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MICHIGAN WHEAT PROGRAM

ANNUAL REPORT
2019-2020

A REPORT BACK TO THE GROWERS:

THIS ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE MICHIGAN WHEAT PROGRAM RECAPS THE CHECK-OFF PROGRAM'S WORK ON BEHALF OF MICHIGAN'S MORE THAN 8,000 WHEAT FARMERS.

AS THE 2020 WHEAT HARVEST WOUND DOWN, THE MICHIGAN WHEAT PROGRAM RAMPED UP THE CELEBRATION OF ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY. JOIN US IN OUR CELEBRATION OF...



“A Decade of Dedication.”

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF THE WHEAT CHECK-OFF

The traditional 10-year wedding anniversary gift is made of tin or aluminum because both of these metals are flexible and durable, representing the early growth years of a commitment.

Certainly, the first 10 years of the Michigan Wheat Program have required both flexibility and durability of our grower leaders.

Flexibility was demonstrated by our charter board members, as they turned their vision for the future of Michigan's wheat industry into a reality and developed a strategic blueprint. Because Michigan hadn't had a wheat check-off previously, we were creating a program out of nothing except for growers' thoughts and visions of what the wheat industry in the Great Lakes State needed to become.

Flexibility was important as our budget was adjusted in recent years to account for lower yields and prices. It was also a challenge and we needed flexibility to develop and build a new organization from the ground up. There were so many possibilities to prioritize, so many needs to address and so much programming to be developed.

Durability has been our backbone. Even though the budget has been reduced, the commitment to research and to finding answers to increase yield and provide more disease resistance have remained constant.

Since the Michigan Wheat Program was voted in by wheat farmers in 2011 and began funding research in 2012, we have invested nearly \$3.5 million of grower funds into 141 research projects. Annually 60-65% of growers' check-off dollars have been channeled into research, with another 23% going to grower events and communication to share research results through programs, activities and communications.

Over the last 10 years, our board has identified and refined key industry priorities: Notably increased yields and improved quality. We have stayed the course in funding research to meet these needs, with results already being put to use on Michigan farms.

Our nine-person board is a mix of farmers from districts across the state and an industry representative, who all share a common mission to think "outside the box" as we branch into our second decade. They've remained committed to putting plans into motion to strengthen Michigan's wheat industry.

Read on for more about our accomplishments throughout the Michigan Wheat Program's "Decade of Dedication," and particularly what we achieved in fiscal year 2019-2020!



MICHIGAN WHEAT PROGRAM

Since 2012, we have invested nearly \$3.5 million of grower funds into 141 research projects.



Dear Fellow Michigan Wheat Farmer:

This will be my last report letter to the wheat farmers of Michigan on behalf of the Michigan Wheat Program. And as the cliché goes: It's bittersweet.

What the board, staff and researchers have accomplished over the last decade is an amazing feat; and that is the sweet!

We had a disappointing start where a few of us formed a charter committee and developed a program only to have it turned down by growers. We came back 10 years later and got the program approved by growers with a slim 4% margin! And, in 2016 with our program up and running, we saw the growers' renewal vote pass by more than 80% of the voting farmers.

We have a strong team of research and extension partners who bring us proposals tied to growers' needs. We have identified key challenges facing wheat from minimal wheat research to inadequate infrastructure and the need for more research boots on the ground. We have upheld our financial commitment to get growers what we need with more land at the Saginaw Valley Research & Extension Center (SVREC) to ensure wheat is included in the SVREC research program. We have also assisted with updating current equipment and, in some cases, assisting in the purchase of new equipment to develop a robust research program that meets our needs.

We financially partnered with others including the millers and end-users to support MSU's hiring of a new wheat breeder, Eric Olson and put funding into his position and his start-up package and then to heavily fund his work developing new varieties which are now starting to appear in the marketplace (ie, whitetail). It has taken time and resources, but MSU is emerging as a leading University in wheat variety development, thanks to Eric.

MSU wheat specialist Dennis Pennington is funded 50% by MSU and 50% by the Michigan Wheat Program to ensure there is a position focused solely on wheat at the University, but also works with the grower organization. Funding has and is also going towards Martin Nagelkirk to keep him working on wheat in his retirement.

We've retained an excellent executive director in Jody Pollok-Newsom, who has forged strong partnerships with many organizations – despite our being the “new kid on the block.”

I've had the privilege of chairing the Michigan Wheat Program board, a talented and visionary group of growers, for all nine years of my three terms.

The only “bitter” part is that I am term-limited off the board and will miss my work as a board member and chairman. I will be serving in an advisory role on the board to ensure that Michigan Wheat has the strongest possible relationship with the National Association of Wheat Growers, for which I am serving as its 2020-2021 President – another first for Michigan.

The theme of this Annual Report is a Decade of Dedication. That's exactly what it took to create a successful, new commodity organization. Read on to see what we've done for Michigan wheat farmers over the last decade. It is no small task and has only happened through great dedication.

Appreciating all you do...

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David J. Milligan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David J. Milligan
Chairman, Michigan Wheat Program

ON BOARD FOR THE FUTURE

The Michigan Wheat Program board has nine directors. Eight directors come from wheat production areas across the state and the ninth position represents industry. In early fall 2019, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer made her first appointments to the board, including two new appointments and one reappointment. Each of these three board seats expires May 31, 2022.

Newly appointed as board members were ...



Anthony Bohac, Owosso (District 6) –
A new board member, Tony Bohac is a retired teacher, coach and administrator for Corunna Public Schools. He currently operates his family's farm on which they grow wheat, soybeans and corn just north of Owosso in Shiawassee County. Bohac replaced Frank Vyskocil, one of the original 2011 board members who was term-limited off the board.



Brad Kamprath, Ida (District 3) –
The second new board member is Brad Kamprath, who with his family owns Kamprath Farms, LLC, a wheat, corn and soybean farm in Monroe County. His girls show livestock at the county fair. Kamprath replaces Gerald Heck, another original 2011 board member who was term-limited off the board.



Brent Wagner, Grawn (District 8) –
Brent Wagner is a farmer and member of Wagner Farms, LLC, a designated Michigan Centennial Farm in northern Michigan. Wagner Farms grows wheat, corn, oats, barley, hay and raises beef cattle. He has served as chair of his county Farm Service Agency, and currently serves on the board of the Northwest Michigan Farm Bureau.

MICHIGAN WHEAT PROGRAM BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019-2020

Here is the board that served for the early part of the 2020 fiscal year. Many thanks to them for their leadership and dedication to Michigan's wheat industry.

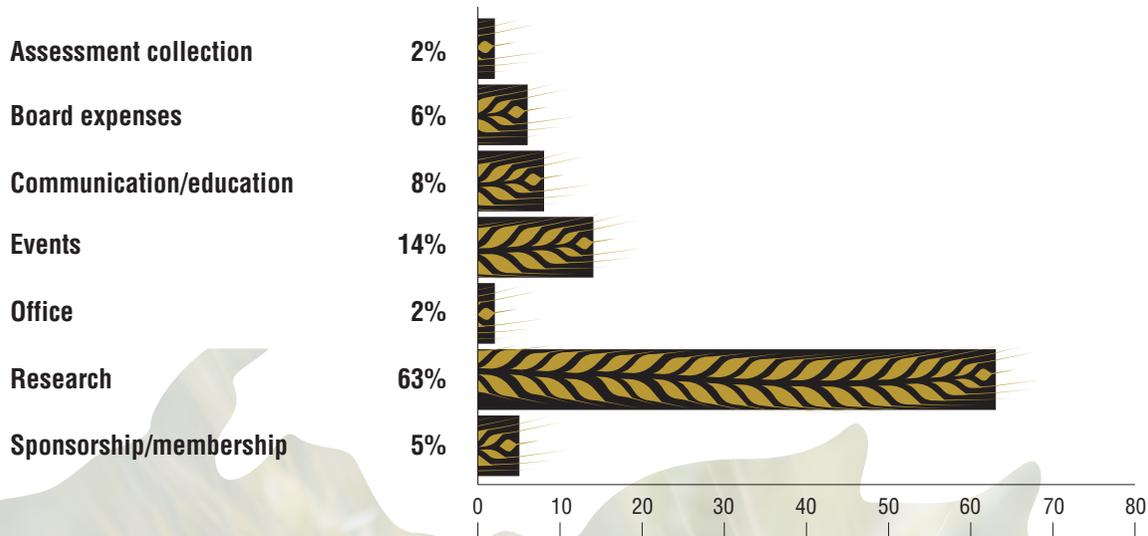
Back row: Jody Pollok-Newsom, executive director; Jerry Heck; Jason Dunning; Marc Hasenick; Brent Wagner; and Sally McConnachie. Seated: Treasurer, Frank Vyskocil; Vice Chairman, Bill Hunt; Chairman, Dave Milligan and Secretary, Art Loeffler.



MICHIGAN WHEAT PROGRAM ANNUAL BUDGET

The board's budget for 2019-2020 walks the fine line between varying yields and decreasing funding and the need to support researchers very promising proposals, along with the communications to share the results.

The funding percentages shown here highlight the focus of the organization for 2019-2020.



A DECADE OF DEDICATION DEDICATED TO PARTNERSHIPS

Following are some of our partner organizations and events the Michigan Wheat Program supports. There are many as you can see below that we work with in order to fulfill our mission!

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| Michigan State University | Michigan Millers Association | National Wheat Yield Contest |
| Michigan State University Extension | Michigan Corn Growers Association | Commodity Classic |
| MSU Wheat Variety Trials | Michigan Soybean Association | Critter Barn |
| MSU Wheat Research Team | Michigan Dry Bean Commission | MAC Outlook Conference |
| Michigan Ag Council for the Michigan Grown, Michigan Great Program | FFA | American Seed Trade and CSS & Seed Expo, Chicago |
| Michigan Ag Environmental Assurance Program | Thumb Ag Day | Saginaw Valley Research & Extension Center |
| Michigan Farm Bureau | McDonald's® Restaurants | MSU Pathology Farm |
| Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development | Michigan Festivals & Events Association | Michigan Crop Improvement Association |
| Breakfast on the Farm | Bean & Beet Symposium | <i>Michigan Farmer</i> |
| Project GREEN | Thumb Ag Day | <i>Michigan Farm News</i> |
| Lenawee County Center for Excellence | Michigan Beef Industry Commission | Brownfield Radio |
| The Ohio State University | Ag Day at the Capitol | <i>Farmers Advance</i> |
| Grain Farmers of Ontario | National Association of Wheat Growers | WSGW Radio |
| Great Lakes Wheat Workers | National Wheat Foundation | <i>Morning Ag Clips</i> |
| | Wheat Foods Council | |

DEDICATION TO RESEARCH: HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2019-2020

Since the Michigan Wheat Program was founded in 2011 and began funding research in 2012, it has invested nearly \$3.5 million of grower funds into 141 research projects. In addition, the wheat program has cost-shared two positions at MSU: Wheat specialist Dennis Pennington, which is an annual on-going funding split with MSU and early-on funding in a collaboration with other ag groups for wheat breeder Dr. Eric Olson. MWP also provided funding on an annual basis to assist Martin Nagelkirk's MSU Extension wheat research programming and still now, as he is retired to keep him involved and working in wheat.

In addition to the research projects funded on an annual basis, the "people funds" invested in salaries and expenses, there is also a need to help fund infrastructure. The Michigan Wheat Program finished its financial commitment to MSU by making payments over the past several years, for wheat to be included long-term in the research at the Saginaw Valley Research & Extension Center in Frankenmuth. The funds helped assist MSU purchase more land and increase the size of the SVREC farm.

The overarching goal is moving the wheat industry forward by helping Michigan wheat growers with their two biggest needs: Increasing yield and wheat quality.

This report highlights four ground-breaking research projects that are priorities for the check-off:

Wheat Stands Re-invented: Precision Planting. Perhaps inspired by a 2007 article in Ontario's Farm Show Magazine that showed a farmer using a corn planter to sow wheat, Dr. Maninder Singh along with MSU wheat specialist, Dennis Pennington were inspired to investigate wheat stands.

In their fourth year of research funded by the MWP, Singh and Pennington continued to push toward the goal of improved wheat yields by focusing on the structure of the wheat stand itself.

While genetics are key contributors to yield, Singh's research looks at the other side of the equation: Increasing yield potential with management practices that restructure the leaf canopy to maximize sunlight interception. This process begins by looking at precision planting.

Singh, along with research partners Dennis Pennington and Calvin Canfield, are investigating restructuring the leaf canopy by manipulating the seeding rate, seeding depth and row spacing in combination with such varietal plant traits as growth habit and leaf angles toward the sun.

In his 2020 report-out, Singh noted that the optimal rate and spacing of seeds per acre can result in more first-order tillers, more seedheads per plant, and larger kernels. However, much work remains to learn how different varieties respond to seed singulation at planting, seed depth, plant density per acre and row spacing.

In 2019-2020, Singh's team experimented with three types of planters:

- Spill-type drill
- Vacuum plate planter
- An imported prototype air drill with seeder

The research plots are at the MSU Agronomy Farms, the Saginaw Valley Research & Extension Center and on-farm trials.



FutureThink: Using Drones to Predict Nitrogen Optimization in the Wheat Field. While it seems like science fiction, wheat research is harnessing cyber maps and drone technology incorporated into computer models of soil profiles in a bold quest to improve nitrogen absorption thereby driving the goal of increasing yields.

The MSU Basso Digital Agronomy Lab is midway through a multi-year projected funded by the MWP to create internet tools that will allow wheat growers using the high-management production methods to optimize nitrogen applications.

Previous MWP-funded studies by Dr. Bruno Basso, Department of Earth and Environmental Studies, have focused on using UAVs to monitor nitrogen placement in wheat relative to time and space of seeding. The study's next phase aims to deliberately intensify nitrogen application relative to soil water availability, timing of plant growth regulators and yield stability zones.

RESEARCH AGENDA OF THE MICHIGAN WHEAT PROGRAM

Basso used the unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), or drones, to collect data to develop a soil water forecasting model at the field level. The data is built on other mapping databases compiled by Basso's lab including the Soil Survey Geographic Database that catalogs soil layer attributes for every county; weather information from the North American Land Data Assimilation System; and GRIDMET.

Basso has collected and analyzed data on the best nitrogen practices in each Michigan Wheat Program district, and teased out the patterns for soil moisture availability.

The second part of the pioneering study is to turn these recommendations into a web-based decision support tool regarding nitrogen application, available to all wheat farmers, whether using high management or more conventional production practices.

Farmers, who have a treasure trove of yield information in their yield data, should bring at least three years of data to this model, to most accurately predict soil moisture availability and, therefore, the "blue-print" for optimizing nitrogen application on their farm.

New Weeds to Manage. Dr. Christy Sprague, of MSU's Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences Department, has once again proved adept at snooping out new grassy weeds making their way into Michigan winter wheat fields, and coming up with the solutions to manage them.

In the mid-2010s, Sprague identified windgrass as a problem, and the Michigan Wheat Program funded research into new management solutions. Sprague began identifying the optimal herbicides, timing and management practices to control windgrass spread.

This research was essential in developing recommendations for control of common windgrass in Michigan winter wheat. This weed had been devastating to winter wheat in the "Thumb" growing region and was spreading. In 2014, Sprague's recommendations for managing windgrass were included in the *MSU Weed Control Guide for Field Crops Handbook* for the first time.

Then in 2017, it became clear to Sprague that roughstalk bluegrass (RBS), or *Poa trivialis*, was the newest interloper making its way into the wheat fields, competing for nutrients, soil moisture and sunlight by overshadowing the wheat leaf canopy.

Her research has revealed that fall-emerged RBS may be most problematic for wheat, and that spring treatments when RBS is < 3" tall with Osprey® and Axial Bold® are the most effective.

Look for Sprague's latest advice to manage invasive roughstalk bluegrass and windgrass from these Michigan Wheat-funded research projects in the *MSU Weed Control Guide for Field Crops* or on the Michigan Wheat Program website at: www.miwheat.org/research/weedresearchresults.

Higher Ground with High-Management Wheat Trials. Again, for the 2019-2020 season – for the 8th consecutive year – the MWP funded high-management research plots alongside the MSU Wheat Variety Trials. The reports from 2013-2020 may be found on the miwheat.org website under the Research Results and High Management tabs.

High-management wheat plots include an additional 30 pounds of nitrogen per acre (28% nitrogen), as well as Delaro® fungicide tank-mixed with herbicide and applied at Feekes 6.0, and ProSaro® fungicide at the average flowering date in each location. The 2020 trials included 113 different wheat varieties. Growers should review the results carefully to evaluate what new varieties might work best on their soil types and with their management styles.

2020 Michigan State Wheat Performance Trials

Photo: Saginaw Valley Research and Extension Center, 2020



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



DEDICATION TO GROWER LEARNING

The Michigan Wheat Program is dedicated to making sure you know what we know, as soon as we can tell you!

The program delivers information on its website, the monthly *Wheat Wisdom* e-newsletter, winter grower meetings, and MWP's own annual Winter Grower Meeting and Summer Field Day.



Altogether, we've organized ...

1 website **7** Winter Annual Meetings
48 hours of YouTube learning!
8 Summer Field Days
75 *Wheat Wisdom* e-newsletters
93 videos on the Michigan Wheat YouTube channel (including presentations from all of the annual meetings and field days)
1,100 Facebook followers

Pandemic Threatens Michigan Wheat Program's Winter and Summer Education Programs

Winter Annual Meeting. The wheat check-off has held popular, twice-a-year grower meetings in March and June since 2013. Until March 2020, when the Winter Annual Meeting set for the Eagle Eye Conference Center in Bath was cut down by the ballooning COVID-19 pandemic, the Michigan Wheat Program had shared information with nearly 300 growers each winter. Less than a week before the 2020 meeting, it was cancelled out of concern for spreading the virus and the closures called for by the Governor.

Summer Field Day. So, plans were made to put off some sessions until Summer Field Day. Who would have thought the viral wave would stick around into June?

Yet it did. And this time the MWP was ready to use a "virtual" online format, becoming the first commodity group to partner with MSU and MSU Extension on a virtual conference.

The MWP in conjunction with MSU wheat specialist Dennis Pennington, along with MSU researchers, staff and specialists pulled off a 3-hour meeting that had as many registrations as a "real life" Summer Field Day. Participants viewed prepared PowerPoints and videos taped out in the field in the research plots.

The 2020 Summer Field Day's virtual format was a hit! About 170 growers and stakeholders from 30 counties signed up to attend, and figured out how to work the virtual platform from their remote internet or cell phones. There were two times prior to the event when tests were

run so attendees could practice or test their connections and make sure they could participate. There were specialists on hand to assist growers as they worked to connect.

Advantages of Virtual. Looking for that silver lining in a pandemic? Turns out wheat farmers adapted quickly to the on-line format for the 2020 Summer Field Day held in June. Many viewers indicated they preferred the virtual format.

We hope not to repeat a virtual conference, but here's some feedback from those who attended the live meeting that give us ideas for the future to enhance programming:

- 64% of survey respondents said they expect to improve profitability of their wheat as a result of attending the virtual meeting.
- 43% appreciated not having to travel and seeing the fields from their air-conditioned home offices!
- Event logistics got 4.5 out of 5 stars, meaning we found a platform that was easy to use and worked for attendees.
- PowerPoints and handouts were online, as they had been in the past, which respondents said enhanced presentation quality.
- Ability to re-watch the presentations, as has been available in the past, on the Michigan Wheat website was a bonus.
- Many remarked on the unexpected ease of getting into the virtual meeting.

Presentations Included in the Summer Field Day:

If you didn't tune in on June 10, you can watch the videos now for this and all the previous events on the wheat website under the Previous Events tab. Go to miwheat.org under the Previous Events tab and then scroll down to the Summer Field Day 2020 link.

"It's always concerning when you take a successful event and turn it upside down," said **Dave Milligan**, MWP chairman. "We're not going to change all of our events, but the board feels very good about our ability to move forward despite difficult circumstances and has gotten some good ideas and alternatives for additional future programming."

MICHIGAN WHEAT

Welcome

Dave Milligan, Chairman, Michigan Wheat Program

Dr. Jim Kells, MSU Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences and Project GREEN coordinator

Research Presentations

Dr. Christy Sprague – Weed Control

Manni Singh, Dennis Pennington – Precision Planting

Marty Chilvers, Martin Nagelkirk – Disease

Dennis Pennington – Planting Date, Seeding Rate

Dr. Kurt Steinke – Fertility

Dr. Eric Olson – Variety Improvement

Regional Crop Reports from MSU Extension

Paul Gross, Bruce MacKellar, Monica Jean, Christian Tollini, Bob Battel, Ricardo Costa, Martin Nagelkirk, Dennis Pennington

Report on new Michigan Wheat Yield Contest

Jody Pollok-Newsom, Michigan Wheat Program Executive Director

Going On: A Decade of Farmer Perks

From the beginning, the MWP has been dedicated to benefits for wheat farmers. Some of them are:

Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP). Since 2013, the Michigan Wheat Program has partnered with MAEAP, the state agriculture department's voluntary program to assess on-farm environmental risks.

While the MAEAP process is free, the Michigan Wheat board recognizes that it's time-consuming and has associated costs. Since 2013, the board has offered a one-time \$50 financial award for farmers currently growing wheat and having obtained their first cropping system verification in MAEAP. Details are found at miwheat.org under the Farmer Perks tab.

As of 2020, Michigan Wheat has paid the incentive to more than 200 Michigan wheat farmers.



Past board member Jerry Heck and his wife DeeDee by their MAEAP sign, informing all traveling through their community that their farm is environmentally assured.

Free Wheat Crop Diagnostic Services in Michigan Wheat-MSU Partnership. Got wheat that's diseased, yellowed or fails to thrive? In 2013, the Michigan wheat check-off established an innovative program with MSU's Plant Diagnostic Laboratory.

Wheat farmers submit samples free of charge to the lab which diagnoses general crop health, cultures fungal and bacterial pathogens, tests for viruses, analyzes nematodes and identifies insect pests. Results are e-mailed to farmers along with mitigation and crop improvement strategies, all at no charge. If more is needed, MSU Wheat Specialist Dennis Pennington is available.

The year's wheat testing results are aggregated and communicated to the MWP, which scans for emerging pests and explores whether additional research is needed to get ahead of any possible new issues.

Farmers with a wheat sample for analysis should visit miwheat.org and click on the Farmer Perks tab and then the Wheat Diagnostics tab for the submittal forms and instructions. In 2020, we added a video on the Michigan Wheat YouTube channel showing how to collect samples for submittal to the MSU lab.

Free Membership in NAWG Enables Michigan Farmers Entry into the National Wheat Yield Contest.

Beginning with the 2016 crop, the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) re-introduced its yield contest for the first time in 20 years. Since the MWP is a member of NAWG, we have negotiated a special arrangement so that all Michigan wheat farmers are qualified as NAWG members because you pay into the wheat check-off when you sell your wheat.



In the last few years, Michigan has had some national winners including **Nick Suwyn** (pictured with Dave Milligan) of Caledonia in 2019 (3rd place, dryland); in 2016 **Gordon Briggs** of Scottville (2nd place, irrigated) and **David Eickholt** of Chesaning (5th place, dryland).

National Wheat Yield Contest registration is announced in Michigan's *Wheat Wisdom* e-newsletter and happens each spring.

Entry in the New Michigan "Wheat Warriors" Wheat Yield Contest. In March 2020, the MWP launched the first Michigan Wheat Yield Contest to recognize our outstanding wheat growers modeled after the NAWG contest.

We have an agreement to be able to utilize their registration system and data, thus making it so Michigan farmers who want to enter the yield contest do not have to do anything additional. They register for the NAWG contest and they are automatically entered for Michigan.

Michigan winners are "Wheat Warriors" and will be chosen as a straight-up highest per bushel yield in irrigated and dryland wheat for both red and white wheat. This is the main difference between the two contests.

Next spring, evaluate your wheat stand and enter the national wheat yield contest to compete at both the state and national levels.

There are awards and prizes for those that participate, so get involved and reap the benefits!

DEDICATED TO NATIONAL INVOLVEMENT

NAWG Leadership. We cannot talk about NAWG without mentioning the commitment by the Michigan Wheat Program to get involved at the national level. Michigan has some of the highest yields in the US and we have something to share – and a lot to learn from our wheat-growing peers across the country.

Michigan joined NAWG in 2013. Soon after, board members including Chairman **Dave Milligan** began serving on NAWG Committees. In a short time, Dave Milligan was selected by the nation's wheat farmers and voted in to serve on the Executive Committee. He has progressed through the ranks from Secretary (2017-2018) to Treasurer (2018-2019) to Vice President (2019-2020) and now serving as President (2020-2021)!

Also in 2019-2020, MWP board members **Sally McConnachie** and **Brent Wagner** were serving on NAWG Committees, which is an additional time commitment on their part that benefits Michigan.



Pictured here: Michigan's 2019-2020 representatives on the NAWG board of directors: Sally McConnachie and Brent Wagner arrive early for session.

It is impressive that in seven years since joining the organization, Michigan wheat farmers are actively serving on committees making our voice heard and that the current president of NAWG is a Michigander. Well done!

DEDICATION TO GROWERS PROGRAMMING THROUGH EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS...

The Great Lakes Crop Summit (GLCS). The Michigan Wheat Program works with our partners in the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee and Corn Marketing Program of Michigan to develop programming for the annual GLCS held each January.

Eight years after its founding, GLCS has turned into an excellent winter meeting where more than 1,100 farmers attend and learn about multiple crops, talk with their peers and have access to experts in various ag fields including several wheat-specific sessions.

Michigan Wheat also co-sponsored the GLCS Opening Reception again in 2020, along with the 2020 Master Farmer Awards luncheon. While the event is cancelled for 2021, it will be back January 26-27, 2022!

Partners in Pest Management Meetings. The Michigan Wheat Program joined the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan and the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee again in 2020 to sponsor a half-dozen Pest Management Workshops organized by MSU Extension (MSUE) across the state. Funding is also provided to keep the *MSU Weed Guide* economical so each participant receives a copy. These are important regional opportunities for farmers to learn about emerging pests and weeds from the experts out in the field – including those whose work is funded by the wheat check-off.

MSU Wheat Extension Team. MWP executive director Jody Pollok-Newsom is part of the newly formed MSUE Wheat Team, which was developed after the retirement of MSUE's wheat educator Martin Nagelkirk. The team includes Pollok-Newsom, MSU wheat specialist Dennis Pennington, Ricardo Costa Silva of MSUE in Lenawee County, Bob Battel of MSUE in "the Thumb" and of course, Martin Nagelkirk, who still provides vision and knowledge to the group.

Annually, the group develops its plan to get information out to growers. Monthly, the group works to develop timely programming for wheat farmers across the state via new videos, a monthly e-newsletter, articles, publications, events and on-farm research program development.

DEDICATED TO PROGRAM ADVOCACY

Ag Day at the Capitol



In mid-March, the Michigan Wheat Program always joins dozens of other ag groups to bring some attention to their commodities during the annual Ag Day at the State Capitol.

In March 2020, new wheat board member **Tony Bohac**, of Owosso (pictured here), was initiated into the event by helping serve beef sliders to legislators and their staff members. MWP provided popular pretzel buns that were loaded up with BBQ beef provided by the Michigan Beef

Industry Commission. At this point, there is quite a buzz about the sliders and we are sought out by attendees. They go over like hotcakes!

Michigan Wheat Program Presents its Check-off Program at Prestigious CSS & Seed Expo in Chicago

Michigan Wheat Program executive director **Jody Pollok-Newsom** was invited to present about the goals and accomplishments of the Michigan Wheat Program at the prestigious American Seed Trade CSS & Seed Expo, in Chicago in early December 2019.

Pollok-Newsom talked about the productivity of Michigan wheat, the state's value-added mills, the focus on research, grower information opportunities, MWP's ability to make partnerships, the development of the program, and future plans and goals. The Expo also offered opportunities to build relationships with national marketing and market forecasting organizations and to visit the trade show.



Michigan Wheat Program
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HOLD THESE DATES!

The wheat events of 2021 are now scheduled:

• MICHIGAN WHEAT PROGRAM WHEAT WISDOM WEBINARS

- Feb. 17, 8 am – Angie Setzer, *Marketing*, Citizens Elevator, Charlotte, MI
- Feb. 24, 8 am – Phil Needham, *Fall Wheat Management and Combine Residue Management*, Calhoun, Kentucky
- March 3, 8 am – Dr. Romulo Lollato, *Checkoff into practice: research on high-yielding wheat in Kansas*, Kansas State University
- March 10, 8 am – Dr. Pete Berry, *Enhancing Wheat Yields in Europe and the US*, North Yorkshire, England
- March 17, 8 am – Peter Johnson, *Fine Tuning Wheat*, Ontario
- March 24, 8 am – Dennis Pennington, *Wheat Crop and Research Update*, Michigan State University

• June 9, 2021 – MICHIGAN WHEAT PROGRAM SUMMER FIELD DAY, MSU Pathology Farm, Lansing

To remain informed year-around, sign up now for the free monthly Wheat Wisdom e-newsletter by visiting www.miwheat.org. Growers should follow the Michigan Wheat Program's **Facebook page: Michigan Wheat**. Tune into our **Michigan Wheat** YouTube Channel that has nearly 80 wheat videos!