

Wheat Planting Time is HERE!

By: Dan Weathington, NCSGGA Executive Director

We have had many calls this week concerning planting wheat. When prices for wheat are low it is hard to figure out a profit with \$4.00 to \$4.70 wheat. It seems there is some magic in receiving \$5.25 or above for your wheat crop....there is, you must make at least 60 bushels at that level to break even or make a little profit. In planning for profit on any crop you must use a sound fertilizer program with best management agronomic practices. Whatever you do on your farm using wheat in your rotation always remember:

1. Plant Good quality certified seed. Last year I had people call me saying they planted wheat from their bin without testing and had only a 50% stand. Usually with saved seed you can count on a 8-10 bushel yield drag. There are some Plant Protected Varieties that if planted saved seed from them you can get in some legal trouble with some stiff fines.
2. Low germinating seed can result in lost yield on the front end of your WHEAT crop.
3. CHOOSE THOSE VARIETIES THAT HAVE SOME RESISTANCE TO HESSIAN FLY, SCAB, AND POWDERY MILDEW.....IF YOU RUN INTO A PROBLEM IN THE GROWING SEASON RESISTANCE CAN BE THE DIFFERENCE IN PROFIT AND LOSS ON YOUR WHEAT CROP!
4. REMEMBER.....TAKE THE TIME TO WATCH THE MARKET DAILY FOR TIMES TO CONTRACT NEXT YEAR'S CROP AT A PROFIT!!!!

Wheat Crop Update

By: Dr. Angela Post, NCSU Small Grains Specialist

We are approaching the end of the recommended planting window for wheat in North Carolina and there are a significant number of unplanted acres. In the last several weeks we have had rain after rain after rain. With cool temperatures in the forecast and little or no wind, it will still be several days before planting can resume. Though we are past the optimum window for planting wheat, I want to encourage those who have purchased seed to continue to try and get it planted. It is worth more in the ground than in the bin or the bag. With a challenging end of summer, continued hardships in tobacco, and soybean quality decreasing with every additional day in the field, producers are likely to need the cash-flow from the wheat crop of 2019. Growers who still have plans to plant wheat should begin increasing seeding rates for their area by at least 10% more than they intended for an on-time planting and 20% more if they broadcast rather than drill their crop. Use the table below to determine an appropriate seeding rate based on your target population. The good news is that the fall Hessian fly danger zone is passed and we won't worry again for Hessian fly until we warm up in the spring. You should expect to see slower than usual emergence for wheat planted from now until the first week of December due to cooler temperatures and cold, wet soils. But we have had years in the past where late planted wheat has done well for North Carolina producers. It just depends on how the winter treats us.

Million Seeds Per Acre	1.6	1.7	1.8	2.0	2.1
Seeds Per Square Foot	37	39	41	46	48
Seed Size (seeds per pound)	Pounds of Seed Per Acre				
10,000	161	170	179	200	209
11,000	147	154	162	182	190

12,000	134	142	149	167	174
12,500	129	136	143	160	167
13,000	124	131	137	154	161
13,500	119	126	132	148	155
14,000	115	121	128	143	149
15,000	107	113	119	134	139
Drill Row Spacing (inches)	Seed Per Row Foot				
6	18	20	21	23	24
7	21	23	24	27	28
7.5	23	24	26	29	30
8	24	26	28	31	32

Let's Turn This Around By Planting Wheat Right NOW!

By: Dr. Ronnie W. Heiniger, NCSU Cropping Systems Specialist

Yes, 2018 has been a tough year! We have been wet, dry, and flooded. Storms have raged and hot, dry weather this summer has stung. We are knocked down but not out. How do we respond? As our forefathers have done before us we get up, brush the dirt off and pitch back into the fight. Now is the time to show what a North Carolina farmer is made of and it starts by planting wheat this fall. Yes, I know that everyone is saying there is no money in wheat, but the successful people I meet all have one common motto. That is: "When the crowd goes one way you go the other". Let me give you some reasons why going the other way by planting wheat yet this fall is the right thing to do.

Opportunity!! – What all growers in North Carolina who have suffered this year need is an opportunity to make some money, quickly. No better opportunity exists than with a winter crop and, this year, wheat is that crop. Corn yields were down over 20 bushels per acre on average with the crop coming in at less than 100 million bushels. This is over 20 million bushels less than we have grown the last two years. Our livestock industry is going to be looking for feed grains by mid-summer. Their focus is going to be on wheat. This means that basis should be good at harvest – coupled with a low carryover in corn that should help corn prices on the board of trade by mid-summer. As a result, we can look forward to strong prices for feed wheat. Already milling wheat price is showing strength. All this indicates a chance for a strong rally in wheat prices!!

LOW Input costs – Last thing a grower needs right now is to spend more money. So, what crop can you grow that you have a potential for a reasonable or even a high yield with less inputs? – Wheat!! We can plant wheat right now by investing in only the cost of seed. If January and February weather conditions are favorable we can then spend some more money in putting on nitrogen and possibly an insecticide or fungicide and then harvest with high yield potential and profit. If the weather is not favorable we adjust our nitrogen rate, hold back on other inputs, and keep costs at a minimum with the result that with good prices we can still make a profit. Under both scenarios we still have the opportunity to plant double crop soybeans and keep cash flow coming in.

Still have TIME – While the weather has delayed harvest and wheat planting there is still time to get wheat planted. Our data shows that wheat planted right up to December 15 still has the opportunity for full yield potential given good weather in January and early February. So even if soybean harvest is not complete until the first of December there is still time to get wheat planted!

Manage to Increase Yield and Keep Costs Low - When growing a crop in a tight market the key is to do it right – right from the beginning. You can't afford to do "rescue" treatments this season. So start right (your best yield is made the day you plant the seed) and then support that crop with good management at jointing and flowering. Three things to focus on 1) Plant the best seed you can find in the best condition you can put it in. Don't scrimp on seed. When you plant later you need to increase seeding rates – Increase 10-12% these last two weeks in November and another 10-12% when planting in December. Plant only the highest yielding variety with a special emphasis on disease resistance for powdery mildew, rust, and scab. 2) Make sure you have N available – wheat needs warm temperature and nitrogen to tiller. When temperatures warm up make sure you have N available for that crop to green up. 3) When jointing comes around next spring be ready to support your yield potential with the proper level of nutrients – particularly N. If you have a good wheat crop growing don't drop the ball and cut the rate on N. Use a tissue test and make sure you have the nutrients you need to keep wheat green and growing from jointing to flag leaf.

THE TIME IS STILL RIGHT TO PLANT WHEAT - TODAY AND ALL THE WAY TO THE MIDDLE OF DECEMBER. Use a higher seeding rate, a good variety, a little winter or spring N and look to lock in a profit when basis improves this coming year. In the last three years I have talked to several wheat growers who have made considerable profits with wheat. They talk about hitting a "home run". They found a way to make money in a difficult and challenging year. Wouldn't it feel good to be one of those who hit a "home run" this next year by planting wheat?

NWF Announces State Winners for the 2018 National Wheat Yield Contest

On Monday, November 19, 2018, the National Wheat Foundation announced the state winners of the 2018 National Wheat Yield Contest. The 2018 Contest includes 82 growers from 23 states.

"It's great to see winners from such states as New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia who aren't commonly known for producing wheat," stated NWF Board President and Idaho wheat grower Wayne Hurst. "It demonstrates the versatility of the crop which can grow in these states and states, like Kansas and Idaho, which are known for being large producers of wheat."

The contest recognizes winners for each state (those submitted) in two primary competition categories: winter wheat and spring wheat, and two subcategories: dryland and irrigated.

"NWF would like to thank each grower for enrolling in the NWYC and our sponsors for helping to make the Contest available to wheat growers in the US," continued Hurst. "As the Contest continues to grow, we hope to see growers from new states enter the Contest and include wheat farmers from states not recognized in this year's batch of winners."

Please find the attached Press Release from the National Wheat Foundation for the complete list of state winners.

NCSGGA Upcoming Events

November 27th, 2018
Commodity Fair
South Johnston High School
Four Oaks, NC

November 30th, 2018

Ag Club Presentation
Glendale Kenly Elementary School
Kenly, NC

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

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

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

January 10th – 11th, 2019
NC Commodities Conference
Sheraton Imperial Hotel
4700 Emperor Blvd. Durham, NC

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

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

February 26th – March 3rd, 2019
Commodity Classic
Orlando, Florida

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

March 15th, 2019
AG Science Day

Bailey Elementary School
Bailey, NC

April 16th, 2019
AG By the Slice
Guilford County 4-H

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.