



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF WHEAT GROWERS**

**FY 2023-2024
3rd and 4th Quarter Report
January 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024**

Letter from NAWG CEO, Chandler Goule

It is hard to believe that another year has come to an end for the National Association of Wheat Growers. In January, the second half of our fiscal year started fast and furious, with the winter board meeting in Washington, DC. NAWG and USW held their joint board meeting, which included What 101 and the NAWG Hill Day, to lobby for the farm bill and other critical issues facing the wheat industry.

NAWG awarded House Committee on Agriculture Chairman G.T. Thompson the Wheat Leader of the Year award. This year, at the winter meeting under the leadership of Jake Westlin, we changed the format for our joint plenary format with USW for the first time and received a lot of positive feedback on this change. We look forward to continuing to look at new ways to make our board meetings more of a learning experience instead of business only.

Immediately following the winter meeting, we met in Houston, TX, for the first time for Commodity Classic. During the board meeting, we elected a new slate of officers, and Keeff Felty from Altus, OK, was elected President of NAWG. We also held a panel discussion with representatives from the USDA Farm Production and Conservation team, and separately, Under Secretary for FPAC, Robert Bonnie, joined us for our board of directors meeting. During the board meeting at Commodity Classic, the board of directors voted to eliminate the board meeting at Commodity Classic after years of debate for several reasons, but the main one being how close it was to a winter board meeting and cost.

In March, I attended for the first time as a speaker at the AgriTech conference in San Francisco. I spoke at a breakout session about the future of the wheat industry in the United States. I stressed the need for a modeling project to help NAWG and the industry make policy decisions going forward. As we know, the wheat industry in the United States has seen a continued decrease in acres. Meanwhile, corn, soy, and other commodities have been taking advantage of gene technology for decades. These commodities have expanded their growing areas into what were once predominately wheat acres. Additionally, with government and private sector programs prompting sustainability and cover crops, winter wheat isn't eligible because we harvest our crop. I worry these continued pressures will further impact our commodity presences in the United States, and this modeling project will help us better understand the future holds for the industry.

The National Wheat Improvement Committee hit Capitol Hill in March and sought to build momentum on new funding for the Wheat Resiliency Initiative. The National Wheat Foundation hosted all of the NAWG and NWF officers and me in Fargo ND, for the Bayer Leadership program. We visited the Northern Crops Institute as well as the North Dakota State Mill and Elevator while in North Dakota.

Immediately following Fargo, I was invited to Omaha, NE, to meet with 50 other senior thought leaders across agriculture to meet with the Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank. We had a two-day discussion on the intersection of agriculture and energy. We looked at the additional pressure the pursuit of cleaner energy was putting on the agriculture industry and resources.

As we wrapped up the second half of the NAWG year, I found myself in Chicago, IL, at the Agriculture Market Advisory Committee, which is hosted twice a year by the CME. NAWG ended the year with a positive outlook on farm bill reauthorization. In May, the House Agriculture Committee advanced a five-year farm bill on a bipartisan vote, and Chairwoman Stabenow and Ranking Member Boozman each put out their own separate proposals.

Letter from NAWG CEO, Chandler Goule

While a lot of work remains, in June, NAWG held a farm bill fly-in working to build on that positive momentum. As you see your Senators and Representatives in the countryside, it is essential to continue to underscore the need to enact a farm bill this year that works for wheat growers.

As I round out this report, I want to be sure to thank our industry partners from the IPP program and our Wheat Grower Alliance team. NAWG can't fully carry out its mission without your partnership. I write in closing that NAWG had a great year, and I look forward to the work we accomplish in 2024/2025!

Sincerely,

Chandler Goule

Communications & Partnerships Update

Events/Meetings:

NAWG/USW Winter Meeting: January 2024

Commodity Classic: March 2024

National Association of Farm Broadcasters (NAFB) Washington Watch: April 2024

Celebration of Modern Ag on the Mall: May 2024

Farm Bill Fly-in: June 2024

Podcast/Media:

Mariah Wollweber continued to host and produce the monthly Wheat World podcast until her departure in late October. Bethany Cumming produced the November and December/January podcast. Elizabeth Rivera took over producing the podcast in May.

Jake Westlin participated in the National Association of Farm Broadcasters (NAFB) Farm Talk. NAWG recieved over half a dozen interviews on NAWG's Farm Bill priorities.

NAWG remained proactive in seeking media opportunities and garnered exposure in 455 articles during the fourth quarter. These articles reached approximately 169 million readers and generated an ad value equivalency of \$319,000, amplifying the association's messages.

General:

NAWG continued its efforts to ensure effective internal and external communications for its members and the public. These efforts included weekly CEO reports/policies, updates on Mondays, a Thursday newsletter, and various press releases. Additionally, NAWG remained responsive to states' communication needs, engaging in monthly calls with state association staff and providing policy updates upon request. The association also actively participated in interviews to promote its mission and initiatives.

FY23-24 Third and Fourth Quarter NAWG and NWF Press Releases

January 11, 2024: [The National Wheat Foundation and BASF Award Scholarship](#)

February 15, 2024: [NAWG Announces Chairman Glenn "GT" Thompson as 2023 Wheat Leader of the Year](#)

March 5, 2024: [NAWG Elects New Officers with Keeff Felty as President](#)

March 6, 2024: [National Wheat Yield Contest Celebrates 2023 Winners and Launches New Website for 2024](#)

March 7, 2024: [NAWG Responds to the State of the Union Address](#)

March 28, 2024: [NAWG's 2024 Spring Intern](#)

April 2, 2024: [NAWG Hires Director of Communications and Partnerships](#)

April 4, 2024: (NAWG) [National Wheat Leaders Visit North Dakota](#)

April 4, 2024: (NWF) [National Wheat Leaders Visit North Dakota](#)

April 18, 2024: [Six National Commodity Groups Call on U.S. International Trade Commission to Nix Petition Related to Duties on Herbicides](#)

April 18, 2024: [Wheat Groups Welcome New Funding for Food Assistance](#)

Communications & Partnerships Update

May 1, 2024: [NAWG Responds to Chairwoman Stabenow and Chairman Thompson's Farm Bill Proposals](#)

May 24, 2024: [House Committee on Agriculture Advances the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024](#)

May 28, 2024: [NAWG CEO Attends White House State Dinner with President William Ruto and First Lady Rachel Ruto of the Republic of Kenya](#)

June 11, 2024: [NAWG Responds to Ranking Member Boozman's Farm Bill Proposal](#)

June 26, 2024: [NAWG Submits Testimony for Senate Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation, Climate, Forestry, and Natural Resources](#)

Communications & Outreach Update

Summary of NAWG's outreach efforts .

**15 Press
Releases Sent**



**Mentioned in 542 articles
that reached over
165 MILLION people
and generated an
Ad Value Equivalency of
\$331,000**

**OUR TWEETS EARNED
9.5K IMPRESSIONS**



**Instagram gained
829+ followers since
launched**

Communications & Partnership Update



Modern Ag on the Mall



June Fly-In



NAFB Washington Watch



June Fly-In



2024 NAWG/USW Winter Meeting



Presenting NAWG's 2023
Wheat Leader of the Year Award

NAWG Federal Policy Update

Farm Bill

Throughout the first and second quarters of 2024, NAWG has had robust engagement with the Senate and House Agriculture Committee leadership, staff, and members of the committee as efforts to reauthorize the farm bill ramped up. In January, NAWG hosted a moderated discussion with Chairwoman Stabenow and Ranking Member Boozman at its winter meeting hill briefing. The panel was moderated by NAWG CEO Chandler Goule and the Chairwoman elaborated on her vision and goals for the farm bill, which was communicated out in an open letter the week prior. Chairwoman Stabenow highlighted her priorities of providing farmers choice and flexibility in the farm safety net, timely assistance, expanding the reach of programs, and addressing the emerging risks farmers face. Ranking Member Boozman also reiterated his goals of strengthening the farm safety net and enhancing trade promotion programs as part of the process. Also, at the winter meeting NAWG's DTPC and ERC agenda included presentations from Senate and House Agriculture Committee staff.

In early February, NAWG Vice President of Policy and Communications Jake Westlin participated in a panel discussion before the American Association of Crop Insurers (AACI) / National Crop Insurance Services (NCIS) Annual Crop Insurance Convention in Scottsdale, AZ. Jake was joined by staff from the National Cotton Council and National Corn Growers Association for a conversation about the 2024 Farm Bill. As part of the conversation, the commodity staffers highlighted ongoing challenges facing their respective industries, what steps the producer organizations are undertaking to influence the Farm Bill process, how crop insurance has benefited each section in the past, and how the industry can continue to improve policies for the respective organizations.

Within the crop insurance policy area, NAWG also worked with Senator Hoeven (R-ND) to get the Federal Agriculture Risk Management Enhancement and Resilience (FARMER) Act introduced in the United States Senate. The FARMER Act aims to strengthen crop insurance and increase the affordability of higher coverage levels for producers.

In May, farm bill activity was in full swing. At the beginning of the month, Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Chairman Glenn "GT" Thompson (R-PA-15) each released their own five-year Farm Bill proposals. In the week leading up to and following the proposals being released, NAWG staff were in close contact with committee staff. Mid-month Chairman Thompson released bill text and scheduled a markup of the House version of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024 (H.R. 8472), which was passed by the committee on a bipartisan vote of 33-21. Ahead of the markup, NAWG sent a letter to the committee leadership and members of the committee outlining support for various provisions contained within the bill. Specifically, the provisions referenced in the letter related to the improvements made to the wheat reference price, Supplemental Coverage options, and trade promotion programs, and emphasis on commodities in the Food for Peace Program. Also, it highlighted the robust funding for voluntary incentive-based conservation programs and support for agricultural research.

Following the House Agriculture Committees farm bill action, NAWG held a fly-in on June 11 and 12, which included meetings with members of Congress and staff from both chambers. The participants

NAWG Federal Policy Update

met with nearly 30 offices to talk about our farm bill policy priorities and urged them to get a bipartisan, long-term farm bill signed into law this year. Of note, the group met with Chairwoman Stabenow, Ranking Member Boozman, staff from the House Agriculture Committee, and Speaker Johnson's office. During the fly-in, Ranking Member Boozman (R-AR) released his five-year farm bill proposal and held a briefing in the Senate Agriculture Committee's hearing room, which was attended by NAWG President Keeff Felty and VP of Policy and Communications Jake Westlin.

Crop Protection Tools

Throughout the year, NAWG engaged with the EPA and Capitol Hill on multiple advocacy and educational efforts that worked to maintain and update the availability of crop protection tools. NAWG was pleased with the inclusion of Uniformity Labeling for all pesticide labels approved under FIFRA ruling.

In February, NAWG drafted comments on a proposed rulemaking on duplicative regulatory action for Treated Seed products. The EPA was seeking comments from stakeholders regarding handling, storage, and management of treated seed. The comments highlighted all the rigorous testing treated seeds are put under and how further regulation would be an inefficient practice and put producers at risk. On February 6, the United States District Court for the District of Arizona vacated registrations for over-the-top dicamba products XtendiMax, Enginia, and Tavium for use on dicamba-tolerant cotton and soybeans. NAWG joined other agricultural organizations in sending a letter to the Administrator at the Environmental Protective Agency, Michael Regan on the February 6 vacate of registered Dicamba products.

NAWG alongside other agriculture stakeholders drafted comments on the Insecticide Strategy that was released by EPA. This strategy is one of many proposals from the EPA's ESA Workplan on crop protection tools to ensure that EPA stays in compliance with ESA standards. Previously, NAWG commented on the Herbicide Strategy and addressed concerns with mitigation menus, Pesticide Use Limitation Areas (PULA), economic cost of programs for producers, and efficiency of the strategy roll out. NAWG also signed onto a letter to the House and Senate Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittees asking for increased funding for the EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs and the Fish and Wildlife Service Planning and Consultation. NAWG also joined a letter in April over the petition to place antidumping and countervailing duties on imports of the herbicide 2,4-D that is shipped from India and China. The International Trade Commission (ITC) voted on May 18 to continue an investigation into China and India's trade practices.

Trade

In January, NAWG participated in a series of Farmers for Free Trade (FFT) hill visits that aimed at doing trade education and outreach, as well as urging members of Congress to join the newly minted Congressional Ag Trade Caucus. The new bipartisan caucus will seek to advance and promote policies vital to U.S. agriculture exports and support education and engagement opportunities for members of Congress to promote policies which boost international competitiveness, increase market access, address non-tariff barriers to trade, improve supply chains, and reestablish U.S. global leadership on

NAWG Federal Policy Update

trade. The co-chairs include Rep. Adrian Smith (R-NE), Rep. Costa (D-CA), Rep. Johnson (R-SD), and Rep. Panetta (D-CA). Following the hill visits, FFT members, which include NAWG, joined members of the Congressional Ag Trade Caucus for a launch party.

In April, the Senate Finance Committee and House Ways and Means Committee held their annual hearings to review The President's 2024 Trade Policy Agenda, which featured the United States Trade Representative Katherine Tai. Ahead of the hearings, NAWG joined over 30 agriculture organizations in sending a letter to Ambassador Tai urging enhanced engagement on trade policies to bolster our global competitive standing around the world. The letter urged recommitting to an aggressive trade agenda, holding parties accountable to commitments, and improving trade enforcement mechanisms are critical steps that need to be taken.

As part of the annual appropriations process, NAWG through its partnership in the Coalition to Promote U.S. Agricultural Exports sent letters to the House and Senate Appropriations Committee urging them to request at least \$200 million or the fully authorized level in continued mandatory funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Market Access Program (MAP) and at least \$34.5 million or the fully authorized level in continued mandatory funding for the Foreign Market Development Program (FMD) when they write the fiscal year 2025 Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

On May 23, NAWG CEO Chandler Goule attended the White House State Dinner with President William Ruto and First Lady Rachel Ruto of the Republic of Kenya. Goule was chosen to participate in this event due to President William Ruto's background in agriculture.

Food Aid

In March, NAWG participated in the USDA, USAID/BHA Food Aid Consultative Group (FACG) meeting, which provided year in review; panel on dangers to global shipping and increasing conflict/climate change; and a look towards the upcoming year and food aid programming.

On April 2, NAWG joined more than 100 agriculture and food aid organizations in asking the House and Senate Appropriations committees to fully support and increase funding for international food aid programs in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 agriculture appropriations bill. These food aid programs include the Food for Peace, Food for Progress, and McGovern-Dole International Food for Education. The request was made for the funding to be increased to \$2.4 billion for fiscal year 2025. According to the mid-year Global Report on Food Crises, there was a 10 percent increase from 2022 in people who are acutely food insecure.

On April 18, USW and NAWG welcomed the news that U.S. wheat farmers can help increase global food assistance under a new USDA funding program, the USDA and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) will invest \$1 billion in Commodity Credit Corporation funding to provide for the purchase, shipment and distribution of U.S. wheat and other commodities for USAID international food assistance programming.

NAWG Federal Policy Update

In May, NAWG and USW participated in the USDA Foreign Ag Service's International Food Aid Showcase. At this event we had presentations and panels discussion on the latest food aid initiatives with around 200 agriculture groups in attendance. Staff also talked to USDA officials about wheat growers' role in feeding those in need around the world.

Research and Technology

In January, NAWG, USW, and the National Wheat Improvement Committee (NWIC) submitted comments to USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) on the proposed exemptions concerning the Movement of Organisms Modified or Produced through Genetic Engineering (APHIS-2023-0022-0001). In general, the comment detailed the shared concern that the proposed exemptions still largely preclude allopolyploids in general and wheat in particular from participating in the use of this technology. Following the written comment, the groups met with staff from BRS to discuss the written comment and the next steps. Several of the NWIC wheat breeders submitted supplemental comments that complimented the initial submission.

In mid-March, the NWIC group was on Capitol Hill advocating for the wheat industry's fiscal year (FY) 2025 appropriations priorities. There were 22 NWIC representatives in Washington, DC, who met with nearly 40 offices in the Senate, House of Representatives, and US Department of Agriculture. The group advocated for increased funding for the Wheat Resiliency Initiative, which seeks to address critical challenges related to wheat stem sawfly, Hessian fly, bacterial leaf streak, and rust diseases. Additionally, the group continued advocating for full funding for the U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab and Small Grains Genomic Initiative.

The same week of the NWIC hill visits, NAWG CEO Chandler Goule hosted a round table titled "Wheat Growers' Next Gen Opportunities: Innovation, Outlook for Growth, Consumer Trends" at the World Agri-Tech Innovation Summit in San Francisco, CA. The Summit hosted over 2,400 people from the agriculture, technology, and food industry, with speakers from the USDA, Bayer, Microsoft, FMC, Syngenta, Amazon, Google, CHS, and more.

Appropriations and Budget Activity

Unfortunately, the first quarter of 2024 saw a significant focus on resolving the FY2024 appropriations process, which started on October 1, 2023. When the new year kicked off, the federal government was operating under a continuing resolution, which was again extended on January 18, 2024. The extension that passed in January provided funding for USDA through March 1, 2024, and most federal agencies through March 8, 2024.

On March 9, President Biden signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024 (H.R. 4366) into law, which included six Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 appropriation bills, including the agriculture appropriation bill. Specifically, the agriculture appropriations component maintains the FY2023 funding levels. However, of interest to NAWG, it included funding for one of NAWG's appropriations priorities, the Wheat Resiliency Initiative (WRI), which increases federal funding for pest and disease challenges facing producers. Also, while it maintained historic report language calling for full funding of the US

NAWG Federal Policy Update

Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative (USWBSI), USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) rescinded \$1 million of the \$15 million the USDWBSI typically receives. Since then, NAWG and other interested parties have met with USDA to not our concerns with the recession and talked with appropriators about the need to fully fund the initiative in future years. On March 23, President Biden signed H.R. 2882 into law, the final six-bill funding package that provided appropriations for agencies covered under the Defense, Financial Services, Homeland Security, Labor-HHS-Education, Legislative Branch and State-Foreign Operations bills.

As it relates to FY2025 appropriations, in addition to the NWIC hill visits in mid-March, NAWG submitted appropriations requests with member offices and sent outside witness testimony to the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittees in both the House and Senate. The member office appropriations requests urged continued full funding for the USWBSI, maintaining full funding for the Small Grains Genomic Initiative, and increasing federal funding for the WRI from \$500,000 to \$1.6 million. Additionally, the outside witness testimony noted these three priorities, but also stressed the need to protect crop insurance and other farm programs from potential cuts, fully fund the competitive grant programs of interest to agriculture and urged resources and direction to reinstate the reports National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) discontinued in April.

On April 9, NASS announced they would discontinue select 2024 data collection programs and reports. These programs and reports include all County Estimates for Crops and Livestock beginning with the 2024 production year, as well as the July Cattle report the Cotton Objective Yield Survey. The USDA says that the decision was not made lightly but was necessary and was made in light of the appropriated budget levels.

In addition to the outside witness testimony, NAWG joined numerous agriculture organizations in sending a letter on January 22, urging Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and Director Shalanda Young of the Office of Management and Budget to protect crop insurance from harmful cuts in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget proposal. The letter recognizes the protection crop insurance had in the FY2024 budget and asks for similar protections in next year's budget proposal. There were no crop insurance cuts proposed when the administration rolled out its budget later in the spring.

Transportation and Infrastructure

NAWG sent a letter to the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security which a hearing on the impact of removing the Snake River dams on January 30. The letter stated the importance of maintaining the dam system to ensure clean energy and efficient grain transportation. If completed, removal of the dams along the Columbia and Snake System could see offsets to transportation and irrigation impacts in the greater western portion of the United States.

On February 29, NAWG joined other agricultural organizations in writing a letter addressed to the Senate Commerce Committee members and the Majority and Minority Leaders from Senators Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Ted Cruz (R-TX) endorsing Patrick Fuchs for another term at the Surface Transportation Board.

NAWG Federal Policy Update

In April, NAWG alongside other groups sent a letter to Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Michel S. Regan to urge him to deny a request from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for authorization of regulations that would target key aspects of the operation of freight locomotives in California. NAWG also signed onto a letter distributed by the Agriculture Transportation Working Group urging legislators to look at the negative impact the Railroad Safety Enhancement Act would have on the transportation industry's efficiency.

NAWG had the opportunity to attend the Agriculture Rail Business Meeting at BNSF's headquarters last March. This meeting allowed for grower groups to get an inside look at one of the largest rail company's hubs and how operations are managed. BNSF also led a productive conversation on the future of the rail industry and entertained questions and concerns from grower groups on the current state of the rail industry.

Taxes

On April 8, NAWG and over 30 agriculture organizations sent a letter to leaders in the Senate asking for their action and support for the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act (H.R. 7024). The House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed the bipartisan tax package with a vote of 357 to 70 on January 31, 2024. The legislation extends the bonus depreciation from 80 percent of assets placed in service in 2023, to 100 percent for assets placed in service from January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2025. It also increases the Section 179 deduction from \$1 million to \$1.29 million, and the phaseout which starts when taxpayers place more than \$2.5 million assets in service, is being increased to \$3.22 million in assets. The legislation restores the Section 174 deduction for business research and development costs, and allows retroactive deductions for 2022, and expands the child tax credit.

WheatPAC

The Wheat PAC auction took place this past February at NAWG's annual meeting in Houston, Texas. The WheatPAC auction raised over \$53,405 to help candidates that support agriculture and the wheat industry. WheatPAC serves to advance the policy interests of wheat growers before members of Congress through helping to elect pro-wheat, pro-agriculture candidates. Thank you to everyone for the continual support and attendance at the WheatPAC auction.

With 2024 being an important election for a multitude of different reasons. WheatPAC has made sure to support members of Congress that are friends of the wheat industry and ensure that our allies get reelected this coming fall. The WheatPAC has given to nearly 20 legislators and is hoping to lend a helping hand as some of our biggest trailblazers on Capitol Hill are in a tight race. WheatPAC dollars undoubtedly helped our candidates' overcome challengers in tight races, keeping multiple agriculture-friendly members in the office.

NAWG Federal Policy Update

Environment, Climate and Sustainability

The Environment & Research Committee met twice in person during the second half of the year, both in Washington, DC and during the Annual Meeting in Houston, TX. The committee discussed renewable fuel developments with presentations from Bunge related to winter canola and from Sustainable oils about camelina and ongoing projects. The committee also heard from staff representatives from the House and Senate Agriculture Committees to discuss their farm bill proposals and from both the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Farm Service Agency regarding conservation programs.

The Farm Bill discussions continued with the House Agriculture Committee taking action on a bill at the end of May. During the committee review of the bill, Representative Sharice Davids offered an amendment related to wheat as a cover crop. The amendment was not voted on, but Representative Davids committed to working on the issue and NAWG remained engaged with her office on this important issue. Overall, the House Agriculture Committee passed bill includes several conservation provisions NAWG has supported including a focus on highly erodible land in Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and increasing the payment limit in the program to \$125,000 per year. The bill also specifies a CRP 50% cost share for seed and mid contract management and specifies State Acres for Wildlife (SAFE) is in continuous signup and the additional Signing Incentive Payments (SIPs) and Practice Incentive Payments (PIPs) for continuous signup.

Additionally, the CRP rental rate development process is updated with additional transparency on USDA's decisions on county rental rates – issues NAWG raised with the committee. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) continues with increased funding and added focus on precision agriculture, while maintaining the current payment limit. Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is also continued with increased funding and added provisions on precision agriculture. NAWG supports continued funding for EQIP & CSP and maintaining the CRP acreage cap – each of which is included in the bill. The bill also updates the delivery of technical assistance by directing the Secretary to streamline certification, provide payment information and transparency to the public on funds and contracts with third party providers. NAWG supports increased technical assistance and staffing for conservation program delivery. Through the bill, the conservation program funds from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) are rescinded to fund CRP changes, increase funding for EQIP, CSP and fund additional conservation programs – NAWG did not take a specific position on the use of IRA funds.

In addition to seeing action on the House Farm Bill proposal, the Senate Agriculture Committee leadership each release different farm bill proposals. Chairwoman Stabenow released a detailed farm bill proposal with a section-by-section description of proposed changes. The proposal would expand the CRP acreage, alter the rental rates and increase the annual payment limits among other things. The proposal would make additional changes to EQIP, CSP, Conservation Innovation Grants and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program. Senator Boozman, Ranking Member of the Senate Agriculture Committee also released a farm bill farm framework. The proposal would increase funding for conservation programs by more than 25 percent by reinvesting the IRA conservation funding into the farm bill conservation programs. NAWG continues to work with both the House Agriculture Commit-

NAWG Federal Policy Update

tee and Senate Agriculture Committee regarding the details of their proposals.

NAWG held several meetings with USDA officials regarding the treatment of harvested winter wheat in rotations compared to terminated cover crops. The Treasury Department released a proposal related to climate smart biofuel feedstocks for consideration of sustainable aviation fuel tax credits. The proposal would require corn and soybeans to be raised with a cover crop, and it does not recognize winter wheat rotations as providing similar environmental benefits. NAWG continues to have meetings with the Administration and technical staff at USDA regarding winter wheat in rotations and quantifying the environmental benefits. In July, NAWG filed comments related to conservation practices related to climate smart biofuel feedstocks, stressing the need to include conservation crop rotations and especially for food crops such as winter wheat. NAWG also coordinated a similar letter with support from the American Soybean Association, National Barley Growers Association, National Corn Growers Association, National Cotton Council, National Sunflower Association and USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council.

NAWG, NWF and US Wheat Associates continued to work on the Wheat Life Cycle Assessment Project with Texas A&M University and Colorado State University. More information is expected to be shared in the fall.

NAWG continued involvement in Field to Market and filed comments on a proposed new Biodiversity metric, focusing on winter wheat rotations and treatment/scoring compared to winter cover crops and overall balance for dryland production in western climates. The metric continues to be discussed with the organization development a revised approach and moving away from the initial proposal. NAWG also submitted testimony for the Senate Agriculture Committee's Conservation, Climate, Forestry and Natural Resources Subcommittee hearing in Burlington, CO. NAWG stressed the need to invest in research on new and innovative wheat germplasm and called on Congress and the USDA to reevaluate how they can better support growers in maintaining their no-till operations during periods of drought. The testimony also thanked Chairman Bennet and Ranking Member Marshall for introducing legislation that would allow farmers to ensure wheat enterprise units by fallow and continuous, while still offering a combined option for those who it would benefit. Addressing drought is a challenge, but feasible when working collectively to strengthen crop insurance, support voluntary conservation programs, maintain access to crop protection tools, and invest in research.

National Wheat Foundation Biannual Report



National Wheat Foundation Officers

*Gary Broyles, MT, Vice Chair
Bernard Peterson, KY, Chair
Scott Brown, ID, Secretary/Treasurer*

The National Wheat Foundation (NWF) was established by the industry to serve as the national center for wheat research, education and outreach. The Foundation works to advance the wheat industry through strategic research, education and outreach collaborations, guided by core values of grower centeredness, integrity, honesty and trustworthiness.

The Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization incorporated and headquartered in Washington, D.C., governed by a nine-member Board of Directors, overseen by Chandler Goule, Executive Director and managed by Anne Osborne, Project Manager, who is assisted by the staff of the National Association of Wheat Growers, the Foundation's sole member.

Questions and Answers with National Wheat Foundation Leaders



National Wheat Foundation Biannual Report

Q: Bernard, this is your sixth year serving on the Foundation Board. What are some of the most memorable things you and the Foundation have accomplished during this time?

A: Relationships are the most important part of any organization or company. We have improved and strengthened the relationships between NWF and NAWG through improved communication and working together. Also, the relationship with US Wheat Associates is strengthening and we are finding more areas for collaboration. All the organizations working on behalf of wheat growers are critically important and we need to do everything we can to work together to build up the industry. During my time on the Foundation, there has been growth in all areas; the National Wheat Yield Contest, Wheat 101, the farm tour, leadership programs, nutrition through wheat education, and partnerships. I am very satisfied with the direction the Foundation is going on behalf of wheat growers.

Q: Bernard, the 9-member board is quite active in the Foundation's mission of education, research and outreach. How has your board actively promoted wheat over the past year?

A: Everyone on our board is very active, we have 5 growers and 4 industry members, which is a great balance. Our board attends and participates in many activities held by our industry allies. Our experienced board shares the story of wheat growers in many different settings. Examples include Gary Broyles hosting Undersecretary Alexis Taylor on his farm near Billings, Montana for an afternoon tour, Brian Walker serving as the host of the Wheat Quality Council's wheat tours, Scott Brown hosting Bayer employees on his Idaho farm, Ben Scholz serving on a farmer panel for Field to Market at Commodity Classic, Ken Wood participation in Wheat Quality Council and Wheat Foods Council's meetings, and many more. All our directors generously share their time, expertise and wisdom as we continue to support the wheat industry.

Q: Chandler, what is one thing the Foundation does that people might not be aware of?

A: The Foundation supports the wheat industry in many ways. The rent on the NAWG/NWF office space on 25 Massachusetts in DC is paid in large part by the National Wheat Foundation, this allows NAWG and the Foundation to hold educational events and meetings in a very convenient location near to the Capitol and Administration Offices. The Foundation also runs the very successful National Wheat Yield Contest, and from that NAWG gains new members from non-NAWG states. We then get a chance to interact with these new members and introduce them and their states to NAWG's advocacy efforts on behalf of wheat growers. Wheat 101 in Washington DC during our winter meeting is a very successful educational event the Foundation Hosts. The Foundations' work on education, research collaborations and outreach directly benefit the whole wheat industry.

Q: Anne, what would you like to share about the Foundation that people might not know?

A: The Foundation really works to unite wheat industry stakeholders and maximize limited resources. Our partners for the yield contest, leadership programs, farm tour and all our activities are crucial to our success. We know that there are many more ways we can support and strengthen the wheat industry, and we are tackling them aligned with our strategic plan and available resources. If anyone

National Wheat Foundation Biannual Report

wants to get involved as a partner, we have several ways to do that please contact me for more information.

Q: All of you, what are the biggest challenges facing the Foundation in the next few years?

A: With the growth of the Foundation, new and exciting challenges have come. Adhering to our strategic plan, done in January 2021, shortly after Anne came on board. This is important because we insist on keeping adequate financial resources available for future generations of wheat growers and their children, we have financial challenges. The growth of the National Wheat Yield Contest and the leadership programs are a testament to the importance of our strategic partnerships and utilization of our resources in a very efficient and effective manner. Also, the addition of the project manager, who works nearly exclusively for the Foundation, has been very successful. Our challenges will continue to be to prioritize the education, research and outreach work so that we make the most of our available resources and to find like-minded partners to collaborate and cooperate with us in our efforts.

National Wheat Yield Contest

The National Wheat Foundation (NWF) started the National Wheat Yield Contest (NWYC) in 2016 with the goals of improving the productivity of U.S. wheat growers, drive innovation in the industry, enable knowledge transfer between growers and encourage the use of available technology. In that first year, the contest had seven sponsors and received 128 entries. The contest has grown over the nine years and now has twenty-eight partners and over 500 entries. The objectives of the contest have evolved with input from many partners and participants and are now stated as:

- 1. Improve the overall productivity, quality, and marketability of the US wheat crop.**
- 2. Educate and communicate to all segments of the wheat industry the importance of yield, end use quality, and profit.**
- 3. Develop best management practices to achieve high yield, quality, and higher profit.**

Partnership with DTN/Progressive Farmer as the official publication of the NWYC has resulted in increased participation and extension of the results of the contest, including education about why yield, quality and profit are critical and how winners are achieving these goals. The contest has always been mindful of the quality of the wheat grown and entered in the contest. Requirements were added so that only contestants with grade 1 or 2 per Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) would qualify, however, that measurement was only for grain quality, so quality measurements were enhanced in 2022 to include milling and baking quality of the national winners. There continues to be a test weight requirement for the national contest, which is consistent with FGIS Grades 1 and 2 wheats. All contestants are required to save a 10-pound sample of wheat and if they are determined to be a national winner based on yield, their wheat is sent to laboratories to be tested further for grain, milling and baking qualities. This quality component allows the contest to demonstrate to stakeholders that it is possible

National Wheat Foundation Biannual Report

for high yielding wheat to also be high quality. Contestants have been accepting of this component and are interested in the quality characteristics of the wheat they grow.

By evaluating the national winners' wheat samples for quality, the contest hopes to prove that high yield and high quality are possible and demonstrate ways to achieve these goals. The data gathered from the quality analysis is a concrete way to discuss with stakeholders what industry-desired quality is and how it is being achieved. The National Wheat Yield Contest would not exist without the generous support, input and guidance of all our partners. We would like to recognize them for financial support, support with their time and services, and promotion of the contest.

Since the contest began in 2016, four partners have been involved every year. Special thanks to West-Bred, BASF, John Deere, and Croplan. Other partners include U.S. Wheat Associates, The McGregor Companies, Limagrain, Climate FieldView, AgriMaxx, Ardent Mills, Bushel, Corteva, DynaGro, Eastman, Grain Craft, GrainSense, Mennel, Miller Milling, ND Mill & Elevator, Northern Crops Institute, Siemer Milling, UPL, and USG. DTN/Progressive Farmer is the official publication of the contest. The states supporting the contest are: Idaho Wheat, Kansas Wheat, Kentucky Small Grain Growers Association, Michigan Wheat, Montana Grain Growers Association, North Carolina Small Grain Growers Association, Ohio Corn & Wheat, and PlainsGold (Colorado Wheat).

Education is a Key Mission of the Foundation

Wheat 101 and the Farm Tour seek to educate policy makers about wheat and the value of the wheat industry. Bayer Leadership Program and the Syngenta Leadership at its best educate our members and future members and leaders for the important work of our industry now and in the future. Parliamentary Procedure training was held to help ensure our meetings are efficient, effective and everyone's voice is heard.



Wheat Growers in the yield contest learn about best practices and why both yield and quality are important. Industry partners in the wheat yield contest learn about growers' needs and what they can do to help them achieve yield, quality and profit. Eric Spates generously welcomed us to his farm during wheat harvest in June to host a farm tour. Our guests were congressional staff and USDA staff, Maryland Extension Service and county ag officials. Fifty people attended the tour and learned all about wheat farming and its risks and rewards. Everyone enjoyed seeing the combine run and harvest wheat. Relationships were formed and the Foundation thanks the North American Millers Association for their participation at this event and a special Thank You to Eric Spates for offering his time and farm for this important educational event.

National Wheat Foundation Biannual Report

The National Wheat Foundation became a MyPlate National Strategic Partner Champion. This provides a wealth of resources and collaborative opportunities to educate people about the advantage of consuming wheat and grains as part of a balanced diet. One of the Foundation's strategic priorities is Nutrition through Wheat, and this partnership will help disseminate factual, scientifically grounded information about wheat foods. We will partner with other MyPlate partners to help spread the word about MyPlate and how grains are a critical part of a healthy diet. Build a Better Sandwich resource was developed thorough partnership with Grain Foods Foundation, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, and Love one Today Avocado. [Visit MyPlate | National Wheat Foundation](#) for more information.





Build a Better Sandwich with MyPlate

Every day, nearly half of all **Americans** enjoy a sandwich*



Simple ways to add
nutrition to any meal



Quick to prepare



Portable



Easily personalized based on
taste and cultural preferences

...and, most importantly, delicious

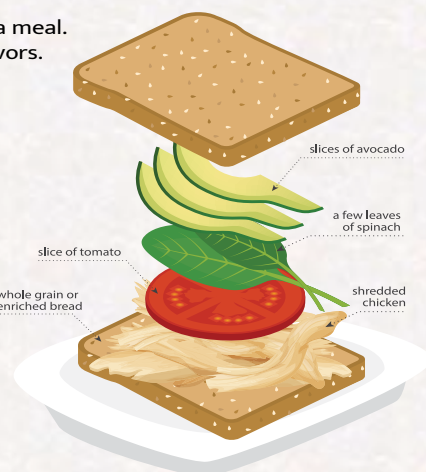
THE INGREDIENTS **INSIDE** THE SANDWICH

FROM THE BREAD TO THE INSIDES, SANDWICHES
ARE FILLED WITH TASTY NUTRITION

BUILD A BETTER SANDWICH MAKE IT COUNT!

Sandwiches are an easy, budget-friendly way to add more nutrition to a meal. Sandwiches are also a perfect way to explore different cultures and flavors.

- 1 Start with the grains.** There are endless options to choose from! Try your favorite whole grain or enriched bread, pita, tortilla, bagel, bun, English muffin, or naan. Can't decide? Mix and match!
- 2 Pile on the produce.** Explore lots of flavors, colors, and textures found in shredded carrots, raisins, apple slices, broccoli slaw, pears, spinach, and sliced tomato.
- 3 Pick your protein.** Use leftover slices of chicken, lean beef, or pork; canned tuna and salmon; eggs; nut butters; and mashed beans.
- 4 Swap the spread.** Try spreads lower in sodium, saturated fats, and added sugars such as avocado, hummus, non-fat Greek yogurt, nut butters, mustard, smashed black beans, roasted garlic, low-fat mayo, and mashed berries.
- 5 Cut costs without losing flavor and fun.**
 - Choose in-season fruits and veggies.
 - Be creative in pairing flavors (like sweet, savory, spicy), textures (crunchy, smooth, creamy, crispy), and temperatures (cold, hot).
 - Start with leftovers and produce you have in your fridge.



*Source: Sebastian et al. Sandwich consumption by adults in the U.S.: What We Eat In America, NHANES 2009-2012. Food Surveys Research Group Dietary Data Brief No. 14. Dec 2015.



Financial Information

The spending policy of the Foundation board is to spend annually up to 4.5% of the long-term investment account, thus ensuring a revenue source for future generations of wheat growers. For FY24, this amount was \$292,126 which equals 40% of the total annual budget. The rest of the income is generated through partnerships and donations. Expenses include building rent for the NAWG office, management fee for NAWG employees (including the NWF project manager-Anne Osborne), professional fees, travel, meeting costs and foundation projects.

Interested donors can give through our gifts of grain program or contact Anne Osborne (aosborne@wheatworld.org) for more information.

National Wheat Foundation Biannual Report



Annual NWF Farm Tour



2024 NAWG/USW Winter Meeting



North Dakota State Mill and Elevator Tour



Annual NWF Farm Tour



Annual NWF Farm Tour



Bayer Leadership Event in Fargo, ND