

87th Annual North Carolina Seedsmen's Association Convention

The 87th Annual North Carolina Seedsmen's Association Convention was held July 21st – 23rd at the Marriott Grande Dunes Resort in Myrtle Beach. The Convention provides an excellent opportunity for NC Industry friends and business associates to meet together with their families and enjoy informative presentations. This year the convention included a silent auction, family entertainment, board meetings, general sessions with industry presentations, and a banquet. Dan Weathington, NC Small Grain Growers Executive Director, was awarded at the Banquet with the "Honorary Seedsmen of the Year" Award for his Service to Agriculture, the Seed Industry, and Advocacy for Farmers in Agriculture. Congratulations Dan!!! Thank you for all you do for Agriculture and representing not only our Association but farmers everywhere!

2020 Nuffield International Farming Application Now Open

Nuffield International inspires people to make a difference in the world of agriculture. This work is done by developing the individuals in agriculture who will shape the future of agriculture and our local and global communities. With more than 1700 Nuffield Scholars around the world, these individuals are running farms and agribusinesses, leading communities, serving as elected officials, and shaping global agriculture practices and policies. Applications for the 2020 Nuffield International Farming Scholars is now open!! For consideration applications should be submitted by September 30th, 2019. To see a complete list of details on the application process please visit: <http://nuffieldinternational.org/scholarship.html>

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

USDA Announces Details of Support Package for Farmers – NAWG Responds

On July 25, 2019, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced details of its latest \$16 billion in aid to offset trade damages, including another round of market facilitation program (MFP) payments of \$14.5 billion

for farmers who are being impacted by the current trade war with China. Payment rates are set at a county level rather than commodity rate.

“NAWG appreciates the Administration recognizing the impact the current trade war with China is having on farmers,” stated NAWG President and Lavon, TX farmer Ben Scholz. “The MFP payments will provide necessary assistance to growers impacted by low prices resulting in part from tariffs. However, this is a band-aid when we really need a long-term fix. NAWG understands holding China accountable for its WTO violations and unfair trade practices but a trade war is not the solution especially when farmers are the casualties.”

Prior to the release of details of MFP, NAWG sent a letter to USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue outlining concerns to be addressed in a final program. Additionally, NAWG met with the Office of Management of Budget (OMB) and USDA officials to discuss its concerns including those raised around ensuring fall 2018-seeded winter wheat would be eligible, fallow rotations, and new and beginning farmers. Specifically, NAWG asked that growers not be penalized by the limit of 2018 harvested acres since the MFP proposal uses a farmer’s 2019 planted acres capped at their 2018 harvested acres.

“We continue to urge the Administration to quickly resolve the ongoing trade dispute with China and to negotiate new trade agreements, and Congress to act quickly on USMCA.”

NAWG Grower to Testify at Senate Ag Hearing Next Wednesday

On Wednesday, July 31, 2019 at 9:30am, the Senate Committee on Agriculture will be holding a hearing titled “Perspectives on Reauthorization of the U.S. Grain Standards Act”. Kansas farmer and NAWG member Brian Linin will be testifying on behalf of the Association. Following the hearing, NAWG will issue a release linking to a copy of Linin’s testimony..

Soil Health Partnership First Wheat Field Day - July 30

On July 30, 2019, the Soil Health Partnership (SHP) will host its first wheat focused field day in Red Lake Falls, MN from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Trinity Creek Ranch Wheat Field. NAWG’s Environmental Policy Advisor and SHP Board Member Keira Franz as well as Foundation Board Member Scott Swenson will be attending the field day. For more details and to register, visit here: <https://www.soilhealthpartnership.org/field-days-events/> .

NAWG Participates in 2019 Maryland Commodity Classic – July 25th

On Thursday, July 25, 2019, the Maryland Grain Producers Association (MGPA), Maryland Soybean Board, Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board, and Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association held its annual 2019 Maryland Commodity Classic NAWG’s Craig Berning and U.S. Wheat Associates’ Elizabeth Westendorf attended the event and hosted an exhibit. Follow NAWG, USW, and NAWG Member MGPA on Twitter for highlights from the 2019 MD Commodity Classic.

Oregon Wheat Magazine: “Lessons from NAWG and North Dakota” Article

As part of its August 2019 magazine, Oregon Wheat published a piece which discussed some lessons learned around the departure of the North Dakota Grain Growers Association (NDGGA) from the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG). Authored by Oregon Wheat Growers League CEO Blake Rowe, the article discusses the importance of belonging to a national organization and provides some “valuable reminders for us about how to keep our national organizations running smoothly”. The article can be accessed here: http://www.owgl.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/OW_August19_Web.pdf

USMCA Coalition Support Letter to Congress

On Tuesday, July 23rd, the USMCA Coalition, of which NAWG is a member, sent a letter to Congress urging their support for USMCA. More than 600 organizations and companies signed on to the letter which stressed how USMCA is critical to the economic future of the U.S.

Senate Finance to Hold Hearing on USMCA

On Tuesday, July 30, 2019, the Senate Committee on Finance will hold a hearing on the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement featuring a panel of private-sector witnesses. Witnesses will include Michael Wessel, the staff chair of the Labor Advisory Committee for Trade Negotiations and Trade Policy. For more information, visit <https://www.finance.senate.gov/hearings/the-united-states-mexico-canada-agreement> .

USDA Awards Agricultural Trade Promotion Funding

Through the Agricultural Trade Promotion (ATP) program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has awarded \$100 million to 48 organizations to help United States farmers and ranchers find access to new export markets. This ATP funding is used to help U.S. farmers and ranchers generate access to new export markets. In 2018, these 48 recipients applied for and received \$200 million in ATP funds utilized to support farmers impacted by unjustified retaliation and trade disruption.

Agri-Pulse: ERS Finds Crop Insurance Will Cost More Because Of Climate Change

In a report released on Monday, July 22, 2019, the Economic Research Service (ERS) concluded that crop insurance for corn, soybeans and wheat will cost more because of the expected effects of climate change on yields. ERS stated that all of the scenarios it considered “suggest that climate change would lower domestic production of corn, soybeans, and wheat” compared to a future scenario with climate identical to that of the past three decades. Additionally, the study found that “lower yields will translate to higher prices, which implies higher premiums and, consequently, higher subsidies.”

FFT: Farmers & Ranchers Sign-On Letter RE USMCA

Farmers For Free Trade (FFT) has launched a sign-on letter to Congress from farmers, ranchers, and other individuals in ag business owners and employees in support of the USMCA. The letter will be held open at least through the month of July. Visit their site to sign on to the letter here: <https://p2a.co/ZnYyvWx>

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

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 2nd - 6th, 2019

NAWG Fall Mtg.
Santa Fe, New Mexico

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 njjohnson0902@gmail.com / 919-809-8657.