

Duplin Grows

Last week the NCSGGA participated in Duplin Grows, the event was held at the Duplin County Events Center in Kenansville on March 20th. Approximately 350 second graders from surrounding schools attended the event spending the day rotating from station to station learning about the many aspects of agriculture. Stations included: Small Grains, Soil, Soybeans, Beef, Dairy, Pork, Gardening, 4-H, Bee keeping, Cotton, and Farm Safety. Thank you to the Duplin County Cooperative Extension team for planning and organizing this great event! To see pictures from the day please visit our photo gallery on our website at: <http://ncwheat.com/media-gallery/>

NCSU Farm Animal Days

NC State University held its Annual Farm Animal Days last week in Raleigh at the Beef Education Unit from 9:00am to 2:00pm March 21st thru March 23rd. Farm Animal Days gives children a chance to see and touch farm animals and learn about agriculture starting at a young age. Day Cares, school field trips (pre-school through first grade), families and individuals were all in attendance reaching nearly 10,000+ people!! This year daily activities included:

- Practice roping for the kids.
- Virtual Farm Tour sponsored by NC Pork Council
- Stations on Display: Historic Yates Mill, NC Soybean Producers Association, NC Small Grain Growers Association, Wake County Farm Bureau, NCSU Jr. Wolfpack Club, NCSU Extension, NC Egg Association, NC Cattlemen's Association.
- Touch the animals: chicks, turkeys, ducks, pigs, sheep, and goats
- Other animals to see: Beef Cow/calf, Dairy Cow, Horses
- Tractors on display
- Molly the Cow and Porky the Pig
- Free Howling Cow Ice Cream!

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

Hyde Heritage Day

On Wednesday, March 28th, the NCSGGA participated in Hyde Heritage Day hosted by Mattamuskeet Elementary School in Swan Quarter. Each year presenters from around the county and state come out to share exhibits and hands-on activities related to the rich cultural history that make Hyde County so special. Students spend the day rotating to each station for a fun-filled day of learning, stations included: Farming/Agriculture, Fishing, Hunting, Historical Society, Art Exhibits, Native American artifacts, County EMS, Volunteer Fireman, Hyde County Transit, the Sheriff's Department, and many more! A big Thank you to the School for planning and organizing this great event! 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

Opinion Editorial – Jimmie Musick: Crop Insurance Protects Farming for Future Generations

In his recent op-ed in the The Oklahoman, NAWG President Jimmie Musick discusses how crop insurance is helping wheat growers get through the current tough economic times. Musick mentions how his five-generation family farm in Sentinel shares a similar story with many wheat growers dealing with extreme weather conditions and low commodity prices. Read his piece here: <http://newsok.com/article/5588617>

PRESS RELEASE: Agriculture Coalition Launches ‘Fix Prop 65’ Site in Effort to Halt California’s Unsound Glyphosate Regulation

NAWG and the Ag Defense Alliance have launched a new website providing resources and information about its case against California’s unjustified Prop 65 listing of glyphosate. The Fix Prop 65 website provides research and background on the case, testimonials from farmers, information about glyphosate, how it is used, and what the scientific community has stated about this safe-for-use, environmental sustainable herbicide. For more information, visit FIXPROP65.COM.

U.S. and South Korea Update Trade Deal

In a recent joint statement, USTR Ambassador Lighthizer and Minister Kim announced that the United States and the Republic of Korea have reached an agreement in principle on the general terms of amendments and modifications to the United States-Republic of Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA). The amended deal will boost exports of cars, trucks and auto parts to South Korea; the country agreed to lift its cap on imports of U.S. trucks and allow the U.S. to extend its 25 percent tariff on Korean trucks.

Additionally, the amended deal also settles the issue of U.S. steel and aluminum tariffs. The proposed U.S. tariff of 25 percent won’t be applied to South Korean steel, but the country did agree to a new quota that’s expected to cut U.S. imports from the country by 30 percent. South Korean aluminum exports won’t be exempt from the 10 percent tariff. CNBC and the LA Times are just a few of the many outlets that covered this announcement.

USDA Announces Loan Rates

On March 29, 2018 the USDA announced the schedule of base county loan rates by wheat class. The national average rate totals \$2.94, as set in the Farm Bill. Market assistance loan rates for feed grains, oilseed, rice and pulse crops were also included. Rates for pulse crops varying by region and rough rice varying by state. To view all rates visit the Farm Service Agency (FSA) website at www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/price-support/commodity-loan-rates/index.

Secretary Perdue Issues USDA Statement on Plant Breeding Innovation

On March 28, 2018, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue issued a statement providing clarification on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) oversight of plants produced through innovative new breeding techniques which include techniques called genome editing.

Specifically, the guidance clarifies and reaffirms the agency's existing policy that if products of gene editing are similar to or undistinguishable from products obtained through more traditional plant breeding they should be treated in the same way from a policy perspective.

GUEST BLOG: Letter from Alex McGregor, The McGregor Company, on the Importance of Trade

The National Wheat Foundation published its latest guest blog from Alex McGregor of The McGregor Company. In his blog, Alex discusses his journey as a grower to owner of his own company. He also details the importance of why wheat growers need to reach out to Congress and the Administration and urge them to rejoin TPP and to keep vibrant NAFTA and KORUS, with South Korea. Read his blog here: <https://wheatfoundation.org/guest-blog-letter-from-alex-mcgregor-the-mcgregor-company-on-the-importance-of-trade/>

Secretary Perdue Announces Third "Back to Our Roots" RV Tour

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue will kick off his third "Back to Our Roots" RV tour next Tuesday, April 3rd to hear ideas and concerns from local farmers, agriculture students and researchers, business owners, community leaders, and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) employees. Secretary Perdue will also be joined by Administrator Linda McMahon, the head of the Small Business Administration (SBA), for part of the tour. The tour spans from Tuesday to Friday and includes stops in Michigan, Ohio, and Kentucky.

2018 Bayer Bee Care Young Beekeeper Award: Deadline May 15, 2018

The 2018 Bayer Bee Care Young Beekeeper Award provides entrants between the ages of 12 and 18 the opportunity to win a \$3,000 (1st place), \$2,000 (2nd place) or \$1,000 (3rd place) prize to support honey bee-focused initiatives in their schools or communities or to be applied toward college tuition. Any student under 18 who has approval from a legal guardian as well as a sponsoring mentor, such as an apiarist/beekeeper, grower, community leader, teacher, school official, etc., may apply. To enter online, review application requirements and expectations of the award winner and/or learn about former award recipients, please visit <https://beehealth.bayer.us/young-beekeeper-award>.

NWF National Wheat Yield Contest: Winter Wheat Early Registration, April 1!

The National Wheat Foundation's (NWF) annual National Wheat Yield Contest continues to drive innovation in the industry by spotlighting the best practices among American wheat growers. In its third year, the contest added a quality requirement, raising the bar for what constitutes the greater grain among U.S. wheat growers. For more information on contest guidelines, deadlines and prizes, visit <https://wheatfoundation.org/rules-and-registration!> Enroll in the winter wheat early registration by April 1, 2018.

NCSGGA Upcoming Events

April 5th / 9:30am - 11:30am
"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 11th / 9:00am - 1:30pm
Ag Day
University of Mount Olive
634 Henderson Street
Mount Olive, NC 28365

April 12th / 9:00am – 1:00pm
FFA Day
Heritage High School
Wake Forest, NC

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

April 23rd / 9am – 11am
Malt Barley Field Tour
Oxford Research Station
125 Oxford Outer Loop
Oxford, NC 27565

May 1st - 3rd

Wake Up to Agriculture
Iredell County Fairgrounds
211 W Sharpe St
Troutman, NC 28166

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

June 8th / 7:00pm
Ag Appreciation Night
Kinston Wood Ducks Baseball Game
400 E Grainger Ave
Kinston, NC 28502

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

July 26th, 2018
Northeast Ag Expo
Field Day

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

October 9th - 10th

Agriculture Awareness Days

Onslow County

November 6th - 8th, 2018

9:00am - 2:15pm

Stanly County Ag Days

Stanly Co. Agri Civic Center

Albemarle, 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.