

30th Annual North Carolina Commodities Conference

The 30th Annual NC Commodities Conference of NC Small Grains, Soybeans, Corn & Cotton Producers Associations was held last week, January 9th – 11th, 2019 at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel & Convention Center in Durham. The conference, held every January, is an informative and educational conference dedicated to discussing challenges of farming in the 21st Century. Attendees were able to see the latest in trends and technologies at the tradeshow and hear from some of the leading figures in the industry today during the general sessions. Guest speakers this year included:

- “Taking Care of Business” - Dr. David Kohl, Professor Emeritus, Virginia Tech. Writes regularly for Corn and Soybean Digest and other ag lending publications
- “Row Crop Update 2018-19 Outlook” - Edgar Woods, President, Palmetto Grain Brokerage, Ridgeland, SC
- “Production Management Panel: Cover Crop & Soil Health” - Vernon Cox, Moderator, Soil & Water Conservation, NCDA&CS; Roian Atwood, Wrangler Jeans, Greensboro, NC; Donnie Lassiter, Lassiter Farms; Conway, NC; Rachel Vann, NCSU, Raleigh, NC
- “State of NC Agriculture & Q&A” – Sandy Stewart, Assistant Commissioner, NCDA&CS

The Conference is also home to annual meetings, efficiency awards, and production seminars to each Commodity Association. During the annual business meeting the NCSGGA President reviews the Annual Report for the Association which includes 2018 Financials, Reflections, and Nomination Report. At this time the NCSGGA recognizes it’s retiring Directors and newly elected Directors. This year we had 7 retiring directors and 2 reelections:

Name	District	Term Expires	Replacement	Location
Drew Medlin	20	January 2019 (2)	Cameron Simpson	Monroe, NC
Rick Morris	AB	January 2019 (2)	Jim Kiser	Cherryville, NC
John Glover	9	January 2019 (2)	Richard Webb	Stantonsburg, NC
Lacy Cummings	13	January 2019 (2)	Missey Stone	Rowland, NC
Ray Horton	17	January 2019 (1)	Reelect 2 nd Term	Mt. Ulla, NC
Joseph Ordess	11	January 2019 (1)	Scott Dail	Tarboro, NC
Adam Carter	8	Dismissal	Clifton Paul	Grantsboro, NC
Dawson Pugh	6	January 2017(2)	Troy Slager	Pantego, NC
Buster Manning	3	January 2019 (1)	Reelect 2 nd Term	Pantego, NC
Clifton Paul	14	January 2013 (2)	Penn Motley	Concord, NC

The 2019 NCSGGA Officer Slate was also announced during this time:

Timmy Thomas – President

Jack Alphin – 1st Vice President
Buster Manning – 2nd Vice President
David Davenport – Treasurer
Josh Latham – Secretary
Steve Griffin – Past President

National Association of Wheat Growers: Weekly Update

NWF Officially Opens 2019 National Wheat Yield Contest

The National Wheat Foundation (NWF) has officially announced that it is accepting grower enrollment for the 2019 National Wheat Yield Contest! The deadline for Winter Wheat entries is May 15th with an early registration deadline of April 1st. The Spring wheat entry deadline is August 1st, with an early registration deadline of June 15th. To register for the contest, visit here: <https://yieldcontest.wheatfoundation.org/>

The 2019 National Wheat Yield Contest sponsors include AgriMaxx, Ardent Mills, BASF, Corteva Agriscience, Indigo Ag, Grain Craft, John Deere, LimaGrain Cereals, Syngenta, and WestBred.

USDA to Reopen FSA Offices for Limited Services During Government Shutdown

On January 16, 2019, USDA Secretary Perdue announced that many Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices will reopen temporarily in the coming days to perform certain limited services for farmers and ranchers. The Agency has recalled about 2,500 FSA employees to open offices on Thursday, January 17 and Friday, January 18, in addition to Tuesday, January 22, during normal business hours. The offices will be closed for the federal Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday on Monday, January 21.

In almost half of FSA locations, FSA staff will be available to assist agricultural producers with existing farm loans and to ensure the agency provides 1099 tax documents to borrowers by the Internal Revenue Service's deadline.

WTO Set to Rule Against China Ag Subsidies

As reported in Politico, in October 2016, then-U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman alleged that China had exceeded international limits on ag subsidies by \$100 billion in 2015. U.S. officials say Beijing's grain subsidies (and other policies) distort global trade and unfairly restrict the Chinese market for American farm goods.

On January 16th, it was reported that the World Trade Organization is expected to side with the U.S. in this longstanding dispute over Chinese government subsidies for wheat, corn and rice growers. The confidential WTO ruling was circulated to parties before Christmas and could be made public in late February — just as Washington and Beijing could be in the final stages of trade talks — or in early March.

Gene Editing Campaign “Innovature” Launched

For the past two years NAWG has been a part of an informal coalition led by the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) and Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) regarding gene editing and the regulatory and consumer perceptions around gene editing. Today, BIO and ASTA launched Innovature, “a new platform to engage people in an important and thoughtful dialogue around innovation in food and agriculture. Innovature, through Innovature.com and parallel social media channels, aims to cultivate broad-based partnerships and fully realize the potential that innovation, such as gene editing, has to address society's most urgent challenges that affect our planet, our health and our food.”

NAWG is scheduled to have staff from BIO present to the Joint Wheat Breeding Innovation Committee at the joint NAWG/U.S. Wheat Winter Conference and overview this campaign they just launched.

Roberts to Hold Trade, Climate Change Hearings

As reported in Hagstrom, Chairman Pat Roberts, R-Kan., said that the Senate Agriculture Committee will soon hold hearings on trade and on climate change. Roberts, who has announced he will not run for re-election in 2020, told reporters after receiving an award from the American Farm Bureau Federation that he will be “just as ornery and tough” for the next two years as he has been throughout his lengthy career in the House and the Senate. At the trade hearing, Roberts said, he hopes to hear from interests beyond the commodity and export groups. He said that Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Gregg Doud, who heads the agriculture section at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, might be among the witnesses he will call.

Register Today for the 2019 Commodity Classic!

There is still time to register for the 2019 Commodity Classic, which is scheduled for February 28th – March 2nd in Orlando, Florida at the Orange County 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. Visit here: <http://www.commodityclassic.com/registration-and-housing> to register for the conference.

2019 NAWG/U.S. Wheat Winter Conference Housing and Registration Open!

Housing and registration has officially opened for 2019 NAWG/USW Winter Conference scheduled for February 12-15, 2019 at the Grand Hyatt Washington in downtown Washington, D.C. Register and reserve your rooms here: <https://www.uswheat.org/2019-usw-nawg-joint-winter-meeting-registration/>. Please remember to register your spouses and select the correct room block on the LAST PAGE of your registration. The deadline to reserve your room is MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 2019.

NCSGGA Upcoming Events

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

February 12th – 15th, 2019
NAWG Winter Meeting
Washington D.C.

February 20th / 9:00am
Northeast Ag Expo
Small Grains Field Day
120 Selwin Rd.
Hobbsville, NC 27946

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

March 5th - 6th, 2019

Duplin Grows
Duplin County Events Center
Kenansville, NC

March 15th, 2019
AG Science Day
Bailey Elementary School
Bailey, NC

April 11th / 8:00am
Surry County Ag Day
Veterans Memorial Park
691 W Lebanon St,
Mt Airy, NC 27030

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

April 24th - 26th, 2019
Farm Animal Days
NCSU Beef Unit
4505 Mid Pines Rd.
Raleigh, NC

May 17th – 19th, 2019
Got to be NC Festival
State Fairgrounds Raleigh, NC

June 18-19, 2019
NC State FFA Convention & Career Show
Raleigh Convention Center

June 25th, 2019
Touch A Tractor Kids Series
4020 Market At North Hills St,
Raleigh, NC 27609

August 7th, 2019
NCSGGA Assessment Referendum Voting Day

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.