

Trade War with China worries Charlotte Businesses

By: Deon Roberts, Charlotte Observer

Charlotte-area business owners say consumers could be impacted by an escalating trade dispute between the U.S. and China. That dispute intensified recently when President Donald Trump raised tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese imports to as much as 25%. In response, China announced plans to increase tariffs to as high as 25% on about \$60 billion worth of U.S. goods starting in June. That same day, the Trump administration announced plans to place 25% tariffs on an additional approximately \$300 billion worth of Chinese imports.

North Carolina farmers are expected to feel the effects of the tariff increases that China said it plans to impose on the roughly \$60 billion of U.S. goods beginning June 1.

In a recent letter to Trump, the president of the American Farm Bureau Federation said the trade war is hurting U.S. farmers who had been benefiting from Chinese demand for their products. Last year, U.S. agricultural exports to China declined \$10 billion, a roughly 50% loss, President Zippy Duvall wrote.

“This is a drastic reversal for what had been a growing market,” he wrote.

North Carolina farmers were already hurting from higher retaliatory Chinese tariffs imposed last year, said Larry Wooten, president of the N.C. Farm Bureau. Those tariffs affected U.S. food and agricultural products, including tobacco and soybeans.

In 2017, the state exported \$162 million in tobacco to China, a figure that fell to \$4 million last year — a 98% decline — in part from tariffs and weather, Wooten said. Amid the falling Chinese demand, North Carolina farmers expect to plant the smallest tobacco crop since before World War II, he said.

In the Charlotte region, farmer Drew Medlin (Former NCSGGA Director) is just hoping for an end to the trade dispute. The slump in Chinese demand for U.S. soybeans has been a drag on soybean prices, said Medlin, who grows the crop on his Union County farm. Last year, soybeans were selling for about \$9.50 a bushel. Now, the price is \$8, he said.

Medlin said he continues to look for ways to cut costs at the farm and is holding off buying equipment or expanding. He said he is aware of at least three soybean farmers in Union County who have retired or quit recently because of the falling prices.

“The margins are so tight and there’s so much risk, they just decided to cash out,” he said.

“This uncertainty, I would say, is what hurts us the most right now,” he said. “This has been going on now for close to a year, and we’re just ready for it to end.”

Read the full article here: <https://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/business/article230375344.html>

Got to be NC Festival Huge Success!!

The Got to be NC Festival was held Friday, May 17th thru Sunday, May 19th at the State Fair Grounds in Raleigh for three great days of down-home celebration North Carolina-style. The event featured attractions such as Antique Farm Equipment, Farm Animals, Carnival rides & games, Tractor pulls, Carolina Pig Jig, The Homegrown Marketplace, Fireworks and plenty of free entertainment shows.

The NCSGGA Booth was located inside the Exposition Center in the Homegrown Marketplace where North Carolina food companies, breweries and wineries showcased some of the most delightful flavors North Carolina has to offer. Our booth offered chocolate chip cookies as a reminder for attendees to “Thank a Farmer” for the ingredients it took to make that cookie, especially the main ingredient, FLOUR, which is produced by our wheat farmers. Our goal was to bring consumer awareness to the agriculture industry in hopes they would have a better appreciation for where their food comes from. We baked well over 10,000 cookies over the three day span which could not have been possible without our great help from NCSU Students, a BIG thank you to all that helped out in our booth!!

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

NAWG Responds to Second Round of Support for Farmers Impacted by Trade Disruptions

On Thursday May 23, 2019 the U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced that the White House has authorized the Agency to provide up to \$16 billion dollars in assistance to farmers who are being impacted by the U.S. trade war with China and other trade disruptions. NAWG President and Lavon, TX farmer Ben Scholz attended today’s ceremony at the White House which focused on this announcement and made the following statement in response:

“NAWG is grateful for the President’s understanding of the stress and damages China’s retaliatory tariffs have had on growers. Further, we look forward to working with the Administration to quickly finalize other trade agreements that open up new markets for wheat farmers.

“While we appreciate the trade mitigation program, it doesn’t make farmers whole. The U.S. exports 50% of its wheat which means we need a long-term solution. This includes getting the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) across the finish line, completing negotiations with China and supporting our WTO case, and closing a trade deal with Japan.

“Lastly, NAWG will continue to work with the Administration and USDA as the Agency crafts a relief strategy to ensure that the program works best for wheat farmers. We are pleased to hear that the USDA will take a broader look that the tariffs have had on all trade deals and markets when considering a longer-term relief package.”

JOINT PRESS RELEASE: Wheat Leaders Pleased to See Sec. 232 Tariffs Removed, Call on Congress to Approve USMCA

On May 17, 2019, the Administration announced that the Section 232 tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from Mexico and Canada will be removed. NAWG and U.S. Wheat Associates issued a statement in support of the news stating that this “is an important step toward approval of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement on Trade (USMCA)”.

Disaster Aid Deal Covers Prevented Planting

On May 23, 2019, the Senate Appropriations Committee released the text of emergency supplemental appropriations legislation. The measure provides \$19.1 billion in relief for states and territories recently ravaged by tornadoes, flooding, hurricanes, wildfires, earthquakes, volcanoes, typhoons, and other such events. Additionally, the package expands payments for producers who are unable to plant their crops this year as well as to growers whose stored corn and soybeans were damaged by flooding. Under the bill, the combination of disaster payments and crop insurance benefits or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) payments would be limited to 90 percent of a farmer’s loss.

House Appropriations Committee Approves FY20 Ag Bill

On May 22, 2019, the House Appropriations Committee released the draft fiscal year 2020 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies funding bill, which was unanimously approved by voice vote Thursday, May 23. The draft includes \$24.310 billion in total discretionary funding which is \$1 billion above the fiscal year 2019 enacted level. In total, the bill allows for \$155.3 billion in both discretionary and mandatory funding – \$3.2 billion above the fiscal year 2019 enacted level. The bill includes language blocking USDA’s proposal to relocate the Economic Research Service (ERS) and the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) outside the National Capital Region.

USDA FSA Report: China Raises Tariffs on U.S. Agricultural Products

On Friday, May 17, 2019, the Agriculture Department’s Foreign Agricultural Service issued a formal report on China’s decisions to raise tariffs on U.S. agricultural products after President Donald Trump raised tariffs on Chinese products. “The announcement includes four annexes and specifies tariff increases to 25, 20, 10, and 5%, affecting over 300 U.S. agricultural products valued at approximately \$3 billion in 2017,” FAS said. “This brings the total number of U.S. agricultural and related products targeted by additional Chinese tariffs since April 2018 to over 1,000 products, valued at approximately \$22.6 billion in 2017.”

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 Spring Wheat at this

website: <https://yieldcontest.wheatfoundation.org/> . The Spring wheat entry deadline is August 1st with an early registration deadline of June 15th.

NCSGGA Upcoming Events

May 28th / 8:00am – 10:00am

Henderson County:

455 Research Drive

Mills River, NC

Topics: Wheat-Maximizing Yield, Barley-Malting Quality, Nitrogen Programs

May 30th / 8:30am – 10:30am

Lenoir County:

3994 Research Farm Rd.

Hookerton, NC

Topics: Wheat- Official Variety Test, Population x Nitrogen, Barley-Nitrogen

May 30th / 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Wayne County:

151 May Road

Goldsboro, NC

Topics: Wheat- Scouting Problems, Yield Estimations, Corn- Variety Test

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

December 5th – 6th, 2019
NCSGGA Board Meeting
Sheraton Imperial Hotel
Durham, 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.