

Newsheat

Volume 8 • Issue 1 • Spring 2018

**NWGA Addresses National
Farm Policy Issues**
page 3

NWB board of directors opening
page 4

Scouting for wheat diseases
page 8

Farm equipment near Big Springs sits idle as
a late April snowstorm delays field work.
Photo courtesy: Dayton Christensen



Mark Spurgin
President
Paxton

It's April and Old Man Winter is still here. We had 5 inches of snow on April Fools Day. I don't know who fooled who. It has been a busy 2018 so far. Nebraska Wheat Growers board members have participated in several events including the Commodity Classic where most commodity boards meet with their national organizations (National Association of Wheat Growers -- NAWG in our case), the Governor's Ag Conference where most Nebraska Ag organizations meet and give highlights for their respective groups, and traveling to Washington, DC to meet with the Mexican Ambassador. The Nebraska Wheat Growers Association has an opening for one or two board members. We need at least one but two would be good. All wheat growers are eligible. If interested contact any current board member or call the Nebraska Wheat Growers office in Lincoln.

The wheat is greening up, some calves are on the ground, the Sandhill cranes are in the State, and the corn planters are given the once-over in preparation for planting. With all the trade issues and new tariffs in the wind, farm bill hearings, taxes, and many other issues our staff and the NAWG staff are busy trying to keep up with everything. I am glad that we have good representation in Washington, DC with NAWG because I know I don't have the time to go to Washington; that's one reason I pay dues. I consider my dues as an investment in my future, not just something I have to pay.

I hope everyone has a safe and warm spring.

spurg@nebnet.net

NAWG responds to House Committee on Agriculture's Release of its 2018 Farm Bill text

NAWG UPDATE (April 12, 2018) – Today, the House Committee on Agriculture released its language for its version of the 2018 Farm Bill. In response, NAWG President Jimmie Musick made the following statement:

“We are glad to see that the House is taking a first step in the 2018 Farm Bill reauthorization process by releasing its draft bill. NAWG is currently reviewing the text and will continue to work with Members of the Committee and their staff to ensure our priorities are addressed in the bill.

“NAWG continues to advocate for a strong crop safety net program which means no cuts to the crop insurance program and maintaining a producer choice between revenue-based (Agriculture Risk Coverage) and price-based (Price Loss Coverage) programs, as well as improvements to both. Further, NAWG continues to advocate for prioritizing working lands conservation programs in the Conservation Title, reauthorization and increased funding for MAP and FMD, as well as a strong research title.

“We urge Congress to move forward in a bipartisan manner in order to enable a bill to pass both chambers.”



Mark Knobel (center) a NWGA member and wheat farmer from Fairbury receives his award for placing in the National Wheat Yield Contest from National Wheat Foundation Director **Phil McLain (left)** and NWF Executive Director **Chandler Goule (right)**.

NWGA Addresses National Farm Policy

So far this spring, NWGA's board members and staff have participated in a variety of events, meetings and roundtable discussions with congressional leaders, USDA representatives, other state wheat organizations and trade ambassadors in an effort to promote the needs of Nebraska's wheat farmers on several key trade and farm policy issues.

In mid February, several NWGA members as well as representatives from the Nebraska Wheat Board traveled to Washington, DC for the national Winter Wheat Conference. The conference is an annual joint meeting between the National Association of Wheat Growers and US Wheat Associates. During the 3-day event, issues like Farm Bill, NAFTA, TPP, environmental regulations, research priorities, conservation compliance concerns, transportation and railroad issues, white wheat and trade challenges were discussed.

While in Washington, DC, Nebraska wheat representatives also visited with all five congressional representatives, despite a brief government shutdown and an additional late-opening of government offices due to freezing rain. NWGA helped host a reception for Nebraska hill staffers to discuss wheat concerns, and had the privilege of introducing USDA Undersecretary Greg Ibach as a speaker during one of the winter wheat conference meetings.

NWGA board members returned home for a short time, before heading to Anaheim, California at the end of February for Commodity Classic. This event is a national meeting between the four main U.S. grain commodities: wheat, corn, soybeans and sorghum. In addition to participating in Commodity Classic events, NWGA members joined other members of NAWG for the organization's annual meeting. Policy resolutions were reviewed and updated; Farm Bill preferences were discussed and priorities set; National Wheat Yield Contest winners were honored (one of whom was a Nebraskan and an NWGA member); and the new slate of NAWG officers were installed.

Shortly after returning from the Commodity Classic and NAWG annual meeting, NWGA's past-president, Randon Peters, returned to Washington, DC. There he participated in a trade conversation with Senator Ben

Sasse, Mexican Ambassador Gerónimo Gutiérrez, and a few other representatives of Nebraska agriculture commodities.

Additionally, NWGA executive director Caroline Brauer joined several other Nebraska agriculture representatives at a trade roundtable conversation in Omaha at the start of April. There the representatives discussed trade concerns with Senator Sasse and USDA Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agriculture Affairs, Ted McKinney. Topics discussed included NAFTA, TPP, Chinese trade tariffs and the potential for bilateral trade agreements.

NWGA's board of directors continues to work with other state wheat groups and both national wheat organizations to push forward on trade issues, the Farm Bill and conservation and environmental regulation concerns. Members with any questions regarding NWGA's efforts on federal policy issues may contact our office or any member of the NWGA board.



NWB board members Von Johnson, Bob Delsing, Rick Larson, Brent Robertson and Larry Flohr pose for a photo between visits with congressional representatives.



Wheat leaders discuss trade and Farm Bill concerns with Congressman Adrian Smith.

NWB District 2 Board of Directors Opening

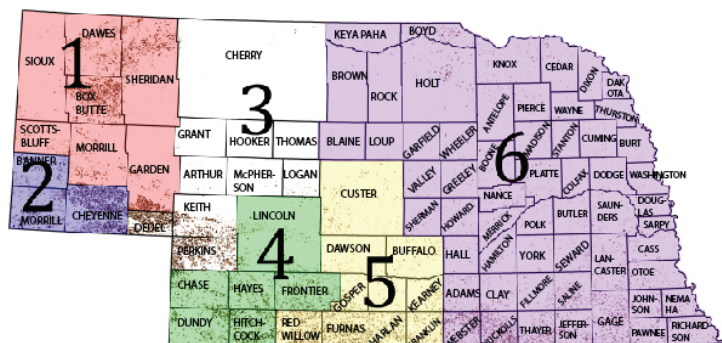
A directorship appointment for District 2 of the Nebraska Wheat Utilization, Development and Marketing Board (NWB) is open for appointment by Gov. Pete Ricketts. The new term will begin July 1, 2018 and run through June 30, 2023. The filing deadline for appointment is 5 p.m. CST on May 31, 2018.

District 2 represents the counties of Kimball, Banner and Cheyenne. Any producer interested in appointment may submit an application to the Governor's office for consideration. Rick Larson of Potter, the current District 2 director, has indicated he will not seek reappointment.

Qualified candidates include those who are citizens of Nebraska, are at least 21 years of age, have been actively engaged in growing wheat in Nebraska for a period of at least five years, reside in a county in their respective district and derive a substantial portion of their income from producing wheat.

To obtain an application, interested producers may contact Kathleen Dolezal in the Office of the Governor at 402-471-2256 or apply online at <https://governor.nebraska.gov/board-comm-req>.

The Nebraska Wheat Board administers the check-off of 0.4% of net value of wheat marketed in Nebraska at the point of first sale. The board invests the funds in programs of international and domestic market development and improvement, policy development, research, promotion, and education.



From the field,
to the mill,
to the bakery.

ARDENT MILLS
PROUDLY
SUPPORTS
NEBRASKA
WHEAT

We have three flour mills:
two in Omaha and one in
Fremont. We buy 90% of
our wheat via truck, most
of it coming from farms in
Western Nebraska.



Nourishing what's next.™

WE STRIVE TO BE
YOUR PREFERRED
WHEAT BUYER.

ardentmills.com



© 2014 Ardent Mills

NAWG Comments re: Neonic Registration Review at EPA

On April 20, 2018, NAWG submitted comments to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s registration review of Neonicotinoid pesticides imidacloprid, clothianidin and thiamethoxam, docket numbers. In its comments, NAWG expressed concern that current EPA assessments are overly conservative and do not represent real-world risks that producers face every day. Further, NAWG stated that refinements in the assessment are necessary to better represent the real-world situations encountered by wheat growers that should be measured against the benefits of neonicotinoid products. NAWG supports the continued use of neonicotinoids by wheat growers under stewardship protocols and label guidelines that are realistic and sensible, while still protecting the environment in which their use occurs. The comments can be read at <https://www.wheatworld.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/NAWG-Neonic-Comments-4.20.18.pdf>.

BAKE & TAKE RECIPES

Mini Dessert Tacos

Ingredients:

- 1 package flour tortillas
- 2 Tbsp. margarine or butter
- 1 Tbsp. peanut butter
- 1/4 c. cinnamon sugar or white sugar

Directions:

Cut several mini tortillas out of the larger tortillas using a 3" diameter circle cutter. Brush one side of the tortilla with margarine/peanut butter then sprinkle with choice of sugar. Fold the tortilla into a taco shape with sugar on inside. Place between cups of an upside down muffin pan. Fill as desired. Options below. All baking done at 350 degrees.

- 1) Bake cinnamon sugar taco shells for 6 minutes. Fill with pre-made apple pie filling.
- 2) Fill peanut butter taco shell with chocolate chips, marshmallows and bake for 6 min.
- 3) Bake cinnamon sugar shell for 6 minutes. Fill with vanilla yogurt and top with fresh fruit pieces.
- 4) Fill sugar-coated taco shell with Rolo candies and pretzel pieces. Bake for 6 min.



Crockpot Cherry Chocolate Lava Cake

Ingredients:

- 1 can cherry pie filling
- 1 box devils food cake mix, plus ingredients to complete it
- 1.5 cups brown sugar
- 1/2 cup cocoa powder
- 3 cups hot water

Directions:

Dump can of cherry pie filling into bottom of parchment lined crockpot. Top with devils food cake mix prepared according to box directions. In separate bowl, combine brown sugar and cocoa powder. Sprinkle sugar mixture on top of cake mix. Pour 3 cups of hot water on top of everything. DO NOT STIR. Cook on high for 2.5 hours. Serve warm with whipped cream or ice cream.





2018 National Wheat Yield Contest

The Goal of the National Wheat Yield Contest Is To Improve Productivity Of U.S. Wheat Growers.

Objectives:

- Drive Innovation in the industry
- Enable knowledge transfer between growers
- Encourage the use of available technology

Structure:

- National Recognition:
 - High Yield Winner (Bin Buster) – and:
 - Two specific categories and two sub-categories
 - **Winter wheat**
 - Irrigated
 - Dryland
 - **Spring wheat**
 - Irrigated
 - Dryland
- Top five winners of each 4 sub-categories will be recognized
- Winners will be determined by the percentage increase in yield above their county average (*as set by USDA for Title 1 farm program payments; highest actual yield used as a tiebreaker*)
- Must be a state wheat grower association member to enter (*or member of NAWG if entrant is from a state that has no state grower organization*)
- Must use a certified or branded wheat seed variety; no bin-run seed accepted; minimum contest plot five (5) acres
- **On-line registration and harvest results reporting only** (Web-based program)

How to Apply:

- On-line Entry Fee: \$100 - \$125 per variety (plus state or NAWG membership fee, if applicable)
- <http://yieldcontest.wheatfoundation.org>

Timing:

- Online registration deadlines: **Winter Wheat – May 15th Spring Wheat - August 1st**

2018 Contest Sponsors



**NWGA will offer a discounted membership rate of \$50 to any non-member wanting to enter the yield contest. A membership form can be found on page 11 of this newsletter.*



HUSKER GENETICS®

University of Nebraska–Lincoln



*University of Nebraska
and
Husker Genetics
working for
Nebraska's Wheat Industry.
Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*

1071 County Road G, Room C * Ithaca, NE 68033-2234 * huskergenetics.unl.edu
PH: (402)624-8020 * FAX: (402)624-8010 * huskergenetics2@unl.edu

It's Time to Scout for Wheat Diseases

Article by Stephen Wegulo and Bob Harveson, Extension Plant Pathologists

The prolonged cold or cooler-than-normal temperatures this spring have delayed the onset of wheat diseases in Nebraska. With the return of seasonal temperatures, it is expected that wheat diseases will start to develop and progress, making this a good time to start scouting. As is typical early in the growing season, many wheat fields will look disease-free from a distance (Figure 1); however, closer examination of the upper and lower canopy can reveal diseases.

What to Look for When Scouting

Stripe Rust. Stripe rust was confirmed in one county in southeastern Kansas during the week of April 9, indicating there is a good chance we will have the disease in Nebraska. Because it is favored by cool temperatures and moisture, it is one of the diseases to look for when scouting early in the growing season. Look for yellow rust pustules (Figure 2) both in the lower and upper canopy. On young wheat, stripe rust may not form distinct stripes on the leaves.

Fungal Leaf Spot Diseases. The most common early season fungal leaf spot diseases in Nebraska wheat are tan spot and Septoria leaf blotch. During the early stages of development, symptoms of these two diseases are not distinguishable. They consist of spots with brown necrotic centers surrounded by yellow halos (Figure 3). These spots start on the lower leaves and progress up the plant. They can enlarge into large dead areas on leaves. In older lesions of Septoria leaf blotch, tiny, black fruiting structures known as pycnidia may develop (Figure 4). Tan spot and Septoria leaf blotch are most severe in fields with wheat residue on the soil surface.

Powdery Mildew. Powdery mildew starts on the lower leaves and stems where humidity remains high for prolonged periods of time. It is characterized by white, cottony patches of mycelium and conidia (asexual spores) on the plant surface. The white patches later turn dull gray-brown. Look in the lower canopy for powdery mildew (Figure 5).

Virus Diseases. Virus diseases of wheat commonly seen early in the growing season in Nebraska are soilborne mosaic (Figure 6) and wheat streak mosaic (Figure 7). Typical symptoms are stunting and mild green to

conspicuous yellow leaf mosaics that give the field a yellow cast. Wheat soilborne mosaic is favored by wet soils and is more common in eastern Nebraska. Wheat streak mosaic occurs more frequently in areas of western Nebraska where volunteer wheat was not controlled prior to planting wheat in the fall.

Management

Early season fungal leaf diseases can be controlled by applying a fungicide (see 2018 NCERA-184 Wheat Fungicide Table). Do not apply a fungicide in the absence of disease. Base the decision to apply a fungicide early in the growing season on the following:

Presence of Stripe Rust Based On Scouting. If stripe rust is detected early in the growing season and cool, wet weather is forecast, an early fungicide spray may be warranted. Even if you have planted a variety known to be resistant to stripe rust, if the disease is detected in the field under cool, wet conditions, a preventive fungicide application will be worthwhile. On the other hand, if dry, warm weather is forecast, it will be better to wait but continue monitoring the progression of stripe rust in the field.

Fungal Leaf Spot Diseases and Powdery Mildew Developing to Severe Levels. If wheat was drilled into wheat stubble and tan spot, Septoria leaf blotch, or powdery mildew are developing to severe levels, an early season fungicide application may be warranted. Under normal weather conditions, these diseases develop slowly enough that a flag leaf fungicide application alone is sufficient to control them effectively.

Accurate Identification of the Disease Present in a Field. It is important to positively identify the disease present in a field before deciding whether to apply fungicide. Virus diseases such as soilborne mosaic and wheat streak mosaic cannot be controlled by applying a fungicide.

Virus diseases cannot be controlled once they occur. Wheat soilborne mosaic is managed by planting resistant varieties and ensuring good soil drain.

Additional info at www.cropwatch.unl.edu.



Figure 1: A typical wheat field in Nebraska early in the growing season. (Photo - Stephen Wegulo)



Figure 2: Stripe Rust on a leaf in the upper canopy of a wheat crop. (Photo - Stephen Wegulo)



Figure 3: A fungal leaf spot disease on wheat.



Figure 4: Pycnidia (asexual fruiting structures) in old Septoria leaf blotch lesions in the lower canopy of a wheat crop. (Photo - Stephen Wegulo)



Figure 5: Powdery mildew in the lower canopy of a wheat crop. (Photo - Stephen Wegulo)



Figure 6: Wheat soilborn mosaic. (Photo - Paul Hay)



Figure 7: Wheat streak mosaic. (Photo - Stephen Wegulo)

Eating away at our trade defenses

Op-ed piece submitted by wheat leaders

The following is an op-ed piece submitted by NAWG treasurer David Milligan and U.S. Wheat Associates secretary-treasurer Doug Goyings. It was published in *The Hill* and discusses concerns with trade tariffs.

As farmers from Michigan and Ohio, we understand how important both agriculture and manufacturing are to our states — and to all states. We're proud of the products we grow and make in our nation's agricultural and industrial heartland and we want our farms and businesses to be competitive and thrive.

That's why we were alarmed by President Trump's announcement that the United States will impose tariffs on imported steel and aluminum for national security reasons. Trade is vital to U.S. agriculture, with China, Korea, Mexico and dozens of other countries. American wheat farmers depend on export markets for half of every crop we grow. We are supported by the rules-based trading system but we also are vulnerable to retaliation.

Let's use a farming analogy. Crops need roots to survive. If grubs chew them off, the plant will die. That's basically what could happen to global trade rules with these new tariffs.

The administration is using a justification that's vital to the functioning of global trade rules called the essential security exception. The reason is simple — if there was no allowance for countries to restrict some trade for national security reasons then countries wouldn't be able to agree to any trade rules. We don't want U.S. defense contractors selling the best missile technology to our adversaries, for example.

However, exploiting this rarely used justification to protect domestic steel undermines it by inviting retaliation from steel and aluminum exporters and imitation from other countries to use the same excuse for their own security interests. Food security for example. The grubs will be ravenous.

Retaliation is the immediate concern. Other countries won't see this as a rightful use of security exceptions — they'll see it as an attack on their industries and their workers, just as we do when other countries restrict wheat imports from the United States. Their industries will demand retaliation and they'll get it. U.S. agriculture products are often first on the list.

The bigger concern may be the countries that see opportunity instead of getting angry. It's not a difficult argument for a wheat importer to say that if America needs domestic steel to build ships and tanks, they need domestic wheat to feed

their soldiers. The opportunities to restrict trade for national security reasons will only be as limited as the protectionist's imagination. That will truly erode global trade rules as imitators demand protection throughout the world.

Certainly, countries like China have been chewing away at the roots of the global trading system for years by ignoring commitments. But the solution isn't to get down in the dirt and start chewing ourselves: it's to apply solutions that actually target the problem without destroying the whole field.

That's why we supported the cases brought at the WTO against China's policies on wheat, corn, and rice. That was getting tough on trade, because it targeted a trade problem, instead of creating one. We are pleased that the Trump administration continues to pursue those cases, but the precedent set by the steel and aluminum tariffs could erase any benefits.

Farmers will also get hurt by the direct effects of the tariffs.

In agriculture, we have some good years, but most years we have thin margins or worse. We're also heavy users of steel and aluminum in our tractors, planters, sprayers, combines, grain bins, dryers, trucks, pivots, carts, augers, drones, etc.

Raising the prices of all those inputs could trim our thin margins. Then we have less to spend on all the great made-in-Michigan and made-in-Ohio products that are several steps removed from the blast furnace or smelter. And for all those Midwestern jobs making those products, they'd better hope foreign competitors don't undercut them because the competitors' inputs are now much cheaper.

We suppose if that were the case there would be calls for tariffs on those products too, again cutting away at our margins. So we have to ask — trade wars may be easy to win but what is the definition of a win, who are the casualties and how does the trade war end?

We sympathize with our friends in the steel and aluminum industries who are affected by unfair trade. Wheat farmers are dramatically affected by unfair trade, too. But this action doesn't fix the problem, and actually makes it worse. The people who will be harmed will not be in China but will be consumers right here at home like farmers and others who rely on steel and aluminum products for their livelihoods. We also rely on global trade and a strong, rules-based system. Imposing these tariffs undermines that rules-based system and threatens U.S. wheat farmers.



THE NEBRASKA WHEAT GROWERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 95063
Lincoln, NE 68509

Telephone (402) 471-2358
FAX (402) 471-3446

Every year you invest in seed, fuel, fertilizer, machinery and other inputs required to produce wheat. How much do you invest in equitable farm programs, international marketing and environmental issues that dictate how you run your farm?

Membership in the Nebraska Wheat Growers Association should be a part of your general operation cost, just like seed, fertilizer and fuel. Membership is really a type of insurance to help protect and improve the price you are paid for the quality wheat you produce. Membership dues are a tax deductible *investment* in your industry.

Membership Fees

Grower/Producer/Landlord
\$75.00 annually
\$375.00 – 5 years
(receive premium choice)
\$1500.00 Lifetime
(receive two premiums)
Associate Member – \$100.00 annually
Elevator – \$100.00 annually
College Student – \$25.00 annually

Make checks payable to:

Nebraska Wheat Growers Association

Please mail this form and your payment to:

PO Box 95063
Lincoln, NE 68509

Thank YOU for your support!

Name of Farm or Operation:

Name of Main Contact:

Additional Name(s) on Membership:

Mailing Address:

Phone:

Cell Phone:

Email:

County:

Referred by:

Thank you for your commitment to the Nebraska Wheat Growers Association! NWGA frequently needs help from its members to influence issues. Sometimes that help is a simple letter or phone call to a legislator; sometime it involves representing NWGA at a meeting, simply sharing your opinion on an issue, help with an NWGA committee or meeting consumers when helping in the Mobile Baking Lab.

Please check below the issue area (s) you would be interested in assisting NWGA in its mission of enhancing profitability for grain producers. Thank you!

☐ State Affairs ☐ International Policy ☐ Membership ☐ Educational Events
☐ Research/Value Added ☐ Environmental Policy ☐ Baking Lab Events
☐ Domestic Policy (Transportation/Basis/Federal Farm Policy/Risk Management/Taxes)



Newsheat

Nebraska Wheat Growers Association
PO Box 95063
Lincoln, NE 68509

Return Service Requested



FFA students gather to examine canisters of HRW and HWW, baked gluten, and a hand mill to grind flour following a presentation on wheat during the state FFA convention.



Registered nutritionists and dieticians from across the state gathered for their annual convention. Nebraska Wheat participated in the trade show, sharing info on gluten and grains.



Nebraska's wheat ambassadors shared cookies and information about wheat nutrition during Husker Food Connection -- an event telling the story of ag and food to UNL students. The event was coordinated by A-FAN, and organized and run by student ag organizations from UNL with participation from several Nebraska commodity groups.



NWB's wheat ambassadors sharing cookies and information on wheat and gluten during Husker Food Connection.