

Small Grain Whistle Stop Tour Kicks Off

On Wednesday, April 18th the first stop for the Small Grain Whistle stop tour began in Sampson County. The field day was held in Dunn from 1:00pm to 3:00pm focusing on using the Nitrogen Rich strip in Wheat. On Friday, April 20th the second stop of the tour was held in Cumberland County at Roseboro from 8:00am to 10:00am. The focus for this field day was using the Nitrogen Rich Strip in Wheat, Weed Management, and Fungicide Management. Thank you to everyone that was able to attend and we hope these smaller field days were helpful.

These field days focus greatly on local growing conditions specific to each location and are a great opportunity for farmers to see firsthand research that could help and hopefully be utilized on the farm. The NCSU Small Grains Extension group, under the direction of Dr. Angela Post, is utilizing funds from the North Carolina Small Grain Growers Association to support these field tours across multiple counties. Please take a look at our upcoming events and find the field day closest to you, we'd love to see you there!!

Southeastern Academy Charter School Ag Day

On Thursday, the NCSGGA participated in Southeastern Academy Charter School's first ever Ag Day located in Lumberton. Approximately 250 students (K - 8th grade) rotated from the NC Small Grain Growers Booth to the North Carolina Soybean Producers booth learning all about the importance of each crop in our state. Students were able to see the different products each crop makes, the nutritional value of each crop, and most importantly how it grows on a farm. Thank you to Southeastern Academy School for inviting us to be a part of this fun educational Ag Day! To see pictures from the day please visit our photo gallery on our website at: <http://ncwheat.com/media-gallery/>

Bailey Elementary School Ag Science Day

The NCSGGA participated in Bailey Elementary School's Annual Ag Science Day held today, Friday, April 20th from 9:00am to 2:30pm. The event is designed for students to learn how science plays a direct role in North Carolina Agriculture Production. Students (Pre-K – 5TH grade) spent the day rotating from different stations learning about: Wheat, Forestry, Poultry, Farm Animals, Weather, Farm Equipment, etc. Thank you to Bailey Elementary School for planning and organizing this great event and keeping agriculture education a top priority!

National Association of Wheat Growers: Weekly Update

House Committee on Agriculture's Farm Bill Advances to the Floor

On April 18, 2018, in a 26-20 party line vote, the House Agriculture Committee passed its version of the Farm Bill. In response, NAWG President Jimmie Musick made the following statement:

"NAWG commends the House Agriculture Committee on continuing to move the Farm Bill forward and urges a bipartisan process to enable a bill to pass out of the House. In order for the

bill to be completed and reauthorized this year, Republicans and Democrats must work together on legislation that works for both sides and all of agriculture.

“There are several provisions in H.R. 2 that will be good for wheat growers, and NAWG will continue to work with Congress to make improvements. Absolutely our top priority throughout this process is to maintain a strong crop insurance program. NAWG also envisions a well-rounded Farm Bill to have a strong safety net program which allows producers to choose between revenue-based (Agriculture Risk Coverage) and price-based (Price Loss Coverage) coverage, and improvements to both programs to enable them to serve as a better safety net for wheat growers.

“We applaud the Committee for including funding for the Market Access Program and Foreign Market Development Program and will continue working to increase resources for both. Additionally, NAWG supports provisions that provide financial incentives for farmers to adopt conservation practices into their operations. The bill also rightly reauthorizes the Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative and other important research programs that will help wheat growers continue to produce the highest quality crop.

“Again, we are pleased that the House has started the Farm Bill reauthorization process and encourage the Senate Committee on Agriculture to do the same.” NAWG staff attended the markup and provided an update to the States.

CBO Releases House Farm Bill Score

The Congressional Budget Office has released the estimated costs of the House’s version of the Farm Bill (H.R. 2). Relative to spending projected under CBO’s April 2018 baseline, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 2 would increase direct spending by \$3.2 billion over the 2019-2023 period, and that direct spending would decrease by \$2.7 billion over the 2024-2028 period, for a net increase in direct spending of \$0.5 billion over the 2019-2028 period. CBO also estimates that enacting the bill would increase revenues by \$0.5 billion over the 2019-2028 period.

NAFB Washington Watch 2018 – Monday, April 23rd

On Monday, April 23, 2018, NAWG and U.S. Wheat Associates will host a table at the National Association of Farm Broadcaster (NAFB)’s Annual Washington Watch. This year’s Washington Watch will be held at the Holiday Inn Capitol in Washington, D.C. and currently has more than 30 broadcasters registered. NAWG Vice President Ben Scholz and CEO Chandler Goule will act as official spokesmen for the Association, while U.S. Wheat President Vince Peterson and Assistant Director of Policy Elizabeth Westendorf will be representing USW. For more information visit <https://nafb.com/events/washington-watch> and follow @NAFB.

Secretary Perdue Announces New Senior Leaders at USDA

On April 19, 2018, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced the selection of senior leaders in several U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies. Perdue appointed Ken Isley as Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Administrator, Joel Baxley as Rural Housing Service (RHS)

Administrator, and Martin Barbre as Risk Management Agency (RMA) Administrator. In addition, Perdue announced the appointment of Tommie Williams as Minister-Counselor for Agriculture at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture in Rome.

Agri-Pulse Trade Series Kicks Off

Agri-Pulse has kicked off its new trade series “Export or Bust,” dealing with the challenges and opportunities for U.S. agriculture when it comes to selling more commodities and value-added products to overseas customers. Part one looks at the importance of international markets for a wide variety of farmers, ranchers and value-added producers. The first article is sponsored by Farm Bureau, while down the page on the Agri-Pulse Home Page (right side) and the page with the article, NAWG and U.S. Wheat’s sponsorship of the series is also listed. NAWG and USW are the featured sponsors for the third article in the series which is schedule to release during the week of May 30th.

NWF National Wheat Yield Contest: Winter Wheat Deadline – May 15!

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 how to apply, visit <https://yieldcontest.wheatfoundation.org/>. The deadline for Winter Wheat submissions is May 15th!

NCSGGA Upcoming Events

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 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.