

NCSU Farm Animal Days

This week the NCSGGA participated in NC State University's Annual Farm Animal Days April 24th – 26th at the NCSU Education Beef Unit (located off Lake Wheeler Rd.) in Raleigh. This three day event lasted from 9:00am to 2:00pm each day giving children a chance to see and touch farm animals and learn about agriculture. This event is free and designed for school field trips (pre-school through first grade), families and individuals that are interested in a fun educational field trip to the farm for a unique hands on learning experience.

Daily Activities each day included:

- Practice roping for the kids.
- Touch the animals: chicks, turkeys, ducks, pigs, sheep, and goats
- Other animals to see: Beef Cow/calf, Dairy Cow, Horses
- Educational Commodity Stations
- Tractors on display
- Molly the Cow and Porky the Pig
- Grass area for picnic
- Free Ice Cream!
- Jr. Wolfpack

Approximately 10,000 people are expected to attend over the three day span!!! Thank you to NCSU for planning and organizing this awesome event! To see pictures from the event are please visit our photo gallery: <http://ncwheat.com/media-gallery/>

NC State Wants to Help Feed the World. Here's How the College Plans to Make it Happen!

By: Brian Murphy, News & Observer

By 2050, the world's population will near 10 billion. By 2100, that figure will climb to more than 11 billion, according to United Nations projections. That's a lot of mouths to feed. And there's not a lot of time for farmers and scientists to figure out how to increase the world's food production, particularly with other challenges that massive population growth brings.

"There is a sense of urgency. We've got to figure this out. We've got to find a way to feed the world, double the food supply," said Richard Linton, the dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at N.C. State. "And we all know if we don't produce enough food, what the outcome is: it's war, it's competition."

To avoid such competition, N.C. State's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is counting on collaboration between its plant scientists and others on and off campus, including engineers, economists, biologists, marketers, data scientists and more. The college believes its new interdisciplinary approach to plant sciences and a new state-of-the-art \$160.2 million building on Centennial Campus will help it solve such global challenges.

The N.C. State Plant Sciences Initiative is designed to help North Carolina be the leader in meeting the food needs of that growing population, much of which is forecast for the world's least developed countries. The 47 least developed countries are expected to see a 33 percent increase in population over the next 10 years with their population nearly doubling between 2017 and 2050, according to the U.N. In other nations, the middle class is expected to boom, producing a greater desire for livestock and dairy products. Combined it could have an impact on water supplies.

The Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research, established in 2014 by the federal farm bill, has identified six challenge areas for feeding the world, including water scarcity, soil health and an urban food system.

“The timeline is very thin and very short. That’s why we’re working as hard as we can to make smart decisions about bringing these disciplines together so we can come up with solutions faster than we ever have before,” Linton said in an in-person interview on campus.

State-of-the-art Building

Though the work, N.C. State officials stress, is more important than the building, the structure will be the most overt sign of change.

The new building, with its rooftop greenhouse, small auditorium and open work spaces, will grab the most attention. Construction on the N.C. State Plant Sciences Building — naming rights can be had by a donor — is expected to begin in May and a groundbreaking ceremony is set for Sept. 6. It is expected to open in the fall of 2021. The building will sit near Partners Way, Main Campus Drive and Oval Drive, next to the Golden LEAF Biomanufacturing Training and Education Center.

Many of the school’s agriculture buildings were built in the 1950s. The space, which officials say will meet or exceed standards of top private facilities, should help generate greater results and attract and retain the best people, said Stephen Briggs, the launch director for the Plant Sciences Initiative. The college expects to hire about 140 staff members as part of the initiative. More than half have already been hired.

“That building is designed to do science in a totally different way than I learned how to do science,” said Steve Lommel, associate dean of the agriculture college. “What we’re trying to do is we’re trying to capture all the science and all the other fields and apply them to plant problems, plant issues and plant opportunities.”

The \$2 billion Connect NC bond, passed by voters in 2016, delivered \$85 million for the project. Two grants from the Golden LEAF Foundation brought in another \$48 million, and commodity associations and others affiliated with agriculture in the state chipped in \$9 million. The building is 90 percent paid for and fundraising continues, Briggs said.

“This is not just a one-guitar song. We’ve got all members of the orchestra playing,” said Dan Weathington, executive director of the North Carolina Small Grain Growers Association, which donated \$1.25 million to the project.

Resistant, Sustainable

The association’s 1,400 members grow wheat, rye, oats, barley, grain sorghum and canola. The wheat growers, for example, want to push their yield per acre from its current 59 bushel average to 100 bushels. To do that, they’re hoping researchers and scientists at N.C. State and elsewhere can help solve the scab problem. Scab is a fungus that attacks the plant when it’s close to maturity, often after rain. Currently, farmers must fight the fungus with fungicide.

“We need plants that are completely resistant,” Weathington said. “If we can increase yield, we increase income.”

That’s the type of work N.C. State will be doing. The project stems from strategic planning that happened in 2012 about moving North Carolina agriculture forward. The state generated \$11.4 billion in cash receipts from farm commodities in 2017 with \$3.7 billion coming from crops, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The fields of study are divided into three main categories: plant improvement, plant resiliency and sustainability and, in what could end up being the fastest-growing part, using data to make better decisions.

Plant improvement includes research into growing plants of higher yield and quality, such as production practices, chemical treatments or new varieties that are drought or disease resistant — precisely what the wheat growers are looking for. Plant resiliency and sustainability means doing it a way that protects limited environmental resources.

“If we have to double the food supply in the next 25 to 30 growing seasons, we need to do that with less land, with water challenges, with disease challenges. We also need to do this in a way to ensure that we have a sustainable system and protect the environment,” Linton said.

That’s where data could help farmers decide what and when to grow, how best to fertilize, and which variety to grow in which climate or soil type. Much of that information already exists — on climate, yield, disease, weather patterns — through collection at research farms in all 100 counties. But turning that raw data into useful information for farmers on the ground, around the country and the world, is the next frontier — one N.C. State hopes to lead in.

The plan is to make commonplace these type of interdisciplinary programs with partnerships between multiple colleges within a university and private industry working alongside students and faculty. The proximity to industry-leading firms in Research Triangle Park, such as BASF, Bayer Crop Science and Novozymes among others, is another key for the program, officials said. There are 103 biotechnology and life sciences companies at RTP, according to its business directory.

“To me, success 20 years from now is this is all normal stuff that happens every single day,” Linton said. “This concept of bringing the entire university together has never been done on this campus, and it’s transformational and it will change the way, I believe, we think and do at N.C. State.”

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.

National Association of Wheat Growers: Weekly Update

PRESS RELEASE: ITC Report Underscores Importance of NAFTA and Passing USMCA for US Agriculture

Today, the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) released its report on the economic benefits of the United States-Mexico-Canada agreement (USMCA). NAWG President and Lavon, Texas farmer Ben Scholz issued the following statement in response:

“It is critical for Congress to understand how substantial USMCA is for agriculture, especially the undervalued wheat market. As the International Trade Commission (ITC) report just assesses the USMCA agreement as compared to the status quo (NAFTA), in which U.S. wheat farmers already have free market access, it doesn’t fully capture the importance of USMCA.

“Once NAFTA was implemented, U.S. wheat exports to Mexico shot up to an annual average of almost 3 million metric tons (more than 100 million bushels). This made Mexico the largest U.S. wheat importer in the world in the 2016/17 marketing year

“Additionally, USMCA captures the original intentions of NAFTA while improving some of the provisions for wheat growers. It retains tariff-free access to imported U.S. wheat for our long-time flour milling customers in Mexico. Furthermore, the USMCA makes important progress towards more open commerce for U.S. wheat farmers near the border with Canada by working to fix the broken grain grading system and making trade more reciprocal along the U.S.-Canadian border.

“The ITC report is not reflective of vast benefits USMCA will bring to agriculture. A vote for USMCA means more jobs for Americans, stronger export markets for farmers to sell their crop, and billions of dollars added to the economy.”

Blog: 2017 Census of Agriculture: Highlights for Wheat

On April 11, 2019, the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released results from its 2017 Census of Agriculture. The full Census report: <https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/index.php> includes millions of data points, including number of farms, land in farms, total value of production, demographics, and more at the national, state, and county levels. NAWG’s intern Megan Myers drafted a blog highlighting wheat-specific data from the 2017 Census results. Read it here: <https://wheatfoundation.org/blog-2017-census-of-agriculture-highlights-for-wheat/>

USDA Moves to New Notifications Platform

As of May 1, 2019, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be moving its email subscription service to a different platform. To continue receiving notifications such as press releases, blogs, and trade announcements you must re-enroll on their new site [here](#).

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

May 8th, 2019 / 6:00pm
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 njjohnson0902@gmail.com / 919-809-8657.