

# WHEAT AN ESSENTIAL GRAIN

## WHEAT 101

Cultivated for 10,000 years, wheat is one of the world's most important plants.

Today, U.S. farmers grow about 50 million acres of wheat, providing food for hundreds of millions of people at home and abroad and supporting jobs in rural communities as well as mills, bakeries, grocery stores and restaurants.

## WHEAT BY THE NUMBERS

37 bushels of wheat per acre were harvested during the 2018 crop year. In fact, 1,000 bushels can be harvested per hour from a modern combine.

Wheat farmers average a meager 12 cents on a loaf of bread that retails for \$3.49.

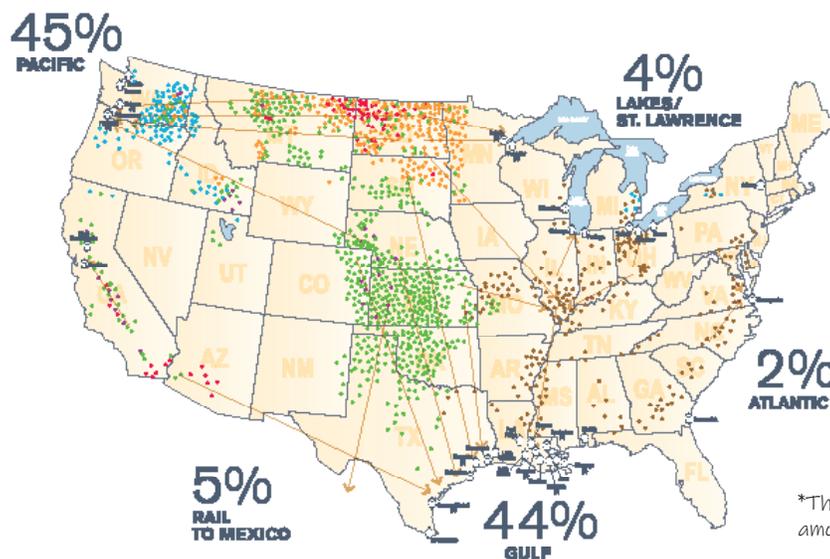
20% of calories consumed by humans are from wheat, according to the United Nations. The complex carbohydrates in grain-based foods provide essential fuel the body needs.

17 billion base pairs make up wheat's genetic material, five times more than the human genome and 40 times more than the rice genome.

In 2018, the food and agriculture industries reach into all corners of the United States, employing 22.78 million and generating \$729.37 billion in wages. The direct employment of the food and agriculture industries is equivalent to 14.9% of total U.S. employment.

## DIVERSITY OF WHEAT IN THE U.S.

Wheat farmers support their local, rural economies by buying inputs from local suppliers, selling their products to local elevators, paying property taxes and frequenting local businesses.



\*These numbers represent the amount of wheat exported.

# ABOUT NAWG

# SIX CLASSES OF WHEAT

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### HARD RED WINTER



*HRW is a very versatile grain that can be used in hard rolls, croissants, and flat breads. It is also an ideal wheat choice for some types of Asian noodles.*

### HARD RED SPRING



*HRS is used in hearth breads, rolls, croissants, bagels, and pizza crust!*

### SOFT RED WINTER



*SRW is a profitable choice for producing a wide range of confectionary products like cookies, crackers, and cakes.*

### SOFT WHITE



*SW provides a whiter and brighter product for Asian-style noodles and is ideal for exquisite cakes, pastries and other confectionary products.*

### HARD WHITE



*HW receives enthusiastic reviews when used for Asian noodles, whole wheat or high extraction applications, pan breads or flat breads.*

### DURUM



*Hardest of all wheats, durum has a rich amber color and high gluten content. It's the top choice for pasta products!*

*Through a staff of nine, NAWG acts as the primary representative on Capitol Hill for wheat growers. NAWG consists of 21 state wheat grower organizations, representing more 85% of wheat grown.*

