

2018 NC Small Grain Growers Association Summer Board Meeting

The 2018 NCSGGA Summer Board of Directors Meeting was held Wednesday, August 8th – Friday, August 10th in Hickory, NC. The meeting kicked off with a tour of a local flour mill, Renwood Mills, located in Newton. This milling facility grinds primarily soft red winter wheat making flour, pancake mix, and biscuit mixes for local grocery stores and restaurant chains under brand names such as: Southern Biscuit, Tenda Bake, and Formula L Biscuit Mix. Our directors were able to see firsthand the entire process of when wheat arrives, to the quality testing lab, to the milling process, to the packaging, and finally the shipping of the product. Today, Renwood Mills can mill 750,000 lbs. of flour per day!!! Thank you for letting us tour your operation, we had a great time!! Afterwards Directors visited a local farming operation, LFR Farms, for lunch and a brief tour of the farm followed by the board meeting.

The Board of Directors meeting began Thursday afternoon and concluded Friday morning. Thursday, Directors heard from various guest speakers giving updates from:

-NC State University - Scholarship Program, Plant Sciences Initiative Updates, Admissions, Economical Outlook & Tariffs, Wheat Crop Updates & Projects.

-NC FFA

-NC Dept. of Agriculture

-National Association of Wheat Growers

On Friday during the business session, Committee reports were presented and voted upon. During this time directors approved funding for the 2018-19 Research Projects. To see pictures from the meeting please visit our photo gallery on our website at: <http://ncwheat.com/media-gallery/>

North Hills Kids Series

On Tuesday, August 7th, the North Carolina Soybean Producers Association hosted its 3rd Annual Touch A Tractor event held at North Hills Midtown Park in Raleigh. The event was from 10:00am – 12:00pm featuring great summer activities for the kids including tractor painting, photo booths, games, drone demonstrations, commodity learning stations, the agri-pride simulator and tractors for the little ones to sit in. The morning was packed with fun all while learning about NC agriculture.

The NCSGGA exhibited in the event demonstrating how grinding wheat kernels makes flour which then goes into our food and also understanding how wheat grows on a farm, thanks to our farmers of course! A big Thank You to the Soybean Association for planning and organizing this great event! To see pictures please visit our photo gallery on our website at: <http://ncwheat.com/media-gallery/>

USDA to Realign ERS with Chief Economist, Relocate ERS & NIFA Outside DC

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced on August 9th further reorganization of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), intended to improve customer service, strengthen offices and programs, and save taxpayer dollars. The Economic Research Service (ERS), currently under USDA's Research, Education, and Economics mission area, will realign once again with the Office of the Chief Economist (OCE) under the Office of the Secretary. Additionally, most employees of ERS and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) will be relocated outside of the National Capital Region. The movement of the employees outside of Washington, DC is expected to be completed by the end of 2019.

“It’s been our goal to make USDA the most effective, efficient, and customer-focused department in the entire federal government,” Perdue said. “In our Administration, we have looked critically at the way we do business, with the ultimate goal of ensuring the best service possible for our customers, and for the taxpayers of the United States. In some cases, this has meant realigning some of our offices and functions, or even relocating them, in order to make more logical sense or provide more streamlined and efficient services.”

Realigning ERS with OCE

Moving ERS back together with OCE under the Office of the Secretary simply makes sense because the two have similar missions. ERS studies and anticipates trends and emerging issues, while OCE advises the Secretary and Congress on the economic implications of policies and programs. These two agencies were aligned once before, and bringing them back together will enhance the effectiveness of economic analysis at USDA.

Relocating ERS and NIFA outside National Capital Region

New locations have yet to be determined, and it is possible that ERS and NIFA may be co-located when their new homes are found. USDA is undertaking the relocations for three main reasons:

1. To improve USDA’s ability to attract and retain highly qualified staff with training and interests in agriculture, many of whom come from land-grant universities. USDA has experienced significant turnover in these positions, and it has been difficult to recruit employees to the Washington, DC area, particularly given the high cost of living and long commutes.
2. To place these important USDA resources closer to many of stakeholders, most of whom live and work far from the Washington, DC area.
3. To benefit the American taxpayers. There will be significant savings on employment costs and rent, which will allow more employees to be retained in the long run, even in the face of tightening budgets.

“None of this reflects on the jobs being done by our ERS or NIFA employees, and in fact, I frequently tell my Cabinet colleagues that USDA has the best workforce in the federal government,” Perdue said. “These changes are more steps down the path to better service to our customers, and will help us fulfill our informal motto to ‘Do right and feed everyone.’”

National Association of Wheat Growers: Weekly Update

National Wheat Foundation’s Success File Segment Aired on the Fox Business Network

The National Wheat Foundation’s Success Files aired on the Fox Business Network on Thursday, August 9th and on Sunday, August 12th. In the segment former Chairman of the National Wheat Foundation Phil McClain talks on the important role wheat farmers play in boosting the economy. He also talks about the Foundation’s work to educate policymakers, the Administration, and other third parties on why wheat is such a versatile crop and vital for human diets. Visit the National Wheat Foundation’s Facebook page to get a sneak peak of the commercial.

NAWG Board Member Participates in Roundtable on Nuisance Lawsuits

A special national agriculture roundtable was held on August 3, 2018 to highlight the recent wave of nuisance lawsuits targeting North Carolina hog farms. The event was organized by U.S. Congressman David Rouzer (R-NC), U.S. Senator Thom Tillis (R-NC), U.S. House Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway (R-TX), and North Carolina Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. The purpose of the roundtable was to discuss the

threat that nuisance lawsuits pose to the U.S. agriculture industry, rural America, and farm families nationwide. It was comprised of 25-30 participants ranging from federal officials to growers to state officials and economists.

NAWG Board of Director and North Carolina wheat grower Timmy Thomas participated in the roundtable and provided a grower perspective on this issue.

NAWG Participates in North Carolina Small Grains Field Day and Meeting

On August 8-10, 2018, NAWG Federal Government Relations Coordinator Craig Berning attended the North Carolina Small Grain Growers Association (NCSGGA)'s Summer Board Meeting and Field Day in Hickory, NC. Follow @wheatworld for pictures of Berning participating in NCSGGA events.

From Oregon to Yemen: Wheat Plays Lifesaving Role in World's Worst Humanitarian Crisis

On Friday, August 10, 2018, the World Food Program will host an event around a shipment of U.S. wheat going out of Oregon to Yemen for their food aid program. A total of 176,000 metric tons of wheat will be shipped to Yemen on seven ships from late July through August. The wheat was donated by Food for Peace which is a program NAWG supports and wheat is consistently their top commodity purchase. This wheat will feed 7 million people for two months.

U.S. Wheat Associates Associate Director of the Portland Branch Micheal Anderson attended the event, along with USW Officer Darren Padgett. Additionally, Oregon Wheat Growers League CEO Blake Rowe attended as the NAWG representative.

NWF Blog Touches on the History of Tariffs

The National Wheat Foundation's recent blog piece points to an article published by AgriPulse which highlights the history of on agriculture and how they work. Read the blog in its entirety here: <https://wheatfoundation.org/agripulse-the-history-of-tariffs-is-about-to-repeat-itself/>

IRS Proposed Section 199A Regulations

The International Revenue Service (IRS) has issued proposed regulations for the new Section 199A deduction. Here is the link: <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/tax-cuts-and-jobs-act-provision-11011-section-199a-deduction-for-qualified-business-income-faqs> to the frequently asked questions (FAQ) page and the proposed regulation itself can be found here: <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/reg-107892-18.pdf> . There will be a 45 day comment period on the proposed regulations.

Trump Moves Ahead with China Tariffs; FFT Responds

The Trump administration has taken another step to intensify its pressure on China. The White House finalized a second round of Section 301 tariffs on imports worth \$16 billion. The tariffs will hit 279 of the original 284 tariff lines that were proposed for tariffs in June. The final list includes a few types of farm equipment, including no-till direct seeders and fertilizer distributors.

The announcement provoked an immediate response from Farmers for Free Trade, a group supported by NAWG and other farm groups that favor free trade. In its release, Farmers for Free Trade announced a new round of radio, television, and print advertising that will run initially in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

ASTA and BIO Submit Gene Editing Session for SXSW – Votes Needed!

The American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) and the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) recently submitted a proposal for a gene editing session at South by Southwest (SXSW) which is held annually in March

in Austin, TX. They need votes to help make the cut! If selected, their expert panel representing academia, scientists and farmers will discuss the biggest challenges facing modern food production – from climate change to disease and population growth – and explore how innovations like gene editing will shape our future. Attendees will get a glimpse into new innovations that could be coming down the pipeline (including low-gluten wheat), and learn about the environmental, health and social implications of gene editing.

[How to vote for the session, Gene Editing and the Future of Food & Ag](#)

Create a SXSW account (visit <https://panelpicker.sxsw.com/>, create an account [name, email and password], verify email)

Vote for our session (<https://panelpicker.sxsw.com/vote/87718> or search Gene Editing and The Future of Food & Agriculture)

Leave a comment (community engagement helps our score)

NWF Seeking for WILOT Applicants

The National Wheat Foundation's Wheat Industry Leaders of Tomorrow (WILOT) program will be taking place in St. Louis, MO, from November 11-16th, 2018 and seeks applicants to participate. This week-long training program that is sponsored by Monsanto is geared towards current leaders and those who soon could take on leadership positions at the state and national levels for wheat organizations. The program will focus on personal leadership, communicating to earn the public's trust, agricultural policy, advocacy skills, and media and messaging training. Thanks to Monsanto, this program will not cost state associations or farmers any money to participate. Please contact Craig Berning, cberning@wheatworld.org, if you are interested or would like to nominate someone to participate by Monday, September 3rd.

2018 NWYC Signup Summary

The 2018 National Wheat Yield Contest has completed its enrollment for the 2018 contest! The National Wheat Foundation (NWF) received a total of 318 submissions. Twenty-five states were represented through the entries with North Dakota and Kansas leading in grower applications. Geographically, NWF received 35 entries from Eastern States (Soft Red Winter) and 283 entries from Western States (Hard Wheat). For private lines, WestBred varieties made up 51% of the total entries. While Colorado State led with 22 public entries.

The 2018 Contest could not have been a success without its twelve sponsors: Syngenta (AgriPro), Croplan, Limagrain Cereal Seeds (LCS), AgriMaxx Seeds, WestBred, BASF, Mennel Milling, Ardent Mills, Grain Craft, Miller Milling, Indigo Ag and John Deere!

SHP Launches New Social Media Campaign

The Soil Health Partnership has launched a new 2018 social media campaign to spread the word about soil health and the innovative management practices that make a difference. The #SoilSmart social media campaign is designed to build the following on Soil Health Partnership's social media channels, reach new farmer audiences and provide helpful content to spread awareness of soil health. The campaign kicked off on August 1 on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter.

NCSGGA Upcoming Events

September 8th, 2018

CALS Tailgate

PNC Arena

Raleigh, NC

October 5th, 2018
Ag Science Day
Red Oak Elementary School
Red Oak, 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

December 6th – 7th, 2018
NCSGGA Board Meeting
Sheraton Imperial Hotel
Durham, 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.