

Seeking YOUR Input

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.

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.

National Association of Wheat Growers: Weekly Update

House Passes Short-Term Spending Bill

On December 21, 2017, the House passed an interim continuing resolution (HR 1370) extending agency appropriations at current levels through Jan. 19, sending it to the Senate for final passage as early as Thursday evening. The vote was 231-188. The latest CR (PL 115-90) is expected to expire midnight Friday.

Note that the CR also would waive "paygo" rules that would trigger steep mandatory spending cuts in January due to the tax overhaul measure (HR 1), which will add nearly \$1.5 trillion to 10-year deficits under conventional Congressional Budget Office scoring.

Congress Approves and President Signs Final Tax Reform Bill

NAWG has been actively engaged in the tax reform process. On December 19th, the Senate passed the conference agreement on a 51-48 vote. On December 20, 2017, the House passed the package on a 224-201 vote and the conference agreement has now been sent to the White House for the President's signature. NAWG has prepared a comparison table to show our best understanding of the tax reform bill and how it compares to current law. The IRS will soon be developing guidance about how provisions will be implemented.

NAWG News Release: EPA Delivers Blow to California's Prop 65 Rule on Glyphosate

In a new draft human health risk assessment, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concluded that "glyphosate is not likely to be carcinogenic to humans," a finding that bolsters the case of an agriculture coalition suing the State of California for falsely asserting the opposite. Read NAWG's release on the announcement here: <https://www.wheatworld.org/epa-delivers-blow-to-californias-prop-65-rule-on-glyphosate/>

ERS Releases Family Farm Report

The Agriculture Department's Economic Research Service has released its 2017 annual edition of "America's Diverse Family Farms." The report uses a farm classification, or typology, developed by USDA's Economic Research Service that categorizes farms into more homogeneous groupings to better understand conditions within the Nation's diverse farm sector. Download the report here: https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/publications/86198/eib-185_print_only.pdf

Biofuels Groups Reject Cruz Proposal on RINS reject

Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, has proposed a fixed price for the renewable identification numbers (RINs) that are part of the Renewable Fuel Standard but biofuels groups have rejected his proposal, DTN/The Progressive Farmer reported. Cruz has a hold on President Donald Trump's nomination of Bill Northey to be Agriculture undersecretary for farm production and conservation over his objections to the RFS.

Organic and Natural Outlook 2018: A Trend-Forward Exploration of the Category, Context and Consumers

Beginning January 2018, The Hartman Group will field a syndicated research study to update and expand our understanding of the organic and natural consumer and marketplace. The Organic & Natural 2018 syndicated research will explore the distinctions and similarities among organic consumers and natural consumers to assess how their beliefs and behaviors manifest in the marketplace. For more information and to download study overview and participation order form, visit here: <https://store-zr1tu3.mybigcommerce.com/content/organic-and-natural-2018-study-overview.pdf>

2017 Census of Agriculture Gets Underway

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) starts mailing the 2017 Census of Agriculture to the nation's producers this week. Conducted once every five years, the census aims to get a complete and accurate picture of American agriculture. The resulting data are used by farmers, ranchers, trade associations, researchers, policymakers, and many others to help make decisions in community planning, farm assistance programs, technology development, farm advocacy, agribusiness setup, rural development, and more. For more information, read the release here: https://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Newsroom/2017/11_28_2017.php

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 here: <https://wheatfoundation.org/education-and-scholarships/>

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. 26th - March 2nd, 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.