



SDWGA Officers Travel to Washington, DC

Once again, it was time for the officers of the SD Wheat Growers Association to travel to Washington, DC, to share the voice of our members with Congressional members. On February 2nd, Vice President Paul Hetland and staff Caren Assman, were able to meet with Senator Mike Rounds and Senator John Thune.

We met with Senator Thune at his office in the Capital. He again has been appointed a sit on the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. Many of SDWGA members support current legislation introduced by the Senator described below.

Just before our visit with Senator Thune, he reintroduced legislation called the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Improvement Act which would bolster CRP by improving access to grazing, maximizing enrollment options for producers, and addressing implementation issues following the 2018 farm bill.

The CRP Improvement Act would:

- Make CRP grazing a more attractive option by providing cost-share for the establishment of grazing infrastructure including fencing and water distribution on all CRP practices and contracts if grazing is included in the approved conservation plan;
- Increase the CRP annual payment limitation from \$50,000, which was established in 1985, to \$125,000 to account for inflationary and rising land value pressures and provide landowners with more CRP enrollment options to ensure resources are appropriately conserved;
- Reinstate mid-contract management cost-share

payments for activities that are not related to haying or grazing; and

- Permanently establish the State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement practice under Continuous CRP.

Thune, who has helped write four farm bills throughout his time in Congress, assured our delegation that he will continue introducing farm bill proposals ahead of the current bill's expiration in September 2023.

Our conversation with Senator Rounds focused on Homeland Security and our current issues with China. The Senator sits on the Committee on Foreign Relations among others.

The Senator has introduced a bill called the PASS Act, Promoting Agriculture Safeguards and Security. The key to this bill is that it would amend the Defense Production Act of the 1950, to include the Secretary of Agriculture on the Committee on Foreign Investments in the US and require review of certain agricultural transactions.

The Secretary of Agriculture would be required to attend all meetings and contact to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representative and to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, with a report on the risks of foreign purchases of US businesses, engaged in Agriculture.

Specifically, the PASS Act would:

- Add the Secretary of Agriculture as a standing member of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) to consider agriculture needs when making determinations affecting our national security.
- Blacklist China, Russia, Iran and North Korea, or individuals acting on their behalf, from investing in, purchasing, leasing or otherwise acquiring land or businesses involved in U.S. agriculture.
- Require reporting to Congress from the Secretary of Agriculture on the risks posed by foreign takeovers of U.S. businesses engaged in agriculture.
- Allow the President, after reporting to Congress on why doing so is vital to the national security interests of the United States, to waive the requirement prohibiting a transaction on a case-by-case basis.



Senator Mike Rounds



Senator John Thune, Caren Assman, Terry Hand, Paul Hetland



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Jerrold Truax, Ridgeview

DISTRICT 2

Adam Roseth, Midland

DISTRICT 3

Tanner Hancock, Wall

DISTRICT 4

Doug Simons, St. Lawrence

DISTRICT 5

Todd Mangin, Gettysburg

DISTRICT 6

Steve Rumpza, Webster

DISTRICT 7

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Leon Koeppel, Claire City

Ag remains opposed to problematic foreign ownership bill

Concerns about foreign interests acquiring South Dakota agricultural land is an issue that agricultural groups representing the state's largest industry take seriously. What we do in South Dakota must be part of a greater conversation to ensure that we are working toward collective goals and not just our own. Concerns about national security, including the scenario in North Dakota and the Chinese balloon, and foreign control of agricultural land are national in scope requiring us to work with other states, and our partners in Washington, D.C., to examine the issue and develop a comprehensive strategy addressing foreign control.

The SD legislature is currently being asked to consider the future of South Dakota ag-land ownership. Senate Bill 185 would establish a committee to oversee agricultural land sales and leases and gives sole authority to the governor to approve or deny the land sale or lease. Land that is transferred in violation of this law would be forfeited and seized by the State. Serious concerns about property rights, how this newly formed committee would function and the scope of their authority, and the unintended consequences of the bill were brought forth by agricultural groups, business groups, and economic development professionals.

Since the idea of this committee was suggested at the onset of the 2023 legislation session, this coalition of groups have posed questions to the bill's proponents and voiced their concerns about the bill and whether this was the right way to approach the issue. Despite minor adjustments through proposed amendments, the foundation of the bill — the CFIUS-SD committee and ultimately the control over ag land in SD resting with a single person- remains the concern.

It has become apparent that our current law concerning foreign ownership needs to be addressed in light of current national security concerns. However before a new law is hastily passed we should spend the time to consider the best way to achieve our goals while not unintentionally harming our farmers and ranchers. South Dakota needs sound policy.



President
Doug
Simons at
the State
Capital.

NAWG Responds to the State of the Union

On Tuesday February 7th President Joseph Biden delivered his second State of the Union remarks to Congress. NAWG CEO, Chandler Goule, provided the following statement in response:

"While the President addressed many issues of importance to the American people — like inflation, food prices, and food security — we are eager to hear more about agricultural and trade-related policies. In December, we were pleased to see the Senate finally take action and confirm two key trade positions. We are now eager to see a more trade-focused approach that works to develop, maintain, and expand international markets that keep American wheat producers in a strong position. With the 118th Congress having since convened, Farm Bill reauthorization is on many farmers' minds."

"Last week, wheat growers from across the country were in Washington, D.C., where they met with over 130 Congressional offices as we head into a Farm Bill year. We are disappointed

President Biden didn't use the opportunity to highlight this historically bipartisan legislative effort. Although the 2018 Farm Bill was a genuinely bipartisan endeavor, it is unfortunate he did not focus more of his remarks on this call to action to encourage cross-party unity and bridge the urban-rural divide. As Congress works to reauthorize the Farm Bill this year, continued improvements, stability, and certainty are needed to maintain a functional farm safety net."

"As we move into this new Congress, NAWG looks forward to continuing to work with the Administration and Congress on ways to improve the livelihood of the American wheat farmer."

Continued work on the 2024 Farm Bill

Dear Secretary Vilsack and Director Young:

As the Administration develops its budget proposal for FY 2024, we respectfully urge you to once again protect crop insurance from harmful cuts. The FY 2023 budget wisely recognized crop insurance as a farmer's first line of defense against climate change and other disasters, and did not make cuts to the program. As the challenges for America's farmers and ranchers continue to grow, we believe crop insurance as a safety net is only becoming more important to stability in rural America. During this tumultuous time, one of the few certainties that farmers could rely on was the protection provided by the Federal crop insurance policy purchased with their hard-earned dollars.

Even in good years, farmers need access to a strong and secure Federal crop insurance program, a program that farmers have described time and again as a critical linchpin of the farm safety net. The strength and predictability of the program is only more critical given the uncertainty that characterizes the production agriculture sector. USDA and Congress have taken extraordinary ad hoc measures over the past few years to ensure the financial security of rural America. It would only serve to undercut these efforts to propose harmful changes to a crop insurance program that provides predictable, within-budget assistance to farmers in a way that helps lenders continue to support America's farmers and ranchers. It is the certainty of the crop insurance program that provides critical reassurance to lenders.

It is no accident that the most recent farm bills have emphasized risk management, and in doing so, protected the interests of American taxpayers. Farmers spend as much as \$4 billion per year of their own money to purchase insurance from the private sector. On average, farmers also must incur losses of almost 30 percent before their insurance coverage pays an indemnity. Crop insurance allows producers to customize their policies to their individual farm and financial needs and policies are based on fundamental market principles, which means higher risk areas and higher value crops pay higher premiums for insurance. Crop insurance and its links to conservation further ensure that the program is a good investment for taxpayers.

Given the challenges faced by rural America and the critical nature of crop insurance, cuts to the program should be avoided. Farmers, agribusinesses, lenders and lawmakers agree that crop insurance is a linchpin of the farm safety net and is crucial to the economic and food and fiber security of urban and rural America. We urge you to continue to support America's farmers and ranchers and oppose cuts to crop insurance during this year's budget process.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association
American Agri-Women
American Association of Crop Insurers
American Bankers Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Farmland Trust
American Malting Barley Association
American Property and Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA)
American Seed Trade Association
American Sesame Growers Association
American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers American
Soybean Association
American Sugar Alliance
American Sugar Cane League
American Sugarbeet Growers Association
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Cotton Warehouse Association of America
Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau
Crop Insurance Professionals Association
Ducks Unlimited

Environmental Defense Fund
Farm Credit Council
Independent Community Bankers of America
Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America Midwest
Council on Agriculture
National Alfalfa and Forage Alliance
National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies
National Association of Professional Insurance Agents
National Association of State Departments
of Agriculture National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National Barley Improvement Committee
National Corn Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Crop Insurance Services
National Farmers Union
National Grain and Feed Association
National Milk Producers Federation
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Peach Council

National Potato Council
National Sorghum Producers
National Sunflower Association
North American Equipment Dealers Association
Organic Trade Association
Pacific Northwest Canola Association
Panhandle Peanut Growers Association
Pheasants Forever
Quail Forever
Reinsurance Association of America
Rural & Agriculture Council of America
Southwest Council of Agribusiness
U.S. Apple Association
U.S. Canola Association
U.S. Cattlemen's Association
U.S. Durum Growers Association
U.S. Peanut Federation
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council
USA Rice
Western Peanut Growers Association

Cc: Sen. Debbie Stabenow, Chairwoman, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, Sen. John Boozman, Ranking Member, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, Rep. GT Thompson, Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Rep. David Scott, Ranking Member, Committee on Agriculture, RMA Administrator Marcia Bunger



**WHEAT
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Thank You Members for Continued Support

Dear Producer,

We understand how valuable your time is and that's why your involvement in SDWGA is such a great choice. Providing a voice for agriculture, and wheat producers specifically, is the focus of our organization. Our goals are representation, communication and education. Thank you for your membership in South Dakota Wheat Growers Association and allowing us to be your voice!

REPRESENTATION

It is our priority to participate in legislative issues all year long. SDWGA provides a voice during the legislative session in Pierre and Washington D.C. Issues being discussed this year include foreign land ownership, transportation, ag land taxes, water shed management, crop insurance and the 2028 farm bill.

COMMUNICATION

Through emails, social media, Wheat Advantage Newsletters found inside the Prairie Grains magazine and regional Directors, we work to keep producers informed on the farm economy and how wheat can play a role in their operations. Sometimes you need to consider the long-range benefits to planting wheat, such as how crop rotation can help with weed control, moisture retention and improves soil health.

EDUCATION

We are one of seven associations which host six keynote speakers and 25 breakout sessions providing information on the newest trends, economic insight and best practices affecting your crop production.

As stated by President Teddy Roosevelt, membership is important to all agriculture associations and your commitment to agriculture is valued. If you have any questions or comments, please contact the office at (605) 224-4418.

Working for you,

Doug Simons, President

South Dakota Wheat Growers Association

Paul Patterson, Long Standing Member Wins Perkins Elmer Grain Analyzer



*South Dakota Wheat Growers Assn.,
Thank you for drawing my name for
the protein tester for renewing my
SDWGA membership.*

*I urge all wheat producers to become
members so wheat producers have a
place at the legislative table both in
state and nationally!*

Paul & Katherine Patterson

Winter Wheat Conditions in Your Back Yard

5

District 1

As is our normal date, we started planting on September 10th but the ground was so dry that we actually stopped which we had never done before. Then we got lucky enough to get a 9 tenths rain shower and that helped us get a good stand. We planted until October 10th or so and the warm weather in October allowed more growth than usual. We're looking pretty good right now but need some moisture before spring.

Shannon DePoy, Dewey

District 2

Our winter wheat is in good shape now but will need moisture to continue!

Midland, Haakon County

District 3

Most wheat didn't come up due to lack of moisture, some of which either rotted in the ground or was in dry ground.

MKW Ranch, Northern Jones County

The winter wheat that was seed did not emerge because of drought conditions. But we have two ft of snow cover, so we will wait for spring to see what happens.

Vannemen Farms, Tripp County

District 4

Looking at a 100-mile radius of Pierre, we see East river is looking good. It sprouted well and should survive. The West side of river sprouted but only 50% survived.

If the winter wheat doesn't come up the ranchers will look at oats or barley for feed. Farmers will look at the new Coaxium spring wheat. Sioux Nation, Hughes County

Planted one thousand acres of winter wheat last fall and none of it germinated.

Charles Mix County

District 5

Several producers told me they did not plant winter wheat because it was so dry. What was planted never came up.

Walworth, several producers

District 6

The winter wheat was planted into good moisture and presently has good snow cover.

Steve Rumpza, Day County

District 7

Our wheat was planted in dry ground and no rain fell until it snowed. Not expecting a crop.

Mark Klumb, Davison County

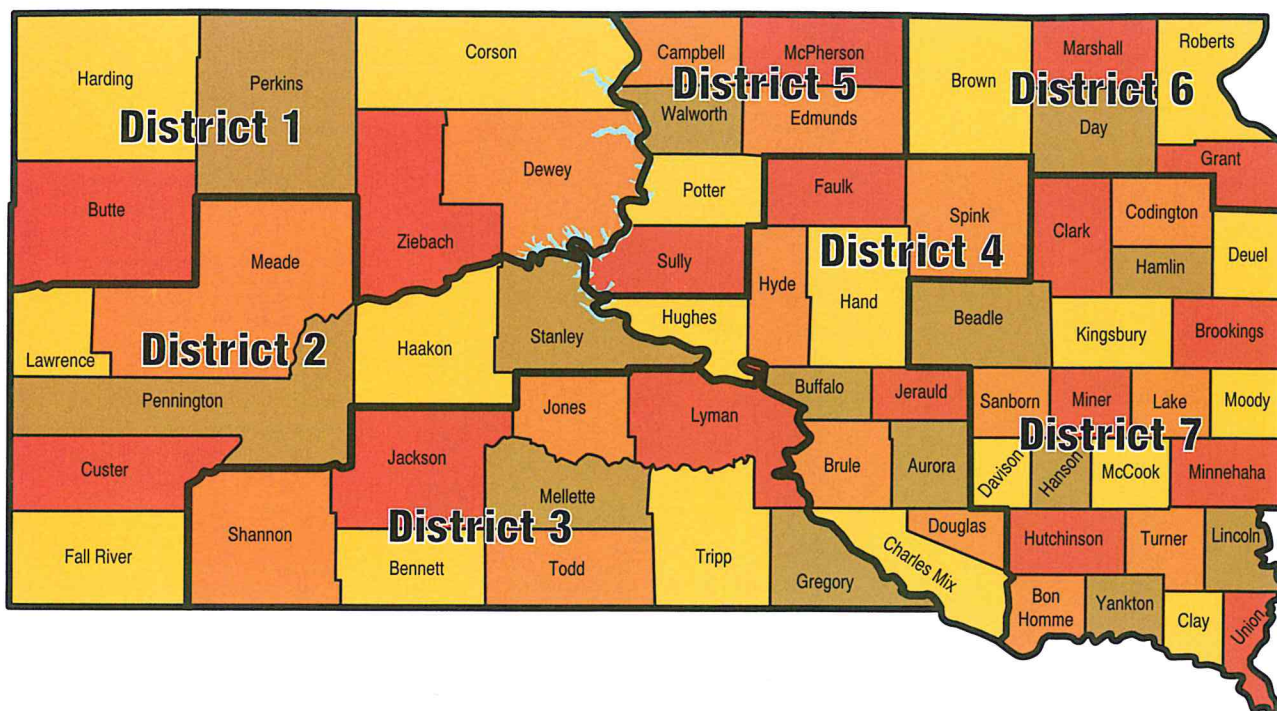
We had a rain in November which created a sheet of ice over the crop. Fields which has some stubble are in much better shape. They currently have some 40 inches of snow cover over the fields.

Theyn Farms, Codington County



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Sustain Our Food Future — Grow Wheat

*District meeting in Pierre — March 6, 2023
5:30 pm — Ramkota*

RSVP for meeting: call 1-605-224-4418

*Let's talk about the winter wheat conditions
over dinner!*

- Jason Miller, NRCS Conservation Agronomist
- Clair Stymiest, SDSU Retired Extension Agent
- Farm Bill insight from NAWG CEO Chandler Goule
- Legislative Review — Caren Assman and local Legislator

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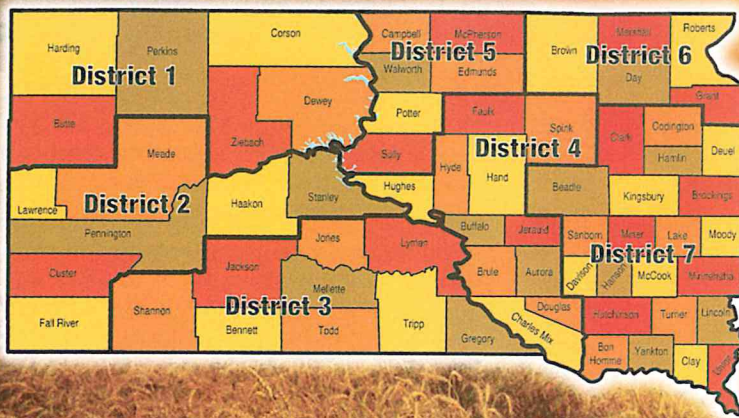
2023 Wheat Yield Contest

Seven Districts will award two prizes each

1st – \$500 2nd – \$300

www.sdwheat.org to apply

May 15, 2023, is the application deadline for spring and winter wheat.



Sponsors:

SD Wheat Growers Association

CHS River Plains

CHS Southwest Grain

Agtegra Cooperative

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State application: wheatinc@midco.net

National application: <https://yieldcontest.wheatfoundation.org/>

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Kuecker Seed @ Webster (605) 380-3925
Sioux Nation @ Ft. Pierre (605) 223-3101
Wittler Seed Farm @ Agar & Onida (605) 280-0152

Adding Winter Wheat to a Crop Rotation

Adding a crop to your current rotation could benefit your integrated pest management plan by helping break disease cycles, control weeds, limit insect and other pest infestations. This takes away the 'host organism,' for a longer period of time with a three crop rotation helping disrupt the annual life cycles of pests such as western corn rootworm, sudden death syndrome, and frogeye leaf spot. A Winter Wheat Works Initiative was started in 2016. The program encourages and supports farmers to move from a strict corn-soybean rotation to a successful flex or targeted crop rotation where some winter wheat acres are considered each year and strategically placed. Introduce wheat to one or two fields a year to start. Pick fields that can gain more from the crop diversity, such as those plagued with a disease or insects, while improving soil health.

Overcoming Challenges of Adding Winter Wheat to a Crop Rotation

Adding winter wheat to a crop rotation comes with some economic challenges and logistical hurdles such as planting and harvesting only one or two fields of wheat and the learning curve that comes with growing a new crop. Looking at some of these challenges, let's address how farmers could overcome some of these barriers.

- Overcoming some of the economic challenges included increasing awareness of the pos-

itive basis/cash price locally and finding opportunities to sell straw.

- A producer could add profit by growing forage crops after wheat for themselves or getting paid by a neighbor with cattle, moving the increased yield and profit in corn and soybean years attributed to wheat back to the wheat accrual budget.

- Applying for a USDA conservation payment program.

- Logistical hurdles of only having one or two fields was solved by finding another operator to custom drill and harvest the wheat crop or starting a new custom drilling business themselves.

- The fear of learning to grow a new crop was reduced through peer learning, educational programs, a dedicated local website with resources, and working with a trusted adviser or producer who have added winter wheat into their farming practice.

Adding winter wheat to a crop rotation can increase crop diversity while improving soil health and addressing other agronomic challenges producers are currently facing. However, not all producers have the same business model and soil health goals. Now and likely more so in the future, companies, consumers, and the entire supply chain are increasing interest to document sustainability down to the farm level. Farmers improving soil health and increasing crop diversity could negotiate and benefit financially through some of these future sustainability efforts from farm to folk.



Figure 2. Crop diversity increased by adding winter wheat into the crop rotation (corn-soybean-wheat) in an eastern Nebraska field to help improve soil health. Photo credit: Nathan Mueller