



# Annual Report to Producers 2022-2023



Looking back at the 2022-2023 fiscal year, it was filled with many successes within the Nebraska wheat industry. Planted acres were increased from the prior year at 1,130,000 being seeded throughout the state. The wheat crop experienced persistent drought and freeze events during key stages of crop development. This left producers unsure of what was to come of the 2023 crop quality.

Following a cold and dry winter, areas in western Nebraska experienced ample moisture and warmer than average temperatures as the wheat came out of dormancy. The wheat that did not succumb to winter kill seemed to thrive with the warmer temperatures and increased moisture. Producers were hopeful the crop could bounce back and yield above average.

Moisture continued throughout spring into summer. This resulted in a much later harvest than previous years. However, there was not any notable disease or weed presence as producers awaited harvest. Due to the increased moisture, harvest was later than previous years.

Despite harsh climate conditions, many regions displayed superior crop performance with better-than-expected yields. Harvested acres totaled 880,000 averaging 42 bushels per acre. The total production in bushels was 36,960,000. Test weights averaged 59 lb./bu and protein averaged 12.7 %. The 2023 Nebraska wheat crop is a testament to American wheat farming and continues to be a player in the field and market.

The Nebraska Wheat Board (NWB) consists of a seven-member board of directors appointed by the Governor. In addition to the board, an executive director, marketing specialist, and ag promotions coordinator serve as full-time

employees, with a three-quarter staff assistant. The NWB gained a new District 3 board member in July, Mary Eisenzimmer from Big Springs, NE. Staffing changes also included the welcoming of Jady Heckenlively as the Marketing Specialist in October and Taylore Cruise as Ag Promotions Coordinator in January.

The Nebraska Wheat Development, Utilization and Marketing Board continues to invest the excise tax funds to advance the wheat industry within the state. Primary investments help develop wheat varieties that will benefit the Nebraska producer, create, and maintain markets both domestically and internationally, and promote and educate about wheat to the consumer.

Sincerely,

Mark Knobel 2022-2023 Chair

Royce Schaneman, Executive Director

## 2022-2023 Budgeted Funding Summary



International Marketing.....	\$243,400 (32%)
Domestic Marketing.....	\$80,773 (11%)
Research.....	\$315,000 (41%)
Policy Development.....	\$51,000 (7%)
Publicity & Education.....	\$70,978 (9%)
<b>Total Investment 2021-2022.....</b>	<b>\$761,151</b>



**NWB Board Members and Staff FY 2022-2023** (pictured left to right) Royce Schaneman, Jared Sayer, Kent Lorens, Mary Eisenzimmer, Bob Delsing, Mark Knobel, Jady Heckenlively, Tyson Narjes

## International Marketing

International travel increased this year with board members making a presence in Asia. Chairman Mark Knobel had the opportunity to attend a Governors Trade Mission to Japan. On this trip he worked to promote Nebraska wheat and other commodities to potential customers.

Bob Delsing also had the opportunity to visit Japan along with Korea and the Philippines. This trip was in partnership with U.S. Wheat Associates to meet with agriculture officials from the U.S. Embassy, milling industry professionals, and customers.

In mid-June, the NWB was able to host two international trade teams from Taiwan and the Philippines. Each team consisted of milling professionals to discuss characteristics they look for when purchasing wheat. Participants were able to experience the Nebraska wheat industry through a farm to table style itinerary. Tours included a farm visit, Lincoln Grain Inspection, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) wheat quality lab, and test plots.

## Federal Policy

The NWB invests funds annually to support the Nebraska Wheat Growers Association (NWGA) and the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG). These organizations take action to be the voice for wheat producers on Capitol Hill. Funds help send members of NWGA to visit Washington D.C. each winter to meet with Nebraska Senators and Congressmen to discuss issues affecting the state's agriculture industry. NAWG's headquarters, located in Washington D.C., work year-round to ensure that wheat growers are represented at the federal level.

## Domestic Marketing

The NWB partners with Wheat Marketing Center in Portland, OR, to host growers and wheat partners for a Wheat Export and Marketing Workshop. During the workshop, participants explore the export and marketing systems of the Pacific Northwest. Attendees also receive market and trade updates from industry professionals and participate in hands-on learning tutorials and tours. Any grower or wheat partner that is interested in attending the workshop is welcome to contact the NWB for more information.

Focusing on quality, Plains Grains, Inc. produces quality data for all Hard Red Winter producing states. Samples are taken throughout the harvest season and tested for a variety of mill, dough, and baking characteristics. The data is published in a weekly harvest report as well as a final regional report that presents all quality data collected on the HRW wheat crop for the year.

Other vital domestic marketing partners include Wheat Foods Council, Home Baking Association and Wheat Quality Council.

## Research

The NWB invests in research that allow production trends to increase in quantity and quality. Variety development, disease resistance, stem sawfly, and viral disease control are current priorities for research.

The NWB works closely with USDA-ARS and the UNL to ensure Nebraska wheat is innovative and ensuring producer profitability.

Dr. Jeffrey Boehm and Dr. Xiwen Cai are wheat geneticists at USDA-ARS with current projects focused on improved winter wheat disease resistance and understanding the wheat genome by inducing secondary homoeologous recombination.

Including USDA-ARS, additional research projects are funded with the UNL Small Grains Breeding program. The NWB works closely with Dr. Katherine Frels and other small grains breeders to continue innovating projects being conducted across the state.

## Publicity & Education

Nebraska wheat works closely with a variety of groups to inform the public on the importance of wheat and wheat food products. Along with a presence on the radio, the NWB continues to be relevant through social media, print and digital marketing.

The NWB looks forward to attending events throughout the year and discussing Nebraska wheat. Some key events throughout the year include Nebraska State FFA Convention, Nebraska Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Husker Harvest Days, and many school visits.

Youth education is also a priority and the NWB works together with 4-H and the Ag Sack Lunch program to continue those efforts. The NWB values the importance of educating producers and consumers on the relevance of wheat in Nebraska.

## Nebraska Wheat Board of Directors FY 2022-2023

- District 1:** Bob Delsing - Hemingford, NE
- District 2:** Tyson Narjes - Sidney, NE
- District 3:** Mary Eisenzimmer - Big Springs, NE
- District 4:** Kent Lorens, *Vice Chair* - Stratton, NE
- District 5:** Jared Sayer - Cambridge, NE
- District 6:** Mark Knobel, *Chair* - Fairbury, NE
- District 7:** Rick Dunbar, *At large* - Eustis, NE

## Nebraska Wheat Board Staff

**Royce Schaneman**     **Jadyn Heckenlively**  
Executive Director     Marketing Specialist

245 Fallbrook Blvd., Suite 202  
Lincoln, NE 68521  
(402) 471-2358

wheat.board@nebraska.gov | nebraskawheat.com



**NWB Board Members and Staff in Washington, D.C. (pictured left to right)**  
Mark Knobel, Kent Lorens, Tyson Narjes, Mary Eisenzimmer, Bob Delsing, Royce Schaneman and Jadyn Heckenlively

NEBRASKA WHEAT