

## **2019 NC Ag Awareness Day**

NC Ag Awareness Day at the General Assembly was held on Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> in downtown Raleigh. NC Ag Awareness Day was an opportunity for commodities, farmers, agribusinesses, universities and ag students to provide a unified voice on the importance of North Carolina's #1 industry. Now more than ever, we have to cultivate and strengthen our relationships in the General Assembly. This day was imperative to express our appreciation to North Carolina Legislators for their prior support and communicate how critical agriculture is to our state by educating elected representatives about agriculture.

After Legislative visits attendees were encouraged to attend 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. Hundreds of people rallied together in support of NC Agriculture, thank you to everyone was able to attend!!! To see a few pictures from the event please visit our photo gallery on our website at: <http://ncwheat.com/media-gallery/>

## **North East Carolina Prep School Agriculture Field Day**

The NCSGGA participated in North East Carolina Prep School's first ever Agriculture Field Day on March 19<sup>th</sup> in Tarboro. The event was planned by the school's agriculture education and FFA programs to educate K-12 classes on the many aspects of Agriculture. Different agriculture related vendors were invited to set up on the athletic field as students visited with each station. Thank you to North East Carolina Prep School for planning and organizing this event and making agriculture education a top priority! To see a few pictures from the event please visit our photo gallery on our website at: <http://ncwheat.com/media-gallery/>

## **Latest Edition of Kernels E-Magazine Now Available!**

The latest edition of Kernels, the Wheat Foods Council's e-magazine is now available! To view the magazine please visit this link: <http://wheatfoods.org/sites/default/files/attachments/kernels-25-spring-2019final.pdf>

Included in this edition you will find:

- Have Your Cake and Eat It Too: Let Your Body Decide What's on Your Plate
- Member Profile: Grain Craft
- Personal Trainer Tips: 5 Ways Clients Can Turn a Negative into a Positive
- 5 Easter Breads from Around the World
- Step into Spring with These Sweet and Savory Recipes

Enjoy! And don't forget to check out many other informational and educational resources available on the Wheat Foods Council's website: <http://wheatfoods.org/resources>

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

### **NAWG Issues Statement in Response to Flooding in the Midwest**

As historical flooding hits the Midwest, NAWG extends its support and consideration to those farmers and ranchers who are facing the devastating aftermath. Additionally, NAWG issued a statement highlighting the importance of crop insurance and urging Congress and the Administration to continue to strengthen the program.

According to Nebraska Farm Bureau's initial estimates, the state has encountered \$400 million in grain/crop losses and \$500 million in livestock. 1 in 4 jobs for the state of Nebraska depend on agriculture as it is its main economic driver.

The Nebraska Farm Bureau has established a relief fund to help when natural disasters hit. If interested in donating, visit their site here: <https://www.nefb.org/get-involved/disaster-assistance> .

### **NAWG Joins Ag Coalition Letter to Administration on China and Tariffs**

On March 29, 2019, fifty-nine U.S. farm groups sent a letter to President Trump urging him to lift the U.S. tariffs on Chinese goods. NAWG was one of the groups who signed on to letter which stated that China's "retaliatory tariffs have had a severe negative impact on market access in many agricultural sectors, and failing to lift these tariffs could negate any positive gains resulting from a new trade arrangement with China. American products are rapidly losing their earned market share to our competitors."

### **NWIC Takes to Capitol Hill to Discuss Research Priorities for Wheat**

On March 25-26, 2019, more than 20 researchers and farmers from across the country will visit Capitol Hill to talk about research priorities for wheat. During the annual National Wheat Improvement Committee (NWIC) fly-in, the group will also discuss with staff why robust and stable federal, state, and private investment can help ensure the future of the industry.

### **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.

### **NWF Accepting Entries for 2019 National Wheat Yield Contest**

The National Wheat Foundation (NWF) is currently accepting grower enrollment for the 2019 National Wheat Yield Contest! The Contest is divided into two primary competition categories: winter wheat and spring wheat, and two subcategories: dryland and irrigated. The Foundation is accepting entries for Winter and Spring Wheat here: <https://yieldcontest.wheatfoundation.org/> . 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.

### **Wheat Farmers Welcome New Export Opportunity from Trump Administration Agreement with Brazil**

On Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, The U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) and the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) welcome the announcement by President Trump and Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro that Brazil has agreed to implement a duty-free tariff rate quota (TRQ) for wheat, a longstanding obligation under Brazil's World Trade Organization (WTO) commitments. This agreement opens an annual opportunity for U.S. wheat farmers to compete on a level playing field for 750,000 metric tons (about 28 million bushels) of wheat under the TRQ.

"We are grateful to the Trump Administration for championing the interests of U.S. farmers and specifically to Chief Agricultural Negotiator Gregg Doud and USDA Under Secretary Ted McKinney for prioritizing the issue of Brazil's TRQ commitment," said Chris Kolstad, USW Chairman and a wheat farmer from Ledger, Mont. "This new opportunity gives us the chance to apply funding from the Agricultural Trade Program and other programs to build stronger relationships with Brazilian millers and a more consistent market there for U.S. wheat."

Brazil was the largest wheat importer in Latin America and the fourth largest in the world in marketing year 2017/18. Most imports originate duty-free from the Mercosur countries of Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay. Wheat from all other origins requires payment of a 10 percent duty. Brazil agreed to open the TRQ to all origins, including the United States, in 1995, but then notified the WTO that it wanted to remove the TRQ. Those negotiations were never concluded. Brazil did open the TRQ temporarily in 2008, 2013, and 2014 when there was a shortage of wheat within Mercosur. During those years U.S. wheat made up more than 80 percent of imports from outside Mercosur.

“This is a big win for U.S. wheat farmers, the Trump Administration, and members of Congress who have pushed for action on this issue,” said Ben Scholz, NAWG President and a wheat farmer from Lavon, Tex. “I’m glad to see Brazil fulfill its commitment and look forward to a stronger trading relationship between us. When countries remain in compliance with the WTO, like we see here, it creates a level playing field for wheat for both countries.”

In some years, Brazil has imported as little as 115,000 metric tons of U.S. hard red winter and soft red winter wheat. That is why USW has worked toward implementation of Brazil’s wheat TRQ for a decade. USW plans to invest export market development funding in technical support and trade servicing to help demonstrate the quality and value of U.S. wheat for millers and bakers.

### **NCSGGA Upcoming Events**

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>/ 10:00am – 1:00pm  
Small Grains Field Day  
Piedmont Research Station  
Salisbury, NC

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April 18<sup>th</sup> / 8:30am  
Environmental Field Day  
Senator Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center  
Williamston, NC

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April 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> / 9:00am-2:00pm  
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 22nd - 24th, 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 njohnson0902@gmail.com / 919-809-8657.*