

2018 Small Grain OVT Data Available

The 2018 Small Grains Variety Data is now available and can be viewed here: <https://officialvarietytesting.ces.ncsu.edu/small-grains-2018/>. This site shows data for different locations as well as one year, two year, and three year statewide averages. For any questions about the OVT Data please contact Ryan Heiniger, Official Variety Testing Program Director, Crop & Soil Sciences - NC State University.

National Agriculture Leaders Roundtable

On Friday August 3rd, Dan Weathington, Executive Director of NC Small Grain Growers, will be representing our Association at The National Agriculture Leaders Roundtable in Raleigh at the state fairgrounds. The purpose of this roundtable is to discuss the threat of nuisance lawsuits to the US agriculture industry and rural economies. Among those speaking at the event include:

- David Rouzer, Chairman, House Agriculture Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture
- Mike Conaway, Chairman, House Agriculture Committee
- Thom Tillis, U.S. Senator
- Steve Troxler, North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture
- Hugh Weathers, South Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture
- Zippy Duvall, President, American Farm Bureau Federation
- Economists from USDA and NCSU
- National livestock/commodity group representatives

The Roundtable is a time where not just farmers, but community members can learn about recent lawsuits and events that have a strong potential to affect them. This event is a chance to get involved, hear from our leaders and show support for one another. We encourage everyone to attend.

The event is open to the public from 9:00am – 10:30am; the location is the James Martin Building at the State Fairgrounds, with plenty of overflow seating and live streaming of the event provided at the Kerr Scott Building. So come out and show your support for Agriculture and Protecting North Carolina Farm Families!!

Blackland Farm Managers Tour

The 48th Annual Blackland Farm Managers Summer Tour was held Wednesday, August 1st at 3B Farms in Pinetown. This is the largest event of its kind in North Carolina; approximately 700 people were in attendance. The event is comprised of a vendor tradeshow as well as educational presentations from NCSU Extension and Research faculty members on corn and soybean production and management. The event also offers an excellent opportunity to interact with farmers and agribusiness leaders from across the state. Topics discussed during this year's educational portion included:

- Corn Starter Fertilizer Test
- Corn & Soybean Fertility – Potassium
- Insect Management
- Fungicide Placement
- Soybean Extension Program Update
- Soybean Production
- Corn Production
- Corn & Soybean Weed Management
- OVT Program

The NCSGGA exhibited in the Vendor Fair baking warm gluten full cookies. Thank you to everyone that planned and organized this great event. To see pictures please visit our photo gallery on our website at: <http://ncwheat.com/media-gallery/>

National Association of Wheat Growers: Weekly Update

Senate Leadership Names Farm Bill Conferees

On August 1, 2018, the Senate named nine conferees to the Farm Bill. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., named himself and Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts of Kansas, Sen. John Boozman of Arkansas, Sen. John Hoeven of North Dakota and Sen. Joni Ernst of Iowa. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., named Senate Agriculture ranking member Debbie Stabenow of Michigan, Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, Sen. Sherrod Brown of Ohio, and Sen. Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota.

NAWG issued a release applauding the Senate for assigning their respective conferees and continuing to move the Farm Bill authorization process forward.

Senate Passes Four-Bill Appropriations Package

On August 1, 2018, the Senate passed four fiscal 2019 spending bills, packaged as a single measure that would appropriate \$154.2 billion for departments including Agriculture, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, Treasury and Interior.

The Agriculture bill (S 2976) would provide \$23.24 billion in discretionary funding and \$121.8 billion in mandatory funding, matching the funding levels of the House version of the bill (HR 5961). It is \$6.2 billion above President Donald Trump's fiscal 2019 budget request and \$710 million below the fiscal 2018 enacted level. The bill also includes \$2.97 billion in discretionary money for the Food and Drug Administration.

The Interior-Environment bill (S 3073) would fund the Interior Department, EPA and related agencies at \$35.9 billion, a \$600 million increase compared to fiscal 2018 enacted numbers and \$7.6 billion more than the Trump administration budget request. Within that total, the Interior Department would see \$13.1 billion, a decrease of \$200 million compared to the fiscal 2018 number. The EPA would see \$8.1 billion, equal to last fiscal year, although it would also get an additional \$766 million for EPA water infrastructure programs, bringing its total to \$8.8 billion. Notably, the bill lacks the contentious "poison pill" policy riders related to Clean Air Act and Endangered Species Act implementation that House Republicans attached to their bill (HR 6147).

Senate Ag Advances CFTC and USDA Nominees

This week, the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry voted to advance two nominees to full Senate. The nominees are Dan Michael Berkovitz for Commissioner of the Futures Trading Commission and James E. Hubbard for Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment at the USDA. The announcement came this week from Chairman Pat Roberts (R-KS) and Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) who continue to applaud the bipartisan work of the committee. The full press release can be viewed at Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry site.

Several agriculture groups, including NAWG, sent a letter of support to Senate leadership.

White House Nominates Science and Technology Policy Director

The Trump Administration has nominated Kelvin Droegemeier to be the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy. Droegemeier is a native of Oklahoma where he is currently the Vice President of Research and Regents' Professor of Meteorology at the University of Oklahoma. He also serves as the Cabinet Secretary of Science and Technology for the state of Oklahoma. Droegemeier served two six-year terms under both President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama on the National Science Board. In addition, Droegemeier co-founded the National Science Foundation's Science and Technology Center for Analysis and Prediction of Storms and the Engineering Research Center for Collaborative Adaptive Sensing of the Atmosphere.

USDA Map Shows Crop Land Use Nationwide

This week, Bloomberg released a map on how Americans utilize their land to create wealth. Bloomberg used data maps from the USDA on acres of land that were developed in conjunction with surveys, satellite images and data from other agencies to show the amount of land used for agriculture purposes in comparison to urbanization. According to the data, cropland accounts for roughly a fifth of the continental U.S. Approximately 41% of the land area is used for livestock purposes, between pasture and producing feed. The map also illustrates the growth of urban communities, showing that these land areas have quadrupled since 1945.

Precision Ag, Biotech Top White House Research Priorities

The White House is telling federal agricultural research agencies to put a priority on developing precision agriculture technologies and ensuring the safety of gene-edited plants and animals. The White House Office of Management and Office of Science and Technology Policy issued a memo that outlines the administration's federal research priorities for fiscal 2020. The document says precision agriculture research should focus on developing ways to "minimize agricultural inputs and maximize the quantity and quality of agricultural products." The biotech research should focus on "the safety of microorganisms, plants, and animals developed using gene editing, in order to greater leverage biotechnology products for agriculture."

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.

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.

American Soybean Association Joins Farmer for Free Trade

This week, American Soybean Association (ASA) announced that the organization will becoming a member of Farmers for Free Trade (FFT). FFT is a bipartisan campaign that works to voice the trade policy needs for farmers, ranchers, and ag businesses across the nation. ASA joins several agricultural organizations, including NAWG, who partner with FFT in efforts to voice the agricultural community's concerns toward the current

trade climate. According to a statement by CEO Ryan Findlay, ASA's participation in FFT is an opportunity to advocate for new trade agreements and expand trade markets. View the full statement on the ASA website.

NCSGGA Upcoming Events

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 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 njjohnson0902@gmail.com / 919-809-8657.