

Newsheat

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Snowfall provided a bit of moisture in parts of western Nebraska, while rainfall continues to be limited in the eastern part of the state. Top dressing has begun in many parts of the state. But producers agree, more moisture will be needed in a timely fashion before harvest.

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Michael Thomas Jr.
Executive Board
Ogallala

After a dry and windy January, the moisture returned in February and March, and the wheat in our area has greened up and is looking good. Top dressing is well under way.

As far as biotech news, several companies have herbicide tolerant wheat in field trials. Herbicide tolerant wheat has performed well enough to move from the proof of concept phase to the early development phase. Despite much progress being made, Chief Technology Officer of Monsanto, Robb Fraley, reported in January that biotech wheat was still “several years away” from being commercially available. While herbicide tolerant wheat will be the first biotech wheat on the market, there is also considerable research being done on drought, disease and insect resistance.

I would welcome any comments or questions regarding biotech wheat, or any other wheat issues that are on your minds.

MTJRFarms@gmail.com



Dayton Christensen
President
Big Springs

The weather has been cooler than normal in the south eastern Panhandle, but we have had a little more precipitation and farmers are getting geared up to top dress their wheat fields.

There are still several issues facing not only Nebraska, but the rest of the country, even though we have a Farm Bill. The House of Representatives have passed HR 311 Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC). The rule would allow farms with an above ground aggregate storage capacity less than or equal to 10,000 gallons and a history of no spills to be exempt from the regulations. Other farms could have regulations to comply with.

The House also passed HR 935, the Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2013. This bill eliminates the duplicative regulatory requirements for pesticide applications by eliminating the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit under the Clean Water Act, and allows the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide (FIFRA) to be the only regulation for pesticide application. That is the way it has been for more than 30 years, until a lawsuit was filed several years ago during the 112th Congress. That bill was HR 872.

It is sounding like this has a better chance of finally passing in the Senate, so we could get this behind us and leave the private and commercial pesticide application certification the way it is, with no further requirements. Please continue to call your Senators and urge them to keep this common sense approach to pesticide applications.

jdchristensen@atcjet.net



Randon Peters
Executive Board
McCook

All is progressing well here in SW Nebraska. It has been a rollercoaster spring. Upper 70 degree days have been offset by snow and freezing temps in the days following; these events have provided enough moisture to keep the wheat alive.

Some varieties of wheat appear to have been hurt by the sub-zero temps in February, while others are looking very healthy. Additional moisture will be necessary to raise a fair yielding crop this summer, and I hope this will come in a timely fashion.

With the approaching busy season, I hope all will take a little time and enjoy the fruits of your labor. Converse with your neighbors; while doing so, I would encourage you to reach to those who many not be current members of NWGA and let them know the benefits of membership in our organization. If you need more info, or would like to set up a membership drive, please contact Caroline at the NWGA office.

As always, I appreciate hearing from the producers from around the state, and can always be reached by e-mail or can be found on Twitter.

randonpeters@gmail.com.



Scott Osler
Executive Board
Elsie

In southwestern Nebraska, the wheat is greening and there is very little, if any, winterkill. Many producers are top dressing, so all we need is some moisture and we should be on our way to a good crop.

The wheat price is somewhat better than it was most of the winter due to drought to our south, and unfortunately, aggressive politics (to be polite) affecting some of our competitors. Once again, we are so fortunate to live in Nebraska!

Congress has finally passed a Farm Bill, and the President has signed it. NAWG has worked for a robust insurance provision and a safety net to protect the producers in time of lower income. These are included in this farm bill, but there are a few options that need to be studied carefully, as every farm's needs are different.

Once again, as we move into the busy spring season, be safe!

scott3y@gmail.com

NEBRASKA WHEAT CELEBRATES BAKE & TAKE

This year Nebraska Wheat celebrated Bake & Take in a variety of ways: NWB provided rolls for attendees at the Governor's Ag Conference in Kearney, the traditional large cinnamon rolls were shared with groups in Lincoln, and the Mobile Baking Lab attended the Triumph of Ag Expo in Omaha.

Wheat organizations around the country have celebrated Bake & Take for more than 40 years. Participants bake a wheat food and share it with friends, family or someone in the community. The purpose of the event is to promote wheat education and community involvement.

"Our board looks forward to this event every year because it lets them share with others that wheat production doesn't end with the farmer," said Royce Schaneman, NWB executive director. "This is our way of acknowledging the many people it takes to turn wheat from a crop into food, while also enjoying a fresh baked wheat food product."

Nebraska Wheat decided to provide rolls at both the continental breakfast and the Governor's breakfast at the 2014 Governor's Ag Conference.

"Many of the groups represented at the conference are organizations we've shared wheat foods with before," said Von Johnson, NWB chairman. "But by sponsoring rolls at this conference, we were able to celebrate Bake & Take with all of them together as one large ag community."

Nebraska Wheat still carried out some of its traditional Bake & Take events. Oversized cinnamon rolls were shared with the Unicameral, the local U.S. Congressional offices, staff and faculty of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and other ag industry organizations in the Lincoln area. Recipe

cards and stickers were also provided to 4-H groups and youth organizations across the state, to allow them to participate in the event as well.

"Working with these youth organizations is important to us because it lets us educate them about wheat and agriculture while also encouraging community outreach and involvement," Schaneman said.

NWB and NWGA also worked together to participate in the Triumph of Ag Expo. This two-day farm show is held at the CenturyLink Center in downtown Omaha. Farmers from across eastern Nebraska, western Iowa and parts of Kansas attend the show.

"We were able to reach out to other members of the ag community that we might not normally get to interact with," said Michael Thomas Jr., NWGA president. "Being at the Triumph of Ag allowed us to share information about wheat with them from both an agricultural standpoint as well as a food and nutrition approach."

Dr. Tom Clemente, the director of the Plant Transformation Core Research Facility at UNL also attended the Triumph of Ag and did a presentation on the facts and fiction of biotechnology in agriculture.



Delivery of these dinner plate sized cinnamon rolls is a tradition of Nebraska Wheat's celebration of Bake & Take.

2014 Bake & Take Recipes

Carrot Cranberry Bread

Ingredients:

1.5 c. bran cereal	3/4 c. sugar
1 (14oz) can carrots, drained	2.5 c. Ultragrain flour
1/2 c. buttermilk	2 tsp. baking powder
1/3 c. lemon juice	1/2 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. grated lemon peel	2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
1/4 c. vegetable oil	1/4 tsp. salt
2 eggs	1 c. dried or fresh cranberries, chopped



Directions:

Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray bottom of a 9"x5" loaf pan with nonstick cooking spray. Process cereal in a food processor or blender until finely ground. Set aside. In a large mixing bowl, mash carrots. Stir in buttermilk, lemon juice, lemon peel, vegetable oil, eggs and sugar until well blended. Stir in flour, baking powder, baking soda, pumpkin pie spice and salt. Mix until dry ingredients are moistened. Add cereal and cranberries, stir until blended.

Put batter into loaf pan and bake for 55-60 minutes, until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool 10-15 minutes in pan before removing. Let cool completely before cutting.

Nutritional info for one slice: 178 calories, 4g protein, 33.25g carbs, 4.4g fat, 24mg cholesterol, 193.5mg sodium, 4.5g fiber, 1.8mg iron.

Kiddie S'mores Brownies

Ingredients:

- 1 box family size brownie mix (fits 13"x9" pan)
- Required ingredients listed on brownie package
- 1.5 packages graham crackers (10 sheets)
- 2 cups mini marshmallows

Directions:

Prepare brownie mix as directed on package. Grease a 13"x9" baking pan and then line bottom with graham crackers. Pour brownie mix over graham crackers. Bake as directed on box, pulling out 5 minutes early.

Break remaining graham crackers into small pieces and sprinkle on brownies with mini marshmallows. Return to oven and bake for final 5 minutes. Remove and cool before cutting. *Note: Add chopped Rolo candy pieces to the initial batter for a caramel twist to the S'mores Brownies.*

Makes 20 bars. Serving size: 1 bar. Nutritional info for one serving: 215 calories, 10g fat, 20mg cholesterol, 125mg sodium, 32.25g carbs, 1g fiber, 20.15g sugar, 1.5g protein.



Nebraska Wheat on Capitol Hill

In late January, NWGA board members traveled to Washington, DC to attend the joint US Wheat Associates/National Association of Wheat Growers winter meeting. In addition to discussing topics affecting the wheat industry from biotechnology to trade, board members also took time to visit with Senators and House staffers on issues facing agriculture in Nebraska.

Board members arrived in DC just after the House of Representatives passed the Farm Bill. Congressmen Lee and Terry voted for the bill, while Congressman Fortenberry voted against it. Board members visited with staffers from all three offices to thank them for support and discuss why there was opposition.

Board members also took time to visit with Senators Deb Fischer and Mike Johanns in person. During these visits, the Farm Bill dominated the discussion, but members also discussed the role ethanol plays in the entire ag community and the continued struggles with EPA, OSHA and overregulation.

Board members also sat through three days of meetings with USW and NAWG to address the issues facing the wheat industry.

In between meeting with NAWG and USW, and visits with congressional representatives, board members also visited with Phil Karsting, administrator of the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service. Members discussed the role USW plays in marketing both Nebraska and US wheat around the world and how that helps improve farmers' profitability. They explained the importance for maintaining MAP and FMD funding to keep USW viable.

Members also visited with EPA's senior agricultural counselor, Sarah Bittleman. Members had a productive 1.5 hour conversation with Bittleman, covering topics ranging from ethanol to dust particulate matter, waters of the US, conservation compliance and the role it was playing in the Farm Bill, and how farmers are working as stewards of the land.

NWGA president Michael Thomas Jr., also participated in the Wheat Organization Leaders of the Future (WOLF)

training class. Participants in the WOLF program worked on parliamentary procedure and additional lobbying practices. Thomas will utilize much of that training when he participates in the Wheat Research Fly-In in Washington, DC this April.

Members with questions about NWGA's participation in lobbying and work with NAWG may contact the office for additional information.



NWGA president Michael Thomas Jr. presents USDA FAS administrator Phil Karsting with a Nebraska wheat production plaque that is a miniature replica of the artwork hanging in the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture.



Members of NWGA and the Nebraska Wheat board pose with Senator Mike Johanns after presenting him with a Nebraska Wheat production plaque.

CIMMYT Announces Partnership to Boost Wheat Yields

The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center, also referred to as CIMMYT, where Dr. Norman Borlaug conducted the research that developed the high-yielding semi-dwarf wheat that launched the Green Revolution, met this week to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Dr. Borlaug's birth and discuss the problem of stem rust. At the Borlaug Summit on Wheat for Food Security, CIMMYT announced a new international partnership that seeks to increase wheat yields by 50 percent by 2034.

Initiators of the partnership include the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council of the

United Kingdom, the International Maize and wheat Improvement Center, the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food of Mexico, and the United States Agency for International Development, as the lead implementer of the United States Feed the Future initiative.

For more information about CIMMYT and wheat improvement, visit www.cimmyt.org/en/what-we-do/wheat-research.

NWGA has two board openings

The Nebraska Wheat Growers Association has two open seats on its board of directors. NWGA bylaws state that in years with a past president sitting, NWGA should have 6 total members sitting on the board, including both the president and past president.

Board members attending state and national meetings to address issues facing Nebraska's wheat farmers, provide updates for the NWGA newsletter on the happenings in their respective areas, and participate in trade show and Mobile Baking Lab events to promote wheat nutrition and education to consumers.

If you have an interest in serving on the NWGA board, please contact NWGA president Michael Thomas Jr. (MTJRFarms@gmail.com) or the NWGA office at (402) 471-2358 for additional information.

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Wheat organizations celebrate National Ag Day

Wheat organizations around the country recognized National Ag Day, March 25, 2014, in a variety of ways.

NWGA and NWB joined with several other Nebraska commodity organizations to celebrate National Ag Day at Russ's Market on 70th and Van Dorn St. in Lincoln. Each group set up a station in the grocery store where they passed out information and food samples. Nebraska Wheat passed out chocolate chip cookies, recipe cards and information about grains in the diet.

“This event allowed us to tell consumers where their food came from as they were shopping for that food,” said Caroline Brauer, NWGA executive director. “We were able to promote agriculture and farmers to a group that’s growing more removed from both.”

The National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) participated in several events as well. NAWG staff participated a standing-room only Agri-Pulse hosted event on Mon., March 24, with Agri-Pulse editor Sara Wyant interviewing U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Deputy Secretary Krysta Harden about the implementation of the 2014 Farm Bill. Senate Ag Committee Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) also shared her perspective on the new legislation.

The statue of Dr. Norman Borlaug was installed in the U.S. Capitol on Tues., March 25, and will serve as one of the two statues for Iowa. The Mix and Mingle Luncheon, emceed by noted farm broadcaster Orion Samuelson, featured the four national Outstanding Young Farmers and FFA state and national leadership.

The United States Farmers and Ranchers Alliance (USFRA) sponsored a panel on “The Next Generation of Farmers & Ranchers.” The sold-out National Ag Day Celebration Dinner in the Atrium of the USDA Whitten Building featured Deputy Secretary Hardin as the guest speaker.

Two film screenings were also run in conjunction with National Ag Day. A private screening of Farmland, a

documentary supported by USFRA, of which NAWG is the wheat industry affiliate was shown. The Great American Wheat Harvest Documentary also premiered at the National Museum of the American Indian.

The theater for the premier was full, with attendees ranging from members of Congress and their staff, agribusiness representatives, agricultural commodity and farm organization leaders, farmers, ranchers and members of farm youth organizations.

This film tells the story of custom harvesters who travel the U.S. and southern Canada harvesting the wheat that feeds our country and the world.



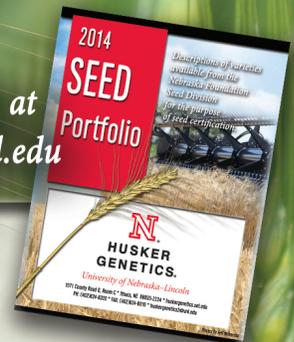
Nebraska Wheat student ambassador Derek Bracht helps finish setting up the Nebraska Wheat booth at Russ's Market on National Ag Day.

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Revised Agricultural Worker Protection Standard released by EPA

On Wednesday, March 19, 2014, the EPA's Worker Protection Standard regulation was printed in the Federal Register, starting the official 90 day comment period.

In February, EPA posted summary documents on their website outlining proposed updates to the 20 year old regulation regarding pesticide application. Some of the new requirements include mandatory pesticide safety training every year (currently required every 5 years), no entry buffer areas of 25-100 feet, posting warning signs around treated areas, mandatory record keeping for two years, and making information regarding pesticide application available to farm workers or their advocates.

The proposed changes are the first since the regulation was changed in 1992 and subsequently went into affect in 1995. NAWG is preparing comments on this regulation. The full proposal can be viewed at <https://federalregister.gov/a/2014-04761>. Fact sheets are available on EPA's website at www.epa.gov/oppfead1/safety/workers/proposed/index.html. Comments must be received on or before June 17, 2014.

EPA releases proposed Clean Water Act regulations

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the long-awaited proposed regulation to clarify which waters are subject to regulation under the Clean Water Act. EPA has indicated that previous agriculture exemptions will remain.

The agency has included over 50 conservation practices that will not be subject to regulation, if consisted with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service practice standards. The regulation will be printed in the Federal Register, which begins a 90-day comment period. NAWG will be reviewing the proposal thoroughly and preparing comments on behalf of wheat growers.

Additional information on the regulation, as well as a list of the exempt agricultural conservation practices can be found on EPA's website www2.epa.gov/uswaters.

House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee talks 2015 budget

USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack testified Friday, March 14, 2014 before the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee on the Department's 2014 budget. The discussion focused mainly on food: school meals, food stamps and food safety.

Subcommittee Chairman Robert Anderholt urged the Secretary to consider temporary waivers for school meal operators who need more time to meet new nutrition rules that have proven to be costly. The Secretary stated that only 10 percent of school meal providers seem to be struggling, a comment that the Chairman did not agree with.

The Department is requesting close to \$20 billion in discretionary funding, which the subcommittee has control over. USDA also proposed \$122.4 billion in mandatory funding, in which \$104.7 billion of that is spent on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, more commonly known as food stamps. The House will work towards passing the agriculture appropriations bill along with other appropriations sometime this summer.

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Katelin Hofmann
BNSF Ombudsman
406-256-4059





THE NEBRASKA WHEAT GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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Lincoln, NE 68509

Telephone (402) 471-2358
FAX (402) 471-3446

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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)



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Nebraska Wheat Growers Association
PO Box 95063
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Nebraska Wheat to Host US Wheat Associates Summer Meeting in Omaha

For the first time in more than 20 years, Nebraska will host the US Wheat Associates (USW) national summer meeting. Nebraska Wheat Board member Dan Hughes of Venango, has spent the last three years serving on the board of USW. He currently serves as the USW chairman, with this term set to conclude this summer.

USW is a national cooperative between 19 different states that works to develop, maintain and expand export markets for US wheat. USW accomplishes this by leveraging checkoff funds, goods and services from the member states with funds from the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (e.g. MAP and FMD dollars). USW has two offices in the U.S. and 15 international offices, giving US farmers representation on every continent except Australia and Antarctica.

Nebraska Wheat will host the delegations from other USW member states in Omaha, June 8-11, 2014. During the meeting, participants will discuss issues facing the US wheat industry, including: research

and biotechnology, international trade, hard white wheat and SPS.

NWGA members interested in attending the meeting to learn more about how checkoff dollars and USW are working to help them, may contact the NWGA office for more information at (402) 471-2358.