

**USDA Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue - Town Hall Meeting
University of Mt. Olive, Mt. Olive, NC, Monday, February 11, 2019**

You are invited to attend a Secretary of Agriculture Town Hall Meeting with USDA Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue at the University of Mount Olive, Mount Olive, NC, on Monday February 11, 2019 beginning at 3:00 pm.

Larry Wooten, President, North Carolina Farm Bureau will moderate a Question and Answer Session with farmers and the Secretary. The Town Hall Meeting will last until 4 pm allowing the Secretary time to visit with farmers until 4:30 pm. The Meeting will be held in the Murphy Center Cafeteria and parking will be available in the Kornegay Arena lot adjacent to Murphy.

FREE Upcoming Webinar: Management of Fusarium Head Blight

The American Society of Agronomy is sponsoring a FREE upcoming webinar on managing Fusarium head blight of wheat. Fusarium head blight of wheat (also known as scab) is one of the most problematic diseases of wheat grown in the U.S. Not only can the disease cause direct losses to wheat yield and quality, but infected grains are also at risk for containing mycotoxins (e.g. deoxynivalenol [DON]).

The webinar has two parts, an hour each on Monday, February 11th and Monday, February 18th, and is free to participants because it's sponsored by the US Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative. Crop consultants, extension agents, and growers are encouraged to participate.

Participants can register at the links in this article:

<https://smallgrains.ces.ncsu.edu/2019/01/upcoming-webinar-management-of-fusarium-head-blight/>

The presentations will be taped and available for download afterward, for those who can't join at the scheduled times.

Presenters Include:

Christina Cowger, USDA-ARS, NCSU
Pierce Paul, Ohio State University
Carl Bradley, University of Kentucky

Please take advantage of this free informative webinar!!

Seeking YOUR Help!!!

Researchers at UNCW are studying farmer participation in conservation programs to gauge barriers, motivators, and personality factors affecting participation. We would appreciate your participation in the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/22QPFJV>.

This research survey is conducted by the Department of Environmental Sciences at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. This survey aims to examine factors affecting farmer participation in conservation programs and takes approximately 5-10 minutes to complete. Participation in this survey is voluntary, anonymous, and extremely valuable. If you agree to participate, you may stop at any time or refuse to answer any question and will not be treated any differently by the researchers. We thank you in advance for your support! Your participation is voluntary and anonymous. Thank you!

The Southern Farm Show

The Southern Farm Show was held last week on Wednesday, January 30th – Friday, February 1st, at the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh!! Over 400 companies exhibited at the event making the Southern Farm Show the largest agricultural exposition in the Carolinas and Virginia. Aside from the tradeshow the event also hosted key meetings, workshops, entertainment and continuing education for attendees. A big thank you to everyone who helped in our booth, we baked over 10,000 cookies in 3 days!!!! To see pictures from the event please visit our photo gallery on our website at: <http://ncwheat.com/media-gallery/>

National Association of Wheat Growers: Weekly Update

NAWG CEO Responds to 2019 State of the Union Address

On Tuesday, President Donald Trump delivered his State of the Union Address. The theme of the speech was “Choosing Greatness” and focused on immigration, trade, infrastructure, healthcare, and national security.

NAWG CEO Chandler Goule provided the following statement in response:

“Wheat farmers are pleased to hear President Trump discuss the need to invest in America’s infrastructure. With any infrastructure legislation, we hope the President and Congress prioritize the critical needs of rural infrastructure. This includes making improvements to transportation infrastructure, expanding access to broadband, and updating rural agricultural research facilities.

“As we consider our place in the world stage, let's make sure that we preserve smart trade deals that keep American wheat producers in a strong position. This includes remaining in NAFTA until the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement is in place and moving forward with new bi-lateral deals.

“We appreciate the President continuing to talk about the need to enforce our trade deals and commend the Administration’s work to ensure countries like China are living up to its commitments. We recognize that China’s trade policies are unfair and create unnecessary distortions that hurt U.S. farmers and other industries, which is why NAWG supports the two World Trade Organization (WTO) cases the U.S. has taken against China instead of tariffs.

“NAWG looks forward to continuing to work with the Administration and Congress on the implementation of the 2018 farm bill. The bill gives growers access to programs that allow them to produce high-quality crops while using fewer resources. Programs within the bill further the rural economy by creating new jobs, spur investment, and provide farmers with the tools they need to continue producing a safe and abundant food supply.”

NAWG Participants in BNSF Annual Meeting

On February 6, 2018, NAWG VP of Policy and Communications Josh Tonsager and Past President Gordon Stoner attended the 2019 BNSF Ag Rail Business Council annual meeting. During the meeting, NAWG spoke on its priorities for 2019 focusing on our efforts to get the 2018 farm bill implemented, and NAWG’s work to meet with Freshmen members and bring more awareness to the organization.

JOINT STATEMENT: Trade Mitigation Funds Will Benefit Export Market Development for U.S. Wheat Growers

U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) and the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) are pleased that U.S. wheat growers now have the opportunity to increase efforts to expand export market access with USDA’s Jan. 31 announcement awarding \$200 million to 57 organizations through the Agriculture Trade Promotion

Program (ATP). USW was awarded \$8.25 million, which will be distributed over the next three years. Administered by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), the ATP is one of three USDA programs within the Trump Administration's trade mitigation package—created to ease the effects of recent trade retaliation against U.S. farmers and exporters. The funds will support export market development programs led by U.S. trade associations, cooperatives and other industry-affiliated organizations.

NAWG Comments on Wetlands Rule

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued an interim rule for the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation Compliance provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended. This rulemaking clarifies how USDA delineates, determines, and certifies wetlands located on subject land in a manner sufficient for making determinations of ineligibility for certain USDA program benefits. The deadline to comment on the rule was Tuesday, February 5, 2019.

2019 AGRI Crop Research Grant Award

On Tuesday, February 5th, NAWG was notified that the Minnesota Department of Agriculture approved a 2019 AGRI Crop Research Grant award to the Minnesota Wheat Research & Promotion Council. The grant will fund the project, "Wheat Variety and Sourdough Product Analysis for Anti-Nutrient Levels Related to Digestibility". Congratulations to the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute! We look forward to reading the results of the project upon completion.

EPA and Army Announce Public Hearing on Proposed New "Water of the United States" Definition

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers have scheduled a public meeting Feb. 27-28 in Kansas City, Mo., on the administration's proposed "waters of the U.S." rule, which would narrow the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act. An informational webcast is set for February 14th.

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.

NAWG's Policy Committees Meet at 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.

NCSGGA Upcoming Events

February 11th / 3:00p – 4:30p

Town Hall Meeting with US Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue
University of Mount Olive
Mount Olive, 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

March 19th / 9:00a – 2:00p
Agriculture Field Day
North East Carolina Prep School
Tarboro, NC

March 20th, 2019
NC AG Awareness Day
Bicentennial Plaza (Downtown Raleigh between the Capitol Building and the Legislative Building)

March 29th, 2019
Ag Day
James W. Smith Elementary School
150 Koonce Town Rd,
Cove City, NC 28523

April 9th / 9:00am – 2:15pm
Onslow County Ag Day
Richlands Farm
420 Francktown Rd.,
Richlands, 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 17th, 2019
Small Grains Field Day
Piedmont Research Station
Salisbury, NC

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
Blacklands Farm Managers Tour

August 15th – 16th, 2019
NCSGGA Board Meeting
Sheraton Imperial Hotel
Durham, NC

October 22nd - 24th, 2019
Stanly County Ag Awareness Week
Stanly County Agri-Civic Center
Albemarle, 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 nfjohnson0902@gmail.com / 919-809-8657.