

## **National Association of Wheat Growers: Weekly Update**

### **Ag Sector Sends Letter to Senate Urging a Speedy Confirmation of Doud; Next Steps with Trade**

On June 30, 2017, the U.S. Food and Agriculture Dialogue for Trade, which represents the diverse food and agricultural sector, sent a letter to the U.S. Senate urging them to promptly confirm Gregg Doud as Chief Agricultural Negotiator, with the rank of Ambassador, in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR). The National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) is currently part of the U.S. Food and Agriculture for Trade.

In other trade news, on June 29, 2017, the USTR announced a request for public input for a performance review of all the United States' existing international trade and investment agreements. In an April 29, 2017 executive order, President Trump directed USTR and the Department of Commerce to submit within 180 days a report that reviews trade agreement performance, identifies trade abuses, and pursues trade remedies. Additionally, on June 29th, President Donald Trump announced a possible renegotiation of the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement. This announcement took place just a few days after several groups, including NAWG and USW, testified to the USTR on modernizing the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with Canada and Mexico.

Lastly, a group of U.S. Senators recently sent a letter to the USTR highlighting the importance of agriculture in the NAFTA renegotiation. The letter can be found here: [http://www.wheatworld.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Senate-Thune-Roberts-Nafta-Letter\\_6.29.17.pdf](http://www.wheatworld.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Senate-Thune-Roberts-Nafta-Letter_6.29.17.pdf)

### **Future Hearings in the House and Senate Ag Committees**

The Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry announced that it will hold a hearing next week on Thursday, July 13 at 10:00am. The hearing will be focused on "Opportunities in Global and Local Markets, Specialty Crops, and Organics: Perspectives for the 2018 Farm Bill. No witnesses have been listed at this time.

Also on July 13th at 10:00am, the House Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, will hold a hearing titled "The Future of Farming: Technological Innovations, Opportunities, and Challenges for Producers."

### **Extreme Heat Broils the Dakotas and Montana; Flash Drought Takes Toll on Wheat Crop**

A massive and intense heat dome has spread over the northern Plains and mountain West, sucking moisture out of the soil, and may persist for weeks. The scorching heat and absence of rain have spurred a rapidly intensifying drought that is decimating the region's wheat crop.

Temperatures in Montana, Wyoming and the Dakotas surged into the 90s and 100s on Wednesday, about 15 to 20 degrees above normal. Forecast models predict the same general weather pattern that supported this heat to persist up to two more weeks.

**Call to Action:** Growers in these states and throughout the country should reach out to their Members of Congress and stress the importance of crop insurance. Crop Insurance is an essential safety net for farmers to help them recover from such unpredictable weather disasters as drought.

### **Proposed Farm Subsidy Cap Map**

Kansas State has put together a map showing the number of insured acres on average that are needed to reach \$40,000 proposed cap on subsidies per farm. The maps which can be found here: <http://www.agmanager.info/crop-insurance/crop-insurance-papers/acres-reach-40k-cap-county-and-year> allows you to see the impact for specific counties across the country.

### **Securing Our Agriculture and Food Act Signed into Law**

On Friday, June 30, 2017, a bill to address the threat of agro-terrorism was signed into law. The bipartisan legislation was introduced by Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO), Ranking Member of the Senate Homeland Security Committee. This new law will require the Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS), through the Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs, to lead a program to ensure the safety of the nation's food, agriculture, and veterinary systems against terrorism and high-risk events. Senator Roberts stated, "As the backbone of the U.S. economy, the spread of any deadly pathogen among our livestock and plant population would cause irreparable damage.... I am pleased we have taken this important step to better ensure the safety and security of our nation's food supply."

### **NAWG Submits Comments to Registration Review Draft Risk Assessments of Pyrethroid Insecticides**

On June 15, 2017, NAWG submitted comments to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s solicitation of public comment on the registration review draft risk assessments for a number of pesticide chemicals, including several pyrethroid insecticides listed in Table 1 of Unit II. and the herbicide linuron listed in Table 2 of Unit II. In its comments, NAWG argued "beyond, the critical role pyrethroids play in pest management, they don't cause adverse ecological effects when used under real-world conditions according to federally approved labels. The nature of pyrethroid chemistry makes these insecticides less of a hazard as compared to other pesticides." Further, NAWG expressed concern that "the EPA screening-level preliminary ecological risk assessment for pyrethroid insecticides is overly conservative and does not consider the best available science. NAWG encourages the EPA to review the multiple high-quality studies and peer reviewed scientific publications provided by the Pyrethroid Working Group."

### **Agri-Pulse: Meet the Farm Hands: Chandler Goule, National Association of Wheat Growers**

On one of his first days in Washington, Chandler Goule hung up on the President of the United States. Twice. Now, he's in charge of an organization tasked with advocating for America's wheat producers. Hear his thoughts on his journey through Washington in this video: <https://www.agri-pulse.com/media/videos/play/416-meet-the-farm-hands-chandler-goule-national-association-of-wheat-growers>

### **Letter from President David Schemm, National Association of Wheat Growers**

It has been a busy month on the Schemm farm! I am trying to finish up harvest for a crop that has had more ups and downs than a bucking bull! The wheat in my area has been challenged by dryness in the winter, late blizzards in the Spring, and now thunderstorms every other night bringing golf-ball sized hail. We were only two days into harvest when one of my fields was wiped out by a 1:00am thunderstorm. Many of you can relate and are currently facing similar challenges. I am thinking and praying for those specifically in the North who are dealing with drought and may not even be able to get your combines out. While those of you in the East and South are getting so much rain that you can't even plant or harvest your crops. American farmers are resilient though, especially the American wheat farmer.

I realized this even more when Chandler, Caitlin and I visited our friends in the PNW. From Washington to Oregon to Idaho, we saw first-hand how wheat can be grown in so many geographically-diverse areas. We did a lot in three days and met so many farmers and board members in Spokane, Pendleton, and Burley! What a great time I had visiting with so many people! One overall theme that I learned from our trip is that ALL OF YOU are experts at what you do and each have a unique story to tell. Never be afraid to speak up at NAWG meetings or to your members of Congress about your operation and challenges that you face. While Chandler and I agree that we have the responsibility to learn about the obstacles and hurdles you face, only you can share them first hand. Never be afraid to reach out to other board members or officers and explain your perspective. I have seen the strength of NAWG grow exponentially over the years because of people's willingness to engage, share, discuss and find solutions.

This has been made even more evident in my late June trip to Raleigh for Field to Market. NAWG had nominated one of our own directors, Justin Knopf, for the Farmer spotlight award. While I always approach the discussion of 'sustainability' cautiously, it is critical to 'engage' with consumers and thus necessary to be active at Field to Market. This approach has been a very positive as highlighted by Justin's award. It shows an example of a farmer not 'modifying' the way he farms to accommodate some large grocery chain claim, but instead shows a farmer who is already engaging in practices and methods that are 'sustainable'!

All of the officers have been committed to being engaged on your behalf. Vice President Jimmie Musick has been helping me in providing a national voice for NAWG by doing things like participating in the National Association of Farm Broadcaster's Washington Watch media event; Past President Gordon Stoner lends our voice on the CME Group's Ag Markets Advisory Council and on BNSF's Ag Rail Business Council; Treasurer Ben Scholz participates as part of the Monarch Collaborative to discuss habitat issues; Secretary David Milligan represents us on the Ag Data Transparency Evaluator advisory board and on the Commodity Classic Grower Advisory Council; these are just highlights. By being a part of NAWG, your voice resonates not only the Hill and the Administration, but before many, many different key players in the agriculture industry.

One other thing I would like to note is that Josh and Craig have been working hard to prepare for NAWG's upcoming Policy Fly-In, September 25-27th! This will be an important opportunity for Members of Congress to hear directly from farmers right while they are in the midst of writing the next Farm Bill. I am very excited about this and think it will be a wonderful opportunity for NAWG's voice to continue to resonate on Capitol Hill. Thank you so much to those of you who are willing and able to take the time to participate!

Further, on Tuesday, June 27th, NAWG CEO Chandler Goule and U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) Director of Policy Ben Conner testified to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) on modernizing the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with Canada and Mexico. Read the NAWG/USW joint release here <http://www.wheatworld.org/u-s-wheat-organizations-share-positions-on-nafta-with-ustr/>

One final note about what is happening in Washington, D.C. House and Senate Ag Committees have continued to hold Farm Bill hearings. On June 30th, the Senate Ag held a Full Committee hearing on "Conservation and Forestry: Perspectives on the Past and Future Direction for the 2018 Farm Bill". On behalf of NAWG, I submitted written testimony for the record. Our release on the hearing is here: <http://www.wheatworld.org/nawg-commends-senate-agriculture-committee-for-holding-a-hearing-to-examine-the-farm-bill-conservation-programs/>

Well, I need to wrap this up and still have a few fields to finish harvesting. Please continue to reach out to NAWG and the officers with concerns you have! Thankfully we are NOT from the government, so we CAN find ways to help you!

I hope that everyone had a happy Fourth of July!

### **NCSGGA Upcoming Events**

July 12th / 8:30am - 3:00pm  
Research & Education Mtg.  
NCSGGA Office  
3822 Bland Road  
Raleigh, NC

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July 27th  
Northeast Ag Expo Field Day  
R&R Farms  
106 Riddick Grove Rd.  
Belvidere, NC 27919

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August 1<sup>st</sup> / 10:00am – 12:00pm  
Touch a Tractor Event  
4020 Market At North Hills St.  
Raleigh, NC 27609

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August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017  
Blacklands Farm Managers Tour  
Green Valley Farms  
7014 NC-94  
Columbia, NC 27925

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August 10th - 11th  
NCSGGA Board Meeting  
Sheraton Imperial Hotel  
Durham, NC

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September 9<sup>th</sup> / 2:30pm – 5:00pm  
CALs Tailgate  
PNC Arena

Raleigh, NC

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September 15<sup>th</sup> / 5:00pm – 8:00pm

Family Fun Night

Mt. Vernon School

Raleigh, NC

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*Note\*\*\*If you know of someone that does not have access to a computer/internet and would like to receive printed hard copies of the Wheat Beat please have them call Nikki Johnson at 919-809-8657 to setup a mailing delivery address. \*\*\*\**