

## **Wheat Planting Time**

***By: Dan Weathington, NCSGGA Executive Director***

Times goes by fast as we plan for another crop year starting with Wheat planting soon. For the last three years my annual push for wheat has been about the same, this year we look at a little better price than we have had in the past. Wheat continues to be an important part of rotation with Soybeans and Corn. In addition, wheat is the timely cash flow generator being the first crop we harvest and that money comes at a time to keep operations moving along without needing to borrow operating money. The rains have been good for some crops but not so good for others.

Last week we had our summer board of directors meeting in Hickory. One part of our agenda was to hear from all the directors about crop conditions in their districts. We have 25 directors total, 20 of which attended the meeting. Only two areas reported that their areas were having a normal year with all their crops in pretty good conditions. Out East lots of rain caused problems with Corn and soybeans. Buster Manning, Pantego, reported he has had a tough corn crop and soybeans are hurt too. Lacy Cummings, Pembroke, reported that his community had a good wheat crop, corn and soybeans look good too. The heavy rains set up situations such as a 200- acre field of corn may have 10-15 acres completely drowned. With this said we need to continue planting those crops that have pulled us through the years.

At that same meeting, we approved support research projects with NC State University and USDA/ARS with a total of \$428,492 (See attachment in this email for a list of total projects funded). We are able to continue to do support like this because of past reserves that will carry us through these low acreage years. There is interesting information coming out from our research projects. Carl Crozier has a project where you can send tissue analysis from plants for evaluation. Last year from 388 samples two elements that were the most common deficiency in crops tested were Nitrogen and Limestone (Mg). Basic agronomy, we need to begin with a soil test and follow for desired results. Dr. Ron Heiniger has data that additional Nitrogen in wheat can directly be related to tiller development as much as 30-bushel increase in yield. A big thank you to our researchers with NCSU for their dedication and support for North Carolina Agriculture.

In the past we have had 5 large field days across the state but our attendance has continued to drop. Last year Dr. Post tried having smaller county whistle stop field days and we had good attendance. Farmers are more apt to ask questions and get their problems out on the table for an answer in a smaller group setting. Dr. Angela Post, NCSU Small Grain Specialist, has remarked at field days don't be afraid to ask a question because there are farmers beside you having the same problem. Our ten-year planting of wheat is 690,000 acres in North Carolina. We have just harvested about a 460,000-acre crop at about 65-bushel average. There are some farmers that have contracted wheat that will be planted soon at \$5.50-\$6.30. We have a market that most of the country does not get to enjoy. Most of our farmers can sell their crop within 100-mile radius from their farm either for milling or feed wheat. In Western area of United States, farmers have a rail freight and/or barge freight to sell overseas, now they have to pay a 25% tariff to sell overseas.

We have the best research program to support your cropping system. Manage your crop, manage the marketing of your grain to get the highest price, and help us grow in North Carolina to the \$100 billion industry we are headed in the next few years. We have a large increase in our population each year. People like to eat 3 times per day plus snacks. PLANT WHEAT, EAT WHEAT AT LEAST SIX SERVINGS PER DAY---WHEAT PROVIDES 20% OF THE WORLDS PROTEIN SOURCE.

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

### **USDA Solicits New Sites for Research Agencies**

On August 15, the USDA issued a federal register notice eliciting comments from “state and local governments, industry, academia, interested parties and organizations (about) potential locations that would accommodate the construction and/or lease and operation of a NIFA and/or ERS headquarters facility.” On August 9th, the USDA announced that it plans on moving the Economic Research Service, now under the department’s Research, Education and Economics mission area, to the Office of the Chief Economist, under the Office of the Secretary. Additionally, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture also would be relocated, although new locations for both offices have not been determined.

### **MSU Plant Sciences Faculty Part of International Discovery in Wheat Genome Sequence**

A Montana State University faculty member dedicated to researching cereal genetics and genomics for Montana farmers is part of an international research team that published an article detailing the entire sequence of the wheat genome of bread wheat. The International Wheat Genome Sequencing Consortium published the article in the prestigious journal Science this week. It is the result of 13 years of collaborative international research. The article will pave the way for the production of wheat varieties better. Read more here: <http://www.montana.edu/news/17915>

### **USDA Adds New Tools, Resources to Farmers.gov to Aid Producers**

Agricultural producers have new resources available to them to prepare for and recover from impacts of natural disasters on the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s new website: farmers.gov. The site has updated tools and information to help agricultural producers identify the right programs and make decisions for their operations.

### **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, , if you are interested or would like to nominate someone to participate by Monday, September 3rd.

### **U.S. Wheat’s Steve Wirsching Participates in Wheat All About It! Podcast**

Steve Wirsching, Vice President and Director of the Portland Office for U.S. Wheat, was recently interviewed for the Wheat All About It! podcast. In episode 86, Wirsching talks about trade and comments on U.S. market share. Created and maintained by the Washington Grain Commission, the podcast is not exclusively aimed at a Pacific Northwest audience. All 86 episodes of the podcast can be accessed through the Washington Grain Commission website at: [wagains.org](http://wagains.org) or listeners can subscribe through various apps, including iTunes.

## **NCSGGA Upcoming Events**

September 8th, 2018

CALS Tailgate

PNC Arena

Raleigh, NC

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October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
Ag Science Day  
Red Oak Elementary School  
Red Oak, NC

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October 9th - 10th  
Agriculture Awareness Days  
Onslow County

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

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November 2nd, 2018  
Person County Ag Field Day  
Huck Sansbury Park  
425 Long Ave  
Roxboro, NC 27573

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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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December 6th – 7th, 2018  
NCSGGA Board Meeting  
Sheraton Imperial Hotel  
Durham, 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 / 910-736-8258 or Nikki Johnson for Outreach Events and Communications at nfjohnson0902@gmail.com / 919-809-8657.*