

NCSGGA Announces Assessment Referendum Voting Date

The North Carolina Small Grain Growers Association (NCSGGA) has announced that an Assessment Referendum will take place on **August 7, 2019**. Polling places will be located throughout the state in each county extension office. This assessment is for a six year period on all small grain (wheat, rye, oats, barley, rape seed/canola and grain sorghum). The North Carolina Board of Agriculture approved the request for this referendum at their meeting in Raleigh, NC on February 26th, 2019. The assessment will be ½ of 1 % on wheat, rye, oats, barley, rape seed/canola and grain sorghum for a six year period. This assessment period will begin on January 1, 2020 and will continue until December 31st 2025.

NCSGGA President Timmy Thomas of Timberlake NC, said, “This assessment is important to the small grain growers of North Carolina to continue the work of the association in Grower Education, Research, Marketing, Administration and enhancing ways to grow small grain more profitable for farmers in North Carolina”.

All North Carolina Farmers who grow small grain over the age of 18, as of August 7, 2019 are eligible to vote during regular business hours of their local county office of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service. Voting will also be available at the Blacklands Farm Mangers Field Day this year which will be held at the Coastal Carolina Cotton Gin in Fairfield on August 7th. For more details, contact Dan Weathington, NCSGGA Executive Director: 910-736-8258, Nikki Johnson, NCSGGA Communications & Outreach Education: 919-809-8657, North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, or your local county office of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service.

NC Plant Sciences Initiative is Picking up Steam

The NC Plant Sciences Initiative (PSI) is picking up steam. April 2019 marks the beginning of construction and our journey towards the completion of this world-class plant sciences research facility that will open in late 2021. The building will be on NC State’s Centennial Campus adjacent to the Golden LEAF Biomanufacturing Technology and Education Center on Oval Drive. While construction kicks off in spring 2019, the formal groundbreaking ceremony will be held on Friday, Sept. 6, 2019 (stay tuned for more information!).

Programmatic progress is also underway. Six different NC State colleges, along with the Provost’s office and the Office of Research and Innovation, have come together to establish a fund of over \$2.3 million to kick-start interdisciplinary PSI research projects!

This significant funding opportunity for university faculty members has generated new collaborations along with brainstorming sessions as groups prepare to submit their proposals. The university plans to fund up to three projects, one in each of the three research platforms (plant improvement, data-driven plant science and resilient agricultural systems). These projects will take place over a 3.5-year period beginning in January 2020. It is likely that the teams with the winning proposals will be some of the plant sciences building’s first occupants. The idea of working across disciplines with faculty from around this university is exciting to witness. Great things for agriculture and society will come from these and other projects that are underway.

Here is an update on the funding for the building: While 100 percent of the funds to complete the building have yet to be raised, the college continues to engage with several potential donors and hopes to announce some significant gifts soon. Additionally, the University Board of Trustees has approved naming rights for spaces within the building, creating an incredible opportunity to feature your family or company name in the building. For more information about PSI connect with Steve Briggs, launch director, spbriggs@ncsu.edu or 919.513.3874.

Ag by the Slice

On Tuesday, April 16th, The NCSGGA participated in Guilford County's 4-H workshop called "Ag by the Slice" at the Guilford County Agriculture Center in Greensboro. Approximately 100 fifth graders attended the event to learn about where their food comes from in relation to pizza. The goal of the program was to construct a model that represents all the ingredients of a pizza and to explain each ingredient in order for the students to understand the agricultural science processes needed to provide that ingredient.

The program consisted of 9 different stations, with presentations lasting about 12 minutes: Cheese Production, Wheat Production, Tomato/Vegetable Production, Milk & Dairy Production, Herbs & Spices Production, Mushroom Production, Growth Environments (Soil), Making Pizza Dough, and Food Safety/Nutrition.

After all stations were completed the students were able to enjoy pizza for lunch with a better appreciation and understanding of where all those ingredients to make the pizza came from. Thank you to the Guilford County Cooperative Extension Team for inviting us to participate in this great educational event! To see pictures from the event please visit our photo gallery: <http://ncwheat.com/media-gallery/>

Central Piedmont Small Grains Field Day

The NCSGGA sponsored the Central Piedmont Small Grains Research Field Day on Wednesday, April 17th at the Piedmont Research Station located in Salisbury. The event kicked off around 9am with registration and pesticide credits, welcoming and opening remarks started at 10am followed by presentation topics from NCSU & USDA Specialists such as:

- Official Small Grain Variety Trials
- Small Grain Diseases
- Wheat Population by Maturity
- Specialty Crop Showcase: Canola, Carinata, and Barley

The event concluded with a catered lunch and some of our famous chocolate chip "wheat" cookies for dessert! Thank you to everyone who was able to attend and also a big thank you to everyone that helped plan and organize this field day.

Martin County Soil & Water Conservation District Environmental Field Day

On Thursday, April 18th The NCSGGA participated in the Martin County Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual Environmental Field Day at Senator Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center in Williamston. Approximately 300 fourth graders from across the county attended the field trip as we educated them on the importance of agriculture. Upon arrival students were divided into groups and spent the day rotating to different ag related stations such as: Wheat, Bee Keeping, Soil & Water, Dairy, and Forestry, spending about 20 minutes learning at each station. A big thank you to everyone that planned and organized this fun educational event and allowing us to be a part of it! Pictures from the event can be found on our photo gallery: <http://ncwheat.com/media-gallery/>

National Association of Wheat Growers: Weekly Update

NAWG and U.S. Wheat Associates Issue Joint Press Release Welcoming WTO Ruling on China and TRQs.

Today, April 18, 2018, the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) and U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) issued a statement welcoming the ruling by a World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute panel that China's government does not fairly administer its annual tariff rate quotas (TRQ) for imports of corn, rice and 9.64 million metric tons (MMT) of wheat. This decision follows a separate ruling in late February that determined China provides excessive domestic price supports in excess of its WTO commitments.

NAWG Joins Pesticide Policy Coalition in Submitting Comments to WOTUS Regulation

On Monday, April 15, 2019 the Pesticide Policy Coalition, to which NAWG is a member, submitted comments on the new Waters of the US (WOTUS) regulation. In its comments, the Coalition states its support of the revised definition of WOTUS and believes the new regulations are protective of water resources, while respecting the careful federal-state balance that Congress struck when it enacted the Clean Water Act.

Follow the Basic Steps for Stewardship of Treated Seed

As planting season begins across the country, the National Association of Wheat Growers reminds farmers to follow the basic steps for stewardship of treated seed:

- Follow directions on seed container labeling;
- Eliminate weeds in the field prior to planting;
- Minimize dust by using advanced seed flow lubricants;
- “BeeAware” of honey bees and hives located near the field;
- Ensure that any spilled seeds are removed or covered by soil to protect wildlife and the environment;
- Remove all treated seed left in containers and equipment.

Seed treatments provide farmers with an effective and economical way to protect their crops against damaging pests and diseases. Using treated seeds helps with more uniform stands, healthier plants and higher crop yields. It's important to always remember to follow directions on seed container labeling for proper handling, storage, planting and disposal practices to minimize risk to applicators, wildlife and the environment.

For more information, visit seed-treatment-guide.com. Join in the conversation online by following @Better_Seed and #Plant19. The Guide to Seed Treatment Stewardship is a partnership between the American Seed Trade Association and CropLife America, with support from: Agricultural Retailers Association, American Farm Bureau Federation, American Soybean Association, National Corn Growers Association, National Cotton Council, National Association of Wheat Growers; and National Association of State Departments of Agriculture.

USDA Update on Farm Bill Implementation Progress

On Wednesday, April 12, 2019, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced the implementation status of the 2018 Farm Bill. USDA has held and continues to hold listening sessions with stakeholders and the public, specific to each agency's respective mission areas. Areas of implementation include commodity programs, conservation, trade, nutrition programs, credit, rural development, research and related matters, forestry, energy, horticulture, crop insurance, and miscellaneous.

Upcoming Changes to the May 2019 World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates Report

Starting in the May 10th issue, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's World Agricultural Outlook Board will implement changes to its monthly World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) Report. The WASDE report includes forecasts for world wheat, rice, grains, oilseeds, cotton, sugar, meat, poultry, eggs, and milk. Now, the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will eliminate price range forecasts and switch to

single price points for all crops and livestock. Further, the International Supply and Use Tables will include value sheets outside of China.

Tariffs Hurt the Heartland Partner with The Taxpayers Protection Alliance

Tariffs Hurt the Heartland, the nationwide campaign against tariffs supported by trade organizations across industries, has joined The Taxpayers Protection Alliance (TPA), the non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to educating the public about the government's effects on the economy, in sending U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin a letter reminding the administration that tariffs are taxes paid by Americans. The letter requests that the American people be reimbursed for the cost of the trade war.

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 at this website: <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.

NCSGGA Upcoming Events

April 24th - 26th / 9:00am-2:00pm

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

May 8th, 2019

NC Ag Products Dinner
State Fairgrounds
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 1st / 9:00am

Research & Education Mtg.
NCSGGA Office

3822 Bland Road
Raleigh, NC 27609

August 7th, 2019
NCSGGA Assessment Referendum Voting Day
All NC County Cooperative Extension Services Offices

August 7th, 2019
Blacklands Farm Managers Tour
Coastal Carolina Cotton Gin
1100 N Lake Rd.
Fairfield, NC 27826

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

September 7th, 2019
CALs Tailgate
PNC Arena
Raleigh, NC

October 15th – 17th, 2019
Hoke Co. Ag Awareness Week
Hoke-Robeson Cotton Gin
Maxton, NC

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

November 6th, 2019
Northeast Regional AG Expo
Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center
Williamston, 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.