



DURUM KERNEL

U.S. Durum Growers Association

Spring 2016

GATES AND THILMONY RECEIVE AMBER AWARDS

Del Gates, a durum producer from Mohall, N.D., and Hank Thilmony, executive vice president of Mayco Export Company, received USDGA 2015 Amber Awards during the Crop Outlook and International Durum Forum banquet on Nov. 9 in Minot, N.D. The Amber Award recognizes individuals who have shown outstanding commitment and dedication to the durum industry in the areas of production, research or education.

Gates was raised on his family's farm in Loraine, N.D., which set the stage for his life-long involvement in the agriculture industry. In 1975, after graduating from Mohall high school, he rented his own land and began farming with his parents. He and his wife Vicky raised three children, and are now joined in their farming operation by another generation.

Gates served as a director of the USDGA from 2004-2014. In addition, he held the positions of president and director on the Renville Soil Conservation Board for 12 years. From 1996 to 2002, he served as the director of Renville County Crop Improvement and has served as president and director of North Dakota Crop Improvement, most recently serving as president in 2015. He also served on the North Central Research Extension Center Board of Visitors from 2007 to 2010.



Del Gates



Hank Thilmony

Thilmony is an Oriska, N.D. native and a graduate of the University of North Dakota. Throughout his career he has been active in the agriculture and durum industries. He started his career as an assistant manager at the Forman Farmers Elevator Association, and later as the assistant manager at LaMoure Farmers Union Grain Co. He then moved into leadership positions at elevators and companies in North Dakota and Waterloo, Iowa.

Since 1992, Thilmony has worked for Italgrani USA, beginning as the company's grain trading coordinator. In 1999, he became the executive vice president of Mayco Export Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Italgrani USA. In his current position, Thilmony is responsible for all of Italgrani's domestic and international durum origination, as well as supervising the Italgrani grain elevator operations in North Dakota.

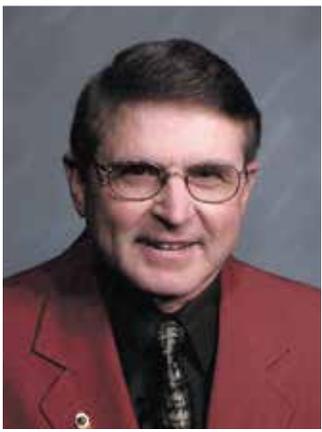
"Del and Hank are both very deserving of this award," says USDGA President Russell Doe. "Hank's successful and long-standing career is a testament to his dedication to the durum industry. Del's commitment and

dedication to the durum industry is evident in his production and service on the USDGA Board of Directors."

**Save
The
Date!**

Mark your calendar for the
**2016 CROP OUTLOOK &
INTERNATIONAL DURUM FORUM**
Nov. 14-15, 2016 at the Holiday Inn, Minot, N.D.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hello from the U.S. Durum Growers Association! I hope you are having a great and relaxing off-season.

Based on the comments I received, the 2015 Crop Outlook and International Durum Forum was a huge

success! Thank you to the USDGA and NDWC boards and staff, as well as the presenters for making the event happen. I especially thank Mark Martinson for filling in for me due to an unexpected hospital stay.

The 2015 durum crop was much better than 2014. The yields were great and quality was better. However, we have some huge challenges to address. As you know, durum is graded with various tests to project a price. Protein, moisture, falling numbers, test weight and hard count (color and percent vitreous kernels). All of the tests except hard count are conducted by calibrated machines. The hard count test is a visual count method, with results varying quite significantly depending on who is conducting the test. In other words, it's a subjective test allowing for human error and inconsistency.

Hard count tests on the same half gallon pale of durum varied from 16 to 65 hard count at the same North Dakota Grain Inspection Station in 2015. This changed the price of that pale of durum \$1.75 a bushel. An objective test is needed to determine hard count! We have contacted the Federal Grain Inspection to see how we might work with them to address this issue. They have been very cooperative and will have representatives meeting with our board in the near future. It could be a long process to get an acceptable machine in place, but we will continue to pursue solutions!

Another issue USDGA will be working on to help producers is Act of God Production Contracts. Many Montana producers have had success with these for 13 years working with Pasta Montana. USDGA is hopefully this could be done in other areas as well.

Good luck in 2016!



Russell Doe
President
U.S. Durum Growers Association

2016 USDGA MEMBERSHIP

Thank you for your ongoing support of the U. S. Durum Growers. Through membership investment, USDGA is able to provide a voice for producers on agricultural policy and the durum industry, while keeping producers informed about the latest technology in durum production.

Please remember to renew your membership for 2016 via the invoice you received in January. We look forward to working closely with you as USDGA continues to pursue its mission of increasing the profitability of durum production through effective domestic policy development and promotion and coordinated communication and educational outreach.

eUPDATE REMINDER

USDGA is electronically distributing the monthly *Durum Kernel eUPDATE* to members in an effort to provide more timely and constant communication to durum producers and industry stakeholders.

If you are not receiving the eUPDATE, please email your request to office@durumgrowers.com.



We welcome story ideas, upcoming events and other relevant producer information for inclusion in the eUPDATE. Please email your submission to office@durumgrowers.com by the 13th of each month.

USDGA AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

Haley Sabe of Scranton, N.D., and Megan Jones of Bowden, N.D., have each been awarded \$1,000 scholarships from the USDGA. Sabe received the Monroe Scheflo Scholarship. She is a student at Dickinson State University (DSU) majoring in integrated ranch management. Sabe has been involved in and held numerous leadership positions in FFA, DSU Ag Club and DSU Collegiate Farm Bureau, and intends to pursue a career in the agriculture industry as a nutritionist, feed salesman or extension agent. She is the daughter of Jim Sabe and Judy Harding.

The Monroe Scheflo Scholarship Fund was established by USDGA in 1985 in memory of Monroe Scheflo, who served as the association's president from 1982-1984 when he lost his battle with cancer at the age of 43.

Megan Jones received the USDGA Scholarship. She is a student at North Dakota State University (NDSU) majoring in crop and weed sciences. Jones was involved in and received awards in FFA, 4-H and FCCLA in high school. She currently is a member of the PAS/CFFA, Saddle & Sirloin and Agronomy clubs at NDSU. Following college, Jones plans to work for an agricultural company or research center and partner in her family's farm operations. She is the daughter of Todd and Jackie Jones.

The USDGA Scholarship was established by the association in 2014 in order to offer another scholarship opportunity to agriculture students in durum-producing states.



HALEY SABE
Scranton, N.D.



MEGAN JONES
Bowden, N.D.

USDGA ELECTS LEADERSHIP

The U.S. Durum Growers Association elected its 2015-2016 officers during the USDGA annual meeting held Nov. 10 in Minot, N.D.

The 2015-2016 USDGA executive officers are: President Russell Doe, Reeder, N.D.; 1st Vice President Mark Martinson, Rolette, N.D.; 2nd Vice President Ryan Davidson, Tioga, N.D.; and Secretary/Treasurer Shawn Murphy, Minot, N.D. The officers were selected by the USDGA board of directors to serve one-year terms.

The USDGA annual meeting was held in conjunction with the 2015 Crop Outlook and International Durum Forum on November 9 and 10. The event, hosted by the North Dakota Wheat Commission and the USDGA, brought together industry experts and producers to share and discuss the latest trends impacting the wheat and durum industries.

USDGA MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

We are requesting producer input to assist the board of directors in prioritizing work plan items into the future. Please take a few minutes to complete a confidential online survey by going to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/USDGA>. The results will be shared in an upcoming eUPDATE.



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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.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

RUSSELL DOE

Reeder, N.D. – President

MARK MARTINSON

Rolette, N.D. – 1st Vice President

RYAN DAVIDSON

Tioga, N.D. – 2nd Vice President

SHAWN MURPHY

Carpio, N.D. – Secretary/Treasurer

DIRECTORS

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BLAKE INMAN

Berthold, N.D.

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Joplin, Mont.

ARVIN LARSON

Williston, N.D.

JAKE NELSON

New Town, N.D.

ART SCHILKE

Crosby, N.D.

TRACY SCHUMACHER

Scranton, N.D.

STAFF

DEANA WIESE

Bismarck, N.D. – Executive Director

CINDY SOLBERG

Bismarck, N.D. – Assistant Executive Director

NORTH DAKOTA WHEAT COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE

DUSTIN JOHNSRUD – Epping, N.D.