

## 2019 NC Ag Awareness Day – March 20<sup>th</sup>

Please save this date, make plans to attend and invite others to join us for NC Ag Awareness Day at the General Assembly on Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019. In addition to educating elected representatives about agriculture, NC Ag Awareness Day is an opportunity for commodities, farmers, agribusinesses, universities and ag students to provide a unified voice of the importance of North Carolina's #1 industry. It is imperative to express our appreciation to North Carolina Legislators for their prior support and communicate how critical agriculture is to our state. Now more than ever, we need to cultivate and strengthen our relationships in the General Assembly.

We encourage everyone to visit with Senate and House members between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. We urge you to make appointments. Obviously, you will not be able to see them all, but if you could make a 10-minute appointment with one or two of them it would be helpful.

Click on these links to find your local Senator: <https://www.ncleg.gov/Members/MemberList/S> or Representative: <https://www.ncleg.gov/Members/MemberList/H> . You can also find the Senate Ag members at this link: <https://www.ncleg.gov/Committees/CommitteeInfo/SenateStanding/135> and the House Ag members here: <https://www.ncleg.gov/Committees/CommitteeInfo/HouseStanding/5> .

If you click on the member's name it will take you directly to their contact information. You can make an appointment with their Legislative Assistant listed on their website. Brief talking points will be handed out at the Fairgrounds that will help you start the conversation.

The Ag Awareness Day Committee is urging everyone to meet at the Kerr Scott Building at the NC State Fairgrounds the morning of March 20<sup>th</sup> by **8:30 a.m.** Transportation will be provided to the General Assembly. This year the General Assembly building has new security screening measures. No weapons, pocket knives, pepper spray, etc. is allowed. Jackets must be removed, and laptops and tablets must be taken out of their case during security screening. The less you bring, the faster you will move through security.

After Legislative visits please plan on attending the Ag Rally on Bicentennial Plaza from 11:30 – 12:30 to hear comments from the Governor, Lt. Governor, Commissioner Troxler and other important officials. Afterwards transportation will be provided back to the fairgrounds for lunch from 12:30-1:30 available at the Kerr Scott Building.

## Harnett County Agricultural Field Day

The NCSGGA participated in Harnett County Ag Science Field Day today, March 14<sup>th</sup>, in Lillington for Harnett County public schools, private schools and home school children. This event is hosted by Sandhills Antique Farm Equipment Club and Harnett County Department of Agriculture each year with the goal of teaching how Science and Technology have improved our farming practices over the past decades. Ten stations were set up with different subjects from food to fiber, wood to metal and water to simple machines. Each station has qualified instructors to show the history and how science has improved the process for farmers and suppliers to produce the products we need. Each day the students are divided into ten groups, each group is assigned a starting station and rotates at a given time to the next station allowing all students to attend all ten stations finishing up with an animal demonstration. Thank you to the Sandhills Antique Farm Equipment Club and Harnett County Cooperative Extension team for planning and organizing this great event and making agriculture education a top priority! To see pictures from the event please visit our photo gallery on our website at: <http://ncwheat.com/media-gallery/>

## **Bailey Elementary School Ag Science Day**

On Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, the NCSGGA will participate in Bailey Elementary School's Ag Science Field Day educating students on Wheat Production, Management, Nutrition and Products. The event will run from 9am – 2pm allowing students to rotate to different stations throughout the day learning about the many aspects of agriculture, technology, emergency services and science. Each year the students look forward to this fun day of hands on learning and go home with a better appreciation of everyday things we often take for granted. Thank you to Bailey Elementary School for organizing this great event and inviting us to participate in it! Pictures will be posted to our photo gallery on our website at: <http://ncwheat.com/media-gallery/>

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

### **NAWG Voices Concern About President's 2020 Budget Proposal**

On Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, the White House Office of Management and Budget Acting Director Russ Vought released the President's Fiscal Year 2020 Budget of the United States Government: "A Budget for a Better America: Promises Kept. Taxpayers First."

In response, NAWG President and Lavon, TX wheat farmer Ben Scholz issued the following:

"While NAWG continues to review the budget proposal in more detail, we do see that it proposes drastic cuts to some key programs for farmers. Congress just passed a farm bill by historical margins from both sides of the aisle which rejected many of these misguided cuts to agriculture that are proposed in the President's budget request.

"The Administration's 2020 proposal will make crop insurance policies more expensive for farmers when input costs already remain high and commodity prices are low. This additional cost could result in many growers not having insurance and may make it difficult for them to stay in business. NAWG will continue to impress upon Congress the difficult economic conditions in wheat country and thus why these programs shouldn't be cut through the budget and appropriations process."

### **2019 Ag Day – March 14th**

Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, marked the 36th anniversary of Ag Day! This year's theme was "Food for Life" and official hashtag is #AgDay19. In recognition of Ag Day, the National Wheat Foundation has published a blog highlighting how wheat is truly "Food for Life". Read it here: <https://wheatfoundation.org/celebrating-the-2019-national-ag-day/>

### **Ag Groups Team Up to Launch #TradeSupportsMyFarm Social Media Contest for National Ag Day**

On March 12, 2019, Farmers for Free Trade, American Farm Bureau Federation, Corn Refiners Association, US Apple Association, KCoe Isom, Illinois Farm Bureau, Texas Farm Bureau and the National Association of Wheat Growers announced a social media contest to celebrate National Ag Day. The contest seeks to reward farmers and families who can best highlight the significance of how trade supports their farm, ranch or ag business. The contest began on March 12, 2019 and all entries must be received by March 26, 2019. Winners for first (\$500), second (\$300) and third (\$200) places will be awarded.

### **USDA Continues to Host 2018 Farm Bill Implementation Sessions**

Next week, the USDA will host another five sessions on the 2018 farm bill implementation: A March 19 webinar on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); two sessions on March 21 will discuss Research, Education, and Economics programming as well as Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service items; two more discussions will be held the next day, when officials hear about Natural Resources and

Environment provisions as well as Trade and Foreign Ag Affairs programs included in the farm bill. More information about the events can be found here <https://www.farmers.gov/farmbill> .

### **NRCS Seeks Comments on Conservation Practices**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is seeking comments on how to give growers more flexibility in meeting NRCS standards for a wide range of conservation practices in a manner that ensures equivalent natural resource benefits. On Monday, March 11, the Agency published a Federal Register notice opening a 45-day comment period.

### **Soil Health Partnership Call for Proposals**

The Soil Health Partnership (SHP) announced it is accepting proposals for partnerships and collaboration for 2019. SHP encourages any organization or individuals who have an interest in working together to submit ideas. Deadline for proposal submission is March 15, 2019. Visit their site here for more information: <https://www.soilhealthpartnership.org/news-releases/> .

### **USDA Celebrates National Ag Day with New Youth Website**

On March 14, 2019, the USDA joins the nation in celebrating National Ag Day by launching a new Youth and Agriculture website: <https://www.usda.gov/youth> . The new website seeks to engage, empower, and educate the next generation of agricultural leaders by featuring three key components of agriculture-focused youth engagement – classroom studies, experiential learning, and leadership training. Young people can learn about USDA summer outreach programs, youth loans for business projects, outdoor volunteering, and employment opportunities.

## **NCSGGA Upcoming Events**

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

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March 20<sup>th</sup> / 8:30am – 1:00pm  
NC AG Awareness Day  
Bicentennial Plaza (Downtown Raleigh between the Capitol Building and the Legislative Building)

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

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April 5th / 9am - 3pm  
Science Enrichment Day  
Fuller Elementary School  
Raleigh, NC

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April 5th / 9am - 12pm  
Ag Day  
University of Mount Olive

Mt. Olive, NC

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April 9<sup>th</sup> / 9:00am – 2:15pm

Onslow County Ag Day  
Richlands Farm  
420 Francktown Rd.,  
Richlands, NC

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April 11<sup>th</sup> / 8:00am

Surry County Ag Day  
Veterans Memorial Park  
691 W Lebanon St,  
Mt Airy, NC 27030

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April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019

AG By the Slice  
Guilford County 4-H

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April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Small Grains Field Day  
Piedmont Research Station  
Salisbury, NC

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April 24th - 26th, 2019

Farm Animal Days  
NCSU Beef Unit  
4505 Mid Pines Rd.  
Raleigh, NC

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May 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Got to be NC Festival  
State Fairgrounds Raleigh, NC

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June 18-19, 2019

NC State FFA Convention & Career Show  
Raleigh Convention Center

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June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Touch A Tractor Kids Series  
4020 Market At North Hills St,  
Raleigh, NC 27609

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August 1<sup>st</sup> / 9:00am

Research & Education Mtg.  
NCSGGA Office  
3822 Bland Road  
Raleigh, NC 27609

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August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019

NCSGGA Assessment Referendum Voting Day  
Blacklands Farm Managers Tour

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August 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
NCSGGA Board Meeting  
Sheraton Imperial Hotel  
Durham, NC

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September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
CALs Tailgate  
PNC Arena  
Raleigh, NC

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October 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Stanly County Ag Awareness Week  
Stanly County Agri-Civic Center  
Albemarle, NC

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