

# Newsheat

Volume 8 • Issue 2 • Summer 2018



**Calendar of Upcoming Events**  
page 3

**Wheat speaking out on trade issues**  
page 6

**Control volunteer for better yields**  
page 8

Harvest progresses near Stratton, Neb.  
*Photo: Kent Lorens*



Mark Spurgin  
President  
Paxton

We have just completed our wheat harvest and now are starting to harvest for the neighbors. We have stripper heads and now the neighbors are seeing its benefits and they want their wheat harvested with stripper heads. Our wheat yields were above average this year, mostly because of the spring rains we had. The other night we received between 1.30" to 3.30" depending on where you were. We were needing rain for the dryland crops, but who has ever heard of that much rain in July, let alone the moisture we received in June? We did not have to run our irrigation systems in June. That's the first time that has happened since I started farming, and that is a long time.

Trade issues are something that have to be worked out and they probably will take some time. We just have to have patience. Hopefully, in the long run it will be good for the American Farmer, if we can last long enough. Trade has been good, but we have been on the short end of the stick for too long. I hope everyone is having a good and safe harvest. Fall is coming too soon.

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



Brian Schafer  
Executive Board  
Culbertson

Hello from SW Nebraska. I hope everyone has had a good summer so far and a good harvest. It kept us busy this year, but I got to enjoy harvest with my son, and spending time with family always makes things better. If you ever want to talk wheat issues, I can be reached at [brian.schafer@hotmail.com](mailto:brian.schafer@hotmail.com)



Jeff Ruggles  
Executive Board  
McCook

Harvest is wrapped up in southwest Nebraska. The acres were down in our area and yields were above average, but below the huge crops of the last few years. Test weight and protein levels were very good this year.

The Wheat Growers Association has been very active voicing our concerns over trade issues at a state and national level. This has obviously become a huge issue in the agricultural community and has hit the American farmer/rancher very hard. On a state level property tax relief is still a hot-button issue.

The annual Nebraska Wheat Growers golf tournament is August 17th in Imperial, NE in conjunction with the Chase County Fair. There's still time to sign up, and it's sure to be a good time!

[ruggles\\_jeff@yahoo.com](mailto:ruggles_jeff@yahoo.com)





Randon Peters  
Past President  
McCook

Wheat harvest is all finished up here in Southwest Nebraska. Yields were average and quality was exceptional. The heat in early June definitely did take several bushels off the top end. The weather cooperated and we were able to get our crop out in less than two weeks with no significant delays.

I recently traveled to Seattle to the Summer US Wheat Meeting & the big talk was trade. There's still a lot of uncertainty on how all these trade negotiations will end. I'm proud that the US is standing up to its trading partners. Unfortunately, I'm not sure how long the US farmers can hold out. Prices are already depressed & very few operations can weather an extended period of lower prices. I hope we do get some resolve soon and I'm sure our president will not settle for an inequitable deal.

I always enjoy hearing your questions and comments and can be reached at [randonpeters@gmail.com](mailto:randonpeters@gmail.com).



Scott Osler  
Executive Board  
Elsie

Harvest went well here in our area. We had 13.5 protein, but our test weights were a little lower -- 58 and 59. We had pretty good yields, above average in the 60s. I had white wheat again this year, and was very happy with the protein and the bonuses with Ardent Mills. It got my wheat almost close to profitable.

NWGA and NAWG are working very hard to ensure that wheat farmers are represented during conversations on trade issues and Farm Bill. We will be at the Chase County Fair again this year. Stop by our booth to talk about any of these issues and get yourself a free cookie.

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

## **Calendar of Upcoming Events**

**Aug 14: Kriesel Certified Seed Days - Gurley, Neb. @ 9 am MDT**

**Aug 14: V&F Farms, Radke Certified Seed Days - Chappell, Neb. @ 6 pm MDT**

**Aug. 15: Cullan Certified Seed Days - Hemingford, Neb. @ 9 am MDT**

**Aug. 15: NWGA meeting - Holiday Inn Express - Ogallala, Neb. @ 2-5 pm MDT**

**Aug. 16: Chase County Fair - Imperial, Neb. -- Free Cookies @ 3-7 pm MDT**

**Aug. 17: NWGA Annual Golf Tournament - Imperial Country Club, Imperial**

**Registration @ 7 am MDT, Shotgun Start @ 8 am MDT**

**Aug. 17: Chase County Fair - Imperial, Neb. -- Free Cookies @ 3-7 pm MDT**

**Aug. 18: Chase County Fair Parade - Imperial, Neb. @ 10 am**

**Aug. 18: Chase County Fair - Imperial, Neb. -- Free Cookies @ 1-7 pm MDT**

**Aug. 23: Water and Crops Field Day - West Central Research & Extension Center,  
North Platte, NE @ 8 am CST**

**Sept. 9-10: Midwest U.S. Japan Association 50th Annual Conference - Omaha, NE**

**Sept. 11-13: Husker Harvest Days - Grand Island, NE @ 8am-5 pm CST**

**Oct. 29-Nov. 2: NAWG/USW Joint Fall Meeting - Tampa, FL @ 8am-6pm EST**

# Nebraska wheat industry loses foundational leader



John L. Sullivan, 86, of rural Wallace, died July 6, 2018, at Linden Court in North Platte. He was born on Aug. 19, 1931, south of Wallace, to Ed and Genevieve (Priest) Sullivan. He went to grade school in rural Hayes County and graduated from St. Patrick High School in North Platte. John was a lifelong member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Wallace, where he married Donna Johnson in 1950. They lived and actively farmed on the family farm (on a third

generation and now a fifth generation farm) since marriage.

John was a volunteer fireman, a director of Farmer's State Bank of Wallace and a member of the North Platte Catholic Schools Endowment fund. He formed Sullivan Equipment Inc. in the 1950s, building customized fire trucks and equipment for departments from southeast to northwest Nebraska. In the 1960s, the company converted to the ag chemical and fertilizer business and helped introduce liquid fertilizer use and eco-fallow methods in southwest Nebraska. Throughout his life, John supported agriculture by serving as president of Nebraska-Wyoming Wheat Growers; director and chairman of the Nebraska Wheat Board in Lincoln; founding member and board member of the Gasohol Board, which became the Ethanol Board in Lincoln; board member of Great Plains Wheat in Garden City, Kansas; founding member of National Association of Wheat Growers in Washington, D.C.; and secretary-treasurer of Western Wheat Associates in Portland, Oregon. John L. Sullivan was a key member who helped combine Great Plains Wheat and Western Wheat in to what is now U.S. Wheat Associates, the organization that promotes wheat all over the world. These positions gave him the opportunity to travel worldwide promoting Nebraska wheat and all U.S. agriculture.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and a sister-in-law, Mary Alyce Sullivan. John is survived by Donna, his loving wife of 68 years; children, Cynthia (Robert) Wusk of Colorado Springs, Colorado, Larry (Pam) Sullivan of Deadwood, South Dakota, Joyce (Steve) Tarris of Tucson, Arizona, Mike (Terri) Sullivan of Wallace and Doug (Michelle) Sullivan of Wallace; 16 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; a brother, Bill Sullivan; and a sister-in-law, Altha Nielsen.

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 joins Ag Leaders Working Group to work for property tax relief

This summer NWGA joined the Ag Leaders Working Group, a coalition of multiple agriculture organizations and commodity groups who are working together to discuss property taxes. Without a doubt, property taxes in recent years have become one of the leading expenses for farmers on their operations. NWGA executive director Caroline Clements, NWGA president Mark Spurgin and NWGA past-president Randon Peters are all actively engaging in regular meetings and conference calls with other members of the coalition to discuss options and priorities for property tax reform that can help Nebraska's farmers and be considered by Nebraska's legislative leaders.

Any producers with questions, concerns or data they'd like to share on property tax challenges on their operation can call or e-mail the NWGA office.



# Annual NWGA Golf Tournament

**August 17, 2018**

**Imperial Country Club**

**810 W. 7th St., Imperial, NE**

**Registration: 7:00 am, MDT**

**Shotgun Start: 8:00 am, MDT**

**18-hole, 3-person Scramble**

(9 hole course played twice) (Solo golfers welcome. Will be combined to make teams.)

**\$150/team pre-registration (by Aug. 15)**

**\$180/team day of registration**

**Team fee includes: 1 mulligan/person, golf cart, drink ticket, lunch**



**For questions & registration, contact Caroline Clements at  
402-471-2358 or [newheatgrowers@gmail.com](mailto:newheatgrowers@gmail.com)**

**Cash Prize for top 2 teams, pin prizes, door prizes**

**Discounted NWGA membership opportunities**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

***Will conclude before Chase Co. Fair 4H auction***

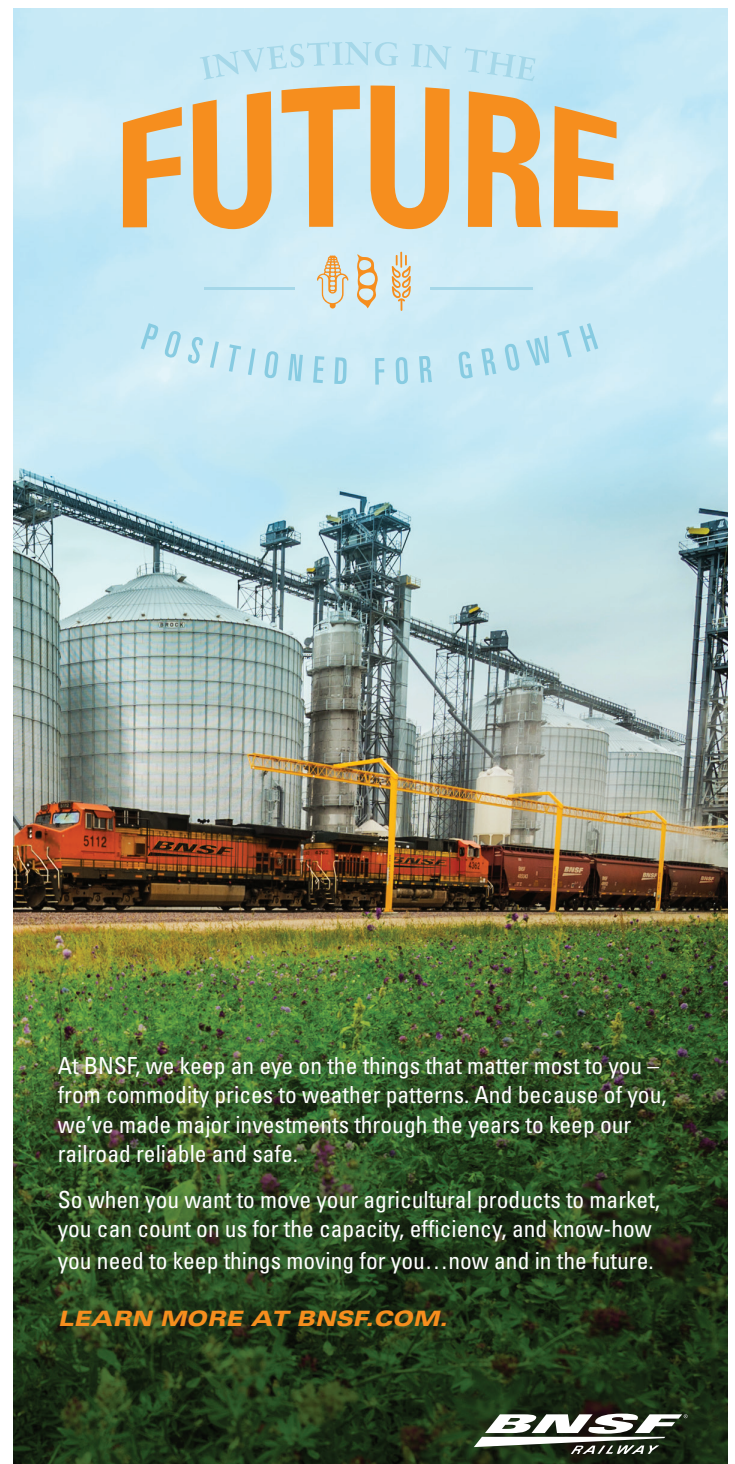


## *NAWG & US Wheat Jointly Speak Out on Recent Trade Issues*


On Friday, July 6, 2018, the United States' tariffs on Chinese goods went into effect. NAWG and U.S. Wheat issued a joint release discussing the damaging impact that these tariffs will have on farm-families. In fact, the threat of the tariffs alone has already hurt the wheat industry. In our release, we note that "from March to June over the past three years, Chinese flour milling companies and their importers purchased an average of about 20 million bushels of U.S. wheat, returning well over \$145 million to American farm families and grain handlers." However in 2018, "Chinese customers stopped making new purchases of U.S. wheat last March, after the Chinese government threaten a 25 percent import tariff on U.S. wheat in retaliation to the threat of U.S. tariffs on Chinese imports."

Additionally on Friday, Japan became the second country to ratify the CPTPP, which could be implemented in early 2019 after six of the 11 countries that signed the agreement have ratified it. In our joint release, NAWG and USW argued that "once implemented, the agreement calls for incrementally discounting the effective import tariffs that Japanese flour millers pay for imported Australian and Canadian milling wheat from about \$150 to about \$85 per metric ton (MT). Imported U.S. wheat effective tariffs would remain at about \$150 per MT." Canada and Australia, which are major competitors to the United States in the Japanese wheat market, are also parties to the agreement, meaning implementation would put U.S. wheat farmers at a severe disadvantage in our second biggest wheat market.

A copy of the full release can be viewed at <https://www.wheatworld.org/nawgusw-joint-release-trade-conflict-with-china-already-hurting-u-s-farm-families/>



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](https://www.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)



# Control Volunteer Wheat Now for Higher Yields Next Year

**Article by Robert Klein, Rodrigo Werle, Cody Creech, Jeff Bradshaw, Stephen Wegulo, Gary Hein, Tony Adesemoye, and Justin McMechan: Extension Plant Pathologists, Entomologists and Cropping Systems Specialists**

In the Nebraska Panhandle, major losses were caused by wheat streak mosaic virus this year. One wheat grower said his winter wheat yields averaged 8-22 bushels/acre. His test weight averaged 54 lb/bushel. A number of growers had their fields released so they could seed another crop. Many times this is not successful because of limited soil water. (For more information watch for an August 4 article by Nebraska Extension Dryland Cropping Systems Specialist Cody Creech.)

By far, the greatest risk of losses from mite-vectored viruses occurs when there is a summer “green bridge” of volunteer wheat emerging before harvest. This almost always occurs as a result of wheat seed head shatter from hail storms (Figure 1).

The mites and viruses survive the summer on this “green bridge,” then the mites move from volunteer wheat to newly emerged winter wheat plants in the fall, transmitting the viruses. Mites can transmit wheat streak mosaic virus, High Plains virus, and Triticum mosaic virus, creating the likelihood of severe mixtures of viral infections.

Mites depend on wind for dispersal. In the fall, as mite populations increase, they leave the protected areas of volunteer wheat plants (rolled leaves and whorls) and crawl to leaf tips or other exposed areas where they become airborne. After landing on a new host, the mites crawl to the youngest leaf and begin to feed and reproduce.

In heavily infested volunteer wheat, most mites will carry the virus. Transmission to the young winter wheat plants requires only a few infected individuals. Immature mites acquire the virus in as little as 15 minutes as they feed on infected leaves. Mites remain active for most of their lives (two to four weeks or longer with cool temperatures), but the transmission efficiency of adult mites decreases with age.

Research has found that mites can only survive a day or

so under hot temperatures, but two to four days under lower temperatures. Thus, a significant number of mites may be transported by the wind from greater distances than we originally thought; however, the greatest risk is to the field closest to the volunteer wheat.

Volunteer wheat is not the only host for the wheat curl mite (Figure 2). Recent research has evaluated the suitability of weedy grasses as hosts for both the curl mite and the wheat streak virus. Barnyardgrass topped the list in terms of suitability for both virus and mites, but fortunately it is not a common grass in wheat except in low areas, including terraces. In contrast, green foxtail is a rather poor host but could be an important disease reservoir simply because of its abundance. In one example, the source of a winter wheat field infected with wheat streak mosaic virus was a grain sorghum field with grassy weeds adjacent to the winter wheat field. Take note of significant stands of these grasses where they can be treated and control them as you would volunteer wheat.

Other over-summering hosts include corn or foxtail millet. An important consideration for these crops is to try to minimize the overlap of the green and growing summer crop and the emerged new crop of wheat. The greater the overlap the greater the risk from these hosts.



**Figure 1: A field in the southern Panhandle suffering from WSMV. Photo: Caroline Clements**



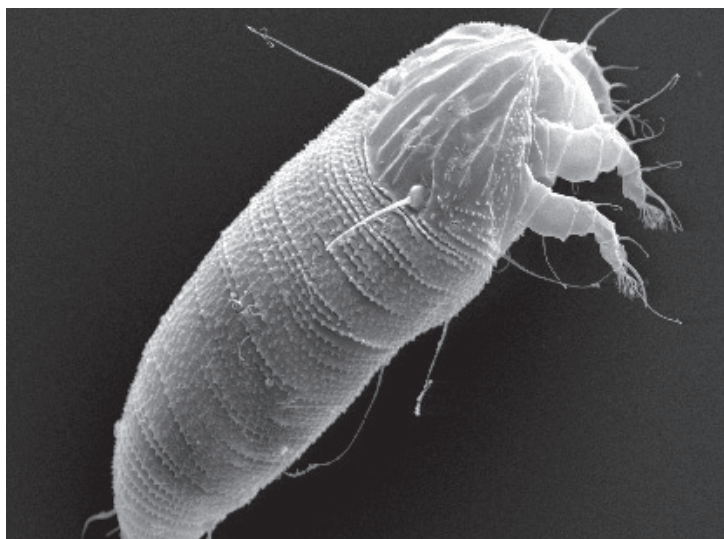


Figure 2: Wheat Curl Mite. Photo: courtesy UNL.

## Timely Weed Control Helps Manage Yield Loss Risk

Risks from not controlling volunteer wheat and weeds:

- Pre-harvest volunteer wheat can cost you or your neighbor the value of next year's winter wheat crop due to loss from wheat viruses. In addition, loss of the winter wheat residue can lead to much lower yields in the following corn or grain sorghum crop. While both pre- and post-harvest control of the "green bridge" are important, timely control of pre-harvest volunteer wheat will have a greater impact on ultimately reducing virus transmission and yield loss (Figure 3).
- Any volunteer wheat that has emerged around wheat harvest even in a summer crop like sunflower or corn can also be a significant risk. Figure 4 shows considerable volunteer wheat in a sunflower field in the fall that was heavily infested with mites. This field resulted in total loss to adjoining wheat fields.
- Uncontrolled volunteer wheat and weeds can cost you 30 bu/acre or more of corn or sorghum the next year due to soil moisture loss.
- Weed control may be more difficult and expensive in next year's crop.
- Planting the next crop may be more difficult in last year's stubble.

The earlier the winter wheat is seeded and the longer mild weather extends through the fall, the greater the risk of spreading wheat streak mosaic and other viral infections. For instance, near Ogallala, the winter wheat yield doubled with a week delay in seeding date. Under warm fall conditions, the probability of secondary spread of mites and viruses increases, resulting in greater incidence of infection.

In another field near Ogallala, wheat seeded on September 8, 2016 was lost to the wheat streak mosaic virus while a field across the road seeded September 19, 2016 to the same winter wheat variety was not affected by the virus.

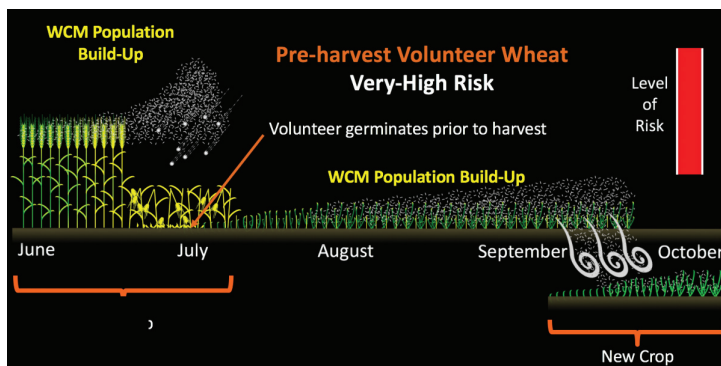


Figure 3: Comparison of the increased disease risk of pre-harvest volunteer wheat (above, usually from hail storms) versus post-harvest volunteer wheat control in the development of wheat streak mosaic. Photo: courtesy Justin McMechan

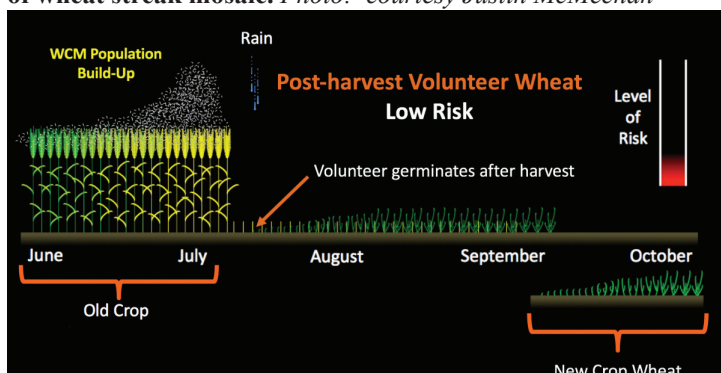


Figure 4: Uncontrolled volunteer wheat in a sunflower field played host to a heavy mite infestation in the fall, which led to a total loss of the adjoining neighbors' wheat fields. Photo: Caroline Clements

## Impact of Wheat Seeding Time

Reproduction and spread of mites stop with cool temperatures in the fall; however, mites can survive cold winter temperatures. The virus survives the winter

*Continued on page 10...*

## ...Control Volunteer Wheat continued

within the plant, and the mites survive as eggs, nymphs, or adults protected in the crown of the wheat plant. As winter wheat greens up in the spring, mites become active and the virus may be spread to healthy winter wheat plants or to emerging spring wheat, although this is much less of a threat than fall transmission.

One example of the impact of wheat streak was when volunteer wheat from one neighbor's hailed winter wheat crop served as a host for the virus vector and the other neighbor's wheat crop across the road averaged just 5 to 6 bushels per acre on 320 acres. Yields in nearby areas which had not been hailed and didn't have pre-harvest volunteer wheat yielded 60 bu/ac.

Some summer annual grassy weeds also can act as mite and virus hosts. The greater the density of these grasses, the greater the risk. Controlling them will reduce the risk.

### Additional Losses Associated with Volunteer Wheat

Volunteer wheat can provide habitat for many other pathogens that may later be a problem if continuous wheat is seeded in the fall. Root rots as well as seedling blights caused by *Fusarium* species are specific examples.

**Aphids.** Volunteer wheat also attracts the Russian wheat aphid and other cereal aphids. If allowed to remain until the new wheat crop emerges, the risk of aphid infestation and barley yellow dwarf increases.

**Hessian Flies.** Volunteer wheat allowed to survive through late summer and fall also dramatically increases the risk from Hessian fly.

**Wheat Stem Sawflies.** Some weedy grasses can serve as a host for sawflies. If these weeds are allowed to persist in the environment, their seed production will increase the available hosts for sawflies the following year. This could compound the challenge of managing a pest that is already very difficult to manage.

**Moisture Loss.** Volunteer winter wheat and weeds also use soil water which would otherwise be used by the following crop. The average soil water loss due to volunteer wheat is 3 inches which can result in yield losses of 30 bushels or more in corn or sorghum. Occasionally

the loss can be as much as 100 bushels. How does this happen when we only save 3 inches of soil water? With the additional 3 inches of soil water the corn or sorghum crop will survive up to three weeks longer without rain before being lost to drought. Hence, if enough rain is received in time, we have observed yields of 100 bushels or more of corn or sorghum where volunteer wheat and other weeds were controlled after wheat harvest.

**Increased Weed Seed.** Letting weeds produce seed increases the weed seed bank and makes weed control more difficult in the succeeding crops. The weed residue also makes planting more difficult in the following crop.

### Summary

Volunteer wheat surviving through the summer and fall creates numerous risks for the subsequent wheat crop as well as other rotated crops. Controlling volunteer wheat will reduce the risks from these threats and ultimately improve the bottom line.

For herbicide options to control volunteer wheat and annual grasses, check the 2017 Guide for Weed, Disease, and Insect Management in Nebraska, EC130, (<http://marketplace.unl.edu/extension/extpubs/ec130.html>).

*Additional info at [www.cropwatch.unl.edu](http://www.cropwatch.unl.edu).*





## 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)



# Newsheat

Nebraska Wheat Growers Association  
PO Box 95063  
Lincoln, NE 68509

Return Service Requested



## Call for Volunteers!

NWGA is seeking volunteers to help with the Chase County Fair! Below is the schedule of events. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact our office at 402-471-2358 or email [newheatgrowers@gmail.com](mailto:newheatgrowers@gmail.com).

All volunteers will be reimbursed mileage for the day.

### Thursday, August 16

2:30 pm	Volunteers arrive/setup
3:00 pm	Serve cookies, hands-on wheat activities
7:30 pm	Clean-up

### Friday, August 17

2:30 pm	Volunteers arrive/setup
3:00 pm	Serve cookies, hands-on wheat activities
7:30 pm	Clean-up

### Saturday, August 18

9:30 am	Line up for parade
10:30 am	Parade begins
11:30 pm	Parade volunteers dismissed
12:00 pm	Booth volunteers arrive/setup
12:30 pm	Serve cookies, hands-on wheat activities
3:30 pm	2nd set volunteers arrive/1st set relieved
7:00 pm	Booth teardown

## Golf Sponsorships

*Is your organization or company interested in reaching out to Nebraska wheat farmers? Considering becoming a hole sponsor at the NWGA annual golf tournament.*

### **HOLE SPONSORSHIP -- \$100**

- Company name and/or logo placed on sign at sponsored hole
- Opportunity to place company literature at the sponsored hole
- Opportunity for company representative to engage with golfers at sponsored hole
- Company listed as sponsor on Facebook & Twitter
- Company listed as sponsor in NWGA newsletter

### **IN-KIND DOOR & PIN PRIZE SPONSORS**

*Those wishing to make a donation of items for door or pin prizes may contact the NWGA office at 402-471-2358. We prefer prizes have a minimum value of \$25.*