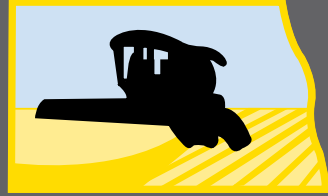


NORTH DAKOTA



GRAIN GROWERS

May '09

Gleanings



In this issue...

Pg. 2 - Meet the NDGGA Directors

Pg. 5 - Legislative Session Report

Pg. 6 - Biotech Wheat: Canadian, American and Australian Groups Speak

North Dakota Grain Growers Association

4023 State St
Bismarck, ND 58503
1-866-871-3442
www.ndgga.com

Byron Richard
President

Terry Weckerly
Vice President

Brad Thykeson
2nd Vice President

Jay Elkin
Secretary/Treasurer

Board of Directors
Doug Goehring
Greg Nelson
John Weinand
Bob Bahm
Mike Martin
Gary Neshem
Doyle Lentz
Bob Wisness

Dan Wogsland
Executive Director

Sheena Johnson
Communications Specialist

Mission Statement

The mission of the NDGGA is to serve North Dakota wheat and barley producers with education, leadership, information and representation to increase profitability and enhance value added opportunities.



NDGGA President Byron Richard

President's Perspective

Hello Everyone,

Well it looks like we have another challenging year ahead of us. In the southwest two major blizzards only one week apart has been rough on our livestock industry. Out east its major flooding with preventative planting that has to be dealt with. One bright spot through these rough times is the severe drought that swept North Dakota last year has subsided.

This past winter we have found our legislature to be very supportive on issues NDGGA has lobbied on behalf of growers. We've received great support on opposition to changing navigable waters in proposed legislation which was brought forth by Congressman Oberstar. This gets to be a more critical issue when you factor in the recent court ruling in regards to point source pollution when dealing with pesticide applications. This new change would require growers

to apply for EPA permits prior to spraying next to potholes or other identified water sources.

We at NDGGA were also instrumental in lobbying to keep the 3 mills for wheat research, increased checkoff for barley and support for sustainable agriculture. Read about this and other legislative bills NDGGA tackled on page 5 of your Gleanings.

While we were out in Washington, DC this winter, Chief of NRCS David White met with us on CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program). This program would operate similar to EQIP, with eligibility in each county based on accumulated points based on conservation practices. When fully implemented, this program could encompass close to fifty million acres. In discussion with our congressional delegation, future farm programs may derive from enhanced crop insurance and programs such as CSP and less from direct payments which are becoming more difficult to gain support from our urban counterparts. This may also help address the issue with payment limitations that our media keeps hammering on.

“we’ve observed great progress taking place in Australia with drought tolerant wheat”

At NDGGA, crop insurance reform is another priority we are actively pursuing. Working in cooperation with Ag Commissioner Doug Goehring, we're hopeful issues dealing with mechanical fires, repetitious audits and hard cap audit delays can be addressed this fall prior to SRA contractual agreements with private insurance companies. Moving forward with the new 508H



crop insurance development provisions in the 2008 Farm Bill, which can be used to write new insurance products, is making good progress. A crop insurance pilot program involving hard red spring wheat is in the works and we will continue to pursue this concept with a possible release in 2011.

On the research side, the BayerCrop Science winter wheat initiative is moving forward. I believe there is great potential to build a collaborative effort between NDSU and Bayer and ultimately move into transgenic wheat. From my position on the Joint Biotech Committee on the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG), we've observed great progress taking place in Australia with drought tolerant wheat. BASF is collaborating with there public institutions on this initiative as well. As chair on the Research and Technology committee for NAWG, we're trying to address in-state issues such as fusarium head blight, sawfly and wheat midge. I hope to address these topics at our meeting this fall.

If there are other issues of local interest I encourage our membership to contact NDGGA, your issues are of major priority to us.

I hope everyone a safe and prosperous year.

For the latest information about NDGGA, log on to www.ndgga.com

Meet the NDGGA Directors



Northwest Directors

Bob Bahm
Minot

Gary Neshem
Berthold

Bob Wisness
Arnegard

Northeast Directors

Terry Weckerly
Vice President
Hurdsfield

Doyle Lentz
Rolla

Brad Thykeson
Vice President
Portland

The North Dakota Grain Growers Association would like to announce the election of Byron Richard from Belfield, ND for a second term as NDGGA President and Terry Weckerly of Hurdsfield, ND to a third term as NDGGA Vice President.

Brad Thykeson of Portland, ND has also been re-elected as 2nd Vice President and Jay Elkin of Taylor, ND has been newly elected to the position of Secretary/Treasurer.

The North Dakota Grain Growers would like to welcome Doug Goehring, Gary Neshem and John Weinand as the newest board members.

After his election to the NDGGA board, Doug Goehring was appointed North Dakota's newest Ag Commissioner.

The North Dakota Grain Growers Association would like to congratulate Doug on his new position. He has worked diligently on a wide variety of important issues from crop insurance reform, crop marginal coverage and sustainable agriculture. He proves to be very instrumental and a knowledgeable asset for the NDGGA and we look forward to building our relationship as he moves forward in his position.

Southwest Directors

Jay Elkin
Taylor

John Weinand
Hazen

Byron Richard
President
Belfield

Southeast Directors

Mike Martin
Past President
Forbes

Greg Nelson
Litchville

Doug Goehring
Menoken



Director's Digest

Greetings North Dakota Grain Growers Association members!! I hope this finds you well into spring's work as Mother Nature has thrown quite a curveball at North Dakota in 2009.

Your Association has been very busy on your behalf in 2009. Starting with a very active Legislative Session, well attended "Best of the Best" in wheat and "Barley Production and Management for Profit" workshops, Annie's Project meetings, National Association of Wheat Grower meetings NDGGA has taken a lead in producer education and state and federal issues on behalf of our members and wheat and barley producers in North Dakota. NDGGA's goal continues to be "working for you, the producer"; as the issues facing agriculture intensify it is critically important that wheat and barley producers are represented at the public policy table. That's what makes your Association so important.

As we look forward the issues haven't stopped. Climate change legislation is the latest rage in Congress as lawmakers rush to create a



NDGGA Executive Director Dan Wogsland

"NDGGA is working with leaders to ensure North Dakota producers are appropriately compensated"

quick fix to a perceived problem that has been building for eons. What is unknown is the true science of the situation; there are as many scientific opinions regarding climate change as there are scientists and I've got to say it was a little hard to sell global warming in North Dakota last winter when the air temperature was -44 degrees. Listening to the scientific debate on climate change reminds me of what they say about economists, if you put them all end for end you'll never reach a conclusion.

What is known about climate change is that the solutions range from an unpalatable legislative fix by Congress to an unthinkable regulatory effort by the Environmental Protection Agency. Both solutions will cost you money, and in the case of agriculture, it will be boatloads

of money. As price takers on every end of the economic spectrum, there is no way for producers to pass off massively increased production costs resulting from the adoption of either solution. That's why NDGGA is spearheading a letter to the North Dakota Congressional Delegation outlining our concerns about the effects on agriculture which climate legislation will bring about. Decision makers must be made aware of agriculture's concerns as we move forward in the climate change debate.

The navigable waters issue has also raised its ugly head in the halls of Congress. Simply put, deleting the word "navigable" from the definition of "waters of the United States" would put EVERY body of water under federal jurisdiction and would preempt the states from exercising the local control of water issues.

Having federal control over every bit of water on your property from the pothole in your driveway to the pothole in your field has serious and far reaching consequences for agriculture. Coupling with our national organization the National Association of Wheat Growers along with other interested farm groups your Association is taking up this cause in Washington D.C. It's a fight that agriculture cannot afford to lose.

Locally, as we look to the spring weather, crop insurance on prevented plant acres becomes more of a concern. Sources indicate the Risk Management Agency is tightening what qualifies for prevented plant acres; such tightening of the rules



could have serious implications for North Dakota agriculture. NDGGA is working with leaders to ensure North Dakota producers are appropriately compensated for unplanted acres lost to weather conditions beyond their control.

These are some of the things NDGGA is working on. Do you have time to deal with these and other local and national policy issues? Of course not, you're busy trying to get a crop in the ground and provide for your family. That's why you belong to NDGGA, so that NDGGA can be there to take care of education and policy issues on your behalf. That's why membership matters; that's why your input matters! NDGGA is there to represent you on the policy issues that affect your business. Let us know, whether its contacting the office or one of our Board of Directors, about your thoughts and concerns. NDGGA is here to represent YOU!

Working together, with the help of your input and your membership, we can be a positive, powerful force that will move 21st century agriculture forward into the future.



NDGGA GOLF Tournament

July 13th • Hawktree • Bismarck

Send to: NDGGA
4023 State St
Bismarck, ND 58503

_____ X \$110 (per person) = \$ _____

Total = \$ _____

Teams will be reserved only when paid in full.

Player 1 _____

Player 2 _____

Player 3 _____

Player 4 _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Credit Card - MC/VI Only _____

Expiration Date _____ 3 Digit Security Code _____



Legislative Report

NDGGA was heavily involved in the 61st Legislative Assembly; at 79 days this was the longest running legislature in state history. The session was marked by unprecedented budget surpluses and record snowfalls and flooding all of which contributed for the length of the legislative session.

On the whole, agriculture came out of the 2009 in fine shape; the following is a rundown of some of the bills that NDGGA followed through the 2009 Legislative process.

SB 2203 increased the barley checkoff to provide needed barley research dollars for the betterment of barley producers across North Dakota. Checkoff increases are never in the legislature but thanks to the groundwork laid by the North Dakota Barley Council and the widespread support by barley producers across North Dakota, critical research dollars will become available through the barley checkoff in the coming years.

HB 1402 kept intact the current wheat checkoff rate on wheat production in North Dakota. The part of the checkoff originally designed to pay off the Canadian trade case can now be used to further wheat research efforts in North Dakota.

With wheat in a race for acres in the state, it is critical that North Dakota wheat producers be afforded the best in wheat research efforts.

HB 1008, the Public Service Commission's budget, kept intact the \$900,000 funding mechanism for a rail rate case should one become necessary in the state. Relations between producers and the BNSF railroad have vastly improved in North Dakota as efforts by both groups have resulted in a better understanding of the needs and challenges each faces.

HB 1009, the Agriculture Commissioner's budget, experienced enhancements in the pesticide division of the department; these enhancements will better equip the department to deal with the pesticide regulation issues being promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency. One of those issues the department would deal with includes a recent ruling by the Sixth Circuit Court which mandates that EPA treat pesticide drift into water bodies as a pollutant under the Clean Water Act. Such action, if enacted and carried out as proposed, would require every applicator acquire a permit on every application of every individual pesticide that is applied near a body of water. This budget allows for Commissioner Goehring to deal with this issue and others like it on behalf of North Dakota farmers.

SB 2020 is the NDSU Extension and Research budget; this budget fully funded the completion of phase II of the NDSU Greenhouse Project and allows full completion of the

project should stimulus funds become available. Another enhancement was the addition of a cereal disease scientist who will, among other duties, address the Ug 99 stem rust disease that could threaten the U.S. wheat crop. On the whole, the NDSU Extension and Research budget did exceptionally well in the 2009 Legislature.

HCR 3014, introduced by Representative Mike Brandenburg, sends a clear message from the North Dakota Legislature to Congress that the word "navigable" must be left in the definition of "waters of the United States". This measure had widespread support; numerous agricultural groups, the coal industry, water resource districts and the State Water Commission supported the measure which was forwarded as a message to Congressional leaders.

HCR 3030, introduced by Representative Wes Beltier, urges Congress not to enact hasty or not well-thought-out climate change legislation. As the climate change debate heightens in Congress it is critical that Congressional leaders hear a united voice of reason coming from North Dakota.

SB 2248 is an update of the state's pesticide laws; of particular note hired help will still be able to apply restricted use pesticides if under the supervision of a certified pesticide applicator.

HCR 3067, introduced by Representative Phil Mueller, urges the restoration, through legal or political



means, of the Environmental Protection Agency's final rule exempting pesticides from the Clean Water Act's permitting requirements. The resolution stems from a recent adverse ruling by the Sixth Circuit Court which classifies pesticides as pollutants under the Clean Water Act and thereby subject to a permitting process under the Act. The ruling has serious ramifications for agriculture; through the resolution process the North Dakota Legislature has spoken to Congress on the issue on behalf of North Dakota.

SB 2438, Senator Wanzek's Sustainable Agriculture Bill, allows for the set-up of the sustainability branding of North Dakota ag products if producer follow certain criteria. The bill allows for a committee to set up the criteria that will be used to determine if a North Dakota ag commodity qualifies to be named "sustainably grown". As consumers move to "sustainable" food products, qualifying North Dakota producers should become leaders in providing "sustainable" commodities for consumers worldwide.

During the interim, the North Dakota Legislature will continue to rewrite the Agricultural Commodity titles of the North Dakota Century Code as well as look at the pesticide laws of the state. NDGGA will be there monitoring these and other issues affecting North Dakota producers.

Working for you,
the producer.



In the interest of expressing support for more efficient, sustainable and profitable production of wheat around the world, the undersigned organizations have approved the following joint statement concerning commercialization of biotechnology in wheat:

1. Wheat is a vital food to all peoples of the world and we believe that by developing higher yielding better quality wheat varieties we can better supply the world with wheat food products.

2. One important tool to help feed the world into the future is biotechnology. Basic agronomic improvements to wheat like strengthening disease and insect resistance, enhancing wheat's use of soil nutrients and water, increasing its tolerance to weather extremes like drought and frost, are all possible with biotechnology. Another critical area for biotechnology is to improve the nutritional aspects of wheat to facilitate healthier living for people all over the world. Biotechnology is not the only answer to these questions, but it will be a significant component in solutions.

3. In many of our production areas, wheat production is under pres-

sure from competing crops which, through the application of biotechnology, have achieved higher productivity, reduced input use, and other benefits not available in wheat. As a result, the historic area of wheat production has declined in many areas and economics are driving producers away from wheat and into other crops if they have alternatives. If wheat continues on a non-biotech course, then farmers will continue to devote a greater share of their acreage to biotech crops, where profitability is relatively greater, resulting in lower world wheat production than would otherwise be the case.

4. In general, wheat yields are on a very slow growth trend in comparison with competing crops, and the longer it takes to increase the growth rate the bigger will be the hole from which the industry must climb.

5. Biotechnology is a proven technique to deploy traits of interest with a high degree of precision in agricultural crops. Crops derived through biotechnology are subjected to strict regulatory scrutiny before commercialization. Over 10 years of global experience with

.....continued on back page

Wheat Biotechnology Commercialization Statement continued.....

biotechnology has demonstrated a convincing record of safety and environmental benefits as well as quality and productivity gains.

6. Lack of private and public investment in wheat research has left wheat development behind the advances in competing commodity crops, and has also led to a shortage of scientific expertise in wheat research generally. By providing an opportunity for private companies, the level of activity in wheat research will expand and attract a new generation of scientists into the field.

In light of these resolutions, we will work toward the goal of syn-

chronized commercialization of biotech traits in our wheat crops. While none of us hold a veto over the actions of others, we believe it is in all of our best interests to introduce biotech wheat varieties in a coordinated fashion to minimize market disruptions and shorten the period of adjustment. We are also committed to working with other stakeholders to address their needs and concerns as we travel the road to commercialization.



National Association of Wheat Growers
U.S. Wheat Associates

North American Millers' Association



Grain Growers of Canada
Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association
Alberta Winter Wheat Producers Commission



Grains Council of Australia
Grain Growers Association
Pastoralists and Graziers Association of Western Australia (Inc.)

NDGGA Golf Tournament

Monday, July 13th
\$110/Player

Hawktree Golf Course
Must be paid in full to reserve team spot.

Bismarck, ND

NORTH DAKOTA



GRAIN GROWERS

North Dakota Grain Growers Association
4023 State St
Bismarck, N.D. 58503