



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF WHEAT GROWERS**

**2025-2026  
LEADERSHIP  
AND POLICY**

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NOTE THAT THIS DIRECTORY WAS  
PUBLISHED IN MAY 2025

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## ABOUT NAWG

NAWG works with 20 state wheat grower organizations to advocate on behalf of wheat farmers, industry partners and the wheat industry.

NAWG advocates for the state wheat organizations in Washington, D.C., working on a daily basis with coalition partners, Members of Congress and officials at the Department of Agriculture and other government agencies.

## NAWG GOVERNANCE DOCUMENTS

NAWG receives its direction from members of state wheat associations via the NAWG Board of Directors. NAWG's positions on issues affecting the wheat industry are outlined in the NAWG Resolutions, as approved by the NAWG Board. The full resolutions document is available online at [www.wheatworld.org/policy](http://www.wheatworld.org/policy).

## NAWG'S KEY ISSUES

Key issues worked on by NAWG staff and grower-leaders include:

- Farm bill development and implementation.
- Trade policies and market promotion funding.
- Environmental issues and regulation.
- Transportation policies, including rail, water and truck.
- Research funding and coordination.
- Regulation of new breeding technologies.

## FIND US ONLINE

[WWW.WHEATWORLD.ORG](http://WWW.WHEATWORLD.ORG)



National Association of Wheat Growers



@wheatgrowers



@wheatworld

## NAWG PAST PRESIDENTS

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2009.....	Karl Scronce.....	Klamath Falls, OR
2010.....	Jerry McReynolds.....	Woodston, KS
2011.....	Wayne Hurst.....	Burley, ID
2012.....	Erik Younggren.....	Hallock, MN
2013.....	Bing Von Bergen.....	Moccasin, MT
2014.....	Paul Penner.....	Hillsboro, KS
2015.....	Brett Blankenship.....	Washtucna, WA
2016.....	Gordon Stoner.....	Outlook, MT
2017.....	David Schemm.....	Sharon Springs, KS
2017.....	Gordon Stoner.....	Outlook, MT
2018.....	Jimmie Musick.....	Sentinal, OK
2019.....	Ben Scholz.....	Lavon, TX
2020-21.....	Dave Milligan.....	Cass City, MI
2022.....	Nicole Berg.....	Patterson, WA
2023.....	Brent Cheyne.....	Klamath Falls, OR
2024.....	Keeff Felty.....	Altus, OK

## NAWG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### ALABAMA

BEN LOONEY

STANLEY WALTERS

### CALIFORNIA

JIM PARSONS

### COLORADO

AUSTON ANDERSON

JUSTIN LEWTON

### IDAHO

KYLE WANGEMANN

JEFFERY HOOD

### ILLINOIS

JOHN HOWELL

### KANSAS

TIM TUREK

CLAY SCHEMM

KENTUCKY

NEIL DENTON

JASON HEAD

MARYLAND

ERIC SPATES

BILLY WILLARD JR

MICHIGAN

JEFFERY KROHN

WILLIAM LYNDON UPHAUS

MINNESOTA

KEVIN LEISER

AUSTEN GERMOLUS

MONTANA

STEVE SHEFFELS

KLAYTON LOHR

NEBRASKA

RANDON PETERS

PETE MILLER

## NORTH CAROLINA

JACK ALPHIN

JOHN MCCLENNY

## OHIO

SCOTT RUCK

OWEN NIESE

## OKLAHOMA

KATHY FOWLER

## OREGON

ERIN HANSEL HEIDEMAN

THAD EAKIN

## SOUTH DAKOTA

DOUG SIMONS

## TEXAS

EDDIE WOMACK

SCOTT BORN

WASHINGTON

RYAN POE

JEFFREY MALONE

WYOMING

KENNETH TREMAIN

DEREK JACKSON



## NAWG STATE STAFF

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*Below are listed the state staff for NAWG's 20 member-states.*

### ALABAMA FARMERS FEDERATION

CARLA HORNADY, Director, Grains  
Divisions

Office: (334) 288-3900

### CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF WHEAT GROWERS

BROOKE PALMER, Executive Vice President  
Office: (916) 441-1064

### COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF WHEAT GROWERS

BRAD ERKER, Executive Director  
Office: (970) 449-6994

### IDAHO GRAIN PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

AMAYA AGUIRRE-LANDA, Executive Director  
Office: (208) 345-0706

### ILLINOIS WHEAT ASSOCIATION (ASSOCIATE MEMBER)

TASHA BUNTINGS, Executive Director  
Office: (309) 557-3363

**KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF WHEAT  
GROWERS**

**JUSTIN GILPIN, Chief Executive Officer**  
Office: (785) 539-0255

**KENTUCKY SMALL GRAIN GROWERS  
ASSOCIATION**

**LAURA KNOTH, Executive Director**  
Office: (800) 326-0906

**MARYLAND GRAIN PRODUCERS  
ASSOCIATION**

**LINDSAY THOMPSON, Executive Director**  
Office: (443) 262-8491

**MICHIGAN WHEAT PROGRAM**

**JODY POLLOK-NEWSOM, Executive Director**  
Office: (517) 625-9432 (WHEA)

**MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF WHEAT  
GROWERS**

**BRIAN SORENSON, Chief Executive Officer**  
Office: (218) 253-4311

**MONTANA GRAIN GROWERS  
ASSOCIATION**

**ALISON VERGERONT, Executive Vice Presi-  
dent**  
Office: (406) 761-4596

**NEBRASKA WHEAT GROWERS  
ASSOCIATION**

**ROYCE SCHANEMAN, Executive Director**  
Office: (402) 471-2358

**NORTH CAROLINA SMALL GRAIN  
GROWERS ASSOCIATION**

**NIKKI JOHNSON, Executive Director**  
Office: (919) 809-8657

**OHIO CORN AND WHEAT GROWERS  
ASSOCIATION**

**TADD NICHOLSON, Executive Director**  
Office: (740) 201-8088

**OKLAHOMA WHEAT GROWERS  
ASSOCIATION**

**JEFFREY HICKMAN, President/CEO**  
Office: (580) 233-9516

**OREGON WHEAT GROWERS LEAGUE**

**AMANDA J. HOEY, Chief Executive Officer**  
Office: (541) 276-7330

**SOUTH DAKOTA WHEAT  
GROWERS ASSOCIATION**

**CAREN ASSMAN, Executive Director**  
Office: (605) 224-4418

**TEXAS WHEAT PRODUCERS  
ASSOCIATION**

**STEELEE FISCHBACHER, Executive Director**  
Office: (806) 352-2191

**WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF WHEAT  
GROWERS**

**MICHELLE HENNINGS, Executive Director**  
Office: (509) 659-0610 ext. 12

**WYOMING WHEAT GROWERS  
ASSOCIATION**

**MARTI HUBBS, Executive Secretary**  
Office: (307) 788-1530

## NAWG STAFF

**CHANDLER GOULE**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

[cgoule@wheatworld.org](mailto:cgoule@wheatworld.org)



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**ELIZABETH RIVERA**  
**DIRECTOR OF  
COMMUNICATIONS AND  
PARTERSHIPS**

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**ANTHONY PEÑA**  
**POLICY MANAGER**

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**ANNE OSBORNE**  
**NATIONAL WHEAT  
FOUNDATION PROJECT  
MANAGER**

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MAIN OFFICE PHONE: (202) 547-7800

MAIN OFFICE ADDRESS:

25 Massachusetts Ave., NW

Suite 500B

Washington, D.C. 20001

## 2025-2026 NAWG INDUSTRY PARTNERS PROGRAM

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The NAWG Industry Partners Program will be awarded voting rights on one of the two policy committees within NAWG. This will allow for participation and voting rights during the scheduled in-person meetings as well as participation on committee conference calls. As committee members, members will contribute to setting priorities and desired outcomes as well as receive all committee communications including meeting materials, draft letters, comments, and other policy items.

Our wheat value chain partners participate in the Industry Partner Program at the following levels:

### INDUSTRY MEMBER

Syngenta.....[www.syngenta.com](http://www.syngenta.com)

Ardent Mills.....[www.ardentmills.com](http://www.ardentmills.com)

### INDUSTRY ALLY

FMC Corporation.....[www.fmc.com](http://www.fmc.com)

Farm Credit Council.....[www.farmcredit.com](http://www.farmcredit.com)

Nutrien.....[www.nutrien.com](http://www.nutrien.com)

Companies who join at the top level as Industry Members will additionally receive one non-voting seat on the Board of Directors. This will allow for participation in all board discussion and be a receipt of all communications sent directly to the full board.

Participants will be also able to access certain member benefits available to NAWG's state members, including specific communications, toolkits, etc., depending on the tier of participation. Participants also have the option of having logo placement on the NAWG website, as well as opportunities to publish blog postings on the website and/or NAWG's social media channels.

To learn more about the program and how your company can become involved, please contact Elizabeth Rivera at [erivera@wheatworld.org](mailto:erivera@wheatworld.org).

# 2025-2026 DOMESTIC AND TRADE POLICY COMMITTEE

**MEMBERS:** appointed by the president from the NAWG Board of Directors.

**CHARGE:** develop and advocate favorable domestic and trade policy including in the areas of farm programs, risk management, trade, transportation, etc.

**SUBCOMMITTEES:** may be formed by the chair. To include: 1) risk management and 2) transportation and railroads.

**LIAISONS TO OTHER GROUPS INCLUDE:** Joint International Trade Policy Committee (JITPC) (vice chair plus three other members); USW Food Aid; USW Hard White Wheat.

## **NAWG STAFF LIAISON:**

Anthony Peña, Policy Advisor

## **NAWG OFFICER LIAISON:**

Jamie Kress, Vice President

**CHAIR:** Kathy Fowler (OK)

**VICE CHAIR:** Ryan Poe (WA)

**MEMBERS:** Stanley Walters (AL)

Justin Lewton (CO)

Kyle Wangemann (ID)

Tim Turek (KS)

Neil Denton (KY)

Willam Lyndon Uphaus (MI)

Austen Germolus (MN)

Steve Sheffels (MT)

Randon Peters (NE)

Jack Alphin (NC)

Scott Ruck (OH)

Thad Eakin (OR)

Doug Simons (SD)

Scott Born (TX)

Derek Jackson (WY)

IPP - Anne Thompson (Farm Credit)

IPP - Elizabeth Boylan (FMC)

IPP - Renee Munasifi (Nutrien)



## 2025-2026 JOINT INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICY COMMITTEE

**MEMBERS:** nine total members with four members appointed by each NAWG and U.S. Wheat Associates a chairmanship alternating annually between the two organizations.

**CHARGE:** to consider policy questions and propose policy resolutions in the area of trade to the NAWG and USW Boards of Directors for approval.

**NAWG STAFF LIAISON:**

Anthony Peña, Policy Advisor

**USW STAFF LIAISON:**

Dalton Henry, Vice President of Policy

**NAWG OFFICER LIAISON:**

pending

**CHAIR:** NAWG- Mike pending

**VICE CHAIR:-** USW- pending

**MEMBERS:** NAWG - pending

NAWG - pending

NAWG - pending

USW- pending

USW- pending

USW- pending

## 2025-2026 ENVIRONMENT AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE

**MEMBERS:** appointed by the president from the NAWG Board of Directors.

**CHARGE:** develop and advocate favorable environmental and renewable resource policy including for conservation programs, crop protection, climate change, cellulosic ethanol, and similar areas as well as for favorable research and technology policy for wheat and dedicated energy crops including in the areas of variety development, research appropriations and project funding, biotechnology, grain quality, etc.

**SUBCOMMITTEES:** may be formed by the chair.

**LIAISONS TO OTHER GROUPS INCLUDE:** Field to Market; Wheat Breeding Innovation Committee (WBIC); National Wheat Improvement Committee

### **NAWG STAFF LIAISON:**

Anthony Peña, Policy Advisor

### **NAWG OFFICER LIAISON:**

Keef Felty, Past President

**CHAIR:** Auston Andersen (CO)

**VICE CHAIR:** Owen Niese (OH)

**MEMBERS:** Ben Looney (AL)

(non-voting) Jim Parsons (CA)

Jeffery Hood (ID)

Clay Schemm (KS)

Jason Head (KY)

Eric Spates (MD)

Jeffery Krohn (MI)

Kevin Leiser (MN)

Klayton Lohr (MT)

Pete Miller (NE)

John McClenny (NC)

Owen Niese (OH)  
Erin Heideman (OR)  
Eddie Womack (TX)  
Jeff Malone (WA)  
Ken Tremain (WY)  
IPP - Val Dolcini (Syngenta)  
IPP - Shrene White (Ardent Mills)

# 2025-2026 WHEAT BREEDING INNOVATION COMMITTEE

**MEMBERS:** nine total members with four members appointed by each NAWG and U.S. Wheat Associates and a chairmanship alternating annually between the two organizations.

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:** To promote wheat innovation while maintaining domestic and international markets for US produced wheat, satisfying customer preferences and avoiding market disruption to international trade. To ensure that any regulation of wheat developed through biotechnology and other plant breeding methods be efficient and science-based.

**NAWG STAFF LIAISON:**

Anthony Peña, Policy Advisor

**USW STAFF LIAISON:**

Dalton Henry, Vice President of Policy

**NAWG OFFICER LIAISON:**

Pat Clements, President

**CHAIR:** USW- pending

**VICE CHAIR** NAWG - XX

**MEMBERS:** NAWG - XX

NAWG - pending

NAWG - pending

NAWG - pending

USW- pending

USW- pending

USW- pending

## 2025-2026 OPERATIONS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

**MEMBERS:** comprised of the vice chairs of the policy committees, with NAWG's immediate past president as chair and at-large members from the NAWG Board of Directors.

**CHARGE:** guide the immediate and long-term vision for NAWG; lead strategic planning efforts; oversee NAWG administrative policies; oversee meetings and conventions, including involvement in Commodity Classic, and any other tasks designated by the Bylaws or the Board of Directors.

**SUBCOMMITTEES:** may be formed by the chair. To include: PAC.

**LIAISONS TO OTHER GROUPS INCLUDE:** Commodity Classic Affiliate Council.

**NAWG STAFF LIAISON:** Chandler Goule, CEO

**CHAIR:** Keff Felty, Past President

**VICE CHAIR:** Nathan Keane, Treasurer

**DTPC VC:** Ryan Poe (WA)

**ERC VC:** Owen Niese (OH)

**AT-LARGE MEMBERS:**

John McClenny (NC)

Jeff Krohn (MI)

Clay Schemm (KS)

Scott Born (TX)

Shrene White (IPP- Ardent Mills)

**COMMODITY CLASSIC:** Clay Schemm (KS)

## 2025-2026 BUDGET COMMITTEE

**MEMBERS:** elected by the NAWG Board of Directors to serve staggered, four-year terms. Chaired by the NAWG Treasurer, with the NAWG Secretary serving as Vice Chair.

**CHARGE:** propose a budget to the Board at the annual meeting; select the audit firm to review financial reports and procedures; and propose revisions to the funding formula if needed.

**SUBCOMMITTEES:** may be formed by the chair.

**NAWG STAFF LIAISON:** Chandler Goule, CEO

**CHAIR:** Nathan Keane, Treasurer

**VICE CHAIR:** Chris Tanner, Secretary

**MEMBERS:**

John McClenny (NC - term expires 2026)

Tate Petry (MN - term expires in 2027)

Steve Scheffels (MT term expires in 2028)

Andy Juris (WA - term expires in 2029)

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS:**

Ben Scholz (NWF Sec./ Treasurer)

Ken Wood (NWF Officer)

## 2025-2026 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

**MEMBERS:** NAWG Executive Board, minus the Executive Committee, with a chairman selected within the Committee

**CHARGE:** From Article VIII of the NAWG By-laws:

“The Nominating Committee shall consist of the members of the Executive Board. The Nominating Committee shall select its own Chairman from among its members...

“The Nominating Committee will meet no later than the fall board meeting to review candidates and set up interview procedures. Final recommendations for all positions elected by the Board will be presented to the Board of Directors at the annual meeting.

“It is the duty of the Nominating Committee to select and present to the Board of Directors a slate of nominees for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, filling of vacancies on the Budget Committee, and any other position elected by the Board...

“In the event that a member of the Nominating Committee is a candidate for the Executive Committee, the State Wheat Growers Organization which the candidate represents shall submit to the President or Chief Executive Officer the name of an alternate to serve in the place of the candidate on the Nominating Committee. Members of the Executive Committee may not serve on the Nominating Committee.”

**CHAIR:** Pending

**MEMBERS:** Ben Looney (AL)  
Jim Parsons (CA) (non-voting)  
Auston Andersen (CO)  
Kyle Wangemann (ID)  
Tim Turek (KS)  
Jason Head (KY)  
XX (MD)  
Jeffery Krohn (MI)  
Kevin Leiser (MN)  
Klayton Lohr (MT)  
Pete Miller (NE)  
John McClenny (NC)  
Scott Ruck (OH)  
Dennis Schoenhals (OK)  
Erin Hansell-Heideman (OR)  
Doug Simons (SD)  
Scott Born (TX)  
Ryan Poe (WA)  
Derek Jackson (WY)



## 2025-2026 EXECUTIVE BOARD

**MEMBERS:** the Executive Board is comprised of the Executive Committee and one Director designated by each State Wheat Growers Organization.

**CHARGE:** the powers and responsibilities of the Executive Board are outlined in Article VI of the bylaws.

**MEMBERS:**

	President Patt Clements
	Vice President Jamie Kress
	Treasurer Nathan Keane
	Secretary Chris Tanner
	Past President Keeff Felty
	Ben Looney (AL)
non-voting	Jim Parsons (CA)
	Auston Andersen (CO)
	Kyle Wangemann (ID)
	John Howell (IL)
	Chris Tanner (KS)
	Tim Turek (KY)
	XX (MD)
	Jeffery Krohn (MI)
	Kevin Leiser (MN )
	Klayton Lohr (MT)
	Pete Miller (NE)
	John McClenny (NC)
	Scott Ruck (OH)
	Dennis Schoenhals (OK)
	Erin Hansell-Heideman (OR)
	Doug Simons (SD)
	Scott Born (TX)
	Ryan Poe (WA)
	Derek Jackson (WY)



### OFFICER SLATE FOR 2025-2026

Chair- Scott Ruck, OH

Vice Chair- Boyd Heilig, MT

Secretary- Erin Heideman, OR

Treasurer- NAWG Staff

### WHAT IS WHEATPAC?

WheatPAC is a political action committee administered by the National Association of Wheat Growers for the purpose of assisting Members of Congress who support wheat's message.

### WHY DOES WHEATPAC MATTER?

WheatPAC allows NAWG's national officers and government affairs staff to attend important functions with key Members of Congress and spend time, one-on-one, discussing priority issues with them. WheatPAC is an effective tool in NAWG's efforts to take on federal policy issues that are important to you!

### WHO FUNDS WHEATPAC?

WheatPAC's funding is solely dependent upon the voluntary donations of members of the National Association of Wheat Growers. No check-off dollars go toward this effort.

### WHAT IS THE WHEATPAC BOARD?

The WheatPAC Board is a two-tier membership system of NAWG members that have a voice in deciding contribution decisions and logistical

choices for the WheatPAC.

### WHO GETS WHEATPAC DONATIONS?

NAWG's government affairs staff, in consultation with NAWG's chief executive officer and the NAWG officers, select recipients for WheatPAC donations. Donation decisions take into consideration input from NAWG-affiliated state associations, demonstrated support of agriculture and NAWG policy, position in Congress and need. WheatPAC only contributes to candidates for the U.S. Congress in general elections.

### WHEATPAC PARTICIPATION

Participation in WheatPAC is limited to only NAWG state wheat grower organizations, individual-direct members, individual-indirect members (members of affiliated state associations) and associate sponsors, in accordance with Article II of the National Association of Wheat Growers Bylaws.

Donations can be sent to:

WheatPAC

c/o National Association of Wheat Growers  
25 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Suite 500B  
Washington, DC 20001

### WHEATPAC DISCLOSURES

The National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) supports the operation of WheatPAC Political Action Committee (WheatPAC) as authorized by, and in accordance with, federal law.

The Executive Committee of NAWG decides what federal candidates merit consideration for contributions.

Individuals desiring additional information on their eligibility or about the activities of WheatPAC should reach out to NAWG staff in Washington, D.C.

## NAWG POLICY RESOLUTIONS

Note: The policy priorities were set at the 2024 fall meeting. NAWG adopted a couple more resolutions at the annual 2025 winter meeting in Washington, D.C. Updated versions of this document will be posted after each NAWG meeting at: [www.wheatworld.org/about-us/policy-process](http://www.wheatworld.org/about-us/policy-process).

### 2025 POLICY PRIORITIES

As part of the implementation of NAWG's Strategic Plan, the following policy priorities for 2025 were identified and approved by the Board of Directors at its fall conference in 2024. The priorities adopted by both policy committees were split up into three policy areas

#### FARM SUPPORT PROGRAMS

- Be a spokesperson for wheat growers with members of the Agriculture Committees and USDA officials.
- Protect farm programs and crop insurance during the annual budget and appropriations process.
- Continue working on improvements to quality adjustments in the crop insurance program.
- Engage USDA in improving FSA and NRCS staffing and program delivery.
- Work with Congress to pass a Farm Bill that protects the farm safety

#### TRADE AND MARKET ACCESS

- Work with U.S. Wheat Associates on advocating before Congress for enforcement of existing trade agreements and on the importance of building new markets.
- Preserve and enhance funding levels

for export promotion programs (MAP/FMD/ATP/RAPP).

- Engage on infrastructure/transportation policy action that would affect our ability to get the crop to market and U.S. competitiveness in international markets.

## CLIMATE/SUSTAINABILITY/REGULATORY ISSUES

- Engage with the USDA, EPA, and FDA to ensure that regulation of new technology is science based and does not negatively impact affordability for growers.
- Fight against regulations which place undue burden on wheat producers.
- Work collaboratively with industry to protect and secure reliable and affordable access to crop protection products.
- Protect wheat growers' use of EPA approved crop protection tools and defend against unscientific attacks on that ability.
- Oppose the Waters of the United States regulation that was issued on December 30, 2022.
- Maintain and improve tax policy for agricultural producers as Congress consider tax legislation in 2025.
- Lead wheat research advocacy on Capitol Hill.
- Maintain reliable access to cost-effective crop protection tools for wheat growers.

## NAWG POLICY RESOLUTIONS

### DOMESTIC AND TRADE POLICY

#### *Farm Programs*

1. NAWG opposes any type of means

- testing to establish eligibility for, or restrict participation in, federal farm programs. (Renewed November 2024)
2. NAWG supports the continuation of separate identity rights for spouses actively engaged in farming. (Renewed February 2024)
  3. NAWG opposes further payment limitation reductions. (Renewed February 2024)
  4. NAWG believes any “actively engaged” definition should not hinder farm transfer and/or succession planning. (Renewed November 2024)
  5. NAWG supports the continuation of a non-recourse loan program for wheat. (Renewed November 2024)
  6. NAWG opposes allowing CCC stocks to be liquidated on the market in a manner that would negatively affect commercial sales. (Renewed November 2024)
  7. NAWG supports dual enrollment option for Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and price loss coverage (PLC). (Amended November 2024)
  8. NAWG supports including summer fallow in base acre calculations. (Renewed February 2024)
  9. NAWG supports consistent definitions for beginning farmers among USDA programs. (Renewed February 2024)
  10. NAWG supports using RMA and/or FSA data as the primary production data for ARC. (Renewed March 2023)
  11. NAWG supports the retention of historic base acres, and adding additional wheat base acres, in future Farm Bills. (Revised March 2023)
  12. NAWG supports using smaller than county-size crop reporting districts for ARC. (Renewed March 2023)

### *Risk Management*

1. NAWG promotes the timely creation

- and improvement of risk management products to better serve producers, including support for crop quality loss coverage, education on risk management options, and the establishment of a state-level producer advisory committee. (Amended November 2024)
2. NAWG encourages RMA to require crop insurance companies to interpret and apply crop insurance rules and regulations in a uniform and timely manner. (Renewed November 2024)
  3. NAWG supports the equitable and timely adjustments in RMA audit procedures. This may include indexing of crop insurance audit triggers, partial payment (75 percent) of claims on claims subject to audit, holding interest in abeyance on premiums until claims are settled, no automatic audits for indemnity payments less than percent of indemnity, no RMA audit provision when a producer exceeds a 150 percent production fluctuation. (Renewed February 2024).
  4. NAWG supports a shared networking system for crop acreage reporting between the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Risk Management Agency (RMA) which would eliminate duplicative reporting by producers. (Renewed February 2024)
  5. NAWG supports working with the wheat industry to find accurate quality loss data that can be used to reform quality adjustment factors. (Renewed February 2024)
  6. NAWG opposes limits on how much revenue protection with harvest price can fluctuate from revenue protection commodity exchange price provision (CEPP) price. (Renewed February 2024)
  7. NAWG opposes any RMA rule which restricts the use of any sound and

- proven agronomic practice. (Renewed February 2024)
8. NAWG supports the development of “third generation” crop insurance products whereby input cost volatility, or an energy index is incorporated to provide enhanced risk management options for producers. Wider swings in fertilizer and fuel cost may reduce the true value of harvest price insurance calculations. (Renewed November 2024)
  9. NAWG supports the current crop insurance programs and delivery system. NAWG encourages the private sector to work with FSA on reporting acreage and losses. (Renewed February 2024)
  10. NAWG opposes linking conservation compliance to crop insurance program participation. (Renewed February 2024)
  11. NAWG supports updating T-yields that more accurately reflect actual yields within a production area excluding years of declared disaster. (Renewed February 2024)
  12. NAWG supports the option of a new operator using the APH yield from the previous operator regardless of acreage in that county. (Revised February 2024)
  13. NAWG supports changes in the federal crop insurance policy to allow winter wheat and spring wheat to be insured as separate crops. (Renewed February 2024)
  14. NAWG opposes limitations on federal crop insurance premiums, cost shares, or payments, and supports the strengthening of an effective cost share system. (Amended November 2024)
  15. NAWG supports the reinstatement of the 10 percent buy up option for prevented plant crop insurance. (Renewed February 2024)
  16. NAWG supports the optional use of



- certified scale tickets and grain cart weights to calculate unit production (Renewed February 2021)
17. NAWG supports additional flexibility in prevented planting provisions which favor history of participation instead of current year planting requirements for eligibility of the Enterprise Unit structure. (Renewed November 2024)
  18. For hail and wind shatter damage, engage a mechanism for realistic yield: allow use of the average yield for the unaffected crop left in the field or, if no crop remains unaffected in the field, allowing that year to be excluded from the APH. (Renewed February 2024)
  19. NAWG supports a milling durum buy-up option to provide insurance coverage for quality losses determined by a table based on durum industry grain standards and/or prices, or actual sales receipts. (Renewed March 2023)
  20. NAWG supports the insurability of wheat acres found to contain Karnal Bunt. (Renewed March 2023)
  21. NAWG opposes mandatory crop insurance participation as a prerequisite to farm program participation but highly encourages voluntary crop insurance participation. (Revised March 2023)
  22. NAWG supports continued implementation and use of the 508h. (Revised March 2023)
  23. NAWG supports USDA-RMA3 regulations that support beginning famers. (Renewed March 2023)
  24. NAWG supports modifying APH calculations for producers who suffer multiple years of loss due to factors beyond their control. (Renewed March 2023)
  25. NAWG supports continued evaluation of premium rates to ensure they are

- actuarially sound and fair to wheat growers. (Renewed March 2023)
26. NAWG opposes means testing for federal crop insurance eligibility. (Renewed March 2023)
  27. NAWG supports crop insurance special provisions that allow quality discounts that more closely align with actual market discounts. (Renewed March 2023)
  28. NAWG supports that a summer fallow producer who uses a cover crop in the fallow year can be used, but is not required to be used, as the same summer fallow yield for crop insurance purposes. (Revised March 2023)
  29. NAWG supports recognizing actual yield harvested for APH without adjustment for quality. (Renewed March 2023)
  30. NAWG supports a staggered penalty structure for crop insurance yield erroneous reporting of production. (Renewed March 2023)
  31. NAWG supports margin protection coverage for all crop classes. (Adopted March 2023)

### *Taxes*

1. NAWG opposes the creation of a federal value added tax. (Renewed November 2024)
2. NAWG supports allowing producers to transfer monies received from the sale of agricultural land or assets to tax deferred retirement accounts. (Renewed November 2024)
3. NAWG believes that income generated by agricultural properties owned by non-profit or tax-exempt organizations should be subject to income taxes. (Renewed November 2024)
4. NAWG supports the use of, and encourages the IRS to allow, IRA and other producer retirement account

- investment in farmer owned, value-added cooperatives. (Renewed November 2024)
5. NAWG supports a lower tax rate on income generated on sales or rented farmland, livestock, buildings, or equipment to qualified beginning farmers. (Renewed November 2024)
  6. NAWG supports the elimination of capital gains taxes. (Renewed February 2024)
  7. NAWG supports the deduction of state sales and income tax for federal taxes. (Renewed February 2024)
  8. NAWG supports increasing the maximum deduction for IRA contributions. (Renewed February 2024)
  9. NAWG supports tax credits for first time investment in farmer owned facilities; IE lifetime tax exemption to offset sale of depreciated farm equipment; and deductions for farm vehicles not based on mileage logs. (Renewed February 2024)
  10. NAWG supports a lower tax rate on income generated on sales or rented farmland, livestock, buildings, or equipment to qualified beginning farmers. (Renewed November 2024)
  11. NAWG supports the full deduction of membership dues up to \$500 per organization. (Renewed November 2024)
  12. NAWG supports the permanent extension of section 179 at the level of \$1,000,000 indexed for inflation as included in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, and the extension of bonus depreciation at the level of 100 percent. (Renewed February 2024)
  13. NAWG supports the full deductibility of an employer's health insurance premium and medical expenses paid

- on behalf of employees as a business expense on its tax return. (Renewed November 2024)
14. NAWG understands the benefits and opportunities offered by Section 199a but opposes any tax law that does not maintain the previous competitive balance between cooperatives, other agricultural businesses, and the farmers who sell their crops to them, which existed prior to enactment of the tax reform bill. (Renewed February 2024)
  15. NAWG supports reinstatement of the following for farm C-Corps: the 15% corporate tax rate for the first \$50,000 in taxable income, the 100% deduction for farm meals, and the domestic production activities deduction (199a) for farm C-Corps with less than \$1 million gross. (Renewed November 2024)
  16. NAWG supports a provision to allow for current year income to be 100% offset by a net operating loss carried forward. (Renewed November 2024)
  17. NAWG recommends the agricultural unemployment payroll tax trigger level be a minimum of \$40,000 per quarter, indexed for inflation, and only triggered if the average of the current and three preceding quarters exceeds the trigger level. (Renewed November 2024)
  18. NAWG opposes federal taxes on agricultural inputs. (Renewed March 2023)
  19. NAWG opposes imposing self-employment taxes on land or machinery rent. (Renewed March 2023)
  20. NAWG supports taxing foreign investors on the same basis as U.S. citizens. (Renewed March 2023)
  21. NAWG believes that any private land purchased by federal and state agencies should remain on local tax rolls.

- (Renewed March 2023)
22. NAWG supports allowing recapture income from the sale of tangible personal property to be recognized under the installment method. (Renewed March 2023)
23. NAWG supports the federal fuel tax exemption for bio-based fuels. (Renewed March 2023)
24. NAWG supports allowing for the expensing of repairs and opposes the capitalization of repairs. (Renewed March 2023)
25. NAWG opposes farms being required to use accrual accounting. (Renewed March 2023)
26. NAWG supports maintaining a depreciation (cost recovery system) which preserves a single purpose agricultural building classification and also qualifies these structures for Section 179. (Renewed March 2023)
27. NAWG supports federal tax legislation or other actions that would invalidate the proposed and/or final Treasury regulations that prohibit or limit the use of minority ownership or lack of marketability discounts for valuation of closely held/family held business interests. (Renewed March 2023)
28. NAWG supports increasing the FICA and income tax withholding exemption to \$500 regardless of total annual agricultural wages. (Renewed March 2023)
29. NAWG supports allowing a full deduction from self-employment tax calculations for health insurance premiums paid for by self-employed individuals and their families. (Renewed March 2023)

### *Transportation*

1. NAWG opposes all cargo preference

and Jones Act requirements governing shipment of bulk commodities.

(Renewed November 2024)

2. NAWG will pursue all efforts to keep a well-maintained transportation network by supporting the maintenance and/or improvement of roadway, rail, and river navigational corridors. NAWG also opposes the dismantling of river navigation capabilities, such as that proposed along the Snake/Columbia River System, that further diminishes the competitive transportation of grain. (Renewed November 2024)
3. NAWG supports competitive access for all rail shippers. (Renewed November 2024)
4. NAWG supports the right of reciprocal switching at reasonable cost in markets served by more than one carrier. (Renewed November 2024)
5. NAWG supports giving adjacent landowners the right of first refusal to purchase abandoned rail beds at a fair market appraised value comparable to adjacent property. (Renewed November 2024)
6. NAWG opposes any further rail mergers in the United States unless the parties involved in the merger can demonstrate increased competition which would provide greater access and more competitive rail rates for wheat shipments. (Renewed November 2024)
7. NAWG supports transparency in the secondary rail market. (Renewed February 2024)
8. NAWG encourages the Surface Transportation Board to be receptive to producer concerns. (Renewed November 2024)
9. NAWG encourages the STB to provide for the mediation and arbitration of service and rate disputes. (Renewed

- November 2024)
10. NAWG supports the farm-to-market exemption from Hours of Service rules which allow the movement of wheat from the farm gate within 150 air-miles radius from the farm. (Renewed February 2024)
  11. NAWG supports passage of federal legislation that moves the agricultural exemption for hours of service from rule to law. (Renewed February 2024)
  12. NAWG affirms its support of traffic safety but recognizes issues of practicality regarding farm truck safety equipment. Therefore, NAWG supports a production agriculture exemption to DOT regulations. (Renewed November 2024)
  13. NAWG supports an increase in the mileage exemption for heavy highway vehicle use tax from 7,500 miles to a minimum of 20,000 miles for agricultural vehicles, and the simplification of applying for the exemption. (Renewed November 2024)
  14. NAWG supports exempting implements of husbandry and vehicles with farm tags from the definition of a commercial motor vehicle and from interstate commerce definitions. (Renewed November 2024)
  15. NAWG urges Congress to ensure that producers and custom harvesters retain, at minimum, a 150-mile exemption from their base of operations. (Renewed November 2024)
  16. NAWG supports the exemption of CDL and gallon limitation requirements for custom harvesters, producers, and farm suppliers transporting inputs to and from the farm. (Renewed November 2024)
  17. NAWG believes that all transportation funding be done through block grants

to the state. The state is better able to direct transportation funds in a more equitable manner than can the federal government. (Renewed November 2024)

18. NAWG supports the exemption from Food Safety Modernization Act regulations for crops transported from farms to first point of delivery where title is transferred. (Renewed February 2024)
19. NAWG opposes the mandated removal, destruction or draw-down of any dams. (Revised November 2024)
20. NAWG supports efforts by the U.S. government and private companies that will enhance the effectiveness of our nation's port system and the St. Lawrence Seaway as a system for transporting wheat to worldwide markets. (Renewed March 2023)
21. NAWG supports requiring a 60-day notice of rail rate increases. (Renewed March 2023)
22. NAWG supports maintaining an adequately sized national rail grain car fleet and equity in the allocation of those cars among shipper and regions. (Renewed March 2023)
23. NAWG supports allowing railroads to transfer lines they plan to abandon to new owners without the new owner having to assume labor contracts. (Renewed March 2023)
24. NAWG supports increased STB monitoring of railroad maintenance. (Renewed March 2023)
25. NAWG supports allowing a railroad to sell part of its line for the purpose of maintaining rail service. (Renewed March 2023)
26. NAWG supports funding the local rail services assistance program and similar efforts to preserve rail service on low



- density lines. (Renewed March 2023)
27. NAWG opposes the use of inverse rate structure by railroads and supports nondiscriminatory geographic rates and consistent, timely service for all grain shippers of all areas. (Renewed March 2023)
  28. NAWG supports maintenance and expansion of intermodal services for agricultural products. (Renewed March 2023)
  29. NAWG shall pursue all facets of rail issues that will provide relief to wheat growers on rail rates and service. (Renewed March 2023)
  30. NAWG supports organizations and councils whose goal is to provide transportation relief for wheat producers. (Renewed March 2023)
  31. NAWG urges states to harmonize weight limits and bridge formulas for interstate commerce while allowing each state the authority to regulate truck weights within the individual states. (Revised March 2023)
  32. NAWG opposes requiring producers to keep detailed records for farm use vehicles. (Renewed March 2023)
  33. NAWG supports securing a U.S. DOT farm truck bumper exemption. (Renewed March 2023)
  34. NAWG supports raising the federal cap on truck weights to equal to the highest permitted weight in a state. (Renewed March 2023)
  35. NAWG supports a plan that will allow foreign trucks to operate in the United States as long as they meet U.S. safety and financial responsibility standards. (Renewed March 2023)

### *General USDA Policies*

1. NAWG supports the continuation of USDA as a cabinet-level department

- and believes it should be the lead agency in all federal programs, policies, or regulations affecting farmers. (Renewed February 2024)
2. NAWG supports input from stakeholders (farmers, ranchers, county, and state committee members) before changes are considered in the USDA-FSA system to better manage services to farmers and ranchers. (Renewed February 2024)
  3. NAWG encourages FSA to adequately staff FSA offices to levels that meet the needs of producers. (Renewed February 2024)
  4. NAWG supports the timely appointment of all USDA committees. (Renewed February 2024)
  5. NAWG will work to ensure that any food safety legislation that moves through Congress does not include unnecessary and overly burdensome regulations for wheat producers. USDA should be the agency that regulates wheat. (Renewed November 2024)
  6. NAWG supports legislation requiring the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) to take whatever actions are necessary to immediately restore official grain inspection and weighing service wherever and whenever it is disrupted, either by immediately replacing absent inspectors with FGIS official personnel or with inspectors from available qualified providers, including other designated or delegated official agencies as is mandated under U.S. Grains Standards Act. (Amended February 2024)
  7. NAWG believes that USDA should not include income from off-farm sources when reporting farm income. (Renewed March 2023)
  8. NAWG supports greater empowerment

- of FSA and NRCS state and county committees to adapt national programs to local needs. (Renewed March 2023)
9. NAWG supports the present system of electing farmers to FSA county committees rather than appointed committees. (Renewed March 2023)
  10. NAWG supports the work of USDA Rural Development and/or other agencies to improve the quality of life and increase economic opportunity in rural America. NAWG also encourages the long-term funding of the grant, loan, and loan guarantee programs administered by USDA Rural Development and/or other agencies. (Renewed March 2023)
  11. NAWG supports objective tests designed to preserve the integrity of different wheat classes and encourages FGIS to undergo routine review of the classes with industry input. (Revised March 2023)
  12. NAWG supports federally approved grain quality tests that are accurate, consistent, repeatable, simple, fast, inexpensive, can be implemented by grain elevator operators and which objectively describe end use quality. (Renewed March 2023)
  13. NAWG supports continued legislative authorization of the cooperator program as a line item in the CCC budget. (Renewed March 2023)
  14. NAWG supports disaster program development and administration that is equitable, timely, and includes assistance for both localized and widespread disasters. (Adopted, February 2024, Texas)

### *General Domestic Policy*

1. NAWG supports the full use of all antiterrorism laws against those who

- commit acts of terrorism against the food production system or against research into food production. (Renewed February 2022)
2. NAWG encourages the timely buildout of broadband internet infrastructure in rural America. (Renewed November 2024)
  3. NAWG opposes mandated policy and regulations, environmental, economic, or otherwise that would suggest or propose to change farm size, farming practices, or current equipment for the purposes of social engineering. (Renewed March 2022)
  4. Any effort made by Congress or the Administration to strengthen the country's food and feed safety systems should be risk-based and reliant on sound science. (Renewed February 2024)
  5. NAWG opposes any government mandated health care plan that would require employers to provide health insurance for all employees and/or not allow for choice of coverage, plan or provider. (Renewed November 2024)
  7. NAWG supports allowing producers to form health insurance purchasing cooperatives and/or associations, including across state lines. (Renewed March 2022)
  8. NAWG encourages the Department of Labor and other regulatory agencies to reduce and eliminate cumbersome and excess regulations that make the H2A and other employment programs unreasonably difficult and costly to navigate with the agricultural industry. (Renewed March 2022)
  9. NAWG supports reform to the federal health care law that will expand options and lower premiums. (Renewed February 2024)

10. NAWG supports leaving any minimum wage rates to be set at the state level and not the federal level. (February 2024)
11. NAWG supports the right of the farm employee to be fairly compensated for their productive work. NAWG supports fair compensation to include regional variances and to include all benefits provided in return for that work. To this extent, NAWG opposes any government mandated agriculture overtime regulations. In the event of state and/or federally mandated overtime pay for farm employees, NAWG is opposed to requiring retroactive back pay or assessment of punitive damages to an employer for past hours already paid. (February 2024)
12. NAWG supports agricultural industry efforts regarding farm data that seek to clarify data collection policies, educate producers, standardize data sharing policies, and protect the interests of growers (Renewed February 2024)
13. NAWG opposes FDA releasing results of investigations without peer review or adequate scientific review. (Renewed February 2022)
14. NAWG supports the timely appointment of qualified nominees to federal positions of key importance to the grower community, and, when applicable, urge the timely consideration of such nominees by the United States Senate. (Oregon, March 2022)
15. NAWG supports a guest worker program that secures the borders of the United States and provides a legal, affordable, and stable workforce for agriculture. (Renewed March 2023)
16. NAWG supports the policy that, if federal agriculture programs are subject to budget cuts to achieve deficit reduction, then the same percentage

of cut should apply to all federal government programs. (Renewed March 2023)

17. NAWG recognizes the importance of Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) and the Committee on Foreign Investments in the United States (CFIUS) as the best mechanism to scrutinize, approve, or disapprove foreign purchases of US agricultural assets, and recommends the addition of the Secretary of Agriculture to the committee. (Adopted, February 2024, Ohio)
18. NAWG supports increasing funding for the Committee on Foreign Investments in the United States (CFIUS) to review additional transactions, recognizing the importance of research and development investments by companies from other nations, including research facilities and agribusiness investments within the United States. (Adopted, February 2024, Ohio)
19. NAWG supports a rational immigration policy which enables immigrants to become permanent agricultural workers. (Adopted, February 2024, Montana)
20. NAWG supports a regional flat rate wage in the H-2A program for all farm duties within the U.S. Department of Labor wage scales. (Adopted, February 2024, Montana)
21. NAWG supports the limitation of the FinCEN Business Ownership Interest to situations in which a non-U.S. citizen holds an ownership interest in a registered business entity. (Adopted, February 2024, Montana)

### *Trade*

1. NAWG urges U.S. trade negotiators to protect domestic farm policies from being negotiated away to benefit other

- sectors of the U.S. economy. (Renewed February 2024)
2. NAWG urges international harmonization of scientific standards and trade rules. (Renewed February 2024)
  3. U.S. wheat producers urge the Administration to maintain the United States Trade Representative (USTR) as an independent office within the Executive Office of the President. The strong relationship between the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and USTR has a proven success record in addressing U.S. agriculture's unique trade challenges and export opportunities. (Renewed February 2024)
  4. NAWG supports reciprocal trade between Canada and the US including reciprocal grading and sanitary/ phytosanitary standards of wheat. (Renewed February 2024)
  5. NAWG directs U.S. negotiators to protect non-trade-distorting and minimally-trade distorting domestic farm programs and to maintain the rights of producers to maintain payments that provide an adequate safety net. (Renewed February 2024)
  6. NAWG opposes any protectionist trade legislation or unilateral sanctions that would endanger U.S. grain exports without a net gain for wheat producers. (Renewed February 2024)
  7. NAWG urges the U.S. Trade Representative and Foreign Agricultural Service to pursue aggressive enforcement of existing trade agreements. (Renewed February 2024)
  8. NAWG supports eliminating barriers which restrict U.S. agriculture producers' access to worldwide crop inputs. (Renewed February 2024)

9. NAWG strongly supports ending the Cuba embargo and allowing unrestricted free trade in agricultural products to create opportunities for U.S. agriculture and to ensure food security for the Cuban people. (Renewed February 2024)
10. NAWG supports rejoining the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP-11) framework and its principles, with lower tariffs, increased market access, establishment of uniform rules-based, trading, and rapid dispute settlement option. (Renewed February 2024)
11. NAWG urges the Administration to avoid imposing national security-based trade barriers on commonly traded products, as these barriers could erode global trade rules and backfire on wheat farmers through retaliation or intimidation by our trading partners. (Renewed February 2024).
12. NAWG urges Congress to provide additional resources to fully fund the USDA to pursue aggressive monitoring and enforcement of agricultural trade commitments in all free trade agreements and at the WTO. (Renew November 2024)
13. NAWG encourages the Administration to work to address non-tariff barriers that impact wheat's global competitiveness. (Oregon, March 2022)
14. NAWG supports fair and open trade of wheat throughout the world. (Renewed March 2023)
15. NAWG supports the advancement of comprehensive, bilateral, and multilateral negotiations to expand trade in goods and services. (Renewed March 2023)
16. NAWG supports swift resolution of



- unfair trade practices that harm U.S. grain exports. (Renewed March 2023)
17. NAWG supports establishing a stronger international alliance with other wheat organizations to facilitate grower-to-grower dialogue. (Renewed March 2023)
  18. NAWG supports an agricultural advisory group to the Secretary of State. (Renewed March 2023)
  19. NAWG supports trade promotion authority to get successful trade agreements, provided that U.S. negotiators protect domestic farm policies from being negotiated away. (Renewed March 2023)
  20. NAWG supports legislation to normalize trade relations and travel with Cuba. (Renewed March 2023)
  21. NAWG opposes any unilateral sanction that restricts the export of food. (Renewed March 2023)
  22. NAWG supports close monitoring and enforcement of WTO accession commitments. (Revised March 2023)
  23. NAWG supports continued monitoring of foreign and domestic compliance with multi-lateral and bi-lateral trade agreements. (Renewed March 2023)
  24. NAWG supports continued funding for international market research conducted by land grant universities. (Renewed March 2023)
  25. Knowing that a strong U.S. dollar may have adverse effects on exports, NAWG supports a U.S. monetary policy that keeps U.S. exports competitive. (Renewed March 2023)
  26. NAWG supports the Administration quickly negotiating its concerns regarding the WTO appellate body and a return to a fully functioning WTO appellate body. (Renewed March 2023)
  27. NAWG supports full funding

and utilization of Export Market Development Programs, GSM 102, export credit programs, tax credits and other promotion and marketing programs for wheat. (Renewed March 2023)

28. NAWG supports an increase in funding for USDA- FAS. (Revised March 2023)

### *Food Aid*

1. NAWG supports greater cooperation and coordination among all U.S. foreign aid programs and agencies. (Renewed November 2024)
2. NAWG opposes withholding food aid for political purposes. (Renewed November 2024)
3. NAWG opposes the release of funds from the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust without full and immediate public disclosure and timely replacement of released funds. (Renewed November 2024)
4. NAWG supports a strong, flexible U.S. food aid program that contains both in-kind donations and monetization while strongly prioritizing the use of U.S. commodities. (Renewed November 2024)
5. NAWG supports producer representation on advisory committees or groups of multilateral development programs as administered through organizations such as the United Nations, IMF, and World Bank. (Renewed March 2023)
6. NAWG supports funding of P.L. 480 Title II food assistance programs at the full amount authorized by law. (Revised March 2023)
7. NAWG supports funding and implementation of LRP programs through the Foreign Disaster Assistance Act and USAID, respectively, rather than

- through the USDA. (Renewed March 2023)
8. NAWG supports USDA administration of Food for Progress programs. (Renewed March 2023)
  9. NAWG supports the U.S. government's agricultural development initiatives as a supplement to existing emergency humanitarian assistance programs such as P.L. 480 Title II programs. (Renewed March 2023)

### *Farm Credit, Farm Finance, and Marketing*

1. NAWG supports Plains Grains, Inc., and its efforts along with participating state wheat commissions to develop a regional marketing plan for hard winter wheat. (Renewed February 2024)
2. NAWG seeks enforcement of legislation for segregated commodity traded funds to be protected and remain segregated. (Renewed February 2024)
3. NAWG supports the appointment of an agricultural producer as a Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) commissioner. (Renewed November 2024)
4. NAWG supports improved settlement methods on wheat futures contracts that allow for better convergence of cash and futures markets. (Renewed February 2024)
5. The National Association of Wheat Growers is supportive of a national flour checkoff program, funded by the milling and baking community, that would aim to increase the sales of breadbasket products, positively change the perception of bread, work to promote the goodness of bread to consumers, and invest in research to develop varieties of wheat that contain beneficial milling and baking traits and qualities. (Revised March 2023)

6. NAWG supports financing programs for beginning and existing farmers that work to offer low-interest capital and loans for new ownership, operations, or farm development projects. (Revised March 2023).
7. NAWG supports increasing the role of the Farm Credit System in financing rural housing, rural homeowners, and other credit-worthy rural enterprises. (Renewed March 2023)
8. NAWG opposes any restructuring of the Farm Credit System that replaces elected farmer-members of system boards with commercial bankers or expands bank access to FCS funding. (Renewed March 2023)
9. NAWG supports federal banking regulations which account for the different needs of rural and urban banks. (Renewed March 2023)
10. NAWG supports continued efforts to educate producers about wheat futures, options, and other pricing alternatives. (Renewed March 2023)

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESEARCH POLICY

Preamble: The National Association of Wheat Growers supports environmental and conservation policies that maintain and enhance the productivity and sustainability of working agricultural lands while protecting the rights of private property holders and their ability to use the best technology available.

### *Crop Protection*

1. NAWG supports research and development of environmentally sound crop protection products in accordance with the goals and purposes of the Food Quality Protection Act and calls upon all federal agencies to use sound science,

- transparent procedures, and balance in its implementation. (Renewed November 2024)
2. NAWG supports price and registration harmonization between Canada and the United States on all crop protection products. (Renewed February 2021)
  3. NAWG supports the continued and essential use of phosphide. (Renewed November 2024)
  4. NAWG supports the continued classification of anhydrous ammonia as a compressed gas and the labeling thereof. (Renewed November 2024)
  5. NAWG opposes requiring pre-notification of crop protection product application. (Renewed November 2024)
  6. NAWG supports federal preemption for the establishment of crop protection product use restrictions. (Renewed November 2024)
  7. NAWG opposes designation of any agricultural crop production as a point source of pollution. (Renewed February 2024)
  8. NAWG opposes legislation that requires pesticide application records to be made public. (Renewed November 2024)
  9. NAWG opposes EPA or other regulating body requiring buffer zones for new or existing chemical registrations without first providing sound science to demonstrate the need for a buffer. (Renewed November 2024)
  10. NAWG will work with coalition partners and EPA to ensure that crop protection risk assumptions and assessments reflect the most up-to-date agricultural practices. (Renewed February 2024)
  11. NAWG supports the use of standardized data sets and criteria for peer reviewed research and approval of crop protection and biotech products between the U.S. and other countries. (Revised November

- 2024)
12. NAWG supports the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OCED) process which promotes compliance of Codex tolerances for residues of crop protection product and testing and opposes the use of default assumptions. (Revised November 2024)
  13. NAWG opposes holding farmers liable when crop protection products are applied, stored, or disposed of in accordance with label instructions. (Renewed November 2024)
  14. NAWG supports continuation of the Section 24 (c) special local need process. (Revised November 2024)
  15. NAWG encourages EPA to use USMCA registration provisions to develop common labels and registrations for crop protection products. (Renewed November 2024)
  16. NAWG supports that any removal of pesticides must be based on transparent, scientific evidence and there must be an existing viable alternative pesticide of equivalent efficacy. (Renewed November 2024)
  17. NAWG understands the EPA regulations on private pesticide applicator training review process, however NAWG encourages that the review process be updated and more reasonable for producers. (Revised November 2024)
  18. NAWG supports the continued use of glyphosate for all current (2021) on-label applications (based on the label in place in 2021). (Renewed November 2024)
  19. NAWG encourages NOAA and US Fish and Wildlife Service to work cooperatively with the EPA to streamline pesticide registration regulations that comply with the Endangered Species

- Act. (Renewed February 2024)
20. NAWG supports federal funding for chemical disposal programs. (Renewed March 2023)
  21. NAWG strongly supports continuing efforts to clarify that applications of crop protection products do not constitute point sources of pollution under the Clean Water Act when applied in accordance with legally registered EPA labels. (Revised March 2023)

### *Conservation Programs*

1. NAWG supports timely emergency haying and grazing on land enrolled in CRP under federal guidelines. (Renewed November 2024)
2. NAWG supports limiting CRP contract rentals to the average county rental rate. (Renewed November 2024)
3. NAWG opposes the use of any CRP rent determination that encourages the enrollment of highly productive land over that of highly erodible, marginal, or environmentally sensitive lands because of price. (Renewed November 2024)
4. NAWG supports landowner retention of cropland designation and property rights when the CRP contract expires. (Renewed November 2024)
5. NAWG supports laws and regulations that allow Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) funds to be used to implement conservation. (Renewed February 2024)
6. NAWG supports continuation of CRP contracts to heirs of landlords and operators regardless of payment limitations. (Renewed February 2024)
7. NAWG supports that CRP land is under the same regulations as cropland for the purposes of water management. (Renewed February 2024)
8. NAWG supports uniformity in CRP

- regulations across state and county borders. (Renewed November 2024)
9. NAWG supports the implementation and full funding of the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) as long as it does not come at the expense of full and adequate funding for commodity programs. (Renewed February 2024)
  10. NAWG opposes mandatory “whole farm” conservation plans as a prerequisite for receiving an EQIP grant and other conservation program grants. (Renewed February 2024)
  11. NAWG recommends that USDA conservation programs should not regulate or direct distribution of payments between landlord and tenant. (Renewed February 2024)
  12. NAWG supports that eligible producers’ state – and federally owned land should be able to participate in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). (Renewed February 2024)
  13. NAWG will support a continuous CRP sign-up. (Renewed February 2024)
  14. NAWG supports revising the CRP- TIP program to remove the limitations on payments to the retiring farmer or operator if the “covered farmer” (TIP application) is a family member as defined in section 1001 of the Food Security Act of 1985. (Renewed February 2024)
  15. NAWG supports allowing incidental grazing in riparian areas. (Renewed November 2024)
  16. NAWG supports giving local conservation districts greater authority in shaping conservation programs to the needs of the local community. (Renewed November 2024)
  17. NAWG opposes any conservation program that encourages farmers to report on the actions of their neighbors.



- (Renewed November 2024)
18. NAWG supports continued funding for conservation cost-share programs. (Renewed February 2024)
  19. NAWG supports resolution of all conservation compliance appeals and the issuing of all “good faith” conservation variances by local county FSA committees. (Renewed November 2024)
  20. NAWG supports conservation compliance exemptions for special problems (such as jointed goat grass, drought, and rye). (Renewed November 2024)
  21. NAWG supports making all conservation programs equally available on a statewide basis. (Renewed November 2024)
  22. NAWG supports that the funding of conservation programs must be separate and in addition to the funding of commodity programs (Title 1 of the Farm Bill) and crop insurance (Title 11 of the Farm Bill). (Renewed November 2024)
  23. NAWG supports local conservation district control of third-party certifications for conservation programs. (Renewed February 2024)
  24. NAWG encourages NRCS and FSA to distribute all conservation money in a timely manner to the state with consideration being given to the planting season. (Renewed November 2024)
  25. NAWG supports payment eligibility requirements that are recognized by FSA also be accepted by NRCS for all NRCS programs. (Renewed February 2024)
  26. NAWG opposes permanent conservation easements which retire or restrict productive agricultural land. (Renewed November 2024)

27. NAWG supports that in areas with average annual precipitation of 20 inches or less, no-till winter wheat and all fall seeded no-till crops that are harvested for grain, be considered as a conservation practice for cost share through NRCS. (Adopted March 2023)
28. NRCS and FSA are increasingly misusing and abusing wetland determinations, so if real wetlands are so beneficial, they should be preserved with public and private funds. (Renewed November 2024)
29. NAWG supports consolidation of applications for all conservation programs as long as there is no loss of funding or reduction of intent in the original programs. (Renewed November 2024)
30. NAWG supports the continuation of state and regional producer advisory committees and believes that production agriculture should maintain a majority membership on state technical committees, advisory boards and working groups. We encourage all states to make this a priority. (Revised November 2024)
31. NAWG supports preserving and restoring original crop base acres previously enrolled in CRP at the conclusion of such contracts. (Renewed March 2023)
32. NAWG opposes any future CRP sign-up requiring the forfeiture of water rights. (Renewed March 2023)
33. NAWG opposes early release of CRP acres without penalty. (Renewed March 2023)
34. NAWG supports allowing managed haying and grazing provisions of CRP once every three years on up to 100 percent of the field. (Renewed March 2023)

35. NAWG supports managing the CRP acreage cap through market-based approaches such as rental rates and flexibility of use, allowing contracts to expire on schedule. Enrollment or reenrollment of acres should be prioritized using the environmental benefit index, the highly erodible land designation, consideration of soil type indicators and competitive bidding for re-enrollment. (Renewed March 2023)
36. NAWG supports providing remuneration or tax credits for producers who voluntarily take action to protect wetlands. (Renewed March 2023)
37. NAWG supports allowing producers to bank mitigation credit. (Renewed March 2023)
38. NAWG supports a more aggressive use of minimal effect authority in the swamp buster program. (Renewed March 2023)
39. NAWG opposes requirements for certification of wetlands based on re delineation of previously identified wetlands. (Renewed March 2023)
40. NAWG supports giving NRCS (rather than the Army Corps of Engineers) primary jurisdiction over all government decisions impacting wetlands on private property. (Renewed March 2023)
41. NAWG supports adequate funding for NRCS technical assistance and implementation of Farm Bill Conservation Programs. (Renewed March 2023)
42. NAWG supports maintaining the trust relationship between USDA and farmers and opposes NRCS using employees from other organizations that would violate that trust. (Renewed March 2023)
43. NAWG supports NRCS recognition of wetland determinations made

- prior to 1996 as meeting certified wetland determinations required for conservation compliance. (Renewed March 2023)
44. NAWG supports the continual maintenance of CRP and the mid management practice cost share. (Renewed March 2023)
  45. NAWG believes priority should be given to conservation programs that are production based over land retirement based. (Renewed March 2023)
  46. NAWG supports residue burning as a management option, adhering to current state laws. (Renewed March 2023)
  47. NAWG supports individual voluntary conservation enhancement and opposes mandated conservation practice participation for Title 1, Federal Crop Insurance, or other federal farm programs. (Renewed March 2023)
  48. NAWG supports locally led input for regional cost rates for conservation programs. (Renewed March 2023)
  49. NAWG supports NRCS quantification of conservation and environmental benefits of USDA voluntary conservation cost-share programs. (Renewed March 2023)
  50. NAWG supports revising the definition of a wetland to require a 15- day inundation and 21-day saturation period during the growing season. (Renewed March 2023)
  51. NAWG supports increasing life-of-the-farm-bill payment limits proportionally with the new extended timeframe in the event of a farm program/farm bill extension to allow farmers to continue participation throughout the extended timeframe. (Adopted, February 2024, Texas)

## *Environment*

1. NAWG supports giving states and counties both responsibility and financial support for greater participation in the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act. (Revised November 2024)
2. NAWG supports federal funding of cooperative programs for voluntary water quality projects. (Revised November 2024)
3. NAWG opposes any quality standard that is not scientifically based and economically viable to achieve. (Renewed November 2024)
4. NAWG opposes any requirement for water quality monitoring as a criterion for farm program eligibility. (Renewed November 2024)
5. NAWG opposes mandatory nutrient management. (Renewed November 2024)
6. NAWG opposes the use of any federally mandated total maximum daily load (TMDL) requirements. (Renewed November 2024)
7. NAWG opposes federal agencies interfering with the use of privately held water, to the extent of nonuse, by individuals including those holding an authorized water right. (Renewed November 2024)
8. NAWG opposes the designation of any man-made drainage ditch or canal as a blue line waterway which must be surrounded by a buffer zone. (Renewed November 2024)
9. NAWG opposes current EPA regulations on diesel engine emissions and recommends that these regulations be rescinded. (Renewed November 2024)
10. NAWG opposes EPA classifying the application of fertilizers and pesticides as point sources for water quality. (Renewed November 2024)

11. NAWG favors a reasonable threshold level for agricultural operations of farm fuel and oil-based product storage from any spill and containment regulation. (Renewed February 2024)
12. NAWG supports legislative action toward agricultural exemptions from restrictions to the ambient air quality standards. (Renewed November 2024)
13. NAWG recognizes the importance of protecting water bodies such as the Chesapeake Bay and other waters from nutrient and sediment loadings. We support voluntary measures, including conservation programs to achieve desired environmental goals but oppose EPA efforts to impose mandatory and enforceable requirements for non-point sources of pollution from agriculture lands. NAWG supports the collection of robust data from ongoing voluntary conservation practices to ensure that state and federal agencies have a more accurate accounting of water quality impacts from agriculture. (Renewed November 2024)
14. NAWG supports efforts to prevent the listing of the Monarch butterfly as an endangered species. (Renewed February 2024)
15. NAWG supports proper forest management to reduce the adverse impacts of forest fires on agricultural production their and impacts on the environment. (Revised November 2024).
16. NAWG supports requiring cost-benefit analysis of environmental laws and regulations that impact agriculture before allowing such to go into effect. (Revised November 2024)
17. NAWG supports landowner retention of crop land designation and property rights under ESA/ Habitat Conservation

- Program (HCP) rules. (Renewed February 2024)
18. NAWG opposes any effort to remove the term “navigable” from the definition of “navigable waters of the United States”. (Renewed November 2024)
  19. NAWG supports recognition of farm conservation program participation as sufficient compliance with ESA and Clean Water Act program requirements. (Renewed March 2023)
  20. NAWG opposes the Waters of the US regulation promulgated on December 30, 2022, and supports the previously issued Navigable Waters Protection Rule. (Revised March 2023)

### *Climate Policy*

1. Actively engage in federal and private carbon and climate policy and program development in a constructive manner to represent wheat growers’ interests, ensuring proactive practical input to ensure policies are viable for grower adoption and the ongoing economic viability of agriculture. (February 2024)
2. Oppose prescriptive, mandatory carbon/ climate legislation or regulation that: has a negative impact on production agriculture’s economic viability, is not science based, and/or does not recognize regional or preferential differences in farming practices. (February 2024)
3. Support recognizing certain agricultural practices as a benefit to the environment and society and compensating producers for providing those benefits. (February 2024)
4. Support private and federal carbon-related programs and policies which are voluntary, market-based, and provide economic opportunities for participating farmers. Programs should recognize the achievements of

agriculture in protecting and restoring the environment by rewarding early adopters and those adding new practices. Programs should be science based, flexible and inclusive to include allowances for regional, geographic, or preferential differences in farming practices. (February 2024)

5. Any legislative or federal policies addressing agricultural practices and carbon sequestration, or emissions should be led by the Congressional Agriculture Committees and administered by USDA. (February 2024)

### *Department of Interior Policy*

1. NAWG supports the delivery of water by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) under previous and existing contracts. (Revised February 2024)
2. NAWG opposes requirements that mandate efforts to return fish pools to “harvestable levels”. (Renewed November 2024)
3. NAWG opposes the use of “harvestable levels” as a criterion for delisting of endangered species. (Renewed November 2024)
4. NAWG opposes the differentiation between “wild” and “artificial” species or evolutionary significant units (ESU). (Renewed November 2024)
5. NAWG supports compensation and transition programs for landowners whose operation has been impacted by any Endangered Species Act (ESA) activity or designation. (Renewed November 2024)
6. NAWG supports requiring Department of Interior to take into account an economic analysis of any proposed ESA activity before it is allowed to go into effect. (Revised November 2024)
7. NAWG supports requiring local



- consultation before the implementation of any action done under the authority of ESA. (Renewed November 2024)
8. NAWG supports amending the ESA law to provide biologically-sound, scientifically based, and cost-effective measures developed to protect endangered species in a manner that maintains strong national and regional economies. (Renewed November 2024)
  9. NAWG opposes federal agencies from pressuring state agencies into acquiring water rights. (Renewed February 2024)
  10. NAWG opposes the listing of prairie dogs and sage grouse as endangered species. (Renewed November 2024)
  11. NAWG supports active management of government owned land by federal land agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and United States Forest Service (USFS) and similar state agencies for the control of noxious weeds. (Revised November 2024)
  12. NAWG supports an ESA consultation process that is based on best available science using empirical sampling that is transparent, quantifiable and assesses the economic impact to agricultural production. (Renewed March 2023)

### *General Policy*

1. NAWG supports policies and programs that expand the use of biofuels produced with domestic agricultural feedstocks. Those policies and programs should recognize the environmental and carbon sequestration benefits of modern agricultural systems, including but not limited to crop rotation practices that leverage harvestable crops such as wheat. (Revised November 2024)
2. NAWG supports the transport of crude oil by pipelines as they provide a safe, efficient, and effective mode of

- transportation and alleviates congestion on rail networks to help move wheat products to market. (Revised January 2025)
3. NAWG supports the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) and the development of E15. (Renewed February 2024)
  4. NAWG supports efforts to reduce the regulatory burden facing farmers including those that provide for additional congressional review of regulations. This support is contingent on the term “regulation” referring only to involuntary mandates and not to any contractual agreements that an individual farmer chooses to enter into. (Amended February 2024)
  5. NAWG supports protecting agriculture in the U.S. from nuisance and/or ag practices lawsuits that will have adverse impacts on the U.S. agricultural economy. (Renewed November 2024)
  6. NAWG opposes expanding new National Heritage Areas. (Renewed November 2024)
  8. NAWG supports federal, state and county cost sharing for weed control programs on private land that neighbors public land. (Renewed November 2024)
  7. NAWG supports federal, state and county cost sharing for weed control programs on private land that neighbors public land. (Renewed March 2022)
  8. NAWG recognizes the soil and environmental benefits of wheat in a crop rotation and therefore supports intentionally seeded winter wheat being eligible for classification as a cover crop for NRCS and climate-smart programs, while not impacting its eligibility as a harvestable cash crop insurable through crop insurance and other safety net programs. (Adopted March 2023)
  9. NAWG supports an agriculture exemption for emission control on

agricultural equipment. (Adopted, February 2024, Montana)

### *Research*

1. NAWG supports research and education to study the components in wheat that will have benefits for human nutrition. (Renewed February 2024)
2. NAWG supports the protection of intellectual property, including education about the importance of complying with PVP or seed contract and stewardship provisions and enforcement of those provisions when necessary. (Renewed February 2024)
3. NAWG supports continuing the study of managing invasive weeds in wheat; with focus on winter annual grasses in wheat (goat grass, ryegrass, cheatgrass, and feral rye). (Renewed February 2024)
4. Facilities and programs involved in wheat research (like ARS Research Stations) are equally important as USWBSI and genotyping efforts. NAWG opposes the shifting funds and want key field stations and wheat research programs maintained and/or restored. (Renewed February 2024)
5. NAWG supports federal, state, private and other funding for research on cause, effect, and solutions for soil acidification. (MT – Renewed February 2024)
6. NAWG supports scientific study of traits out-crossing into non-target crops and/or weeds. (Renewed February 2024)
7. NAWG supports continued funding for research of Fusarium head blight. (Renewed March 2023)
8. NAWG supports continued funding of the wheat genome mapping and international triticale mapping initiatives. (Renewed March 2023)
9. NAWG supports continued funding for

- research of direct and no-till seeding.  
(Renewed March 2023)
10. NAWG supports continued funding for research on root diseases in cereal grain crops. (Renewed March 2023)
  11. NAWG supports continued funding for the wheat pasture research project at Oklahoma State University. (Renewed March 2023)
  12. NAWG supports maintaining the funding for the Hatch Act and McIntire Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act, and Smith-Lever Act of the federal budget. (Revised March 2023)
  13. NAWG recognizes Ug99 as a major threat to national and global wheat production and strongly supports additional funding for rust research and resistant variety development. (Renewed March 2023)
  14. NAWG urges all public universities with wheat breeding programs to adopt the concept behind the Wheat Workers' Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) being used by all wheat regions for exchange of germplasm between public breeding programs. (Revised March 2023)
  15. NAWG supports the National Wheat Improvement Committee research initiatives and encourages a stable funding mechanism for long-term research including full funding for regional wheat research labs such as the small grains genotyping and wheat quality laboratories. (Renewed March 2023)
  16. NAWG supports the Sun Grant Initiative and its collaborations with other research institutions and ARS on bioenergy research. (Renewed March 2023)
  17. NAWG supports maintaining and improving infrastructure necessary for

- ARS wheat research. (Renewed March 2023)
18. NAWG supports continued funding for research on insect pests in cereal grain crops, including but not limited to wheat stem sawfly, hessian fly and Russian wheat aphid. (Renewed March 2023)
  19. When solicited, NAWG will provide letters of support for wheat research grant applications, on a case-by-case basis, for projects that have broad national significance. (Renewed March 2023)
  20. NAWG supports the Wheat Coordinated Agricultural Project (WheatCAP) initiative and urges continued NIFA funding. (Revised March 2023)
  21. NAWG supports funding for research to address bacterial leaf streak in wheat. (Renewed March 2023)
  22. NAWG supports research for genetic improvement to reduce the susceptibility of wheat to low falling numbers (late maturity alpha amylase and pre-harvest sprout). (Renewed March 2023)
  23. NAWG supports research to develop new falling number test methods for producers and end users that are repeatable and reliable to address the inconsistencies of current testing methods. (Renewed March 2023)

### *Wheat Breeding*

1. USW/NAWG support the ‘Principles for Collaboration in Wheat Breeding and Biotechnology’ as also supported by the National Wheat Improvement Committee and adopted by the Public Breeder Subcommittee of the Hard Winter Wheat Improvement Committee, and strongly urge state wheat commissions/wheat breeders/universities with public wheat

- breeding programs to use and further develop these Principles to guide their collaborations and agreements with private industry. (Renewed November 2024)
2. NAWG supports federal funding of advanced breeding technologies for research and science-based education for farmers, researchers, and consumers, in all U.S. wheat. (Revised November 2024)
  3. NAWG supports and encourages the development of producer education programs regarding value of certified seed and novel seed traits designed to enhance wheat quality and yield. (Renewed November 2024)
  4. USW-NAWG supports private seed companies and public universities entering into wheat research collaborations that are consistent with the “Principles for Collaborations in Wheat Breeding and Biotechnology” and for recognizing the importance of public wheat breeding programs and the producer investment and ownership in those programs. (Renewed February 2024)
  5. NAWG supports the adoption of reasonable science-based thresholds for tolerance and low-level presence for transgenic wheat by the regulation authorities of the United States. (Amended February 2024)
  6. NAWG supports the NAWG/USW Wheat Breeding Innovation Committee goals and policy statement. (Renewed March 2023)
  7. NAWG supports educating legislators about the importance of biotech research for agriculture. (Renewed March 2023)

3. NAWG supports and encourages the development of producer education programs regarding value of certified seed and novel seed traits designed to enhance wheat quality and yield.  
(Renewed November 2024)

## NAWG BOARD APPROVED CLIMATE SMART POLICY POSITION

Based on the work of NAWG's Special Climate and Sustainability Committee, adopted in November 2021 and amended March 2022

As carbon markets are expanded and growers consider voluntary participation, there may be roles for federal government involvement. NAWG believes any government involvement should:

- incentivize farming and ranching practices that benefit the environment including but not limited to carbon sequestration and avoided emissions;
- provide options for farmers and beginning farmers that may not be able to participate in carbon markets but are undertaking practices that provide carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas reductions and other environmental benefits, such as producers in certain geographical locations and early adopters of those practices through new and existing conservation programs or other USDA initiatives;
- support and not compete with private markets by distorting prices or competing in the private marketplace;
- complement and enhance but not take away resources – financial and technical - from existing USDA conservation, crop and insurance programs.

NAWG supports crop insurance and other USDA program incentives for conservation practices including but not limited to cover crops. These incentives must take into account all cropping systems and be economically viable and regionally specific, recognizing the different production systems. NAWG opposes any mandatory conservation requirements for participation in crop

insurance and USDA programs.

NAWG supports the Growing Climate Solutions Act as a means to provide credible information to growers about voluntary ecosystem service markets and increase farmer engagement in USDA oversight.

NAWG supports tax benefits for farmers to encourage ongoing management of conservation practices and options for producers to begin or expand conservation/carbon sequestration and GHG reduction efforts.

USDA should be involved in collaborative efforts to develop a standardized carbon measurement model and or tool that includes geographic variability with engagement from Land Grant Universities in the effort. Commodity Organizations should be involved in the development of this measure. State and local partners such as Agriculture Extension programs, state departments of agriculture and local conservation districts could provide valuable, local information through testing and verification of the carbon measurement approach.

NAWG supports a role for Cooperative Extension in assisting farmers in making educated decisions on carbon markets, including but not limited to contract review and related information.

NAWG supports the inclusion of wheat in all production systems including when used as a cover crop. Wheat plays an integral role in cropping systems by providing diversity, carbon capture, durable residue, weed control, soil moisture retention, and water quality benefits. NAWG supports the inclusion of wheat in all production systems including when used as a cover crop.

**BIOTECHNOLOGY POSITION STATEMENT**  
(replaced with a new Wheat Industry Plant Breeding Innovation Position Statement from the Wheat Breeding Innovation Committee (WBIC) in November 2018)

**WHEAT INDUSTRY PLANT BREEDING INNOVATION POSITION STATEMENT** (November 2018, WBIC)



The U.S. wheat industry recognizes the importance of new technology in breeding to farmers, customers, and consumers and supports plant breeding innovations that can address wheat production, yield, and quality needs. We take the following positions:

1. We believe that plant breeding innovation and new technology in agriculture are vital for the continued success and sustainability of U.S. wheat production.
2. We recognize the value of robust breeding programs that utilize all available tools to ensure that the U.S. remains a leader in the production of high-quality, high-yielding wheat in consistent, reliable supplies.
3. We believe that these new technologies benefit farmers, customers, and consumers, and will likely have positive impacts on the environment and long-term health of U.S. agriculture.
4. We support science-based regulation where necessary and encourage the U.S. government and governments of our trading partners to ensure open trade flows are not impeded by the introduction of products developed through plant breeding innovation.
5. We support the development of wheat that has benefits for our farmers, customers, and consumers. These benefits include, but are not limited to, climate stress tolerance, end-use quality, health, and disease-resistance traits.
6. We support continued wheat innovation and partnerships between university research programs, private companies, and public sector entities.
7. We advocate for the adoption of a nationally and internationally accepted definition of plant breeding innovation that clearly differentiates these methods from traditional biotechnology. We also urge international harmonization of scientific standards and trade rules.

## **BIOTECHNOLOGY PRINCIPLES OF COMMERCIALIZATION**

Adopted by NAWG and USW, November 2008 (to be

addressed by the Joint Wheat Breeding Innovation Committee)

The U.S. wheat industry recognizes the benefits and value which could be created within the wheat chain through the prudent application of modern biotechnology.

U.S. wheat producers will support commercialization of transgenic wheat traits after thorough review and development of a commercialization plan that facilitates commercialization with minimal market disruption. We support the ability of our customers to make purchases based on their preferences for specific traits, classes, qualities and characteristics. We will work diligently to assure that commercially achievable customer preferences are met.

The U.S. wheat industry will support commercialization of transgenic wheat traits when:

1. The technology provider initiates an informative dialogue with the USW/NAWG Wheat Breeding Innovation Committee (WBIC) prior to submitting for regulatory approvals in the U.S. This dialogue will allow our organizations to initiate education and outreach activities to both domestic and international customers, and to provide the technology provider with practical information intended to facilitate commercialization with minimal or no market disruption.
2. Regulatory approvals for food and feed use must be secured in major wheat export markets that will be affected where a functioning regulatory system exists. Major export markets are defined as those which represent at least 5 percent of the normal export volume of U.S. wheat, based on a five-year moving average at the time a provider begins the regulatory process in the United States. In countries where there is no viable regulatory approval system, technology providers will make regulatory submissions promptly when those systems become functional.
3. Commercialization of the trait must not impair the ability of non-transgenic wheat to meet commercially recognized thresholds

for the low-level presence of transgenic traits. Appropriate international tolerances for transgenic wheat in non-transgenic shipments must be established and accepted in major export markets. Anticipated thresholds range from 0.9% to 5.0%

4. An accurate, economical and timely trait detection test must be provided by the trait developer prior to commercialization.
5. The primary responsibility for education and outreach for new traits will remain with the technology provider. USW and NAWG will actively help seek buyer acceptance and will provide guidance, assistance and resources.
6. The technology provider must demonstrate stewardship of the technology, including education and outreach to growers to assure compliance with agronomic and grower stewardship practices specific to the trait.
7. We have examined both certified seed and point of-delivery value capture models. While there are advantages and disadvantages of either approach, we believe the certified seed model will be most acceptable to the value chain and is the preferred approach. Investment in agricultural technology by private parties requires a return on that investment. We support the protection of intellectual property, including education about the importance of complying with seed and stewardship contract provisions and enforcement of those provisions when necessary. Technology traits should be encouraged for adaption into public wheat varieties.

### TRILATERAL STATEMENT ON BIOTECH COMMERCIALIZATION

Statement of Canadian, American and Australian  
Wheat Organizations, May 14, 2009

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 pressure 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 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 synchronized commercialization of biotech traits in our wheat crops. While none of us holds a veto over the actions of others, stakeholders to address their needs and believe it in in all of 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 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
- Canadian Wheat Growers Association Alberta
- Winter Wheat Producers Commission
- Grain Growers Association
- Pastoralists and Graziers Association of Western Australia (Inc.)

## STRATEGIC PLAN RESULTS

Adopted March 2020

During the fall of 2019, the National Association of Wheat Growers undertook an extensive strategic planning process that entailed individual interviews with the NAWG board members, state association representatives,

and staff, ultimately culminating with an in-person facilitated session. This process resulted in updated mission and vision statements and identification of four key lines of business on which the organization will focus in the years to come.

Discussion through the session resulted in an updated mission (below) and vision statement, criteria for selecting a NAWG high priority, and the four NAWG lines of business.

**Mission Statement:** Uniting wheat farmers to promote policy efforts that create an environment that is conducive to the success of wheat farming in the United States.

### Process for Handling State Requested Issues Process

The Strategic Plan included an action item for NAWG to develop a process to handle state requests. Below is the process, followed by the direction in the Strategic Plan, including the criteria for selecting a NAWG high priority, as well as considerations that are to be made by throughout the proposed process.



## NAWG ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

1. The name of this corporation is the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WHEAT GROWERS.
2. The corporation is organized pursuant to 31-20 CR5 1953.
3. The nature of the business and the objects and purposes to be transacted, promoted and carried on are to do any or all of the things herein mentioned as fully and to the same extent as natural persons might or could do.
  - a. To promote and encourage (1) the interests and welfare of wheat growers in the United States, (2) the advancement and science of wheat growing, (3) the development of markets, new uses and improved strains for wheat and wheat by-products, (4) good farming and farm marketing practices, and (5) the conservation of the natural resources of the United States.
  - b. To initiate and carry out economic and scientific programs designed to achieve the purposes for which the corporation is formed as set forth herein and to cooperate with all other individuals, groups or organizations by furnishing information, financial assistance, use of facilities or otherwise, in developing or completing such programs.
  - c. To bring together in one association of wheat producers and wheat producer organizations, to coordinate their interests and provide a means by which its members may benefit by the exchange of experience and views or obtain concerted action in matters affecting their common interests.
  - d. To provide a central means of contact with any other agencies or groups including agencies of local, state and federal government.
  - e. To inculcate and to promote a spirit of

harmony among its members and member organizations in achieving their common interest and to promote a spirit of public service and public responsibility throughout the agricultural industry.

- f. To promote a sound agricultural economy in the United States patterned in the true spirit and tradition of American Independence and free enterprise as expressed in the Constitution of the United States and to oppose all efforts looking to the abandonment of representative government in the United States or in any of the several states.
- g. To formulate the rules for the transaction of business between the wheat growers of the United States, to provide a system of arbitration for the settlement of claims arising in their business transactions and otherwise assist them through information and counsel in the maintenance of successful business operations.
- h. To acquire by purchase, gift, devise or otherwise and to own, hold, mortgage or otherwise encumber, lease, sell, assign, exchange, transfer or in any manner dispose of property, real, personal or mixed, within or without the State of Colorado.
- i. To purchase or otherwise acquire, apply for, register, hold, use, sell or in any manner to grant licenses or other rights in and in any manner deal with patents, inventions, improvements, processes, formulas, trademarks, trade names, rights and licenses secured under letters patent, copyright or otherwise.
- j. To enter into, make and perform contracts of every kind of any lawful purpose within the powers and objects of the corporation with any person, firm, association or corporation, town, city, county, body, politic, state, territory, government or colony or dependency thereof.



- k. To borrow money for any of the purposes of the corporation and to draw, make, endorse, discount, execute, issue, pledge or otherwise dispose of promissory notes, drafts, bills of exchange, warrants, bonds, debentures and other negotiable or non-negotiable, transferable or non-transferable instruments and evidences of indebtedness and to secure the payment thereof and the interest thereon by mortgage, pledge, conveyance or assignment in trust of the whole or any part of the property of the corporation provided, however, the corporation may not become indebted in an amount in excess of the assets owned by it or owed to it.
  - l. To conduct and carry on its purposes and business or any part thereof, and to exercise all or any of its corporate powers and rights in any state, territory, colony and dependency of the United States, in the District of Columbia, and in all or any foreign countries.
  - m. To do all and everything necessary, suitable and proper for the accomplishment of any of the purposes or the attainment of any of the objects, or the furtherance of any of the powers here in before set forth, either alone or in association with other corporations, firms, educational institutions, associations, state, federal or foreign governments or agencies or individuals, and to do every other act or acts, thing or things, incidental or appurtenant to or growing out of, or connected with the aforesaid business or powers or any part or parts thereof; provided the same be not inconsistent with the laws under which the corporation is organized.
- 4. The corporation shall be a non-profit corporation and shall not issue stock nor pay any dividends.
  - 5. There shall be two classes of membership

known as (1) organization membership, and (2) individual membership.xn to the wheat growers in the several states.

- a. Individual members of a state wheat grower organization which organization is a member of the National Wheat Growers Association shall automatically be a member of the National Wheat Growers Association.
  - b. State wheat grower organizations shall be entitled to seats on the Board of Directors in accordance with the formula established in the Bylaws.
6. The corporation shall have perpetual existence.
  7. The corporation shall have the power to sue and to be sued and may have a corporate seal if the Bylaws so provide.
  8. No transaction involving the acquisition or disposal of real property shall be valid unless approved by the Board of Directors. All documents involving the acquisition or disposal of real property must be signed by the President and Vice President of the Board of Directors.
  9. Regular books of account and records of the corporation shall be kept by an officer or employee of the corporation designated by the Board of Directors.

The books of account and records of the corporation shall be open to inspection during business hours to qualified members of the corporation.

10. The Board of Directors shall have the power to make, alter, amend or repeal such Bylaws as they may deem necessary by majority vote of the entire Board of Directors provided that such Bylaws are not inconsistent with the laws under which the corporation is organized or the Articles of Incorporation.
11. The Board of Directors shall have the power to amend, alter, change or repeal any portion of the Articles of Incorporation by a 2/3 vote of the entire

Board of Directors.

Date: Dec. 7, 1958

Location: Denver, Colo.

NAWG Governance

# NAWG BYLAWS

Last amended March 10, 2022

## ARTICLE I - NAME, LOCATION, OBJECTS, CORPORATE SEAL, FISCAL YEAR

Section 1. Name. The name of this corporation is the National Association of Wheat Growers and is hereinafter referred to in these Bylaws as the “Association.”

Section 2. Location of Offices. The principal office of the Association shall be in the greater Washington, D.C. area. The Association may establish offices at such other places as may be desired.

Section 3. Objects. The Association was incorporated on December 7, 1958 as a corporation not for profit under the provisions of Article 20 of Chapter 31 of the Colorado Revised Statutes 1953. On April 20, 1973, the Association’s election to accept the Colorado Nonprofit Corporation Act (Article 24 of Chapter 31 of the Colorado Revised Statutes 2963, as added by Colorado Laws 2967, page 620 and following, section 1, and following) was accepted by the State of Colorado and a Nonprofit Certificate of Acceptance was issued to the Association are, as a corporation organized and existing under the Colorado Nonprofit Corporation Act and not for pecuniary profit:

(a) To promote and encourage (1) the common interest and general welfare of wheat and biomass crop growers in the United States, (2) the advancement of the science of growing wheat and biomass crops, (3) the development of markets, new uses and improved strains for wheat, wheat by-products, and biomass crops, (4) good farming and farm marketing practices, and (5) the conservation of the natural resources of the United States.

(b) To initiate and carry out educational, economic and scientific programs designed to achieve the purposes set forth in Subsection(a) of this section 3, and to cooperate with all other individuals, groups or organizations by furnishing information, financial assistance, use of facilities or otherwise in developing or completing such programs.

(c) To bring together in one Association all wheat and biomass crop producers and organizations in the United States with a view to coordinating their common interest and providing a means by which its members may benefit by the exchange of experience and views or obtain concerted action in matters affecting their common interests.

(d) To provide a central means of contact with any other agencies or groups, including agencies of local state and Federal government, with a view to achieving the purposes set forth in Subsection (a) of this Section 3.

(e) To inculcate and to promote a spirit of harmony among its members and member organizations in achieving their common interest and to promote a spirit of public service and public responsibility throughout the agricultural industry.

**Section 4. Tax-Exempt Status.** The Association shall be operated exclusively for business league purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or any corresponding provision of any future U.S. internal revenue law (the “Code”). In furtherance of these purposes, the Association shall act, and shall take such actions to ensure compliance with its tax-exempt status under the Code. The Association is not organized and shall not be operated for profit or organized to engage in any activity ordinarily carried on for profit. No part of the property or the net earnings of the Association shall inure to the benefit or be distributable to any of its directors, officers, or other private persons, except that the Association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments in furtherance of the purposes set forth herein. The Association shall be primarily supported by membership dues and other income from activities substantially related to business league purposes under Section 501(c)(6) of the Code. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Bylaws, the Association shall not carry on any activities not permitted by a corporation exempt from Federal income tax under Section

501(c)(6) of the Code.

Section 5. Corporate Seal. The Association shall have a corporate seal, which shall have inscribed thereon the name of the Association.

Section 6. Fiscal Year. The period from July 1 through June 30 shall constitute the fiscal year of the Association.

## ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Classes. The membership of the Association shall be divided into classes as follows:

(a) StateWheatGrowersOrganizations. A

State Wheat Growers Organization is an incorporated organization whose membership consists of commercial wheat growers in the State whose principal objectives and purposes have to do with wheat and its by-products or biomass crops, which organization has no legal actions or threat of legal action pending against it, is not under investigation or threat of investigation by any legislative or other governmental body, is otherwise in good standing and of reputation and has met financial requirements as provided in these Bylaws, and which organization has been issued a charter of membership in the Association.

(b) Individual-DirectMembers. An Indi-

vidual- Direct Member is a natural person, partnership, firm or corporation which is engaged in and a substantial proportion of whose income, as determined by the Board, is derived from the production of wheat or biomass crops, on farms, for market, who has met financial requirements as provided in these Bylaws, and which does reside in a state not having a State Wheat Grower Organization that is a member of the Association. Membership dues for Individual-Direct Members shall be set by the Board of Directors.

(c) Individual-Indirect Members. An In-

dividual- Indirect Member is a natural person, partnership, firm, or corporation, which is a member of a State Wheat Growers Organization that is a member of the Association.

(d) IndustryPartner. An IndustryPartner

is an individual, partnership, firm, or

corporation that is engaged in a business related to the wheat or biomass industry other than crop production, or which is interested in the advancement of the wheat industry. An Industry Partner is entitled to participate as a voting member on a committee that recommends Association policy priorities for the Board's consideration.

(1) There are three (3) categories of Industry Partner memberships:

- a. Industry Member – Industry Members participate as a non-voting member of the Board of Directors. There are no more than four (4) Industry Members;
- b. Industry Representative – There are no more than four (4) Industry Representatives;
- c. Industry Ally – There are no more than four Industry Allies.

(2) Membership dues and the rights, obligations, and privileges of membership (in addition to those described in Section 1(d)(1) of this Article) for Industry Partners will be established by the Board of Directors. Committee assignments for Industry Partners will be determined annually by the Operations & Planning Committee. New Industry Partners shall apply for membership in writing and must be approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

(3) Membership for Industry Partners can be terminated for any reason by a 2/3 vote of the Board of Directors. In the event that an Industry Partner's membership is terminated, prorated dues will be returned to the Industry Partner.

(e) Associate Sponsors. An Associate Sponsor is a natural person, partnership, firm, organization, or corporation interested in the advancement of the industry. Membership dues for Associate Sponsors shall be an annual fee determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Application and Election of Membership. Application for membership in the Association shall be made in writing. The application, after review by the President, shall be referred with his recommendation, to the Board for approval or denial.

Section 3. Financial Requirements and Dues of State Wheat Growers Organizations. As members, State Wheat Growers Organizations shall meet the financial requirements laid forth in these bylaws.

- (a) State Wheat Growers Organizations shall be assessed annual financial requirements, referred to as “state dues”. State dues will be rounded to the nearest \$1,000 and based on a formula comprised of the state’s five-year rolling average of wheat production and assessed rate per 1,000 bushels in accordance with the table immediately below. Assessed rates shall be approved as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors. Minimum state dues are \$1,000.

Wheat Production (bu).	
1	0-100 million
2	100-200 million
3	Over 200 million

- (b) Any action that changes the assessed rates for State shall be arranged.
- (c) Wheat Growers Organizations must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Board of Directors and requires a minimum 10-day notice before the date of the scheduled vote.
- (d) All State Wheat Grower Organizations are required to provide a written pledge of their intended financial contribution at least 15 days prior to the annual meeting.
- (e) Funds contributed in excess of a State Wheat Organization’s state dues will be considered a “Gift in Kind” to the association and will not impact representation.
- (f) Failure to meet annual financial requirements will result in restrictions and penalties as



described in Appendix II.

Section 4. Membership Rights and Privileges. Members of the Association shall be accorded the right to participation in all committee deliberations; voting members of NAWG committees shall be restricted as outlined in Article IX.

Section 5. Termination of Membership. Membership in the Association shall terminate upon the submission by a member, to the President, of such member's written resignation but shall not relieve such member from the obligation of meeting financial requirements and of paying dues which have been incurred. The Board may terminate membership of any member for failure to meet any financial requirement of to pay dues within 60 days after the due date. Members may be suspended or expelled from the Association for any other cause deemed sufficient by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the entire Board of Directors at a meeting duly convened for that purpose upon not less than thirty days notice to each Director and to the member whose suspension or expulsion has been proposed. Such notice shall state the reason for such proposed action and shall afford such member the opportunity of attending the meeting for the purpose of presenting reasons why the proposed action should not be taken.

### ARTICLE III - MEETING OF MEMBERS

Section 1. Annual Convention. There shall be an annual convention of the members at a place designated by the Board of Directors, to which invitations may be extended to non- members interested in the growing of wheat or biomass crops or serving the producers in any capacity whatsoever. At such annual convention, those assembled shall receive a program and reports from the officers on the activities of the Association, and enjoy such entertainment as shall be arranged.

Section 2. Special Meetings. Special Meetings of the members shall be called by the President when directed to do so by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Notice of Meetings. Notice to meetings

shall be delivered by or at the direction of the President to each member stating the place, date and hour of the meeting not less than ten nor more than fifty days before the date of such meeting. Notice of special meetings shall state the purposes for which they are called. Any notice required by this Section may be given by insertion thereof in any publication of the Association delivered to members on a regular basis.

#### **ARTICLE IV - THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Section 1. Eligibility for Membership on the Board of Directors. Only natural persons may serve on the Board of Directors. To be eligible to be a member of the Board of Directors, a person must receive a substantial proportion of his income, as determined by the Board, from the production of wheat or biomass crops, and must indicate his/her willingness to regularly attend meetings of the Board of Directors, to periodically report to the State Wheat Growers organization of which he/she is a member, on the activities of the Association, and to render insofar as possible such assistance as may be required of him/her by the Association in the execution of its program.

Section 2. Term of Office. Except as otherwise provided in this Article IV, each Director shall hold office for one year or until his successor has qualified.

Section 3. Directors Designated by State Wheat Growers Organizations.

- a. Each State Wheat Growers Organization meeting its full dues commitment shall be entitled to two seats on the Board of Directors with voting rights. States not meeting their full financial commitment shall be penalized in accordance with Appendix II.
- b. In the event that a Director designated by a State Wheat Growers Organization is elected as an officer of the Association, the State Wheat Growers organization of which he is a member shall be entitled to designate a Director to take his place.
- c. The procedure for designating a Director shall be that prescribed by the particular State Wheat Growers Organization concerned. A Designated

Director shall be certified to the Association by the State Wheat Growers Organization designating such Director in the manner prescribed by the Board.

- (a) A Designated Director may be recalled by the State Wheat Growers Organization which designated such Director by giving notice to the President by registered mail, enclosing therewith a certified copy of the minutes of the proceedings resulting in the recall action, and filling the vacancy thus created for the unexpired portion of the term thereof in the manner prescribed in Subsection of Section 3 of this Article IV. Any other Vacancy occurring among the Designated Directors shall be likewise filled. Such a vacancy shall be deemed to exist if a Director dies, resigns, or fails for two successive instances to attend meetings unless excused by action of the Board.

Section 4. Executive Committee. The President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Immediate Past President shall be considered the Executive Committee and be voting members of the Board of Directors. Vacancies among Executive Committee may be filled for the unexpired portion of the term by the Board.

Section 5. Powers.

- (a) At any time, a Director can call for the Board of Directors to hold a weighted vote of the membership, except in the case of election of officers.
- (b) The Board shall have responsibility for determining the policy, and for the management of the affairs, funds and property of the Association. It may employ a Chief Executive Officer and such other personnel, as it may deem necessary. It shall fix the salaries of the employees and may delegate such duties and authority to the Chief Executive Officer and other employees as may be necessary.
- (c) The Executive Officers – Immediate Past President, President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall to the extent provided by these Bylaws, have and exercise all of the authority of the Board.

- (d) When matters arise without sufficient notice, and a member of the Executive Board of NAWG determines it is in the best interest of the Board to take immediate action, the President may poll the Board members by fax, telephone, or e-mail for their vote. If the membership is polled, an affirmative vote of a simple majority of the members shall be required to authorize action on any matter. The fax, telephone, or e-mail ballots shall be confirmed at the next regular meeting of the Board of Directors and so recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- (e) Conflict of Interest: The Board shall adopt a Conflict of Interest Policy that shall be reviewed and approved annually. A Conflict of Interest Questionnaire shall be completed annually by each Director and an acknowledgment executed. All conflict of interest documents shall be retained with the NAWG corporate documents, and shall be made available upon request.
- (f) Document Retention Policy: The Board shall adopt a Document Retention Policy that shall be reviewed and approved at least every three years. The policy shall be retained with the NAWG corporate records, and shall be made available upon request.
- (g) Whistleblower Policy: The Board shall adopt a Whistleblower Policy that shall be reviewed and approved at least every three years. The policy shall be retained with the NAWG corporate records, and shall be made available upon request.

## **ARTICLE V - MEETINGS OF DIRECTORS**

Section 1. Annual Meetings. The Board of Directors shall meet no less than twice a year.

Section 2. Other Regular Meetings. Additional regular meetings shall be held upon call of the Board.

Section 3. Special Meetings. Special Meetings may be called by the President at any time by notice stating the purpose for which the meeting is called, or shall be called at the request of a majority of the members

of the Board.

Section 4. Notice of Meetings. Notice of all meetings other than the annual meetings shall be delivered to each member of the Board at least five days before the date of such meeting.

Section 5. Waiver of Notice. Any Director may waive notice of any meeting and attendance of such Director at any meeting shall constitute such waiver, except attendance for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business because the meeting is not lawfully called or convened.

Section 6. Alternates. State Wheat Grower Organizations can designate, in writing, alternates in a manner prescribed by the Board. Any Director or committee member may designate any alternate previously designated by his or her State Wheat Grower Organization, including an employee of a State Wheat Grower Organization, to represent him or her for all or for any portion of any regular or special meeting or committee meeting, except the Budget Committee, provided that the President or other Executive Committee member who is presiding over any regular or special meeting is notified (1) in writing in advance of the meeting in a manner prescribed by the Board; or (2) during the pendency of any meeting, after being recognized by the President or other Executive Committee member presiding over such meeting. A Director or committee member may revoke such designation of any alternate during the pendency of any regular or special meeting after being recognized by the President or other Executive Committee member presiding over such meeting. In the event that a Director or committee member seeks to designate an alternate not previously designated by his or her State Wheat Grower Organization during any regular or special meeting, the President or other Executive Committee member presiding over such meeting shall have exclusive authority to approve or reject such designation.

## **ARTICLE VI - THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Section 1. Creation and Membership. The Executive Board shall be appointed by the Board of Directors by resolution adopted by a majority of Directors

in office and shall be comprised of the Executive Committee and one Director designated by each State Wheat Growers Organization, which at the time of such designation shall also designate such Director as a member of the Executive Board in accordance with the procedure prescribed by such State Wheat Growers Organization and certified to the Association by the State Wheat Growers organization designating such member of the Executive Board in the manner prescribed by the Executive Board

Section 2. Powers. The Executive Board, to the extent provided in these Bylaws and in the resolution of the Board of Directors appointing such Executive Board, shall have and exercise all of the authority of the Board of Directors, except authority to:

1. amend, alter, or repeal the bylaws
2. elect, appoint, or remove members of the Executive Board
3. amend or restate the Articles of Incorporation,
4. adopt a plan of merger or consolidation
5. sell, lease, exchange, or mortgage all or substantially all of the Association's property and assets
6. initiate proceedings to voluntarily dissolve the Association or to revoke such proceedings
7. adopt a plan for the distribution of the Association's assets,
8. amend, alter, or repeal any resolution of the Board of Directors which provides that such action shall not be taken by the Executive Board.

Section 3. Weighted Votes. Weighted votes based on a formula established by the Board of Directors may be taken by the Executive Board. Weighted votes do not apply to the election of officers.

Section 4. Meetings. The Executive Board shall meet as often as necessary on call of the President, or

written request of a majority of the Executive Board.

## ARTICLE VII - QUORUM AND VOTING

Section 1. Quorum. A quorum for the transaction of business shall be a simple majority of the Board of Directors, or members of the Executive Board or Executive Committee, as the case may be.

Section 2. Vote Required. Except where otherwise provided by the laws of Colorado, the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws, the affirmative vote of a simple majority of those present and entitled a vote, a quorum being present, shall determine the decision of the Board of Directors, the Executive Board or Executive Committee, as the case may be.

Section 3. Voting and Proxies. At any committee meeting, except the Budget Committee, or meeting of the Board of Directors, a Director or committee member entitled to vote may vote either in person or by written proxy executed by such Director, which proxy shall assign voting authority to another Director, committee member, or Alternate properly designated pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of these Bylaws. All proxy forms shall be accepted if they include the assigning Director's first and last name, address, revocation date, signature, date signed, the name of the Director, committee member, or Alternate to whom it is assigned, and whether the proxy authorizes the assigned Director's authority to vote on his or her behalf on all issues or is limited to specific issues. Any written proxy that does not specify with particularity any limitation shall be treated as being a general proxy. All proxies shall be accepted up until the adjournment of any meeting. Each proxy shall be valid for 30 days from the date of execution unless otherwise provided in the proxy and shall be revocable. Any Director, committee member, or Alternate assigned as a proxy may vote for multiple Directors or committee members.

Section 4. Weighted Votes.

- (a) Number of Votes. Each \$1,000 of membership dues paid by a State Wheat Grower Organization secures one weighted vote for a state. Weighted votes are rounded to the nearest whole vote.

- (b) Split Weighted Vote. A State Wheat Grower Organization's Directors collectively vote the state's weighted vote. In the event that two directors from a state do not vote for the same outcome, the state's weighted votes shall be split according to each Director's vote.

## ARTICLE VIII - NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee shall consist of the members of the Executive Board. The Nominating Committee shall elect its own Chairman from among its members. The Nominating Committee will meet no later than the fall board meeting to review candidates and set up interview procedures. Final recommendations for all positions elected by the Board will be presented to the Board of Directors at the annual meeting. It is the duty of the Nominating Committee to select and present to the Board of Directors a slate of nominees for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, filling of vacancies on the Budget Committee, and any other position elected by the Board. In the event that a member of the Nominating Committee is a candidate for the Executive Committee, the State Wheat Growers Organization which the candidate represents shall submit to the President or Chief Executive Officer the name of an alternate to serve in the place of the candidate on the Nominating Committee. Members of the Executive Committee may not serve on the Nominating Committee.

## ARTICLE IX – STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. Budget Committee. The Budget Committee shall consist of the Treasurer, who serves as Chair, the Secretary, who serves as Vice- Chair and four Members elected by the Board of Directors. Members shall serve staggered four- year terms. Any Individual-Indirect member of the Association is eligible to serve on the Budget Committee. The Committee is responsible for proposing a budget to the Board at its annual meeting, selecting the audit firm to review NAWG financial reports and procedures, and proposing revisions to the assessed rates for the State Wheat Grower Organizations. In the event that a member does not complete their



term, the President shall appoint a replacement to the committee to serve the remaining portion of the term.

**Section 2. Operations and Planning Committee.** The Operations and Planning Committee shall consist of the Past President, who serves as Chair, the Vice-Chair from each of the Association's policy committees, and at-large members from the NAWG Board of Directors. The Committee is responsible for guiding the immediate and long-term vision for NAWG; leading strategic planning efforts; overseeing NAWG administrative policies; overseeing meetings and conventions, including involvement in Commodity Classic; and any other tasks designated by these Bylaws and the Board of Directors.

**Section 3. Other Committees.** The Board of Directors or the President may establish such other standing or temporary committees as may be deemed necessary to effectuate the programs of the Association, except that such committees may not perform any functions of management. Such committees shall meet on call of the Chairman, or if the Chairman shall fail to function, on call of the President or the Board. Committee chairs and members are appointed by the President. Voting members of NAWG committees must be members of NAWG's Board of Directors or approved Industry Partners, with the exceptions of: (1) the Budget Committee, which may include any Individual-Indirect member and (2) the Joint International Trade Policy Committee and the Joint Biotechnology Committee, which also include representatives from U.S. Wheat Associates and may include NAWG representatives that were NAWG board members at the time they were originally appointed but do not currently sit on the NAWG Board.

**Section 4. Board of Advisors.** The Board may, as it deems appropriate, establish a board of advisors that will consist of stakeholders who have an interest in the wheat industry. The members of advisors shall serve without vote and in advisory capacity.

## **ARTICLE X – OFFICERS**

**Section 1. Election and Term.** The officers of

the Association shall be an Immediate Past President, a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, who shall be elected by the Directors at the annual meeting of the Board and shall hold office one year, or until their successors are elected and have qualified.

Section 2. Vacancies. Vacancies occurring among the officers shall be filled by the Board of Directors for the unexpired term of office.

Section 3. Removal of Officers. Any officer elected or appointed may be removed by the Board of Directors whenever, in their judgment, the best interest of the Association will be served thereby.

Section 4. Duties.

1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the members, Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and Executive Board. He shall be chairman of the Board of Directors, with the right to vote in all other committees except the Nominating Committee. He shall perform those duties usually incident to the office of Chairman of the Board and be generally responsible for conducting the affairs of the Association. In periods of Chief Executive Officer transition, such duties shall fall to the President. He shall perform such functions as may be delegated to him from time to time by the Board of Directors. He shall execute contracts of employment and contracts for services on behalf of the Association when authorized by the Board of Directors and such other duties as may be required to achieve the objects and purposes of the Association.
2. The Vice President in the absence of the President shall perform the duties of the President. In the event that the President shall fail to serve out his term for any reason, the Vice President shall assume the duties of the Presidency for the remainder of the term or until the office of President has been filled.
3. The Treasurer shall (1) Receive all funds and receipt for same; (2) Cause to be deposited in a depository designated by the Board of Directors all funds so received; (3) Be custodian of the

- properties and possessions of the Association; (4) Receive gifts, devices, and bequests, and convert same into assets of the Association; (5) Make, not less than quarterly, to the Board of Directors, a report of the financial condition of the Association, and a statement of receipts, disbursements, and assets 6) Be responsible for the making of a financial report to the Board of Directors and Executive Committee whenever same shall meet; (7) Provide a report whenever requested by the Executive Committee or Board of Directors; (8) Be responsible for the keeping of regular books of account and records of the Association, and for keeping same open to inspection by qualified members of the Association during business hours.
4. The Treasurer may with the approval of the Board of Directors delegate any of his duties to the Chief Executive Officer and other employees of the Association.
  5. The Treasurer, Chief Executive Officer, and any employees exercising delegated authority to handle funds of the Association shall be bonded and the cost of the bond shall be borne by the Association.
  6. The Secretary shall (1) Possess and maintain the Minute Books of the Association; (2) Receive and acknowledge receipt of certificates of the State Wheat Growers organizations certifying the due designation of their Designated directors; (3) Maintain the correspondence of the Association, prepare and mail out reports, and assemble and keep all pertinent data; (4) Be custodian of the Association's corporate seal, and attest the signatures of the President or other authorized individual on all contracts and other formal and official papers of the Association; and (5) Perform such other services and duties as are usually assumed by the chief fiscal officers of an organization.
  7. The Secretary shall not be expected to maintain the correspondence of the Association, prepare and mail out reports and assemble and keep all pertinent data, unless he is supplied with a staff as may be required to enable him to perform such duties.

## Section 5. Auditing of Books. The books and

accounts of the Association shall be audited at least once each year by a Certified Public Accountant.

## ARTICLE XI - INSURANCE AND IDEMINIFICATION

Section 1. Insurance. The Association shall have power to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is, was or shall be a Director, Officer, employee or agent of the Association or is or was serving at the request of the Association as a director, officer, employee or agent of any other corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, association or other enterprise against any liability asserted against him and incurred by him in any such capacity or arising out of his status as such, whether or not the Association would have the power to indemnify him against such liability under the provisions of these bylaws or under the provisions of any law of the State of Colorado.

Section 2. Indemnification. The Association shall indemnify any person who is a Director, Officer, employee or agent of the Association who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed civil action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, other than an action by or in the right of the Association, by reason of the fact that he is or was a Director, Officer, employee or agent of the Association or is or was serving at the request of the Association as a Director, Officer, employee or agent of any other corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, association or other enterprise, against expenses, judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred in connection with such action, suit or proceedings including attorneys' fees, if he acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Association and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction or upon a plea of "nolo contendere" or its equivalent shall not, of itself,

create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner which he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Association, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had reasonable cause to believe that his conduct was unlawful.

Section 3. Actions by the Association. The Association shall indemnify any person who is a Director, Officer, employee or agent of the Association who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed civil action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, by or in the right of the Association to procure a judgment in its favor by reason of the fact that he is or was a Director, Officer, employee or agent of the Association or is or was serving at the request of the Association as a director, officer, employee or agent of any other corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, association or other enterprise against expenses, judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred in connection with such action, suit or proceedings including attorneys' fees, if he acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Association and expect that no indemnification shall be made in respect of any claim, issue or matter as to which such person shall have been adjudged to be liable for negligence or misconduct in the performance of his duty to the Association unless and only to the extent that the court in which such action or suit was brought, shall determine upon application that, despite the adjudication of liability but in view of all the circumstances of the case, such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses which the court shall deem proper.

Section 4. Successful Litigation. The extent that a Director, Officer, employee or agent of the Association has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit or proceeding referred to in this Article, or in defense of any claim, issue or matter therein, he shall be indemnified against expenses actually and reasonably incurred by the person in connection therewith, including

attorneys' fees.

#### Section 5. Determination of Property

Indemnification. An indemnification under this Article, unless ordered by a court, shall be made by the Association only as authorized in the specific case upon a determination that indemnification of the Director, Officer, employee or agent of the Association is proper in the circumstances because he has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in Sections 3 and 4. Such determinations shall be made by the Board of Directors by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of Directors who were not parties to such action, suit or proceeding or, if either such a quorum is not obtainable or such a quorum directs, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion.

#### Section 6. Determination of Proper Expenses.

Expenses incurred in defending a civil or criminal action, suit or proceeding may be paid by the Association in advance of the final disposition of such action, suit or proceeding authorized by the Board of Directors in the specific case upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the Director, Officer, employee or agent of the Association to repay such amount unless it shall ultimately be determined that he or she is entitled to be indemnified by the Association as authorized by this Article.

#### Section 7. Indemnification of Employees or Agents.

Persons who are not Directors or Officers of the Association or such other persons entitled to indemnification pursuant to this Article but are employees or agents of the Association or are serving at the request of the Association as a Director, Officer, employee or agent of any other corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, association or other enterprise may be indemnified to the extent authorized at any time, or from time to time, by action of the Board of Directors.

Section 8. Other Rights of Indemnification. The indemnification provided by this Article shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which those seeking indemnification may be entitled under any bylaw, agreement, vote of unaffected Directors,

insurance policy or otherwise, both as to action in his official capacity and as to action in another capacity while holding such office, and shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be a Director, Officer, employee or agent of the Association and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of such a person.

Section 9. Indemnification as Contract. The assumption by a person of a term of office as a Director or Officer of the Association or at the request of the Association serves as a director, officer, employee or agent of any other corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, association or other enterprise shall constitute a contract between such person and the Association entitling him during such term of office to all the rights and privileges of indemnification afforded by the Article as in effect as of the date of that person's assumption of term of office, but such contract shall not prevent the amendment of this Article in respect of any future term of office of such person or in respect of any other person.

Section 10. Severance. The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of this Article shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision hereof.

## **ARTICLE XII - DISSOLUTION - LIQUIDATION**

The Association is not organized for profit and no part of the net earnings of the Association shall inure to the benefit of any private member or individual. In the event of liquidation or dissolution of the Association, whether voluntary or involuntary, no member shall be entitled to any distribution or division of its remaining property or its proceeds, and the balance of all money and other property received by the Association from any source, after the payment of all debts and obligations of the Association, shall be used or distributed for purposes within the intentment of Section (501) (c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 and the regulations thereunder as the same now exist or as they may be hereafter amended from time to time.

### ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the entire Board of Directors at the annual or any regular or special meeting of the Board. Proposed amendments will be provided to the President and members of the Board of Directors at least fifteen (15) days in advance of the meeting where the changes will be proposed. “Roberts Rules of Order” shall be the governing procedural authority, except as otherwise provided by Statutes or these Bylaws.

### ARTICLE XIV - PROCESS FOR DETERMINING COMPENSATION

This Policy on the Process for Determining Compensation of NAWG applies to the compensation of the following persons employed by the Organization:

- ☐ Chief Executive Officer

The process includes all of these elements:

(1) review and approval by the board of directors or compensation committee of the Organization; (2) use of data as to comparable compensation; and (3) contemporaneous documentation and recordkeeping.

1. Review and approval. The compensation of the person is negotiated between the Executive Committee and the employee, the board of directors and reviewed and approved by the board of directors of the Organization prior to enactment, provided that persons with conflicts of interest with respect to the compensation arrangement at issue are not involved in this review and approval.
2. Use of data as to comparable compensation. The compensation of the person is reviewed and approved using data as to comparable compensation for similarly qualified



persons in functionally comparable positions at similarly situated organizations. 3. Contemporaneous documentation and recordkeeping. There is contemporaneous documentation and recordkeeping with respect to the deliberations and decisions regarding the compensation arrangement.

### APPENDIX I - STATUS OF STATE WHEAT GROWERS ORGANIZATIONS

The status of a State Wheat Growers Organization shall be, in principle, the same as that of a State of the United States with respect to the United States, and as such, it shall prepare its own charter and Bylaws, subject to approval and acceptance by the Association, as when a State becomes a member of the Union, and when accepted into the Association, it shall retain its independence and right to conduct its own affairs in its own way insofar as it does not infringe on the rights of others banded together in the Association for greater service and usefulness. When a State Wheat Organization is chartered by the Association all Individual-Direct Members farming in its territorial jurisdiction, as determined by the Executive Committee, shall be transferred to said State Wheat Growers

Organization and the unexpired portion of their dues shall be paid over by the Association to the treasurer of said State Wheat Grower organization.

## APPENDIX II – STATE WHEAT GROWERS ORGANIZATION FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS<sup>1</sup>

State Wheat Grower Organizations are required to meet annual financial requirements as described in Article II, Section 3.

### I. State Membership Status

A. Full Membership: Full membership status is reserved for states who have a signed membership contract in place and in correlation with NAWG's fiscal year. Full Membership allows full board seat and representation privileges as outlined in the bylaws.

B. Limited Membership: In the event a State Wheat Grower Organization fails to pledge their full dues commitment for the current fiscal year, the state will be placed into Limited Membership. A State Wheat Grower Organization in Limited Membership status shall work with the Association to prepare a plan to pay down its debt (without interest). The Penalties and opportunity for Waivers described in this Appendix will apply.

### II. Penalties and Waivers

A. Penalties will apply for late payment of pledged contributions as well as for State Wheat Grower Organizations who do not pledge Full Membership.

#### B. Penalties for Late Payments

1. If 100 percent of the commitment has not been received by the close of the fiscal year, then the state will no longer qualify for membership benefits (including voting rights) until the commitment phase been fully met.
2. If 50 percent or more of a state's commitment for the current fiscal year has not been received by January 15, then the weighted vote penalty in Section X will be applied for any weighted votes which may occur at that or any subsequent meeting, and the state will lose one Board seat.
3. A state may appeal to the Operations and Planning Committee for review of the specific circumstances which account for late payment at which time penalties and waivers will be assessed based on these bylaws.
4. A state may appeal to the Operations and Planning Committee for review of the specific circumstances which account for late payment at which time penalties and waivers will be assessed based on these bylaws.

#### C. Penalties for Limited Membership

- a. States in Limited Membership which have a signed membership contract in place and in correlation with NAWG's fiscal year, including a payment plan to pay off the outstanding debt, will be afforded full representation rights, but the below-described weighted vote penalty will be applied.

#### Weighted Vote Penalty

Percentage of Dues Pledged	Weighted Vote Calculation
80 - 99.9%	80% of Pledge / 1,000
50 - 79.9%	50% of Pledge / 1,000
< 50%	20% of Pledge / 1,000

## D. Waivers

1. A state in Limited Membership may apply for waivers of debt and related penalties to the Operations and Planning Committee, which will make a recommendation for acceptance or rejection to the full Board of Directors. In the event that waivers are granted, the following penalties will be assessed:

Dues Pledged	Penalty
80 – 99% of Dues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Retain both voting board seats</li><li>• Weighted Vote = 80% of pledge/ 1,000</li><li>• Ineligible for committee chair / officer positions</li></ul>
50 – 79% of Dues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Restricted to one voting board seat</li><li>• Weighted Vote = 40% of pledge/ 1,000</li><li>• Ineligible for committee chair / officer positions</li></ul>
Less than 50% of Dues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No voting privileges</li><li>• Restricted to one non-voting board seat</li><li>• Ineligible for committee membership / officer positions</li></ul>

2. All waiver requests must include justification for the waiver and requested relief. The Board of Directors or the Operations and Planning Committee shall request documentation from the state which is deemed necessary in making any determinations.

3. In extreme circumstances, the Operations and Planning Committee may recommend alternative options, including forgiveness of the outstanding debt and/or related penalties; such recommendations must pass the Board of Directors by a 2/3 vote.

# NAWG BOARD POLICY

Last amended May 2024

## PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to outline various policies of the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) Board of Directors as they relate to how the Board and CEO conduct the business of the Association.

## NAWG LEADERSHIP ROTATION

NAWG committees, committee chairs, and officers are chosen and elected at the close of the annual meeting. However, their terms do not begin until the conclusion of Commodity Classic. For example, the 2025-26 committees and officers will be chosen at the conclusion of the 2025 annual meeting (Winter Conference), but they will not assume their position until the close of the Commodity Classic on March 4, 2025.

## JOINT COMMITTEES WITH U.S. WHEAT ASSOCIATES

NAWG will conform to the “Guidelines for Operations of Fbe established to facilitate cooperative policy efforts as they pertain to each organizations’ area of expertise; which include, but are not limited to, trade policy, biotechnology and any other endeavors as needed.

1. The primary purpose of the joint committees will be to consider policy questions and propose policy resolutions to the two organizations’ Boards of Directors for approval.
2. No policy shall become the policy of an organization until approved by its Board of Directors regardless of actions performed at joint committees.
3. The Joint International Trade Policy Committee and the Joint Biotechnology Committee will each include four representatives from each organization, including one officer from each organization, plus a committee chairman. All nine members will have voting privileges, with the chair voting only to break a tie.
4. All other joint committees will include three

representatives from each organization plus a committee chairman. All seven members will have voting privileges, with the chair voting only to break a tie.

5. Committees will include, as ex officio members, no less than one staff member from each organization.
6. The committee will be charged with appointing ex officio members as technical and policy advisors, as appropriate.
7. The chairmanship of joint committees shall alternate annually between the two organizations unless agreed upon by the elected chairman of U.S. Wheat and the elected president of NAWG. The vice chairmanship shall be held by a member of the committee from the other organization.
8. Each organization shall have sole discretion over its chairman nominee.
9. The chairmanship of joint committees will rotate annually with terms running from July 1 to June 30.
10. Each organization is financially responsible for its members' costs to attend joint meetings.

It is the intent of both organizations (USW and NAWG) that these guidelines provide for a cooperative working relationship for any joint committees established to benefit the efforts of each organization individually and both organizations jointly.

## EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

The Board of Directors may call executive sessions that require the exclusion of unauthorized persons from that portion of the meeting. Persons who may remain include NAWG officers and all state association elected leaders even if they do not sit on the Board (March 2001). The NAWG chief executive officer, other NAWG staff members, consultants and/or others may be asked to attend at the request of the Board.

## POLICY CHANGES BETWEEN BOARD MEETINGS

- Long term: recommendations for changes will be brought to the full Board of Directors through the normal committee process. This is the desired course of action for all policy changes; other tracks

- will only be pursued if this avenue is impractical.
- Intermediate time frame (more than three days, but action is required before the next Board meeting): a government affairs staff member will clear these changes through the executive committee, the full membership of the relevant policy committee (via meeting or conference call) and the NAWG chief executive officer. At the discretion of the President and the policy committee chair, these decisions may also be deferred to a special meeting of the Board.
  - Immediate decision needed (in fewer than three days): a government affairs staff member will clear policy changes through the NAWG president, the chairman of the relevant NAWG policy committee and the NAWG chief executive officer.

In each case, NAWG will promptly advise the Board and state offices of actions taken and the reasoning behind them.

## ANNUAL MEETING

NAWG's annual meeting will be held at the Winter Conference. The NAWG representative to the Commodity Classic Affiliate Council will be selected by the NAWG officers every three years to serve a three-year term. The NAWG representative will be assisted by a NAWG staff member designated by the NAWG chief executive officer.

To help Commodity Classic better serve the educational needs of wheat growers, NAWG will annually develop a list of proposals to the Commodity Classic planning committee. The NAWG Foundation will also submit proposals annually for learning center sessions, with the goal of sponsoring at least one educational session at each meeting of the Commodity Classic.

## LOCATION OF FALL WHEAT CONFERENCE

For even year meetings (beginning in 2012), NAWG staff will select three possible locations and present them to the USW staff for their choice among the group. For odd year meetings (beginning in 2013), USW staff will select three possible locations and



present them to the NAWG staff for their choice among the group.

## REGULAR COMMUNICATIONS

To facilitate communication between the NAWG Board, NAWG Executive Committee, NAWG staff members, NAWG-affiliated state associations and other members of the wheat value chain:

The NAWG staff will publish regular activity reports that outline accomplishments and provide updates on important national issues. These reports will include a weekly newsletter and periodic reports as deemed necessary by the NAWG chief executive officer to fulfill contract obligations.

NAWG will maintain a website that will serve as a source of information for the entire wheat industry.

The NAWG Board of Directors and NAWG's staff members will work as necessary with state associations to best communicate the benefit to growers of affiliation with the national association.

NAWG policy committee chairs will report progress on their strategic initiatives action plans at the annual meeting.

## NAWG PUBLIC RELATIONS POLICY

### Overview

As a national nonprofit trade association, the National Association of Wheat Growers and its programs, activities and plans are of special interest to the wheat industry. One of the important ways in which we promote NAWG is through the trade press.

In order to ensure a professional relationship with the media, due diligence must be taken to ensure that information originating from NAWG is accurate, complete, reflects the official position of the organization and is released to the media and target publics in a timely manner. The NAWG director of communications has been designated as the first and primary contact with the media. Most reporters will contact the director when they need information. They know they will be referred to the proper source

for information quickly, and we will respect their individual deadlines.

### Media Engagement

If NAWG Board members, state or national staff are contacted by the media on an issue that relates to NAWG's work, the NAWG director of communications is available for assistance and support.

The NAWG officers, CEO, director of communications and other, designated senior staff are the only individuals who may speak on behalf of the organization, unless specifically requested by NAWG (example: committee chairs, biotech grower spokespersons, etc).

If Board members wish to respond on a personal basis, with reasonable notice, NAWG staff can provide as much information as possible and counsel on possible interview questions. In addition, NAWG staff can participate with Board members and others in interviews, schedule permitting.

All Board members who wish to respond to an issue raised by the media are asked to coordinate their response with the NAWG director of communications and stay in line with NAWG policy resolutions.

NAWG encourages all wheat industry participants to remember they are not required at any time to speak with the media, and NAWG staff is always available to assist in these instances.

### Confidentiality

Board policy matters, strategic plans and ongoing negotiations on organizational issues as well as advocacy efforts are considered confidential unless approved for discussion by the NAWG president or CEO. Please help your fellow Board members maintain trust in the integrity and confidentiality of all discussions.

### Times of Crisis

The NAWG staff strives to be honest and forthright, particularly with information concerning an emergency, controversy and other matters about which reporters have received information. If a member of the media contacts you during a crisis,

please do not give out any information. Refer the caller to the NAWG director of communications who is authorized to release information pertaining to these crises. A proactive policy generally results in a fair and balanced account of what really happened, rather than a one-sided or distorted picture.

### Media Access

Members of the media are generally welcome to attend NAWG meetings and events. A media access policy is posted on the NAWG website, [www.wheatworld.org](http://www.wheatworld.org). NAWG requests members of the media contact the director of communications to register for meetings and events several days prior to the meeting or event. The director can make sure media members have appropriate access to complete their assignments within reasonable deadlines.

### Audio Recording, Video Recording and Photography

For the safety and privacy of members and attendees, members of the press who wish to film, record or photograph at NAWG meetings and events must receive advance permission from NAWG director of communications. We are willing to assist reporters, photographers and videographers in accessing areas for interviews and background footage, but we need to make arrangements in advance with the members and staff in charge.

### Director of Communications

The NAWG director of communications is able to assist and counsel the wheat community on a range of communication issues.

In addition to media relations as defined in this policy, the director of communications is responsible for internal and external communications, materials and information for NAWG leaders, editorial services, graphic design standards, website content, special events promotions and publications. The director may work with U.S. Wheat Associates and other wheat industry organizations and/or may also utilize services of outside public relations firm(s) employed on the national level for special issues or assignments.

The director of communications enjoys the opportunity to work with members and staff in order to help promote the association's goals and member

achievements. All participants in the wheat industry are urged to contact the director with suggestions regarding communications tactics or topics.

### NAWG MEDIA ACCESS POLICY

Cooperation with the news media is essential to the continuing popularity of NAWG meetings and events. Most meetings and events are open to all accredited media with immediate access to all board members, officers and senior staff.

However, to ensure the integrity of the decisions of committees and the Board of Directors, some meetings or portions of such with delicate or confidential discussions may be designated as closed by the relevant meeting chair. Such designation will be made prior to convening the meeting and will be announced at the call to order or introduction.

Members of the media may have to provide additional supporting materials about credentials — for this reason, registration in advance of the meeting is strongly recommended.

All information presented at the meeting or event is embargoed until the time of presentation or a time otherwise stated on the relevant media release.

### EXPANDING PARTICIPATION IN NAWG

NAWG will continue its efforts to organize more state associations and send staff or officers to potential new member states. When possible, this will be done in conjunction with similar efforts by U.S. Wheat Associates. Developing state associations with Indiana and Missouri will be top priorities in these efforts.

### CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

This conflict of interest policy for NAWG (1) defines conflicts of interest; (2) identifies classes of individuals within the organization covered by this policy; (3) facilitates disclosure of information that may help identify conflicts of interest; and (4) specifies procedures to be followed in managing

conflicts of interest.

1. Definition of conflicts of interest. A conflict of interest arises when a person in a position of authority over the organization may benefit financially from a decision he or she could make in that capacity, including indirect benefits such as to family members or businesses with which the person is closely associated. This policy is focused upon material financial interest of, or benefit to, such persons.
2. Individuals covered. Persons covered by this policy are the organization's officers, directors, chief employed executive and chief employed finance executive.
3. Facilitation of disclosure. Persons covered by this policy will annually disclose or update to the chairman of the Board of Directors on a form provided by the organization their interests that could give rise to conflicts of interest, such as a list of family members, substantial business or investment holdings, and other transactions or affiliations with businesses and other organizations or those of family members.

### Procedures to Manage Conflicts

For each interest disclosed to the chairman of the Board of Directors, the chairman will determine whether to: (a) take no action; (b) assure full disclosure to the Board of Directors and other individuals covered by this policy; (c) ask the person to recuse from participation in related discussions or decisions within the organization; or (d) ask the person to resign from his or her position in the organization or, if the person refuses to resign, become subject to possible removal in accordance with the organization's removal procedures. The organization's chief employed executive and chief employed finance executive will monitor proposed or ongoing transactions for conflicts of interest and disclose them to the chairman of the Board of Directors in order to deal with potential or actual conflicts, whether discovered before or after the transaction has occurred.

## WHISTLEBLOWERS

NAWG will investigate any possible fraudulent or dishonest use or misuse of company resources or property by management, staff or volunteers. Anyone found to have engaged in a fraudulent or dishonest conduct is subject to disciplinary action up to and including civil or criminal prosecution when warranted.

Fraudulent or dishonest conduct occurs by a deliberate act or failure to act with the intention of obtaining an unauthorized benefit. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Forgery or alteration of documents
- Unauthorized alteration or manipulation of computer files
- Fraudulent financial reporting
- Pursuit of a benefit or advantage in violation of NAWG's policy against conflicts of interest
- Misappropriation or misuse of NAWG's resources, such as funds, supplies or other assets
- Authorizing or receiving compensation for goods not received or services not performed
- Authorizing or receiving compensation for hours not worked

Managers and supervisors are required to report any fraudulent or dishonest conduct, and are also responsible for maintaining an appropriate system of management controls which detect and deter fraudulent or dishonest conduct. Failure by a manager or supervisor to establish management controls or report misconduct within the scope of this policy may result in adverse personnel action up to and including dismissal.

Reasonable care should be taken to avoid baseless allegations, premature notice to persons suspected of misconduct, disclosure of suspected misconduct to others not involved with the

investigation and violation of any person's rights under law. Consult with the CEO if you have questions in this area.

### Reporting Suspected Misconduct

All staff members and volunteers should report possible fraudulent or dishonest conduct. Employees should report such conduct to their direct supervisor. If for any reason an employee finds it difficult to report concerns to their supervisor, the issue should be taken directly to the CEO. If an employee finds it difficult to report concerns to the CEO, the employee should follow the procedures under Employee Cooperation and Grievances to request a hearing with the NAWG officers.

Managers or supervisors faced with suspected misconduct:

- Should not contact the person suspected to further investigate the matter or demand restitution
- Should not discuss the case with anyone other than their immediate supervisor, the CEO, NAWG legal counsel, or an authorized law enforcement officer
- Should direct all inquiries from any attorney retained by the suspected individual to NAWG legal counsel
- Should direct all inquiries from the media to NAWG legal counsel or to the CEO.

### Protection for Whistleblowers

Whistleblowers are individuals who report suspected fraudulent or dishonest conduct.

NAWG will use its best efforts to protect whistleblowers against retaliation. It cannot guarantee confidentiality, however, and there is no such thing as an "unofficial" or "off the record" report.

NAWG will keep the whistleblower's identity confidential, unless (1) the person agrees to be identified; (2) identification is necessary to allow NAWG or law enforcement officials to investigate or respond effectively to the report; (3) identification is required by law; or (4) the person accused of fraudulent or dishonest conduct violations is entitled to the information as a matter of legal right in

disciplinary proceedings.

NAWG employees may not retaliate against a whistleblower with the intent or effect of adversely affecting the terms or conditions of employment (including but not limited to, threats of physical harm, loss of job, punitive work assignments, or impact on salary or wages).

Whistleblowers who believe that they have been retaliated against may file a written complaint with the CEO.



A proven complaint of retaliation shall result in a proper remedy for the person harmed and the initiation of disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against the retaliating person. This protection from retaliation is not intended to prohibit managers or supervisors from taking action, including disciplinary action, in the usual scope of their duties and based on valid performance-related factors.

Questions related to whistleblower policies should be directed to the CEO.

## FINANCIAL GUIDELINES

### Audit

The Budget Committee is responsible for selecting the firm to do the annual audit of NAWG financial statements.

### Investment of Reserves

NAWG's cash reserves may be invested in any federally guaranteed instrument. These would include money market accounts, certificates of deposit, Treasury bills or other instruments insured by the federal government. NAWG reserves may not be invested in non-insured instruments, including but not limited to mutual funds, stocks, bonds and futures or options contracts. Investment of reserves will be managed by the chief executive officer.

### Retirement Plan Trustee

The NAWG chief executive officer will serve as trustee of the NAWG Retirement Plan.

### Mileage Reimbursement Rate

Mileage will be reimbursed at the Internal Revenue Service-approved mileage rate. As of Jan. 1, 2016, that rate is 54 cents per mile driven for business purposes. Expenses will be reimbursed at the lesser of mileage or equivalent airfare cost.

## JOINT VENTURE POLICY

This Joint Venture Policy of the National Association of Wheat Growers requires that the organization evaluate its participation in joint venture arrangements under federal tax law

and take steps to safeguard the organization's exempt status with respect to such arrangements. It applies to any joint ownership or contractual arrangement through which there is an agreement to jointly undertake a specific business enterprise, investment, or exempt-purpose activity as further defined in this policy.

1. Joint ventures or similar arrangements with taxable entities. For purposes of this policy, a joint venture or similar arrangement (or a "venture or arrangement") means any joint ownership or contractual arrangement through which there is an agreement to jointly undertake a specific business enterprise, investment, or exempt-purpose activity without regard to: (1) whether the organization controls the venture or arrangement; (2) the legal structure of the venture or arrangement; or (3) whether the venture or arrangement is taxed as a partnership or as an association or corporation for federal income tax purposes. A venture or arrangement is disregarded if it meets both of the following conditions:
  - a. 95 percent or more of the venture's or arrangement's income for its tax year ending within the organization's tax year is excluded from unrelated business income taxation [including but not limited to: (i) dividends, interest, and annuities; (iii) royalties; (iii) rent from real pcontribution to, or investment or participation in, the venture or arrangement is the production of income or appreciation of property.
2. Safeguards to ensure exempt status protection. The organization will: (a) negotiate in its transactions and arrangements with other members of the venture or arrangement such terms and safeguards adequate to ensure that the organization's exempt status is protected; and (b) take steps to safeguard the organization's exempt status with respect to the venture or arrangement. Some examples of safeguards include:

- a. control over the venture or arrangement sufficient to ensure that it furthers the exempt purpose of the organization; property and incidental related personal property except to the extent of debt-financing; and (iv) gains or losses from the sale of property]; and
- b. the primary purpose of the organization's requirements that the venture or arrangement gives priority to exempt purposes over maximizing profits for the other participants;
- c. that the venture or arrangement not engage in activities that would jeopardize the organization's exemption; and
- d. that all contracts entered into with the organization be on terms that are arm's length or more favorable to the organization.

## RECORDKEEPING

### Document Retention

NAWG documents will be retained according to the following schedule. In the event of litigation against NAWG, destruction of documents pertinent to the investigation will be suspended until the legal matter has been resolved.

Accounts payable ledgers and schedules .....	7 years
Accounts receivable ledgers and schedules .....	7 years
Audit reports.....	Permanently
Bank reconciliations .....	3 years
Bank statements .....	3 years
Chart of accounts.....	Permanently
Checks (canceled-see exception below) .....	3 years
Checks (canceled for important payments, i.e., taxes, Insurance policies (expired) .....	3 years
Internal audit reports (longer retention periods may be desirable).....	3 years
Internal reports (miscellaneous).....	3 years
Invoices (to customers, from vendors.....	7 years
Magnetic tape and tape cards.....	1 year
Minute books of directors, stockholders, bylaws and charter .....	Permanently
Notes receivable ledgers and schedules.....	7 years
Payroll records and summaries.....	7 years

Personnel files (terminated)	7 years
Property appraisals by outside appraisers.....	Permanently
Property records, including costs, depreciation reserves, year-end trial balances, depreciation schedules, blueprints, and plans .....	Permanently
Retirement and pension records.....	Permanently
Sales records .....	7 years
Stock and bond certificates (canceled).....	7 years
Subsidiary ledgers .....	7 years
Tax returns and worksheets, revenue agents' reports and other documents relating to determination of income tax liability.....	Permanently
Training manuals.....	Permanently
Voucher register and schedules .....	7 years
Vouchers for payments to vendors, employees, etc. (includes allowances and reimbursement of employees, officers, etc. for travel and entertainment expenses) .....	7 years
Withholding tax statements .....	7 years

## Resolutions

NAWG resolutions should be perpetually numbered within a particular section of the resolution document. For example, resolution II-A-2 could say, “NAWG supports the continuation of separate identify rights for spouses actively engaged in farming.”

Resolutions should also note the date of original adoption, the date of last review and the source of the original proposal, as in:

NAWG supports the continuation of separate identify rights for spouses actively engaged in farming.  
Adopted Oct. 25, 20XX. Revised Nov. 25, 20XX.  
[state or committee proposing the resolution.]

## Policy Review

Each NAWG Committee and the NAWG Board should periodically review existing resolutions to ensure their continued accuracy and relevancy. Any resolutions not re-adopted will expire after three years.

## Ease of Use

Documents transmitted to the Board should include page numbers, tables of contents and other such information as appropriate for ease of use.

## PROCESS FOR SELECTION OF CONGRESSIONAL AWARDS

### Wheat Leader of the Year Award

#### Purpose

The Wheat Leader of the Year Award is to be given by the National Association of Wheat Growers annually to only one member of Congress and is to be considered the wheat industry's highest legislative award. The objective of the award shall be to identify, select and recognize those members of Congress, regardless of party affiliation, whose philosophy and records demonstrate their commitment to the wellbeing of America's wheat farmers.

#### The Award

In addition to an attractive physical award, as dictated by relevant law, the recipient shall be invited to address the attendees at the NAWG and U.S. Wheat Associates Wheat Industry Winter Conference.

#### Criteria

1. Recipients should demonstrate through their philosophy and actions a commitment to the wellbeing and goals of wheat farmers, a voting record consistent with the policies of the wheat industry and support for both the domestic and international elements of the wheat industry organizations' strategic plans.
2. Only one award will be given annually.

3. Recipients may serve in either the House or Senate.
4. Awards shall be given without regard to party affiliation.
5. Repeat awards are permissible.
6. The approval of the NAWG-affiliated state wheat association of the recipient's home state, where applicable, will be required before an award is made.

### Process

1. The NAWG staff shall prepare a list of three possible recipients, with written explanation of why each is qualified for the award, consulting with NAWG-affiliated state associations, U.S. Wheat Associates and other wheat industry organizations as appropriate. The list, including supportive documentation, shall be presented to the NAWG Domestic and Trade Policy Committee, which shall make the initial selection.
2. The NAWG Board of Directors will review and give final approval of the award recipient.

### Wheat Advocate Award

#### Purpose

The Wheat Advocate Award is given by the National Association of Wheat Growers. The award is made annually to a select number of Members of Congress who have demonstrated support for the wheat industry above and beyond the norm. The objective is to identify, select and recognize the hard work of individuals without whom the goals and policies of the wheat industry could not be achieved.

#### Criteria

1. Recipients should demonstrate superior action in support of the goals and policies of the wheat industry.
2. Multiple awards may be given each year. Although there is no limitation on the number that may be given, special consideration shall be made to ensure that the award is not given frivolously.
3. Should no one qualify in a given year, no awards shall be presented.
4. Recipients may serve in either the House or Senate.

Awards shall be given without regard to party affiliation.

1. Repeat awards are permissible.
2. The approval of the NAWG-affiliated state wheat association of the recipient's home state, where applicable, will be required before an award is made.

### Process

1. Following the completion of each legislative year, the NAWG staff shall draft a list of possible award recipients and a written explanation of why each is qualified for the award.
2. The list, including supportive documentation, shall be presented to the NAWG Domestic and Trade Policy Committee. Members of the Committee shall consider each award recipient individually. NAWG member states and other NAWG committees shall be given the opportunity to submit written comments in support of candidates.
3. Once the Committee completes its work, it shall forward a complete list of recommended recipients to the NAWG Board of Directors for consideration.
4. The NAWG Board of Directors shall vote on the entire slate of award recipients at which time any member of the Board will be afforded the chance to exercise his/her right as a Director to offer an amendment to the slate.
5. Once finalized, the award recipients will be notified and the state wheat grower associations. Once finalized, the award recipients will be notified and the state wheat grower associations and U.S. Wheat Associates winter meetings in Washington, D.C. Should an award be given to someone from a state without a NAWG-affiliated state association, the national officers shall make the presentation.

## Friend of Wheat Award

### Purpose

The Friend of Wheat Award is given by the National Association of Wheat Growers. The award is made annually to a select number of congressional or administrative staff who have demonstrated support for the wheat industry above and beyond the norm. The objective is to identify, select and recognize the hard work of individuals without whom the goals and policies of the wheat industry could not be achieved.

### Criteria

1. Recipients should demonstrate superior action in support of the goals and policies of the wheat industry.
2. Multiple awards may be given each year. However awards shall not be given frivolously and, should no one qualify in a given year, the award will not be given.
3. Recipients may serve on the staff of either a Member of the House or Senate, a Congressional Committee or in any federal agency or department.
4. Awards shall be given without regard to party affiliation.
5. Repeat awards are permissible.
6. The approval of the NAWG-affiliated state wheat association and of the recipient's employer's home state, where applicable, will be required before an award is made.



## Process

1. Following the completion of each legislative year, the NAWG staff shall draft a list of possible award recipients and a written explanation of why each is qualified for the award. The Committee shall consider each award recipient individually.
2. The list, including supportive documentation, shall be presented to the NAWG Domestic and Trade Policy Committee. NAWG member states and other NAWG committees shall be given the opportunity to submit written comments in support of candidates.
3. Once the Committee completes its work, it shall forward a complete list of recommended recipients to the NAWG Board of Directors for consideration.
4. The NAWG Board of Directors shall vote on the entire slate of award recipients at which time any member of the Board will be afforded the chance to exercise his/her right as a Director to offer an amendment to the slate.
5. Once finalized, the award recipients will be notified and the state wheat grower associations from the recipients' home states will make the award presentations during the NAWG and U.S. Wheat Associates winter meetings in Washington, D.C. Should an award be given to someone from a state without a NAWG-affiliated state association, the national officers shall make the presentation.

## WHEATPAC

### Fundraising

An annual WheatPAC fundraising goal will be set by the chief executive officer. An annual auction will be WheatPAC's primary fundraiser. In accordance with applicable federal law,

NAWG leadership and staff will strive to make this an exciting event that will facilitate the development of regular donors. NAWG also urges that each state association host events throughout the year to raise funds for WheatPAC. NAWG will maintain WheatPAC education and promotion materials to be distributed.

### Administration

The government affairs staff, in consultation with the NAWG chief executive officer and the NAWG officers, will make selection of recipients for WheatPAC donations. This decision will include input from the NAWG-affiliated state association if the Senator or Member in question represents a state with such an association. Determination of appropriate amounts will be at the discretion of the government affairs staff and chief executive officer, with oversight by the officers. Details of WheatPAC distributions will be made available to the Domestic and Trade Policy Committee and the Board of Directors on a regular basis with Federal Election Commission filings.

WheatPAC may contribute up to a maximum \$2,500 per Member, per Congress.

Aside from the above, no formal policy has been identified in the administration of the WheatPAC. In the administration of PAC funds, the following guidelines apply:

- WheatPAC donations will only be made to candidates for U.S. Congress in general elections. WheatPAC monies will not be donated for election to state office or for primary races.
- NAWG candidate support is nonpartisan; there will be no attempt to support one political party, but rather to focus on the influence of a candidate on

- NAWG policy advocacy efforts.
- Considerations for contributions will include: support of agriculture and NAWG policy, position in Congress (incumbency is encouraged but not required), formidable competition in the race, need for support, etc.
- When possible, WheatPAC donations will be discussed with the NAWG-affiliated state association

## Oversight

A report of WheatPAC's distributions will be reviewed annually by the NAWG Operations and Planning Committee and will be available for full review of any Director upon request.

## Article V- MEMBERSHIP

All U.S. Citizens including individuals, single member LLCs, and partnerships are eligible to become a member of the WHEATPAC. The WHEATPAC is authorized to solicit and accept contributions from any person, LLC or partnership from which contributions may be lawfully solicited. There is a minimum contribution of \$1 per two-year cycle required to be a member of the WHEATPAC; one must also be a member or employed by a member of the NAWG in order to attain membership in the WHEATPAC. Membership will be broken into 2 tiers based on monetary contributions .

Tier 1 shall constitute the WHEATPAC Board of Directors and be composed of NAWG voting members who contribute the following minimum sum of money based on a two-year cycle: \$2,500 or more. Participation or financial support made towards PAC-specific events is separate from this \$2,500 threshold and will not count towards the \$2,500 minimum. This can be made \$1250 per year, or all at once. These members must be elected to the Board of Directors by simple majority vote of the existing Board of Director membership. Once elected

to membership on the Board of Directors the annual contribution and a minimum attendance record of 75% of the Board of Director meetings, either in person or via some other two-way media platform (phone, internet-based meeting software, etc.) must be maintained in order to remain in good standing on the Board. If good standing is not maintained then the member is considered voluntarily resigned from the Board of Directors and the member must stand for re-election to the Board of Directors during the next calendar year provided the requisite contribution is maintained. As a member of the Board of Directors one can vote on all motions put forth to the Board including, but not limited to, the election of Officers, the disbursement of finances for the support of political candidates for office as submitted for review by the officers or members of the Board of Directors, amendments to the By-Laws of the WHEATPAC, and dissolution.

NAWG staff are expressly prohibited from serving as voting board members, but are eligible to serve in a non-voting officer role as deemed appropriate by the Board.

Tier 2 shall be composed of all NAWG members who also make any monetary contribution per two-year cycle. These members are permitted to attend general membership meetings on the occasions when they are held and where they may have the opportunity to offer their opinions on the affairs of the WHEATPAC to the officers and the Board of Directors of the WHEATPAC. Voting rights are reserved for Tier 1 membership only.

## Article VI- CONTRIBUTIONS

All contributions to the WHEAT PAC shall be voluntary, and no contribution to the WHEAT PAC shall be solicited or secured by physical force, job discrimination, or financial reprisal, or threat thereof, or as a condition of

employment.

## ARTICLE VII – SEPARATE SEGREGATED FUND

All contributions to the WHEATPAC shall be maintained by the WHEATPAC as a separate segregated fund in one or more designated campaign depositories, and all expenditures by the WHEATPAC in support of any candidate or political committee shall be made strictly from that fund. Payments for the purposes of administrative and other expenses meant to keep the WHEATPAC in compliance with state, federal, and local laws may come from the NAWG operating budget if applicable.

## ARTICLE VIII – OFFICERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS and COMMITTEES

Section 1 – The officers of the WHEATPAC shall be Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary. At least two of these officer positions must be held by a wheat grower who is a member of NAWG. These officers serve the Board of Directors but are not considered to be Members of the Board of Directors unless they have also qualified under Section 9 of this Article. Therefore, Officers of the WHEATPAC who are not members of the Board of Directors are not entitled to a vote on motions put before the Board of Directors; however, officers are allowed to present various topics, candidates for office, and other matters for discussion, review, and consideration by the Board of Directors. As previously outlined in Article V, NAWG staff may be authorized by the Board to serve in a non-voting officer role.

Section 2 – The officers shall be elected bi-annually from participating Tier 1 members of the WHEATPAC or NAWG staff members. The terms of office shall be 2 years, running concurrently with the federal biennial election cycle beginning in 2025.

Section 3 – Officer elections will be carried out in the following manner: (1) The pool of nominees will be derived from Tier 1 membership or NAWG staff via nomination by any Tier 1 member. (2) The Chair will call a meeting of the Board of Directors for review of the candidates. Each candidate will have an opportunity, if they so choose to use it, to present to the Board of Directors at this meeting. (3) Nominees will be elected to office by majority vote of the members of the Board of Directors.

Section 4 – The Chair shall administer and have general and active management and supervision of the affairs of the WHEATPAC in consultation with the WHEATPAC Board of Directors. The Chair is responsible for the scheduling, officiating and leading of all Officer meetings as well as all Board of Director meetings. Further, the calling and scheduling of general membership meetings is at the discretion of the Chair. The Chair has the authority to charter committees and appoint committee chairs who will serve at the behest of the Chair. Should the Chair be unavailable (incapacitated or otherwise unable to be reached) these duties shall fall to the other officers in the following order: Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary.

Section 5 – The Vice-Chair shall assist the Chair in administration and management of the affairs of the WHEATPAC and will take on duties assigned by the Chair and should be available to assume the responsibilities of the Chair in the event that the Chair is unavailable.

Section 6 – The Treasurer shall be the chief financial officer of the WHEATPAC and shall keep the financial and other records of the committee, shall comply with all applicable requirements required by law, shall file appropriate state, federal, and municipal disclosures, should be prepared to report on the financial status of the WHEATPAC at all meetings, and

shall perform other duties as may be assigned to him or her by the Chair.

Section 7 – The Secretary shall be the record keeper for all WHEATPAC officer and director meetings. Minutes of each meeting shall be kept and distributed to each officer or director previous to each meeting for review and approval. Further, the Secretary will be responsible for notifying each officer or director of the date and time of each meeting and keeping an attendance record of those officers and directors who are in attendance at each meeting. Finally, the Secretary shall serve as the archivist for all committee meeting minutes as submitted by the Chair.

Section 8 – Should a vacancy occur in one of the officer positions of the WHEATPAC, the WHEATPAC Tier 1 membership shall, as soon as possible, elect a successor to serve until the next regular annual election of Officers in the same manner as outlined in Section 3 herein.

Section 9 – The WHEATPAC shall have a Board of Directors. Qualification for membership on the Board of Directors shall be the following: (A) must be a member of the NAWG (B) must have voluntarily contributed to the WHEATPAC the minimum amount required to be a Tier 1 member (as outlined in Article 5) up to the maximum amount of dollars allowed by law, (C) duly accepted by a simple majority vote of existing Board of Directors membership. There is no limitation on the number of members accepted on the Board of Directors.

Section 10 – The Board of Directors shall meet at a minimum once per quarter. In the event that the Board of Directors deems it necessary to advise and direct the affairs of the WHEATPAC, it is possible for the board to meet more often provided the minimum number of meetings is held annually. Board of Director meet-

ings may be conducted in person, by phone, or by some other two-way media platform. The Chair shall be responsible for scheduling and directing the Board of Director meetings. The members of the Board of Directors are the sole entities entitled to vote on motions brought before the board.

Section 11 – Committees and their respective chairs shall be appointed by and serve at the behest of the Chair of the WHEATPAC. Committees will be formed based upon perceived need and will meet on a schedule that is commensurate with tasks assigned. Each committee chair shall assign a member of their committee to function as the committee secretary in order to keep minutes and records of the committee meetings. Reports from each meeting shall be submitted to the Chair of the WHEATPAC for review and presentation to the Officers and Board of Directors. These minutes shall then be entered into the WHEATPAC archive and kept by the Secretary of the WHEATPAC.

## ARTICLE IX – DISBURSEMENTS

Section 1 – Disbursements made for the purposes of administrative and other expenses meant to keep the WHEATPAC in compliance with state, federal, and local laws may be approved by NAWG and will be paid by NAWG pending their approval.

Section 2 – Disbursements made to candidates or elected officials shall be made only with the advice and consent of the majority of the Board of Directors. Candidates for political office seeking financial support from the WHEATPAC may be presented to the Board of Directors via motion of the executive committee or by motion of a current member of the Board of Directors in good standing.

Section 3 – Timely requests for disbursements may come in at a time that cannot wait for a



regular scheduled board meeting. These requests can be considered and voted upon using either an organized call or email approval. In both cases, a majority of the Board of Directors is still required.

Section 4 – In the event of urgent and extraordinary requests, the Board authorizes the executive committee (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) to approve limited expenditures. These expenditures are not to exceed \$1,000.00 per candidate, and the executive committee shall not authorize more than 5 limited expenditures without convening a vote of the full board.

## ARTICLE X – REMOVAL

WHEATPAC Officers and/or members of the WHEATPAC Board of Directors may be removed with a 2/3-majority vote by the members of the Board of Directors of the WHEATPAC. Any prior donations already received are not subject to refunds. Committees and committee chairs may be removed or disbanded by act of the Chair.

## ARTICLE XI – ADOPTION, AMENDMENTS AND BY-LAWS

Section 1 – These articles shall be adopted effective upon approval by the current NAWG Board of Directors by 2/3-majority vote.

Section 2 – These Articles may be amended from time to time by the WHEATPAC Board of Directors. To amend the by-laws a 2/3-majority vote is required by the WHEATPAC Board of Directors.

## DOCUMENT HISTORY

- Adopted Oct. 1, 2001.
- Amended Sept. 30, 2002.
- Congressional Awards amended Feb. 22, 2005.
- Mileage reimbursement rate amended Oct. 1, 2007.
- Leadership rotation policy adopted March 1, 2008.
- Amended to incorporate former operations resolutions and other changes, Oct. 25, 2010.
- Amended to incorporate minor clarity changes and public relations and media policies, Jan. 19, 2011.
- Updated membership of Joint Biotechnology Committee, March 5, 2011.
- Conflict of interest, whistleblower, joint venture and retention schedule policies added Jan. 29, 2012.
- Resolution review statement added March 3, 2012.
- WheatPAC contribution limits revised, Feb. 28, 2013.

## NAWG: A History of the Organization

The National Association of Wheat Growers was founded more than 60 years ago by wheat producers who saw the need for the nation's growers to work together for the common good of the wheat industry. Here are some touchstones of NAWG's history:

On April 21, 1950, 83 delegates from the nation's wheat growing states met in Kansas City, Mo., to form the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG).

Herbert W. Clutter, a grower from Holcomb, Kan., was elected the organization's first president. NAWG's initial priorities focused on promoting stable production, as well the marketing and utilization of wheat in the nation at fair prices to consumers.

During NAWG's second decade, federal marketing programs and price-support policies were the primary areas of work. Also during the 1960s, under the leadership of Carl Bruns, who served as president from 1960 to 1961, NAWG moved its headquarters from Dodge City, Kan., to Washington, D.C.

With the transition of NAWG's headquarters to D.C. came a new communications vehicle to facilitate informational exchange among grower-leaders and the policy makers in our nation's capital: the weekly Report from Washington, now in its 52nd year of publication.

NAWG and the larger agricultural community faced many challenges in the 1970s including dock strikes, non-farm opposition to Soviet grain sales, as well as public concern over rising food prices.

During that time, NAWG conducted a study

of what wheat growers needed from the organization and, based on that information, began publishing a monthly magazine, “The Wheat Grower,” which published into the 1990s.

The 1970s also saw the establishment of the NAWG Foundation to focus on educational and charitable activities separate from the Association’s policy-related work. In 1979, the NAWG Foundation took ownership of the Wheat Growers Building on Capitol Hill in Washington, which still houses NAWG today.

NAWG’s political action committee, WheatPAC, was formed in 1980 as a means of supporting members of Congress who support wheat’s message. Active still today, WheatPAC allows NAWG’s national officers and government affairs staff to attend important functions and discuss NAWG priorities with leaders on Capitol Hill. Throughout the 1980s, NAWG also continued to expand its reach, adding California and Arkansas to its membership roster.

The 1990s were a period of challenge for the Association, when growers faced serious obstacles related to the use of funds and the Foundation’s assets. Grower-leaders in the officer corps at that time worked hard to bring the Association and Foundation into solvency while continuing the necessary work on important priority issues.

That work paid off as the first decade of the new century ushered in a new period of good governance and new policy opportunities. Following a failed consolidation vote in 2005, NAWG and U.S. Wheat Associates worked together to take up trade policy work for the industry and rebuild relationships for the benefit of all

wheat producers. NAWG achieved significant victories in the 2002 and 2008 Farm Bills and, in 2007, the NAWG Board of Directors added advocacy for dedicated energy crop growers to the organization's mandate.

In 2012, the NAWG Foundation was restructured after an extensive revisioning and revitalization process, making its debut as the National Wheat Foundation. In the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the Association is dedicated to working with the larger wheat chain and fellow agricultural groups toward the strategic goals its grower-leaders have established.

In 2019, the structure of the Budget Committee was amended to add that the NAWG Secretary will serve as the Vice Chair of the Committee, and that the Committee is responsible for proposing a budget to the Board at its annual meeting rather than its March meeting, as the annual meeting may take place in a different month.

From 2019 to 2020, NAWG took several significant actions including developing and implementing a new Strategic Plan, moved to a new location on Capitol Hill with the sale of the Foundation building, and major updates were made to the NAWG bylaws.

In 2020, COVID-19 took the world by storm and DC guidelines forced NAWG staff to work from home. However, NAWG increased its engagement through virtual mediums and remained active with member states, Congress, and the Administration.

In the summer of 2021, NAWG incorporated a return to work policy and went back in the office. Also, in 2021, NAWG created the Special Climate and Substitutability Committee and rolled out a new Industry Partners Program to

increase our engagement with partners across the wheat industry.

Beginning the FY 23-24 year, in September, the Director of Communication launched NAWG's new Wheat World podcast which airs monthly recapping the last month's activities. The podcast is part of an effort to strengthen NAWG's communication effort with the board of directors, state associations and wheat growers on their policy and advocacy efforts, as well as provide a platform to highlight other industry experts.

In March 2023 during NAWG's annual meeting at Commodity Classic, NAWG launched a new website and logo as an effort to enhance and modernize the brand.



## FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE OF WHEAT

The National Wheat Foundation 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.

Current projects undertaken by the Foundation include planning and facilitation of leadership training programs and wheat innovation coordination and education.

The Foundation's Board of Directors is seeking to aggressively expand the Foundation's outreach and partnerships with other national and state wheat organizations, individuals and allied corporate sponsors.

### NWF VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

Elements of the National Wheat Foundation's strategic plan include:

#### Vision Statement

“The national center for wheat research information, education and outreach.”

#### Mission Statement

“To purposefully advance the wheat industry through strategic research, education and outreach collaborations.”

#### Core Values

The National Wheat Foundation shall be guided by the following values:

- Grower centeredness;
- Integrity and honesty; and
- Trustworthiness.

#### Value Proposition

The National Wheat Foundation shall add value to ongoing activities of state associations through collaborations and leveraging of resources

### WHEAT GROWERS BUILDING

After nearly 40 years in its location on 415 2nd Street NE, Washington, D.C., the National Wheat Foundation sold its building in December 2019. Since the 1970s, NAWG has been renting office space from its educational counterpart

The Foundation purchased the building in 1978 and, while it has a storied history, the building required significant financial investment and was consuming valuable staff time to manage. As a result, the National Wheat Foundation Board of Directors decided that it was in the best interest of NAWG to sell the building and relocate to a space more conducive to carrying out the mission and priorities of the organization.

NAWG is currently leasing space on Capitol Hill at 25 Massachusetts Ave, NE.

### EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Contributions to the National Wheat Foundation will be used for outreach efforts promoting and defending the benefits of wheat to U.S. consumers.



NWF will strive to:

- Unify wheat industry interests to promote opportunities benefitting the whole industry, develop solutions to industry concerns and manage issues on behalf of the industry.
- Provide forums for all stakeholders to come together, such as an annual Wheat Summit.
- Provide resources to develop research to help understand what is driving demand for U.S. wheat.
- Develop messaging to defend wheat attacks by opportunists.
- Utilize appropriate forums and collaborations to reach target audiences.

## RESEARCH

Contributions to the National Wheat Foundation will be used to fund research efforts to improve the productivity, quality and sustainability of wheat.

NWF will develop or participate in programs that:

- Improve wheat's competitiveness with other crops, with focus on agronomic and quality improvement traits.
- Provide grants for research projects and encourage collaborative efforts between researchers to avoid duplication.
- Support the efforts of the National Wheat Improvement Committee.
- Provide scholarship opportunities to enable sustained improvement and competitiveness of wheat in the U.S. and develop the next generation of wheat researchers.

## LEGACY

Contributions to the National Wheat Foundation will be used to help support the future of the industry.

NWF will provide avenues for “legacy” contributions from those desiring to give back after their careers in the wheat industry or as a tribute to their families’ work with wheat.

## NATIONAL WHEAT YIELD CONTEST

NWF announced the first National Wheat Yield Contest (NWYC) to growers in late February 2015. This national contest helps increase U.S. wheat growers' productivity to ensure an ample supply of high-quality U.S. wheat to reliably meet the needs of the domestic wheat market and our foreign customers.

Held annually, the contest recognizes winners in two primary competition categories: winter wheat and spring wheat, and two subcategories: dryland and irrigated. Industry desired baking and milling qualities will also be recognized as the contest seeks to promote not only yield but quality and profit as well.

To learn more about the contest, visit online: or reach out to the National Wheat Foundation Project Director of the Contest, Anne Osborne:

Anne Osborne  
NWF PROJECT  
MANAGER



aobsorne@wheatworld.org

## MORE INFORMATION

More about the Foundation's work is available on its website at [www.wheatfoundation.org](http://www.wheatfoundation.org).

## 2025-2026 NWF BOARD

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**GARY BROYLES**  
Chair



**SCOTT BROWN**  
Vice Chair



**DENNIS SCHOENHALS**  
Director



**BRIAN WALKER**  
Director



**CARL SCHWINKE**  
Director

## 2025-2026 NWF BOARD

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**BEN SCHOLZ**  
Secretary/Treasure



**JEFF BLACKWOOD**  
Director



**KEN WOOD**  
Director



**MARK HAUGLAND**  
Director

### NON-VOTING ADVISORS

NAWG Vice President Jamie Kress (ID)  
NAWG Secretary Chris Tanner (KS)

# NATIONALWHEAT FOUNDATION

## ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

May 27, 1977 (District of Columbia); Recorded June 1977;  
Amended Oct. 31, 2011; Amendment recorded Jan. 20,  
2012 (District of Columbia)

### FIRST ARTICLE

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The name of the Corporation is THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WHEAT GROWERS FOUNDATION, INC.

### SECOND ARTICLE

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The period of the Corporation is perpetual.

### THIRD ARTICLE

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The Corporation is organized and shall be operated exclusively for charitable, scientific and educational purposes; in particular, to carry out the purely educational, cultural and charitable activities of the National Association of Wheat Growers. In furtherance of such purposes, the Corporation is empowered to promote and encourage by means of scientific investigations, research or otherwise; (i) the advancement of the science of wheat growing; (ii) the conservation of the natural resources of the United States through the development of good farming and farm marketing practices; (iii) the development of new uses and markets for, and improved strains of, wheat and wheat products; (iv) the dissemination of educational materials and, through a broad range of educational methods and media, the carrying out of educational programs aimed at improving the skills of persons engaged in the growing and marketing of wheat in the United States and thereby improve the economic and nutritional well-being of the people of the United States; and to engage in any and all lawful activities incidental to the foregoing purposes, except as restricted herein.

### FOURTH ARTICLE

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The Corporation is not authorized to issue capital stock. No part of the assets or net earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its' directors, officers or other private persons, except that the Corporation shall

be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article Third hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the Corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation and the Corporation shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publication or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Articles, the Corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (i) by a corporation exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), or (ii) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

## **FIFTH ARTICLE**

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The sole member of the Corporation shall be the National Association of Wheat Growers. The sole member shall have the right to vote. All other conditions of membership shall be set forth in the Bylaws of the Corporation.

## **SIXTH ARTICLE**

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Upon the dissolution of the Corporation, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the Corporation, distribute all assets of the Corporation exclusively to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, scientific and educational purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board of Directors may determine.

## **SEVENTH ARTICLE**

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The Address of the Corporation's initial registered

office is 918-16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006, and the name of its' initial registered agent at such address is CT Corporation System.

**EIGHTH ARTICLE**

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The affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by a Board of Directors to be elected in the manner provided by the Bylaws. The number of Directors may be increased or decreased as provided by less than four (4). The number of Directors constituting the initial Board of Directors is four (4) and the names and addresses of the persons who are to serve as the initial Directors until their successors are duly elected and qualified are:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Don Howe	Box 63, Bonners Ferry, Idaho 83805
Glenn Moore	Willard, Montana 59354
Glen Bayne	Box 129, Prosser, Washington 99350
Jerry Rees	1030 15th Street, N.W., Suite 1030 Washington, D.C. 20005

**NINTH ARTICLE**

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The name and address, including street number, of each incorporator is:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Samuel Efron	1815 H Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006
Stephen L. Gibson	1815 H Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006
John L. Burke, Jr.	1815 H Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006

# NATIONALWHEAT FOUNDATION BYLAWS

Amended with Articles of Incorporation on Oct. 21, 2011  
(recorded Jan. 20, 2012); previously amended Oct. 23,  
2009

## ARTICLE I - NAME

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The name of the corporation is the National Association of Wheat Growers Foundation, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the “Corporation”). The Corporation shall be authorized to do business under the assumed name “National Wheat Foundation” or such other assumed name or names as the Board of Directors shall from time to time select.

## ARTICLE II – OFFICES

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The principal office of the Corporation shall be located in the District of Columbia, at such place as the Board of Directors shall from time to time designate. The Corporation may also maintain additional offices at such other places as the Board of Directors may from time to time designate.

## ARTICLE III – MEMBERS

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Section 1. Membership. The sole member of the Corporation shall be the National Association of Wheat Growers (the “Sole Member”). The Sole Member shall have the right to vote.

Section 2. Action Without a Meeting. Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Sole Member may be taken without a meeting and without notice if the Sole Member consents to such action in writing, including an electronic writing to the extent permitted by the applicable laws of the District of Columbia.

## ARTICLE IV – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Section 1. Number. The number of Directors of the Corporation shall be nine. At all times, no less than four members of the Board shall be individuals who are serving or who have served on the Board of Directors of the Sole Member. The CEO of the Sole Member and the Executive Director of the Corporation shall serve as ex-officio, non-voting members of the Board.



Section 2. Duties and Powers. The Board of Directors shall have the control of and be responsible for the general management of the affairs and business of the Corporation and may exercise all powers of the Corporation.

Section 3. Quorum. The presence of five of the Directors shall constitute a quorum at each meeting of the Board.

Section 4. Voting. Each Director shall have one vote and, unless a greater vote is required by statute or these Bylaws, a majority vote of those present shall be necessary for the exercise of the powers of the Board of Directors hereunder.

Section 5. Election and Removal of Directors. Directors shall be elected by the Sole Member. Directors may be removed from office at any time, with or without cause, by the Sole Member.

Section 6. Term of Office; Limitations. Each Director shall serve for a term of three years and until his or her successor is elected and qualifies, or until his or her earlier resignation, removal, or death. No individual may serve more than two full terms as a Director of the Corporation.

Section 7. Annual Meeting. An annual meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held at least once in each calendar year at the principal office of the Corporation in the District of Columbia, or at such other place as the Directors may select, on such date as may be selected by the Directors. At each annual meeting such business or affairs of the Corporation which may come before the meeting may be considered and acted upon.

Section 8. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called at any time upon at least ten days' written call by the Chair, a majority of the Board members, a majority of the members of the Executive Committee, or the Sole Member. Each such special meeting shall be held at the principal office of the Corporation or at such other place as is specified in the written call, on the date and at the time specified in such call.

Section 9. Notice of Meetings. Except as otherwise provided by statute, written notice of each meeting of the Board of Directors, whether annual or special, stating the place where and the time when such meeting is to held (and in the case of a special meeting stating the purpose for which such a meeting is called), shall be served, either personally, by mail or by electronic transmission, not less than ten nor more than fifty days before the meeting, upon each Director entitled to vote at such meeting. If mailed or sent by electronic transmission, such notice shall be sent to each Director at the physical or electronic address provided by the Director and shown on the records of the Corporation as the address of record for the delivery of all notices and other communications from the Corporation. Such notice (or any part thereof) may be waived by any Director by written consent, or by oral statement at any meeting, and shall be deemed waived by any Director who is present, in person or by proxy, at such meeting.

Section 10. Actions Without Meetings. Any action required or permitted under these Bylaws or the applicable laws of the District of Columbia to be taken at any meeting, annual or special, of the Board of Directors may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing (including an electronic writing, to the extent permitted by the applicable laws of the District of Columbia) setting forth the action so taken shall be signed by all Directors, and such written consent is filed with the minutes of meetings of the Board of Directors. Such consent shall, for any purposes, have the same force and effect as a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors, and may be stated as such at any time and for any purpose.

## **ARTICLE V – OFFICERS**

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Section 1. Officers, Election and Term of Office. The officers of the Corporation shall consist of a Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary/Treasurer. Only grower representatives shall be eligible to serve as officers of the corporation. Any two offices except those of Chair and Secretary/Treasurer may be held by the same person; provided, however, that no person shall, in more than one capacity, execute,

acknowledge or certify any instrument required by law, the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws to be executed, acknowledge, or certified by two or more officers. The officers shall be elected by the Board of Directors from among the members of the Board of Directors, an officer shall serve for a term of one year and thereafter until his or her successor qualifies. In the event of a vacancy in any office, such vacancy shall be filled by the Board of Directors for the balance of the term of that office. Any officer may be removed by the Board at any time with or without cause.

**Section 2. Chair.** The Chair shall be responsible for seeing that all orders and resolutions of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee are carried into effect and shall perform all other duties usually incident to such office. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors.

**Section 3. Vice Chair.** The Vice Chair shall, in the absence of or during the disability of the Chair, perform the duties incident to the office of Chair. In addition, the Vice Chair shall have and discharge such other duties as the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee may from time to time assign to him or her.

**Section 4. Secretary/Treasurer.** The Secretary/Treasurer shall attend all meetings of the Board of Directors and shall record all votes and the minutes of all meetings in a book to be kept for such purposes. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be custodian of the seal of the Corporation and in proper cases affix the seal to instruments. The Secretary/Treasurer shall see that the books, reports, statements and all other documents required by law are properly kept and filed and, in addition, shall perform such other duties as the Board of Directors may from time to time assign to him or her.

The Secretary/Treasurer shall have custody of the corporate funds and securities, shall keep full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the Corporation, and shall deposit all money and other valuable effects in the name and to the credit of the Corporation in such depositories as may be designated by the Board of Directors. The Secretary/Treasurer shall disburse the funds of the Corporation in accordance with

the directions of the Board of Directors taking and preserving proper vouchers for such disbursements, and shall render an account of all transactions as Treasurer and of the financial condition of the Corporation, whenever called upon to do so. In addition, he or she shall perform such other duties as the Board of Directors may from time to time assign to him or her.

Section 5. Executive Director. The Executive Director shall be a salaried (and if the Board deems advisable, bonded) employee of the Corporation under contract approved by the Board. His or her duties shall be (i) to supervise all activities of the Corporation within the policies established by the Board; (ii) to serve as an ex-officio member of all committees of the Corporation; (iii) to recommend to the Board plans and programs to further the goals of the Corporation; (iv) to implement all policies, programs and operating procedures adopted by the Board; and (v) to carry out such ministerial functions as may be delegated to assure the day to day continuity and efficiency of operation of the Corporation. The Executive Director shall be non-voting, ex officio, member of the Board of Directors. The Corporation may contract with the National Association of Wheat Growers to obtain these executive services in lieu of hiring an employee directly.

## ARTICLE VI – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Constituency. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the elected officers of the Corporation.

Section 2. Powers and Duties. The Executive Committee is the facilitating body of the Corporation and is empowered to act for and make decisions on behalf of the Board of Directors in between meetings of the Board of Directors, and between such meetings, to exercise all the powers and perform all the duties of the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee shall report on all of its activities to the Board on a regular basis and the Board of Directors may, at any time, restrict or make more specific the duties of the Executive Committee.

## **ARTICLE VII – OTHER COMMITTEES**

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Section 1. Nominating Committee. The Chair shall appoint annually three (3) members of the Board, including the Executive Director, to constitute a Nominating Committee in advance of the annual meeting of the Corporation. This Committee shall submit in writing to the Secretary/Treasurer nominations for Directors to be elected by the Sole Member, as well as nominations of individuals to serve as officers and as members of specific Committees of the Corporation.

Section 2. Other Committees. The Board may, from time to time, create additional committees with such powers and duties as the Board may prescribe, the members of which shall be designated (and removed) by the Chair.

## **ARTICLE VIII – EXECUTION OF INSTRUMENTS**

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Contracts and other instruments (not including routine instruments) to be executed by the Corporation shall be signed, unless otherwise required by law, by the Chair or by the Executive Director and the Secretary/Treasurer. The Executive Director, signing alone, is authorized and empowered to execute in the name of the Corporation all routine instruments arising in the tally operation of the business of the Corporation. The Board may authorize any person to sign any contract or other instrument and may authorize such persons to, in turn, delegate in writing such authority to sign to any other person or persons.

## **ARTICLE IX – SEAL**

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The corporate seal shall be circular in form and shall bear the name of the Corporation, the words “Corporate Seal”, and words and figures denoting the year and jurisdiction of its incorporation. The form of or inscription on the seal may be changed at any time by the Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS**

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These Bylaws may be amended, altered or repealed and new Bylaws may be adopted, by a majority vote of the Board, with the consent of the Sole Member. These Bylaws may not be amended, altered, repealed or adopted in the contravention or derogation of the

## **ARTICLE XI – ACCOUNTING PERIOD**

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The fiscal year of the Corporation shall be from July 1 to June 30 or such other twelve month period as the Board may establish.

## **ARTICLE XII – DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

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Agribusiness donors who contribute a minimum of \$7,500 annually to the Foundation are eligible for positions on the Foundation Development Committee. Companies who have pledged this contribution by the time the budget is adopted for the next fiscal year are eligible to be granted seats on the Development Committee. The Board of Directors of the Foundation will vote to approve members to the Development Committee annually, at the same meeting where the budget is adopted.

## **ARTICLE XIII – BOARD OF ADVISORS**

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Section 1. Composition and Selection. The Board of Directors of the Corporation may select a Board of Advisors at such a time and in such a manner as they desire. No more than fifty persons shall serve on the Board of Advisors at any one time. Each person selected to serve on the Board of Advisors shall serve for a term of two years from the date of such selection.

Section 2. Duties and Functions. The Board of Advisors may organize and meet in such manner and at such times as it deems proper. The Board of Advisors shall give suggestions, advice and council to the Corporation to the end that the purposes of the Corporation may be better served. Such suggestions, advice and council shall not be binding on the Corporation but merely advisory.

Section 3. Meetings. The Executive Director of the Corporation or the Chair may at any time call a meeting of the Board of Advisors, but it shall not be mandatory for such a meeting to be called.

## **ARTICLE XIV – INDEMNIFICATION AND**

## INSURANCE

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Section 1. Indemnification. The Corporation shall indemnify, and may advance related expenses to, any Director or officer or former officer or Director of the Corporation against all expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees, actually and necessarily incurred by such officer or Director in connection with the defense of any action, suit or proceeding in which he or she is made a party by reason of being or having been such an officer or Director, to the maximum extent permitted by law; provided however, that no such indemnification shall be made with respect to matters as to which he or she shall be judged liable for negligence or misconduct in the performance of a duty. The foregoing right of indemnification shall be in addition to, and not exclusive of, all other rights to which such officer or Director may be otherwise entitled. In no case, however, shall the Corporation indemnify, reimburse or insure any person for any taxes imposed on such individual under Chapter 42 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as now in effect or as may hereafter be amended ("the Code"). Further, if at any time the Corporation is deemed to be a private foundation within the meaning of Section 509 of the Code then, during such time, no payment shall be made under this Article if such payment would constitute an act of self-dealing or a taxable expenditure, as defined in Section 4941(d) or Section 4945(d), respectively, of the Code. If any part of this Article shall be found in any action, suit, or proceeding to be invalid or ineffective, the validity and the effectiveness of the remaining parts shall not be affected.

Section 2. Insurance. The Corporation may purchase and maintain insurance to indemnify the Corporation and any of its current or former officers, directors, agents or employees in a manner and to the fullest extent now or hereafter permitted by law.

## ARTICLE XV – CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

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This Conflict of Interest Policy of the Corporation: (1) defines conflicts of interest; (2) identifies classes of individuals within the Organization covered by this policy; (3) facilitates disclosure of information that may help identify conflicts of interest; and (4)

specifies procedures to be followed in managing conflicts of interest.

1. Definition of conflicts of interest. A conflict of interest arises when a person in a position of authority over the Organization may benefit financially from a decision he or she could make in that capacity, including indirect benefits such as to family members or businesses with which the person is closely associated. This policy is focused upon material financial interest of, or benefit to, such persons.
2. Individuals covered. Persons covered by this policy are the Organization's officers, directors, chief employed executive and chief employed finance executive.
3. Facilitation of disclosure. Persons covered by this policy will annually disclose or update to the Chair on a form provided by the Organization their interests that could give rise to conflicts of interest, such as a list of family members, substantial business or investment holdings, and other transactions or affiliations with businesses and other organizations or those of family members.
4. Procedures to manage conflicts. For each interest disclosed to the Chair, the Chair will determine whether to: (a) take no action; (b) assure full disclosure to the Board of Directors and other individuals covered by this policy; (c) ask the person to recuse from participation in related discussions or decisions within the Organization; or (d) ask the person to resign from his or her position in the Organization or, if the person refuses to resign, become subject to possible removal in accordance with the Organization's removal procedures. The Organization's chief employed executive and chief employed finance executive will monitor proposed or ongoing transactions for conflicts of interest and disclose them to the Chair in order to deal with potential or actual conflicts, whether discovered before



or after the transaction has occurred.

## ARTICLE XVI – WHISTLEBLOWER POLICY

The NAWG Foundation will investigate any possible fraudulent or dishonest use or misuse of company resources or property by management, staff or volunteers. Anyone found to have engaged in a fraudulent or dishonest conduct is subject to disciplinary action up to and including civil or criminal prosecution when warranted.

Fraudulent or dishonest conduct occurs by a deliberate act or failure to act with the intention of obtaining an unauthorized benefit. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Forgery or alteration of documents
- Unauthorized alteration or manipulation of computer files
- Fraudulent financial reporting
- Pursuit of a benefit or advantage in violation of NAWG Foundation's policy against conflicts of interest
- Misappropriation or misuse of NAWG Foundation's resources, such as funds, supplies or other assets
- Authorizing or receiving compensation for goods not received or services not performed
- Authorizing or receiving compensation for hours not worked

Managers and supervisors are required to report any fraudulent or dishonest conduct, and are also responsible for maintaining an appropriate system of management controls which detect and deter fraudulent or dishonest conduct. Failure by a manager or supervisor to establish management controls or report misconduct within the scope of this policy may result in adverse personnel action up to and including dismissal.

Reasonable care should be taken to avoid baseless allegations, premature notice to persons suspected of misconduct, disclosure of suspected misconduct to others not involved with the investigation and violation of any person's rights under law. Consult with the CEO if you have questions in this area.

## Reporting Suspected Misconduct

All staff members and volunteers should report possible fraudulent or dishonest conduct.

Employees should report such conduct to their direct supervisor. If for any reason an employee finds it difficult to report concerns to their supervisor, the issue should be taken directly to the CEO. If an employee finds it difficult to report concerns to the CEO, the employee should follow the procedures under Employee Cooperation and Grievances (above) to request a hearing with the NAWG Foundation Officers.

Managers or supervisors faced with suspected misconduct:

- Should not contact the person suspected to further investigate the matter or demand restitution
- Should not discuss the case with anyone other than their immediate supervisor, the CEO, NAWG Foundation legal counsel, or an authorized law enforcement officer
- Should direct all inquiries from any attorney retained by the suspected individual to NAWG Foundation legal counsel
- Should direct all inquiries from the media to NAWG Foundation legal counsel or to the CEO.

## Protection for Whistleblowers

Whistleblowers are individuals who report suspected fraudulent or dishonest conduct.

NAWG Foundation will use its best efforts to protect whistleblowers against retaliation. It cannot guarantee confidentiality, however, and there is no such thing as an “unofficial” or “off the record” report. NAWG Foundation will keep the whistleblower’s identity confidential, unless (1) the person agrees to be identified; (2) identification is necessary to allow NAWG Foundation or law enforcement officials to investigate or respond effectively to the report; (3) identification is required by law; or (4) the person accused of fraudulent or dishonest conduct violations is entitled to the information as a matter of legal right in disciplinary

proceedings.

NAWG Foundation employees may not retaliate against a whistleblower with the intent or effect of adversely affecting the terms or conditions of employment (including but not limited to, threats of physical harm, loss of job, punitive work assignments, or impact on salary or wages). Whistleblowers who believe that they have been retaliated against may file a written complaint with the CEO. A proven complaint of retaliation shall result in a proper remedy for the person harmed and the initiation of disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against the retaliating person. This protection from retaliation is not intended to prohibit managers or supervisors from taking action, including disciplinary action, in the usual scope of their duties and based on valid performance-related factors.

Questions related to whistleblower policies should be directed to the CEO.

ARTICLE XVII – DOCUMENT RETENTION  
AND DESTRUCTION POLICY

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NAWG Foundation documents will be retained according to the following schedule. In the event of litigation against the NAWG Foundation, destruction of documents pertinent to the investigation will be suspended until the legal matter has been resolved.

Accounts payable ledgers and schedules .....	7 years
Accounts receivable ledgers and schedules .....	7 years
Audit reports.....	Permanently
Bank reconciliations .....	3 years
Bank statements.....	3 years
Chart of accounts .....	Permanently
Checks (canceled-see exception below) .....	3 years
Checks (canceled for important payments, i.e., taxes, purchases of property, special contracts, etc. Checks should be filed with the papers pertaining to the under- lying transaction).....	Permanently
Contracts, mortgages, notes and leases (expired).....	7 years
(still in effect) .....	Permanently
Correspondences (general).....	2 years

Correspondence (legal and important matters only).....	Permanently
Correspondence (routine) with customers and/or vendors .....	2 years
Deeds, mortgages and bills of sale .....	Permanently
Depreciation schedule .....	Permanently
Duplicate deposits slips .....	2 years
Sent Electronic mail.....	3 months
Employment applications.....	3 years
Expense analyses/expense distribution schedules.....	7 years
Financial statements (year-end, other optional).....	Permanently
Garnishments.....	7 years
General/private ledgers, year-end trial balance .....	Permanently
Insurance policies (expired) .....	3 years
Internal audit reports (longer retention periods may be desirable) .....	3 years
Internal reports (miscellaneous).....	3 years
Invoices (to customers, from vendors) .....	7 years
Magnetic tape and tape cards.....	1 year
Minute books of directors, stockholders, bylaws and charter.....	Permanently
Notes receivable ledgers and schedules.....	7 years
Payroll records and summaries.....	7 years
Personnel files (terminated).....	7 years
Property appraisals by outside appraisers.....	Permanently
Property records, including costs, depreciation on reserves, year-end trial balances, depreciation schedules, blueprints, and plans.....	Permanently
Retirement and pension records.....	Permanently
Sales records.....	7 years
Stock and bond certificates (canceled).....	7 years
Subsidiary ledgers .....	7 years
Tax returns and worksheets, revenue agents' reports and other documents relating to determination of income tax liability .....	Permanently
Training manuals .....	Permanently
Voucher register and schedules.....	7 years
Vouchers for payments to vendors, employees, etc. (includes allowances and reimbursement of employees, officers, etc. for travel and entertainment expenses).....	7 years

Withholding tax statements .....7 years

ARTICLE XVIII - POLICY ON THE PROCESS  
FOR DETERMINING COMPENSATION

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This Policy on the Process for Determining Compensation of NAWG Foundation applies to the compensation of the following persons employed by the Organization:

↳ Chief Executive Officer

The process includes all of these elements: (1) review and approval by the board of directors or compensation committee of the Organization; (2) use of data as to comparable compensation; and

(3) contemporaneous documentation and record-keeping.

1. Review and approval. The compensation of the person is negotiated between the Executive Committee and the employee, and reviewed and approved by the board of directors of the Organization prior to enactment, provided that persons with conflicts of interest with respect to the compensation arrangement at issue are not involved in this review and approval.
2. Use of data as to comparable compensation. The compensation of the person is reviewed and approved using data as to comparable compensation for similarly qualified persons in functionally comparable positions at similarly situated organizations.
3. Contemporaneous documentation and record-keeping. There is contemporaneous documentation and recordkeeping with respect to the deliberations and decisions regarding the compensation arrangement.

## **ARTICLE XVIII - POLICY ON THE PROCESS FOR DETERMINING COMPENSATION**

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This Joint Venture Policy of the NAWG Foundation (Organization) requires that the Organization evaluate its participation in joint venture arrangements under Federal tax law and take steps to safeguard the Organization's exempt status with respect to such arrangements. It applies to any joint ownership or contractual arrangement through which there is an agreement to jointly undertake a specific business enterprise, investment, or exempt-purpose activity as further defined in this policy.

1. Joint ventures or similar arrangements with taxable entities. For purposes of this policy, a joint venture or similar arrangement (or a "venture or arrangement") means any joint ownership

arrangement through which there is an agreement to jointly undertake a specific business enterprise, investment, or exempt-purpose activity without regard to: (1) whether the Organization controls the venture or arrangement; (2) the legal structure of the venture or arrangement; or (3) whether the venture or arrangement is taxed as a partnership or as an association or corporation for federal income tax purposes. A venture or arrangement is disregarded if it meets both of the following conditions:

- a. 95 percent or more of the venture's or arrangement's income for its tax year ending within the Organization's tax year is excluded from unrelated business income taxation [including but not limited to: (i) dividends, interest, and annuities; (iii) royalties; (iii) rent from real property and incidental related personal property except to the extent of debt-financing; and (iv) gains or losses from the sale of property]; and

- b. the primary purpose of the Organization's contribution to, or investment or participation in, the venture or arrangement is the production of income or appreciation of property.

2. Safeguards to ensure exempt status protection. The Organization will: (a) negotiate in its transactions and arrangements with other members of the venture or arrangement such terms and safeguards adequate to ensure that the Organization's exempt status is protected; and (b) take steps to safeguard the Organization's exempt status with respect to the venture or arrangement. Some examples of safeguards include:

- a. control over the venture or arrangement sufficient to ensure that it furthers the exempt purpose of the organization;

- b. requirements that the venture or arrangement gives priority to exempt purposes over maximizing profits for the other participants;
- c. that the venture or arrangement not engage in activities that would jeopardize the Organization's exemption; and
- d. that all contracts entered into with the organization be on terms that are arm's length or more favorable to the Organization.





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