

Southern Farm Show

The NC Small Grain Growers Association exhibited last week, January 31st – February 2nd, in the annual Southern Farm Show at the North Carolina State Fair Grounds in Raleigh baking over 6,000 Gluten FULL cookies!! The Southern Farm Show is the largest agricultural exposition in the Carolinas and Virginia with over 400 exhibiting companies! The show hosts key industry events, and is known as the region’s annual meeting place for farmers and agricultural leaders. Featured events at the show included: Agribusiness Meetings, Continuing Education, Various Entertainment Shows, Educational Workshops, Pesticide Credits, and of course the latest in agriculture products and technology. A big THANK YOU to everyone that helped out in our booth, we could not have done it without you! To see pictures from the Farm Show please visit our photo gallery on our website at: <http://ncwheat.com/media-gallery/>

National Association of Wheat Growers: Weekly Update

House Ag to Hold Hearing on The State of the Rural Economy

On Tuesday, February 06, 2018, the House Committee on Agriculture will hold a full Committee hearing on the “The State of the Rural Economy”. The hearing will feature testimony from USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue and begin at 9:30 a.m. in Room 1300 of the Longworth House Office Building.

Perdue Unveils Farmers.gov, Interactive Website for Agricultural Producers

On February 1, 2018, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue unveiled Farmers.gov, the new interactive one-stop website for producers maintained by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Farmers.gov is now live but will have multiple features added over the coming months to allow agricultural producers to make appointments with USDA offices, file forms, and apply for USDA programs. The website gathers together the three agencies that comprise USDA’s Farm Production and Conservation mission area: the Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Risk Management Agency.

Administration Takes Steps To Improve Federal Protection Of Threatened And Endangered Species

On January 31, 2018, EPA Administrator Pruitt announced the establishment of an interagency working group to coordinate Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultations for pesticide registrations and registration review in a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of the Interior (DOI), which includes the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and the Department of Commerce (DOC), which includes the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) (collectively, “the Services”). The MOA outlines the difficulties with the current consultation process and proposes an Interagency Working Group to support EPA and the Services in meeting their obligations related to the pesticide consultation process. Through the MOA, EPA and the Services will request the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and the Office of Management and Budget join the Working Group and that CEQ serves as its chair. NAWG supports effort to

improve the ESA consultations for pesticide registration and review to address the need for a workable approach to ensuring species are protected and that growers have continued access to crop protection tools.

EPA and Army Finalize WOTUS Applicability Date

On January 31, 2018, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of the Army (Army) have finalized a rule adding an applicability date to the 2015 Clean Water Rule (the 2015 Rule). This rule provides clarity and certainty about which definition of “waters of the United States” is applicable nationwide in response to judicial actions that could result in confusion. The new applicability date will be two years after today’s action is published in the Federal Register, during which time both agencies will continue the process of reconsidering the 2015 Rule. Visit <https://www.epa.gov/wotus-rule> for more information.

New Seed Treatment Stewardship Communications Resources Available

NAWG, ASTA, and other stakeholder groups have developed a set of recommendations to assist those involved in the process of treating, handling, transporting, or planting treated seeds. These recommendations can now be found in a number of new and redesigned communication resources. A new one-pager graphically displays the five steps for stewardship of treated seed, and outlines why and how seed treatments are used, including what the crop protection and seed industries are doing to ensure their safe use. A set of videos explore topics including: improving performance and safety with seed treatments; the five steps for stewardship of treated seed; and how seed treatments support sustainability.

For more information, visit: <https://seed-treatment-guide.com/>

2017 Census of Agriculture Response Deadline of February 5

Farmers and ranchers, the deadline for the 2017 Census of Agriculture is February 5 – just one week away! There are two ways to respond: online at www.agcounts.usda.gov or by mail. The census, conducted just once every five years, provides a complete account of the industry, its changes, and emerging trends. Census data are widely used, often relied on when developing the Farm Bill and other farm policy, and when making decisions about disaster relief, community planning, technology development, and more. It is important that every producer be reflected in the data so that no operation or community is underserved in the years to come. The better the data, the more accurate the reports; the more accurate the reports, the more informed decisions will be. For more information about the 2017 Census of Agriculture, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov. For questions or assistance with the census, call toll-free (888) 424-7828. Respond today.

CIRB’s Annual Meeting Kicks Off Next Week

The Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau (CIRB)'s 54th Annual Meeting will be held January 31 to February 02, 2018 in Scottsdale, AZ. Follow along and tweet using the hashtag #CIRB2018 during CIRB’s Annual Meeting. Use this link to find the agenda: <http://cropinsurance.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/CIRB-AM-Agenda-2018.jpg>

NCSGGA Upcoming Events

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 15th / 9:00am - 2:00pm

Harnett County Ag Day

Lillington, NC

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

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
"Just A Growing"
Flint Rock Farms
6510 S. Plank Rd.
Cameron, NC

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

May 18th - 20th
Got to Be NC Festival
NC State Fairgrounds
Raleigh, NC

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

September 8th, 2018
CALs Tailgate
PNC Arena
Raleigh, NC

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.