

Small Grain Whistle Stop Tour Continues

On Monday, April 23rd the Small Grain Whistle stop tour continued in Granville County at the Oxford Research Station from 9:00am to 11:30am. This field day focused primarily on North Carolina Malting Barley. Topics that were discussed included: Mycotoxins & Quality in Malt Barley, Using the Nitrogen Rich Strip in Barley, Malt Barley Varieties & Testing, Malt Barley Production/Fertility, Quality from a Malt house perspective, and Malt Barley Seed Treatment Test.

On Wednesday, April 25th Wake County Extension held a Wheat field day in Knightdale from 8:00am to 10:00am. This field day showcased 21 varieties of newer wheat varieties for field demonstration, a strip trial for nitrogen fertility, soil health management concepts (conservation tillage, etc), and pest/disease updates. Pesticide applicator continuing education credits were also available for attendees.

Also on Wednesday was Johnston County's Small Grain Field day held in Benson from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. The crop focus at this location was using the nitrogen rich strip in Wheat as well as showcasing wheat variety trials.

To see pictures from the Small Grain Whistle Stop Tour please visit our photo gallery on our website: <http://ncwheat.com/media-gallery/>

With only a few field days remaining in our whistle stop tour we encourage you to try and attend the location closest to you (see upcoming events section), we'd love to see you there!! 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.

National Association of Wheat Growers: Weekly Update

Ag Industry Sends Crop Insurance Letter to House

On April 26, 2018, NAWG, along with 64 other agriculture groups, sent a letter to House members urging them to avoid crippling amendments to the crop insurance program if the Farm Bill reaches the House floor. In the letter, the ag groups urged House Members to oppose harmful amendments that would 1) reduce or limit participation in crop insurance, 2) make insurance more expensive for farmers during a time of economic downturn in agriculture, or 3) harm private-sector delivery.

AgriPulse Releases Part Three of Six-Part Series on Trade

AgriPulse has posted part three of a six-part series of in-depth stories, called "Export or Bust?" dealing with the challenges and opportunities for U.S. agriculture to selling more commodities and value-added products to overseas customers. U.S. Wheat, National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG), Washington Grain Commission, Idaho Wheat Commission and North Dakota

Wheat Commission were co-sponsors of this article. Here is a link to the article: <https://www.agri-pulse.com/articles/10911-the-long-hard-road-to-export-more-us-farm-products-is-filled-with-potholes>, which includes a significant amount of background and quotes from USW and NAWG.

CBO Publishes Detailed Farm Bill Analysis

The Congressional Budget Office has published a detailed analysis of each title in the House Agriculture Committee's Farm Bill. In short, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 2 would increase net direct spending by \$3.2 billion over the 2019-2023 period and by \$0.5 billion over the 2019-2028 period, relative to CBO's baseline projections. As specified in law, those baseline projections incorporate the assumption that many expiring programs continue to operate after their authorizations expire in the same manner as they did before such expiration. The cost of extending those authorizations through 2023 would total \$387 billion, but because they are already included in the baseline, those costs are not attributable to this bill. For a complete summary and to view the report, visit the CBO site here: <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/53819>

Conservative Groups Demand Farm Program Reforms.

As reported in AgriPulse, leading conservative organizations including Heritage Action and Club for Growth have come out with a letter critical of the House farm bill that could provide some momentum to amendments to roll back the sugar program or cut crop insurance. The letter says the bill "not only fails to make reforms to farm subsidies, but actually makes the subsidies even worse." Additionally, the letter makes no mention of the bill's food stamp reforms, which are designed in part to appeal to GOP conservatives who would otherwise want to cut commodity programs or crop insurance.

USDA Issues Proposed Rule for Bioengineered-Ingredient Labeling

The USDA is now seeking public comment on the proposed rule for the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard that was mandated by Congress in 2016. The proposed rule, named, the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard (NBFDS), offers up definitions on what is considered a bioengineered ingredient, suggestions on how disclosure of those ingredients should occur, and the scope of exemptions available under the law. The Coalition for Safe Affordable Food, which NAWG is a member, stated that "given the importance of ensuring the final rule is in place by the statutory deadline, the coalition will be analyzing the proposed rule and developing coordinated food and agricultural industry comments over the next 60 days. The coalition looks forward to providing the department with input that reflects the needs of consumers, farmers and the rest of the food value chain."

The rule is open for comment for the next 60 days and comments can be submitted both online or mailed. Comments may be submitted online through the Federal eRulemaking portal at www.regulations.gov. Or may be mailed with the Docket Clerk at 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Room 4543-South, Washington, DC 20250; Fax: (202) 690-0338.

Actions Taken to Restrict Pesticide Use in Hawaii and EU

On April 27, the EU member states voted on a ban that will directly harm producers who utilize neonics. In a statement by Bayer, “the company remains convinced that the restrictions are not warranted, because neonicotinoids are safe when used in accordance with the label instructions...further this ban will reduce European farmers’ ability to tackle important pests, for many of which there are no alternative treatments available.”

On May 02, 2018, a similar ban on chlorpyrifos-based insecticides was implemented in Hawaii and is currently on its way to the governor to be signed into law. The ban was aimed to protect the overall health of the environment, but researchers have concluded that this ban will not improve the health of pollinators.

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

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 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

October 23rd – 25th
Hoke County Ag Days
Hoke-Robeson Gin
Maxton, NC

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.