

Come See Us at the Southern Farm Show!!

The NCSGGA will be exhibiting at the annual Southern Farm Show next week, January 31st – February 2nd at the North Carolina State Fair Grounds in Raleigh. Admission and Parking is free, gates open daily at 9:00am until 4:00pm. Our booth will be located in the Big White Equipment Tent in front of the Expo Building. Once inside the tent follow your nose to find free warm “Wheat Cookies” and milk at our booth.

Over 400 exhibiting companies make the Southern Farm Show the largest agricultural exposition in the Carolinas and Virginia. The show hosts key industry events, and is known as the region’s annual meeting place for farmers and agricultural leaders. For more information and to see a complete schedule of events visit this website: <https://southernshows.com/sfs/>

National Association of Wheat Growers: Weekly Update

“Wheat Organizations from the U.S., Canada, and Mexico Call for Successful NAFTA Agreement”

On Thursday, January 25th, organizations along the North American wheat value chain sent a letter to President Trump, President Peña Nieto, Prime Minister Trudeau, as well as with lead negotiators from each country, Ambassador Lighthizer, Minister Freeland, and Minister Guajardo, stressing the importance of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to the wheat industry. Ranging from seed to bread and baked goods, key groups from the wheat value chain signed onto the letter.

“As we enter the sixth round of negotiations, it’s important to remember that NAFTA created the world’s largest free trade area between the United States, Mexico, and Canada,” said Gordon Stoner, President of the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) and a wheat farmer from Outlook, Mont. “NAFTA has benefited not only wheat growers but all our partners along the entire value chain from farmers to consumers and everyone in between. The fact that wheat producers and end users from all three countries would speak with one voice about the importance of NAFTA should speak volumes to our leaders.”

“The relationship between U.S. wheat farmers and Mexican flour millers and wheat food companies took off with NAFTA,” said Mike Miller, Chairman of U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) and a wheat farmer from Ritzville, Wash. “It is a highly successful partnership, with tariff-free access, that helped make Mexico our largest customer the past two years and supports revenue for wheat farmers from dozens of states.”

In the letter, the groups emphasized that an updated trade deal is critical to ensure that all of us can work together to provide the highest quality products at the greatest value for both the supply chain and consumers. Further, the letter states that an integrated supply chain between the three countries is only effective with NAFTA in place.

“The industry understands the need to modernize the 23-year-old agreement, but it must be done in a way that benefits the food and agriculture sectors in all three countries,” continued Stoner. “It’s critical that all parties remember during the negotiations that when one link breaks, the entire chain is weakened.”

The following organizations signed the letter: American Bakers Association; Cámara Nacional de la Industria Molinera de Trigo (National Chamber of Industrial Wheat Millers, Mexico); Cereals Canada; NAWG; North American Millers’ Association; USW; Western Canadian Wheat Growers.

NAWG/USW Joint Release: TPP-11 Puts U.S. Wheat Exports at Risk

U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) and the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) are expressing concern that a revised Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) that excludes the United States puts overseas demand for U.S. wheat at serious risk.

“On January 23, 2017, exactly one year ago, President Trump announced the United States would pull out of the TPP. The announcement today that the eleven remaining TPP members have concluded talks on a revised deal without us sends another discouraging signal to our long-time wheat importing customers in Japan,” said Ben Conner, USW Director of Policy.

Japan imports an average of 3.1 million metric tons of U.S. wheat every year. After full implementation of the new TPP, Japan’s import tariffs on Canadian and Australian wheat would drop by about \$65 per ton.

“That would put U.S. wheat producers at a total price disadvantage of more than \$200 million per year from TPP alone,” Conner said. “As the agricultural community warned when the President made the announcement, withdrawing from TPP was shortsighted and unnecessary, and now U.S. wheat farmers could take the hit.”

“As expected, the remaining members of TPP are moving forward without the United States,” said Gordon Stoner, NAWG President and a wheat grower from Outlook, Mont. “If nothing else, this announcement should serve as a rallying cry for farmers, ranchers and dairy producers calling for the new trade deals we were promised when the President walked away from TPP. The heat needs to be turned up on the administration and on trade negotiations with Japan. An already stressed agriculture sector needs the benefit of free and fair trade now.”

The so-called TPP-11 countries include Canada and Australia, which are major competitors to the United States in the Japanese wheat market. Other TPP countries with rapidly growing demand for imported wheat include Mexico, Vietnam, Malaysia, Chile and Peru. Singapore, Brunei and New Zealand round out the remaining TPP partner countries.

National Wheat Foundation Attends 2018 Soil Health Summit

National Wheat Foundation (NWF) Chairman Phil McLain and NAWG’s Environmental Policy Advisor Keira Franz attended the 2018 Soil Health Summit from January 18-19, 2018 at the Loews Chicago O’Hare Hotel. Topics ranged from “Cover Cropping 101” to “The Future of Ag

Technologies” to “Optimizing Your Nutrient Management”. The Foundation recently joined the Soil Health Partnership through its grant with General Mills.

U.S. Argues China Ag Case in WTO

U.S. and Chinese government officials are in Geneva this week arguing their cases before a World Trade Organization dispute panel, reported AgriPulse. The WTO dispute panel has taken up a U.S. complaint over China’s agricultural subsidies for wheat, corn and rice. The U.S. Trade Representative originally filed the WTO complaint in September, 2016, claiming that China’s price supports for the grain – especially wheat - distort world markets and cause billions of dollars in losses every year for U.S. farmers and exporters. A 2016 Iowa State University study estimates that U.S. wheat exporters lost roughly \$700 million in revenue because of China’s domestic support programs that far exceed levels allowed for in the WTO.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Releases 2018 Farm Bill Principles

On January 24, 2018, USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue released the Trump Administration's 2018 Farm Bill and Legislative Principles. “The USDA's priorities include promoting innovative crop insurance products, supporting young farmers by increasing access to land and capital, and better supporting conservation programs. In addition, the bill calls for safeguarding America's domestic food supply by protecting the integrity of the USDA organic-certified seal and modernizing tools that bolster biosecurity, prevent surveillance, improve emergency response and bolster border security. The Secretary also recommends investing in research that puts the United States at the forefront of food and agriculture scientific development; improving American market competitiveness by incentivizing strong financial partnerships and accessing foreign markets; promoting rural infrastructure development, including broadband; and incentivizing private stewardship and retention of forest land. Lastly, the proposal also calls for reducing waste, fraud and abuse of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by implementing stricter limits on food stamps for able-bodied adults unless they work or take part in job training or workfare programs.”

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 / 9:00am – 12:00pm

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 / 12:00 noon – 3:00pm
Central Piedmont
Small Grains Field Day
Piedmont Research Station
8350 Sherrills Ford Rd.
Salisbury, NC 28147

March 13th / 8:00am
Union County Small Grains Field Day
Cox Brothers Farm
6409 Rape Rd,
Monroe, NC 28112

March 20th / 8:30am
Duplin Grows
Duplin County Events Center
195 Fairgrounds Dr,
Kenansville, NC 28349

March 21st - 22nd, 9:00am – 2:00pm
NCSU Farm Animal Days
NCSU Beef Educational Unit
4505 Mid Pines Rd.
Raleigh, NC

March 28th / 8:30am
Ag Science Day
Mattamuskeet Elementary School
60 Juniper Bay Rd,
Swanquarter, NC 27885

April 5th, 2018
Farm Day
Flintrock Farms

221 Flintrock Trl,
Reidsville, NC 27320

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

April 19th / 8:30am – 2:30pm
AG Day
Southeastern Academy School
12251 NC Highway 41 N,
Lumberton, NC 28358

April 20th, 9:00am – 2:15pm
AG Science Day
Bailey Elementary School
6288 Pine St,
Bailey, NC 27807

June 19th - 20th / 10:00am – 4:00pm
NC State FFA Convention
Career Show
Raleigh Convention Center

July 12th / 9:00am – 3:00pm
NCSGGA Research & Education
Committee Meeting
NCSGGA Office
3822 Bland Road
Raleigh, NC 27609

August 1st, 2018
Blackland Farm Managers Tour

August 7th / 10:00am – 12:00pm
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.