

Texas Wheat PRODUCERS NEWS

MARCH 2019



TWPA board members with Ranking Member of the House Ag Committee Mike Conaway (TX-11)

TWPA OUTLINES LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

In February, members of the Texas Wheat Producers Association traveled to Washington, D.C., to discuss legislative priorities and concerns with Texas legislators.

Association representatives addressed the need for solutions to trade disruptions, including the passage of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, securing a bilateral agreement with Japan and the enforcement of current trade agreements.

“Over the past year, wheat market access has suffered under the implementation of tariffs. Because our state exports over half of the wheat produced, it's vital that we restore market opportunities through favorable conclusion of ongoing trade negotiations,” said Jody Bellah, association president.

The group also asked for quick and efficient implementation of the Farm Bill without cuts to safety net programs during the appropriations process.

Texas Wheat representatives met with members and staff from 24 congressional districts and both senate offices, in addition to House Ag Committee staff, two legislators from neighboring states and officials at the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Association members also had the honor of presenting the National Association of Wheat Growers President's Award to former House Ag Committee Chairman Mike Conaway. Congressman Conaway was recognized for his dedication to passing the 2018 Farm Bill and his commitment to producers in that process.

During their time in Washington, association members participated in the joint meeting of the National Association of Wheat Growers and U.S. Wheat Associates, as well as the Wheat 103 reception and educational event. At Wheat 103, members of the wheat value chain were able to discuss the importance of their industries to congressional staff and leadership. Drs. Jackie Rudd and Amir Ibrahim represented the Texas A&M AgriLife Research wheat breeding program.

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 1

National Wheat Yield Contest Winter Wheat Early Deadline

April 3 - 5

Texas Grain and Feed Association Annual Meeting and Expo

April 5

Texas Wheat Biennial Election Date

April 30 - May 1

Texas Wheat Producers Board and Association Quarterly Board Meeting

CROP UPDATE

The February 2019 World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report showed a 3 percent decrease in world wheat production to 735 million metric tons (MMT), but an increase in wheat consumption at 747 MMT, the sixth-consecutive highest record-breaking year.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the annual Winter Wheat and Canola Seeding Report on February 8, indicating a 4 percent decrease in wheat plantings from 2018 at 31.3 million acres, with Hard Red Winter seedings at 22.2 million acres, a 3 percent decrease, and Soft Red Winter seedings at 5.6 million acres, a 7 percent decrease. This is the second-lowest U.S. wheat acreage on record.

Texas wheat seedings are at 4.5 million acres, unchanged from 2018.

The state experienced extremely dry conditions in the previous crop year, which was followed by heavy moisture during planting season. According to estimates, the Blacklands region only planted 20 to 50 percent of intended acres. In many areas, the moisture caused a delay in cotton harvest, further postponing wheat planting. However, producers who were able to plant early reported good conditions. There were some concerns about dry weather throughout January and February.

According to the NASS Crop Progress and Condition Report from February 25, Texas wheat was emerged, percent good to excellent, percent fair and percent poor to very poor. At the same time last year, the crop was percent emerged and percent.

TEXAS WHEAT ANNOUNCES BIENNIAL ELECTION FOR FIVE SEATS

The Texas Wheat Producers Board (TWPB) will hold its biennial election to elect five board members to fill expiring positions. The election, to be held by mail, officially begins March 22, 2019, and will conclude April 5, 2019.

Terms expiring in 2019 include Bryan Clift of District I, Tommy Womack of District II, Chet Creel of District III, and Ken Davis and Jack Norman of District IV.

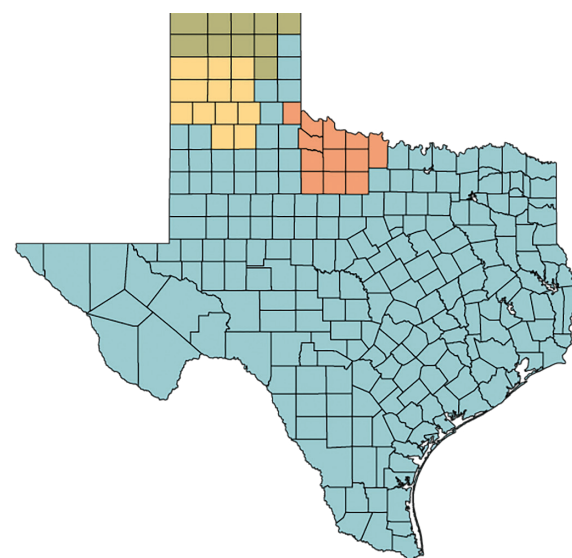
Any person who is engaged in commercial wheat production in Texas is eligible to vote for the district in which they reside. This includes owners of farms and their tenants and share croppers if they are subject to paying the assessment that is collected in the following Texas counties:

Ballots are available from county Texas AgriLife Extension Service offices, local grain elevators or by request to the board between March 22, 2019 and April 5, 2019. Ballots must be mailed to the Texas Wheat Producers Board at 5405 West I-40, Amarillo, Texas 79106, and will not be valid with a postmark date later than April 5, 2019.

Any person eligible to vote is also qualified to seek a six-year term on the board. Qualified persons must reside within the voting district wherein they seek nomination. The application must be signed by the nominee and at least ten other persons from that district eligible to vote in the election. Such applications must be received by March 5, 2019, in order to have the nominee's name placed on the ballot.

Nominee applications may be obtained upon request to the Texas Wheat Producers Board office at 5405 West Interstate 40, Amarillo, Texas 79106, or by calling (806) 352-2191.

Board members are responsible for the allocation of funds from a statewide wheat producer assessment of two cents per bushel. These funds are applied to wheat research, education and market development to further the wheat industry in Texas. The Texas Agricultural Commodity Referendum Law prohibits such funds from being used for lobbying or legislative efforts. For more information, contact the Texas Wheat Producers Board office at (806) 352-2191, by email at info@texaswheat.org or visit <http://www.texaswheat.org>.



District I: Dallam, Sherman, Ochiltree, Lipscomb, Hansford, Roberts, Moore, Hartley, Hutchinson and Gray.

District II: Carson, Potter, Oldham, Deaf Smith, Randall, Armstrong, Briscoe, Swisher, Castro, Parmer, Hale and Floyd.

District III: Childress, Hardeman, Foard, Knox, Throckmorton, Haskell, Archer, Baylor, Wilbarger, Wichita, Young and Clay.

District IV: All other counties in Texas.

AGRILIFE RESEARCH WHEAT BREEDER TALKS VALUE, MARKETING DURING LATIN AMERICAN TOUR

BY KAY LEDBETTER, AGRILIFE TODAY

For Dr. Jackie Rudd, Texas A&M AgriLife Research wheat breeder in Amarillo, his job isn't just about experimenting with and growing new varieties of wheat.

Equally important, Rudd said, is finding markets that recognize the value of breeding research and meeting with future tenders to determine what qualities they need in the wheat.

"Not only do our varieties need to remain productive, they have to be marketable at a premium price," he said.

He said the demand for whole-wheat products is growing domestically and globally with the increasing consumer consciousness of the effect of diet on their health.

"We need a strong protein to make bread, and even stronger protein quality for whole wheat products," Rudd said. "So, our quality must carry through from the kernel to the flour to the dough."

Working with U.S. Wheat Associates, the export market development organization for the U.S. wheat industry, Rudd recently traveled with the Wheat Quality Improvement Team through Latin America with stops in Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Peru.

"Our purpose on this type of trip is to meet with end-users and allow them to educate us as breeders about the specific end-use quality requirements of key overseas markets, since about half of all U.S. wheat is exported," Rudd said.

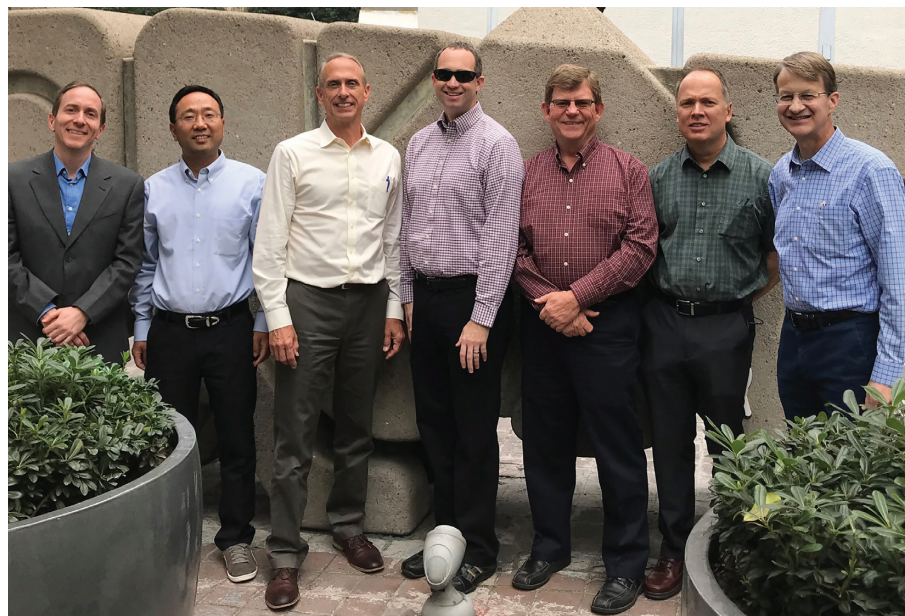
During the visit, flour millers and commercial bakers talked with the team about operation efficiency and how that is affected by wheat quality. They discussed shipment consistency, wheat cleanliness and dough strength.

The quality and quantity of protein affects dough strength, Rudd said. So, for instance, cookies can utilize a lower protein wheat, where crackers need mid-levels of protein and bread needs a high-protein wheat.

"Our core message is that wheat quality is not an accident," he said. "Quality is a product of long-term investments by growers and years of scientific breeding work."

The trip, with a team of three other wheat breeders and a cereal chemist from various U.S. universities, was paid for by the Texas Wheat Producers Board and other state producer groups. These organizations provide support and funding for wheat research, education and market development.

"Latin America is a primary and growing market for U.S. wheat," said Rodney Mosier, Texas Wheat



Marcelo Mitre Dieste, U.S. Wheat Associates; Dr. Guorong Zhang, Kansas State wheat breeder; Dr. Brett Carver, Oklahoma State wheat geneticist; Dr. Arron Carter, Washington State wheat breeder; Dr. Jackie Rudd, Texas A&M AgriLife Research wheat breeder; Dr. Mike Giroux, Montana State durum wheat breeder; and Steve Wirsching, U.S. Wheat Associates. Photo courtesy Texas A&M AgriLife.

Producers executive vice president, Amarillo. "Trips like this are designed to help us meet the needs of our customers to build demand. In the end, the ultimate goal is to boost prices for Texas farmers.

"We were really excited to send Dr. Rudd to meet directly with some of our top customers," Mosier said. "We have some of the best quality wheat produced right here in Texas and continuing to build on our successful breeding programs will help us maintain and grow this critical market."

Because most Texas wheat is hard winter wheat and bread is the primary market, Rudd said his mission was to interact with end-users interested in higher-protein wheat. Similarly, Washington's breeder of soft wheat was in more discussions with cookie manufacturers.

"It is important for us as breeders to know what our wheat customers want," Rudd said. "It helps reinforce our quality targets. While many potential buyers generally like our wheat, we need to be listening to them about what is working and what needs more attention."

The trip also included sampling different kinds of bread, pastry and cookie products, he said, because, "taste is the ultimate quality check for most consumers."

Read the original story at <https://today.agrilife.org/2019/01/20/agrilife-research-wheat-breeder-talks-value-marketing-during-latin-american-tour/>

TEXAS WHEAT FARMERS WELL-POSITIONED TO PRESERVE MONARCH BUTTERFLY POPULATION

Over the past two decades, monarch butterfly populations have decreased almost 80 percent due in part to loss of milkweed and nectar sources. Texas wheat growers have the unique opportunity to participate in population restoration due to the state's location along the butterfly's migration path within the prime summer breeding range.

In fact, there are 176 Texas counties within the Monarch Restoration Corridor identified by the National Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB). Those counties are within the Rolling Plains, Blacklands, Central Texas and Coastal Bend geographical regions, which account for about 2 million of the 4.5 million acres of wheat planted in Texas.

Landowners in the Monarch Restoration Corridor can take a few steps to provide and improve butterfly habitats. Planting a native milkweed species provides the primary food source for monarch caterpillars and nectar-producing plants offer adult butterflies energy during breeding and migration. Texas has 37 native milkweed species, 11 spring blooming, 44 summer blooming and 26 fall blooming nectar species. The list of native species is available at <https://www.monarchmilkweedhabitat.com/TX>.

The TSSWCB is working with over 140 local conservation districts to plant pollinator-friendly plant species on over 1,600 acres of rural lands. As of May of 2016, funding is available to farmers and ranchers for habitat enhancement and restoration on one to 30 acre plots. Information about how to get involved is available on the TSSWCB website at <https://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/programs/conservation-initiatives/monarch>.

According to NRCS, "These conservation improvements not only benefit butterflies, they also strengthen agricultural operations, support other beneficial insects and wildlife and improve other natural resources. Appropriate buffer habitats and better rangeland and pasture management practices reduce erosion, increase soil health, inhibit the expansion of invasive species and provide food and habitat for insects and wildlife."

Find out more about how you can get involved at texaswheat.org/farmers/monarch-conservation.

Texas Wheat Representatives

Jody Bellah, Throckmorton
Scott Born, Ferris
Collin Bowers, Spearman
David Cleavinger, Wildorado
Chet Creel, Newcastle
Bryan Clift, Stratford
Ken Davis, Grandview
Glen Gibson, Lometa
Scott McGarraugh, Perryton
Gary Murphy, Dawson
Jack Norman, Howe
Ben Scholz, Lavon
Corby Shadid, Panhandle
Freddie Streit, Vernon
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