

California Wheat

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CWC Wheat Bulletin

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The Weekly Wheat Bulletin is designed to share quick and informal information about the state's wheat crop and disease conditions. Comments are advisory in nature and designed to give growers a "heads up" to be alert for similar conditions. Comments forwarded by Thursday morning of each week will be posted in the Bulletin for distribution Thursday evening. Archived copies of the Wheat Bulletin may be accessed on the California Wheat Commission website: www.californiawheat.org

For those of you that are new to our mailing list, the length of this bulletin will change from week to week. The amount of material is dependent on the contributions of our readers.

We had no comments submitted this week for the Wheat Bulletin. Below is a report of our trip to the annual U. S. Wheat Associates meeting in Washington D.C.

California Wheat Growers Visit Washington DC

Representatives from the California Wheat Commission (CWC) and the California Association of Wheat Growers (CAWG) attended the joint meeting of U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) and the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) in Washington D.C. this week. Representing CWC were Chairman Mike Scriven, Vice Chairman Larry Hunn and Executive Director Robert Falconer. Representing CAWG were Chairman Ian Anderson,

California Wheat Commission, 1240 Commerce Ave, Suite A, Woodland, CA 95776
Telephone (530) 661-1292, Fax (530) 661-1332, www.californiawheat.org

Board Member Mike Bouris and Executive Director Tad Bell.

In addition to the many committee meetings and reports to the board typically heard at the meetings, the new Secretary of USDA Thomas Vilsack addressed the combined boards of USW and NAWG. In his remarks Sec. Vilsack said he agreed on the benefits of farm exports and said the Obama administration will continue to promote bilateral trade agreements and is strongly against protectionist measures that some in Congress have proposed.

Sec. Vilsack addressed future endeavors of wheat farmers. He indicated that direct payments to growers are increasingly under fire both domestically and abroad. He suggested that growers should be looking to expand their sources of income from their crops. He pointed out that in his home state of Iowa is fairing relatively better than other states in part because they have been involved with bio-fuels. He also said that organic production is one of the fastest growing segments of agriculture and that it will play an increasingly significant role.

Sec. Vilsack said his major priorities coming to USDA were a safe sufficient, sustainable and nutritious food supply; being a leader in energy and climate change; improving the business environment in rural communities including infrastructure, education and technology; and modernizing the workforce and workplace at USDA addressing the civil rights performance at the agency.

In addition to Secretary Vilsack the group heard reports on trade from Ambassador Peter Allgreire, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative and Acting USTR as well as a report on the Doha Round and the WTO from Dr. Joseph Glauber, Special Agricultural Negotiator and Chief Economist for USDA.

The California delegation made several visits to the offices of members of Congress. Visits were made to the offices of Senators Feinstein and Boxer and to Congress members Filner, Issa, Herger, Farr, Thompson, McNerney, Costa, Cardoza, and Taucsher. Discussions focused on the need to increase funding for research on improved wheat varieties including disease resistance. Modernizing the information systems at FSA offices was also listed as a priority to better serve growers.

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