North Carolina Wheat Yield Contest Rules

Rules updated October 2020

OBJECTIVES

a. To determine which production practices produce the highest wheat yields for a given location.

b. To give recognition to those growers who do an outstanding job of producing wheat and to their Cooperative Extension agents.

CONTEST OVERSIGHT: The North Carolina wheat yield contest is conducted by the Cooperative Extension Service through the small grain Extension program at North Carolina State University. At the county level, the county Extension director/agent with small grain responsibilities is responsible for overseeing all contest entries and required to watch the NC Wheat Yield Contest Training Video before submitting an entry. The county Extension director/agent with small grain responsibilities should form a committee of at least three persons who will be responsible for evaluating acreage and settling any differences of opinion regarding the entries. This committee should consist of at least one county agent, and one farmer or business person associated with small grains industries. The third committee member could be a second county agent, county Extension director, another producer, or impartial non-Extension personnel. The county Extension director/agent with small grain responsibilities may also wish to appoint CES personnel from outside their county, or non-CES personnel (e.g., FSA personnel, Vo-Ag teachers, licensed surveyors, NCDA agronomists) to assist growers in entering the contest, but in such a case, the local director is still responsible for, and must sign, the entry. This makes it possible for county directors, in regions where small grains responsibilities have not been assigned, to find impartial and responsible personnel to assist growers in entering the contest.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO ENTER: Any person who produces wheat in North Carolina.

REQUIREMENTS

a. Production Records - A record of production practices will be required on the entry form furnished by the Small Grains Extension program.

b. Contest Field Contest entry must be at least 5 continuous acres, may be larger, planted with professionally produced, certified, branded, newly - purchased wheat seed. Contestant may select the best 5 or more acres in a wheat field actually larger than 5 acres to harvest. The entry can be anywhere in North Carolina. The land entered in the Contest must be owned or leased by the entrant. It also must be verified by a 3rd party Supervisor (witness) during the harvest period of the plot. The definition of a field site is as follows:

   • Supervisors must be able to determine location of each seed entry (variety/number) by a physical division in the field such as a:
      - Skipped non-planted area, not part of contest acres
      - Flag or other marker to determine division
      - Definite planting pattern for each 5-acre plot
      - By differences in physical appearance of the variety/number only will not qualify

   • Harvest Rules are applicable to each entry

- Five-acre minimum plot of one seed variety/number (or blended varieties as defined in "Contest Wheat Seed Qualifications" below) in each field or field area
  - A minimum of 1.5 acres must be harvested from the 5-acre plot
- All end-rows and an equal number of side-rows for each seed entry must be removed before starting a supervised harvest

CONTINUOUS ACRES of one seed entry is defined by the uniform width and length of the seeder. In the interest of Best Management Practices, grass waterways and drainage ditches may be a part of the contest plot if at some point in the 5 acres the uniform seeder row spacing is evident. The width of the grass waterway will be included in the harvested row length if wheat is planted through the waterway. If the rows are planted alongside the waterway or drainage ditch and row lengths vary, the actual length of each row must be included in the total row length. Finally, wheel tracks from any equipment operation or pass (i.e., sprayer or irrigator wheel tracks) through the plot area cannot be subtracted from the harvested plot-size calculation.

Contest Wheat Seed Qualifications

The wheat seed entry (variety brand and/or number):

- Must be commercially available for sale
- Must be a certified or branded seed variety
- Variety blends, which have been blended by and purchased from professional seed suppliers, will be allowed in the contest provided the varieties and percentages of each variety contained in the blend are reported
- Bin run, home-grown or "brown bag" wheat seed is NOT eligible

Yield Measurements

The County Extension Director/Agent with small grains responsibilities or their appointee will a) help and be responsible for the measurement of each field, b) will help submit all information required on the entry form, and c) check to make sure trucks and combines are empty and clean before harvesting and weighing. Report the weight of the harvested wheat on certified public scales, the percent moisture of the harvested grain, and the test weight. Official yields will be computed at the NCSU extension office after correcting moisture to 13.5%.

Measuring

Entries determined not to be measured and recorded properly may result in changes in your official yield. Preferred measurement tools are tape and measuring wheels, but cannot be operated from a motorized vehicle. Checking wheel calibration accuracy is recommended. Each measurement must be recorded on the form submitted. Proper tape measurements are taken with the measurement tool pulled tight but not off the ground surface. ** GPS is not allowed as a measurement tool in the contest.

Plot Length: If the rows are all the same length, measure the length and record same length for each of the rows harvested. If the rows are not all the same length, measure down the center of each set harvested and record the length for each of the rows in the set. (On pivot irrigation do not subtract wheel space).

Plot Width: Record the plot width harvested. In the interest of Best Management Practices, grass waterways may be a part of the contest plot if the uniform seeder row spacing is evident in the selected harvest acres. The length of the grass waterway will be included in the harvested row length if the contest wheat is planted

in the waterway. If the contest wheat is not planted in the waterway, the actual length of each row shall not include the nonplanted grass waterway in the total row length.

Calculating Acres Harvested
The total row length (feet) times the width harvested (feet) divided by 43,560 (square feet in one acre) equals acres harvested.

For example: if an area 1000 feet long in the field is selected, the width of 5 continuous acres would be 217.8 ft. For the initial yield check of at least 1.5 acres, 65.34 feet would be the minimum width of harvesting the 1000 feet length.

Weighing
It is recommended to weigh the wheat as soon as possible after harvesting. All wheat must be weighed on a state certified scale with the supervisor or the supervisor(s) witnessing the weighing. On-farm scales must be state inspected. The scale ticket should have the name of the company where the scaling was done. It is a good idea to record the name of the person doing the weighing. Please make sure when scanning or taking a picture of your weigh ticket to submit it electronically, that the ticket is legible. If the Contest receives a weigh ticket that is not legible, we will contact the grower for the original copy. ALL WEIGH WAGONS ARE PROHIBITED.

** Supervisors MUST initial weigh tickets to show that they were present at time of weighing.

Moisture Testing
An experienced person must make a moisture determination of a representative sample of the wheat. If sampling and scaling is performed by the grower, it is best to have the same sample run through the meter three times and take the average of the three. Moisture percent must be listed on weigh ticket or attach a moisture ticket. The moisture analysis measured at day of harvest will be used to determine yield.

Deadline for Entry
All entries must be submitted electronically through the online form linked to the NC State University Small Grains web portal under the Yield Contest Tab no later than July 7th at 5:00pm. No paper entries will be accepted. The agent will maintain a paper copy of their entry and the physical copy of the weight and moisture ticket in the office for 5 years in the case of an audit.

THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS MADE FOR LATE ENTRIES FOR ANY REASON! Field Faculty who want to make sure that their entries have been received should send them early and follow up with a phone call in plenty of time to send them again in case they were lost.

AWARDS: Individual growers may submit as many entries into the contest as they wish. However, only the entry with the highest yield will be eligible for an award. For example:

- if John Doe makes two entries from his farm in Wilson County and a third entry from a second farm he has in Greene County, only the single entry with the highest yield will be used in the competition.

- if Bill Smith makes an entry from his farm, and a second entry is received from “Smith Brothers” (one of whom is Bill), only the entry with the highest yield will be used in the competition even if these are from two different farms.

From the pool of eligible entries the top three yielding entries from each region will be determined resulting in 9 award winners as follows:

1st Place State-Wide Winner – The entry with the highest state-wide yield will receive a large plaque and $175.

2nd Place State-Wide Winner – The entry with the 2nd highest state-wide yield will receive a medium plaque and $150.

3rd Place State-Wide Winner – The entry with the 3rd highest state-wide yield will receive a medium plaque and $100.

The remaining six award winning entries will each receive one of the following:

1st Place Regional Winner –a small plaque and $75.

2nd Place Regional Winner – a small plaque and $50.

3rd Place Regional Winner – a small plaque and $25.

GRAND PRIZE: The nine award winners will each be eligible for the grand prize awarded by the North Carolina Small Grain Growers Association. One of these 9 winners will be selected at random to win a trip to the commodity classic with all expenses paid (up to a maximum of $1,500).

COUNTY AGENT AWARD: The county Extension agents responsible for the 9 winning entries will each receive a certificate, and one of these Extension agents will be selected at random to win a trip to the commodity classic with all expenses paid (up to a maximum of $1,500) courtesy of the North Carolina Small Grain Growers Association.

100 BUSHEL CLUB AWARDS: All growers that harvest 100 or more bushels per acre will receive a certificate welcoming them into the 100 Bushel Per Acre Wheat Producers Club of North Carolina.

125 BUSHEL CLUB AWARDS: All growers that harvest 125 or more bushels per acre will receive a plaque welcoming them into the 125 Bushel Per Acre Wheat Producers Club of North Carolina. Growers in the 125 bushel club will NOT also receive a certificate for the 100 Bushel Club in that same year.

STATE COMMITTEE: The state committee will have authority to make decisions on any points of contention that may occur during the contest. Irregularities that do not conform to the requirements and objectives of this contest will be just cause for disqualification. The decision of the state committee will be final. The committee will consist of the State Small Grains Specialist, the Executive Director of the NC Small Grain Growers Association, and a member of the NCSGGA Research & Education Committee with no entry to be appointed by the committee chair each year.

EQUATIONS USED: The following equations are used by the small grains office. They are given here for your reference.

Area of a Triangle: Given a Triangle with sides A, B, and C: Let S = (A + B + C)/2. Then the area of the triangle is given by: Area = $\sqrt{[S \times (S - A) \times (S - B) \times (S - C)]}$

Yield in Bushels per Acre: $\text{Yield}_{bu/ac} = \text{PoundsHarvested} \div \text{LandArea}_{acres} \div 60$

Yield Adjusted To 13.5 % Moisture: $\text{AdjustedYield}_{Bu/ac} = \text{Yield}_{Bu/ac} \times (100 - \text{Moisture}) \div 86.5$