

Newsheat

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Mark Spurgin
President
Paxton

What has 2018 brought us? It started out with below zero temperatures and then a blizzard. We were lucky in our area to have a late December snow. The four inches of snow blanketed the wheat during the sub zero temperatures, hopefully protecting it. The good thing about the blizzard was that the temperatures were between 20 to 30 degrees. Our area received 8 to 10 inches of snow for awhile; most of it ended up in road ditches and the next county.

Overall everything, the crops and livestock, has survived January so far. Some calves are on the ground and are wondering, "what in the world did I come into?" The Nebraska and National Wheat growers have their work cut out for them with negotiations on NAFTA and TPP. In the long run I think we will benefit. Hope everyone has a safe and bountiful spring.

spurg@nebnet.net



Scott Osler
Executive Board
Elsie

I recently had the opportunity to visit a farmer friend in Australia as well as visit a couple of farms while there. I have to say production agriculture's joys and challenges are very much the same whether farming wheat or oysters. Earlier this year, my friend Matt had some fine looking wheat just before the boot. Then it didn't rain at all. (It still hasn't rained but that's okay for their system. If it doesn't rain during their fallow period, nothing, including weeds grows.) But the 22 bushels per acre was as poor a return as if it were a Nebraska crop. I won't complain much about my thirty mile trip to the elevator either. A hundred miles is a minimum for grain transportation in New South Wales.

Anyone familiar with grading certified seed would recognize the equipment used to grade oysters. The oyster market is more consistent and reliable than for bulk commodities but the environment can cause problems. No matter where in the world we farm, we all wish for clement weather and better markets. Here's wishing both to all of you during 2018.

scott3y@gmail.com

MARK SPURGIN ELECTED NWGA PRESIDENT

Mark Spurgin of Paxton was elected president of the association during the recent annual meeting. NWGA's president Randon Peters of McCook had termed out. Mark owns and operates Spurgin Inc., a diversified dryland-irrigated farm and small feedlot located in Keith, Lincoln and Perkins counties. He raises wheat, corn, edible beans, soybeans, popcorn and feed crops.

A graduate of the University of Nebraska, the Colorado School of Banking, and the Command and General Staff College of Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Mark has served on many other agriculture committees and organizations. He's been a member of the West Central District and Keith County Farm Advisory Committee, the Keith County Planning and Zoning Board, the District 7 Commissioner Association, the Nebraska Cattlemen, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, and the

Nebraska Crop Improvement Association. Mark also traveled with the Governor and the US Meat Export Federation on trade missions to Japan, China, Mexico and Cuba. He is also a member of the American Legion Post #303.



Randon Peters (left) shakes hands and congratulates Mark Spurgin (right) on his election as the new NWGA president.



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-5: NWGA believes wheat board appointments should be made from a list submitted from the Nebraska Wheat Growers Association.

I-A-6: NWGA urges the Nebraska Wheat Board to continue to use its statutory authority for federal lobbying during public policy debates and to actively promote Nebraska's wheat farmers' interests.

I-B Political Affairs

I-B-3: NWGA is in favor of broadening the sales tax base for the specific purpose of property tax relief. Excluded from the broadening of the sales tax base would be any inputs used in the manufacturing or production of goods or commodities that would be taxed at the consumer level.

I-C General

I-C-3: NWGA directs the Board of Directors to watch water issues in the state and try to draft resolutions to help clarify the water ownership and transfer policies in the best interest of NWGA members.

a. NWGA encourages farm producers to get involved in their local NRD's and conservation districts to assure representation by agriculture.

b. NWGA believes that any and all sanctions or controls (such as water special use areas) should apply to all users – agriculture, industrial, commercial, and municipal – and should not be discriminatory.

I-C-5: NWGA supports regulations stating current owner of surrounding land that the rail right-of-way was originally acquired from has the right of last refusal to purchase the right of way. If the right of way was originally acquired by condemnation with no compensation, the right of way should automatically be returned to current owner at no cost.

II-A Membership

II-A-2: We recommend that efforts be continued across the wheat areas of Nebraska in acquiring associate members, recognizing that the regular membership

continues as the foundation of the Association.

III-A Federal Farm Policy

III-A-4: NWGA believes that permanent farm legislation based on the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 and Agricultural Act of 1949 should remain in statute in order to provide policy in the event of a severe disruption in the export market.

III-A-8: NWGA opposes means testing as a viable alternative in controlling farm bill costs.

III-A-14: NWGA opposes using Conservation Compliance requirements as a viable alternative in controlling farm bill costs including but not limited to crop insurance.

III-A-16: NWGA opposes caps on crop insurance premium subsidies.

III-B Taxes

III-B-2: NWGA opposes sales tax on any services.

III-B-6: NWGA strongly urges the Federal Government and our State Government to no longer mandate programs and policies unless they provide the funding to pay for these mandated programs.

III-B-13: NWGA believes attempts to override caps on local property tax levy limits should only pass when over 50% of the registered voters in that taxing district approve.

III-C Crop Insurance

III-C-2: NWGA supports necessary changes to Federal Crop Policy allowing summer fallow, continuous crop, or irrigated insurable wheat within the same insurable unit to be classified as separate units when a loss occurs on either unit and loss calculation should not be commingled.

III-C-4: NWGA believes that producers should be offered cash discounts for early payments of premiums.

III-D Transportation

III-D-2: NWGA endorses a transportation service without unjust discrimination, undue preference or unfair competitive practices and a national transportation system capable of meeting the needs of the grain industry and all other U. S. commerce.

III-D-3: NWGA recommends that the Federal Highway

Trust Fund place a higher priority on dispensing funds to improve state and county roads and bridges.

III-D-5: NWGA does not believe that it is in the public interest for a common carrier to control all modes of transportation under common ownership. The NWGA believes that intermodal acquisition should be permitted only when it is definitely in the public interest and not anti-competitive.

III-D-6: NWGA urges that 60 to 90 days notification be given prior to any freight rate increase going into effect. This notification must appear in widely circulated rural newspapers and/or magazines. The present tariff filing requirements should be retained.

III-D-7: NWGA supports the requirement of joint line rates and routes between carriers

III-D-8: NWGA urges retention of the right of reciprocal switching at reasonable cost to protect competition in all markets served by more than one carrier.

III-D-9: The railroad firms should be required by legislation or legal contracts to be accountable to the shippers for comparable penalties that for failure to provide adequate notice of car delivery, or do not pick up the cars within the time period, the railroad company is using to determine freight rates for the shipment, or for any undue delay the railroad company may cause fiscal loss or damage to shippers, including need for extra employee commitment beyond normal working hours, as a precaution to assure safe operation of the grain elevator and train loading.

III-D-10: NWGA shall take appropriate action to represent the interests of wheat producers by working with State and National Government or through NAWG to focus on identifying appropriate legal or civil authority requiring railroads to contribute financial support for construction of rail sidings necessary to meet new or special conditions imposed on local grain shippers.

III-D-11: NWGA recommends that STB include service to rail shippers as consideration when they act on proposed mergers or rates within Class 1 railroads.

III-D-12: NWGA supports and recommends the Nebraska Wheat Board support ARC's position of requiring railroads to allow joint rail use in certain limited access or congested areas and to find solutions to bottleneck rate limitations, plus support efforts to provide for more competition between rail carriers.

III-D-13: NWGA urges Congress to develop legislation if needed to maintain the long-standing common carrier obligation and liability of railroads and motor carriers.

III-D-14: NWGA urges continuation of the local rail services assistance program at a properly funded level.

III-D-16: NWGA supports farm plated vehicles be exempt from Haz/Mat requirements for non-commercial use.

III-D-17: The overall length for the farm trucks pulling pups is extended to 65 feet for the truck box and trailer.

III-D-18: NWGA supports ensuring legal length and width limits on Nebraska state highways are set so as to not disadvantage Nebraska producers when compared to neighboring state limits.

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

III-D-20: NWGA opposes mandated ELD record keeping requirements.

IV-A Crop Protection

IV-A-1: NWGA should:

a. cooperate with other user groups in defending useful pesticide products against unwanted restrictions and help demonstrate to the public the vital role of pesticides in agricultural production;

b. recognize that proper application of pesticides is critical and encourage the continued funding of existing programs through USDA EPA for pesticide application training;

c. support continued pest control research, including integrated pest management, by public agencies and industry as necessary to the future of world agriculture;

d. oppose the use of public monies for funding anti-pesticide activities by special interest groups

IV-A-2: NWGA opposes any unnecessary restrictions being placed on the injection of pesticides through the irrigation systems, and supports dissemination of proper information and advice regarding NRD chemigation regulations

IV-A-4: NWGA encourages industry to develop, test and market cost effective chemicals for the control of chemically resistant weeds.

IV-A-5: Since municipal water supplies in the state of Nebraska are being monitored for purity, and rural domestic water supplies are not included in this program and the NRD presently have observation wells in place, the NWGA requests that the NRD submit water samples from all active wells that are tested, with the results being submitted to the local SCS offices, and be made public.

IV-A-6: NWGA request atrazine labels are modified to return millet and native grass as permitted use acres and have atrazine continued to be available for use in winter wheat.

IV-A-7: NWGA supports retaining atrazine and 2-4-D for agricultural use.

IV-B Conservation

IV-B-1: NWGA supports conservation payments for approved farming practices, including buffer zones that conserve the environment.

IV-B-2: NWGA supports reasonable and proper conservation measures on farmland. Conservation plans should focus on erosion reduction and should be flexible enough to allow appropriate methods to achieve this reduction. Residue should not be a required or dominant means of achieving erosion reduction if it can be achieved by other methods such as terracing, field size and soil aggregation.

IV-B-3: Cost-share funding for conservation structures, such as terracing, should be maintained at current levels. This funding could be in the form of direct payments, or tax credits. State funding should come from general revenues, not property taxation.

IV-B-6: NWGA supports the increase of maximum acreage limitation on wetland reserve programs.

IV-B-9: NWGA recognizes the importance of protecting water from nutrient and sediment loadings. We support voluntary measures including conservation programs to achieve desired environmental goals but oppose EPA efforts to impose mandatory and enforceable requirements for non-point source pollution from agricultural lands.

IV-C Energy and Environment

IV-C-1: NWGA supports the idea of a state and national policy aimed at requiring the exclusive use of ethanol blended fuels in Nebraska and the United States containing not less than 15% blend.

IV-C-2: The Department of Defense should use defense department funds to promote renewable fuels production throughout the grain producing areas of the U. S. to assure a fuel supply in the event of an oil embargo and that said renewable fuel production becomes a part of the national security fuel reserve.

IV-C-3: NWGA supports a continued federal tax exemption on renewable fuels in order to provide continued support for the Ethanol industry in Nebraska and the nation.

IV-C-4: NWGA opposes any new emission or dust particle control mandates on non-point sources in agriculture that may be imposed by the EPA or other federal, state or city agencies.

IV-C-5: NWGA promotes the increase and availability of E85 in all parts of Nebraska and the nation.

IV-C-6: NWGA recommends that the current arsenic tolerance level should be restored to 50 parts per billion.

IV-C-7: The NWGA endorses the goal of attaining energy

independence in the USA and believes that nuclear, solar and wind-generated power should play a role in attaining that objective.

IV-C-11: NWGA supports the exemption of agriculture from capped sector regulation and requires the inclusion of a robust agriculture offset provision in any said legislation. Furthermore, NWGA opposes EPA regulation of climate change.

IV-C-12: NWGA encourages verifiable scientific data and open communication regarding environmental issues affecting agriculture and United States economy.

V-A Research

V-A-2: NWGA encourages the Nebraska Wheat Board to continue research and variety development in Hard White Wheat including dry land and rotational crops.

V-A-3: NWGA will pursue increased or re-allocated funding for regional ARS research located at Manhattan, KS and Lincoln, NE targeted at a quality-based marketing system while ensuring high-yielding and end-use quality wheat.

V-A-5: NWGA understands that the quality of Nebraska wheat is in itself a “value Added” product and supports efforts to market it nationally and internationally.

V-A-10: NWGA recognizes the importance of USDA-ARS research and feels it’s important that USDA-ARS maintains a small grains geneticist and the small grains regional nursery program at the Lincoln, Neb. Station.

V-A-11: NWGA supports UNL maintaining a strong small-grains breeding program and encourages development of succession plans for key personnel retirements.

V-B Grain Quality

V-B-1: NWGA requests FGIS to change the U. S. grain standard so as to report protein on a dry matter basis.

V-B-3: NWGA supports a unified testing procedure to verify the accuracy of protein testing equipment.

VI-A Domestic

VI-A-9: NWGA recognizes the need for a low-level presence standard to be established for non-GMO bulk commodity shipments as zero-tolerance levels are unattainable.

VI-A-10: NWGA supports the development of additional end-uses for wheat, wheat byproducts and wheat straw.

VI-B International

VI-B-1: NWGA supports WTO negotiations as long as the support is conditional to include that State Trading

Organizations non-transparent trading practices shall be a primary subject for negotiators, so it does not have an adverse affect on farm policy, and further that SPS issues will be clarified by agreements to prevent undue trade interference not supported by scientific research.

VI-B-2: NWGA opposes spending any of the United States food aid program budget to buy foreign grain or processed grain products instead of purchasing American grain or processed grain products.

VI-B-4: NWGA opposes the renegotiation of trade agreements when that renegotiation would be detrimental to wheat exports.

Baking Lab to Las Vegas

NWGA recently worked with Ardent Mills to provide the Mobile Baking lab for a trade show event. The Baking Lab traveled to Las Vegas for the Tim Horton Trade Show event. Transportation was provided by volunteers Tracy and Callie Zeorian. The following photos are also courtesy of the Zeorians.

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

ARDENT MILLS
PROUDLY
SUPPORTS
NEBRASKA
WHEAT

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.



Nourishing what's next.™

WE STRIVE TO BE
YOUR PREFERRED
WHEAT BUYER.

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working for
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NWGA's 12 Days of Christmas

Wheat Treats social media promotion

During the holiday season, NWGA took to social media to reach consumers via some yummy wheat recipes. Taking a spin on the “12 Days of Christmas,” NWGA shared one holiday-themed wheat treat recipe each day for the 12 days leading up to Christmas Eve. The recipes were developed in print before being assembled in a kitchen. The baking and cooking process was either filmed or photographed. The resulting recipes were posted to Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, the NWGA/NWB website and the NWGA food blog *Fun With Wheat* (www.funwithwheat.com). The Nebraska Wheat Board assisted and shared the recipes on their Facebook page as well. On Facebook, the recipes reached more than 14,000 people and were watched for a combined 14 hours. Most recipe videos averaged 30-50 seconds in length. On Twitter, the videos had over 10,000 impressions and the account gained 30 new followers.

Those interested in the recipes may visit any of the above mentioned sources to view them. Recipes may also be obtained by contacting the NWGA office. The following images are a complete list of recipes shared.



Candycane Trifle



Salty Caramel Oreos



Pesto Pinwheels



Holiday Brookies



Chocolate Monkey Bread



Eggnog Cinnamon Rolls



Eggnogg Trifle



Ranch Snack Mix



Holiday Funfetti Pancakes



Donut Snoman Pops



Holiday Eggs in a Basket



Holiday Thin Mint Cookies



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)

Wheat Organizations from US, Canada and Mexico call for successful NAFTA agreement

Washington, D.C. (January 25, 2018) – Today, organizations along the North American wheat value chain sent a letter to President Trump, President Peña Nieto, Prime Minister Trudeau, as well as with lead negotiators from each country, Ambassador Lighthizer, Minister Freeland, and Minister Guajardo, stressing the importance of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to the wheat industry. Ranging from seed to bread and baked goods, key groups from the wheat value chain signed onto the letter.

“As we enter the sixth round of negotiations, it’s important to remember that NAFTA created the world’s largest free trade area between the United States, Mexico, and Canada,” said Gordon Stoner, President of the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) and a wheat farmer from Outlook, Mont. “NAFTA has benefited not only wheat growers but all our partners along the entire value chain from farmers to consumers and everyone in between. The fact that wheat producers and end users from all three countries would speak with one voice about the importance of NAFTA should speak volumes to our leaders.”

“The relationship between U.S. wheat farmers and Mexican flour millers and wheat food companies took off with NAFTA,” said Mike Miller, Chairman of U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) and a wheat farmer from Ritzville, Wash. “It is a highly successful partnership, with tariff-free access, that helped make Mexico our largest customer the past two years and supports revenue for wheat farmers from dozens of states.”

In the letter, the groups emphasized that an updated trade deal is critical to ensure that all of us can work together to provide the highest quality products at the greatest value for both the supply chain and consumers. Further, the letter states that an integrated supply chain between the three countries is only effective with NAFTA in place.

“The industry understands the need to modernize the 23-year-old agreement, but it must be done in a way that benefits the food and agriculture sectors in all three countries,” continued Stoner. “It’s critical that all parties remember during the negotiations that when one link breaks, the entire chain is weakened.”

The following organizations signed the letter: American Bakers Association; Cámara Nacional de la Industria Molinera de Trigo (National Chamber of Industrial Wheat Millers, Mexico); Cereals Canada; NAWG; North American Millers’ Association; USW; Western Canadian Wheat Growers.

CBO Report Suggests Cuts to Crop Insurance

NAWG Update - Despite the lower indemnities, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is outlining ideas for Congress to cut the cost of the federal crop insurance program, reported AgriPulse. Shortly before Christmas, CBO issued a 38-page report that provides background on the program and a series of options for possible reforms.

Among the options CBO offers: Capping annual premium subsidies at \$50,000 a year. CBO says that would save \$3.4 billion over 10 years while having a relatively modest impact on participation. Enrollment would be reduced by 500,000 acres and producers would choose lower coverage levels on 2 million acres, CBO says. CBO currently projects that the program will cost \$77 billion over the next 10 years.

“NAWG believes this study fails to take in account that the risk in the business of agriculture is different from risk in other businesses.

“In agriculture, farmers face lower rate of returns, weather related risks, and market risks due to a global market distorted by high foreign subsidies, tariffs, and non-tariff trade barriers. They are also up against unfair playing field with countries like China who aren’t hoping up to their end of the deal.

“NAWG continues to oppose any efforts that would undermine the current structure of the federal crop insurance program.”

NWGA 2017 Annual Award Winners

Person/Organization of the Year
National Manufacturing Ltd.



Based in Lincoln, National Manufacturing first started creating cereal grain testing equipment in 1939. Since then they've become an industry leader and their equipment has been used by researchers at institutions like UNL, Kansas State, Texas A&M, Washington State, the USDA and others. But this Nebraska company does more than enable researchers to continue developing wheat varieties and products that support our industry. They have been a vital part in enabling the Nebraska Wheat Growers Association to continue with our mission of wheat education for consumers.

National Manufacturing both developed and repaired the table top threshing machines used by us and the Nebraska Wheat Board at trade shows to demonstrate the harvest process for consumers. They've willingly provided tours of their facilities to interested trade delegations, farmer and school groups to show the role science and technology play in wheat breeding and research. They've also donated the time and provided several repairs to equipment and supplies in our Mobile Baking Lab. Without the assistance of National Manufacturing this year, NWGA would not have been able to participate in as many events. They played an important role in helping us continue to connect producers and consumers and share our educational messages.

Outstanding Achievement
Dr. Robert Graybosch



Dr. Robert Graybosch has worked as a research geneticist with the USDA-ARS since 1987. His work has advanced germplasm lines and breeding programs across the country, but particularly here in Nebraska. He helped start the white wheat program in Nebraska by assisting in the development and release of the white wheats Anton, Arrowsmith and Antelope. He identified and released the world's first cultivar, Mace, that was resistant to both Wheat streak mosaic virus and Triticum mosaic virus. He also developed Mattern, which was the first waxy wheat adapted to the Great Plains. His research and data helped lead to the UNL/USDA released cultivars Nuplains, Wesley, Niobrara, Harry, Hallam, Overland, Infinity CL, McGill, Robidoux, Settler CL and Ruth. Since 1998, Dr. Graybosch has served as coordinator for the USDA-ARS Hard Winter Wheat Regional Nursery program, a vital program used to evaluate wheat cultivars prior to their release.

Bob has published over 150 scientific papers and 35 technical reports, proceedings papers, and book chapters. He served on the editorial boards of several journals, including Cereal Chemistry, Crop Science, The Journal of Cereal Science and The Journal of Plant Registrations. Finally, Dr. Graybosch has served on numerous graduate student committees at the University of Nebraska, including personally directing PhD dissertations dealing with grain polyphenol oxidase, tolerance of wheat to pre-harvest sprouting, and the development and characterization of wheats with low levels of grain phytic acid for the past 5 years.

Dr. Graybosch's work has undoubtedly enhanced the wheat industry in our state and benefited wheat growers across Nebraska and the United States.

Return Service Requested



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A graduate of the University of Nebraska, the Colorado School of Banking, and the Command and General Staff College of Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Mark has served on many other agriculture committees and organizations. He's been a member of the West Central District and Keith County Farm Advisory Committee, the Keith County Planning and Zoning Board, the District 7 Commissioner Association, the Nebraska Cattlemen, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, and the Nebraska Crop Improvement Association. Mark also traveled with the Governor and the US Meat Export Federation on trade missions to Japan, China, Mexico and Cuba. He is also a member of the American Legion Post #303.

Randon Peters, having termed out as president, will serve one year on the board as past-president. Other board members elected include Brian Schafer of Culbertson and Jeff Ruggles of McCook. Scott Osler of Elsie expressed his intention to step down from the NWGA board of directors, but agreed to serve until a candidate could be found to fill his seat. NWGA members interested in serving on the board of directors should contact the NWGA office or new president Mark Spurgin.



Randon Peters (left) shakes hands and congratulates Mark Spurgin (right) on his election as the new NWGA president.



Mark Spurgin (in red) visits with fairgoers outside the Mobile Baking Lab at the 2017 Chase County Fair.