation process, NGFA has emphasized that breaching the Lower Snake River Dams would create severe economic harm to the entire U.S. agricultural value chain.



Barge transportation moves about half of all grain exports to export elevators and is critical to NGFA members in the Pacific Northwest. The Columbia-Snake River System is the third-largest grain export corridor in the world, transporting nearly 30 percent of U.S. grain and oilseed exports. Eleven states export wheat through this river system, which accounts for more than 60 percent of all wheat exports.

NGFA comments on FDA recall modernization

NGFA submitted comments to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regarding its proposal to modernize recalls of FDA-regulated commodities.

“NGFA believes there are opportunities to modernize FDA’s policies and practices to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of recalls by enhancing the consistency, transparency, and communications associated with its recall processes,” NGFA noted.

Among its comments, NGFA outlined the following priorities for recalls:

- Recalls should be appropriately and consistently delineated from market withdrawals.
“As an example, we believe FDA should not characterize a minor, out-of-tolerance result from an animal food nutrient assay as a recall situation when the assay result would not be subject to legal action by FDA and does not pose a risk to animal or public health,” the comments stated.

- Consistency, timeliness and accuracy of recall classifications should be ensured. “NGFA believes industry would benefit from FDA providing clearer direction on their classification process for Class I, II, and III recalls, and establishing more definitive timelines for determining classifications,” the comments stated. “Further, we believe FDA’s health hazard evaluations should be shared with affected firms to promote consistency, awareness, and transparency within FDA’s processes.”
- Training on FDA directives and policies related to recalls should be provided. “In addition, we believe all entities involved in recalls would benefit from FDA issuing a concise recall handbook...that articulates a clearer and standardized interpretation of FDA requirements and expectations,” NGFA stated.
- Expectations among FDA Recall Coordinators should be more consistent. “We believe FDA should take steps to ensure that all recall coordinators have consistent interpretations and expectations associated with recall requirements,” NGFA noted. “In addition, NGFA members have experienced situations in which multiple recall coordinators are involved with one recall event, which has created confusion and duplication of efforts.”
- Communication between all entities involved in the recall - federal, state and industry - should be coordinated and harmonized. “Our members indicate that during a recall event they often receive multiple requests for the same information from both state regulatory agencies and FDA,” which causes undue stress on industry personnel, NGFA noted.

Read the [full comments here](#).

EVENTS

Economist Dan Basse to provide ag economic outlook at CEC

During the NGFA’s 52nd annual Country Elevator Conference and Trade Show (CEC), Dan Basse, president of AgResource Company, will provide the agricultural economy outlook for 2024.

Basse is an economist who has been in the commodity business since 1979, providing research and insight around the globe. He has worked with Professional Farmers of America, Brock Associates and the agricultural research division of GNP Commodities in Chicago. He founded AgResource Company in 1987.

CEC takes place Dec. 3-5 at the Omni Louisville in Louisville, Ky. NGFA’s flagship conference for grain merchants, elevator operators, feed manufacturers, processors, and grain industry suppliers will also include sessions on agricultural policy, insurance and labor issues affecting grain handling companies, the state of U.S. transportation, and artificial intelligence. Review the full agenda and speaker list at ngfa.org/cec.



Room Rate: NGFA’s discounted hotel room block expires on Nov. 8.

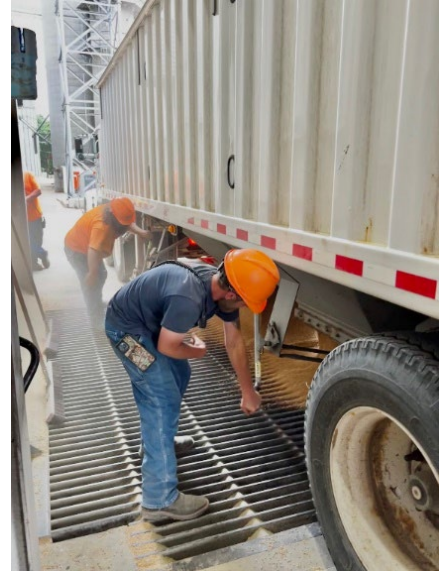
Registration: NGFA members receive a 20 percent discount on registration. [Register now](#).

Submit your entries to the 2023 Grain and Feed Photo Contest

NGFA is accepting entries for its [annual photo contest](#). Winners of \$500, \$300 and \$200 are announced during the Country Elevator Conference and Trade Show in December. Deadline for entries is **Nov. 21, 2023**.

The contest theme is “**A Day in the Life.**” (What's happening day-to-day at your NGFA member location?) One photo per participant will be accepted. Email photos as an attachment to sgonzalez@ngfa.org. The body of the email must include the photographer's name and contact information. Full rules are available [here](#).

Pictured right: First place photo in the 2022 Grain and Feed Photo Contest with theme: "In Action." By Alyssa Barrett, Michigan Agricultural Commodities.



SUPPLEMENTS

Extra Supplements

NGFA in the news:

Feed & Grain: [Enhancing grain traceability and digital technologies \[Podcast\]](#)

Other news:

IGN: [Joe Biden Signs Executive Order Providing Guidelines Around Generative AI](#)

Forbes: [Congressional Backlog Ramifications For The New Farm Bill](#)

Fox News: [Tyson Foods investing big in bug protein for new venture](#)

Agri-Pulse: [St. Lawrence Seaway reopens as striking workers reach tentative deal \(log in\)](#)

Inside Climate News: [Extreme Heat Pushes More Farmworkers to Harvest at Night, Creating New Risks](#)

NPR: [Using AI to follow one goose in a flock could help with conservation efforts](#)

Associated Press: [Biden touts investment in rural areas in Minnesota, the home state of his primary challenger](#)

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