

Agricultural Exemptions to the Electronic Logging Device Rule

The electronic logging device (ELD) rule – congressionally mandated as a part of MAP-21 – is intended to help create a safer work environment for drivers, and make it easier and faster to accurately track, manage, and share records of duty status (RODS) data. An ELD synchronizes with a vehicle engine to automatically record driving time, for easier, more accurate hours of service (HOS) recording. The new Electronic Logging Device Law goes into effect December 16, 2017.

Please find below a list of **Hours of Service and Agricultural Exemptions**. Feel free to make copies for your vehicles and share with others who may benefit from this, for a printable copy click here: <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/sites/fmcsa.dot.gov/files/docs/regulations/hours-service/elds/81586/usdot-eldhosexemptions.pdf>

- 49 CFR 395.1(k) provides exceptions from the HOS rules, during planting and harvesting periods as determined by the State, for the transportation of agricultural commodities (including livestock, bees and other commodities) within a 150-air mile radius from the source of the commodities. The same provision applies to the delivery of supplies and equipment for agricultural use from a wholesale or retail distribution point.
- The HOS regulations do not apply to the transportation of agricultural commodities operating completely within the 150-air mile radius. Therefore, work and driving hours are not limited and the driver is also not required to use an Electronic Logging Device (ELD). In an operation where drivers share vehicle(s) equipped with ELDs, a driver that is always exempt can use an “Exempt Driver” account.
- Once a driver operates beyond the 150-air mile radius, the HOS regulations apply. Therefore, starting at the time and location where the transporter goes past the 150-air mile radius, the driver must maintain logs using an ELD, unless the driver or the vehicle meets one of the limited ELD exemptions. The driver must work and drive within the limitations of the HOS rules when operating beyond the 150-air mile radius. Time spent working within the 150 air-mile radius does not count toward the driver’s daily and weekly limits.
- When operating within the 150 air-mile radius the driver should not log into the ELD. Upon exiting that radius, the driver should then log into the ELD, and annotate that any unassigned miles accumulated prior to that point were exempt miles.
- A driver transporting agricultural commodities is not required to use an ELD if they do not operate outside of the 150 air-mile radius for more than 8 days during any 30-day period or if the vehicle was manufactured before the model year 2000, provided they prepare paper logs on the days when they are not exempt from the HOS rules.

- Covered farm vehicles, as defined in 49 CFR 390.5, are exempted from the HOS regulations per 49 CFR 395.1(s). Carriers operating under this exemption are also not required to have an ELD. This includes private transportation of agricultural commodities, including livestock.

For more information on the Electronic Logging Device Rule please visit: <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/hours-service/elds/electronic-logging-devices>

The 29th Annual North Carolina Commodity Conference

You are invited to attend the 29th Annual NC Commodities Conference of NC Small Grains, Soybeans, Corn & Cotton Producers Associations on January 10-12, 2018 at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel & Convention Center. The Conference is an informative and educational conference dedicated to discussing challenges of farming in the 21st Century. Come along and find out the latest in trends and technologies, and hear from some of the leading figures in the industry today.

There is no cost for attending the conference, but pre-registration is required.

The number of rooms blocked for the Commodity Conference is limited, so make your reservations today at The Sheraton Imperial Hotel Reservation Office (919) 941-5050 or 1-800-325-3535! Reservations must be received no later than December 17th, 2017. Please mention that you are with the NC Commodities Conference so you will receive the preferred group rate \$129.00. All reservations are based on availability.

Please note, all NC Small Grain Growers *Directors* do not have to make hotel reservations or register for the conference, we will be taking care of that for you.

For more information visit: <http://www.nccommoditiesconference.com/index.php>

Kernels Fall 2017 Edition

The latest edition of Kernels, the Wheat Foods Council's e-magazine, is now available; click [here](#) to view.

In this issue of Kernels:

- Let's Get Crusty
- Member Profile: Montana Wheat & Barley Committee
- FNCE 2017
- Introducing Food Quest
- Fabulous Fall Recipes

Enjoy! And don't forget to check out The Wheat Foods Council's website for many available informational and educational resources: <http://wheatfoods.org/resources>

U.S. Wheat Farmers Share their Stories with Consumers on Eatwheat.org

By: Kansas Wheat

In an effort to increase consumer trust in the wheat industry, wheat farmers have created a consumer-minded marketing campaign to increase awareness of farming and production practices and practical benefits of wheat.

This campaign will allow the wheat industry to speak with one voice in an effort to reclaim the national conversation on wheat and share one primary message amongst numerous influencers while we dismantle the false promises of wheatless diets.

EatWheat.org launched in November, just in time for the holiday season. This website is a place where consumers can find answers to their questions about wheat production practices, share values with wheat farmers and engage. This digital campaign features quick-and-easy recipes geared toward moms on the go, while sprinkling in tidbits of the story of American farmers. Wheat farmers are reaching out to consumer audiences through the website, Facebook, Instagram and Pinterest. Eatwheat.org wants to share the farmers' side of the story.

When urban consumers look down at their plate, many don't know how that food came from the farm to their table. While it may not be a topic of constant thought, many have begun to wonder about the farmers who produce the food they consume and the processes used to create such a bounty.

Kansas wheat farmers are the driving force behind the EatWheat.org campaign, which aims to create awareness of farm and production practices through the lens of food as identity. And the food that we think can connect best is, of course, wheat. It's simple. It's versatile. It's natural. And it doesn't matter if it's homemade for hours, or picked up at the grocery store ready-to-go — it's a simple and natural way to connect to others and yourself.

In addition to stories of wheat farmers, the site also features quick and easy recipes using ready-to-eat wheat foods, such as tortillas, bread and buns, and short-cuts including refrigerated dough and pasta. The Learn section tackles subjects like what is gluten, what are the different types of flour and what are some of the tools farmers use. Consumers can also "Get Inspired" with family activities like salt dough handprint ornaments, gingerbread houses and wheat décor.

To see the website just visit <https://eatwheat.org/>

National Association of Wheat Growers: Weekly Update

General Mills Deepens Investment in Soil Health with \$735,000 Contribution to National Wheat Foundation

General Mills continues to invest in soil health practices on U.S. agricultural farmland with its latest contribution of \$735,000 to the National Wheat Foundation who together with the Soil Health Partnership, will advance widespread adoption and implementation. The funds, equally distributed over the next three years, will be used to conduct soil health research on wheat farms and education outreach to more than 125,000 wheat farmers across the Northern and Southern Plains. As part of this agreement, General Mills has partnered with the SHP and the National Wheat Foundation to provide on-farm mentorship for the farm operators. SHP farmers, the farmers' agronomists, and SHP Field Managers will train new and existing farm staff in advanced nutrient management and tillage methods.

Update Tax Reform 2017

On Wednesday, November 29, 2017, the Senate voted to move to debate on the tax reform measure. As this process is happening under budget reconciliation rules, there is an open amendment process that will lead to a vote-a-rama this evening/night, similar to what has taken place on budget resolutions in the past. NAWG is closely engaged on this and will keep its grower posted with updates. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) needs 50 of his 52 GOP senators to support the legislation, if every Democrat opposes it.

NAWG has been active around tax reform and has recently sent a letter Senate leadership outlining some of its concerns and positives of the tax reform legislation. Read the letter here: <https://www.wheatworld.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/NAWG-Senate-Tax-Letter-11.28.17-Final.pdf>

USDA News Release: RMA Announces Changes to its Crop Insurance Policy

On November 28, 2017, The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Risk Management Agency (RMA) announced changes to its crop insurance policies. Major changes for 2018 focus on conservation compliance certification and choice of unit structure based on the risk management needs of producers. Read the announcement here: <https://www.rma.usda.gov/news/2017/11/increasedflexibility.pdf>

Jerry Minore Memorial Scholarship Opportunity for Students in Agriculture

Jerry Minore was a longtime friend of the wheat industry and advocate for wheat farmers. To honor his work and life, his company, BASF, has partnered with the National Wheat Foundation to establish a scholarship for students with connections to the wheat industry who are planning careers in agriculture. The Minore Memorial Scholarship will fund four college scholarships for the 2018-2019 academic year: two \$1,500 scholarships and two \$1,000 scholarships. Deadline for applications is December 31, 2017. For more information on how to apply, visit the National Wheat Foundation [site](#).

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.