

## Duplin Grows!!

The NCSGGA participated in Duplin Grows this week, March 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, at the Duplin County Events Center in Kenansville. Approximately 700 second graders from surrounding schools attended this Educational Ag field trip spending the day rotating from station to station learning about the many aspects of agriculture. Stations included: Small Grains, Soil, Soybeans, Beef, Dairy, Pork, Poultry, Nutrition, 4-H, Bee keeping, Cotton, and Farm Safety. Thank you to the Duplin 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/>

## National Association of Wheat Growers: Weekly Update

### Leading Agriculture Organizations Endorse USMCA

The National Corn Growers Association, American Soybean Association, National Association of Wheat Growers and National Sorghum Producers announced on Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, their support for the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).

Mexico and Canada account for 25 percent of all U.S. agriculture exports and USMCA preserves and builds upon the existing trading relationship between the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Members representing the four organizations will be advocating members of Congress to ratify USMCA this year while also urging the Administration to keep the current NAFTA agreement intact until the new agreement is ratified.

"Mexico and Canada are the U.S. corn industry's largest, most reliable corn market; Mexico is corn's number one buyer and Canada is one of our largest ethanol importers. We cannot afford to risk losing this market," said NCGA President Lynn Chrisp. "USMCA is NCGA's top legislative priority for 2019 and we will be working closely with the Administration and members of Congress to get it ratified."

"Passage of USMCA would boost both national and rural economies, and for soybeans, it would assure us tariff-free access to two strong markets, including Mexico, which is our #2 market for whole beans. Under NAFTA, soybean exports to Mexico quadrupled and to Canada doubled. We would like to continue that positive trade momentum with our neighbors," said Davie Stephens, ASA President and a soybean grower from Clinton, Kentucky.

"USMCA includes important provisions for wheat farmers including tariff-free access to imported U.S. wheat for our long-time flour milling customers in Mexico. Further, the Agreement makes important progress toward fixing the grading issue U.S. farmers face when exporting their wheat to Canada," stated NAWG President and Sentinel, Oklahoma wheat farmer Jimmie Musick. "NAWG, ASA, NCGA, and NSP will continue to work together to get this critical trade deal enacted."

"The new USMCA agreement with Mexico and Canada is a win for American producers, and having an agreement in place will safeguard the traditional second largest importer of U.S. sorghum," said National Sorghum Producers Chairman Dan Atkisson, a sorghum farmer from Stockton, Kansas. "We look forward to expanded market opportunities with Mexico, and urge Congress to pass the measure as soon as possible." Leaders of the organizations announced their support during Friday's general session of Commodity Classic, America's largest farmer-led, farmer-focused agricultural and educational experience.

## **NAWG and the National Wheat Foundation Named New Board Officers at the 2019 Commodity Classic**

The National Association of Wheat Growers and the National Wheat Foundation wrapped up the 2019 Commodity Classic last week with a new slate of officers.

NAWG President and Southwest Oklahoma farmer Jimmie Musick has passed the gavel down to Vice President Ben Scholz, a farmer from Texas. Michigan wheat farmer Dave Milligan moved up the ranks of leadership becoming NAWG's new Vice President. Nicole Berg, wheat farmer from Paterson, Washington, becomes NAWG's new Treasurer. Oregon wheat farmer, Brent Cheyne will serve as NAWG's new Secretary. Jimmie Musick will continue to serve on the executive committee in the role of Past President.

"Jimmie's time as President will have a lasting impact on the organization and we appreciate all of the hard work that he did to lead NAWG during the passing of the 2018 Farm Bill," stated NAWG CEO and NWF Executive Director Chandler Goule. "We are excited for Texas wheat farmer Ben Scholz to take over as NAWG's next President and welcome Brent Cheyne to the officer team for the 2019-2020 NAWG fiscal year"

Additionally, the National Wheat Foundation welcomed a new Board of Director to replaced Past President Phil McLain. Bernard Peterson is our new grower representative, who farms in Loretto, KY. His official title is General Partner, Integrator, and Director of Finance for Peterson-Farms. Further, NWF Chairman Wayne Hurst will continue to serve on the Board as Chairman, while Texas wheat farmer David Cleavinger will remain in his role of Vice Chairman.

"NWF also appreciates Idaho wheat farmer Wayne Hurst's time as Board Chairman and is thankful to be able to keep him on for another year," continued Goule. "We welcome Bernard Peterson to the NWF Board and know that he will be a great attribute to the Foundation."

## **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/>.

## **WTO Dispute Panel Confirms China's Domestic Agricultural Support Exceeds Limits, Distorts Trade**

On February 28, 2019, the US Wheat Associates (USW) issued a statement welcoming the ruling by a WTO dispute panel that Chinese government payments to farmers for wheat exceeded China's aggregate measure of support (AMS) commitments and significantly distorts global wheat trade. USW President Vince Peterson stated, "US farmers have been hurt by China's overproduction and protectionist measures for too long at it's past time for China to start living up to its commitments."

## **Senate Finance Committee to Hold Hearing on WTO**

On Tuesday, March 12, 2019, Senate Finance Committee will hold a hearing on reform of the World Trade Organization. The hearing, entitled "Approaching 25: The Road Ahead for the World Trade Organization," will be held at 10:15 a.m. in Room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building and U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer will testify.

## **New Signals Of Weakness In Farm Economy**

In a recent report by the USDA, the agency forecasts that net farm income will rise 10 percent in 2019. However, the report also says liquidity measures are weakening while farm debt-to-asset ratios continue an upward trend that started in 2012. Working capital levels are expected to fall nearly 25 percent this year, while farm sector debt is forecast to rise nearly 4 percent.

### **AgriPulse: USDA Continues to Host Farm Bill Implementation Sessions**

The Department of Agriculture will host at least nine more webinars and listening sessions as it moves ahead with farm bill implementation.

Next week, USDA will host three webinars: one March 13 on hemp production and the farm bill language concerning it, one March 13 on The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and a March 14 chat on Rural Development programs. The following week, USDA will host another five sessions: 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. Things are scheduled to conclude with a March 28 teleconference on the Federal Swine Eradication and Control Program. More information about the events can be found here: <https://www.agri-pulse.com/ext/resources/pdfs/u/USDAFarmBillListeningSessions.pdf> .

### **EPA Moves Closer to E15 Approval**

According to Agri-Pulse, regulatory changes necessary to allow for summertime use of E15 this year have been sent from the EPA to the White House for further review. This is the final step before the EPA releases the proposed rule. This action comes just days after EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler promised the rule would be finalized by June 1.

### **Report Looks at Worst-Case NAFTA Scenario**

A new analysis from Purdue University illustrated U.S. farm exports could drop as much as approximately \$22 billion annual in a new worst-case scenario for North American trade. This is contingent on the following factors: all three North American countries failing to ratify USMCA, the Trump administration pulling out from NAFTA, the continuation of US steel and aluminum tariffs, and the failure of the US to rejoin the TPP.

### **Tariffs Hang Over Crop Insurance Decisions**

As reported in Agri-Pulse, “with prices for soybeans and other crops currently depressed due to tariffs, the Harvest Price Option could be more attractive for farmers this year as they decide on their crop options in the upcoming harvest season.” According to RMA’s Crop Insurance Price Discovery tool, the spring crop insurance price for soybeans is down 62 cents from a year ago, but prices could rise if President Trump seals a trade deal with China. Producers who buy the Harvest Price Option will be paid the higher of the spring planting price or the harvest-time price.

### **Federal Agencies Release Framework for Advancing the Bioeconomy**

The federal Biomass Research and Development (BR&D) Board today unveiled a multi-agency strategy to accelerate innovative technologies that harness the nation’s biomass resources for affordable biofuels, bioproducts, and biopower. The Bioeconomy Initiative: Implementation Framework (PDF, 2.3 MB) was developed by the B&RD Board – an interagency collaborative which is co-chaired by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) – to guide such efforts.

## **NCSGGA Upcoming Events**

March 14<sup>th</sup> / 9am – 2pm

Harnett Co. Ag Science Field Day

126 Alexander Drive  
Lillington, NC 27546

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March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
AG Science Day  
Bailey Elementary School  
Bailey, NC

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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>, 2019  
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 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>, 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 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*

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