

# Newsheat

Volume 8 • Issue 3 • Fall 2018

**USDA Wheat Pilot Program**  
page 3

**Nebraska Wheat Education Events**  
page 4

**NWGA annual meeting  
announcement**  
Page 8

Cinnamon rolls bake in the Mobile Baking Lab oven prior to the start of the annual NWGA golf tournament.



Mark Spurgin  
President  
Paxton

It's fall, wheat is being planted, calves that were not weaned during the summer are being weaned, corn and soybeans are being harvested, and fall hunting seasons are taking place. It is very dry in our area. A lot of the wheat is being planted in dry ground. Wheat planting is running later because a lot of wheat goes in behind dryland soybeans. With the beans being late it is making the wheat planting later. Hoping for a good rain this weekend to help everything out.

Since last issue we have had some trade agreements made; now if the Senate passes them. It's too bad that it is what is good for the party instead of what is good for the country. We really need to drain the swamp. It is a lot bigger swamp than anyone thought. NAWG is staying on top the national issues and the Nebraska Wheat Growers are helping develop a plan to reduce property tax. Have a safe and bountiful harvest, and before you know it, it will be winter.

[spurg@nebnet.net](mailto:spurg@nebnet.net)



Randon Peters  
Past President  
McCook

Sow it in the dust and your bins will bust...I hope this saying holds true. We were getting pretty dry throughout September while drilling our wheat. With October came substantial rain in amounts totaling upwards of 2 to 3 inches

Some of our trade anxiety was laid to rest recently when the U.S., Canada and Mexico came to an agreement. This was welcome news, yet there is much work still to be done with other trading partners.

And then there is the Farm Bill. As September 30 has come and gone it looks like an extension is our best hope. We continually hear that our key farm programs are not under attack, and the trade uncertainty has definitely brought awareness to the tough economic times faced in farm country. I believe the future is bright and hope common sense will prevail. I thank you for your support of the Nebraska wheat growers Association and openly welcome any comments I can be contacted at [randonpeters@gmail.com](mailto:randonpeters@gmail.com)



Scott Osler  
Executive Board  
Elsie

October has arrived and we are receiving the first meaningful rain since August 8. The rain may have stopped soybean harvest but it certainly is welcome. Our spotty wheat stands should fill in nicely.

Our administration has negotiated several trade agreements with other countries for the Congress to ratify. The U.S.-Mexico-Canada agreement appears to address access and grading issues which should benefit wheat.

After fourteen years on the Wheat Grower board, I've decided to step away and let another provide energy and great ideas for the betterment of wheat and farmers in Nebraska. I sincerely thank you all for the opportunity you have given me. Believe me, I have gotten more out of the job than I ever put in. There are several very well qualified people interested in filling the vacancies at our annual meeting in January in North Platte. I encourage all of you to come and be a part of the future of the Nebraska Wheat Growers Association.

[scott3y@gmail.com](mailto:scott3y@gmail.com)



United States Department of Agriculture

# WE ARE LOOKING FOR WINTER WHEAT PRODUCERS USING PRECISION AG DATA



*Help USDA Pilot Acreage Reporting Initiative in Your County Today!*

The pilot project is part of the **Acreage Crop Reporting Streamlining Initiative (ACRSI)** as a way for producers to submit acreage reports to USDA just once. Acreage crop reporting is an important step farmers and ranchers take to be eligible for many USDA programs and services, such as federal crop insurance administered by the Risk Management Agency (RMA) and farm programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

In this pilot project, producers will use their precision ag data equipment to provide their 2019 wheat acreage to USDA agencies. The data is processed by an approved third party provider and transmitted directly to FSA and RMA.

### **Participating Nebraska County Offices**

Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes-North Sioux, Frontier, Furnas, Harlan, Hayes, Hitchcock, Keith, Kimball, Lincoln, Morrill, Perkins, Red Willow, Sheridan, and Webster.

Producers will have to visit their participating FSA County Office and Crop Insurance Agency to validate transmitted data, sign the final acreage reports and provide any additional information.

*If you are interested in participating in the Pilot Project, please contact your participating Nebraska FSA County Office.*

**Report Acreage  
JUST ONCE  
Using  
Precision Ag!**

**2019  
Fall-Seeded  
Wheat**

**Report Sent  
Directly From  
Third Party to  
FSA and RMA**

**Producers  
Will Verify Data  
and Provide  
Feedback**



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

# Nebraska Wheat's Education Activities

The Nebraska Wheat Growers Association and Nebraska Wheat Board participated in a variety of events through the end of the summer and start of fall focusing on education and promotion of wheat.

The events started with NWGA participation in several certified seed day events. NWGA executive director Caroline Clements traveled to western Nebraska to visit with more than 300 wheat producers about the Farm Bill, property taxes, trade concerns and NWGA membership. Clements participated in seed day events at Gurley, Chappell and Hemingford. She also made a brief stop with several University of Nebraska-Lincoln researchers at the High Plains Ag Lab field day event.

Following the seed day events, NWGA headed to Imperial with the Mobile Baking Lab to provide educational activities and wheat treats during the Chase County Fair. Multiple NWGA members and volunteers rotated through the booth that included a wheat play bin with farm toys for kids, a hand mill to grind wheat into flour, recipes and nutrition info, seed guides, fertilizing and volunteer wheat control information, and free M&M cookies. Volunteers served 1,600 cookies in three days.

While in Imperial, NWGA also hosted its annual golf tournament. Producers from across the region were able to network with each other and representatives from several ag companies. Door prizes, and a “play zone” added to the fun. This year participants were able to putt, putt golf with a kiddie golf set or chip a plastic golf ball into little buckets for prizes like free hats, gift cards, or extra mulligans.

The Mobile Baking Lab also made a return trip to the West Central Research and Extension Center in North Platte. Participants in the Center's Water Field Day event started their morning off with fresh-baked cinnamon rolls. NWGA also provided information on wheat varieties, fertilizing recommendations for protein and NWGA membership information.

Husker Harvest Days followed a few weeks later just outside Grand Island. NWGA participated with NWB to provide fun tailgating recipes, grocery shopping tablets, magnetic football and volleyball schedules, as well as info on wheat varieties, fertilizing, stem sawfly, planting

dates, and disease management. Nebraska Wheat also partnered with the other commodities to talk about trade concerns with farmers at the event. Postcards were developed for sending to the Nebraska Congressional delegation, and visitors were able to sign a large banner saying they supported trade.

Later this month, NWGA will cap its educational run with a tailgate at a Lincoln grocery store along with several other commodity groups and A-FAN. Together, the organizations will share information with consumers on how many of their favorite gameday foods are grown or produced. Free samples of treats like donuts, bacon, eggs, milk and more will also be shared.

NWGA members with questions on education activities conducted by the association, or those looking for NWGA participation in an event may contact the NWGA office or any NWGA board member.



**UNL researcher Jeff Bradshaw talks about wheat stem sawfly with producers during a seed day event in Hemingford.**



**Participants in the NWGA annual golf tournament try the “Chip n’ Win” game to earn extra prizes.**



NWGA board members Jeff Ruggles and Brian Schafer, along with their sons carry signs and pass out candy during the Chase County Fair parade.



Participants at the Water Field Day event enjoy coffee and cinnamon rolls before the educational programming begins.



NWGA president Mark Spurgin drives the association pickup in the Chase County Fair parade, letting viewers know where to find free cookies at the fairgrounds.



NWB executive director Royce Schaneman talks to several FFA students about wheat production during Husker Harvest Days.



Several kids try their hand at making flour with the hand mill at the NWGA booth during the Chase County Fair.

**THANKS to our SPONSORS**  
NWGA 2018 annual golf tournament



**Ardent Mills**  
*Nourishing what's next.™*



**HUSKER GENETICS.**  
*University of Nebraska-Lincoln*







**Peters Seed Farm**

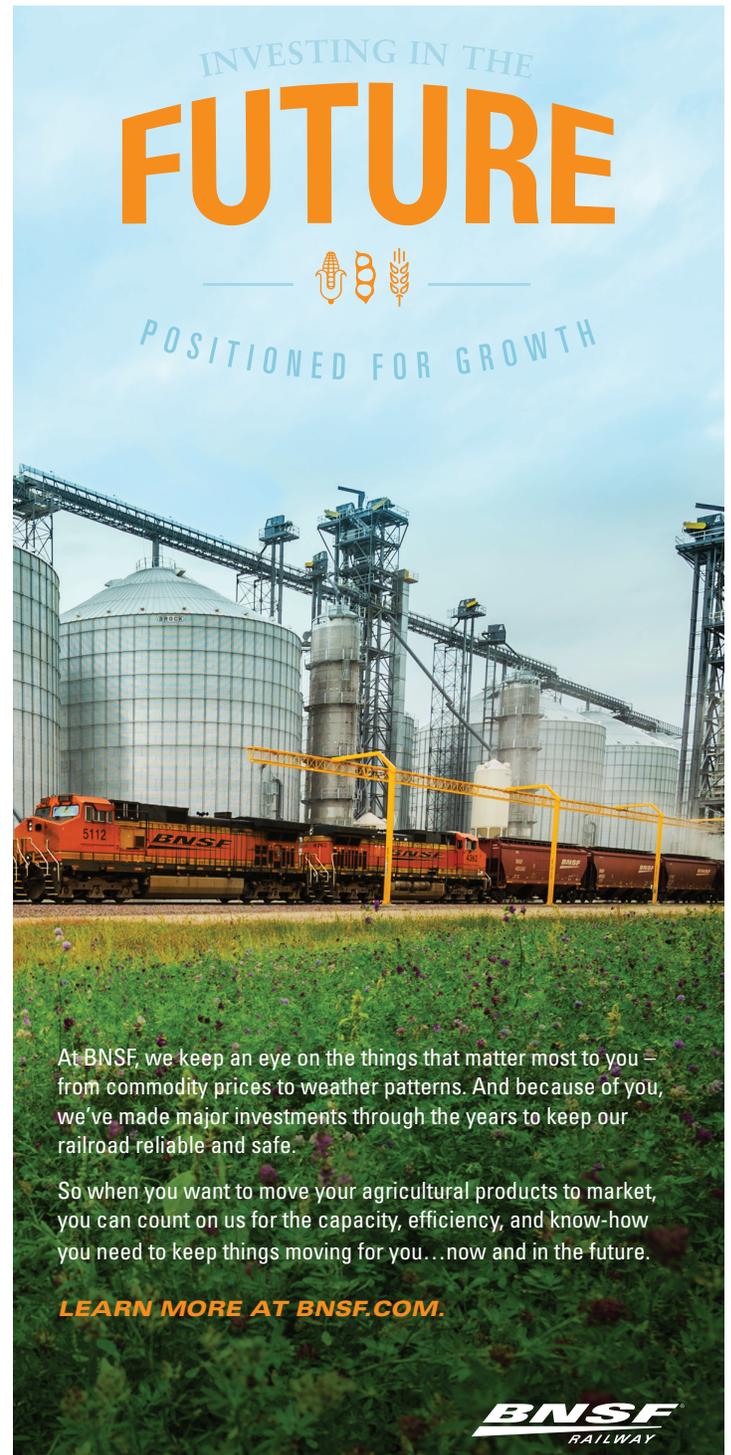
# Wheat grower organizations react to new trade deal with Canada and Mexico

*NAWG Update* — The National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) and U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) welcome the Administration's decision to move ahead with an updated trade deal with Canada and Mexico and look forward to learning more about the details.

We are pleased that the Administration recognizes the need for policy certainty with some of our top customers. While NAWG and USW must review the language of the new deal, we hope to see provisions that are positive for wheat farmers.

The current North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is critically important for wheat farmers who depend on the enormous Mexican market that NAFTA built, but it did have room for improvements, particularly on grain trade with Canada. NAWG and USW called for a fix to the Canadian grain grading system which automatically designates U.S. wheat as the lowest grade simply because it is foreign. This means U.S. farmers producing the highest quality wheat arbitrarily get less value for their crop.

Farmers should understand that nothing has changed yet, but we are pleased to see that USTR has made progress in resolving this issue, with Canada agreeing to grade imported wheat with the same requirements as Canadian wheat. We will follow the implementation of this commitment closely to ensure U.S. farmers can finally have reciprocal access to the Canadian market.



INVESTING IN THE  
**FUTURE**  
— — — — —  
— — — — —  
POSITIONED FOR GROWTH

At BNSF, we keep an eye on the things that matter most to you — from commodity prices to weather patterns. And because of you, we've made major investments through the years to keep our railroad reliable and safe.

So when you want to move your agricultural products to market, you can count on us for the capacity, efficiency, and know-how you need to keep things moving for you... now and in the future.

**LEARN MORE AT [BNSF.COM](http://BNSF.COM).**

**BNSF**  
RAILWAY

**Contact your representatives and tell them trade is good for Nebraska's wheat farmers. Talking points are available from your NWGA office if you'd like them.**

ADRIAN SMITH: 308-633-6333 (Scottsbluff) • 308-384-3900 (Grand Island) • 202-225-6435 (Washington, DC)  
JEFF FORTENBERRY: 402-438-1598 (Lincoln) • 402-727-0888 (Fremont) • 202-225-4806 (Washington, DC)  
DON BACON: 402-938-0300 (Omaha) • 202-225-4155 (Washington, DC)  
BEN SASSE: 308-632-6032 (Scottsbluff) • 308-233-3677 (Kearney) • 202-224-4224 (Washington, DC)  
DEB FISCHER: 308-630-2329 (Scottsbluff) • 308-234-2361 (Kearney) • 202-224-6551 (Washington, DC)



# 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](http://huskergenetics.unl.edu)  
PH: (402)624-8020 \* FAX: (402)624-8010 \* [huskergenetics2@unl.edu](mailto:huskergenetics2@unl.edu)

## Nebraska Wheat heading to Tampa for Fall Wheat Conference

Representatives from NWGA and NWB will head to Tampa at the end of October to participate in the Fall Wheat Conference. The conference will include representatives from more than 15 other wheat states that are also members of the National Association of Wheat Growers and U.S. Wheat Associates.

While in Tampa, representatives will visit about issues affecting the wheat industry both in Nebraska, nationally and internationally. Topics to be discussed include the Farm Bill, tariffs, trade relations, white wheat, transportation and rail freight concerns, wheat research, environmental challenges, and communications efforts.

Producers with concerns on any of the above issues may share their concerns with NWGA or NWB by contacting the joint office at 402-471-2358 or via email at [newheatgrowers@gmail.com](mailto:newheatgrowers@gmail.com) (NWGA) or [wheat.board@nebraska.gov](mailto:wheat.board@nebraska.gov) (NWB).

The Fall Wheat Conference will run October 30 to November 2.

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

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.

**WE STRIVE TO BE  
YOUR PREFERRED  
WHEAT BUYER.**

[ardentmills.com](http://ardentmills.com)

ARDENT MILLS  
PROUDLY  
SUPPORTS  
NEBRASKA  
WHEAT



*Nourishing what's next.™*



© 2014 Ardent Mills

# NWGA ANNUAL MEETING SET January 14, 2019 -- North Platte

Our NWGA annual meeting will be held at the West Central Research and Extension Center in North Platte. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the Nebraska Crop Improvement Association's Nebraska Seed Improvement Conference (January 14-16). A registration form for NCIA can be found on the next page. A detailed agenda for the NWGA meeting will be included in a mailing to all members in November.

**RSVP by January 7, 2019 to 402-471-2358 or [newheatgrowers@gmail.com](mailto:newheatgrowers@gmail.com)**

### Meeting will include:

- Review of FY 2017-2018 financials
- Review of YTD FY 2018-2019 financials
- Discussion and presentations on pertinent wheat topics
- Election of officers and board (seeking 2 new board members)
  - Update NWGA policy resolutions
- **FREE HOT LUNCH** and morning break

# NCIA Conference Registration

Advance Registration Form

## NEBRASKA SEED IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE

January 14-16, 2019

Sandhills Convention Center ♦ North Platte, Nebraska

_____ Full Registrations	@ \$85 each = \$ _____
_____ Tuesday Only	@ \$65 each = \$ _____
_____ Banquet Only (Tuesday evening)	@ \$45 each = \$ _____
_____ Wednesday Only (no fee)	
<b>TOTAL DUE</b> \$ _____	

**Tuesday only includes scholarship lunch, social hour, and banquet. It also includes all meetings and breaks on Tuesday. Wednesday only includes meetings for that day.** A hot breakfast buffet is available to all who are registered and staying at the Sandhills Convention Center.

Registration fees will be refunded if cancellations are made prior to January 4, 2019. Registrations at the door and for non-members of NCIA or NSTA will be at a slightly higher cost.

Please PRINT or TYPE the individual names as they are to appear on the name badge. **Check all that each person will attend.**

Name	Monday	Tuesday	
	Evening Reception	Scholarship Lunch	Banquet

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

(Make checks payable to Nebraska Crop Improvement Association)  
 Complete this form and return along with your payment to:  
 Nebraska Crop Improvement Association  
 PO Box 830911; Lincoln, NE 68583-0911  
 888-346-6242, 402-472-1444, Fax 402-472-8652

**DUE DATE: DECEMBER 14, 2018**

## NAWG WELCOMES ARC AND PLC FARM PAYMENT RELIEF

Washington, D.C. (October 12, 2018) – Today, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Sonny Perdue announced farm program payments for the 2017 crop year through the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) program and the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program, which were both created in the 2014 Farm Bill, have now gone out to producers. These safety net programs provide essential revenue and price support for farmers across the country. Approximately \$3 billion in payments will be made under the ARC and PLC programs for the 2017 crop year, and approximately \$1.8 billion in annual rental payments under CRP for 2018.

“The program payments being announced today will provide a needed cushion for farmers during these tough economic conditions in wheat country,” said NAWG President and Oklahoma wheat farmer Jimmie Musick. “Mother nature continues to be more and more unpredictable each year, demonstrating vital importance of a viable farm safety net. ARC and PLC are important safety net programs that help enable farmers to farm another year.”

USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA) has posted maps on its website showing the payment rate ranges for wheat, corn, and soybeans through the ARC-County program, as well as revenue maps for those commodities. Those maps can be found at this link. As required by Congress in the Budget Control Act of 2011, all payments are reduced by 6.9 percent as part of sequestration requirements.

“NAWG also calls on Congress to act as soon as possible to reauthorize the farm bill so that producers can have certainty moving forward about the availability of these safety net programs,” said Musick.

## U.S. WHEAT ASSOCIATES WELCOMES FORMAL TRADE TALKS WITH JAPAN

ARLINGTON, Virginia — U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) is excited to hear that the Trump Administration and the Japanese government are taking formal steps toward trade negotiations. The announcement today to “further expand trade and investment between the United States and Japan in a mutually beneficial manner” has the potential to eliminate a dangerous vulnerability for U.S. wheat farmers.

Over the years, Japan has purchased more U.S. wheat than any other country, but also imports wheat from Canada and Australia, which are members of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) along with Japan. Once ratified, this agreement will include a gradual reduction of Japan’s effective tariffs on milling wheat imported from TPP member countries. While U.S. wheat farmers have excellent and longstanding relationships with Japanese millers, the higher tariffs on U.S. wheat would force them to purchase significantly more Canadian and Australian wheat within a few years of the new agreement’s implementation. That is a result no U.S. wheat grower can afford, and we are hopeful that the Administration will address this problem as an early achievement in the negotiations.

In addition to addressing this specific problem for wheat, we appreciate the emphasis on free, fair and rules-based trade. These negotiations are a positive sign that the United States is again moving toward a comprehensive agreement with Japan and, hopefully, with other countries in the Pacific region and around the world. That would benefit U.S. agriculture and the entire U.S. economy.

USW’s mission is to develop, maintain, and expand international markets to enhance wheat’s profitability for U.S. wheat producers and its value for their customers in more than 100 countries. Its activities are made possible through producer checkoff dollars managed by 17 state wheat commissions (including the Nebraska Wheat Board) and cost-share funding provided by USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service. For more information, visit our website at [www.uswheat.org](http://www.uswheat.org).



# 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)



Return Service Requested



## Scholarship Opportunity for College Students in Agriculture

Jerry Minore was a longtime friend of the wheat industry and advocate for wheat farmers. To honor his work and life, his company, BASF, has partnered with the National Wheat Foundation to establish a scholarship for students with connections to the wheat industry who are planning careers in agriculture. The Minore Memorial Scholarship will fund four college scholarships for the 2019-2020 academic year: two \$1,500 scholarships and two \$1,000 scholarships. Deadline for applications is December 1, 2018.

Students interested in applying and seeking nomination from NWGA (pertaining to bullet point three below on eligibility) should contact the office at 402-471-2358.

### ***To be eligible for the Minore Memorial Scholarship, students must:***

- Be a current freshman, sophomore or junior pursuing an agricultural-related degree;
- Be enrolled in an accredited college, university, junior or community college;
- Be a member of the National Association of Wheat Growers; have a close relative (parent, grandparent) who is a member of the National Association of Wheat Growers (being a member of NWGA qualifies); OR be nominated by someone sitting on the NAWG

Board of Directors or a state wheat association board (like NWGA).

### ***Applicants for the Minore Memorial Scholarship should submit:***

1. A completed application form (available at [www.wheatfoundation.org](http://www.wheatfoundation.org) or contact your NWGA office)
2. Two letters of recommendation, for instance from a professor, academic advisor or nominating sponsor
3. A current transcript (freshmen may submit a high school transcript)
4. A response to one of the following essay questions, no more than one type-written page in a 12-point font:

Question 1: How would you help educate and teach the next generation about the value and importance of wheat to our nation and consumers around the world?

Question 2: Do you believe there is a division in the general views of agriculture between urban and rural dwellers in the United States? What do you think is the origin of this? What do you think is the solution, if there needs to be a solution?