

## **The 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Blackland Farm Managers Tour**

The 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Blackland Farm Managers Tour was held at the Coastal Carolina Cotton Gin in Fairfield on Wednesday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. This is the largest event of its kind in North Carolina bringing in approximately 600 attendees. The event is an excellent opportunity to interact with farmers and agribusiness leaders from across the state and includes educational presentations on corn, soybean, cotton production and management. The Blackland Farm Managers Association, covering parts of eight counties along and near the Atlantic coastline, is dedicated to improving the management requirements needed to protect the high organic soils of eastern North Carolina and to develop the fertile, black farmlands to their fullest potential.

Breakfast, registration, and a chance for attendees to visit with exhibitors in the Main Tent began at 7:00 a.m. Field presentations began at 8:30 a.m. with several tents having discussions and demonstrations on topics such as management of weeds, insects, fungicide, and nitrogen in corn, soybean, cotton, and other crops. Participants who attended these demonstrations received 2 hours of X, N, D, and O pesticide credits, and CCA credits. From 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., participants had a grab and go style lunch at the Main Tent; then at 1:45 p.m. a pesticide spraying drone was demonstrated in the Soybean Tent.

During event registration, participants also had the opportunity to vote for the NC Small Grain Growers Association Assessment Referendum, THANK YOU to everyone that voted in support of our Association not only at the field day but all across the state!!

## **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 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019. To see a complete list of details on the application process please visit: <http://nuffieldinternational.org/scholarship.html>

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

### **NAWG Submits Comments to USDA's Proposed Rule Changes to Proposed Rule on GE Plants**

Tuesday, August 6th, marked the closing of comment period for the U.S Department of Agriculture's proposed rule changes to regulations in 7 CFR part 340, "Introductions of Organisms and Products Altered or Produced Through Genetic Engineering Which are Plant Pests or Which There is Reason to Believe are Plant Pests". NAWG submitted comments to the proposed rule (Docket No. APHIS-2018-0034), and Lavon, TX wheat farmer and NAWG President Ben Scholz made the following statement:

"NAWG believes USDA APHIS is correct in its work to update and revise the current regulations and commends their effort to streamline the process. APHIS can point to its learnings from more than 20 years of documented risks to plant health within its authority related to plant pests and noxious weeds when making these rule changes.

"Modern biotechnology (transgenesis and gene editing) helps achieve an increase in food production without the need for more land area for agriculture. NAWG members believe science-based decisions should be used to develop regulatory framework, and that regulations should not burden research investment with unnecessary costs or delays.

“In its comments, NAWG noted its highest priority concern is that any rule change contemplated by the USDA APHIS needs to consider its impact on importing countries of US produced grain. NAWG encourages USDA APHIS to develop and execute an international engagement strategy that defines USDA’s rationale on pre-market regulatory approaches. All foreign customers expect the continued oversight by USDA to ensure consistent food safety, which is fundamental to their confidence in purchases of U.S. wheat.

“Further, NAWG encourages USDA APHIS to be vocal about the safety of GE technology, aiming their messaging at every opportunity to earn the trust of every U.S. consumer. Even if the technology is innovative and improves productivity, farmers will not purchase it if the marketplace will not accept it. NAWG appreciated the opportunity to provide comments on this issue of significant importance to the wheat industry.”

### **NWF Publishes Blog on How Gene Editing Could Decrease Pesticide and Fertilizer Usage**

Merrick Irvin is the National Association of Wheat Growers Summer 2019 Intern and has been working on a blog series covering advancements in the wheat industry through gene editing and technology. On the National Wheat Foundation (NWF) website, Merrick has uploaded his latest entry on how gene editing can decrease wheat producer’s reliance on pesticides and fertilizers. This page provides an interesting look into current gene editing research that is making wheat more resilient to pests and more nutrient efficient. Feel free to check it out here: <https://wheatfoundation.org/blog-4-decreasing-reliance-on-pesticides-and-fertilizer-usage-through-gene-editing-series/>

### **National Geographic: World Food Crisis Looms if Carbon Emissions Go Unchecked, UN says**

"The impacts of climate change on land are already severe and will substantially increase food prices, risking widespread food instability, says a new report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The Special Report on Climate Change and Land warned that a food crisis looms, especially in tropical and sub-tropical regions, if carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions go unchecked. Rising temperatures may also reduce the nutritional value of crops and will significantly reduce crop yields, the report said." Read the article in its entirety here: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/08/ipcc-un-food-security/>

### **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 or access it by texting "USMCA Letter" to 52886.

### **FFAR has Launched the Plant Protein Enhancement Project**

The Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR) Crops of the Future Collaborative (COTF) announced Wednesday, August the 7th, the launch of the Plant Protein Enhancement Project to help make plant-based protein more available and affordable. The goal of the Project is to fund competitive research grants that is working to improve yields, characteristics, and the total protein content of plants used for human consumption. Applications are available on the FFAR website and require a minimum request of \$300,000.

### **Emerging Leaders in Food & Ag Conference - November 4-5, 2019**

The Emerging Leaders in Food & Ag conference is a two-day event in Denver, Colorado designed to train, connect, and celebrate up-and-coming leaders in the food and agriculture sectors. The first day features an all-day industry tour followed by an evening awards ceremony and reception honoring the Top 20 Emerging Leaders in Food & Ag. Day 2 is a full day of industry learning, professional development and networking. For

more information on the conference, visit [www.emergingleadersfa.com](http://www.emergingleadersfa.com). To nominate a leader in Food & Ag, visit: <https://emergingleadersfa.com/awards/>.

## NCSGGA Upcoming Events

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 nfjohnson0902@gmail.com / 919-809-8657.*