

Newsheat

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Randon Peters
President
McCook

Wheat planting is completed here in Southwest Nebraska. Many began drilling the week of September 17. Initial sowing conditions were dry, followed by a widespread rain event producing over three inches in most places during the fourth weekend of September, keeping most out of the field the next 8 days. I am sure field operations will resume with record pace. This may be a sign of what we may encounter as fall harvesting operations begin.

NAFTA talks have been underway. NAWG & US Wheat have been engaged in this process, submitting comments both written & oral. Agriculture has seen benefits from this agreement and we hope ag is not harmed in these negotiations.

Another agreement, KORUS, the US-South Korea Free Trade Agreement has come under scrutiny. This agreement has been very successful in the mere five years that it has been in effect. Korea has been very willing to help in a systematic matter, rather than drastic changes.

The development of trade agreements can be very difficult. I hope we can foster new relationships and establish trading partnerships that will benefit US farmers. Unfortunately, these renegotiations present an image of uncertainty and are not conducive for the development of new agreements. You can be assured, your national wheat organization, NAWG, will represent your best interests in Washington DC.

As always, I can be reached via e-mail at randonpeters@gmail.com and always appreciate your comments.



Mark Spurgin
Executive Board
Paxton

We finally received some rain this fall. A lot of the wheat was planted in dry soil again this year but the 1.50 to 2.00 inches of rain will get the wheat off to a good start. Soybean harvest has started with the yields in the dryland beans being less than expected. With the rains in August farmers were hoping that the beans would be better than they are. Dryland soybeans are averaging from 6-30 bushel depending on when and how much rain was received during the year.

Some corn harvest has started around the area, mostly ecofallow corn that was stressed during the year. Most is going for high moisture corn to the feedlots. Feedlots are getting full of yearling cattle with a few calves being delivered also. Finished cattle prices need to inch up a little. Trade agreements are still on the table. Everyone is working hard to get something accomplished on the trade side. Let's have a safe and bountiful fall harvest.

spurg@nebnet.net



Jeff Ruggles
Executive Board
McCook

Fall has arrived in Western Nebraska and wheat drilling was been slowed by a very welcomed 4-inch rain over the course of a few days in the McCook area. The moisture was much needed as we had received little rain since mid-August, and that month also brought hot temperatures. It appears to me that wheat acres in my area are going to be less again in 2018.

The wheat growers had a successful golf tournament that was held during the Chase County Fair in August, we also promoted the wheat industry in the parade and had the booth set up at expo. The wheat growers are always looking for new memberships; it's a great way to be involved and help promote and educate the world about Nebraska agriculture in general. As always, I can be reached with any questions or concerns at ruggles_jeff@yahoo.com.



Brian Schafer
Executive Board
Culbertson

Hello from SW Nebraska. I hope everyone had a great summer and is getting ready for a bountiful harvest. As we look back this year we have seen a wild growing year for us. Starting off with great moisture transitioning into a drought that compared to 2012 then ending up with a great August. Just when we thought things were perfect and getting close to drilling wheat we realized once again there is no moisture to drill into. The drills in this are started rolling anyway. Then all at once, like the monsoonal rains down south, in three days we received 4-7 inches. It was a great soaker and everyone was excited to get wheat put in the ground.

In the wheat world we attended the Chase County Fair golf tournament, the parade, and had the baking lab set up at the fair handing out m&m cookies. Once again it was a great place to catch up with people. The people of Chase County and the fair board need commended for all the hard work and efforts they take in making it such a wonderful fair in SW Nebraska.

On the NAWG side we had the fall conference in Charleston South Carolina. With fall harvest and wheat drilling I was unable to attend. However, reports from the meeting indicated it was interesting as we approach yet another new farm bill. NAWG does such a great job keeping policies in place that I'm sure this will be on the top of the list. We also talked about making a few changes to the wheat yield contest.

On a side note the Huskers season has been a roller coaster. But we do have a new athletic director. Football season is never boring in Nebraska.

Have a great fall and GBR.
brian.schafer@hotmail.com



Scott Osler
Executive Board
Elsie

Fall is upon us again. That means beautiful fall days and long hours in the field. Please be safe.

The high plains received some beneficial rainfall recently which helped establish the new wheat crop; hopefully we can send it into the winter in great shape. Hopefully, that will also mean a nice crop to sell next summer.

Since half of our wheat crop needs to be marketed in other countries, I was pleased to read that Washington had funded our programs such as the Market Access Program (MAP) at somewhat higher levels. We need the marketing help to compete with countries who in one way or another support the sales of their crops into the international marketplace.

Once again, I wish you all a safe and successful harvest.
scott3ygmail.com

Nebraska Wheat continues educating

NWGA partnered with NWB and participated in several events through the late summer and early fall. Both organizations include in their missions, the goal to educate consumers and producers on the respective wheat issues facing them.

NWGA executive director Caroline Brauer spent two days traversing western Nebraska to participate in three different certified seed day events. She was joined by two representatives from the National Association of Wheat Growers: then past-president Gordon Stoner and government relations coordinator Craig Berning. During the two days, the group discussed issues like the Farm Bill, international trade, NAFTA, disease challenges like Wheat Streak Mosaic Virus, railroad pricing and basis discrepancies, protein discounts, production challenges, and property tax concerns.

Following the seed day events, NWGA held its annual golf tournament in Imperial. This allowed NWGA members and industry representatives to network and discuss challenges facing wheat production in the next growing cycle.

NWGA also participated in the Chase County Fair. After a year off for budget reasons, NWGA returned with its Mobile Baking Lab and served M&M cookies. The NWGA executive board attended, along with other NWGA volunteers to talk about wheat nutrition and production issues, share wheat recipes and seed planting guides, and provided several hands-on activities. The play bin of wheat and wheat hand-mill were hits with kids of all ages.

The West Central Research and Extension Center held a water and crops field day event in North Platte in late August. NWGA again brought the baking lab out and provided cinnamon rolls. "Water is a vital resource for agriculture, making participation in a water field-day almost a no-brainer for us," said NWGA president Randon Peters. NWGA also shared additional information on WSMV mitigation and seed varieties for producers while at the event.

In September, both NWGA and NWB worked with other commodity organizations to promote trade and exports

at Husker Harvest Days. Together the commodities collected signatures on a banner that promoted support for exports. The banner was sent to Washington, DC, to be delivered to Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue. Nebraska Wheat also shared information of variety availability for producers and wheat nutrition info for consumers.

In October, NWGA joined several other grower groups, A-FAN and the Department of Agriculture to discuss where food comes from with consumers through a tailgate event hosted at a local grocery store. NWGA shared donut holes, had an interactive milling station and info on wheat nutrition and recipes for consumers attending the event at a Lincoln Super Saver. Even Governor Ricketts stopped by for a wheat treat.

Heading into the end of fall and start of winter, NWGA's education focus will shift to more media and school related outreach instead of trade shows. Members with questions on NWGA's education activities can feel free to contact the NWGA office or any NWGA board member.



NWGA's Gordon Stoner and Craig Berning talk to producers at a seed day event near Hemingford.



Industry reps and NWGA members enjoy the golf tournament.



Volunteers help carry signs and pass out candy during the Chase County Fair parade.



NWGA president Randon Peters discusses wheat issues with Senator Deb Fischer following his testimony at a September Farm Bill listening session in Grand Island.



Participants at the WCREC water field day grab a cinnamon roll and discuss issues by the Mobile Baking Lab.

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

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two in Omaha and one in
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NWB executive director Royce Schaneman discusses wheat issues with Nebraska Lt. Governor Mike Foley during Husker Harvest Days.



NWGA president Randon Peters chats with Senator Ben Sasse before a Farm Bill listening session.

Nebraska Wheat selects student ambassadors

The Nebraska Wheat Board selected three University of Nebraska-Lincoln students to serve as the Wheat Ambassadors for the 2017-2018 school year: Eleanor Aufdenkamp of North Platte, Darin Knobbe of Imperial and Jacob Rix of Omaha.

The ambassadors will assist NWB with promotional events and provide educational presentations on wheat to multiple classrooms and organizations in Nebraska. In exchange, each ambassador will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to assist with education expenses at UNL.

Eleanor is a junior agricultural education major. She grew up in North Platte, Neb. and developed a passion for agriculture through her years in 4H, attending agricultural based camps and visiting her grandparent's farm. Eleanor completed her associates degree at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture in Curtis.

Darin is a junior agribusiness major and is also minoring in entrepreneurship and leadership. He grew up in Imperial and participated in 4H and FFA. He said his experiences in those organizations encouraged him to learn more about agriculture and pursue a degree in the industry. "I'm excited to learn about Nebraska wheat more extensively, educate young people and develop connections to advocate for the industry and it's producers," Darin said.

Jacob is a senior mechanized systems management major who is minoring in agronomy and mathematics. He grew up in northwest Omaha but credits the time spent on his grandparent's farms as the influencing factor in growing his passion for agriculture. Those opportunities he said developed his interest and focus on irrigation practices, water sustainability and center pivot designs. "I'm eager to share the importance of how agriculture is the backbone to the Nebraska economy and publicize the Nebraska wheat industry to folks who don't know as much about it," Jacob said.

This class of ambassadors is the fifth group to go through the program with NWB. "The Ambassador Program has become a win-win scenario for our organization," said NWB executive director Royce Schaneman. "We're able to tell the story of wheat to future advocates and get their assistance in spreading the message. The students are getting support for their education, the opportunity

to network within the wheat and ag industry, and hands-on experience working with a variety of groups, from producers to consumers and other students."

The NWB board of directors will consider funding for a sixth year of the program during their FY 2018-2019 budget meetings in February and May of 2018.



NWB's wheat ambassadors for 2017-2018 from left to right: Darin Knobbe, Eleanor Aufdenkamp and Jacob Rix.



The wheat ambassadors visit with Gov. Pete Ricketts during an ag tailgate event at a Lincoln Super Saver grocery store.



NWB ambassador Darin Knobbe assisted the Home Baking Association in running a booth at the national family consumer science educators event in Omaha.



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NWGA Sets annual meeting to coincide with NCIA annual convention

The NWGA annual meeting will be held Monday, January 15, 2018 in Lincoln, NE. The meeting will begin the morning before the Nebraska Crop Improvement Association's conference. NWGA members interested in attending the NCIA conference will need to register for that meeting separately. A copy of their registration can be found on the following page.

NWGA Annual Meeting

Where: Embassy Suites, 1040 P St., Lincoln, NE 68508

When: Monday, January 15, 2018 -- 8:00 am-3:00 pm CST

Agenda to include (please note guest speaker presentations are being finalized and subject to change):

- Review of NWGA FY 2016-2017 financials & FY 2017-2018 financials YTD
- Review and renewal of association policy resolutions
- Presentation of Farm Bill and federal farm policy challenges from the National Association of Wheat Growers
- Presentation on international trade issues from U.S. Wheat Associates
- Election of NWGA board & president
- Presentation of NWGA annual award winners
- NWGA "year in review" of association activities

Registration: Registration is free. RSVP to newheatgrowers@gmail.com or 402-471-2358 by Wednesday, January 3, 2018 to receive a guaranteed lunch. A hot, plated lunch will be provided free of cost to meeting attendees.

NCIA Annual Meeting agenda

Monday, January 15

1:00 pm Tour - National Manufacturing
/TMC0, 701 S. 6th Street

5:30 pm NSTA Past Presidents Reception -
Social Hour

(Nebraska men's basketball has a game at 8:00 pm)

Tuesday, January 16

8:00 NSTA Committee Meetings

8:30 NSTA Annual Meeting

9:30 Break

10:00 **Palmer Amaranth** - Jenny Rees,
Extension Educator, UNL

11:00 **Dealing with Dicamba** - Tim Creger,
Pesticide/Fertilizer Program Manager,
NDA

Noon Scholarship Lunch

1:00 **Agricultural Drones** - Dave Brauer/
Wayne Milton, Ag Data and Drones

2:00 **Mitigating Winter Wheat Seed
Quality Losses Caused by Fusarium
Head Blight** - Stephen Wegulo, UNL
Pathology Department

2:30 **CoAxiom** - Chad Shelton, Albaugh
Chemical

3:00 Break

4:00 **Small Grains Breeding Update** -
Stephen Baenziger, UNL Agronomy
and Horticulture

5:00 Product Action Session - **Seed Crop
Issues and Resolutions**

6:00 Social Hour

7:00 Awards Banquet

Wednesday, January 17

8:30 NuPride Genetics Network Annual
Meeting

10:00 Nebraska Crop Improvement
Association Annual Meeting

1:00 Tour Innovation Campus - 2021
Transformation Drive

NCIA Registration Form

Advance Registration Form

NEBRASKA SEED IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCE

January 15-17, 2018

Embassy Suites ♦ Lincoln, Nebraska

_____ Full Registrations	@ \$85 each = \$ _____
_____ Tuesday Only	@ \$65 each = \$ _____
_____ Banquet Only (Tuesday evening)	@ \$45 each = \$ _____
_____ Wednesday Only (no fee)	

TOTAL DUE \$ _____

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 Embassy Suites.

Registration fees will be refunded if cancellations are made prior to January 5, 2018. 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		Wednesday
	Tour	Evening Reception	Scholarship Lunch	Banquet	Tour

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 15, 2017

Wheat Growers Call for New Trade Agreements

The following is a statement recently put out by the two leading national wheat organizations, of which both NWGA and NAWG are members. The statement is supported by both NWGA and NAWG. Nebraska exports half its wheat annually, providing economic opportunities for wheat producers and rural economies. For example, wheat exports from Nebraska in 2015 were valued at \$126 million and created more than 1,000 jobs.

USW & NAWG Release

U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) and the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) strongly urge the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) to pivot from re-negotiating existing free trade agreements (FTAs) to negotiating new deals, as repeatedly promised by President Trump as a candidate and since taking office.

The United States and Korea yesterday pledged to begin negotiations on aspects of the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS). While the wheat industry does not in principle object to modernizing trade agreements, such as the ongoing negotiations to update NAFTA, KORUS is the United States' most recent trade agreement and is barely a quarter of the way through full implementation. It also passed with strong bipartisan support in Congress after being negotiated under two separate administrations.

"While we disagreed, the President made clear that he did not support the Trans-Pacific Partnership. We were promised a series of bilateral trade agreements in its place," said NAWG CEO Chandler Goule. "USTR has limited resources — it is time to get past plowing the same fields and start opening ground in new markets. Right now, we are standing around watching the world pass us by on trade agreements."

USW and NAWG recently weighed in against withdrawal from KORUS for fear of market disruptions and concern that the United States will lose leverage and incentives to get good trade deals in the future.

"I'm glad to see we're not making any rash decisions about withdrawing from trade agreements, but we need to see more than that," said USW President Vince Peterson. "In the decade since KORUS was negotiated we have no new trade agreements and zero additional market access

for wheat farmers. The Administration has committed to 'do no harm' for agriculture, but we think there is harm in not negotiating new agreements."

The United States has not completed any new trade agreements and withdrawn from the Trans-Pacific Partnership since KORUS was signed in 2007. Over the same period, wheat export competitors have been significantly more active in signing new FTAs:

Argentina: Israel, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Egypt, Colombia.

Australia: Chile, Brunei Darussalam, Burma, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Korea, Japan, Canada, Mexico, Peru, China.

Canada: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, Peru, Colombia, Jordan, Panama, Honduras, Korea, Ukraine, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, Vietnam.

European Union: Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Korea, Moldova, Georgia, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Madagascar, Mauritius, the Seychelles, Zimbabwe, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Cameroon, Ukraine, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Canada.

Russia: Belarus, Moldova, Tajikistan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Vietnam

Ukraine: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Montenegro, European Union.



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?

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Associate Member – \$100.00 annually
Elevator – \$100.00 annually
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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



Jerry Minore Memorial Scholarship Opportunity for 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 2018-2019 academic year: two \$1,500 scholarships and two \$1,000 scholarships. Deadline for applications is December 31, 2017.

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 freshmen, sophomores or juniors 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; OR be nominated by someone sitting on the NAWG Board of Directors or a state wheat association board.

Applicants for the Minore Memorial Scholarship should submit:

1. A completed application form (available at 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?

