

# Newsheat

Volume 3 • Issue 2 • Summer 2013

**While spring rains helped ease the drought and aided the wheat crop in parts of the state, in some areas it was too little too late. Wheat fields in parts of Nebraska have already been released by crop insurance adjusters, some with yields ranging from 0.5 - 5 bpa. Recent USDA reports have this year's harvest as one of the smallest wheat harvests since 1944.**

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Dayton Christensen  
President  
Big Springs

Last year at this time we were ready to start wheat harvest in the southeastern Panhandle, as compared to this year where we are finally headed out. The area is looking a little better than what it had a month ago, but a few farmers have had to either destroy their wheat fields to plant forage sorghum and hay millet, or are swathing it for hay. Overall, the wheat crop is poor to fair, with a few exceptions that are good.

I'd like to formally welcome the new CEO of our national organization, Jim Palmer, to the world of wheat. Jim was recently hired to serve as CEO of the National Association of Wheat Growers. We're excited to have him on board, and I look forward to working with him in the future.

Scheduled events for NWGA in coming months include the National Festival of Breads in Kansas, Certified Seed Dealer days, the Chase County Fair, and the Nebraska State Fair.

The Nebraska Wheat Board met in Imperial in June, and reviewed several funding proposals, including research items on issues like the wheat stem sawfly, market development programs like US Wheat Associates, Wheat Foods Council and the Wheat Marketing Center, and continued support of our organization. If anyone has further questions on how your check-off dollars are being used, feel free to contact the Lincoln office at 402-471-2358.

The annual golf tournament held in Ogallala was a success. Thank you again to all who were able to participate.

Have a safe, and hopefully prosperous, harvest.

jdchristensen@atcjet.net



Scott Osler  
Executive Board  
Elsie

In the midst of a continuing drought in southwestern Nebraska, the wheat is forming berries and filling the grain. Wheat is a hardy and resilient crop, so well-suited to the high plains. We continue to hope for a good rain to finish out the crop.

You probably know the Senate passed their version of the Farm Bill and the House continues the process. Whatever the final result is, crop insurance will continue to be an important part of the safety net for most of us at least. Direct payments will not be included, but as farm legislation continues to evolve, urban interests are influencing policy more and more, resulting in a large percentage of funding going to support programs for those less fortunate. Even those programs are causing discussions about the large costs to the taxpayers.

As someone once said, it's not your father's Farm Bill.

I hope everyone has a safe and successful harvest.

scott3y@gmail.com



Michael Thomas Jr.  
Executive Board  
Ogallala

The wheat in our area looks much better than I would have thought possible a few months ago.

The big biotech news was the recent discovery of a patch of Roundup Ready wheat in a field in Oregon. Monsanto tested the wheat in Oregon and several other states, including Nebraska, from 1998 to 2005. The discovery caused Japan and South Korea to temporarily cease tenders on US wheat imports of soft white wheat, as no genetically modified foods are allowed in these countries.

I grow GMO corn and soybeans on my farm, and I believe they are safe. But there are very large numbers of people in the United States and all over the world who do not feel the same way. Many people do not find the research done by the USDA and large agriscience companies like Monsanto to be credible. While there are some people who will never change their minds, I believe that large scale independent research conducted by respected universities, is a vital step in preparing the world for biotech wheat.

MTJRFarms@gmail.com



Randon Peters  
Executive Board  
McCook

What we believed to be another hot and dry summer has thus far turned out to be cooler. Here in Southwest Nebraska we have received just enough moisture to keep us going. The wheat harvest in our area looks like it will not be in full swing until after the first of July. There seems to be a lot of variation in the wheat this year. Some fields in our area have been tilled under while adjacent fields look pretty good. Time will only tell how well the wheat will yield this year. I hope everyone is greeted with a good surprise as you harvest your crops.

I will gladly visit with any of you if you have questions about issues or topics regarding wheat and wheat production.

randonpeters@gmail.com.

# National Association of Wheat Growers hires new CEO



*NAWG update* — Longtime soybean industry executive Jim Palmer has been named chief executive officer of the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG).

Palmer was selected by the NAWG Board of Directors after a search process led by the NAWG officers and grower-leaders of the National Wheat Foundation, NAWG's affiliated charitable organization.

He will officially begin work with the Association and Foundation as of June 1, though he plans to meet with NAWG's grower-leaders and staff throughout the month of May.

"Our farmer-leaders were very impressed with Jim's experience and vision for the wheat industry, and we are excited to have him take the lead on the NAWG staff," said Bing Von Bergen, NAWG's president and a farmer from Moccasin, Mont., who has also served as NAWG's interim CEO since late February.

"We are confident that under Jim's leadership, NAWG will be able to face the challenges we have before us now in Washington and grow our industry well into the future."

Palmer has worked in administrative roles for national and state agriculture organizations for the past 30 years, most of that time in the soybean industry.

From 1997 until early 2012, he worked as the executive director for the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association and the Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council.

Earlier in his career, he was engaged in commercial agriculture credit and was the staff lead during the development of the United Soybean Board, the national soybean checkoff.

Since leaving Minnesota Soybean, he has worked as an independent management and development consultant with agriculture companies around the United States.

"I am extremely proud to be selected to serve as NAWG's next CEO," Palmer said. "The future will be bright for our wheat farmers working together, partnering with NAWG's strong state organizations and our industry agribusiness friends, as well as other farm organizations. The bottom line is, I'm so eager to take on this new role at NAWG that I've mentally started already."

Palmer grew up on a large, multi-generational family farm in northeast Missouri, near Hannibal. He attended the University of Missouri-Columbia, where he earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics as part of an honors program that also conferred graduate credits.

More about Palmer is available online at [www.wheatworld.org/about-us/contact-us/jim-palmer/](http://www.wheatworld.org/about-us/contact-us/jim-palmer/).

## Hughes installed as Chair of US Wheat Associates



The US Wheat Associates (USW) Board of Directors installed new officers at its annual meeting, July 1, 2013, in Rapid City, SD. Dan Hughes (Venango, NE) was installed as Chairman. Hughes currently serves as the District 4 representative on the Nebraska Wheat Board and is a member of the Nebraska Wheat Growers Association.

Last year's USW chairman Darrell Davis (Ipswich, SD) transitioned to Past Chairman and Chairman of the USW Budget Committee. Other officers installed included Roy Motter (Brawley, CA) as Vice Chairman and Brian O'Toole (Crystal, ND) as Secretary-Treasurer. USW officers were elected to these one-year positions at the January 2013 Winter Wheat Conference.

# Nigerian Trade Team Visits Nebraska

An eight-member trade delegation representing Nigeria's largest milling and baking companies visited Nebraska, June 4-6, 2013. The team was accompanied by two US Wheat Associates (USW) international representatives and staff from the Nebraska Wheat Board as they toured the state.

The team started their visit with a tour and barbecue at the farm of USW chairman-elect, Dan Hughes in Venango, NE. The group looked at the farm equipment Hughes uses in his operation and discussed the possibilities of hard white wheat production. After, the team along with 70 area farmers and grain elevator representatives enjoyed a barbecue grill-out.

“Hosting teams like this is important for maintaining relationships and market shares in countries we work with,” said Dan Hughes. “These tours let us show our buyers first hand that we raise the best wheat in the world.”

The morning of June 5, the team and NWB visited Gavilon's new shuttle-train facility at Benkelman, NE. The team learned how grain is delivered to local elevators, how the elevators process the grain, how shuttle trains are prepared and delivered to export or domestic milling facilities, and how the grain market in the US remains a fluid, constantly moving market. The team also toured the premises, stopping to pose for photos on a train engine outside the elevator.

Following their visit to Gavilon, the team traveled to Peters Seed Farm in McCook, NE. There the team met with Randy, Randon and Ryan Peters, and learned how Certified Seed wheat is produced. The Peters explained the role Certified Seed played in developing the wheat the team purchased for milling, how Certified Seed production differed from market wheat production and they cleaned and prepared their seed for sale. The latter explanation included a detailed tour of the Peters' seed cleaning facility, where team members were able to see cleaning equipment up close and ask questions.



**Dr. Tom Clemente visits with members of the Nigerian Trade Team as they tour greenhouses in the UNL Beadle Center.**

The team stayed for a luncheon with the Peters family, a few local producers and area representatives from Farm Credit Services of America.

The team then made the long drive from McCook to Lincoln, where they were joined for a farewell dinner with NWB staff by University of Nebraska-Lincoln representatives, Union Pacific and BNSF railroads, Gavilon and National Manufacturing Co. representatives, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture Director, Greg Ibach, the Nebraska Agricultural Trade Representative, Stan Garbacz, and representatives from a Chinese culinary school in Hong Kong.

The following day the team made two stops before departing for Kansas. First, the team visited National Manufacturing Co., a division of TMCO in Lincoln, NE. The group toured the metal manufacturing facilities and learned about the cereal lab equipment like farinographs, mixographs and fermentation cabinets.

After their tour of TMCO, the team visited with Dr. Tom Clemente, a professor of biotechnology and director of the Plant Transformation Core Research Facility at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. They talked about how biotechnology works in plants, the potential applications to wheat, and about Dr.

*continued on page 4*



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BNSF Ombudsman  
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**APHIS & Round-up ready  
wheat - NAWG Update**

*APHIS Statement, June 14, 2013* – Today, USDA Office of Communications Director Matt Paul gave the following update on the detection of genetically engineered wheat in Oregon:

On May 29, USDA announced that a small number of volunteer wheat plants in an Oregon field had tested positive for genetically engineered (GE) glyphosate-resistant wheat. Extensive testing confirmed the wheat as a variety - MON71800 - developed by Monsanto.

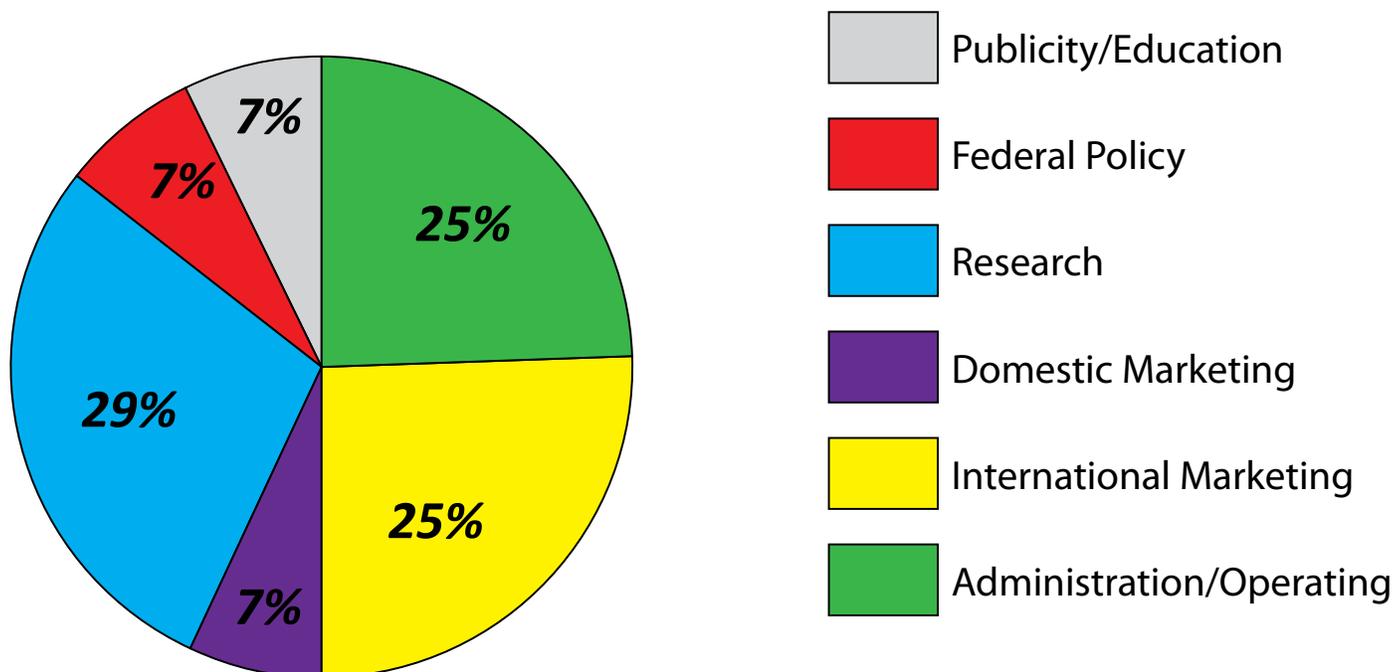
The detection of this wheat does not pose a public health or food safety concern. Monsanto worked with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 2004 to complete a voluntary food and feed safety consultation. Completion of the FDA consultation process means this variety is as safe as non-GE wheat currently on the market.

USDA began an investigation into this matter on May 3 when an Oregon State University scientist notified USDA's officials that plant samples they had tested positive for a protein that made them resistant to glyphosate.

As of today, USDA has neither found nor been informed of anything that would indicate that this incident amounts to more than a single isolated incident in a single field on a single farm. All information collected so far shows no indication of the presence of GE wheat in commerce. Investigators are conducting a thorough review. They have interviewed the person that harvested the wheat from this field as well as the seed supplier who sold the producer wheat seed; obtained samples of the wheat seed sold to the producer and other growers; and obtained samples of the producer's wheat harvests, including a sample of the producer's 2012 harvest. All of these samples of seed and grain tested negative for the presence of GE material. Investigators are continuing to conduct interviews with approximately 200 area growers.

On June 13, 2013, USDA validated an event-specific PCR (DNA-based) method for detecting MON71800 (provided by Monsanto to USDA on May 23, 2013). The USDA validation process included a specificity study and a sensitivity study. USDA determined that the method can reliably detect MON71800 when it is present

# Where your checkoff will go this year



The Nebraska Wheat Board met in Imperial, NE, June 12-13 to conduct the annual budget meeting. This meeting sets the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, including which research contracts will be funded and which education and marketing organizations NWB will work with.

The budget consists solely of checkoff funds, no general tax dollars are used to fund NWB. With the smallest crop since 1944 projected to be harvested, NWB's budget for FY 2013-2014 was limited. The following details what projects and organizations NWB will fund, sorted by which of NWB's five focus areas the respective project falls under: research, international marketing, domestic marketing, education/promotion or policy.

## Research Funding FY 13-14

NWB continues to focus its research investment toward the development of new varieties with both agronomic and end-use quality traits. Important traits for NWB include, but are not limited to: increased yields, better disease resistance, drought resistance/water use efficiency, increased nitrogen use efficiency, improved protein levels, better gluten strength and good baking and milling characteristics.

With variety development and improvement as the key focus, and the achievement of it sought through both traditional breeding and biotechnology, NWB has agreed

to fund the following research projects in FY 13-14:

- Improving Winter Wheat Varieties (UNL)
- Variety Testing of Varieties Developed Outside of Nebraska (UNL)
- Selecting High Quality Nebraska Wheat for Market Needs (UNL)
- Advanced Screening for Mosaic Resistance (UNL)
- Mitigating Leaf, Stem Rust and Wheat Streak Loss (UNL)
- Integrating Molecular Markers in Winter Wheat (UNL)
- Improving Preharvest Sprout Tolerance (USDA/ARS)
- Establishing a Pipeline for the Evaluation of Novel Input Traits in Wheat from Biotechnology (UNL)
- Development of Biotech Tools for Wheat Variety Development (UNL)
- Monitoring Stem Sawfly/Developing a Screening Protocol (UNL)

## International Marketing Funding FY 13-14

With half of Nebraska's wheat production being exported annually, NWB continues to focus on supporting the development of international markets. The development of new international markets and sustaining current markets increases the competition for and value of Nebraska's wheat, providing a greater return to farmers.

# NWGA attends the National Festival of Breads

NWGA partnered with the Kansas Wheat Commission and the Kansas Wheat Growers Association to participate in the National Festival of Breads with the Mobile Baking Lab.

The festival, held in Manhattan, KS June 22, 2013, is the nation's only amateur bread-baking competition. Held biennially, the festival brings together several finalists chosen by a panel of judges who test baked and evaluated all submitted recipes. The chosen finalists then participate in a live bake-off competition.

The festival also includes a trade show, baking demonstrations, hands-on activities for adults and children, and a bake sale. This year's sale raised funds for the non-profit organization Share our Strength's "No Kid Hungry," a campaign to end childhood hunger.

During the festival, NWGA along with volunteers from Kansas baked fresh bread and cinnamon roll samples for event visitors. In addition, 30 loaves of bread and more



**Dalton Henry, the Director of Governmental Affairs for the Kansas Wheat Commission, rolls out the dough for another batch of cinnamon rolls in the Mobile Baking Lab.**

than 100 cinnamon rolls were donated to the bake sale.

Nebraska was also represented during the actual competition. Elke Roby of Lincoln, NE was one of eight finalists chosen to participate in the festival's bake-off. Roby's German Streusel Cranberry Bagels made her one of the top competitors in a field of more than 500 participants. The bagels also earned Roby the 2013 National Festival of Breads Cranberry Award.

Another Nebraska contestant, Deborah Biggs of Omaha, NE, was given the 2013 National Festival of Breads Raisin Award for her Rosemary, Orange and Golden Raising Fourgasse.

## Finalist - Elke Roby National Festival of Breads



Elke Roby of Lincoln, NE was one of eight finalists honored at the National Festival of Breads in Manhattan, KS. More than 500 contestants entered the festival, but Roby's German Streusel Cranberry Bagels helped her rise to the top. The festival is the nation's only amateur bread-baking competition. Roby's streusel bagels also earned the special category Cranberry Award.

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A Cornell University study found that every \$1 invested in international marketing returns \$23 of value to the farmer and \$115 to the US economy. NWB has agreed to fund the following international marketing organizations/projects in FY13-14:

- US Wheat Associates
- Wheat Marketing Center - Improving the Competitive Edge of Nebraska Wheat
- Wheat Marketing Center - Wheat Export and Marketing Workshop

#### Domestic Marketing Funding FY 13-14

The per capita consumption of wheat in the US exceeds that of any other single food staple. But in recent years wheat foods have come under heavy scrutiny and criticism. NWB focuses on domestic marketing in an effort to maintain a solid domestic market and competition for the wheat Nebraska's producers raise.

With limited funding and staff, NWB best achieves this by supporting other organizations with the means and expertise needed to support NWB's mission in the area of domestic marketing. The organizations/projects NWB has agreed to fund in FY13-14 include:

- Wheat Foods Council
- Wheat Quality Council
- Plains Grains Inc.
- The Nebraska Wheat Growers Association - Mobile Baking Lab
- Home Baking Association

#### Education/Promotion Funding FY 13-14

With less than 2 percent of the population engaged in agriculture, and consumers averaging at least two generations removed from the farm, NWB focuses some of its efforts and funding toward increasing education and awareness about agriculture. NWB's education efforts also focus on increasing knowledge about the benefit of grains in the diet, particularly wheat. Supporting youth agriculture programs also fall under NWB's goal of continuing agricultural education. The following organizations/projects in FY 13-14:

- KRVN - Talking Nebraska Wheat
- KRVN/Nebraska Crop Improvement Association - "Growing Wheat Well" radio series
- Nebraska Ag Youth Council
- Nebraska FFA
- Nebraska 4H

- Neligh Mill Bread & Jam Festival
- LEAD Program
- Nebraska Foundation for Ag Awareness - Ag in the Classroom
- National Association of Wheat Growers - Wheat Industry Alliance
- A-FAN
- Conjo Studios LLC - "Great American Wheat Harvest" film documentary
- Nebraska Department of Agriculture Magazine
- UNL Commodity Trading Room
- Youth Wheat Ambassador Program

#### Federal Policy Funding FY 13-14

NWB allocates a small portion of its budget towards federal policy efforts. As regulations for agriculture increase, it becomes more complicated and more expensive for farmers to produce food. That's why NWB ensures Nebraska's wheat farmers have a voice with the policy makers who affect the regulations put in place on agriculture. However, policy is not NWB's main priority, and as a result, policy funding typically makes up the smallest portion of NWB's budget. The following policy organizations/projects are being funded by NWB in FY13-14:

- National Association of Wheat Growers
- NWGA - Wheat Issues Monitoring
- Whiteside & Associates

Those wanting to know more about a particular project NWB is funding for FY13-14, or who have questions about how the checkoff is allocated toward these organizations/projects can contact the NWB office at 402-471-2358.

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# Calendar of Events

It's that time of year again when NWGA begins preparation for trade shows and fairs across Nebraska and in several other states. The Mobile Baking Lab is a major part of NWGA's ongoing efforts to connect farmers and consumers and further wheat and ag education. The following list indicates events in the new fiscal year that NWGA currently plans to attend. Events indicated with a \* and in italics will have the Mobile Baking Lab present.

Those interested in more information about particular events, or who would like to volunteer to work in the Mobile Baking Lab can contact the office at 402-471-2358. Volunteers are reimbursed for mileage, provided a per diem and given hotel accommodations for all relevant events worked.

*\*Saline County Fair, July 20-21, Crete*

*\*Montana Fair, Aug 10-11, Billings, MT*

Certified Seed Days, Aug 13-14, NE

*\*Chase County Fair, Aug 15-17, Imperial*

*\*NE State Fair, Aug 23-Sept 2, Grand Island*

Husker Harvest Days, Sept 10-12, Grand Island

River City Rodeo, Sept 27-30, Omaha

*\*Family Festival, Dec 8, Omaha*

*\*Omaha Festival of Lights, TBD, Omaha*

*\*Triumph of Ag, March 12-13, Omaha*

*\*Omaha Health Expo, April 12-13, Omaha*



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## APHIS/NAWG Update continued

*continued from page 5*

at a frequency of 1 in 200 kernels. Additionally, USDA has provided this validated DNA test method to detect this specific GE variety to our trading partners that have requested it.

Major markets, such as Japan, Korea and Taiwan, have postponed imports of US white wheat as they continue to study information from US officials to determine what, if any, future action may be required. USDA officials will continue to provide information as quickly as possible as the investigation continues – with a top priority on giving our trading partners the tools they need to ensure science-based trade decisions.



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### **Name of Main Contact:**

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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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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## ***Nigerian Team Visits Nebraska continued...***

Clemente's opinion on the investigation into Round-up Ready wheat in Oregon. After the discussion, the team toured Dr. Clemente's lab and the greenhouses in the Beadle Center.

Following their visit to UNL, the team traveled to Kansas, where they met with the Kansas Wheat Commission to continue their tour of the hard red winter wheat producing states in the U.S. The team had visited Colorado before coming to Nebraska, and were scheduled to visit Oklahoma following their time in Kansas.

"Trade teams bring together both the beginning and the end of the grain chain," said Gerald Theus, assistant regional director for the USW Sub-Saharan African Office in Cape Town, South Africa. "Visits like this one allow our Nigerian customers to make a personal connection with US wheat farmers – who consistently produce the high quality wheat Nigeria's industry needs."



**Randy Peters answers questions as members of the Nigerian trade team toured the Peters Seed seed cleaning facility.**



**The Nigerian Trade team poses with Dr. Clemente and NWB Staff after touring the UNL Beadle Center greenhouses.**