

# Newsheat

Volume 7 • Issue 1 • Spring 2017

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Photo: a wheat field near Elsie, NE.





Randon Peters  
President  
McCook

Everything is looking good here in Southwest Nebraska. February and March began with above normal temperatures and little moisture. As conditions were beginning to look pretty bleak, we picked up some significant moisture towards the end of March that will help carry us for a few weeks. There were some fields in our area that had poor stands, and this moisture helped these spots tremendously. We are a long way from having adequate moisture to guarantee a fair crop, but top-end yields are still possible.

It has been a busy “off season” for this farmer! Much work has been accomplished both on and off the farm. The Nebraska Wheat Growers Association has been active communicating to those in Lincoln to best serve our members. One such issue that has received much attention is the property tax debate. The NWGA board felt the most complete and efficient manner to convey our input and concerns was to join the Nebraskans United for Property Tax Reform and Education coalition. I am confident our concerns have been heard and are understood.

On the national level, NWGA is a member of the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG). I’ll tell you what, this acronym game gets confusing to this ole boy! NAWG has been laying the groundwork to understand what components of the 2014 Farm Bill worked and what may need addressed going forward. I had the honor, pleasure and challenge to serve as the Chairman of the Domestic and Trade Policy Committee this past year. My primary goal was to develop structured, specific and prioritized guidance statements that the organization can follow going into the next Farm Bill. With countless hours of discussion and debate on varying principals, this was accomplished at the Commodity Classic in San Antonio! I am confident our organization has a unified voice and will be a key advocate for the farmers of this great nation.

On my way home from San Antonio, I received a request from Senator Sasse’s office to attend a meeting in Washington, DC with U.S. Trade Representative nominee, Robert Lighthizer. This was a very productive meeting including representatives from the NE Cattleman, Pork Producers, Corn, Soybeans and NE Farm Bureau. The message sent to Mr. Lighthizer was very clear, “Trade is extremely important to Nebraska’s farmers and, in fact, the entire U.S. Agriculture is the backbone of this nation and cannot be used as a bargaining chip.”

As we enjoy the remainder of spring, I hope Mother Nature rewards our toils with favorable weather. This is, by far, my favorite time of year! I would detail the great pleasures of life in rural America, but I do not want the secret to get out! I must chuckle, Google says I live 10.6 miles to the nearest grocery store and it would take 37 minutes to get there! It gets worse, 74 miles and 1Hr 33Min to the nearest Starbucks!

I hope you all are productive & stay safe in the coming months.  
As always, I can best be reached by e-mail: [randonpeters@gmail.com](mailto:randonpeters@gmail.com)



Mark Spurgin  
Executive Board  
Paxton

It’s spring already, where does the time go? The wheat is greening up and last week we received 1.40” of rain. Too bad the price of wheat is where it is. Hopefully, we can get some new trade agreements to help improve the price. I know the National Wheat Growers are working with the trade representatives in Washington to get trade moving. Wheat can be grown anywhere in the world and our surplus just keeps growing. The gluten free and organic products are buzzwords that are not doing our demand any good. I know that I am preaching to the choir, but I had to write something! The cattle markets are better than they were last year. At least we are seeing some black ink instead of red ink like last year. Corn planting is just around the corner. Hope everyone has a safe and productive spring.

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



Scott Osler  
Executive Board  
Elsie

Spring must be here. The wheat is greening up and looks great! I haven't found any winterkill or disease. Spring field work is getting done and there are lots of new calves on the ground. Life is good, right? Oh yeah, the prices for just about everything I raise aren't close to profitable, even with phenomenal yields.

There is talk in the news about making trade more fair for the American workers and economy. The people doing the negotiations need to remember agriculture is one of the few sectors of the economy which has been able to successfully compete in the international markets.

All commodities, but especially wheat which needs to sell fifty percent of production overseas, need access to a level playing field to successfully compete. As negotiations proceed to find mutually beneficial markets for all counties, the administration needs to remember agriculture needs to have access to markets not only close to home but around the world to get back to an opportunity to be successful.

I can always be reached at [scott3y@gmail.com](mailto:scott3y@gmail.com)



Brian Schafer  
Executive Board  
Culbertson

I hope everyone is having a wet and wonderful spring. Here in SW Nebraska we finally received some much needed moisture ranging from one to three inches. Things are finally starting to green up. Now all we need is for the markets to (GREEN) up a little and we'd all be happy.

In March I had an opportunity to attend the Commodity Classic in San Antonio. It was a jam-packed conference but felt very educational, especially with the upcoming Farm Bill. I am on the Research and Rechnology Committee and felt that we had a good meeting. I am also on it again for the upcoming year.

It has been a pleasure serving on the NWGA and the NAWG committees, and as always, don't hesitate to call with questions.

Have a safe spring and don't forget to slow down, look around and enjoy the beautiful country in which we live.  
[brian.schafer@hotmail.com](mailto:brian.schafer@hotmail.com)

## *NWGA continues representing Nebraska on national level*

NWGA's president, Randon Peters, was recently appointed to chair the Joint International Trade Committee. This is a joint committee between the National Association of Wheat Growers and U.S. Wheat Associates. This will be the first time a Nebraskan has chaired a joint NAWG/USW committee in over a decade.

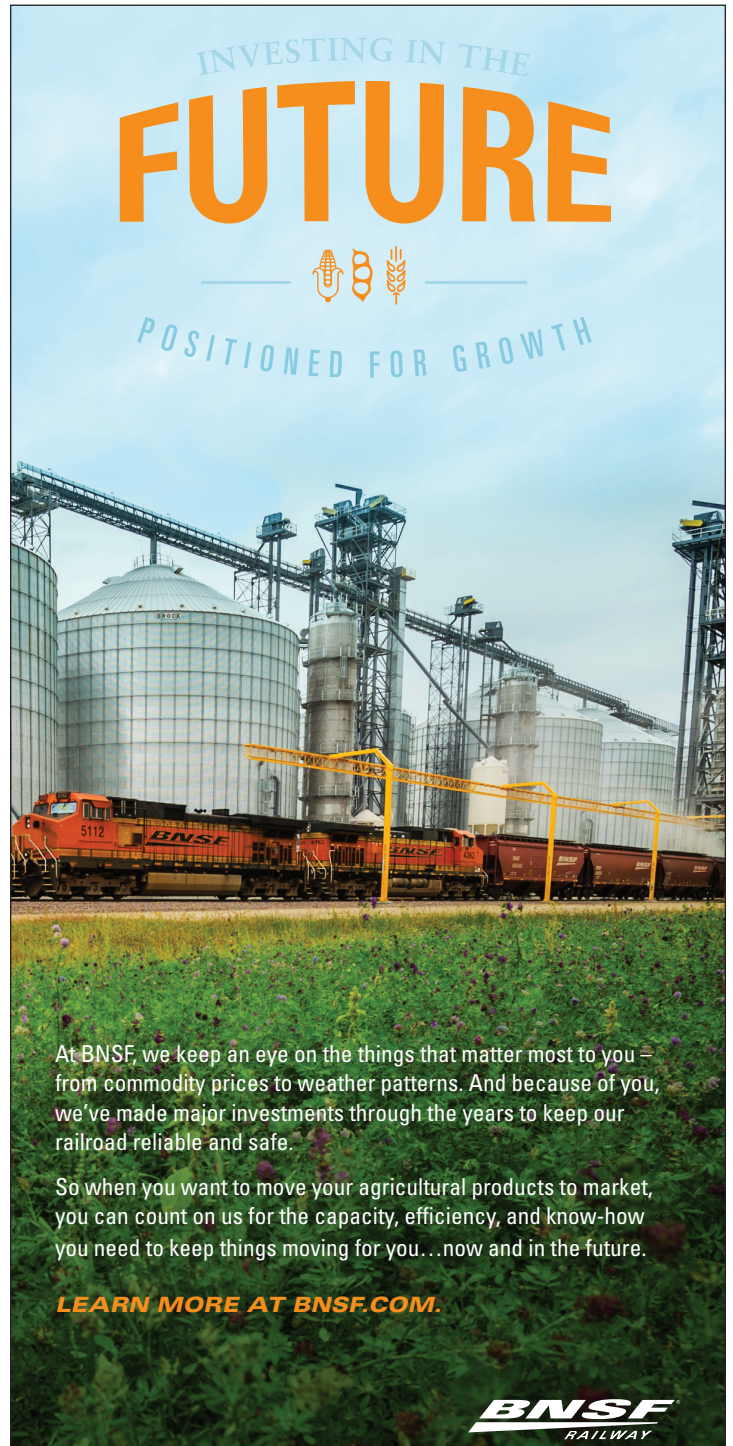
Peters will also continue to serve on the NAWG Domestic Trade and Policy Committee (where he previously served as chairman), and was elected to sit on the NAWG budget committee as well.


NWGA member Brian Schafer was reappointed to continue his service on the NAWG Research and Technology Committee. He will also sit with Peters as Nebraska's representatives on the NAWG Board of Directors.

NWGA executive director, Caroline Brauer, was elected to chair the NAWG state executives roundtable committee for a third year. She is also one of seven wheat association, wheat foundation and industry representatives sitting on the National Wheat Action Plan Advisory Council.

"We are honored and excited to continue representing Nebraska wheat farmers' interests on a national level this year," said Peters.

NWGA members with concerns on domestic policy issues affecting Nebraska or research and technology concerns may feel free to contact either Peters, Schafer, or the NWGA office to discuss those concerns.



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# NWGA AND NWB LEADERS VISIT CAPITOL HILL

Members of the Nebraska Wheat Board (NWB) and the Nebraska Wheat Growers Association (NWGA) recently returned from a four-day trip to Washington, DC where they discussed the challenges facing both the Nebraska and United States wheat industries with congressional leaders and national wheat organizations.

Each year NWB and NWGA participate in the U.S. Wheat Associates and National Association of Wheat Growers Winter Wheat Conference held in Washington, DC. Both state and national wheat issues ranging from trade policy, to research support, to environmental issues are discussed. The organizations also take time to visit with each of the state's five congressional representatives on Capitol Hill about the challenges facing Nebraska wheat farmers. This year the six members representing NWB and NWGA were: Bob Delsing, Hemingford; Larry Flohr, Chappell; Brent Robertson, Elsie; Kent Lorens, Stratton; Von Johnson, Cambridge; and Randon Peters, McCook.

Delsing, Flohr, Robertson, Lorens and Johnson all participated in meetings with U.S. Wheat Associates to discuss international marketing, the Market Access Program and Foreign Market Development program, hard white wheat, and the effects of changes on trade agreements may have on wheat markets. "It's important that we participate in these meetings so Nebraskan's voices and issues are heard on the national level," said NWB chairman Brent Robertson. "Half of our state's wheat is exported so supporting international marketing efforts is vital to maintaining our industry."

Peters participated in meetings with the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) ranging from Farm Bill conversations to research policy and environmental regulations. He currently serves as the chairman of NAWG's domestic trade and policy committee, where meeting attendees and wheat farmers from around the country discussed concerns and priorities for the upcoming Farm Bill. "The wheat market and all commodity markets are down right now, but costs and regulations are up," said Peters. "It's a privilege to represent Nebraska's farmers and farmers from around the country to help guide meetings where we can discuss what needs to change and how we can help make those changes happen."

All six representatives visited with congressional leaders on Capitol Hill. Each office was presented with information on the wheat industry as well as a map showing the wheat production areas and wheat-related industries that had an economic impact in each congressional district. "What Nebraska wheat farmers are doing has a much broader reach and a greater impact than many people realize," said Robertson. "Having supportive ag policies coming out of Washington, DC will benefit farmers, consumers, rural and urban economies in our state. That's why it was important for us to take the time while we were in DC to discuss issues with our leaders."



**NWB and NWGA representatives discuss trade challenges with Senator Deb Fischer while examining a state map that outlines wheat production regions and shipping facilities.**



**NWGA president Randon Peters and other members of NWB and NWGA present Congressman Adrian Smith with his awards. Smith received the Person of the Year award from NWGA and the Wheat Advocate Award from the National Association of Wheat Growers.**

## *NAWG President to House Panel: Farm Bill Programs Critical in Economic Downturn*

**NAWG UPDATE** – Recently, NAWG President David Schemm testified before the House Agriculture General Farm Commodities and Risk Management Subcommittee. The focus of the hearing was to hear from commodity groups about the 2014 Farm Bill's Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, as well as crop insurance. The hearing is a part of a larger series of hearings being held by the Committee to get input about all components of the Farm Bill.

During his testimony, Schemm laid out the difficult economic conditions in wheat country and what that has meant for farmers' ability to get financing. He also discussed some implementation issues that have arisen with ARC, as well as some possible tweaks that could be pursued to improve the effectiveness of both ARC and PLC. Specifically, NAWG believes that USDA could utilize Risk Management Agency (RMA) data, where available, as the first source of data in establishing ARC-County yields. Additionally, to help producers be able to have a better idea of the assistance for which they'll be eligible under Title 1, Schemm urged the Committee to look at moving up the timeframe for payments to be made; payments are currently delayed for over a year after the crop has been harvested.

Schemm also discussed tweaks that could be made to PLC, including increasing the wheat reference price and having it more closely tied to cost of production. Schemm also discussed the importance of maintaining the strong structure of the crop insurance program, as well as some issues related to basis and quality discounts and their implications for the program. Schemm's testimony, as submitted for the record, can be found at [this link](#). NAWG appreciates the House Agriculture Committee holding this series of hearings and the opportunity to share input from America's wheat farmers.

Moving forward, NAWG continues to engage Members of Congress about the importance of completing the reauthorization process before the expiration of the current Farm Bill, and about these and other changes that should be made to programs to enable them to function more effectively.

## **Recent Event Photos**



**Above:** NWGA and NWB leaders shared cinnamon rolls with state senators during the annual Bake & Take event.



**Left:** Several NWGA and NWB representatives pose for a photo outside the U.S. Capitol Building in between visits to congressional offices.

**Below:** Nebraska Wheat Ambassadors Autumn Lemmer and Jordan Bothorn along with Nebraska Farmer reporter Tyler Harris learn how to make several wheat foods during a trip to the Wheat Marketing Center.







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# National Wheat Yield Contest

## Things to Remember

- Deadline to apply is May 1, 2017
- Entrants must be a member of NWGA or a state wheat association (for states with no growers association, entrants may join NAWG)
- Entrants must be at least 14 years of age
- Entered fields must contain at least 5 acres of continuous wheat crop
- Only fields planted to a certified seed or branded wheat variety may be entered

## How to participate

Applications may be submitted online at <http://yieldcontest.wheatfoundation.org>

The exact/detailed rules for the harvest process and reporting yields may also be found online.

Winner is determined by how many percentage points the crop yields above the county average.

## NWGA's Participation Perks!

### Discounted Dues!

#### **Pay \$40 for an annual membership**

Any NWGA member who enters the National Wheat Yield Contest **AND** takes the entered field to harvest, submitting contest data to the National Wheat Foundation, will qualify for a discounted NWGA membership the following year.

For example, a member who participates in the 2017 contest and submits harvest data to NWF, would qualify for a \$40 membership in 2018.

### Free 1-year membership

Any NWGA member who participates in the wheat yield contest, takes an entry to harvest and wins/has the highest margin of all Nebraska entries, will be provided with a free 1-year membership for NWGA.

### Free 5-year membership

Any NWGA member who participates in and wins a category of the National Wheat Yield Contest will be provided with a free 5-year membership for NWGA.





## 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)

# Nebraska Wheat Board announces District 3 board of director opening

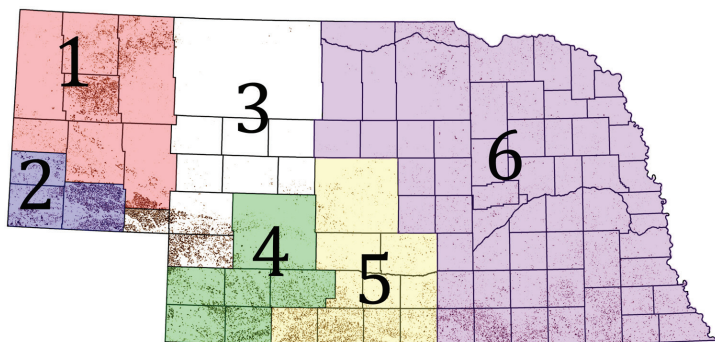
LINCOLN, Neb—A directorship appointment for District 3 of the Nebraska Wheat Utilization, Development and Marketing Board is open for appointment by the Governor. Applications will be due by close of business Thursday, June 1, 2017. Larry Flohr, the current member representing District 3, has indicated 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 3 represents the counties of Deuel, Cherry, Grant, Hooker, Thomas, Arthur, McPherson, Logan, Keith and Perkins. 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 Governor's office at 402-471-2256. Interested producers may also 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.



This map indicates the NWB districts separated by counties. District 7 is considered an at-large district and is not pictured.

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## NAWG Supports Food Aid Programs

Recently, NAWG, along with 77 other organizations, signed on to a letter sent to the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee requesting continuation of funding for Food for Peace and McGovern-Dole School Feeding programs in FY 2018. For over 60 years Food for Peace has supplied food to those most in need around the world. In the past six years, 52 million people in 50 countries were fed annually through Food for Peace. With famine predicted to reach four countries in the next year from weather or conflict, this funding will be a critical tool to continue to reach the expected significantly increased population in need. The McGovern-Dole School Feeding program provides meals to school age children, getting them into the classroom to learn. This program enables student to gain an education and access to a healthy, nutritious meal they otherwise may not get that day. NAWG members are proud to support these programs through advocacy and through product when US wheat is appropriate.



# BAKE & TAKE RECIPES

## ***Rocky Road Cake in a Cup***

*1 dish, 2 minutes, the perfect single serving of chocolatey goodness.*

### **Ingredients:**

2 Tbsp. chocolate cake mix  
1 Tbsp. chocolate chips  
5 pecan halves, chopped  
1.5 Tbsp. vanilla yogurt  
12 mini marshmallows

### **Directions:**

In microwave safe mug mix the cake mix, chocolate chips, pecan halves and vanilla yogurt. Microwave on high for 60 seconds.

Top with mini marshmallows. Microwave for an additional 30 seconds. Enjoy!

*Nutrition: One mug provides: 203 calories; 3.6 g protein; 26.5 g carbohydrates; 10.4 g fat; 2 mg cholesterol; 1.1 g fiber; 130 mg sodium.*



## ***Caramel Chocolate Pretzel Bars***

### **Ingredients:**

2 packages graham crackers (18 rectangle crackers)  
2 cups mini pretzels, separated  
3/4 cup butter, melted  
1 cup chopped rolo candies (about 30 pieces)  
1 can sweetened condensed milk (14 oz)  
1 cup chocolate chips

### **Directions:**

Preheat oven to 350°F. In large ziplock bag, crush graham crackers and 1 cup mini pretzels. Add melted butter and mix until a crust forms. Press the crust into the bottom of a greased 13x9 cake pan.

Top (in order) with 1/2 can sweetened condensed milk, 1 cup chopped rolo candy, 3/4 cup chopped pretzels, 1 cup chocolate chips. Then top with remaining condensed milk and pretzels. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes. Let cool and set for 1 hour. Enjoy.

*Nutrition Information, per bar (recipe serves 24): 194 calories; 2.5 g protein; 24.6 g carbohydrates; 9.75 g fat (5.5 g saturated); 19 mg cholesterol; 167 mg sodium.*



Return Service Requested



## National Wheat Yield Contest

The National Wheat Yield Contest is open and accepting entries for its second year. “We’re going into the year with a lot of excitement among wheat grower leaders,” said Steve Joehl, executive director of the wheat contest for the National Wheat Foundation, which hosts the contest. “A lot of growers are starting to understand how they can improve wheat yields when thinking about it differently. Changing just a few practices can improve productivity a lot. We are optimistic that this year’s participation will improve because awareness is higher. **The deadline for registration is May 1 for winter wheat and August 1 for spring wheat.**”

Entries will likely pick up as growers get a sense of the crop’s potential as it comes out of dormancy. The 2016 contest helped identify an innovative group of wheat farmers who manage wheat as intensively as they do corn and soybeans.

**Growers must be members of either a state wheat association or the National Association of Wheat Growers to participate in the contest.** Youth is no barrier; the minimum age is 14, and last year’s national winner for irrigated winter wheat was Jagger Borth, a high school senior from Meade, Kansas.

The contest will be divided into the same four categories as last year: dryland winter wheat, irrigated winter

wheat, dryland spring wheat and irrigated spring wheat. The winner of each category will be determined by how many percentage points the crop yields above the county average, and an overall highest yield winner will also be recognized.

The entered field must have at least five continuous acres of a certified or branded wheat variety. Growers who are planning to enter should keep careful records of every planting metric and input throughout the growing season. **The contest is administered online entirely at <http://yieldcontest.wheatfoundation.org>. The entry fee is \$100.**

The contest has very specific rules on how to harvest and check yield for the entered field, and a recheck is required if your field yields above 150 bpa. You can find those specifics, along with all the rest of the contest’s rules and regulations online.

***See page 8 for perks  
& rewards to NWGA  
members entering the  
contest***