



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

Dear Colleague,

We are again seeking your assistance in preventing treated seeds from being included in the supply of US grains and oilseeds. Treated seeds in commodity shipments are a multi-commodity problem that warrants the attention of the entire supply chain. As spring planting season moves forward, it is important that we draw attention to the fact that pesticide treated seeds in grain shipments must be prevented.

All of us must be cautious about pesticide use generally but in particular with respect to the potential for mixing treated seed with grain and oilseeds. In the past year NAEGA members and USDA reported findings of pesticide treated grains and oilseed in samples intended for export. While such findings are rare, few concerns can be as damaging to the US reputation for quality and safety of agricultural exports. With food safety scares at the forefront of public and official concern, our exports are subject to increased scrutiny in many markets. Treated seeds have gained the increased attention of many import control officials and are a sure way of increasing costs and reducing the competitiveness of US grains and oilseeds in the export market.

We ask you to join us now in an industry wide effort to communicate the need to comply with US law and prevent treated seeds from gaining introduction into the commodity supply. Please use your contacts to communicate the need to do everything possible to prevent treated seeds from inclusion in our grain and oilseed supply. We need to work together across the supply chain including firms and employees involved in seed manufacture and distribution, producers, grain handlers and transportation companies to stress the damage any finding of treated seed in our export grain and oilseed supply does to the reputation of US agriculture products in the international market. Moreover it is very important to again make everyone aware of the illegality of intentional addition of treated seeds to commodities.

Further, we appreciate your sharing with us a copy of notices or articles you convey regarding this concern. We often find such documentation useful to demonstrate the US intentions to prevent treated seeds from entering US export channels.

Sincerely,

Gary C. Martin
President & CEO
NAEGA

Gary Anderson
Chairman
NAEGA Board of Directors