

## **Assessment Referendum NEXT WEEK, Don't Forget to VOTE!!!**

The North Carolina Small Grain Growers Association's 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 31<sup>st</sup>, 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 7<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## **Interested in Reducing Your Farm Energy Costs?**

The North Carolina Energy Audit Program provides discounted energy audits to help your farm prioritize energy efficiency projects and access funding for equipment upgrades. *Please see the attachment in this email for complete details on this program.*

## **USDA Opens Signup for Market Facilitation Program**

Signup is open for the Market Facilitation Program (MFP), a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program to assist farmers who continue to suffer from damages because of unjustified trade retaliation from foreign nations. Through MFP, USDA will provide up to \$14.5 billion in direct payments to impacted producers, part of a broader trade relief package announced in late July. The sign-up period runs through Dec. 6.

MFP payments will be made to producers of certain non-specialty and specialty crops as well as dairy and hog producers.

### Non-Specialty Crops

MFP payments will be made to producers of alfalfa hay, barley, canola, corn, crambe, dried beans, dry peas, extra-long staple cotton, flaxseed, lentils, long grain and medium grain rice, millet, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, rapeseed, rye, safflower, sesame seed, small and large chickpeas, sorghum, soybeans, sunflower seed, temperate japonica rice, triticale, upland cotton, and wheat.

MFP assistance for 2019 crops is based on a single county payment rate multiplied by a farm's total plantings to the MFP-eligible crops in aggregate in 2019. Those per acre payments are not dependent on which of those crops are planted in 2019. A producer's total payment-eligible plantings cannot exceed total 2018 plantings. View payment rates by county: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/market-facilitation-program/index>

### Dairy and Hogs

Dairy producers who were in business as of June 1, 2019, will receive a per hundredweight payment on production history, and hog producers will receive a payment based on the number of live hogs owned on a day selected by the producer between April 1 and May 15, 2019.

### Specialty Crops

MFP payments will also be made to producers of almonds, cranberries, cultivated ginseng, fresh grapes, fresh sweet cherries, hazelnuts, macadamia nuts, pecans, pistachios, and walnuts. Each specialty crop will receive a payment based on 2019 acres of fruit or nut bearing plants, or in the case of ginseng, based on harvested acres in 2019.

### More Information

Payments will be made in up to three tranches, with the second and third tranches evaluated as market conditions and trade opportunities dictate. If conditions warrant, the second and third tranches will be made in November and early January.

MFP payments are limited to a combined \$250,000 for non-specialty crops per person or legal entity. MFP payments are also limited to a combined \$250,000 for dairy and hog producers and a combined \$250,000 for specialty crop producers. However, no applicant can receive more than \$500,000. Eligible applicants must also have an average adjusted gross income (AGI) for tax years 2015, 2016, and 2017 of less than \$900,000, or 75 percent of the person's or legal entity's average AGI for those tax years must have been derived from farming and ranching. Applicants must also comply with the provisions of the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation regulations.

More information can be found on <https://www.farmers.gov/manage/mfp> including payment information and a program application.

## **Crop Protection Program HQ to Relocate to NCSU**

A national research program that provides safe and effective pest management solutions to specialty crop growers will be moving to NC State. The federally funded Interregional Research Project No. 4, or IR-4, conducts the research necessary for obtaining registrations of pest control agents needed to grow crops such as fruits, vegetables, nuts, herbs, spices and ornamentals.

On July 10, the IR-4 Project Management Committee considered a memorandum of agreement drafted by the NC State's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. That proposed agreement presented an opportunity for IR-4 headquarters to relocate its operations from its long-term host institution, New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station/Rutgers University, to NC State. After significant discussion, the PMC unanimously agreed to advance the proposal to Rutgers legal counsel for concurrence.

The PMC based its decision on the 10-year commitment by NC State to host IR-4 headquarters as well as the assurances of the college's leadership on the many ways that IR-4 fits into CALS' strategic direction. While New Jersey Agricultural Experimental Station continues to value the IR-4 Project, Rutgers could not continue to make a long-term commitment to serve as the host institution.

Two CALS administrators — Richard Bonanno, Associate Dean for Extension, and Steve Lommel, Associate Dean for Research — said they are enthusiastic about having the IR-4 headquarters at NC State.

“As a state with over 90 commodity groups, specialty crops are very important here, and we have many faculty members working on all aspects of specialty crop production,” Lommel said. “Having IR-4 headquarters at NC State is a natural fit and will be a win for North Carolina agriculture, the university and the IR-4 Project.” Bonanno noted that “many pest management companies also call North Carolina home, thus decreasing travel time and expense for the national headquarters’ staff. In addition, the IR-4 expertise will be invaluable to NC State University’s new certificate program in regulatory science.”

The relocation, once approved by Rutgers, will transition over the next two years, with scheduled completion by Sep. 30, 2021. The long transition will allow IR-4 headquarters to remain operational with minimal interruptions and lessen the impact of the move on 27 current employees at IR-4 headquarters. Rutgers and NJAES administrators are committed to working closely with NC State to ensure a smooth transition.

## **National Association of Wheat Growers: Weekly Update**

### **NAWG Member Testifies on Importance of Grain Inspection System for U.S. Export Markets**

On Wednesday, July 31, 2019 the Senate Committee on Agriculture held a hearing looking at perspectives around reauthorizing the Grain Standards Act. Brian Linin, a wheat farmer from Goodland, Kansas, testified on behalf of the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) on the importance of reauthorizing the Grain Standards Act. Linin also serves as a board member of the U.S. Wheat Associates and works for Frontier Ag, Inc. Highlights from his testimony can be found below:

“The Grain Standards Act serves a critical role in exporting grains and oilseeds, including U.S. wheat, of which about 50% is exported each year. With such a large volume of wheat being exported, our export markets are critical to wheat farmers’ bottom lines...

“The grain inspection system is one that is valued by our overseas customers and adds value to our commodities. Foreign customers can be assured that an independent agency has certified shipments to meet the grade requirements specified in a contract. This certainty and reliability has helped wheat and other U.S. commodities to grow our export markets and serves as a significant advantage of purchasing U.S. wheat versus wheat from other origins...

“A properly functioning grain inspection system is critical, and we urge Congress to reauthorize the Grain Standards Act this year. Despite the significant impacts of tariffs on exports, U.S. wheat has maintained some competitiveness in the international market in part thanks to the advantage and premium international buyers place on the U.S. grain inspection system.

“Given the current uncertainty in trade agreements and many of the bearish factors working against U.S. wheat exports, it is critical we maintain one of our key advantages. Foreign and domestic customers value an independent agency certifying shipments to meet the grade requirements of contracts.”

### **Allred and Peters Lead Effort Urging Action by Democratic Leadership on USMCA**

On July 26, 2019, a letter signed by 14 U.S. House Democratic members was sent to U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi urging her to act on the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). Congressman Colin Allred (TX-32) and Congressman Scott Peters (CA-52) led the effort urging a vote on this bipartisan agreement by the end of this year. The letter called for negotiations to "continue through the upcoming recess to ensure certainty of critical relationships with Canada and Mexico as our most important trading partners and to protect a negotiated agreement that supports millions of American jobs."

### **Representative Conaway Announces Retirement Upon Completion of his 8th Term**

On Wednesday July the 31st, Congressman Mike Conaway of the 11th District of Texas, announced his 8th term will be his last as he plans to enter retirement. "Representing the people of the 11th District of Texas has been an honor and privilege" stated Representative Conaway.

### **2019 National Wheat Yield Contest Deadline Closes Today!**

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 7th, 2019

NCSGGA Assessment Referendum Voting Day  
All NC County Cooperative Extension Services Offices

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August 7th, 2019

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

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August 15th – 16th, 2019

NCSGGA Board Meeting  
Sheraton Imperial Hotel  
Durham, NC

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September 7th, 2019

CALS Tailgate  
PNC Arena  
Raleigh, NC

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October 15th – 17th, 2019

Hoke Co. Ag Awareness Week  
Hoke-Robeson Cotton Gin  
Maxton, NC

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October 22nd - 24th, 2019

Stanly County Ag Awareness Week  
Stanly County Agri-Civic Center  
Albemarle, NC

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November 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019

NAWG Fall Mtg.

Santa Fe, New Mexico

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November 6th, 2019  
Northeast Regional Ag Expo  
Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center  
Williamston, NC

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November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Person Co. Ag Field Day  
Huck Sansbury Park  
Roxboro, NC

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December 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
NCSGGA Board Meeting  
Sheraton Imperial Hotel  
Durham, NC

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*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.*