

## **2018 Central Piedmont Field Day**

The 2018 Central Piedmont Small Grains Research Field Day was held Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at the Piedmont Research Station in Salisbury. Despite the cold rainy weather the field day was well attended with approximately 100 in attendance. The event kicked off with lunch at noon followed by a few presentations under the shelter before heading off to the field to see the latest research projects and Official Variety Trials. Thank you to everyone that attended and especially those that planned and organized the event, we appreciate your hard work and dedication to small grains. To see pictures of the field day please visit our photo gallery on our website at: <http://ncwheat.com/media-gallery/>

## **National Association of Wheat Growers: Weekly Update**

### **Trump Slaps Tariffs on Steel, Aluminum; Exempts NAFTA Partners**

On March 8, 2018, President Donald Trump slapped tariffs on most steel and aluminum imports but agreed to give Canada and Mexico an exemption in the hopes of reaching a favorable deal to revamp the North American Free Trade Agreement, reported CQ. “The 25 percent steel and 10 percent aluminum import fees will go into effect in 15 days, with Canada and Mexico initially exempt, a senior White House official said ahead of the president’s signing of two proclamations that put the tariffs enforcement in motion. Additionally, any country with a defense relationship with the United States is ‘welcome’ to discuss why the tariff levels should be eliminated or reduced to keep those relations strong, the official said.”

NAWG Treasurer Dave Milligan and U.S. Wheat Secretary-Treasurer Doug Goyings contributed an opinion piece to The Hill arguing the damaging impact steel and aluminum tariffs would have on all of agriculture.

### **Wheat Organizations Ask USTR to Work Toward Re-Joining TPP**

On Wednesday, March 07, U.S. Wheat Associates (USW), the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) and 33 state wheat organizations sent a letter to U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Robert Lighthizer urging the Administration to immediately prioritize accession to TPP to save the valuable Japanese market for U.S. wheat farmers. This letter stresses the market disaster facing wheat farmers who stand to lose much of the vital Japanese market due to TPP-11.

### **NAWG and the National Wheat Foundation Named New Board Officers at the 2018 Commodity Classic**

The National Association of Wheat Growers and the National Wheat Foundation wrapped up the 2018 Commodity Classic with a new slate of officers. Both NAWG and NWF have elected female wheat growers to their executive teams. NAWG President and Montana farmer Gordon Stoner has passed the gavel down to Vice President Jimmie Musick, a farmer from Southwest Oklahoma. Texan Ben Scholz moved up the ranks of leadership becoming NAWG’s next Vice President. Cass City, Michigan wheat farmer Dave Milligan will now serve as NAWG’s new Treasurer. Nicole Berg, wheat farmer from Paterson, Washington, becomes the newest face in

NAWG leadership with her election as Secretary. Nicole is the next woman since Washington wheat grower Judy Olson (1994) to be elected to the board. Gordon Stoner will continue to serve on the executive committee in the role of Past President.

NAWG also had one new addition to its Board of Directors. Rockland, Idaho wheat grower Jamie Kress replaces Joe Anderson, representing the Idaho Grain Growers Association.

Additionally, the National Wheat Foundation added a new face to its Board of Directors. Director Ryan Findlay left the Foundation's board to pursue the position of CEO at the American Soybean Association. Kim Magin, Director of Industry Affairs for Monsanto, will replace Ryan on the board and continue to amplify the Foundation's strong connection with industry. Idaho wheat farmer Wayne Hurst has also moved up the ranks to replace North Carolina Phil McLain as President.

### **Senator Roberts Presented Global Nutrition Lifetime Achievement Award**

On Wednesday, March 08, 2018, the Global Child Nutrition Foundation presented its Gene White Lifetime Achievement Award to Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts, R-Kansas. The award recognizes "movers and shakers in the global agricultural and hunger space." NAWG attended the event and commended Chairman Roberts on all of his hard work on behalf of wheat farmers.

### **U.S. Senate Confirms Bill Northey to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services**

On February 27, 2018, the United States Senate confirmed Bill Northey to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services at the United States Department of Agriculture. NAWG commended the U.S. Senate for confirming the appointment of Bill Northey.

### **FAPRI-MU: 2018 U.S. Baseline Outlook**

University of Missouri's Food and Agricultural Policy Research Initiative (FAPRI-MU) released its summary of 10-year baseline projections for U.S. agricultural markets, farm program spending, farm income and a variety of other indicators. Microsoft Excel tables (coming soon) include historical data for crops, biofuels and aggregate indicators. To view the summary visit: <https://www.fapri.missouri.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/2018-Baseline-Outlook.pdf>

### **General Mills Commits to Expanding its Organic Line**

In a recent release, General Mills announced that they have entered into a sourcing agreement with Gunsmoke Farms LLC to help convert 34,000 acres of conventional farmland to certified organic by 2020. The land will be used to grow certified organic wheat and other rotational crops. The wheat produced will be largely used in Annie's, a General Mills brand, pasta products. General Mills hopes to make organic ingredients more accessible for consumers, expecting their natural and organic portfolio to reach \$1.5 billion in net sales by 2020. In partnership with Midwestern Bio Ag (MBA), 3,000 acres of converted farmland will be pollinator habitats. MBA will provide opportunities for farmers to learn regenerative practices, combating many sustainability challenges the agricultural industry faces.

### **Trump's Nominations for Key Administration Posts Beneficial to Agriculture Industry**

Last week, President Trump announced the appointment of Patrick Fuchs to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a five-year term. Fuchs brings experience and leadership to the committee. During Fuch's time working under Senator Thune, the Surface Transportation Board was reauthorized for the first time since its creation in 1996 and the first passenger rail reauthorization on over seven years. Fuchs has always managed railroad and maritime regulatory views as a policy analyst and Presidential Management Fellow at the Office of Management and Budget. He holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Wisconsin, where he has been recognized for his outstanding academic record.

Michelle A. Schultz, deputy general counsel at the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, is to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a five-year term. Ms. Schultz was formerly an associate with a law firm in Philadelphia, clerk for the Superior Court of Pennsylvania and the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. She holds a J.D. from Widener University School of Law and a Master of Governmental Administration from the University of Pennsylvania.

### **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**

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

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March 15th / 9:00am - 2:00pm  
Harnett County Ag Day  
Lillington, NC

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

Kenansville, NC 28349

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

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

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April 5th / 9:30am - 11:30am  
"Just A Growing"  
Flint Rock Farms  
6510 S. Plank Rd.  
Cameron, NC

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

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

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

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

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May 1st - 3rd  
Wake Up to Agriculture  
Iredell County Fairgrounds  
211 W Sharpe St  
Troutman, NC 28166

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

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

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

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

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July 26th, 2018  
Northeast Ag Expo  
Field Day

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August 1st, 2018  
Blackland Farm Managers Tour

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August 7th / 10:00am – 12:00pm  
North Hills Kids Series:  
Touch a Tractor  
4020 Market At North Hills St.  
Raleigh, NC 27609

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August 8th – 10th, 2018  
NCSGGA Summer Board Mtg.

Hampton Inn  
1956 13th Avenue Drive SE  
Hickory, NC 28602

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September 8th, 2018

CALS Tailgate  
PNC Arena  
Raleigh, NC

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October 9th - 10th

Agriculture Awareness Days  
Onslow County

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November 6th - 8th, 2018

9:00am - 2:15pm  
Stanly County Ag Days  
Stanly Co. Agri Civic Center  
Albemarle, NC

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*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](mailto:danweathington@gmail.com) / 910-736-8258 or Nikki Johnson for Outreach Events and Communications at [nfjohnson0902@gmail.com](mailto:nfjohnson0902@gmail.com) / 919-809-8657.*