

**Annual Meeting Minutes
Nebraska Wheat Growers Association
December 15, 2010
Ramada Hotel, Kearney, NE**

Board Members Present

Shawn Sullivan, President
Dayton Christensen
Michael Thomas
Mark Daum

Staff Present

Zoe Olson

NWGA Members & Guests

Mike Sullivan
Dan Duncan
Jeff Noel
Frank Johannsen
Steve Knox
Larry Dreiling
Mark Lagrimini
Scott Osler
Jerry McReynolds
Stephen Baenziger
Susan Fritz
Garth Hodges
Don Hutchens
Alan Tiemann
Peter Pierboldt
Rick Larson
Josie Hughes
Jan Flohr
Von Johnson
Delferd Schlake
Brent Robertson
Chris Cullan
Dan Hughes
Larry Flohr
Royce Schaneman

President Sullivan called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Roll call was taken and Sullivan welcomed members and guests.

The agenda was circulated. **Osler moved to approve the agenda. M.Sullivan seconded. Voice vote motion passed.**

The minutes from the 2009 Annual Meeting were circulated. **Johnson moved approve the minutes. M. Sullivan seconded. Voice vote motion passed.**

National Association of Wheat Growers President, Jerry McReynolds gave a presentation entitled “Advocating Wheat Through Innovation and Advocacy”. He answered several questions regarding legislative issues in Congress and commended NWGA on the hard work and diligence provided to the wheat industry by its executive board and staff.

Sullivan and Olson presented the year in review on activities of NWGA since the last annual meeting.

Dan Duncan, Assistant Dean of Research introduced guests from the University of Nebraska and Bayer Crop Science who then announced the public/private collaboration agreement for wheat breeding research that has been entered into by the two entities. Garth Hodges announced the establishment of the Nebraska Wheat Growers Presidential Chair, the first Presidential Chair ever endowed at the University and its recipient, Dr. P. Stephen Baenziger. Following remarks Hodges and Baenziger, and a question the meeting moved to a press conference for the announcement to the media.

Olson presented information on the Water Resource Cash Fund. **M. Sullivan moved to recommend option A. Johnson seconded. A show of hands vote was taken and the motion passed.**

Sullivan led the review of resolutions. A copy of the resolutions is attached to this report.

Sullivan presented Jeff Noel with the NWGA 2010 Outstanding Achievement Award and Mike Sullivan with the NWGA 2010 Person of the Year Award.

Osler moved that the slate of officers remain in place for the coming year, that nominations cease and the board be elected by acclimation. M. Sullivan seconded. Osler called for a vote of members. The motion passed.

Executive Board: Shawn Sullivan, President
 Dayton Christensen, Executive Officer
 Michael Thomas, Jr., Executive Officer
 Mark Daum, Executive Officer

Thomas moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Zoe Olson

State Affairs

I-A Nebraska Wheat Board

I-A-1	NWGA would strongly oppose any attempt to divert excise tax dollars collected on wheat for wheat promotion to the general fund or for any other purpose. (Dec 2010)
I-A-2	NWGA would strongly oppose any efforts to reduce the wheat excise tax, allow refunds, or eliminate the Nebraska Wheat Board. (Dec 2010)
I-A-3	NWGA opposes any refund provisions in the Nebraska Wheat Resources Act. (Dec 2009)
I-A-4	NWGA opposes the creation of a super commodity board or placing all commodity boards under a single director. (Dec 2008)
I-A-5	NWGA believes wheat board appointments should be made from a list submitted from the Nebraska Wheat Growers Association. (Dec 2009)
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. (Dec 2009)
I-A-7	NWGA directs officers to monitor possible commodity checkoff legislation and act in the best interest of the wheat producers of Nebraska. (Dec 2010)

I-B Political Affairs

I-B-1	NWGA encourages the legislature to make changes in LB 270 and LB 775 so that smaller agri-business firms, as well as farmers and ranchers, can take advantage of tax incentives such as capital gains exemptions. (Dec 2009)
I-B-2	NWGA opposes a tonnage or check off tax on fertilizer, chemicals or herbicides levied on producers. (Dec 2007)

I-C General

I-C-1	NWGA requests the Nebraska Crop Improvement Association allow certified seed growers to sell registered wheat seed in bulk only. (Dec 2006)
I-C-2	NWGA is in favor of selling the state school lands over a five (5) to ten (10) year period or use school land to enhance programs such as Beginning Farmer programs. (Dec 2009)
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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. (Dec 2009)
I-C-4	NWGA is in support of local NRD's having control of their districts. (Dec 2008)
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. (Dec 2009)

Membership

II-A Membership

II-A-1	We recommend that the Association make every effort to attract young, progressive 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 Association. (Dec 2009)
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. (Dec 2009)
II-A-3	NWGA attempts to support 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. (Dec 2006)

Domestic Policy

III-A Federal Farm Policy

III-A-1	NWGA requests reinstatement of the 50% advance payments option. (Dec 2010)
III-A-2	NWGA opposes any farm program that eliminates income supports after a transition period. (Dec 2009)
III-A-3	NWGA believes ARP authority needs to be implemented as a flexible tool to manage production in years of excessive ending stocks. (Dec 2009)
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. (Dec 2009)
III-A-5	The Farm Bill should contain an ending stocks goal stating that the Secretary shall utilize programs using all export tools possible so that ending stocks do not exceed 15% of the previous years' total disappearance. (Dec 2009)
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. (Dec 2008)
III-A-7	NWGA supports the use of short term CRP to increase to the allowable maximum acres in current CRP programs. (Dec 2008)
III-A-8	NWGA opposes means testing as a viable alternative in controlling farm bill costs. (Dec 2009)
III-A-9	NWGA fully supports a pesticide harmonization bill and urges its immediate passage. (Dec 2008)
III-A-10	NWGA opposes the 15% reduction on agricultural program payments as a result of the GRAHM-RUDMAN Act. (Dec 2006)
III-A-11	NWGA fully supports that the 2008 Food Security Act should be a continuation of the current farm program language while correcting inequities to wheat and it should maintain or improve current budget base-line figures in the 2012 Farm Bill. (Dec 2010)
III-A-12	NWGA request reinstatement of base acres for expiring CRP contracts (Dec 2010)

III-B Taxes

III-B-1	NWGA supports the elimination of all county, state and federal taxes on the value of the estate at time of death. accelerating the timetable for increasing the maximum amounts of the inheritance tax exemptions, provided stepped up basis is retained. Ten million dollars should be the minimum amount upon which no inheritance tax would be paid. (Dec 2010)
III-B-2	NWGA opposes sales tax on any services. (Dec 2009)
III-B-3	NWGA recognizes that there is a high real estate tax burden on property owners. Any additional taxes to be collected in the state of Nebraska either by state or local governments should not be based on property owned but on the ability to pay through higher income taxes, also a sales tax on food should be implemented with revenue generated from both, specifically

	used for state aid to schools, with a refund provision for low income households. (Dec 2009)
III-B-4	NWGA believes that income tax would be a more fair tax and support a graduated form of income tax rather than property tax. (Dec 2009)
III-B-5	NWGA believes that real estate taxes should only be levied to pay for services provided to said real estate. (Dec 2009)
III-B-6	NWGA strongly urges the Federal Government and our State Government no longer mandate programs and policies unless they provide the funding to pay for these mandated programs. (Dec 2009)
III-B-7	NWGA supports the repeal of all personal property taxes. The state constitution provides that all property be taxed uniformly. LB775 violates the state constitution as it exempts hundreds of millions in personal property owned by large corporations or a large percentage of the total personal property tax base. (Dec 2009)
III-B-8	NWGA supports changing the current method of taxing real estate for local services, from the comparable sales method to a production income based method. the idea of placing a lid on property tax valuations, thus lessening the problem of property tax base creep. Current values should be capped at 2000 levels with a new valuation established only when valid sales or improvements occur to that certain piece of property. (Dec 2010)
III-B-9	NWGA recognizes that the Community College system in Nebraska has grown rapidly the past few years and should be removed from local property tax rolls and be funded by the State of Nebraska. (Dec 2009)
III-B-10	NWGA recognizes possible efforts to repeal local county government and school tax levy caps put in place by the legislature. NWGA supports a reduction in all current tax levy caps. (Dec 2010)
III-B-11	NWGA recognizes the Department of Revenue efforts to establish a centralized plan to approve land values with no input from local county assessors. NWGA is in favor of keeping current property valuation procedures in place for similar taxation purposes. (Dec 2009)
III-B-12	NWGA opposes increased levies on non-irrigated acres by local NRD's to generate dollars to pay for groundwater depletion issues and supports the repeal of the Bill. (Dec 2010)
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. (Dec 2009)
III-B-14	NWGA supports the federal legislation, The Homestead Economic Development Act, for enhancing rural development. (Dec 2008)
III-B-15	NWGA supports any state or federal incentives to help bring young/new producers back to production agriculture; this would include any incentives for retiring farmers to sell farms to starting producers. (Dec 2007)

III-C Crop Insurance

III-C-1	NWGA requests that the late planting date be extended 20 days for Federal Crop Insurance purposes. (Dec 2007)
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 co-mingled. (Dec 2009)
III-C-3	NWGA recommends that on final claim adjusting, the crop appraisal would be 0 if the cost of harvest was equal to or less than the state of Nebraska average custom harvest rate, even if the crop is harvested. (Dec 2009)
III-C-4	NWGA believes that producers should be offered cash discounts for early payments of premiums. (Dec 2009)
III-C-5	NWGA encourages RMA to continue the Crop Revenue Program and to expand it to include county approved crops. (Dec 2008)
III-C-6	NWGA requests FSA, FCIC and all crop insurance vendors recognize the proven benefits of the corn eco-fallow skip-row production system as an accepted practice by allowing all planted acres be certified and insured. (Dec 2009)
III-C-7	NWGA would oppose the restriction of insurability of proven agronomic practices. (Dec 2009)

III-D Transportation

III-D-1	NWGA urges the preservation and promotion of a viable national transportation system under private ownership that takes into account the inherent advantages of each mode. (Dec 2009)
III-D-2	NWGA also 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. (Dec 2009)
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. (Dec 2009)
III-D-4	NWGA is firmly opposed to federal legislation that requires 75% of all PL 480 sales and food aide grants be shipped on U. S. ships with freight subsidies paid from the USDA budget. Also, the NWGA supports the repeal of the Jones Act. U. S. freight rates are much higher than foreign ship rates. If U. S. ships need subsidies it should come from either the Department of Commerce or the Defense Department. (Dec 2010)
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. (Dec 2009)
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. (Dec 2009)
III-D-7	NWGA supports the requirement of joint line rates and routes between carriers. (Dec 2009)
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. (Dec 2009)
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. (Dec 2009)
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. (Dec 2009)
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. (Dec 2009)
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. (Dec 2009)
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. (Dec 2009)
III-D-14	NWGA urges continuation of the local rail services assistance program at a properly funded level. (Dec 2009)
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 7500 miles annually be exempt from Part 395 (log books), Part 391 (physicals, CDL, and DOT tests), and Part 392 with exceptions. (Dec 2008)
III-D-16	NWGA supports farm plated vehicles be exempt from Haz/Mat requirements for non-commercial use. (Dec 2009)
III-D-17	The overall length for the farm trucks pulling pups is extended to 65 feet for the truck box and trailer. (Dec 2009)
III-D-18	NWGA supports raising the legal length and weight limits on Nebraska state highways to match Kansas and Colorado limits. (Dec 2009)
III-D-20	NWGA opposes possible DOT regulations to require rear bumpers on farm trucks. (Dec 2008)

Environmental

IV-A Crop Protection

IV-A-1	NWGA should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. (Dec 2009)
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 including the recommendation that the point of injection be located above the upper level of the chemical storage tank. (Dec 2009)
IV-A-3	NWGA requests a study be conducted to determine the rate of pollution caused by the over-application of fertilizers and chemicals and water inside the city limits. (Dec 2008)
IV-A-4	NWGA encourages industry to develop, test and market cost effective chemicals for the control of chemically resistant weeds. (Dec 2009)
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. (Dec 2009)
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. (Dec 2009)
IV-A-7	NWGA supports retaining atrazine and 2-4-D for agricultural use. (Dec 2009)

IV-B Conservation

IV-B-1	NWGA supports conservation payments for approved farming practices, including buffer zones that conserve the environment. (Dec 2009)
IV-B-2	NWGA supports reasonable and proper conservation measures on farmland receiving proceeds from farm programs. 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. (Dec 2009)

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. (Dec 2009)
IV-B-4	Land subject to the sod-buster provisions should be held to erosion levels, which do not exceed T (soil loss tolerance) for a combined wind and water in order to remain in compliance. (Dec 2009)
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. (Dec 2008)
IV-B-6	NWGA supports the increase of maximum acreage limitation on wetland reserve programs. (Dec 2009)
IV-B-7	NWGA would like to see a small share of CRP funds be set-aside to compensate adjoining landowners or tenants from damages due to lack of control of pests on CRP grounds. (Dec 2008)
IV-B-8	NWGA opposes any changes to the current schedule of expiration for CRP contracts. (Dec 2010)

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. (Dec 2009)
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. (Dec 2009)
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. (Dec 2009)
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. (Dec 2009)
IV-C-5	NWGA promotes the increase and availability of E85 in all parts of Nebraska and the nation. (Dec 2009)
IV-C-6	NWGA recommends that the current arsenic tolerance level should be restored to 50 parts per billion. (Dec 2009)
IV-C-7	The NWGA endorses the goal of attaining energy independence in the USA and believes that nuclear and wind-generated power should play a major role in attaining that objective. (Dec 2009)

IV-C-8	The NWGA supports drilling for energy in the ANWAR region of Alaska and in any international waters. (Dec 2010)
IV-C-9	NWGA opposes any limitation of grain usage for ethanol and biofuels production. (Dec 2010)
IV-C-10	NWGA supports the exploration of methods to reward producers for the sequestration of carbon credits in the regular farming practices. (Dec 2008)
IV-C-11	NWGA opposes the theory of man-made climate change; however, anticipating the possibility of climate change legislation, 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. (Dec 2009)
IV-C-12	NWGA encourages verifiable scientific data and open communication regarding environmental issues affecting agriculture and United States economy. (Dec 2009)

Research/Value Added

V-A Research

V-A-1	NWGA fully supports the continuation of Invasive Weeds of Wheat research, at current or higher levels of funding. (Dec 2007)
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. (Dec 2009)
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. (Dec 2009)
V-A-4	NWGA requests federal funds be allocated to support cloud seeding research in Nebraska and surrounding states. (Dec 2009)
V-A-5	NWGA will promote that the quality of Nebraska wheat is in itself a “value added” product and market it nationally and internationally. (Dec 2009)
V-A-6	NWGA encourages the NWB to continue to explore avenues to promote and develop market access of Hard White Wheat. (Dec 2010)
V-A-7	NWGA supports the allocation of federal funds to support the University of Nebraska WHEAT (Western High Plains Experimental Agriculture Technology) Center. (Dec 2009)

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. (Dec 2009)
V-B-2	NWGA supports the establishment of a separate Hard White Wheat contract at the KC Board of Trade. (Dec 2007)

Marketing

VI-A Domestic

VI-A-1	NWGA supports substantially tighter grade requirements for wheat to include dockage as a grade factor with foreign material and tighter allowable levels of total defects and wheat of other classes. (Dec 2009)
VI-A-2	NWGA calls for the CBOT and KCBOT to change back to pre-1999 speculative trading position limits. Since 1999, these new fund traders have demonstrated they have the cash and power to drive markets regardless of actual market demands, adversely affecting the actual producers. (Dec 2009)
VI-A-3	NWGA supports mandatory country of origin labeling for fruit, vegetables, grains, fish and meat products. (Dec 2009)
VI-A-4	NWGA strongly supports a fully funded separately authorized Foreign Market Development program within the USDA. (Dec 2009)
VI-A-5	NWGA strongly opposes mergers of large agri-business that limits competition. (Dec 2009)
VI-A-6	NWGA supports continued Hard White Wheat incentive payments. (Dec 2007)
VI-A-7	NWGA opposes 1099 forms to be required in the Health Care Bill for small business and agriculture. (Dec 2010)
VI-A-8	NWGA requests full disclosure of basis in the wheat market in the form of itemization on producers' settlement sheets. (Dec 2010)

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. (Dec 2009)
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. (Dec 2009)