

NWF Announces National Winners for the 2017 National Wheat Yield Contest

The National Wheat Foundation's National Wheat Yield Contest offers growers the opportunity to compete with farmers from across the United States and improve wheat productivity on their farms through new innovative techniques. On Monday, NWF announced the national winners for the 2017 National Wheat Yield Contest.

The contest recognizes the overall high yield winner in two primary competition categories: winter wheat and spring wheat, and two subcategories: dryland and irrigated.

"NWF would like to thank each grower for enrolling in the NWYC, and thank our sponsors for helping to make the Contest available to wheat growers in the US. We received a record-breaking 287 total entries this year and hope that this number will continue to grow," continued McLain. "This communication among growers will help improve the overall quality and marketability of US wheat."

This year's National winners per category:

Spring Wheat Winners:

Dryland: Paul Solem (MN) of Solem Farms, Jon Iverson (ND), Robert Holzwarth (SD) of Amberwaves Farm and Ranch, Doug Stout (ID) of DT Stout J.V., and John Yerger (MT) of Watson Brothers/Yerger Farms.

Irrigated: Dan Mills (OR) of Mills Mint Farm, Terry Wilcox (ID) of Keith Wilcox and Sons, and James Getzinger (WA) of Getzinger Farms, LLC.

Winter Wheat Winners:

Dryland: Brandon Friesen (KS) of Al's Broken Bar Farms, Everett Tallman (CO) of Tallman Farms, Matt Schupbach (OK) of K & S Farms, Mark Knobel (NE) of Knobel Seeds, and Brian Cochrane (WA) of Cochrane Wheat Ranch.

Irrigated: Ty Anderson (WY) of Anderson Ag/Prairie Farms/Time Anderson Farms, Marc Arnusch (CO) of Marc Arnusch Farms, LLC, Nathan Franklin (KS) of N & A Farms, Travis Freeburg (WY) of R&K Farms, and Nathan Rea (OR) of HT Rea Farming.

High Yield Winner:

Phillip Gross (WA) of Warden Hutterian Brethren

The contest recognizes the overall high yield winner for each state (those submitted) in two primary competition categories: winter wheat and spring wheat, and two subcategories: dryland and irrigated.

2017 North Carolina Statewide Winners:

Winter Wheat – Dryland

Alan Baucom, 1st Place North Carolina; 96.20 Bu/A with Pioneer 26R41

Robbie Umphlett, 2nd Place North Carolina; 107.83 Bu/A with USG 3404
Wesley Moore, 3rd Place North Carolina; 95.32 Bu/A with USG 3523

The sponsors for the 2017 National Yield Contest are BASF, Croplan/Winfield, Indigo Ag, John Deere, McGregor, Monsanto, and Syngenta.

The national winners will be recognized at the 2018 Commodity Classic in Anaheim, California, February 27–March 1. Official rules and entry details for the 2018 Contest will be available by January 1st, 2018 at www.yieldcontest.wheatfoundation.org.

Onslow County Agriculture Education Days

The NC Small Grain Growers Association participated this week in Onslow County's Agriculture Education Days held November 7th – 8th at Richlands Farms. The 2-day event invites Onslow County 2nd graders to attend a day of hands on agriculture learning, rotating from 7 different stations. The stations included Wheat, Soybeans, Cotton, Livestock, Soil & Water, Beekeepers, and Nutrition. Approximately 750 students from 7 different schools were able to attend. Thank you to the Onslow County Cooperative Extension Team for planning and organizing this great educational event and making agriculture education a top priority! To see pictures from the event please visit our photo gallery on our website at: <http://ncwheat.com/media-gallery/>

Also, to see local news coverage on this event please visit the below websites:

WCTI News Channel 12

<http://www.wcti12.com/news/local-news/onslow/students-learn-where-their-food-really-comes-from-during-onslow-agricultural-day/652961023>

The Daily News – Jacksonville, NC

<http://www.jdnews.com/news/20171108/ag-day-teaches-students-how-agriculture-shapes-their-lives>

Tri-County Farm City Banquet

The North Carolina Cooperative Extension Centers of Camden, Currituck, and Pasquotank counties hosted a farm city banquet on Thursday, November 9th, to celebrate the vital partnerships between rural and urban communities. The NCSGGA was happy to participate as an exhibitor at this celebration of agriculture event!

Agriculture is North Carolina's number 1 industry, with agriculture and agribusiness contributing 84 billion dollars to the state's economy annually. Agriculture is a vital part of the local economy as well, with the latest data from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services reporting cash receipts totaling \$118,150,651 for Camden, Currituck, and Pasquotank counties in 2015.

The Farm City Banquet is held annually in November and is free and open to the public. This year's event was held at the Kermit E. White Continuing Education Center on the campus of Elizabeth City State University. Exhibits opened at 5:30pm and the banquet began at 6:15pm. Festivities included a catered meal, a presentation from Avangrid, and live entertainment. Approximately 175 people were able to attend.

National Association of Wheat Growers: Weekly Update

Farmers Seek Changes in House GOP tax bill

Reported in AgriPulse, the American Farm Bureau Federation sent a letter to the House Ways and Means Committee on Tuesday regarding the tax reform plan that could increase self-employment taxes for many farms. Although the bill may reduce income taxes paid by farmers and ranchers, there is concern that increases in self-employment taxes could cancel out these benefits or increase the total tax liability for some. The potential concern for farmers is that while farms typically don't have enough net income to benefit from the lower top tax rate, they could be hit by having to pay 15.3 percent self-employment tax income that has previously been exempt. Read here NAWG's letter to the House Ways and Means Committee outlining some concerns NAWG has regarding to the bill.

USDA is Developing a NAFTA Contingency Plan

On Wednesday, November 08, 2017, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue that discussions are underway on a contingency plan to protect U.S. agriculture producers from potential losses if President Trump decides to withdraw from the North American Free Trade Agreement, Washington Trade Daily reported. Perdue told reporters he believes the administration will successfully renegotiate NAFTA, but just in case, "we're talking with the administration and Congress about some mitigation efforts if that were to occur; about how we could protect our producers with that safety net based on prices that may respond negatively to any kind of NAFTA withdrawal," he said. The fifth round of negotiations is slated to begin November 15 in Mexico City.

FDA Issues Pesticide Residue Report Card

As reported in The Packer, the latest FDA pesticide residue report found that less than 2% of food samples tested were in violation of federal tolerances. The new FY2015 report found no pesticide chemical residues in about 52% of domestic food and about 57% of the imported food. The 47-page report, available online, examined pesticide residues in domestic and imported food tested between Oct. 1, 2014 and Sept. 30, 2015.

USDA Measures Final 2017 Row Crop Production and Grain Stocks Via Two Surveys

USDA's NASS is encouraging producers to accurately respond to two end of the year surveys – the December Agricultural Survey and the County Agricultural Production Survey – that will help determine the structure of the 2017 farm payment and risk management programs administered by FSA and RMA. The county survey will begin November 3rd and are due by January 15, 2017 while the December surveys will begin November 29th and are due by December 21, 2017.

NAWG Pleased with USDA's Withdrawal of Proposed Part 340 Biotech Rules

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced Monday its intention to withdraw its proposed revisions to regulations (7 CFR part 340) governing agricultural biotechnology.

The National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) CEO Chandler Goule issued the following statement in response:

"We applaud USDA for its efforts to update its regulatory system and support its move to withdraw the proposed rule to revise the Agency's biotechnology regulations.

"The USDA's regulatory requirements must be clear, transparent, and open to stakeholder engagement. Today's actions by the Agency are a step in the right direction and we are pleased to see the Agency working to improve its communication with the public.

It is encouraging to see that the Agency is listening to ag industry stakeholders to provide an efficient and transparent review process that doesn't restrict innovation. NAWG will be sure to continue the dialogue with the USDA to represent the innovation researchers expect to bring to wheat and the US wheat grower.

"NAWG looks forward to working with USDA regulators to create policies that will foster innovation and encourage the adoption of modern technologies that will enable wheat farmers to address climate, disease, and pest problems."

NCSGGA Upcoming Events

December 7th – 8th, 2017
NCSGGA Board Meeting
Sheraton Imperial Hotel
4700 Emperor Blvd.
Durham, NC 27703

January 10th, 2018 / 2:00pm
NCSGGA Board Meeting
Sheraton Imperial Hotel
4700 Emperor Blvd.
Durham, NC 27703

January 11th - 12th, 2018
Annual Commodity Conference
Sheraton Imperial Hotel
4700 Emperor Blvd.
Durham, NC 27703

Jan. 31st - Feb. 2nd, 2018
Southern Farm Show
State Fair Grounds
Raleigh, NC

February 6th - 11th, 2018
NAWG Winter Meeting
Grand Hyatt Washington
400 New Jersey Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

February 21st, 2018
Northeast Ag Expo
Small Grain Field Day
(Time & Location TBD)

February 27th, 2018
Union County
Small Grains Field Day
(Time & Location TBD)

Feb. 27th - March 3rd, 2018
Commodity Classic
Anaheim, California

March 6th, 2018 (Time TBD)
Central Piedmont
Small Grains Field Day
Piedmont Research Station
8350 Sherrills Ford Rd.
Salisbury, NC 28147

The North Carolina Small Grain Growers Association, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation formed to encourage, promote and develop more efficient and effective small grain marketing and production practices and to participate in all matters relative to the interests of small grain producers. For more information please contact Dan Weathington, Executive Director of NCSGGA at danweathington@gmail.com / 910-736-8258 or Nikki Johnson for Outreach Events and Communications at nfjohnson0902@gmail.com / 919-809-8657.