

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, Promotion, 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

WHEAT INDUSTRY JOINT PRESS RELEASE: Tariffs as Political Weapons Cause Collateral Damage

U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) and the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) are shocked and dismayed by President Donald Trump’s unilateral step to impose a five percent tariff on all Mexican goods imported by the United States. This action threatens to undermine approval of the U.S-Mexico-Canada Agreement, and puts crucial wheat demand in Mexico at great risk.

“The potential fallout from new tariffs is like struggling to survive a flood then getting hit by a tornado,” said Chris Kolstad, Chairman of USW and a wheat farmer from Ledger, Mont.

Bad feelings abounded in Mexico after the President publicly threatened to withdraw from NAFTA and imposed duties because certain Mexican products were called national security risks to the United States. Their government and industries, including flour millers, set out to broaden their supply sources. In 2018, Mexico increased its total wheat imports significantly, but U.S. wheat imports actually declined that year.

“With progress on the USMCA — most recently cancellation of the steel and aluminum tariffs — our customers in Mexico have been importin more U.S. wheat,” Kolstad said. “In a very disheartening coincidence, our organization is holding a conference next week with our Mexican customers partly to remind them how important they are to us. Of course, the cost of the conference is funded by the Agricultural Trade Promotion program that was awarded because U.S. wheat farmers proved they were being hurt by retaliatory tariffs.”

“We call on the President to rescind this threat immediately,” said Ben Scholz, President of NAWG and a wheat farmer from Lavon, Tex. “We’ve been hit by low prices; we’ve been hit by rain and flooding that is hurting what was an excellent wheat crop; and now we’ve been hit again by the actions of our own government. We need to end indiscriminate use of tariffs now, one way or another.”

PRESS RELEASE: NAWG Submits Comments to EPA's Review of a Petition to Modify the Tolerance and Product Labels for Glyphosate with Regard to Oats

On June 05, 2019, the National Association of Wheat Growers submitted comments to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s request for comments on a petition filed by several special interest groups to reduce the tolerance of glyphosate in or on oats and requiring glyphosate-containing product labels to explicitly prohibit preharvest use on oats (Docket Number EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0066).

NAWG President and Lavon, TX farmer Ben Scholz made the following statement:

"While NAWG's mission does not include representing oat producers, its members believe it's important to provide comments on this Docket as it impacts EPA's review of pesticides.

"In its submission, NAWG urged the EPA to reject this petition in its entirety. The issues raised in this petition have been considered under the current pesticide review and labeling, and the requested action by the Agency is not necessary.

"Further, EPA's work to review and regulate the chemistry of pesticides should not be dictated by special interest groups who have an alternative agenda but rather should continue to be based on science and facts, as the EPA currently operates.

"NAWG supports the U.S. Government's regulatory process of pesticides because it is based on thorough scientific review, has resulted in crop protection tools that are safe for grower use, and farm worker use, and food produced from these tools is safe for human consumption, including consumption by children."

NWF Blog Series on Wheat and Gene Editing

NAWG Summer 2019 Intern Merrick Irvin is drafting a five-part blog series on the advancement of wheat since it was first cultivated, to its current state, and to its future through using technology. The first blog in the series takes a high-level look at the history of wheat. The second blog in the series will focus on "What is gene editing?" and provide a general overview of the process and how it could help move the wheat crop forward.

USDA Solicits Commodity Board Topics and Contribution of Funding under AFRI

On June 5, 2019, USDA issued a solicitation on behalf of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) for Federal and State-level commodity board entities to be considered for inclusion in future Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) competitive grants program. These commodity board topic entities will be co-funded equally with NIFA and must relate to the established priority areas of AFRI when submitting a Requests for Applications (RFAs). Frequently asked questions for commodity board topics are found here on the NIFA website. To submit your own commodity board topic, visit the link found here: <https://nifa.usda.gov/webform/commodity-board-topic-submission/>

USDA Announces a New Proposed Rule on Genetically Engineered Organisms

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has proposed a rule titled the "Movement of Certain Genetically Engineered Organisms" to update the department's biotechnology regulations. In preparing this proposal, APHIS was guided by the following principles: Sustainable, Ecological, Consistent, Uniform, Responsible, Efficient, or SECURE for short. The SECURE rule will modernize the Department's biotechnology regulations with a balanced approach that continues to protect plant health while allowing agricultural innovation to thrive. The Federal Register notice can be found here and begin accepting comments for 60 days starting on August 5th, 2019.

House Passes \$19 Billion Disaster Aid Bill

On Monday, June 3, 2019, the House passed a \$19.1 billion aid bill by a vote of 354-58. The purpose of the bill is to assist states and territories hit by natural disasters since 2017. The legislation specifically outlines \$3 billion for the Department of Agriculture to cover losses to producers affected by natural disasters. The agriculture spending in the bill, including direct payments to farmers, is expected to total \$5.5 billion, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

According to Agri-Pulse, Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D. said the prevented-planting provision was added to the disaster bill because USDA's trade assistance excluded unplanted acres from being eligible.

On Thursday, June 6, 2019, President Trump signed the disaster aid bill into law.

House Appropriations Committee Approves Fiscal Year 2020 Ag Bill

On June 03, 2019, the House Appropriations Committee approved the fiscal year 2020 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies bill on a vote of 29 to 21. Appropriation bills for the fiscal year 2020 are expected to go through the House starting on June 12th. The Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee has not yet considered the agriculture bill with the fiscal year 2020 Defense bill being the primary focus.

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

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

July 21st - 23rd, 2019
NC Seedsmen's Convention
Marriott Grande Dunes
Myrtle Beach, SC

July 25th, 2019
Northeast Ag Expo
Summer Field Day
Roberts Brothers Inc.
169 N Gregory Rd.

Shawboro, NC 27973

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

November 8th, 2019
Person Co. Ag Field Day
Huck Sansbury Park
Roxboro, 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.