

NCSGGA Executive Director Speaks at Wilkes Community College

On Tuesday, April 10th, Dan Weathington, Executive Director of NC Small Grain Growers Association, was invited to speak at Wilkes Community College during an Animal Feeds and Nutrition class. Weathington discussed the importance of North Carolina's leading industry, Agriculture, and how it directly affects our economy; he also provided valuable insight to the class on how the production and marketing of small grains relates to livestock producers. Thank you to Mindy Herman, Lead Instructor of Animal Science at Wilkes Community College, for inviting our Association to represent and promote small grain farmers across the state.

University of Mount Olive's Ag Day

This week, the NCSGGA participated in the University of Mount Olive's Annual Ag Day held at the college arena in Mount Olive. Approximately 250 third graders from Carver Elementary and Brogden Primary School attended the event for a fun filled day of hands-on agriculture learning. Students arrived at 9:00am rotating from 13 different stations including:

- Station 1: Cliffs of the Neuse
- Station 2: Soybean Producers Association
- Station 3: NCPC Barnyard
- Station 4: NC Small Grain Growers
- Station 5: Forestry
- Station 6: Beekeepers of the Neuse
- Station 7: UMO Beef and Dairy Cattle Booth
- Station 8: The Planting Station
- Station 9: UMO Poultry Booth
- Station 10: UMO Horse Booth
- Station 11: Pickle Cart Ride
- Station 12: Big Cart NCDA
- Station 13: Tractor Supply

The event concluded around 2:00pm with a fun agriculture education magic show called "Shelton Entertains" featuring talking fruits and vegetables from the farm! Thank you to the University of Mount Olive for inviting our Association to participate in this great event and making agriculture education a top priority to our future generation! To see pictures from the day please visit our photo gallery on our website at: <http://ncwheat.com/media-gallery/>

FFA Day at Heritage High School

The NCSGGA exhibited in FFA Day at Heritage High School on Thursday, April 12th in Wake Forest. The event is designed for Heritage High School FFA students to recognize local agricultural business and industry, dealerships, and schools with agricultural majors to encourage students to become entrepreneurs, find career fields, and to increase the amount of knowledge being taught in Agricultural Education.

The program began at 9:00am and concluded with lunch around 1pm. Approximately 200 students rotated around different booths to educate themselves on career possibilities and volunteer opportunities. As students rotated through they also completed a scavenger hunt to further enhance the content taught within their classes relating to the guest presenters.

FFA Day is designated as an educational day for the school club to promote the mission of the organization "to promote students potential for premiere leadership, personal development, and career success through Agriculture Education". Students take on the role of planning the day in addition to learning information from those experts involved.

Among those invited to participate were agricultural entities such as farmers/extension agents, NC Small Grain Growers Association, NC Soybean Association, Animal Research Laboratory Company, Farm Service Agency, Wake County Farm Bureau, NC 4-H, Blind Dog Organization, and NC FFA Association, NC State University, and University of Mount Olive. Thank you to the Heritage High School FFA Chapter for planning and organizing this great event and providing this opportunity to promote Agriculture. To see pictures from the day please visit our photo gallery on our website at: <http://ncwheat.com/media-gallery/>

National Association of Wheat Growers: Weekly Update

NAWG PRESS RELEASE: NAWG Responds to the House Committee on Agriculture's Release of its 2018 Farm Bill Text

On April 12, 2018, the House Committee on Agriculture released its language for its version of the 2018 Farm Bill. In response, NAWG President Jimmie Musick made the following statement: "We are glad to see that the House is taking a first step in the 2018 Farm Bill reauthorization process by releasing its draft bill. NAWG is currently reviewing the text and will continue to work with Members of the Committee and their staff to ensure our priorities are addressed in the bill."

"NAWG continues to advocate for a strong crop safety net program which means no cuts to the crop insurance program and maintaining a producer choice between revenue-based (Agriculture Risk Coverage) and price-based (Price Loss Coverage) programs, as well as improvements to both. Further, NAWG continues to advocate for prioritizing working lands conservation programs in the Conservation Title, reauthorization and increased funding for MAP and FMD, as well as a strong research title.

"We urge Congress to move forward in a bipartisan manner in order to enable a bill to pass both chambers."

NAWG and USW JOINT PRESS RELEASE: Wheat Groups Applaud Decision to Negotiate for TPP Membership

U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) and the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) are very happy to learn that President Trump is directing U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Robert

Lighthizer and National Economic Council Director Larry Kudlow to begin negotiating for the United States to join the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

“Putting it simply, joining TPP is the best way to avoid a potentially devastating loss of wheat sales to Japan,” said USW Chairman Michael Miller, a wheat farmer from Ritzville, Wash. “If the United States joins TPP, U.S. wheat should be able to compete on a level playing field with Canadian and Australian wheat, which will soon have a major advantage once TPP is implemented. That would keep U.S. wheat sales that currently represent 50 percent of Japan’s total wheat imports competitive in this crucial market.”

“It is very encouraging that the President is taking this step,” said NAWG President Jimmie Musick, a wheat grower from Sentinel, Okla. “If we can find a way to join this trade agreement, it will go a long way toward helping protect the incomes of every American wheat farmer. We also want to thank the members of Congress who pushed very hard to see this opening.”

USW and NAWG look forward to working with the Administration to provide any information and support it needs to achieve a successful negotiation that brings the United States back into the agreement.

NAWG Co-Hosts Food Aid Briefings on Capitol Hill

This past week NAWG, along with the North American Millers Association, National Corn Growers Association, National Sorghum Producers, USA Rice, and American Farm Bureau Federation, held a Food Aid briefing in both the House and Senate to educate Agriculture and Trade LAs on the importance of global food assistance and related programs. NAWG’s Biotech, Food and Trade Policy Advisor Molly O’Connor helped organize and participated in a panel during the briefings. With wheat making up 40% of food aid, O’Connor focused her remarks on important and vital role wheat plays in alleviating hunger across the globe.

USTR Report Highlights Reductions in Agricultural Trade Barriers

As reported in The Hagstrom Report, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative has released its annual National Trade Estimate report on the barriers to U.S. trade and investment in other countries. This year’s report highlights successes in reducing sanitary and phytosanitary barriers to U.S. exports including potatoes in Japan, beef in China and Thailand, corn and processed foods in China, poultry in Korea, rice in Colombia and grains in Vietnam.

EPA Public Comment Period Open Through April 21 for Neonicotinoid Risk Assessments

Neonicotinoids are currently undergoing registration review, an extensive scientific process that the EPA conducts on all registered pesticides every 15 years, to ensure they meet the latest scientific standards. This multistep process typically takes five to eight years to complete. EPA plans to review all neonics in the same timeframe to ensure consistency across the class. As risk assessments are completed, the Agency will pursue steps to mitigate potential risk, as appropriate. EPA is now seeking public comments on the current neonicotinoid risk assessments. The dockets will remain open through April 21, 2018.

Ramaswamy Leaving NIFA, Setting Up Battle Over Successor

As reported in The Hagstrom Report, Sonny Ramaswamy, the director of the Agriculture Department's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, will leave the position on May 5 and in July become president and CEO of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) in a Redmond, Washington. Ramaswamy's departure after serving the full six-year term of his appointment is sure to set off a battle to determine his successor, who will be chosen by the Agriculture secretary and the White House Office of Personnel.

NWF National Wheat Yield Contest: Winter Wheat - Deadline May 15th

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>!

Tuesday, May 15, 2018 will be the last day for growers to enter the winter wheat portion of the contest. Entering the contest will give members of your local organization the chance to be nationally recognized for their Greater Grain.

NCSGGA Upcoming Events

April 17th / 8:30am – 10:30am
Beaufort County Small Grains Field Day
Agent – Rod Gurganus
Crop Focus Topic: Wheat – OVT & N Rich
7000 Beech Ridge Rd.
Belhaven, NC 27810

April 18th / 1:00pm – 3:00pm
Sampson County Small Grains Field Day
Agent – Della King
Crop Focus Topic: Wheat – N Rich
1345 Watery Branch Rd. Dunn, 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 20th / 8:00am – 10:00am
Cumberland County Small Grains Field Day
Agent – Anthony Growe
Crop Focus Topic: Wheat – N Rich/ Weed Management/Fungicide
12801 Hwy 210 South
Roseboro, NC 28382

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

April 25th / 8:30am – 10:30am
Wake County Small Grains Field Day
Agent – Emily Mueller
Crop Focus Topic: Wheat – N Rich
5821 Poor Boy Farm Road
Knightdale, NC

April 25th / 1:00pm – 3:00pm
Johnston County Small Grains Field Day
Agent – Tim Britton
Crop Focus Topic: Wheat – N Rich & Variety
778 Beasley Rd. Benson, NC

April 27th / 1:00pm – 3:00pm
Ashe County Small Grains Field Day
Agent – Travis Birdsell
Crop Focus Topic: Winter Canola

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

May 8th / 11:00am – 1:00pm
Franklin County Small Grains Field Day
Agent – Charles Mitchell
Crop Focus Topic: Malt Barley – Fungicide

5728 Zebulon Rd. Wake Forest, NC

May 9th / 8:30am – 10:30am
Duplin County Small Grains Field Day
Agent – Blake Sandlin
Crop Focus Topic: Wheat Fungicide
140 Ezra Moore Rd, Teachey, NC

May 10th / 8:30am – 10:30am
Robeson County Small Grains Field Day
Agent – Mac Malloy
Crop Focus Topic: Fungicide & Pop x N
11380 NC-72 Pembroke, NC 28372

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

May 24th -25th
NC Ag Export Seminar
Koury Convention Center
Sheraton Greensboro Four Seasons
Greensboro, 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 2nd, 2018
Person County Ag Field Day
Huck Sansbury Park
425 Long Ave
Roxboro, NC 27573

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.