

## **CALL TO ACTION: Pass Farm Bill In Lame Duck**

**By: Craig Berning, NAWG Government Relations Representative**

With the timeline to finish a Farm Bill this Congress shortening, NAWG has organized a grassroots effort with other farm groups to call or email legislators asking for them to make passing a farm bill by the end of this congress a priority. It is critical that Members of Congress hear from their constituents that a Farm Bill is a priority. Below you will find a list of Farm Bill Priorities as well as a sample script for Congressional phone calls and emails.

### **Farm Bill Priorities**

Passing the Farm Bill in the lame duck as quickly as possible to:

- Provide certainty to farmers in a state of a depressed farm economy
- Protect crop insurance, a key risk management tool.
- Allow for a farm safety net to be in place.
- Provide certainty when there is so much international market instability has created more challenges.
- Fund conservation and market development programs that farmers rely on.

### **Talking Points for Call-In and emails:**

*Hi my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am wheat grower from \_\_\_\_\_ and a member of the National Association of Wheat Growers. I am calling to ask (Congressman/Congresswoman/Senator \_\_\_\_\_) to make passing the farm bill by the end of this congress a priority.*

(Please feel free to include any challenges your operation has recently faced (like low prices, natural disasters, conservation program needs, etc) which demonstrate why farm bill programs are so important. Additionally, below are some further talking points you can use in your call or email)

- The farm bill protects crop insurance, a key part of the farm safety net.
- The farm bill provides growers with access to a strong safety net which includes ARC and PLC. ARC and PLC payments for 2018 are still set to be made after October 1, 2019, but programs for the 2019 crop year are unclear until Congress acts on the Farm Bill. Wheat farmers have already started putting their crop in the ground and it's unclear what sort of safety net will be available. The international market for wheat, along with many other agricultural commodities, is unpredictable and unstable due to hostile trade environments and ongoing negotiations.
- Market development programs allow for the development, improvement, and management of export markets for ag commodities, such as wheat. These critical programs will not function without a Farm Bill in place to fund them.
- Wheat growers have not sold any wheat to China, a key export market for wheat, this year because of tariffs.
- Uncertainty surrounding international markets that have traditionally been good for U.S. agriculture.
- Farmers are facing a depressed farm economy with net farm income predicted to drop yet again next year.
- Farm bill expiration has caused uncertainty around conservation programs that help farmers implement resource-conserving practices into their operations.

### **Below is an up-to-date congressional contact list for North Carolina:**

#### **North Carolina Senators:**

Thom Tillis (202)224-6342 - Agriculture Staff: Corey Brown [corey\\_brown@tillis.senate.gov](mailto:corey_brown@tillis.senate.gov)

Richard Burr (202)224-3154 - Agriculture Staff: Mykel Wedig [mykel\\_wedig@burr.senate.gov](mailto:mykel_wedig@burr.senate.gov)

#### **North Carolina House of Representatives:**

G.K. Butterfield (202) 225-3101- Agriculture Staff: Kyle Parker [kyle.l.parker@mail.house.gov](mailto:kyle.l.parker@mail.house.gov)

Walter Jones (202) 225-3415 - Agriculture Staff: Bryan Martin [bryan.martin@mail.house.gov](mailto:bryan.martin@mail.house.gov)

David Price (202) 225-1784 - Agriculture Staff: Emily Richardson [emily.richardson@mail.house.gov](mailto:emily.richardson@mail.house.gov)

Virginia Foxx (202) 225-2071 - Agriculture Staff: Carson Middleton [carson.middleton@mail.house.gov](mailto:carson.middleton@mail.house.gov)

Mark Walker (202) 225-3065 - Agriculture Staff: Sean McCabe [sean.mccabe@mail.house.gov](mailto:sean.mccabe@mail.house.gov)

David Rouzer (202) 225-2731 - Agriculture Staff: Jason Cooke [jason.cook@mail.house.gov](mailto:jason.cook@mail.house.gov)

Richard Hudson (202) 225-3715 - Agriculture Staff: Kayla Dolan [kayla.dolan@mail.house.gov](mailto:kayla.dolan@mail.house.gov)

Robert Pittenger (202) 225-1976 - Agriculture Staff: Vacant

Patrick McHenry (202) 225-2576 - Agriculture Staff: Chris Worrell [chris.worrell@mail.house.gov](mailto:chris.worrell@mail.house.gov)

Mark Meadows (202) 225-6401 - Agriculture Staff: Chad Yelinski [chad.yelinski@mail.house.gov](mailto:chad.yelinski@mail.house.gov)

Alma Adams (202) 225-1510 - Agriculture Staff: Katherine Stewart [katherine.stewart@mail.house.gov](mailto:katherine.stewart@mail.house.gov)

Ted Budd (202) 225-4531 - Agriculture Staff: Samuel Shumate [samuel.shumate@mail.house.gov](mailto:samuel.shumate@mail.house.gov)

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

#### **NWF Announces National Winners for the 2018 National Wheat Yield Contest**

On Monday, November 12, 2018, the National Wheat Foundation announced the national winners of the 2018 National Wheat Yield Contest. Washington state wheat grower Phillip Gross was named the high yield winner for the third year in a row. His entry topped the 200 bu/ac level for the first time ever in the Contest's history. Winners will be recognized at the 2019 Commodity Classic in Orlando Florida which takes place February 28th - March 2nd. Read more about the 2018 NWYC national winners here: <https://wheatfoundation.org/press-release-nwf-announces-national-winners-for-the-2018-national-wheat-yield-contest/>

#### **NAWG Attends and Presents at Tri-State Convention in Portland**

NAWG CEO Chandler Goule, VP of Policy and Communications Josh Tonsager, and VP Ben Scholz attended the annual Tri-State Convention in Portland, Oregon. Ben Scholz provided attendees with a general update on the recent activities of NAWG, while Chandler Goule and Josh Tonsager participated in a breakout session titled "Where do we stand with the Farm Bill and how does the trade environment factor in?"

#### **Wheat Industry Leaders of Tomorrow (WILOT) Program Trains the Future Industry Leaders**

From November 11-15, 2018, several growers, NAWG staff, and communicators participated in the Wheat Industry Leaders of Tomorrow (WILOT) program, sponsored by Bayer. WILOT is a week-long leadership and advocacy program that better prepares leaders with the tools they need to be advocates for the wheat industry.

#### **Field to Market Honors 2018 Sustainability Leadership Awards Winners**

On November 14, 2018, Field to Market: The Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture announced the 2018 recipients of its prestigious Sustainability Leadership Awards. The Alliance honored Archer Daniels Midland Company (ADM), Agrible and General Mills, Inc. with the 2018 Collaboration of the Year Award and presented the 2018 Farmer of the Year Award to Louisiana cotton farmer Jay Hardwick.

#### **Farm Bureau Survey: Thanksgiving Dinner Cost Down for Third Straight Year**

The American Farm Bureau Federation's 33rd annual survey of classic items found on the Thanksgiving Day dinner table indicates the average cost of this year's feast for 10 is \$48.90, or less than \$5.00 per person. This is a 22-cent decrease from last year's average of \$49.12.

### **Housing and Registration Opens for 2019 Commodity Classic**

Housing and registration has officially opened for the 2019 Commodity Classic, which is scheduled for February 28th – March 2nd in Orlando, Florida at the Orlando Convention Center. NAWG has been assigned to the Rosen Centre hotel (9840 International Drive, Orlando, Florida 32819) which is located right next to the Convention Center.

### **Apply for the Jerry Minore Memorial Scholarship! – Deadline is December 1, 2018!**

The National Wheat Foundation is officially accepting applications for the Jerry Minore Scholarship, honoring a student pursuing a career in agriculture. The scholarship is available to both high school and college students for the 2019-2020 academic year with an application deadline of December 01, 2018. For more information on how to apply, read the Foundation's release here: <https://wheatfoundation.org/jerry-minore-memorial-scholarship-hear-from-last-years-winners/>

## **NCSGGA Upcoming Events**

November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
Commodity Fair  
South Johnston High School  
Four Oaks, NC

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November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
Ag Club Presentation  
Glendale Kenly Elementary School  
Kenly, NC

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December 6th - 7th, 2018  
NCSGGA Board Meeting  
Sheraton Imperial Hotel  
4700 Emperor Blvd. Durham, NC

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December 14<sup>th</sup> / 8am – 11:30am  
Academy of Moore County  
Agriculture Field Day  
Aberdeen Post Masters House  
204 E South St.  
Aberdeen, North Carolina 28315

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January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 / 1:00pm  
NCSGGA Board Meeting  
Sheraton Imperial Hotel  
4700 Emperor Blvd. Durham, NC

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January 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
NC Commodities Conference

Sheraton Imperial Hotel  
4700 Emperor Blvd. Durham, NC

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January 30th – February 1st, 2019  
Southern Farm Show  
NC State Fairgrounds Raleigh, NC

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February 20th, 2019  
Northeast Ag Expo  
Small Grains Field Day  
120 Selwin Rd.  
Hobbsville, NC 27946

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February 27th – March 2nd, 2019  
Commodity Classic  
Orlando, Florida

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March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 / 8am – 11:30am  
Academy of Moore County  
Agriculture Field Day  
Aberdeen Post Masters House  
204 E South St.  
Aberdeen, North Carolina 28315

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March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
AG Science Day  
Bailey Elementary School  
Bailey, NC

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April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
AG By the Slice  
Guilford County 4-H

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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.*