

Wheat Crop Status

Most if not all of Nebraska's wheat is now dormant.

Winter wheat conditions, as reported by the USDA on November 28, rated 0 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 24 percent fair, 64 percent good and 10 percent excellent.

The 74 percent good to excellent puts this year's crop well ahead of last years which went dormant with only 45 percent of the total crop rated good to excellent.

Producers said they could use more moisture and snow cover, especially in the Panhandle and southwestern part of the state.

Total winter wheat production for the US is estimated at 1,493,677,000 bushels with an average yield of 46.2 bushels per acre according to the USDA's September 30 release.

Of that estimated production, 780,089,000 bushels will be hard red and 256,053,000 bushels will to be hard white.

These numbers put HRW production down 23 percent and HWW up 12 percent from 2010.

To receive weekly crop reports from Nebraska Wheat, e-mail wheat.intern@nebraska.gov.

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. 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>.

Newsheat is the official publication of the Nebraska Wheat Growers Association
PO Box 95063
Lincoln, NE 68509
402.471.2358
newheatgrowers@gmail.com
Contents may not be reprinted without permission.
<http://www.nebraskawheat.com>
Editor: Caroline Brauer

NWGA Officer Elections

NWGA held its annual meeting in Sidney, Neb. on December 7. Elections for new officer positions were held.

Shawn Sullivan of Wallace stepped down as president following the end of his second year. He will serve as past-president for one year.

Dayton Christensen of Big Springs was elected NWGA president. Dayton previously served on the NWGA Board of Directors.

Michael Thomas Jr. of Ogallala and Mark Daum of Dix were both reelected to the Board of Directors. Both will be starting their second year of service.

Randon Peters of McCook was elected to the Board of Directors. This will be his first year on the board.





I am honored to be elected as president of NWGA. I feel this is a title only, in that I believe this is an ongoing process in getting your voice heard, not only on the state level, but the national level as well.

I have the privilege of serving with Mark Daum, Mike Thomas Jr., and newly elected Randon Peters, as well as past president Shawn Sullivan. We encourage you to join a committee you feel strongly about. Whether it be environmental issues, domestic and trade policy or biotechnology, feel free to contact any one of us.

The reason I appreciate this organization and feel it is so important, is because of the continued support of past presidents, past executive directors and wheat growers like yourself. My hope is that you believe your input is not only important, but essential to keeping NWGA a viable organization.

Dayton Christensen



Thank you everyone who was able to attend our annual meeting in Sidney. I feel we had a great turnout compared to past meetings. I encourage everyone to ensure we have your current e-mail address so the office can keep you up-to-date on wheat issues beyond our quarterly newsletter.

I want to thank all of the NWGA officers and staff whom I had the pleasure of working with while serving as president. They made my job easy and enjoyable these past two years.

I know NWGA is in good hands with new leadership from Dayton. He has a strong group of officers as well, including newly elected Randon Peters. With Dayton, Michael, Mark and Randon working together, I know they'll bring new, innovative ideas to help the organization thrive. I look forward to serving my year as past-president and supporting their goals for NWGA.

I wish everyone happy holidays and a great new year.

Shawn Sullivan



In 2011 we saw another good year on our farm. I'm looking forward to what 2012 will bring.

I'm also looking forward to serving another term on the Board of Directors for NWGA. As always, I welcome any comments or questions regarding biotech wheat.

Also, I will be visiting Washington, DC in January to visit with our representatives. Please let me know if you have any issues you would like me to discuss with our lawmakers.

I hope everyone has a great holiday season.

Michael Thomas

As a wheat producer in Southwest Nebraska, I am excited to serve on the Board of Directors for the Nebraska Wheat Growers Association. I look forward to serving Nebraska's wheat producers in my coming term.

Being a fourth generation wheat farmer in Hitchcock and Red Willow counties, I realize wise decisions made today will pay dividends well into the future. After receiving my education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a Bachelor of Science degree in diversified agriculture, I returned to work the family farm alongside my father, Randy and brother, Ryan. Later, I started my own family, consisting of my wife Laurie and children, Ryland 7 and Laney 4 ½.

I hope my inaugural term with the Nebraska Wheat Growers Association will be both highly productive and educational. Feel free to contact me with any ideas, comments, or concerns at randonpeters@gmail.com.

Randon Peters



Free Trade Agreements Passed

From NAWG — Leaders of the U.S. wheat industry applauded President Barack Obama's signing on Friday of three long-pending free trade agreements, with Colombia, Panama and South Korea.

The agreements were passed by both chambers of Congress last week on a bipartisan basis. National Association of Wheat Growers President Wayne Hurst, a wheat farmer from Burley, Idaho, and U.S. Wheat Associates Chairman Randy Suess, a wheat farmer from Colfax, Wash., attended a ceremony Friday at the White House Rose Garden, held to mark the occasion.

Hurst, Suess and the Boards of both organizations are now urging the Administration to work closely with our trading partners to be sure the agreements enter into force as quickly as possible.

The delay in Congressional consideration of the agreements, which were signed in 2006 and 2007, has significantly hurt wheat exports, especially to Colombia.

As recently as 2007/2008, 70 percent of Colombia's total annual wheat imports came from U.S. farmers. U.S. sales have fallen since then to a low of 46 percent of total imports. At the same time, Canada negotiated and ratified an FTA with Colombia that entered into force in August, allowing Canadian wheat to enter Colombia duty free.

"Since June, Canadian wheat exports to Colombia have doubled versus last year while U.S. wheat exports have fallen 20 percent," Hurst said. "We need the U.S.-Colombia FTA implemented quickly to get our tariffs to zero and put us back on equal footing with Canadian wheat again."

The FTAs with Panama and South Korea also eliminate duties on U.S. wheat. While current tariffs do not significantly affect wheat exports to those countries, research commissioned by U.S. Wheat Associates in 2010 showed that lowering barriers to trade increases the value and volume of all U.S. agricultural exports, an industry that already supports more than 800,000 U.S. jobs. As Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack has stated, every \$1 billion increase in exports creates more than 8,000 jobs. Liberalized trade also helps boost standards of living and quality of life for our trading partners.

"We are very pleased to see these FTAs signed into law today and we have already started the push to win back the wheat export business we lost without them," Suess said. "Our competitors are negotiating at least 120 other bilateral trade agreements that do not include the United States. So even as we work in these markets, we will continue to urge our government to take every opportunity to expand market access for U.S. wheat and other commodities around the world."

The U.S. wheat industry has been highly supportive of these FTAs and other free trade measures. More on the industry's trade work is at www.wheatworld.org/trade or www.uswheat.org/whatwedo/tradepolicy.



USW Chairman Randy Suess and NAWG President Wayne Hurst listen to President Barack Obama's speech in the Rose Garden following signing of the free trade agreements. *Official White House Photo by Pete Souza*



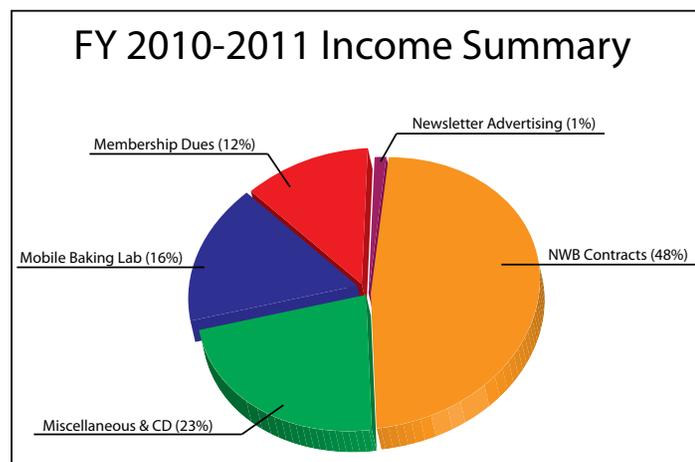
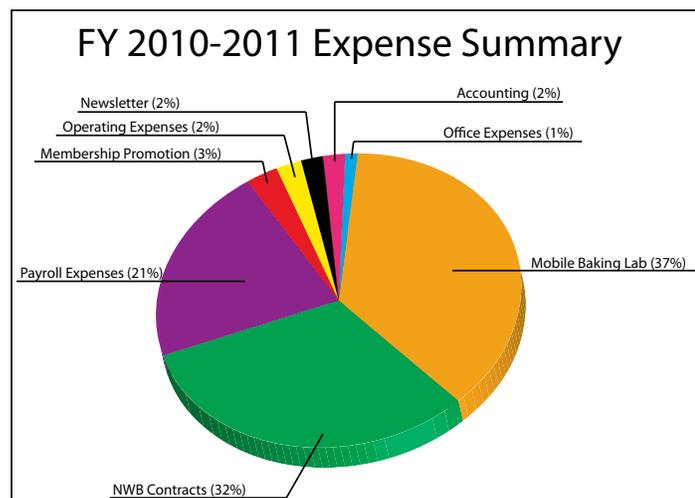
Annual Meeting Recap

Summary

NWGA hosted its annual meeting at the Holiday Inn in Sidney, Neb. on December 7, 2011. During the meeting, NWGA members got a brief overview of finances, reviewed what had been accomplished in the last year, presented the annual awards, heard updates from representatives of NAWG, US Wheat Associates and BNSF, and reviewed and amended the NWGA resolutions. A dinner reception sponsored by BNSF was held following the meeting.

Finances

During fiscal year 2010 - 2011, NWGA had an income of \$123,078.75. NWGA spent \$118,517.03. NWGA cashed in one of its CDs to cover the cost of generators for the Mobile Baking Lab. Graphs below show a general breakdown of expenses. For more detailed information, please contact the office.



Year in Review

During the 2011 calendar year, NWGA participated in a variety of trade shows, trade teams and educational events. The activities for the last year are listed by month.

January

WOLF program in Washington, DC

February

Biotech research fly-in, Washington, DC

March

Governor's Ag Conference

Bake and Take

Crop Quality Survey

First NWGA newsletter *Newswheat* released

May

Wheat quality tour

June

National Festival of Breads, Kansas

Second *Newswheat* released

Nigerian trade team

July

NAYI presentation

August

NWGA Golf Tournament

Iowa State Fair

Nebraska State Fair

September

Nebraska State Fair

Third *Newswheat* released

Husker Harvest Days

River City Rodeo

October

National Pasta Day

Chinese Trade Team

November

Dr. Baenziger officially installed as Nebraska

Wheat Growers Presidential Chair

WILOT program

December

Fourth *Newswheat* released

Annual meeting and resolutions review

Awards Presentation

Each year, NWGA presents two awards: Person of the

continued on page 6



USDA: Record farm exports support 1.15 million jobs

NAWG Update — Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced late last week that U.S. exports hit a new record of \$137.4 billion in the 2011 fiscal year.

The export total supported 1.15 million American jobs and contributed to an overall trade surplus of \$42.9 billion. The new record outpaced the previous record by \$22.5 billion, Vilsack's statement said.

He noted that the three recently-finalized free trade agreements, with Colombia, Panama and South Korea, will add \$2.3 billion to the U.S. export total and support nearly 20,000 American jobs.

For the first full fiscal year, China was the lead export market for farm products, buying almost \$20 billion of goods including soybeans, cotton, tree nuts and hides.

The new information is a key measure of agriculture's relative success despite an overall economy that continues to struggle. The agriculture industry supports one of every 12 American jobs and is bolstered by the increasing ag exports, with USDA estimating every billion dollars of

MORE PRODUCTIVITY, LESS FUEL

Starting in 2011, Case IH marks the new generation of the 8000 Series with the new 8250 tractor. The 8250 is a 100-hp tractor with a 5400 Series engine - allowing you to maximize your productivity and reduce your fuel costs. The 8250 is a 100-hp tractor with a 5400 Series engine - allowing you to maximize your productivity and reduce your fuel costs.

HOW SCR WORKS

The SCR system is a 3-way catalytic converter that converts nitrogen oxides (NOx) into harmless nitrogen and water. The SCR system is a 3-way catalytic converter that converts nitrogen oxides (NOx) into harmless nitrogen and water.

THE RESULTS: EFFICIENT POWER

- Lower operating costs due to an efficient 5400 Series engine
- Reduced fuel consumption
- No engine 5-cylinder power and performance with 100-hp

HorizonWest Inc.

Scottsbluff 308-635-3727 888-322-7344	Sidney 308-254-2270 888-227-3440	Torrington 307-532-2755 888-922-7344
---------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------

Visit Our Website At www.horizonwestinc.com

WE ARE VERY PROUD OF OUR PARTNERSHIP

WITH NEBRASKA WHEAT PRODUCERS

FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY, BNSF has been working with farmers to deliver your grain to the world. And to help you feed the world, we have added capacity to our fleet and have used new tools that let us communicate more closely with you so we could serve you even better. BNSF has been proud to work with farmers for more than 150 harvests. We look forward to a partnership that keeps on growing stronger in the years ahead.

Midwest Leadership
BNSF-Columbus
917-887-8706

exports supports 8,400 jobs.

“Strong export performance means higher incomes for farmers and ranchers, more opportunities for small businesses owners, and jobs for folks who package, ship and market agricultural products,” the Secretary said in a statement.

“U.S. agriculture continues to be a bright spot in America's economy and a driving force behind export growth, job creation and our nation's competitiveness, underscored by the increasing demand for U.S. food and agriculture around the world.”

Wheat is a major export commodity, and U.S. wheat accounts for about 30 percent of global wheat exports - making the country the world's largest wheat exporter.

In the 2011 fiscal year, which runs from October to September, wheat exports were approximately 34.5 MMT, valued at about \$11.5 billion, according to the USDA-Foreign Agricultural Service's Global Agricultural Trade System (GATS).

U.S. Wheat Associates, an export market development organization funded and governed by U.S. wheat growers, has extensive information about exporting U.S. wheat on its website at www.uswheat.org.



... continued from page 4

Year and Outstanding Achievement.

The Person of the Year award is given to a member of the association who has contributed greatly to either NWGA or the Nebraska wheat industry. This year's recipient was Dr. P. Stephen Baenziger. He received the award in honor of his research at UNL and his continued contributions of wheat plants for the state fair display.



NWGA President Shawn Sullivan presents P. Stephen Baenziger with his award for 2011 Person of the Year.

The Outstanding Achievement award is given to someone who has contributed to or had a major impact on the Nebraska wheat industry. This year the award was given to Bayer CropScience for their investment in wheat research and commitment to UNL's wheat breeding program.

NWGA Resolution Amendments

The following resolutions were added, amended/renewed or struck from NWGA's official resolutions. For a complete list of the resolutions, please visit our website. If you have any questions on the changes listed here, please feel free to contact us.

Amended or Renewed

I-B-2: (renewed) NWGA opposes a tonnage or check off tax on fertilizer, chemicals or herbicides levied on

producers.

III-B-15: (amended) NWGA supports any state or federal incentives to help bring you/new producers back to production agriculture.

V-A-1: (renewed) NWGA fully supports the continuation of Invasive and Chemical Resistant Weeds of Wheat research at current or higher levels of funding.

Added

I-A-8: NWGA encourages the legislature to adopt changes to the Nebraska Wheat Resources Development and Utilization Act to restructure the check-off rate, allow other sources of income, and allow multiple-year contracts so as to support the long-term sustainability of the Nebraska wheat industry.

II-A-13: NWGA supports the exemption of youth employment for agriculture in future labor laws.

IV-C-13: NWGA opposes any changes to the current regulation of dust particulate matter related to agriculture.

V-A-8: NWGA welcomes private investments to enhance wheat research.

Struck

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.

III-C-1: NWGA requests that the late planting date be extended 20 days for Federal Crop Insurance purposes.

V-B-2: NWGA supports the establishment of a separate Hard White Wheat contract at the KC Board of Trade.



Japan says it intends to join Trans-Pacific partnership talks

NAWG Update — Japan said late last week it intends to join the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade negotiations, which could be a boon to the U.S. wheat and agricultural industries.

TPP negotiators recently concluded their ninth round of talks between countries that are currently part of the process, including the U.S., Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam.

Canada and Mexico have also recently voiced interest in joining the growing negotiations, though it is unlikely the U.S. would see any direct benefit from their participation because preferences already exist under NAFTA.

Since approval of long-pending free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama and South Korea, attention has shifted to the TPP talks, which will almost certainly produce the next large, multilateral agreement benefiting the U.S.

The wheat industry – and ag exports generally – stand to see significant benefits from the talks if Japan, the

Philippines and Indonesia join the talks. Japan is routinely one of the largest buyers of U.S. wheat, purchasing up to 10 percent of U.S. wheat exports worth an estimated \$700 million.

At their recent meetings, the Boards of Directors for both NAWG and U.S. Wheat Associates, which represents the industry in trade negotiations, adopted a resolution supporting a comprehensive TPP agreement that provides improved market access and includes ambitious language on modern trade issues. The resolution also encouraged Japan, the Philippines and Indonesia to join the TPP framework.

The U.S. joined TPP talks in 2009. The Obama Administration has made a TPP agreement a key part of its trade agenda, and Administration officials have said they'd like to complete the overall negotiations within a year. Countries joining the talks could eventually represent more than 40 percent of world trade.

More about the TPP negotiations is at <http://www.ustr.gov/tpp>.

**From the field,
to the mill,
to the bakery.**

**ConAgra Mills proudly
supports Nebraska wheat**

- We have three flour mills: two in Omaha and one in Fremont
- We buy 90% of our wheat via truck, most of it coming from farms in Western Nebraska

We strive to be your preferred wheat buyer



ConAgra Mills®

800-851-9618 • conagramills.com

©ConAgra Foods Inc. All Rights Reserved.

What do you want them to know?

NWGA members will visit with lawmakers in Washington, DC this January.

Let us know what issues you would like us to discuss with them. Contact us at newheatgrowers@gmail.com or by phone at (402) 471-2358.



WHAT'S AT STAKE?

SAVE THE DATE!

Nebraska Ag Classic
January 9-11, 2012 - Holiday Inn, Kearney, NE

Plan to attend and listen to these educational and timely presentations!

- Mike Krueger**, Moneyfarm.com discussing current marketing tips & trades
- Larry Kopsa**, Kopsa Otte & Associates, discussing tax updates
- Ross Korves**, The ProExporter Network, discussing national Ag policy issues

* The schedule is subject to change without notice.
* Visit www.neagclassic.org for a complete list of program speakers.

For questions and updates on the Nebraska Ag Classic, please call:
Conference Chairwoman Nancy Eberle (402) 736-4691
Conference Coordinator, Ginger Jelinek (402) 450-5189
Tradeshow Coordinator, Sara Bishop (402) 476-6174



Nebraska Wheat hosts Chinese trade team

On October 25 and 26, Nebraska Wheat hosted a trade team of private Chinese grain purchasers. The participants representing Guangzhou Huaren Grain Trading Col., Ltd. included: Mr. Chunxin Huang, Mr. Ling Qin and Ms. Jing Chen. Matt Weimar represented U.S. Wheat Associates.

After arriving in Omaha on the 25, the team made a trip to Lincoln to visit with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's wheat breeding personnel and tour the facilities. The team walked through the greenhouses, visited the wheat quality lab, viewed how the testing equipment worked, and learned more about the research aspect of Nebraska's wheat industry.

After dinner with wheat producer Delferd Schlake and visiting with Jeff Noel from Husker Genetics, the team returned to Omaha where they would spend the next day.

On the 26, the team started the day with a trip to the Union Pacific Railroad headquarters. They listened to a

presentation about grain shipping before taking a tour of UP's Harriman Control Center. The center is where UP controls and directs rail traffic.

After UP, the team had lunch in the Old Market, with some time to look around.

They met with Gavilon, an international commodity management company. The team learned about wheat storage and shipping before joining the Gavilon team and NWB chairman Larry Flohr for dinner.

"I feel like it was a successful program overall," said Royce Schaneman, executive director of the Nebraska Wheat Board. "The team got to meet with three major companies that play a role in the Nebraska wheat industry and learned a lot of new information."

As legislative year closes out, push continues on NPDES bill

NAWG Update — As the legislative year draws to a close, Senators and members of the agriculture community continue pushing for consideration of H.R. 872.

The legislation would clarify Congressional intent with regards to new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting requirements that went into effect at the end of October. The bill was passed by the House in late March on a bipartisan basis and approved by the Senate Agriculture Committee in June on a voice vote.

Despite these demonstrations of widespread support in a very tense political environment, Senators have not had the chance to consider H.R. 872 as a stand-alone piece of legislation or within another bill.

Last Thursday, a quarter of Senators signed onto a letter directed at Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), asking them to allot floor time to the bill.

The signatories of that letter acknowledged the heavy legislative schedule facing the Senate, but said clarifying Congress' intent with regards to pesticide permitting is "a rare opportunity to demonstrate to the American public that Democrats and Republicans are capable of working together to address important issues."

Hill visits by agricultural stakeholders this week and last focused on the urgent need for the legislation and possible pathways to passage.

Those messages reflect the substance of a letter sent Nov. 30 by nearly 40 ag groups, including NAWG, telling Reid and McConnell

Congress should act on H.R. 872 to "restore the appropriate scope of ... NPDES permitting."

The groups told Senate leaders that EPA recognizes the breadth of the NPDES program is being expanded solely because of a 2009 Sixth Circuit Court decision and will now place additional requirements on many agricultural producers, local governments and public health agencies.

These parties are already compelled to follow regulations under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), which EPA has used to regulate pesticide applications for more than 30 years.

The new requirements create vast legal uncertainty about who is obligated or even eligible to get permits under the new regulations. Complicating matters is the regulatory burden the new requirements place on federal and state agencies, particularly in a time of decreasing budgets.

"We legitimately question the need for this tremendous expansion of the NPDES permit program in view of the additional burden and unwarranted legal jeopardy it now imposes on pesticide users," the groups wrote.

EPA has estimated the new requirements could affect more than five million applications each year.

Much more about the NPDES permitting issue is available on NAWG's website at www.wheatworld.org/environmentalregulation.





HUSKER GENETICS™

University of Nebraska–Lincoln



Help protect Nebraska developed varieties.

Report PVP violations.

Call (877)482-5907.

1071 County Road G * Ithaca, NE 68033
Ph: 402-624-8020 * Fax: 402-624-8010
huskergenetics2@unl.edu * huskergenetics.unl.edu



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 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**.

Refer 5 members and you'll receive your choice of an electric food warmer/cooler for your truck and tractor or a portable car battery charger and air compressor kit.

Refer 1 member - WD40 pen

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

Membership forms can be found on our website: www.nebraskawheat.com





THE NEBRASKA WHEAT GROWERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 95063
Lincoln, NE 68509

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

Every year you invest in seed, fuel, fertilizer, machinery and other inputs required to produce wheat. How much do you invest in equitable farm programs, international marketing and environmental issues that dictate how you run your farm?

Membership in the Nebraska Wheat Growers Association should be a part of your general operation cost, just like seed, fertilizer and fuel. Membership is really a type of insurance to help protect and improve the price you are paid for the quality wheat you produce. Membership dues are a tax deductible *investment* in your industry.

Membership Fees

Grower/Producer/Landlord

\$75.00 annually

\$375.00 – 5 years

(receive premium choice)

\$1500.00 Lifetime

(receive two premiums)

Associate Member – \$100.00 annually

Elevator – \$100.00 annually

College Student – \$25.00 annually

Make checks payable to:

Nebraska Wheat Growers Association

Please mail this form and your payment to:

PO Box 95063
Lincoln, NE 68509

Thank YOU for your support!

Name of Farm or Operation:

Name of Main Contact:

Additional Name(s) on Membership:

Mailing Address:

Phone:

Cell Phone:

Email:

County:

Referred by:

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)



Return Service Requested



Ag Groups Hit the Hill on GPS Interference Concerns

NAWG and other farm groups told Congressional leaders this week that LightSquared's planned use of the electromagnetic spectrum for a new wireless broadband system would disrupt GPS systems even if filters are created to lessen interference.

The message was delivered at more than a dozen meetings between agriculture group staff and Members of Congress and their staffs as part of a Hill push on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Groups participating in the outreach included NAWG, the American Farm Bureau Federation, the American Soybean Association, the National Corn Growers Association, the National Cotton Council and agricultural systems suppliers John Deere and Trimble.

The group met with Senate Agriculture Committee Ranking Member Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) and Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) as well as staff for Sen. Kent Conrad (D-N.D.) and Sen. Herb Kohl (D-Wis.).

On the House side, the group met with staff from the offices of House Agriculture Committee Ranking Member Collin Peterson (D-Minn.), Rep. Tom Latham (R-Iowa), Rep. Jim Costa (D-Calif.), Rep. Tim Johnson (R-Ill.), Rep. Bobby Schilling (R-Ill.), Rep. Randy Neugebauer (R-Texas) and Rep. Randy Hultgren (R-Ill.).

The Federal Communications Commission is considering a condition it placed on a spectrum use waiver requested by LightSquared, a company with technology that could dramatically expand rural broadband access but that studies show could also emit a signal interference that effectively disables GPS systems.

Agriculture groups have become engaged in this issue because without a technical fix, LightSquared's technology would knock out most of an estimated 500,000 precision receivers, which have allowed for critical safety and environmental benefits and billions of dollars of savings on the farm.

NAWG and other groups have called for continued testing to find a fix to these technical issues before the FCC removes the conditional waiver for LightSquared. NAWG and ag groups have also repeatedly said that LightSquared should bear any cost associated with modifying existing GPS systems to work with its new broadband system.

Letters NAWG has sent on this issue are available online at www.wheatworld.org/othercorrespondence. More detail about the GPS concerns is at www.saveourgps.org.

