

# Wheat: The World's Essential Grain

*Cultivated for 10,000 years, wheat is one of the world's most important plants. Today, U.S. farmers grow about 50 million acres of wheat, providing food for hundreds of millions of people at home and abroad and supporting jobs in rural communities as well as mills, bakeries, grocery stores and restaurants.*

## Wheat by the Numbers

**52.6** bushels of wheat per acre were harvested during the 2016 crop year. In fact, 1,000 bushels can be harvested per hour from a modern combine.

**6** classes of wheat are produced in 42 states in the United States. U.S. wheat farmers are among the world's most productive, and U.S. wheat is known world-wide for its consistent high quality.

**\$0.10** of every dollar spent on a loaf of Sara Lee Classic Wheat Bread (\$2.99, May 2017) goes to the wheat farmer.

**21.0** million full- and part-time jobs were related to the agricultural and food sectors—11.1 percent of total U.S. employment in 2015. Direct on-farm employment accounted for about 2.6 million of these jobs, or 1.4 percent of U.S. employment.



## Wheat by the Numbers

**2.309** billion bushels of wheat were produced in 2016/17. Wheat ranks third among U.S. field crops in planted acreage, production and gross farm receipts, behind corn and soybeans.

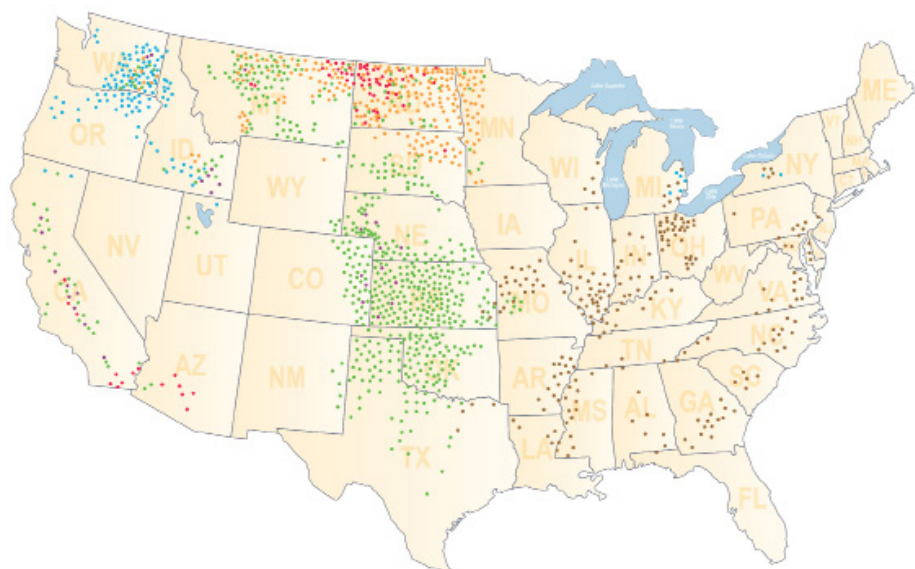
**6** one-ounce servings of grain per day are recommended by USDA and nutritionists for the average American. Half of these servings should be from whole grains.

**17** billion base pairs make up wheat's genetic material, five times more than the human genome and 40 times more than the rice genome.

**20** percent of calories consumed by humans are from wheat, according to the United Nations. The complex carbohydrates in bread and other grain-based foods provide essential fuel the body needs.

## DIVERSITY OF WHEAT IN THE U.S.

Wheat farmers support their local, rural economies by buying inputs from local suppliers, selling their products to local elevators, paying property taxes and frequenting local businesses.



● HARD RED WINTER ● HARD RED SPRING ● SOFT RED WINTER ● SOFT WHITE ● HARD WHITE ● DURUM

# Advocating for America's Wheat Growers

*The foundation of NAWG's work is advocating for policies that help wheat growers remain profitable and become better stewards of their families' legacies on the land.*

## 2018 Priority Issues for Wheat Growers

### Farm Bill

NAWG continues to fight for maintaining the current strong structure of the federal crop insurance program, which has provided critical aid to producers hit by blizzards, drought, excessive rains, disease, and pest issues, which can affect every region of the country.

NAWG also advocates for maintaining a strong safety net program, conservation choices, trade promotion programs like the Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market Development (FMD) program, and others that are critical to farmers across the country.

### Budget/Appropriations

Mandatory agriculture spending in the federal budget should include investments in risk protection, conservation programs, agriculture research and foreign market development programs.

Congress should leave mandatory spending programs alone when considering budget resolutions and appropriations bills. Additionally, Congress should fully fund important discretionary programs, like research, through the appropriations process.

### Environmental Regulation

NAWG works on a variety of environmental issues and advocates for environmental laws and regulations that are appropriate for U.S. wheat growers and the industry.

### Food Aid

NAWG supports food aid programs that allow our high-quality wheat to reach those who otherwise would likely go without.

### Trade

NAWG and U.S. Wheat Associates, the industry's overseas market development organization, work together to fashion trade policy priorities for the industry.

### New Breeding Technologies

NAWG, along with U.S. Wheat Associates, supports the use of new breeding technologies to help farmers combat prevalent disease, pest, and weather issues that affect yield and quality.

The organizations also have jointly developed a Wheat Industry Biotechnology position statement and principals for commercialization, which can be found on our websites.



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The National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) is the primary representative in Washington D.C. for wheat growers, working to ensure a better future for America's growers, the industry and the general public.

**www.wheatworld.org**