



ALABAMA

WHEAT & FEED GRAIN PRODUCERS

A DIVISION OF ALABAMA FARMERS FEDERATION

2016 REPORT

GRAINSOFTRUTH.NET

CHAIRMAN COMMENTS



Andy Wendland

**Dear Fellow
Wheat &
Feed Grain
Farmers,**

Alabama farmers have weathered a challenging year with severe drought in some areas and overall low commodity prices nationwide.

Hot summer days and nights with no relief from high temperatures caused irrigated corn totals in some areas to drop 20-30 bushels from 2015.

The drought that began in some northeastern counties last summer, eventually spread throughout much of the state and has greatly impacted planting of winter wheat. Many farmers

chose not to plant cover crops because of dry conditions, which will likely affect spring planting decisions this year.

Such conditions make it more important than ever to invest in the future of farming through our checkoff dollars. A portion of Wheat & Feed Grain (W&FG) checkoff dollars collected from Alabama farmers helps develop new varieties, improve technology and increase demand for what we grow.

Your Alabama W&FG State Committee leads efforts to provide research, marketing and education on your behalf.

As the diagram on the next page indicates, a contribution to the W&FG Checkoff is an investment that pays dividends. This newsletter highlights some dividends of your investment.

Alabama W&FG farmers can learn

more about research projects we fund by visiting GrainsOfTruth.net or contacting Alabama Farmers Federation W&FG Division Director Carla Hornady at CHornady@AlfaFarmers.org.

State W&FG Committee members take our role as stewards of producer checkoff money seriously. We hope you find this report educational and encouraging. We welcome your suggestions and participation.

The State W&FG Committee will join farmers from across Alabama at the Alabama Farmers Federation Commodity Organizational Meeting in February. The meeting includes educational seminars, and we will discuss checkoff budgeting, goals and issues for 2017. For information about that meeting, visit AlfaFarmers.org or contact Carla Hornady.

Alabama wheat and feed grain farmers overwhelmingly approved continuing their checkoff for another five years in a vote Nov. 15. Statewide, 94 percent of farmers who cast ballots voted to continue the program. Producers who grew feed grains in 2015 or planted for harvest in 2016 were eligible to vote in the referendum. The vote reconfirmed the current rate of 1 cent per bushel on corn, wheat, grain sorghum and oats sold in Alabama. A group of farmers elected by their peers, the Alabama Wheat & Feed Grain Producers determines how the money is allocated. For more details, contact Wheat & Feed Grain Division Director Carla Hornady at (334) 613-4216.

Alabama Wheat & Feed Grain Checkoff

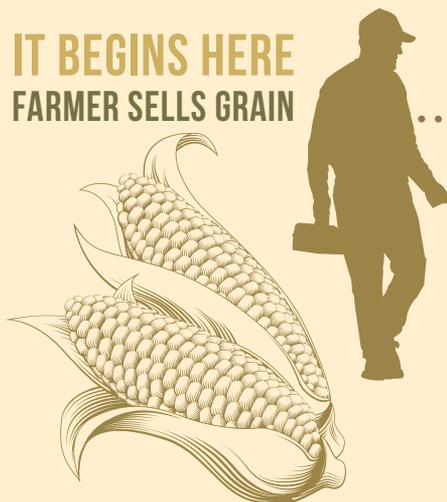


Alabama wheat and feed grain checkoff dollars funded research projects to help increase yields and control farmer input costs and irrigation benefits. From left, W&FG Producers intern Caleb Hicks and Federation W&FG Division Director Carla Hornady talk to Extension Specialist Dr. Brenda Ortiz and E.V. Smith Research Center Director Dr. Greg Pate about irrigation research funded by the checkoff. Hornady directed Hicks' internship.



YOUR CHECKOFF DOLLARS WORK FOR YOU

IT BEGINS HERE
FARMER SELLS GRAIN



ELEVATORS • PROCESSORS • GRAIN DEALERS



1-CENT PER BUSHEL OF GRAIN
IS COLLECTED FOR THE STATE CHECKOFF

ALABAMA

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The State Wheat & Feed Grain Committee allocates funds for research, marketing and education. Led by 12 farmers, the committee works to cultivate profitability for wheat & feed grain farmers statewide.



RESEARCH



MARKETING



EDUCATION

ALABAMA

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Before the biggest NASCAR race in the state, Alabama Farmers Federation State Wheat & Feed Grain (W&FG) Committee members manned the American Ethanol booth at Talladega Superspeedway Oct. 23 to discuss how ethanol helps NASCAR drivers start their engines. From left behind the table are Cherokee County farmer Nick McMichen; Calhoun County farmers Grady, Troy and Doug Trantham; and Federation W&FG Division Director Carla Hornady.

In an effort to educate farmers and consumers about GMOs, the Alabama Wheat & Feed Grain (W&FG) Producers, along with Alabama Soybean Producers, helped host international GMO expert Mark Lynas at the Alabama Farmers Federation's 95th annual meeting Dec. 4, 2016, in Montgomery. Lynas spoke on GMO safety and misconceptions and encouraged farmers to discuss why they use GMOs with consumers. From left are Extension Specialist Rudy Pacumbaba, W&FG Chairman Andy Wendland, Lynas and W&FG Division Director Carla Hornady.



Alabama Wheat & Feed Grain Producers provided funding for new Farming Feeds Alabama commercials that will be aired in 2017 on stations across the state. As part of the commercial package, a short video about wheat and feed grain farming in the state was produced. See links to the commercials at AlfaFarmers.org or GrainsOfTruth.net.



A ceremonial signing of the seed bill was held May 4 at the Alabama Capitol. With Gov. Robert Bentley, from left, are Alabama Farmers Federation's David Farnsworth; State Sen. Tom Whatley, R-Auburn; Tallapoosa County Farmers Federation President Neal Kelly; Alabama Agribusiness Council Executive Director Leigha Cauthen; Graham Champion of Monsanto; Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries' (ADAI) Patrick Moody; Southern Crop Production Association's Bucky Kennedy; the Federation's Matthew Durdin; Ag Commissioner John McMillan; and the Federation's David Cole and Carla Hornady. The law affirms the authority of the ADAI to regulate seeds.

