

NC Small Grain Growers Association Board Meeting Recap

The NCSGGA held its annual December Board of Directors meeting last week December 7th - 8th at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel in Durham. Directors from all across the state joined together to discuss crop reports, marketing strategies, research, education, outreach, and legislative issues. The board also heard from various guest speakers, conducted business in committee meetings, and held the Drawing for the Wheat Yield Contest Winners to determine which Farmer and County agent would win a free trip to the 2018 Commodity Classic in Anaheim, California. The winners of the drawing were:

Farmer Winner: Circle S. Ranch, Union County

Agent Winner: Andrew Baucom, Union County

Thank you to everyone that could attend the meeting and we look forward to seeing you again soon on January 10th!

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>

Notice of NCSGGA Annual Meeting

The NC Small Grain Growers Association will be holding its Annual Meeting during the Commodities Conference at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel on Thursday, January 11th, 2018. The meeting will begin at 2:00pm and is open to the public. Items that will be discussed include: 2017 Financials, The Presidents Year in Review, 2017 Board of Directors, and the Nominating Report. We are currently looking for Director Replacements in:

District 1: Currituck, Camden, Pasquotank Counties

District 10: Greene, Lenoir, Wayne Counties

District 15: Warren, Vance, Franklin, Wake, Granville, Durham, Orange, Chatham, Harnett Counties

If you know of someone that may be interested in serving as a Director for our Association in the above districts please let us know. Email that information to Nikki Johnson at nfjohnson0902@gmail.com or call Dan Weathington, Executive Director of NCSGGA at 910-736-8258.

The Future of Wheat

During our recent Board Meeting, Directors were asked the question: “Is there a more profitable way or ways to market our wheat?” and the answer requires YOUR help. With declining wheat acres, declining prices, and the declining number of farmers we must do something outside the box to revive our North Carolina wheat industry to stay in business and make a profit on our wheat. We are asking for **your** input on how to do this. As you take a break for the Holidays reflect on this question, “Is there a more profitable way or ways to market our wheat?” Examples would include: Growing quality wheat for milling purposes and or a strong export market, not just growing wheat for animal feed.

We know the answer is out there somewhere and we encourage you to share your thoughts and ideas with us, please email your input to nfjohnson0902@gmail.com or feel free to call Dan Weathington, Executive Director of NCSGGA at 910-736-8258.

National Association of Wheat Growers: Weekly Update

Tax Reform Package Anticipated Next Week

The Tax Conference Committee met this Wednesday for a public hearing. While details were not provided about the negotiations having potentially been finalized, media reports have been providing details that are likely to be included in the final package. House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Brady (R-TX) stated that a conference report would be finalized by Friday. This would set up the Senate and House to hold votes on a final deal early next week sending the package to be President Trump’s desk to be signed. NAWG staff continue to be engaged with leaders on the tax reform package urging for fixes to concerns that have been outlined in the letter sent to all conferees.

House Ag Launches New Farm Bill Landing Page and Video

The House Committee on Agriculture has launched a new landing page as well as a “This is the Farm Bill” video. The landing page is designed to provide updates and new information regarding the 2018 Farm Bill. The video, narrated by Representatives Rick Crawford (AR-1), Rodney Davis (IL-13), K. Michael Conaway (TX-11), Frank Lucas (OK-4), Glenn 'GT' Thompson

(PA-5), David Rouzer (NC-7), and Austin Scott (GA-8) emphasizes how farmers and ranchers are feeding more people with fewer resources than ever before while making an effort to keep agriculture sustainable. In the video they explain how “Our nation’s food security depends on strong agricultural policy.”

Commodity Organizations Support Science-Based Trade Regulations at WTO Ministerial

On December 14, 2017, the U.S. Wheat Associates and the U.S. Grains Council issued a release praising Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer for defending U.S. agriculture against attempts to weaken rules on domestic support at the World Trade Organization ministerial meeting in Buenos Aires. The statements were released as the ministerial meeting ends without appearing to reach any substantive achievements.

House Foreign Affairs Committee Hearing re “The Future of NAFTA”

On December 12, 2017, the House Foreign Affairs Committee held a Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade Subcommittee hearing on “The Future of NAFTA.” Witnesses included Eric Farnsworth, VP of Council of the Americas, Daniel Allford, President of ARC Specialties, The Honorable John D. Negroponte, Vice Chairman of McLarty Associates and Former Deputy of Secretary of State and Former Director of National Intelligence, and Celeste Drake, Trade and Globalization Policy Specialist of The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations. All of the panelists who testified argued that withdrawing from NAFTA would be harmful to the economy. Farnsworth specifically argues that withdrawing from NAFTA would be mean “ag exports would immediately suffer.”

AEI Paper Recommends More Spending on Ag Research

On Monday, December 11, 2017 at AEI, Philip Pardey, a professor and the director of the International Science and Technology Practice and Policy Center at University of Minnesota, and Vincent Smith, a professor of economics in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics at Montana State University and a visiting scholar at AEI, presented their report which looks at research and development (R&D) funding in a broader farm bill context. The report states that Congress should increase funding for public investments in ag research and development and cut back on “wasteful farm bill spending.”

American Enterprise Institute — Research and development funding in the 2018 US Farm Bill
Waste Not, Want Not: Transactional Politics, Research and Development Funding, and the US Farm Bill

Please note that AEI has also previously put out other reports arguing for drastic and very harmful changes to crop insurance that would undermine farmers.

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

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 - 10th, 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)

March 13th, 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.