

Newsheat

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Test plots in Lincoln continue their spring growth. *Photo: Dr. Stephen Baenziger*



Mark Spurgin
President
Paxton

It has been a busy winter and spring so far. Grower members went to Washington D.C., the Commodity Classic, and the Governor's Ag Conference representing your interests. The Senators and Congressmen always like it when the grass roots individuals come to tell them what is happening in the real world.

The wheat is greening up and the stands look pretty good. We have good moisture in our area to get the wheat off to a good start. This spring has been challenging to say the least. Warm weather days followed by snow has been making for an interesting farming and calving season. Even with all the setbacks I bet that the corn and soybeans will get planted. The tractors are rolling and before you know it wheat harvest will be here. I hope everyone has a safe and successful spring and summer.

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Jerry Radke
Executive Board
Big Springs

I went to the Commodity Classic this year on behalf of NWGA, and I thought it was very well attended. I definitely have a better understanding about several things related to wheat on the national policy side. I also attended and helped with the Bake & Take event in Lincoln, delivering cinnamon rolls to Governor Ricketts along with the state senators and University of Nebraska-Lincoln personnel.

The wheat is greening up nicely in our area, with top dressing of fertilizer as the weather permits. Field work is ongoing for spring crops. As we all work toward the spring season, Stay Safe. JER

jerryradke5160@gmail.com



Pete Miller
Executive Board
Lodgepole

Wheat is starting to take off and grow. The last blizzard and cold snap looks like it froze the wheat a little bit as it has a orange/brown color to it. It should be small enough yet that it will be OK.

Sprayers are finally getting going top dressing and spraying wheat. The guys that plant peas are trying to get them planted. Irrigated corn ground is getting worked and prepared for planting. It seems like everything is behind, but I'm sure it'll all get done.

pmiller1320@yahoo.com



The Goal of the National Wheat Yield Contest Is To Improve Productivity Of U.S. Wheat Growers.

Objectives

Improve the overall quality and marketability of U.S. produced wheat.

Educate & communicate to growers the importance of quality to customers.

Provide feedback to each entry on the quality level achieved by their entry in the Contest.

Utilize information from Contest to help develop best management practices to improve yield and quality.

How to Apply

On-line Entry Fee: \$125 per variety
(plus state or NAWG membership fee, if applicable)

<http://yieldcontest.wheatfoundation.org>

Timing

Online registration deadlines:

Winter Wheat – May 15th Spring Wheat - August 1st

Structure

Beginning with the 2019 Contest, entries will be judged on two levels. Each level will be eligible for a National Award with the rule that each grower can only win one National Award.

High Yield (with comparison to the USDA county average.)

The percentage increase by which the measured yield exceeds the most recent USDA published county average. After determining the High Yield National Winners, the remaining entries will be judged based on their percentage increase over the county average of the field location.

Must be a state wheat grower association member to enter (or member of NAWG if entrant is from a state that has no state grower organization).

Must use a certified or branded wheat seed variety; no bin-run seed accepted; On-line registration and harvest results reporting only.

2019 Contest Sponsors



Nebraska Wheat's Education Activities

NWGA started off March with a celebration of Bake & Take with the Nebraska Wheat Board. Cinnamon rolls were delivered to key ag leaders in the Lincoln area. Recipes and stickers were shared with 4H groups, after school programs and community organizations across the state.

In April, NWGA partnered with NWB to share wheat information with students during the State FFA Convention in Lincoln. A raffle and mini quiz was given to students at a booth sharing wheat information during the convention. The Verdigre FFA chapter won, with plans indicated on their entry to use the \$100 from NWGA for flood relief efforts in their community.

Dr. Tom Clemente also presented to students on the role of research and biotechnology in the future of agriculture. He spoke to a full room of students for more than 45 minutes. Over half the students stayed after the presentation to take a group photo with Dr. Clemente.

A small group of students also engaged in a "World of Wheat" global experience. During this mini seminar students learned about the role of exports in a presentation from U.S. Wheat Associates. A representative from the National Association of Wheat Growers spoke about the role of trade policy in agriculture. Both representatives also spoke to students about the career opportunities in trade, marketing and policy in agriculture. However, the highlight of the event was a presentation from Dr. Zak Al-Ajlouni, an associate professor of plant breeding and genetics with the Jordan University of Science and Technology. Dr. Al-Ajlouni spoke to students both about the role of wheat and research in his country. He also shared information on Jordan and what life was like there. During the presentation, students sampled a half dozen homemade dishes prepared by Dr. Al-Ajlouni and his wife which contained wheat and were authentic to their culture and country.

Later in the month, NWGA and NWB partnered with A-FAN, other commodity groups and several UNL student ag groups for Husker Food Connection. The event involved serving cookies and wheat information from the Mobile Baking Lab on the UNL City Campus student union plaza. During the event students from UNL could also pet animals like a baby calf, piglets, chickens and

lambs. A free lunch was served, and students participated in a scavenger hunt to earn free T-shirts. As part of the hunt, students had to visit stations to complete a Bingo card and learn where their lunch food originated (the farm). More than 1,500 lunches were served.

At the end of April, NWB hosted a booth at the annual convention for the Nebraska Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. During the convention, registered dietitians and nutritionists from across the state were able to engage with NWB staff to learn about gluten, grains in the diet, and the benefits of wheat nutrition.

Both NWB and NWGA also continued preparations for what will be a busy summer of trade teams, field days and more educational events. Anyone wanting to participate in or volunteer to help with educational efforts can contact the NWGA office at 402-471-2358 or newheatgrowers@gmail.com.



Dr. Zak Al-Ajlouni speaks to FFA students about wheat in Jordan while sharing a lunch of authentic Jordanian wheat foods he and his wife prepared. Photo: Dr. Stephen Baenziger



Registered nutritionists and dietitians from across the state gathered for their annual convention. Nebraska Wheat participated in the trade show, sharing info on gluten and grains.

BAKE & TAKE RECIPES

Fruit Pizza

Ingredients:

- 1 package (18 oz.) refrigerated sugar cookie dough
- 4 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 2 Tbsp. sugar
- 1 can (11 oz.) mandarin oranges, drained
- 6 large fresh strawberries, sliced in half
- 2 medium kiwis, peeled and sliced
- 1/3 cup blueberries, blackberries or raspberries



Directions:

• Roll cookie dough evenly on a 15-inch pizza pan, coated with non-stick spray. Leave approximately 1" around the pan uncovered as dough will spread in baking. Crimp outer edges of dough. Bake 12 to 15 minutes at 350° F. until edges begin to brown. Do NOT over-bake. Set aside to cool.

• Beat cream cheese with sugar until smooth. Spread evenly over cooled crust. Top with fruit and serve. Uneaten pizza must be refrigerated.

Sweet and Salty Oreos

Ingredients:

- 1 package (14.3 oz) OREO cookies
- 1 package (12 oz.) ROLO candies
- 1 package (15 oz) mini twist pretzels
- Sprinkles, optional

Directions:

• Pull OREO cookies apart, trying to keep frosting all on one side. Unwrap ROLO candies. Place plain cookie half on a parchment paper-lined cookie sheet. Top with 1 ROLO candy. Bake at 350 degrees F for 3 minutes. While cookies are baking, press one pretzel into the filling of each remaining OREO cookie half. Remove baking OREO cookies from the oven. Immediately press the pretzel and frosting cookie half down on top of the ROLO candy.



• Optional: Roll the edges of the cookies in sprinkles for a festive flair.

Celebrate Bake & Take baking and sharing a wheat food with a neighbor, friend or shut-in. This event, sponsored by wheat organizations for nearly 40 years, is an opportunity to try a new recipe, share the story of wheat and agriculture, and let someone know you're thinking of them.

ITC Report Underscores Importance of NAFTA and Passing USMCA for US Agriculture

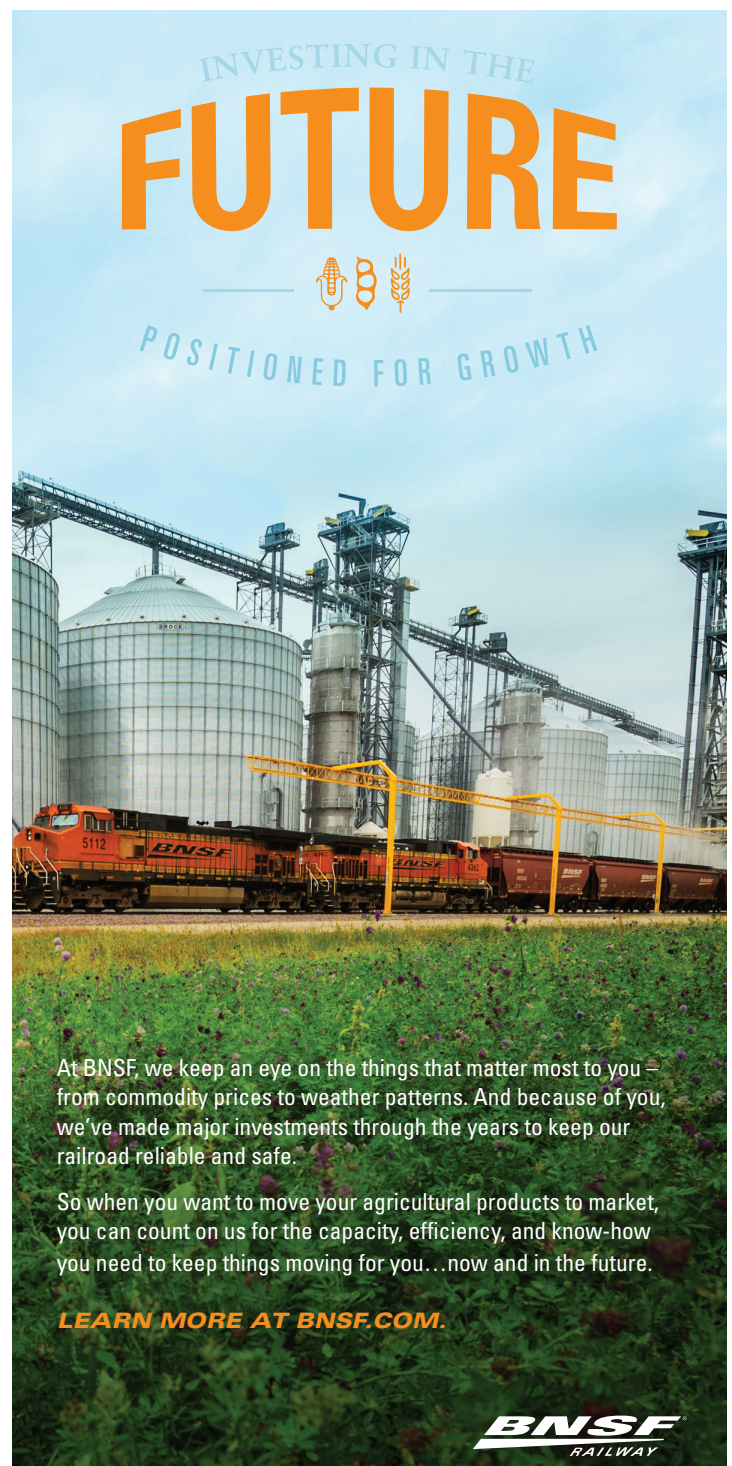
NAWG Update — The U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) released its report on the economic benefits of the United States-Mexico-Canada agreement (USMCA). NAWG President and Lavon, Texas farmer Ben Scholz issued the following statement in response:

“It is critical for Congress to understand how substantial USMCA is for agriculture, especially the undervalued wheat market. As the International Trade Commission (ITC) report just assesses the USMCA agreement as compared to the status quo (NAFTA), in which U.S. wheat farmers already have free market access, it doesn’t fully capture the importance of USMCA.


“Once NAFTA was implemented, U.S. wheat exports to Mexico shot up to an annual average of almost 3 million metric tons (more than 100 million bushels). This made Mexico the largest U.S. wheat importer in the world in the 2016/17 marketing year.

“Additionally, USMCA captures the original intentions of NAFTA while improving some of the provisions for wheat growers. It retains tariff-free access to imported U.S. wheat for our long-time flour milling customers in Mexico. Furthermore, the USMCA makes important progress towards more open commerce for U.S. wheat farmers near the border with Canada by working to fix the broken grain grading system and making trade more reciprocal along the U.S.-Canadian border.

“The ITC report is not reflective of vast benefits USMCA will bring to agriculture. A vote for USMCA means more jobs for Americans, stronger export markets for farmers to sell their crop, and billions of dollars added to the economy.”



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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.

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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)
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It's Time to Scout for Wheat Diseases

Article by Stephen Wegulo, Extension Plant Pathologist; Kyle Broderick, Extension Educator & Coordinator of the UNL Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic; UNL CropWatch. Photos by Stephen Wegulo.

The wheat growing season in Nebraska has started. Although the wheat crop is still in the early stages of development and diseases are minimal, regular scouting for early disease detection is recommended. Scouting is especially important this season due to the excessive moisture we have had from the snow and some major storms, as well as a wetter than normal weather outlook in late April into early May.

Scout the entire field or a representative area of the field once every 7 to 10 days using one of several patterns, for example X, W, or Z to walk through the field. Make frequent stops to examine plants for disease symptoms in the upper and lower crop canopy. If you observe stunting, pull a few plants and examine the crown and roots for discoloration or rotting which is a symptom of root or crown rot caused by soilborne fungal pathogens. Other symptoms to look for are:

- Wheat leaves with powdery mildew, barley yellow dwarf virus, and wheat streak mosaic or wheat soilborne mosaic virus;
- (L-R) Wheat with powdery mildew, barley yellow dwarf virus, and a mosaic of yellow and green on leaves indicative of wheat streak mosaic or wheat soilborne mosaic;
- fungal leaf spots indicative of *Septoria tritici* blotch or tan spot (Figure 1);
- stripe rust and leaf rust pustules (Figures 2 and 3),
- powdery mildew (Figure 4), general yellowing that may be due to nutrient deficiencies;
- yellowing from the leaf tip down indicative of barley yellow dwarf virus (Figure 5);
- and a mosaic of yellow and green on leaves indicative of wheat streak mosaic or wheat soilborne mosaic (Figure 6).

Samples can be mailed to the Plant and Pest Diagnostic Clinic for accurate disease identification and management recommendations. Instructions for submitting samples to the clinic can be found at <https://cropwatch.unl.edu/plantdisease/unl-diagnostic-clinic-lincoln>.

Examination of recent wheat sample submissions to the clinic revealed virus symptoms. A double infection by wheat streak mosaic virus and wheat soilborne mosaic

virus was confirmed in one sample. Although symptoms of these two virus diseases are similar (stunting and a mosaic of yellow and green on the leaves), the two diseases are quite different in their life cycles and management.

Wheat streak mosaic virus is transmitted by wheat curl mites that are transported by wind from infested volunteer wheat or late maturing host crops such as corn to newly emerged wheat in the fall. Mites can also be dispersed in the spring from infested wheat fields, but infections that occur in the fall are the most damaging. Symptoms of wheat streak mosaic in early spring are an indication that infections occurred in the fall. Management of wheat streak mosaic includes:

- controlling volunteer wheat before planting in the fall,
- avoiding early planting,
- planting resistant or tolerant varieties, and
- avoiding planting in close proximity to late maturing mite and virus host crops such as corn and foxtail millet.

Wheat soilborne mosaic virus, on the other hand, is transmitted by a primitive soilborne organism in the Kingdom Protozoa known as *Polymyxa graminis* that is favored by excessive soil moisture. Zoospores (asexually produced spores capable of swimming in water) of *P. graminis* infect the roots of wheat seedlings in the fall during cool, wet periods. These infections result in severe stunting and yellowing in early spring. These symptoms tend to be most conspicuous in low lying areas of the field. Wheat soilborne mosaic can be managed by:

- planting resistant varieties, and
- avoiding planting in low areas in the field where drainage is poor.

Wheat variety ratings for wheat streak mosaic and wheat soilborne mosaic are in the 2018 Fall Seed Guide.

Update from Southern States

Wheat soilborne mosaic has also been observed in Kansas. Stripe rust and leaf rust were found in south central Kansas this week and have been reported in southern states including Texas and Oklahoma. Because

it is still early in the wheat growing season, it is most likely that these rust diseases will occur in Nebraska wheat fields. Fungal leaf spots, stripe rust, leaf rust, and powdery mildew can be controlled by:

- planting resistant varieties,
- applying a fungicide timed to protect the flag leaf, and
- rotating crops (for fungal leaf spots and powdery mildew).



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GROUPS SEND FOOD AID LETTER TO HOUSE & SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES

More than 75 groups, including the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG), sent a letter to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees advocating on behalf of international food aid programs. In the letter, the groups stated their support for P.L. 480 Title II Food for Peace, Food for Progress, and McGovern-Dole International Food for Education programs, and called on the Committees to ensure that they are robustly funded in the FY 2020 appropriations.

The letter to the House Appropriations Committee can be found at https://www.wheatworld.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/FY-20-Food-Aid-Funding-Letter-to-Sen-Ag-Approps.04.08.19.FINAL_.pdf.

The accompanying letter to the Senate Appropriations Committee can be found at https://www.wheatworld.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/FY-20-Food-Aid-Funding-Letter-to-Sen-Ag-Approps.04.08.19.FINAL_.pdf

U.S. WHEAT ASSOCIATES URGES CHINA TO COMPLY WITH WTO AGREEMENTS FOLLOWING SECOND FAVORABLE WTO DISPUTE RULING

NAWG Update — U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) and the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) welcome the ruling by a World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute panel that China's government does not fairly administer its annual tariff rate quotas (TRQ) for imports of corn, rice and 9.64 million metric tons (MMT) of wheat. This decision follows a separate ruling in late February that determined China provides excessive domestic price supports in excess of its WTO commitments. The U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) brought these disputes to the WTO in 2016, armed with clear evidence that China's policies distort world trade of those commodities and create an unfair advantage for domestic production.

"With these decisions, we call on the Chinese government to come into compliance with the rules it accepted when it joined the WTO," said USW President Vince Peterson. "The world now sees that their policies stifle market-driven wheat trade, block export opportunities and force private sector buyers and consumers to pay more than they should for milling wheat and wheat-based foods. We appreciate that the Trump Administration continues to shine a light on these distorting policies by supporting the WTO dispute cases."

"NAWG applauds the Administration for pressing the WTO to enforce trade rules that ensure fair trade for U.S. wheat growers," said NAWG CEO Chandler Goule. "Further, we appreciate the work done by those Members of Congress who continued to press on this issue and move the process forward."

China's wheat TRQ was established in its WTO membership agreement in 2001. Under that agreement, China may initially allocate 90 percent of the TRQ to government buyers, or state trading enterprises (STEs), with only 10 percent reserved for private sector importers. The private sector typically imports its full portion due

to growing demand for 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 just 25%. 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.

Considering that China's domestic wheat prices are significantly more than the landed cost of U.S. wheat imported from the Pacific Northwest, Peterson said the TRQ should be fully used if the system were operating fairly, transparently and predictably as the rules intend.

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 about 50 percent of the world's abundant wheat supplies. If China met its 9.64 MMT wheat TRQ, 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 more of the types of wheat they need, but cannot now obtain, and the benefits would be passed on to China's consumers.

"Once China meets its obligations under the WTO and the temporary retaliatory tariffs are removed, wheat farmers from the United States and other countries can compete fairly for sales to this growing market," Peterson said.



THE NEBRASKA WHEAT GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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Telephone (402) 471-2358
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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)



News wheat

Nebraska Wheat Growers Association
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Return Service Requested



Half of the students who listened to Dr. Tom Clemente's presentation on the future of research and genetics in agriculture during State FFA convention stayed for a photo with him after.



NWGA executive director Caroline Clements shares cookies and wheat information with students during Husker Food Connection on the UNL City Campus student union plaza.



NWGA Executive Board Member Brian Schafer and his wife Donnetta pose with their award after placing in the National Wheat Yield Contest's spring wheat category.



(Left) NWB's chairman Brent Robertson helps deliver cinnamon rolls at the State Capitol during Bake & Take.