



# DURUM KERNEL

U. S. Durum Growers Association

Summer 2015

## WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES (WOTUS) RULE PASSES

On May 27, 2015, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) released the final Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule, despite widespread concerns from state and local governments, farmers, small business owners, and landowners. Agricultural experts say the new definitions address some concerns expressed by farm groups, but also raise new ones including the expansion of the number of designated wetlands in the upper Midwest.

However, fiscal 2016 appropriations measures could delay its implementation and standalone bills including SB 1140, the Federal Water Quality Protection Act, could kill the rule and restrict how the EPA and the Corps write the replacement. The bill was introduced by Senator Baraaso (R-Wyo.) and co-sponsored by 11 senators, including John Hoeven (R-N.D.) and Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.). The bill has bi-partisan support and would need 60 votes to overcome a Democratic filibuster.

On June 22, North Dakota, Montana, Arizona and 10 other states filed a federal lawsuit against the EPA and the Corps. The lawsuit asks the court to throw out the WOTUS rule and grant a permanent injunction to prevent it from taking effect, claiming the rule unlawfully expands federal jurisdiction over state land and water resources beyond the limits set by Congress under the Clean Water Act.

N.D. Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem said the rule usurps state authority over broad swaths of water, subjecting landowners to federal red tape, additional permit requirements and costly permit delays, and steep penalties and possible jail time for noncompliance. "This federal power grab is unnecessary and unlawful and will do nothing to increase water quality in our state," says Stenehjem. Prairie potholes also would fall under the rule,

*(story continued on page 4)*

## SAVE THE DATE

N.D. Wheat Commission

CROP  
OUTLOOK

U.S. Durum Growers Association

& INTERNATIONAL  
DURUM FORUM

November 9 & 10, 2015

Holiday Inn Riverside, Minot, N.D.

*Room reservations can be made by calling the Minot Holiday Inn Riverside at 701-852-2504 no later than Oct. 26 and asking for the Durum Growers room block.*

*Watch for additional details in the near future.*



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello to all from the U.S. Durum Growers Association! I hope all are having a fantastic summer and a productive growing year.

From the projected estimates for planted durum wheat this year, I'm excited to say the numbers of acres are up! The USDA's early March survey of producers across the northern tier of the United States indicated an expansion in durum plantings. Durum acres in North Dakota are estimated to increase to 870,000 compared to 840,000 in 2014, and Montana acres are estimated to reach 580,000, up from 435,000 in 2014.

The International Grains Council released its initial forecast for 2015 world durum, projecting a crop of 1.34 billion bushels, up 11 percent from 2014, but still below the large 2013 crop of 1.4 billion. Higher production is not a surprise considering the price premium that durum had in the 2014 marketing year over other classes of wheat and the relatively tight carryover supplies of quality durum worldwide. Price premium supported higher planted area, and 2015 is also providing a more favorable production season in key countries.

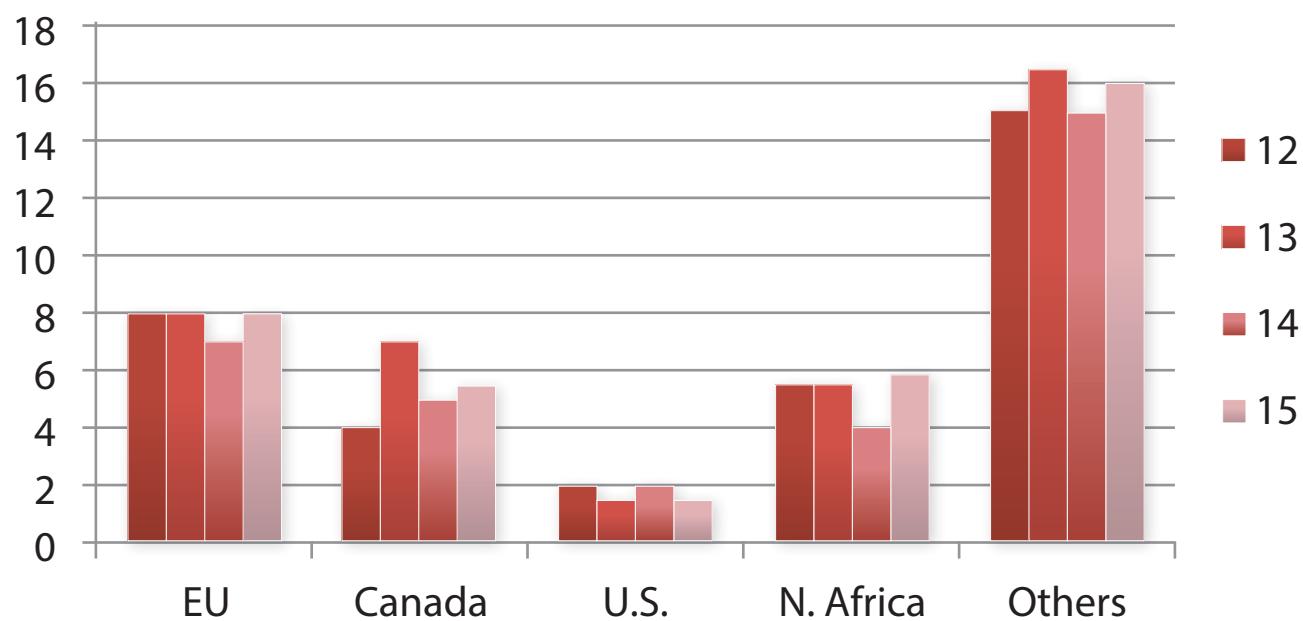
Don't forget to save the date for the Crop Outlook & International Durum Forum on Monday, Nov. 9, and Tuesday, Nov. 10, at the Holiday Inn, Riverside in Minot, N.D.

I wish you all the best of luck throughout the 2015 growing season and hope you have a profitable year.

Russell Doe  
President  
U.S. Durum Growers Association

### World Durum Production

Million Tons



IGC April 2015

# PASTA FITS PROVIDES CONSUMER EDUCATION

Did you ever notice there is new advice about health, food and nutrition around every corner? With conflicting information everywhere, the National Pasta Association (NPA) created a source for consumers to find all the information they need about pasta. The *Pasta Fits* consumer culinary and nutrition education program centers around the versatility of pasta, specifically three pillars:

- *Pasta Fits* into a healthy lifestyle
- *Pasta Fits* into a tight budget
- *Pasta Fits* into a busy schedule



Since its inception in 2012, the *Pasta Fits* program has continued to grow and has become the one-stop digital entity for everything from pasta nutrition information to cooking tips. Over the last three years, the program has expanded to Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, YouTube and Instagram, as well as a monthly digital newsletter. In 2014, more than 600 million consumers received *Pasta Fits* messaging.

Consumers engage with *Pasta Fits* on a daily basis for healthy recipes created by a nutritionist; interviews with food bloggers, cook book authors, and other culinary professionals; promotions and contests; video cooking tips; and the latest nutritional research and information regarding pasta in the diet. Visit the website [www.pastafits.org](http://www.pastafits.org) or any of the *Pasta Fits* social channels listed above for more information.

USDGA and the North Dakota Wheat Commission provide funding to support the *Pasta Fits* program.

## OCTOBER is National Pasta Month

Look for new recipes at [www.ilovepasta.org](http://www.ilovepasta.org)

### SUMMER RECIPE

#### Spinach Tortellini Salad

12 ounces pre-cooked tortellini  
1 bag pre-packaged spinach  
1 cup creamy poppyseed dressing  
½ cup parmesan cheese

Add tortellini to pot of boiling water, cook 3-4 minutes or until pasta rises to top of water. Place spinach in large bowl.



Drain tortellini and pour on top of spinach while still hot, cover immediately with foil or tight fitting lid, allowing steam to wilt spinach. Remove cover and allow to cool for 15 minutes. Add dressing and toss to coat. Sprinkle with cheese and serve.

# USDGA PARTICIPATES IN AG WEEK

USDGA supported North Dakota State University's (NDSU) first-ever Ag Week April 13-17, which was coordinated by the NDSU Ag Week Coalition. Activities throughout the week included Beef and Pork Day, Grains Day, Dairy Day, Ag Olympics, an

awards banquet, a run/walk, and the promotion of ag commodities and jobs within the agriculture industry.

USDGA provided pasta spoons, as well as door prizes, with the purpose of promoting the awareness and use of durum production.

(WOTUS Rule Passes, continued from page 1)

meaning large portions of agricultural land would be regulated "even if they are sometimes or often or almost always completely dry," he says.

N.D. Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring says the final rule is even broader and more restrictive than initially proposed in April 2014. He says it leaves many concepts undefined and open to interpretation by agencies and also environmental activists engaging in "sue and settle" tactics against the EPA.

## Background

In April 2014, the EPA and the Corps proposed a rule to redefine WOTUS. The new definition was a response to the U.S. Supreme Court and Congress requesting the EPA clarify the streams and wetlands to be protected under the Clean Water Act. The rule gives the agencies unprecedented authority to regulate streams, wetlands, ponds, and ditches.

In early May 2015, N.D. Senator John Hoeven joined the Senate Western Caucus Chairman John Barrasso

(R-Wyo.), House Western Caucus co-chairs Steve Pearce (R-N.M.) and Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.), and 43 additional Western Caucus members and sent a letter urging EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy to stop moving forward with the rule.

"We're working with other states to make the case that our farmers and ranchers understand our land better than the federal government and know how to manage it responsibly," said Hoeven. "The proposed Waters of the U.S. Rule is another burdensome and unnecessary federal regulation that would hinder North Dakota farmers, ranchers and businesses, and I am urging the EPA to stop moving forward with this proposal."

The final WOTUS rule will become effective Aug. 28, the end of the 60-day Congressional Review period. USDGA opposes the final rule and believes the rule provides overreaching and potentially unlimited jurisdiction by the federal government leading to economically devastating implications for agricultural producers.

## SUBMIT EMAIL FOR CHANCE TO WIN PRIZE

In an effort to increase communication with its members and stakeholders, USDGA is working to expand its email database. Please send your name with a current email address to [office@durumgrowers.com](mailto:office@durumgrowers.com) by Aug. 15, 2015, and you will be entered in a drawing for a USDGA windshirt or polo. Your email and other contact information will only be used for USDGA correspondence and will not be shared with outside entities.

Thank you!



# USDGA ENGAGES WITH NORTHERN CROPS INSTITUTE

USDGA provided an Agri-Business sponsorship for the Northern Crops Institute (NCI), which provides educational programs and technical services designed to expand domestic and international markets for northern-grown U.S. crops. NCI teaches people from the United States and around the world about the quality of the crops grown in the upper Midwest's four-state region and how to best use the crops in food and feed products.



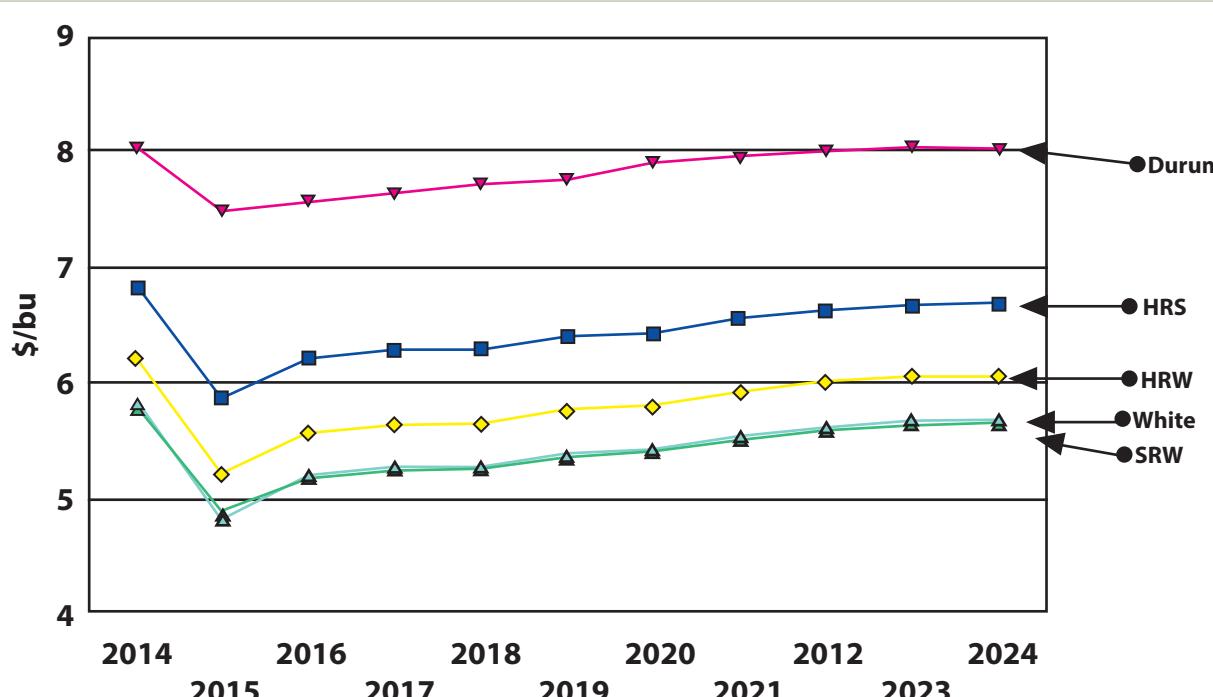
The Agri-Business sponsorship supports NCI's trade delegation program by covering expenses not supported through state funding. NCI is funded by Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota, as well as commodity groups in these states and Montana. NCI is located on the campus of North Dakota State University in Fargo, N.D.

## HIGHER DURUM PRICES PROJECTED

North Dakota State University (NDSU) recently released its crop outlook for the United States and world wheat industries for 2015 through 2024. The outlook included various price trends and projected wheat prices.

In the United States, prices of common wheat classes are expected to fall approximately \$1.00 below the 2013 level before increasing \$0.50 by 2024. The prices of hard red spring wheat are projected to increase from \$5.88 in 2015 to approximately \$6.68 per bushel in 2024. Durum wheat is expected to rise from \$7.48 in 2015 to approximately \$8.02 per bushel in 2024.

Total world wheat trade for the major exporting countries/regions is expected to increase by 11.7 percent from 122.1 million metric tons in 2014 to 137.2 million metric tons in 2024. Trade of all wheat classes is expected to increase for the 2014-2024 period.



**Figure 3. Projected U.S. Farm Wheat Price, by Class, 2014-2024**

# USDGA SIGNS LETTER TO NRCS CHIEF

The USDGA has concerns regarding special/single interest non-governmental organizations (NGOs) providing partner staffing for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). USDGA, along with other North Dakota ag-related groups, signed a letter to NRCS Chief Weller requesting consideration of NRCS partnering with the N.D. Soil Conservation Districts (SCDs) for staffing and allowing other ag and conservation groups to provide partner funding.

The letter went on to suggest NGOs and ag-related groups could supply the funding necessary to fill the needed positions, with no strings attached. The SCDs and NRCS would decide where the resources and staff are placed.

Ducks Unlimited provided three biologists to the federal NRCS, which operates under the U.S.

Department of Agriculture, to work on conservation programs beginning in mid-September of 2014. After the group backed Measure 5, a controversial North Dakota ballot measure in 2014, some farm groups questioned the relationship.

Measure 5 would have diverted hundreds of millions of state oil tax revenues to a grant fund for conservation groups like Ducks Unlimited. The measure failed in a landslide, receiving just 20 percent of the vote.

Sen. John Hoeven (R-N.D.) recently announced an agreement with NRCS that would restrict the activities of personnel working for the agency who were hired by Ducks Unlimited. But some farm groups say the agreement changes very little.

## FUNGICIDE APPLICATION

Dr. Andrew Friskop, NDSU plant pathologist, notes that the frequent rain and prolonged dew periods experienced in the state this year have led to an elevated risk for fusarium head blight (FHB) development. He adds that applying a triazole fungicide at early flowering will help suppress FHB and protect developing kernels during grain fill.

“Since not all plants flower at the same time, a well-timed fungicide can be challenging. Therefore, apply the fungicide when a majority of the main stems and first tillers are flowering. Applying a fungicide too early or too late will still offer some FHB suppression,” says Friskop.



# GRAIN WAREHOUSE AND GRAIN BUYER BOND RULES CHANGE

The North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC) adopted new rules effective July 1, 2015, that include changing the manner in which a grain warehouse bond is determined, including a requirement for additional bond coverage for a newer licensee and a licensee with a substantial annual grain purchase volume. Other changes include a bond reduction that is available for a licensee with a shorter scale ticket conversion policy and how a bond is determined for a roving grain buyer. In addition, the new rules increase the maximum bond to \$2,000,000 for all licensees, unless the PSC determines additional bond is needed.

A grain warehouse that intends to establish and follow a scale ticket conversion policy that makes it eligible for

bond reduction must file the conversion policy with the PSC for approval.

A facility-based buyer and a roving grain buyer must determine its required bond and submit the required bond or bond rider with its annual license renewal application. If a buyer or seller has a question about a capacity change, the bond calculation worksheet is available on the PSC website: [www.psc.nd.gov/forms/formsgrain.php](http://www.psc.nd.gov/forms/formsgrain.php).

Any licensee that did not receive a letter regarding the new bond rules should contact the PSC immediately. If a required bond increase is not filed by July 1, a licensee may be at risk of formal action by the PSC.

## SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Applications are being accepted for one \$1,000 Monroe Scheflo scholarship and one \$1,000 US Durum Growers Association (USDGA) scholarship. Applications are available through the USDGA website, [durumgrowers.com](http://durumgrowers.com). The submission deadline is **Wednesday, Oct. 15**.

### Monroe Scheflo Scholarship

Applicants must be a North Dakota resident and a fulltime college student pursuing a degree in agriculture. The scholarship fund is in memory of Monroe Scheflo, who served as the USDGA president from 1982-1984.

### USDGA Scholarship

To qualify, applicants must be from a durum producing state, a fulltime college student pursuing a degree in agriculture and have an affiliation with the durum industry.

Scholarship recipients will be recognized during the evening banquet at USDGA International Durum Forum on Nov. 9, 2015, in Minot, N.D.

For additional information regarding the scholarship programs, please contact Cindy at 701-214-3203 or email [office@durumgrowers.com](mailto:office@durumgrowers.com).





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*USDGA's mission is to increase the profitability of durum production through effective market development and promotion and coordinated communication and educational outreach.*

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