

Archie Griffin Selected as 2018 Nuffield International Scholar

The Nuffield International Farming Scholars program has announced the selection of its 2018 Nuffield Scholars, which includes two agriculturalists from Brazil and two from the United States of America. The four Nuffield Scholars will explore the global industry through up to 16 weeks of travel and experiential learning that spans a two-year period.

The vision of Nuffield International is to develop people to make a difference in the world of agriculture. It is a body which encompasses all Nuffield Farming Scholarship organizations around the world, including Australia, Canada, France, Ireland, Netherlands, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Zimbabwe and associate countries Brazil and United States of America.

One of the Scholars chosen from the United States is Archie Griffin, which many of you may know. Archie is the son of Steve Griffin, current Board Member and former President of NC Small Grain Growers Association. Archie is the assistant manager for Griffin AG LLC, a farming operation in Washington, North Carolina that grows corn, tobacco, wheat and soybeans for storage and marketing along with other value-added crops. In addition to this work on the family operation, Archie's background includes experience in the small grain breeding department at North Carolina State University, field-based research work with the USDA Agricultural Research Services (ARS), and management of his own sweet corn production and distribution operation. Archie holds a Bachelor of Science in Plant and Soil Science from North Carolina State University and a Master of Business Administration from East Carolina University.

As a Nuffield Scholar, Archie is interested in studying farming and technology, looking at the transformational ways crops are sustainably planted, cultivated and brought to market through innovation and advanced technologies.

Archie is active in the agriculture community in North Carolina, and a graduate of the North Carolina Agricultural Leadership Development Program, operated by North Carolina Cooperative Extension.

TIAA-CREF Global Agriculture and TIAA-CREF Global Agriculture II are supporting this Nuffield International scholarship with the 3 previous International Scholarships they have supported having been awarded to scholars from Brazil.

Congratulations Archie and we wish you Good Luck on your future endeavors!

The 29th Annual North Carolina Commodity Conference

The 29th Annual NC Commodities Conference of NC Small Grains, Soybeans, Corn & Cotton Producers Associations was held 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. This year's program included excellent Speakers, Commodity Production Seminars, Yield & Efficiency Awards, an Agricultural Expo, the Annual Awards Banquet, and an evening of entertainment from the Embers.

Association Business Meetings and Annual Meetings were also held during the Commodities Conference. The NC Small Grain Growers elected new Officers and Directors at this time as well as reviewed the Association's Annual Report to the membership. Below is the nominating report from the meeting:

2018 Officers

Timmy Thomas – President
Jack Alphin – 1st Vice President
Buster Manning - 2nd Vice President
Drew Medlin – Secretary
David Davenport – Treasurer
Dawson Pugh – Past President

2018 New Directors

Lucas Richard – District 19 Director
Billy Mercer – District 1
Susan Ford – District 15
Seth Manning – District 12
John McClenny – District 10
Josh Latham – Agri-Business Director

2018 Re-elected Directors

Jack Alphin – District 7
Thomas Roach – District 2
Berry Lewis – Agri-Business Director
Marian Keech – Agri-Business Director

To see pictures from the event please visit our photo gallery on our website at:
<http://ncwheat.com/media-gallery/>

National Association of Wheat Growers: Weekly Update

Wheat Growers Across the Nation Harmed by D.C. Politics and Government Shutdown

In light of Congress not advancing legislation to fund government operations, NAWG President and Outlook, MT farmer Gordon Stoner made the following statement:

“Funding the government is a basic charge of Congress, and failing to do so impacts farmers across the country.

“Shutting down the government means vital agencies like USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) local offices are closed or

functioning on a limited basis. Growers won't have access to data and reports needed for planting and harvesting, farm loans and credit, and other critical services needed to run their operations.

"A government shutdown also means that Congress has failed to act on an FY18 funding bill which holds several beneficial programs for wheat growers. Several important wheat research provisions in both the House and Senate ag appropriations bills would help farmers to grow more and better crops while using fewer inputs, thus advancing the industry and helping consumers.

"We call upon Congress to reopen the government immediately and thereby maintain operations of essential farm programs. Failing to keep the government open due to funding is fiscally irresponsible and bad for farmers and all of agriculture."

NAFTA Social Media Day – January 23

The business community will be holding a NAFTA Social Media Day next Tuesday, January 23rd to coincide with the Montreal round. All organizations are encouraged to participate by tweeting/posting about NAFTA using the hashtag, #NAFTAWorks. For more information, reach out to NAWG's Director of Communications Caitlin Eannello (ceannello@wheatworld.org).

The National Wheat Foundation Officially Launches the 2018 NWYC

The National Wheat Foundation's (NWF) annual National Wheat Yield Contest officially kicked off Jan. 17, 2018. In its third year, the contest continues to drive innovation in the industry by spotlighting the best practices among American wheat growers. This year, the contest is adding a quality requirement, raising the bar for what constitutes the greater grain among U.S. wheat growers. To learn more about the contest and how to enter, read the release here: <https://wheatfoundation.org/nwf-press-release-2018-national-wheat-yield-contest-launches-to-showcase-greater-grain/>

Ag Groups Form Coalition in Support of NAFTA

A broad-based group of more than 30 organizations representing growers, refiners, producers, transporters, retailers and consumers have announced the formation of Americans for Farmers & Families (AFF), a coalition that will work to ensure President Donald Trump and Congressional leaders understand the importance of preserving and modernizing the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to America's agricultural and retail economies. NAWG is an official member of the coalition and has been vocally supportive of the trade agreement and has urged the Administration to remain in NAFTA. Americans for Farmers and Families is highlighting the impact of NAFTA on the economy through several resources including a FAQ document, issue backgrounder, leave behind document, a Myth vs. Fact piece, and a sign up form to help grow the coalition.

Resources can be accessed here: <https://americansforfarmersandfamilies.com/resources/> AFF can be found on Facebook and Twitter.

NCSGGA Upcoming Events

January 31st – February 2nd, 2018

Southern Farm Show

NC State Fairgrounds Raleigh, NC

9:00am – 4:00pm Daily

February 6th – 10th, 2018

Wheat Industry Winter Conference (NAWG)

Grand Hyatt Washington

400 New Jersey Ave

NW Washington, D.C. 20001

February 21st, 2018

9:00am – 12:00 noon

Northeast Ag Expo

Small Grain Field Day

Cherry Hill Farms

631 NC HWY 343 S

Camden, NC 27921

Feb. 26th - March 2nd, 2018

Commodity Classic

Anaheim, California

March 6th, 2018

12:00 noon – 3:00pm

Central Piedmont

Small Grains Field Day

Piedmont Research Station

8350 Sherrills Ford Rd.

Salisbury, NC 28147

March 13th, 2018 / 8:00am

Union County Small Grains Field Day

Cox Brothers Farm

6409 Rape Rd,

Monroe, NC 28112

March 20th - 21st, 2018

Duplin Grows

Duplin County Events Center

195 Fairgrounds Dr,

Kenansville, NC 28349

April 10th, 2018 / 8:30am - 9:45am
Small Grains Presentation
Wilkes Community College
1328 South Collegiate Dr.
Wilkesboro, NC 28697

April 19th, 2018
AG Day
Southeastern Academy School
12251 NC Highway 41 N,
Lumberton, NC 28358

April 20th, 2018
AG Science Day
Bailey Elementary School
6288 Pine St,
Bailey, NC 27807

June 19th - 20th, 2018
NC State FFA Convention
Career Show
Raleigh Convention Center

July 12th, 2018 / 9:00am
NCSGGA Research & Education
Committee Meeting
NCSGGA Office
3822 Bland Road
Raleigh, NC 27609

August 1st, 2018
Blackland Farm Managers Tour

August 7th, 2018
North Hills Kids Series:
Touch a Tractor
4020 Market At North Hills St.
Raleigh, NC 27609

August 8th – 10th, 2018
NCSGGA Summer Board Mtg.
Hampton Inn
1956 13th Avenue Drive SE

Hickory, NC 28602

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.