

Newsheat



Volume 8 • Issue 4 • Winter 2018/2019

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Wheat farmer representatives from NWB and NWGA spent 4 days in DC talking about the Farm Bill and trade policy.

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Mark Spurgin
President
Paxton

Scott Osler has retired from the Nebraska Wheat Growers. We really appreciated his input all those years. We have two new members. Jerry Radke has been in the farming and certified seed business for years. His dad was the individual who suggested that I get in the certified seed business, which I did for 30 some years. Jerry lives north of Big Springs. Welcome aboard Jerry. Pete Miller is a great young farmer from near Lodgepole. I look forward to the insights his experiences will bring to our organization. Welcome Pete.

This has been one of most unusual fall and winter seasons so far that I can remember. One day it's 60 degrees and the next day it's 15 degrees. The livestock and the wheat are wondering what is going on and what to expect. During the last warm spell I noticed some wheat that looked like it was turning a little green. I hope it was just my imagination. In our area the soil moisture is at normal to a little above normal.

The Nebraska Wheat Growers are working with some other commodity groups and state senators in supporting a bill to reduce Property Taxes. You would think in the last 5 years we could finally get some tax relief. You talk about kicking the can down the road, this is a perfect example. January, February and March are busy months for the Wheat Growers board members going to meetings with our representatives at both the state and national levels of government, with the National Wheat Growers, and other commodity groups. It is always interesting visiting with other states and hearing about their issues and finding out most of us deal with the same problems.

Before long calves will be on the ground and the planters will be rolling, be safe out there.

spurg@nebnet.net



Brian Schafer
Culbertson
Board Member

I'm excited to serve another year on the board of NWGA. I will be heading to Washington DC to talk about policy issues and visit with our nation's leaders on the Farm Bill and trade with Mexico, Japan and other regions. I will also represent Nebraska at the Commodity Classic and National Association of Wheat Growers meeting held there.

I'd like to welcome Jerry Radke and Pete Miller to our board. I know both will bring great energy and service to our wheat industry.

If anyone has questions or concerns on issues affecting their farms and any level, local, state or federal, I would be happy to visit with you.

brian.schafer@hotmail.com



Jerry Radke
Big Springs
Board Member

Ag Operations Group is our family's certified seed business and Radke Engineering is our seed cleaning company along with cleaning other grains for area farmers as well as grain elevators. I served on the Nebraska Wheat Growers board when the office was in Ogallala lots of years ago. I am honored to serve on the board again as wheat has been the Bread & Butter of my life. I look forward to doing my best to represent Nebraska Wheat in every aspect from seed to the final consumer of the end product wherever in the world that happens. As I am writing this we are experiencing a calm day. Most of the wheat looks good but on the windy days some of the lighter soils in the area with very little cover have suffered.

I can be contacted at jerdeuel5160@gmail.com

Spurgin Re-elected President of NWGA Radke and Miller elected to NWGA board

Mark Spurgin of Paxton was reelected president of NWGA during the annual meeting in North Platte. Mark previously served as president during calendar year 2018.

Mark owns and operates Spurgin Inc., a diversified dryland-irrigated farm and small feedlot located in Keith, Lincoln and Perkins counties. He raises wheat, corn, edible beans, soybeans, popcorn and feed crops.

Jerry Radke of Big Springs and Pete Miller of Lodgepole were also elected as board members for NWGA. They will replace members Scott Osler and Randon Peters.

A graduate of the University of Nebraska, the Colorado School of Banking, and the Command and General Staff College of Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Mark has served on many other agriculture committees and organizations. He's been a member of the West Central District and Keith County Farm Advisory Committee, the Keith County Planning and Zoning Board, the District 7 Commissioner Association, the Nebraska Cattlemen, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, and the Nebraska Crop Improvement Association.

Pete Miller is a graduate of the University of Nebraska-

Lincoln with a degree in agribusiness. He farms in Cheyenne and Garden counties. He, his wife, children and parents grow wheat, corn and proso millet. Miller also serves on the board of the Cheyenne County Farm Bureau.



NWGA's new board of directors, pictured left to right: Mark Spurgin, President; Jerry Radke; Jeff Ruggles; Brian Schafer. Not pictured: Pete Miller.

2018 NWGA OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Scott Osler

Scott Osler received the 2018 NWGA Outstanding Achievement Award in recognition of his 14 years of service on the NWGA board of directors.



NWGA board members present the 2018 Outstanding Achievement Award. Pictured left to right: Jeff Ruggles, Mark Spurgin, Scott Osler, Brian Schafer, and Randon Peters.

2018 NWGA PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD

Senator Ben Sasse

Senator Ben Sasse received the 2018 NWGA Person of the Year Award in recognition of his efforts to support and promote trade and reduce trade barriers.



NWGA members and staff present the 2018 Person of the Year Award. Pictured left to right: Von Johnson, Brian Schafer, Senator Ben Sasse, Randon Peters, and Caroline Clements.

Nebraska Wheat visits Capitol Hill

The Nebraska Wheat Growers Association and Nebraska Wheat Board participated in the Winter Wheat Conference for U.S. Wheat Associates and the National Association of Wheat Growers. The conference took grower representatives and staff to Washington, DC for four days.

During their time in DC, representatives participated in meetings and discussions with farmer leaders from 19 other states. Topics included trade policy, Farm Bill implementation, conservation, transportation challenges, white wheat, communication tactics, research and wheat quality.

NWB and NWGA leaders also took time to visit Capitol Hill and discuss agriculture and trade policy concerns affecting Nebraska wheat producers with all three congressmen and both senators. They also participated in the Nebraska Breakfast event, the Wheat 103 education reception, and hosted a Nebraska Wheat Reception for Nebraska congressional representatives and staff. A few NWGA and NWB members also assisted the National Association of Wheat Growers with visits to key ag committee representatives from other states, including: Congresswoman Cindy Axne, D-IA; Senator Joni Ernst, R-IA; and Senator John Boozman, R-AR.

During the Wheat 103 education reception hosted by the National Wheat Foundation, representatives from all parts of the grain chain, including research, transportation, milling, farm equipment, millers, bakers and grocery retailers were able to share the story of wheat with congressional leaders and staff members from multiple states. The National Association of Wheat Growers also presented their Wheat Leader of the Year Award, which was given to Nebraska's Senator Ben Sasse in recognition of his efforts on trade. All of Nebraska's wheat leaders were present for the giving of the award.

NWGA leadership will meet again with other state wheat leaders during the National Association of Wheat Growers' annual meeting held at Commodity Classic. Producers with questions on policy topics discussed during the Winter Conference, Hill visits, or what will be covered at the upcoming meeting may contact any NWGA board member or our office.



Nebraska leaders from NWGA and NWB arrive at Capitol Hill for a day of visits with Nebraska's congressional delegation.



Nebraska Wheat participated in the Nebraska Breakfast event along with members of LEAD 38 and other Nebraskans.



NWGA members Randon Peters and Brian Schafer review a report from the National Association of Wheat Growers' budget committee during the board meeting.

Tyson Narjes appointed NWB District 2 Director

Governor Pete Ricketts recently appointed Tyson Narjes of Sidney as director for District 2 on the Nebraska Wheat Board (NWB).

Narjes is a fifth generation farmer. He, his wife Regina, and their two children farm and ranch in Cheyenne County. Together they raise red and white wheat, corn, proso millet, and run an Angus-Hereford cow calf operation. Narjes is a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and also serves on the Cheyenne County Farm Bureau and Kimball-Banner-Cheyenne county extension boards.

“I am most excited to learn and be active in the promotion of the wheat industry,” Narjes said. “I look forward to understanding the role the Nebraska Wheat Board plays as well as the betterment of Nebraska wheat.”

Royce Schaneman, NWB executive director, expressed an appreciation for Narjes’ enthusiasm. “We’re excited to have Tyson join the Nebraska Wheat Board. He is a progressive farmer and will bring valuable new insights and ideas to our organization.”

Narjes will serve a five-year term that will conclude June 30, 2023. As District 2 director he will represent Kimball, Cheyenne and Banner counties.



The National Association of Wheat Growers presented Senator Ben Sasse with the Wheat Leader of the Year Award. It is the Association’s highest award given annually to a member of Congress who goes above and beyond to support the wheat industry. Pictured left to right: Jimmie Musick, NAWG president; Senator Ben Sasse; Randon Peters, NWGA member; Caroline Clements, NWGA executive director; Brian Schafer, NWGA board member; and Chandler Goule, NAWG CEO.



Members of the entire Nebraska Wheat delegation stop for a photo after Senator Sasse received his award. Pictured left to right are: Kent Lorens, Stratton; Bob Delsing, Hemingford; Royce Schaneman, NWB executive director; Mark Knobel, Fairbury; Brent Robertson, Elsie; Larry Flohr, Chappell; Jimmie Musick, NAWG president; Senator Ben Sasse; Randon Peters, McCook; Caroline Clements, NWGA executive director; Brian Schafer, Culbertson; Von Johnson, Cambridge; Tyson Narjes, Sidney; Regina Narjes, Sidney.



NWB leaders Bob Delsing and Brent Robertson sit as the Nebraska representatives and listen to an international marketing update during the U.S. Wheat Associates board meeting.



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GENE EDITING CAMPAIGN “INNOVATURE” LAUNCHED

For the past two years NAWG has been a part of an informal coalition led by American Seed Trade Association (ASTA) and Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) regarding gene editing and the regulatory and consumer perceptions around gene editing. Last week, BIO and ASTA officially launched Innovature, “a new platform to engage people in an important and thoughtful dialogue around innovation in food and agriculture. Innovature, through the website Innovature.com and parallel social media channels, aims to cultivate broad-based partnerships and fully realize the potential that innovation, such as gene editing, has to address society’s most urgent challenges that affect our planet, our health and our food.”

Staff from BIO presented to the Joint Wheat Breeding Innovation Committee, as well as the U.S. Wheat Associates Communications Working Group, during the 2019 Winter Wheat Conference in Washington, DC.

An advertisement for BNSF featuring a large industrial flour mill with several tall silos and a BNSF train with orange locomotives and brown freight cars. The background is a clear blue sky. Text is overlaid on the image in various colors and fonts.

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NWB announces District 1 Board of Director Opening

A directorship position for District 1 of the Nebraska Wheat Utilization, Development and Marketing Board (NWB) is open for appointment by Gov. Pete Ricketts. Applications should be submitted no later than 5 p.m. CST on Wednesday, May 1, 2019. The current director, Bob Delsing of Hemingford, has indicated he will 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 the respective district for which the candidate is applying and derive a substantial portion of income from producing wheat.

District 1 represents the northern Panhandle and includes the following counties: Sioux, Dawes, Sheridan, Box Butte, Scottsbluff, Morrill and Garden. Any producer interested in appointment may submit an application to the Governor's office for consideration.

To obtain an application, interested producers can call Kathleen Dolezal with the Nebraska Governor's Office at 402-471-2256. Interested producers may also apply online at <https://governor.nebraska.gov/board-comm-req>.

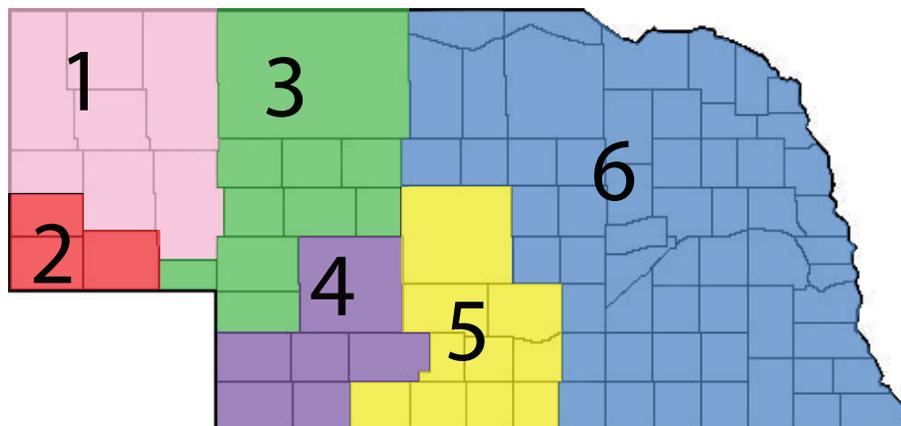
NWB announces District 6 Board of Director Opening

A directorship position for District 6 of the Nebraska Wheat Utilization, Development and Marketing Board (NWB) is open for appointment by Gov. Pete Ricketts. Applications should be submitted no later than 5 p.m. CST on Wednesday, May 1, 2019. The current director, Mark Knobel of Fairbury, has indicated he will 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 the respective district for which the candidate is applying and derive a substantial portion of income from producing wheat.

District 6 represents the eastern half of Nebraska and includes the following counties: Keya Paha, Boyd, Knox, Cedar, Dixon, Dakota, Brown, Rock, Holt, Antelope, Pierce, Wayne, Thurston, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler, Madison, Stanton, Cuming, Burt, Valley, Greeley, Boone, Platte, Colfax, Dodge, Washington, Sherman, Howard, Nance, Merrick, Polk, Butler, Saunders, Douglas, Sarpy, Hall, Hamilton, York, Seward, Lancaster, Cass, Adams, Clay, Fillmore, Saline, Otoe, Webster, Nuckolls, Thayer, Jefferson, Gage, Johnson, Nemaha, Pawnee and Richardson. Any qualified producer interested in appointment may submit an application to the Governor's office for consideration.

To obtain an application, interested producers can call Kathleen Dolezal with the Nebraska Governor's Office at 402-471-2256. Interested producers may also apply online at <https://governor.nebraska.gov/board-comm-req>.



NWGA Amended Resolutions

At the recent annual meeting, NWGA updated, amended or added the following resolutions. For a complete list of NWGA's resolutions, please contact the NWGA office.

I-A Nebraska Wheat Board

I-A-1: NWGA would strongly oppose any attempt to divert excise tax dollars collected on wheat for wheat promotion to the general fund or for any other purpose.

I-A-2: NWGA would strongly oppose any efforts to reduce the wheat excise tax, allow refunds, or eliminate the Nebraska Wheat Board.

I-A-7: NWGA directs officers to monitor possible commodity checkoff legislation and act in the best interest of the wheat producers of Nebraska.

I-B Political Affairs

I-B-4: NWGA is in favor of changing school base funding for the purpose of property tax relief, while ensuring school funding remains adequate for education of students.

III-A Federal Farm Policy

III-A-12: NWGA requests the ability to adjust/update reinstatement of base acres for expiring CRP contracts to reflect current farm practices.

III-A-15: NWGA supports moving FSA certification of fall planted crops back to June 15.

III-B Taxes

III-B-1: NWGA supports the elimination of all county, state and federal taxes on the value of the estate at time of death.

III-B-8: NWGA supports changing the current method of taxing real estate for local services, from the comparable sales method to a production income based method.

III-B-10: NWGA recognizes possible efforts to repeal local county government and school tax levy caps put in place by the legislature. NWGA supports a reduction in the level of all current tax levies and opposes the repeal of current caps.

III-B-12: NWGA opposes levies and taxes on agricultural inputs and acres to generate dollars to pay for groundwater depletion issues.

III-C Crop Insurance

III-C-3: NWGA recommends that on final claim adjusting, the crop appraisal would be 0 if the cost of harvest was equal to or less than the state of Nebraska average custom harvest rate, even if the crop is harvested.

III-D Transportation

III-D-4: NWGA is firmly opposed to federal legislation that requires 75% of all PL 480 sales and food aide grants be shipped on U. S. ships with freight subsidies paid from the USDA budget. Also, the NWGA supports the repeal of the Jones Act. U. S. freight rates are much higher than foreign ship rates. If U. S. ships need subsidies it should come from either the Department of Commerce or the Defense Department.

IV-C Energy and Environment

IV-C-8: The NWGA supports drilling for energy in the ANWAR region of Alaska and in any international waters.

IV-C-9: NWGA opposes any limitation of grain usage for ethanol and biofuels production.

V-A Research

V-A-6: NWGA encourages the NWB to continue to explore avenues to promote and develop market access of Hard White Wheat.

VI-A Domestic

VI-A-8: NWGA requests full disclosure of basis in the wheat market in the form of itemization on producers' settlement sheets.

Resolution areas for NWGA not receiving updates, additions or amendments this year included:

- I-C General
- II-A Membership
- IV-A Crop Protection
- IV-B Conservation
- V-B Grain Quality
- VI-B International

SECRETARY PURDUE SELECTS THREE SENIOR LEADERS AT USDA

On January 28, 2019 U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue selected three highly-qualified individuals for senior leadership positions at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Perdue named Dr. Mindy Brashears as Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety, Naomi Earp as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, and Dr. Scott Hutchins as Deputy Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics. Perdue stated, “At USDA, we’ve been engaged in fulfilling our mission without all of our players on the field, so we want to get these strong, qualified leaders in the game”. Brashears, Earp, and Hutchins will begin working at USDA on Tuesday, January 29, 2019.

USDA AWARDS AG TRADE PROMOTION PROGRAM FUNDING

On Thursday, January 31, 2019, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has awarded \$200 million to 57 organizations through the Agricultural Trade Promotion Program (ATP) to help U.S. farmers and ranchers identify and access new export markets. The ATP is one of three USDA programs created to mitigate the effects of unjustified trade retaliation against U.S. farmers and exporters. USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) accepted ATP applications between September 4 and November 2 – totaling nearly \$600 million – from U.S. trade associations, cooperatives, and other industry-affiliated organizations. U.S. Wheat Associates is one of the funding recipients who will be receiving more than \$8.2 million.

TRADE MITIGATION FUNDS WILL BENEFIT EXPORT MARKET DEVELOPMENT FOR U.S. WHEAT GROWERS

(Washington, D.C.) – U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) and the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) are pleased that U.S. wheat growers now have the opportunity to increase efforts to expand export market access with USDA’s Jan. 31 announcement awarding \$200 million to 57 organizations through the Agriculture Trade Promotion Program (ATP). USW was awarded \$8.25 million, which will be distributed over the next three years.

Administered by USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), the ATP is one of three USDA programs within the Trump Administration’s trade mitigation package—created to ease the effects of recent trade retaliation against U.S. farmers and exporters. The funds will support export market development programs led by U.S. trade associations, cooperatives and other industry-affiliated organizations.

“U.S. wheat growers are facing tough times right now with the impact of retaliatory tariffs putting a strain on the export market and threatening many decades worth of market development,” said Chris Kolstad, USW Chairman and a wheat grower from Ledger, Mont. “We appreciate the recognition that farmers need help to

manage this additional risk. This program is a positive step forward and our people are ready to get to work.”

“With the United States exporting half of the wheat crop it grows, programs like the Agricultural Trade Promotion Program (ATP) are crucial for our farmers to remain competitive in the global market,” stated NAWG President and Sentinel, OK wheat farmer Jimmie Musick. “We welcome today’s news that our sister organization U.S. Wheat Associates was awarded significant funding for trade mitigation activities. This funding will provide some relief to the adverse impact wheat has felt since U.S. placed tariffs on Chinese goods, opening the door for retaliation. We hope to see these affected markets opened again quickly.”

U.S. wheat growers have a long history of recognizing the value of export market development by supporting the successful public-private partnership between USW’s state wheat commission members and FAS. Each year, growers contribute a portion of their wheat sales which qualifies USW to apply for matching funds through FAS programs like the Market Access Program (MAP) and the Foreign Market Development (FMD) program.



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
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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)

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2019 National Wheat Yield Contest Officially Opens

The National Wheat Foundation (NWF) is pleased to announce that it is 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 Winter and Spring Wheat. The deadline for Winter Wheat entries is May 15th with an early registration deadline of April 1st. The Spring wheat entry deadline is August 1st, with an early registration deadline of June 15th.

“America’s wheat farmers produce the highest quality wheat in the world which should be taken into account when determining criteria for this national contest,” stated NWF Board President and Idaho wheat grower Wayne Hurst. “2019 will be the first year that we truly see how a quality component will impact the rankings of growers and influence results.”

In order to be considered for a national or state award in the contest, growers must follow up each initial contest entry with a grain sample, which will be analyzed by an independent lab. To qualify, samples must meet a quality Grade of 1 or 2.

our sponsors for helping to make the Contest available to all wheat growers across the United States,” continued Hurst. “As we incorporate the new quality component into Contest, we will need help from our partners to educate wheat farmers on this standard.”

The 2019 National Wheat Yield Contest sponsors include AgriMaxx, Ardent Mills, BASF, Corteva Agriscience, Indigo Ag, Grain Craft, John Deere, LimaGrain Cereals, Syngenta, and WestBred.

Previous Contest Winners from NE

Mark Knobel, Jefferson County
2017 Dryland Winter Wheat, 4th

Brian Schafer, Hayes County
2018 Irrigated Spring Wheat, 4th

Brock Terrell, Sheridan County
2018 Irrigated Winter Wheat, 4th

“The National Wheat Foundation would like to thank

