

## Wheat Crop Status

**A** mild winter of unseasonably warm temperatures and little snow caused spring to arrive quickly.

**C**ontinued warm temperatures this spring had the wheat crop maturing at record rates. Wheat was reported flowering in the Lincoln area as early as April 23. Prior to that, the earliest flowering on record had been May 6.

**T**he mild winter resulted in increased disease pressures across the state. Rust was present in fields throughout the southeastern and south central parts of the state. WSMV had also been reported in some fields.

**T**he rapid and early growth of wheat in the west, particularly in the northern panhandle, along with freezing temperatures has caused freeze damage to fields.

**A** survey taken in late April estimated wheat yields in Nebraska to range from 25 to 60 bushels per acre with a statewide average near 50. However, this estimate was calculated on tillers and heads, and did not take into account the effects moisture,

disease and freeze damage would have on the crop. An estimate released by the USDA in early June reduced average yield across the state to 40 bu/acre.

**P**ortions of the state, particularly the southern Panhandle continued to face moisture shortages that affected the crop.

**P**roducers saw a very early harvest. Combines, which normally started harvesting in southwestern Nebraska around July 4, were already rolling by June 15.

**A**s anticipated, yields were down across the state. Many areas saw decreases in test weights as well. The areas that saw test weights in the low 60s usually had a few extra timely rains that made a difference. Proteins were all over the board, ranging from the 9s to 16s in different areas of the state.

**J**ust a small portion of the northern Panhandle remains to be harvested. Now, producers are looking to cleaning harvest equipment, cleaning seed and preparing for fall planting.

### In this issue...

Thank you for your continued positive response to *Newsheat* – a quarterly newsletter for and about the Nebraska wheat producer. As a current member of the Nebraska Wheat Growers Association (NWGA) you are receiving this issue, and all current members will continue to receive upcoming issues. A membership renewal form can be found on our website.

If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy of this newsletter, please send an e-mail with your request to [newheatgrowers@gmail.com](mailto:newheatgrowers@gmail.com). Topic suggestions and comments are also welcome.

In this edition you will find articles relating to the association including the annual meeting, state and national issues affecting agriculture in Nebraska and valuable crop information.

Calls to action and items regarding federal budget cuts and Farm Bill discussions have been sent directly to members who have submitted e-mail addresses. These updates allow members to take timely action by contacting state and/or national elected officials. Make sure you have shared your e-mail address with us so you can be included in these updates.

You can also follow NWGA activities on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/NebraskaWheat>) and Twitter (<http://www.twitter.com/#!/NebraskaWheat>) which you can connect to via the Nebraska Wheat website at <http://www.nebraskawheat.com>.

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PO Box 95063  
Lincoln, NE 68509  
402.471.2358  
[newheatgrowers@gmail.com](mailto:newheatgrowers@gmail.com)  
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Editor: Caroline Brauer





Harvest has come extremely early in the south eastern Panhandle. June 16 we started harvesting near Big Springs and finished up the final week in June. This was the earliest wheat harvest in four decades. Yields were a little down this year due to very persistent winds and temperatures ranging from the 90s to 112 degrees for nearly two months. We had five fires in our area: two in wheat fields and three grass fires. Test weights on wheat in our area was surprisingly better than we thought, and we had better than average proteins. It is nice to see wheat prices are coming back.

I want to extend another thank you to all who worked on getting LB905 passed. It will take effect on the checkoff starting October 1 of this year. Please feel free to contact me or the office if you have any questions on the new rate. Also, see the calendar of events listed on the front page for areas where NWGA representatives will be in the upcoming months. Some of these events may also have the Mobile Baking Lab.

*Dayton Christensen*



Summer is upon us and harvest is over. It's hard to believe that we are in the middle of the year. I hope that your harvest went well. Though the price of wheat isn't as attractive as it has been in previous harvests, do consider wheat as an option going in this fall. With so many acres nationwide in corn, the market will reflect the lack of wheat acres. Also, start doing some research on the newer varieties. Lately yields have done well and with all of the research dollars put into wheat, the yields have gone up. Although you can reuse your own harvested wheat, I encourage you to buy certified seed.

We held our second annual golf tournament early in June this year and had a good time. We want to continue holding a tournament and would love for it to grow each year. We are moving it around the state, so keep an eye out next spring to see if you will be able to attend and share in the fun.

*Shawn Sullivan*



Harvest is nearly completed in the Ogallala area. The general consensus is that yields were better than many expected. We received .40" of rain at our shop on July 4th. Hopefully we are in for some cooler temperatures and more precipitation.

As for biotech news, I recommend an article called, "The push for Biotech Wheat" that can be found on the World-Grain.com website.

*Michael Thomas*

## ***Upcoming Events in FY 2012-2013***

July 12-15: Russ's Market Salute to NE Ag\* - Lincoln

July 24-27: Taiwan Trade Team - Eastern NE

Aug 24-Sept 3: NE State Fair\* - Grand Island

Sept 11-13: Husker Harvest Days - Grand Island

Sept 23: UNL ARDC 50th Anniversary\* - Lincoln

Dec TBA: NWGA Annual meeting - TBA

Dec TBA: Omaha Festival of Lights - Omaha



# New wheat check-off rate

The Nebraska wheat check-off rate will change from a flat rate of 1.25 cents per bushel to 0.4 percent of market value on October 1, 2012. This is the first rate change in more than 20 years. However, with harvest for wheat in June and July, the rate change won't affect many producers until the 2013 harvest.

Nebraska's wheat farmers established the check-off in 1955 as a way to invest in the future of the state's wheat industry. The Nebraska Wheat Development, Utilization and Marketing Board, commonly referred to as the Nebraska Wheat Board (NWB) serves as the agency which invests the check-off in research, international and domestic marketing, education and federal policy.

The current flat rate of 1.25 cents per bushel, collected at the point of first sale, was set in 1989. However, increasing inflation, decreasing wheat acres and increasing investment costs have created budget shortfalls for NWB in recent years.

"For the past several years we've reduced the budget by eliminating some contracts and reducing funding for others," said Royce Schaneman, NWB executive director. "But we've reached that tipping point where if we cut any more it would impact the long-term viability of our state's wheat industry. It would do more harm than good."

The Nebraska Unicameral approved LB905 and changing the check-off from the flat rate of 1.25 cents per bushel to the percentage based rate of 0.4 percent of total market value with a vote of 44 ayes, 0 nos and 5 abstentions. LB905 was put forward by Sen. Tom Carlson at the request of the Nebraska Wheat Growers Association.

"I am grateful to all the wheat producers out there who took the time to express their support for LB905," said Dayton Christensen, NWGA president. "The new rate will take a little more from each wheat producer, but together that little will go a long way in ensuring wheat remains a competitive crop in this state."

Passage of LB905 also allows NWB to collect a portion of royalties or research and development fees off of wheat varieties developed with funds from NWB. The organization is also able to create multi-year contracts. Both statute changes will help increase stability of wheat research investment from NWB.

"Collecting R&D fees means we can make wheat producers' check-off dollars go further," Schaneman said. "Some of these new varieties are a result of their dollars. It's good to be able to take the rewards of that investment and continue to reinvest it in the producer."

"The wheat research NWB does with the University (UNL) and USDA is important to our state's wheat producers," Christensen said. "They're the reason we have slightly better yields, more disease resistance and more options as a farmer."

Producers wishing to calculate the new check-off rate may do so using the formula provided below. Questions about the new check-off rate can be sent to the Nebraska Wheat Board by calling (402) 471-2358 or by e-mailing [wheat.board@nebraska.gov](mailto:wheat.board@nebraska.gov).

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Bushels to be sold} \times \text{price} &= \text{market value} \\ \text{Market value} \times 0.004 &= \text{check-off collection} \end{aligned}$$



# Nebraska Wheat hosts Nigerian trade team

A trade delegation of six Nigerian millers and representatives of milling companies, along with two US Wheat Associates (USW) representatives visited Nebraska from June 16 - 19.

The team started their trip by touring La Quartier, an artisan bread bakery in Lincoln. Members were able to see how local industry used wheat and some of the characteristics they looked for in their flour.

Later that day, the team visited certified seed producer Mark Knobel's farming operation near Fairbury. The team learned how research seed varieties go from University release to certified seed to being planted by wheat producers across the state and country. The team viewed seed cleaning equipment before heading to a wheat field waiting to be harvested. A recent rain kept the field from being harvested for the team. However, members were able to see both a combine, tractor and planter up close before returning to Lincoln for a dinner with area wheat producers.

"It's important for these teams to see exactly how we produce the wheat we sell," said Royce Schaneman, Nebraska Wheat Board executive director. "This lets us ensure them of US wheat's quality and the efforts our producers go to maintain it."

The team also visited the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Wheat Quality Lab. The purpose of the lab is to conduct end-use quality tests on wheat varieties being developed by UNL's wheat breeding program. The lab provided the team an opportunity to discuss flour qualities of wheat varieties that mattered to them and the Nigerian milling industry.

The team then traveled to UNL's city campus and the Beadle Research Center to visit with researcher Thomas Clemente about biotechnology and its application to agriculture. The team showed a particular interest in biotechnology and genetically modified wheat, indicating that as the population grows and demand for wheat increases, acceptance of GM wheat could increase.

The team also had the opportunity to visit the Federal Grain Inspection Service office in Lincoln. There they learned about the various levels of testing wheat goes through in sale and export.

"Visiting FGIS is really important with these teams," Schaneman said. "This is where we show them how we can guarantee that the US will deliver what they order."

The team also visited TMCO with a particular focus on National Manufacturing. TMCO is a Lincoln-based company that manufactures parts and equipment out of metal. The National Manufacturing branch specializes in development of wheat, flour and dough testing equipment.

"A lot of people don't realize the company even exists, let alone that it's right here in Nebraska," Schaneman said. "But the equipment they develop is part of the very important process of developing high quality wheat in our state."

During a dinner with representatives from UNL, NWB, TMCO, area producers and the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, the team expressed their gratitude and positive outlook on Nebraska's wheat production.

"I feel the trip went well," Schaneman said. "It's about developing and maintaining those relationships with international markets. Being able to show these teams wheat we're all about is key to maintaining a positive international image and relationships."

The team continued on to Kansas and was scheduled to visit with Texas wheat representatives before returning home to Nigeria.



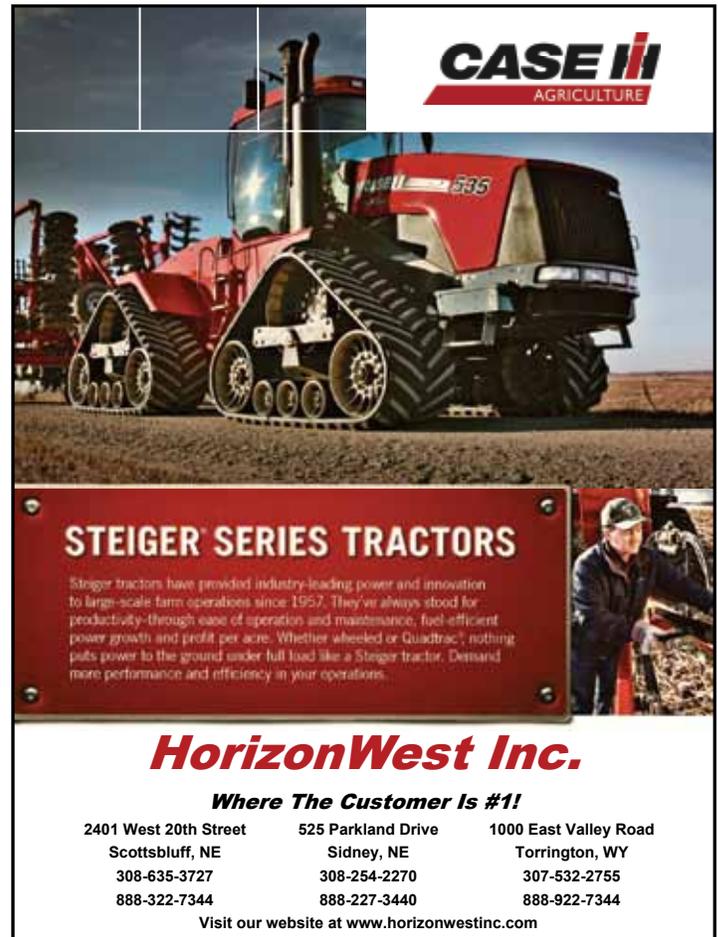
## US Wheat Industry Hails US-Colombia FTA Implementation

*NAWG Update* — In a huge victory for US wheat farmers, the United States and Colombia officially implemented on Tuesday a free trade agreement (FTA) first signed in 2006.

The pact immediately eliminates all tariffs on US wheat imports to Colombia and ends a significant tariff disadvantage US farmers have faced compared to Canadian and Argentine wheat imports there.

“This is a very good day for wheat farmers,” said Randy Suess, a wheat farmer from Colfax, Wash., and chairman of US Wheat Associates (USW). “The tariff situation has basically forced our largest customer, historically, in South America to buy more wheat from Canada and Argentina. Now our customers in Colombia will not have to pay the tariff, and we can compete equally on the basis of quality, supply and service.”

Implementing this FTA is particularly important to US wheat farmers, who rely on exports to market about half of their crops each year. In marketing year 2010-2011, Colombia imported from Gulf and Pacific Northwest tributaries about 800,000 metric tons of US wheat from five of six classes.



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However, US wheat sales for this marketing year are down about 45 percent year on year, mainly due to the Canada-Colombia FTA that went into effect on Aug. 15, 2011. Wheat imported from Argentina has also enjoyed duty-free status under the South American Mercosur trade agreement.

“A lot of people have joined us in working hard to get the US-Colombia agreement approved by Congress, signed by the President and now implemented,” said Erik Younggren, a wheat farmer from Hallock, Minn., and president of the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG). “While the process of removing our trade barriers with Colombia has been a long one, we are eager to get this market back on track.”

The US wheat industry believes this agreement, along with the recently implemented FTA with South Korea and a pending FTA with Panama, will help the United States rebuild and expand markets, grow our economy at home and maintain the status of the United States as the most reliable supplier of wheat in the world.

The industry appreciates the hard work and support of Colombian flour millers and government officials throughout the process, as well as the efforts of trade supporters in Congress and the Bush and Obama Administrations.



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# Where the FY 2012-2013 check-off will go

The Nebraska Wheat Board (NWB) held its annual budget meeting in North Platte on June 12, 2012. There NWB set its biennium budget, reviewed financials from the previous fiscal year and established a budget for FY 2012-2013. Part of establishing a budget included awarding contracts to various organizations in the key areas NWB focuses on: research, international and domestic marketing, education and federal policy. Below are the contracts NWB will support in the upcoming year, broken up by category.

Questions about the check-off or contracted projects can be directed to the NWB office at (402) 471-2358.

## **Research (\$304,992)**

- Improving winter wheat varieties
- Variety testing of varieties developed outside Nebraska
- Selecting high quality Nebraska wheat for market needs
- Advanced screening for Mosaic resistance
- Mitigating Leaf and Stem Ruse and WSMV loss
- Integrating molecular markers into winter wheat
- Improving preharvest sprout tolerance
- Establishing pipeline for the evaluation of novel input trains in wheat from biotechnology
- Research Triticum Mosaic Virus and High Plains Virus
- 

## **Policy Development (\$80,800)**

- Dues to the National Association of Wheat Growers
- Nebraska Wheat Growers Association - Wheat Issues Monitoring
- Whiteside & Associates transportation monitoring

## **Publicity/Education (\$55,198)**

- Midwest Messenger Seed Guide
- Nebraska Coop Council annual meeting
- KRVN Talking Nebraska Wheat
- KRVN/Nebraska Crop Improvement Association "Growing Wheat Well" radio series
- Nebraska Ag Youth Council

- Nebraska FFA & FFA Foundation
- Nebraska 4-H and 4-H Foundation
- Nebraska LEAD program
- Neligh Mill's Bread n' Jam Festival
- NWGA - wheat education and outreach
- Bake and Take annual event
- Nebraska Foundation for Ag Awareness - Ag in the Classroom
- National Association of Wheat Growers - Wheat Industry Alliance (previously known as WIBC)
- AFAN
- Nebraska Grain and Feed Association

## **International Marketing (\$328,550)**

- US Wheat Associates
- Wheat Marketing Center - Improving the competitive edge of Nebraska wheat
- Wheat Marketing Center - Portland tour
- Wheat Marketing Center - Elevator Operators' wheat quality workshop
- Wheat Marketing Center - Connecting wheat professionals

## **Domestic Marketing (\$80,591)**

- Wheat Foods Council
- Wheat Quality Council
- Plains Grains Inc. - Great Plains regional wheat quality survey
- NWGA - Mobile Baking Lab
- Home Baking Association



## NWGA's 2nd annual golf tournament

NWGA hosted its second annual golf tournament in Sidney at the Hillside Golf Course. The weather cooperated slightly better than the previous year. This year golfers had to contend with strong winds instead of thunderstorms.

Eight teams participated in the four-man scramble over 18 holes. With several teams finishing under par, the team from Frenchman Valley Coop took first and were rewarded with \$25 in fuel cards and \$25 in cash.

"It was great to see so many representatives of the wheat industry out together," said Dayton Christensen, NWGA president. "We lost a few teams who started harvesting and couldn't make it, but I think the teams who participated were able to have a good time, even with the wind."

Special thanks to the following organizations for sponsoring the tournament: Machinerylink, BNSF, Ag West, Bomgaars, Horizon West, Frank's Implement, Adams Bank & Trust, Panhandle Cooperative, Western Insurers of Nebraska, Crossroads Cooperative, 21st Century Equipment, American National Bank of Sidney, Farm Credit Services of America - Scottsbluff, Nienhueser Construction & Excavating Company, Federal Crop Insurance Agency - Chris Ray & Chris Hadden.

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## No rules broken with Canadian Wheat Board monopoly removal

NAWG Update — A Canadian Federal court of Appeal ruled this week that no laws were broken in Ottawa's decision to take away the Canadian Wheat Board's monopoly on wheat and barley sales.

The Canadian government has recently passed a law to allow producers to sell to whomever they chose. This is thought to be the final ruling in the case against the wheat board, which has held their monopoly for six decades.

The wheat board's supporters had originally challenged the change in statute, citing a 1998 law that they argued prohibited government to make major changes to the wheat board without holding a referendum among producers first.

Last December, a federal court justice agreed with the wheat board, and stated that the government had broken the law by not holding a referendum. He later clarified that his ruling was just a statement on the government's actions and that he would not interfere with the legislative process or order the government to reverse its decision.

The federal government then appealed that ruling which was overturned this week and leads to a clear path to an open market for Canadian growers.

Supporters of the long standing monopoly express concern that the open market will leave producers at the mercy of large companies and railways, as well as force producers to compete against each other for sales. Supporters of the open market, including many farm groups and producers, say they will get better prices and a fair deal without the monopoly.

This ruling also levels the playing field for U.S. wheat farmers who have long felt negative effects on the world market from the price distortions of the protected monopoly. Canadian wheat farmers will also now have the ability to sell into the U.S. grain handling channels if they choose.

Canadian farmers have begun to make contracts on their own with delivery beginning August 1, 2012.



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# Membership Renewal Notice

It's that time of year again, time to check the status of your NWGA membership. Membership in NWGA is an investment in your industry. By renewing your membership, you ensure you will continue receiving updates on news in the wheat industry, you help support NWGA's efforts on encouraging legislation favorable to wheat producers and educating the public about agriculture, and you will continue receiving quarterly editions of *Newsheat*.

Varying levels of membership are available to meet the needs of your operation at this time. They include an annual rate, a 5-year membership or a lifetime membership. Also, should you purchase a 5-year membership, you will receive a premium gift of your choice. Purchase a lifetime membership and you'll receive both gifts.

Interested in helping NWGA grow? Recruit your friends and neighbors in the wheat industry. Refer a member to our organization, and you'll both receive gifts. Details on our "Refer a member" program are listed below.

If you have questions regarding membership, please feel free to contact us at [newheatgrowers@gmail.com](mailto:newheatgrowers@gmail.com) or by phone at (402) 471-2358.

## Refer a member Rewards

Talk to your friends and neighbors. Are they members of NWGA? If not, refer them to us. If they indicate on their membership form that they heard about us from you, both you and they will receive a **FREE WD40 pen**.

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**Refer 5 members - electric food cooler/warmer or car battery charger and air compressor kit**

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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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## *Future research funding begins to take shape*

Several important bills that impact ag research are working their way through Congress. The Senate passed version of the 2012 Farm Bill includes authorizations for programs that are important to the wheat value chain. This includes authorizations for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), the flagship competitive grant program at USDA at \$700 million and fusarium head blight research at \$10 million.

The research title of the farm bill authorizes a number of other programs including those that direct funds to universities for research and extension. The Senate version also included significant mandatory funding for specialty crop and organic research.

A new provision in the bill is the creation of a Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research, a non-profit organization meant to foster public-private partnerships within the agricultural research community, including USDA research agencies, academia, private corporations and non-profit organizations. The bill includes mandatory funding totaling \$100 million. Any of these funds can be drawn down when they are matched with non-Federal funds. The Foundation would be managed by an outside board made up of individuals from academia and industry.

The House has indicated they will introduce their

version of the farm bill after they return from the July 4 recess on July 11.

Research funding is primarily impacted by the appropriations process. FY 2013 agriculture appropriations bills have passed out of the appropriations committees in both the House and Senate.

The House budget, as it stands today, has about \$30 million less than the Senate version for the USDA's intramural research agency, the Agricultural Research Service (ARS). The House appropriations committee passed budget includes \$1.073 billion for ARS salaries and expenses, \$1.175 billion for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and \$276 million for AFRI.

The Senate appropriations committee passed budget has \$1.101 billion for ARS, \$1.239 billion for NIFA and \$298 million for AFRI. The AFRI program, currently funded at \$264 million, is unique in that it is actually increased in both the Senate and House bills over FY 2012.

Both the House and Senate bills include report language directing the ARS to focus research on one of the research priorities for the National Association of Wheat Growers, emerging cereal rusts including Ug99.

