

Newswhet

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Randon Peters
President
McCook

We closed out another year; 2016 was one to remember-or-forget! Yields were great, prices in the tank! Well, there is always next year. So far, the wheat looks great. We had adequate moisture in most areas to get a good stand. October & November were dry and warm. With abnormally warm fall weather, I become concerned about too much growth going into the winter. This was offset by the dry conditions. When it did decide to cool off, the transition was fairly gradual and came with much needed moisture. The only thing I can guarantee is that we can expect several more wild swings before the combines hit the field.

Talking about wild, how about that election? As farmers, we can only be optimistic, that's why we are still in the business. There are many positive promises given by Mr. Trump and several that may have negative effects. We will know more in a year, but it is always a good time to contact your representatives & voice your concerns.

I look forward to hearing from you and enjoy talking about agriculture. I can always be contacted at randonpeters@gmail.com or can be found on Twitter. Thank you.



Mark Spurgin
Executive Board
Paxton

November 8 has come and gone. The sun came up the next day and the earth is still turning. 2017 and beyond is going to be interesting, challenging, rewarding, and exciting to say the least.

The growing wheat is looking about average after going through a "ruff" start. With warm spells and cold snaps the wheat plant is wondering if it should stay asleep or wake up, but overall the wheat should come through the winter OK.

We will be going to Washington DC to visit with our Senators and Congressman/women to let them know what is going on in the country. It will be very informative for all concerned. If you have comments let us know. Have a safe and prosperous 2017.

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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-4: NWGA opposes the creation of a super commodity board or placing all commodity boards under a single director.

I-C General

I-C-2: NWGA is in favor of selling the state school lands over a five (5) to ten (10) year period.

I-C-4: NWGA is in support of local NRD's having control of their districts.

II-A Membership

II-A-1: We recommend that the Association make every effort to attract farmers as members. In the recruitment of the younger members, we also must make every effort to offer education as aims and goals of the organization.

II-A-3: NWGA supports any group or organization, such as FFA, FCCLA, 4-H, and other ag related organizations that are having meetings, which will enable us to pass on our information, hoping to create awareness of and increased interest in the NWGA.

III-A Federal Farm Policy

III-A-2: NWGA opposes any farm program that eliminates income supports after a transition period.

III-A-6: NWGA recommends that locally elected FSA county committees maintain local control over FSA, NRCS and Ag Credit, including supervision of GS employees.

III-A-7: NWGA supports the use of short term CRP to increase the allowable maximum acres in current CRP programs.

III-B Taxes

III-B-14: NWGA supports the federal legislation, the Homestead Economic Development Act, for enhancing rural development.

III-C Crop Insurance

III-C-5: NWGA encourages RMA to continue the Crop Revenue Program and to expand it to include county

approved crops.

III-D Transportation

III-D-15: NWGA supports trucks that are farm plated, including tractor-trailer rigs, and are driven less than 250 miles from home or within the Nebraska borders and less than 10,000 miles annually be exempt from Part 395 (log books), Part 391 (physicals, DCL, and DOT tests), and Part 392 with exceptions.

III-D-19: NWGA opposes possible DOT regulations to require rear bumpers on farm trucks.

IV-A Crop Protection

IV-A-3: NWGA requests continued studies be conducted to determine the rate of pollution caused by the over-application of fertilizers and chemicals and water inside the city limits.

IV-B Conservation

IV-B-5: NWGA supports development of proposals to extend CRP contracts at a fair and reasonable payment rate. It is recommended that a flexible incentive program for contract extensions be developed. Adequate existing stands of introduced grass will qualify for program renewal without having to plant different varieties of grass. Private funding sources, such as environmental or wildlife organizations who have an interest in seeing cover maintained, wildlife protected, and continued protection of natural resources, should be considered as a source of additional funding for extended CRP contracts.

IV-C Energy and Environment

IV-C-10: NWGA supports the exploration of methods to reward producers for the sequestration of carbon credits in the regular farming practices.

V-A Research

V-A-9: NWGA supports innovative breeding technologies that can bring about advancements in wheat genetics free of government overregulation and interference.

VI-B International

VI-A-4: NWGA strongly supports a fully funded separately authorized Foreign Market Development and Market Access programs within the USDA.

Fertilizing Winter Wheat

Article by Gary Hergert & Timothy Shaver

Determining Nutrient Need

Profitable winter wheat production often requires nitrogen (N) and Phosphorus (P) fertilization in Nebraska, when there is adequate moisture. Other nutrients may be needed for some fields, but most Nebraska soils supply adequate nutrients other than N and P. In drought years, higher nitrogen rates can decrease yields. Soil test results are needed to optimize fertilizer use.

Soil Testing

Soil testing, the foundation of nutrient management in winter wheat, characterizes soil nutrient availability. Recommended fertilizers can then be applied to ensure optimal nutrition for the crop.

Information on proper soil sampling is provided in NebGuide G1740, Guidelines for Soil Sampling. Soil samples from the surface (0 to 8 inches) or tillage layer should be analyzed for organic matter, pH, and other nutrients including nitrate.

Collect composite cores from at least 15 points in the field from areas measuring 40 acres or less. More than one set of samples may be necessary, if parts of the fields differ due to the previous crop or soil characteristics such as slope, color, or texture. Complete soil testing is recommended every three to five years. However, soil testing for nitrate-nitrogen ($\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$) is recommended before planting each wheat crop.

Deeper soil samples are necessary for the most accurate prediction of nitrogen needs. Samples should include an upper soil or tillage-layer sample (0-8 inches) and a sample from 8 to 36 or 48 inches with at least 6 to 8 samples taken from a 40-acre area.

Nitrogen Recommendations

Most winter wheat grown in Nebraska requires nitrogen fertilization for profitable production. This is true for virtually all soils in Nebraska where wheat is commonly grown unless there is a large carryover of nitrate-N.

Residual soil nitrate can be measured effectively with a soil test of the root zone. While the depth of the root zone for wheat is often five to six feet or more, most available nitrogen affecting yield is in the top three or four feet of soil. Sampling less than three feet for residual nitrate can reduce the accuracy of the nitrogen fertilizer recommendation and adjusting N recommendations from samples less than two feet deep is not recommended.

The optimum fertilizer nitrogen rate for winter wheat (with a maximum rate of 100 lb. of nitrogen per acre for dryland, and 150 lb. of nitrogen per acre irrigated) can be calculated with the following equation:

$$\text{Nitrogen Rate (lbs/acre)} = ((\text{N Price/Wheat Price}) + (\text{NO}_3\text{-N}/68.7) - 0.235) \times 725$$

Where:

- N Price is dollars per lb. of fertilizer nitrogen
- Wheat Price is in dollars per bushel of wheat
- $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$ is the average parts per million (PPM) nitrate-nitrogen in the top three of four feet.
- If a soil sample is not taken, an average soil nitrate level of 5 ppm of nitrate-nitrogen can be used.

Example: A field has a soil test value of 5 ppm residual nitrate-nitrogen in a 3-foot soil profile. The nitrogen costs \$0.40 per lb and the wheat crop will sell for \$5.00 per bushel. The nitrogen fertilizer requirement is calculated as follows:

Table I. Nitrogen fertilizer recommendations for wheat

| Wheat Price (\$/bu) | \$3.50 | | | \$4.50 | | | \$5.50 | | | \$6.50 | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Fertilizer Price \$/lb of N | \$ 0.25 | \$ 0.50 | \$ 0.75 | \$ 0.25 | \$ 0.50 | \$ 0.75 | \$ 0.25 | \$ 0.50 | \$ 0.75 | \$ 0.25 | \$ 0.50 | \$ 0.75 |
| Soil test $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$ ppm | Nitrogen Application Rate -- pounds of N per acre | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | 100 | 45 | 0 | 110 | 70 | 30 | 115 | 85 | 50 | 120 | 95 | 65 |
| 4 | 75 | 25 | 0 | 90 | 50 | 10 | 95 | 60 | 30 | 100 | 75 | 45 |
| 6 | 55 | 0 | 0 | 65 | 25 | 0 | 75 | 40 | 10 | 80 | 50 | 25 |
| 8 | 35 | 0 | 0 | 45 | 0 | 0 | 55 | 20 | 0 | 60 | 30 | 10 |
| 10 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 40 | 10 | 0 |
| 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 0 |



Nitrogen need (lb. N/acre) = $((0.40/5.00) = (5/68.7) - 0.235) \times 725$

Nitrogen need = 60 lb. N/acre

Recommended nitrogen rates are adequate for dryland yields across the state unless producers expect yields above 75 bushels per acre above which an additional 20 lb. of nitrogen per acre should be applied.

When to Apply Nitrogen

Nitrogen applications have a high probability of increasing yield when soil nitrogen availability is low in relation to yield potential, but nitrogen fertilizer application can cause yield depression, mainly under dry conditions.

Yield depressions have occurred more often with fall applications than with spring topdressing applications. Fall applications tend to stimulate increased vegetative growth that depletes the soil water and may increase susceptibility to disease. Yield depressions associated with fall application of nitrogen are uncommon and should not be used as a basis for not applying nitrogen to wheat.

If yield depression is a concern, especially in western Nebraska, spring topdressing is recommended. Spring topdressing allows the producer to evaluate yield potential based on plant stands and soil moisture. Some fall-applied N (10-20 lb/acre) should be applied to promote growth for cover and competition with weeds.

Topdressing the remaining N has a significant advantage over applying all N in the fall. It helps the producer avoid investing in a wheat crop that may have low yield potential and should be completed prior to jointing. With nitrogen applications made after jointing, yield response is decreased, but grain protein content generally shows an increase compared to non-fertilized wheat.

Yield decreases due to nitrogen applications can occur on soils high in available nitrogen. When available nitrogen is too high, lodging often results, especially with high soil moisture in the spring. This emphasizes the importance of soil tests to determine soil nitrogen availability.

Sources of Nitrogen for Wheat

All common nitrogen fertilizer sources are similarly

effective, including urea (46-0-0), urea-ammonium nitrate (32-0-0 or 28-0-0), and anhydrous ammonia (82-0-0), when properly applied. Nitrogen sources vary in their susceptibility to volatilization or gaseous loss as ammonia to the atmosphere. In incorporation of fertilizer (mechanical, rainfall, or irrigation) soon after application should provide equal effectiveness of sources.

Newer ammonia applicators with coulters allow narrower knife spacing (15 inches) and also operate at shallower depths, greatly reducing power requirements. Depending on local pricing, ammonia application rates must be more than 40 lb. of nitrogen per acre to be more economical than other nitrogen sources. In western fallow areas, ammonia is generally a good source if it is applied early in the fallow period to avoid soil drying prior to seeding.

Fertilizing for Grain Protein

Nebraska wheat has traditionally been high in protein content and quality, desirable characteristics for the baking industry. Nitrogen availability directly affects grain protein. With high soil nitrogen, grain protein is often 13 percent or higher, depending on yield levels. If soil nitrogen is low, grain protein tends to decrease as grain yield increases.

Since grain protein reflects soil nitrogen availability, it can reflect when wheat yield will increase with applied nitrogen. A grain protein level of 12 percent to 13 percent, with an average yield, indicates adequate nitrogen. If grain protein is in the 10 to 11 percent range, however, yield response to nitrogen is very probable.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln nitrogen fertilizer recommendations for wheat will generally produce grain protein above 12 percent. If higher grain protein is your goal, about 20 lb per acre additional nitrogen will need to be topdressed in the spring for each one percent increase in grain protein desired, up to a maximum of 40 lbs N per acre.

Fertilizing with Nitrogen Following High Yields

For most wheat grown in wheat-fallow or wheat-summer crop-fallow systems, producers have sufficient time for straw decomposition before the next wheat crop, if favorable soil moisture and temperature conditions exist.

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Fertilizing Winter Wheat

Continuous wheat cropping is another consideration. This is not a recommended practice, because of disease and insect concerns, but it is done in some areas.

A producer planting wheat following above-average grain yields, may need increased nitrogen fertilizer due to increased nitrogen removal by the previous crop and because the increased straw requires additional N for decomposition.

Straw yields increase about 0.35 tons for each 10-bushel-per-acre increase in grain yields for semidwarf varieties and 0.45 tons for taller varieties. Straw only contains about 10 lb. of nitrogen per ton.

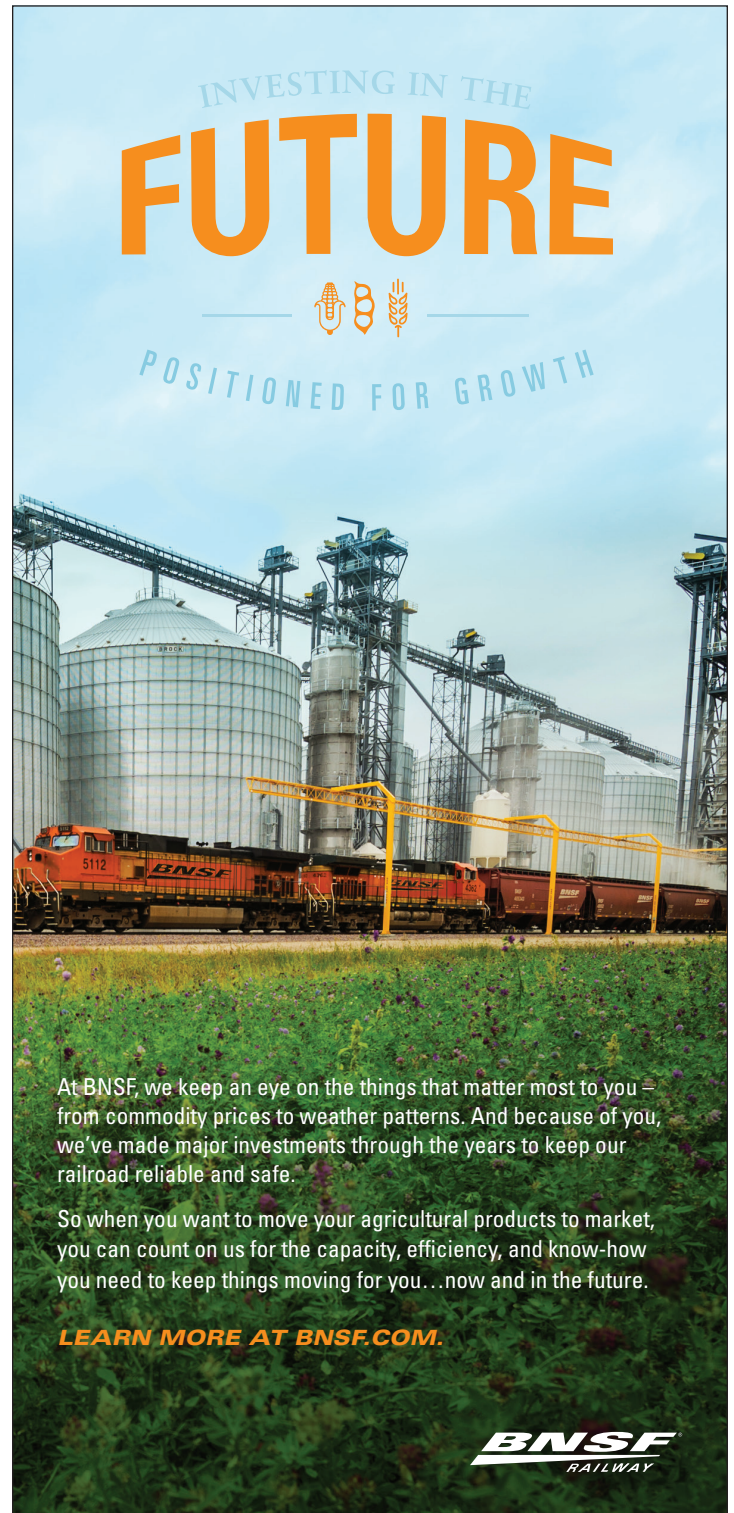
Wheat following grain yields of 70 bushels per acre or


more may require an additional 20 lb. of N per acre for proper straw decomposition to avoid nitrogen deficiency from N immobilization. This N deficiency usually does not express itself until the next spring during the wheat's rapid growth.

If these conditions exist, additional N can be applied when straw is tilled before planting or the additional N could be added during rapid vegetative growth early the following spring.

Upcoming Events

- USW/NAWG Winter Meetings, Washington DC, Jan 30-Feb 2
- Bake & Take, Lincoln, Feb 15
- NWB meeting, Lincoln, Feb 15
- Farm Bill Hearing, Manhattan, KS, Feb 23
- Commodity Classic, San Antonio, TX, Feb 28-March 1
 - Governor's Ag Conference, Kearney, March 14-15
- State FFA Convention, Lincoln, April 5-8



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TPP Withdraw Disappointing, Though Not Surprising

NAWG Update - The National Association of Wheat Growers recognize that President Trump's executive order to withdraw the United States from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) was inevitable. It is disappointing, however, that until an alternative trade policy is established, expanded export opportunities in the Pacific Rim markets that could help U.S. wheat farmers at a time when they need it most are very much at risk. Following the announcement, NAWG and U.S. Wheat Associates issued a joint statement expressing disappointment in the executive action.

"Without TPP or alternative agreements, U.S. farmers will be forced to the sidelines of trade while losing market share in the region to our competitors including Australia, Canada, Russia and the European Union, which have current agreements or are negotiating new ones with countries outside the network of existing U.S. trade agreements," said Gordon Stoner, NAWG President and a wheat farmer from Outlook, Montana, following the President's announcement.

Trade agreements must provide the most benefit possible to our farmers and industries and we continue to support new agreements that expand free, rules-based trade, as TPP would have done, and encourage that agricultural interests be able to continue to provide input into those negotiations.

Senate Ag Committee to Hold First Field Hearing in February

NAWG Update - Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts (R-KS) and Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) jointly announced that the Committee would hold its first field hearing of the 115th Congress on February 23, 2017 in Manhattan, KS. The intention of the hearing will be to hear from farmers about how Farm Bill programs have been working for them. The announcement of this hearing is further indication that Congressional efforts to reauthorize the Farm Bill will be beginning quickly.

NWGA participated in the National Association of Wheat Growers Winter Conference in Washington, DC where many Farm Bill issues and priorities were discussed, and is considering sending a representative to the hearing in Manhattan.

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Membership Fees

Grower/Producer/Landlord

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Name of Farm or Operation:

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Additional Name(s) on Membership:

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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)

Wheat Grower Organizations Welcome New Trade Enforcement Actions Challenging China Policies

WASHINGTON, DC — U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) and the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) welcome two trade dispute actions by the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) challenging Chinese government policies that distort the wheat market and harm wheat growers throughout the rest of the world. USW and NAWG are encouraged to see the U.S. government take such a strong position on trade enforcement, which is crucial for building confidence in existing and new trade agreements.

The USTR filed a request on Dec. 15, 2016, for consultations with the World Trade Organization (WTO), alleging that China is not fairly administering its annual tariff rate quotas (TRQ) for corn, rice and 9.64 million metric tons (MMT) of imported wheat. This request states that China's TRQ administration unfairly impedes wheat export opportunities. The USTR announced the TRQ action simultaneously with a request that the WTO form a dispute panel in the case it filed in September against China's excessive market price support for domestic wheat, corn and rice production.

"As with its price support case, the USTR is shining a light on other policies that pre-empt market driven wheat trade, stifle our export opportunities and force private sector buyers and Chinese consumers to pay far more for milling wheat and wheat-based foods," said USW President Alan Tracy.

"The facts in these two cases go hand-in-hand, demonstrating how Chinese government policies create an unfair advantage for domestic wheat production," said Gordon Stoner, president of NAWG and a wheat farmer from Outlook, Montana. "Both actions call attention to the fact that when all countries follow the rules, a pro-trade agenda and trade agreements work for U.S. wheat farmers and their customers."

China's wheat TRQ was established in its WTO membership agreement in 2001. Under that agreement, China is allowed to initially allocate 90 percent of the TRQ to be imported through government buyers, or

state trading enterprises (STEs), with only 10 percent reserved for private sector importers. The private sector portion of the TRQ is functioning well enough to be filled in recent years, in part because Chinese millers are trying to meet growing demand for products that require flour from different wheat classes with better milling and baking characteristics than domestically produced wheat provides. However, China's notifications to the WTO on TRQ usage show an average fill rate of only 23 percent.

The WTO does not require that TRQs fill every year, but it has established rules regarding transparency and administration that are intended to facilitate the use of TRQs.

"When you consider that China's domestic wheat prices are more than 40 percent higher than the landed cost of U.S. wheat imported from the Pacific Northwest, it would be logical to assume the TRQ would be fully used if the system were operating fairly, transparently and predictably as the rules intend. It is clearly not operating that way," said Tracy. "This troublesome administration of China's wheat TRQ is restraining export opportunities for U.S. wheat farmers and farmers from Canada, Australia and other wheat exporting countries to the detriment of Chinese consumers."

The facts also argue against potential claims that enforcing the TRQ agreement would threaten China's food security. China produces more wheat each year than any other single country and currently holds an estimated 45 percent of the world's abundant wheat supplies. If China met its 9.64 MMT wheat TRQ, it would move up from number 14 to number 2 on the list of the world's largest wheat importers, and its farmers would still produce 90 percent of domestically consumed wheat. Opening the wheat TRQ would also allow private sector millers and food producers to import the types of wheat they say they need, but cannot now obtain, and the benefits would be passed on to China's consumers.

USW and NAWG also applaud the USTR's request for a dispute panel in its WTO challenge to China's trade-

distorting market price support programs for wheat, corn and rice. It is a crucial step toward reining in a policy that costs U.S. wheat farmers between \$650 and \$700 million annually in lost income by pre-empting export opportunities and suppressing global prices, according to a 2016 Iowa State University study sponsored by USW.

USW's mission is to "develop, maintain, and expand international markets to enhance the profitability of U.S. wheat producers and their customers." USW activities in more than 100 countries are made possible through producer checkoff dollars managed by 19 state wheat commissions and cost-share funding provided by USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service. For more information, visit our website at www.uswheat.org.

NAWG is a federation of 22 state wheat grower associations that works to represent the needs and interests of wheat producers before Congress and federal agencies. Based in Washington, DC, NAWG is grower-governed and grower-funded, and works in areas as diverse as federal farm policy, trade, environmental regulation, agricultural research and sustainability.

Nebraska Wheat Continues Education Outreach

NWGA and NWB continued in their mission to share wheat education activities and opportunities across the state. Representatives from the organizations provided televised holiday baking demonstrations, supported the Wheat Ambassadors in multiple school visits and presentations, and presented a wheat workshop with Ag in the Classroom for children at the US Custom Harvesters annual convention in Omaha.

NWB also sent a team of producers to Portland, Oregon to participate in a Wheat Export and Marketing Workshop with the Wheat Marketing Center. This workshop is held annually and covers topics like research, wheat product development, Federal Grain Inspection Service, transportation for international marketing of grain, and domestic uses of wheat.



Autumn Lemmer, a Nebraska Wheat Ambassador, helps with cleanup after a bag of flour popped during a tortilla in a bag project at the US Custom Harvesters Convention.



Participants in the Wheat Marketing Center tour learn how instant noodles are made using different blends of US wheat classes.



Several kids try their hand at milling during the wheat workshop at the US Custom Harvesters Convention.

More photos on page 12

Return Service Requested



NAWG Applauds Selection of Ag Secretary Nominee

NAWG Update - President-elect Donald Trump announced his choice to lead the U.S. Department of Agriculture, former Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue. Agriculture is a top industry in the state of Georgia, and Governor brings with him a significant pedigree that will enable him to be an effective voice for farmers in the incoming Administration.



Wheat Marketing Center tour participants discuss the importance of international markets for US wheat.

"I applaud President-elect Trump for selecting an Agriculture Secretary nominee that's a former governor and has extensive experience in agriculture," said NAWG President Gordon Stoner. "He grew up on a row crop farm, has had great success in agribusiness, and has been a champion for farmers in developing public policy. With USDA as one of the largest federal departments, covering mission areas ranging from farm programs to nutrition assistance to rural development, the announcement of Governor Perdue is welcome news to America's wheat farmers."



Caroline Brauer, NWGA executive director, helps several youth plant their own wheat seeds during a wheat workshop at the US Custom Harvesters Convention.

In the coming weeks, the Senate Agriculture Committee is expected to hold a confirmation hearing before full Senate consideration. NAWG looks forward to discussing with Governor Perdue the difficult economic conditions in wheat country, as well as to engage other USDA nominees as they are put forth.