

U.S. Durum Growers Association

Resolutions

Approved November 7, 2024

EFFECTIVE DOMESTIC POLICY

1. USDGA supports the accuracy and repeatability of all tests to ensure the fairness of discounts and pricing to the producer.
2. USDGA supports country of origin labeling for all durum wheat products as U.S. durum growers produce the safest, most economical and environmentally-friendly durum products, which the consumer demands.
3. USDGA supports a 60-day, pre-harvest lock-in period and a more accurate posted county price on durum as the northern tier of wheat producers are not currently receiving a fair LDP.
4. USDGA urges USDA to use consistent disaster and quality loss parameters.
5. USDGA supports inclusion of a durum wheat quality program in the Farm Bill.
6. USDGA continues to support the law that only active wheat farmers are eligible to serve as Commissioners of the North Dakota Wheat Commission in accordance of state law.
7. USDGA supports a permanent disaster program.
8. USDGA supports smaller trigger areas and yield adjustments to the ACRE program or similar programs.
9. USDGA supports establishing fairness in reduction in value (RIV) adjustments for durum in crop insurance.
10. USDGA supports affordable crop insurance at current subsidized levels.
11. USDGA opposes changes to the Clean Water Act that would allow EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to regulate tile drainage, farm ditches, and other man-made waters.

PROFITABLE PRODUCTION

1. USDGA recognizes organic farming and its merits, as a viable choice for both consumers and producers; and the USDGA promotes the coexistence of commercial, traditional, and organic practices.
2. USDGA supports chemical harmonization to ensure food safety, food security, and to harmonize price and availability.
3. USDGA supports the full Section 3 registration of fungicides to be used as tools for producers to have for control of fusarium head blight.
4. Due to contamination problems, USDGA urges the enforcement of seed purity at the foundation production level.
5. USDGA supports reciprocity of fuel tax registration, licensing and axle weights between bordering states for farmers hauling their own agricultural production.
6. USDGA supports milling durum insurance as an available option to its producers.
7. USDGA supports the protection of landowner rights, proper reclamation and responsible development of agricultural lands.
8. USDGA supports designation by RMA of durum wheat as a separate class within enterprise units.

FAVORABLE MARKET CONDITIONS

1. USDGA supports reasonable rates and consistent, timely service for all grain shippers of all sizes on all rail lines.
2. USDGA supports an increase in the current loan rate for wheat, as well as the separation of wheat by class.
3. USDGA discourages the use of delayed-pricing contracts of durum wheat.
4. USDGA urges the durum industry to establish and pay premiums for protein above 13 percent.
5. USDGA supports and pursues the increased funding of the North Dakota Credit-Sale Contract Indemnity Fund.
6. USDGA supports the education of the consumer of a balanced healthy diet that includes pasta.
7. USDGA supports competitive forward contracts to growers of durum.

8. USDGA supports addressing the inequity of Canada's varietal registration system.

INNOVATIVE RESEARCH

1. USDGA supports equitable funding for durum and wheat research in relation to other commodities.
2. USDGA supports the continuation of research, development and release of new varieties for public seed stocks program.
3. USDGA supports the updating of seed processing facilities at the research extension centers, as needed.

U.S. Durum Growers Association – Biotechnology Position Statement

Biotechnological research holds great promise for the future, and the U.S. wheat industry recognizes these advancements. In preparation for the future commercialization of biotechnologically- derived wheat, we take the following positions:

1. We support and will work to ensure the ability of wheat producers to make planting and marketing choices based on economic, agronomic, and market factors.
2. We support the ability of our wheat customers to make purchases on the basis of specific traits. We commit ourselves to the principle that our customers' needs are vitally important
3. We support and will assist in the development by all segments of the industry of an orderly marketing system to assure delivery of non-transgenic wheat within reasonable tolerances to markets that require it.
4. We urge the adoption of a nationally and internationally accepted definition of biotechnologically-derived products¹. We also urge international harmonization of scientific standards and trade rules.
5. We support voluntary labeling of food products derived from biotech ingredients provided it is consistent with U.S. law and international trade agreements and is truthful and not misleading. We oppose federal or state mandated labeling of products based solely on the method of production, including foods derived from biotech ingredients, if they do not differ materially from their non-biotech counterparts.
6. We support establishing low level presence (LLP²) policies for trade of wheat intended for food, feed and processing that are predictable, science-based and consistent with international guidelines. A workable LLP threshold should incorporate biological and logistical realities. We support a 5% LLP threshold on a trait specific basis as a reasonable level to achieve a cost-effective approach. We further encourage governments to establish synchronized approval policies of biotech traits to minimize trade disruptions of biotech products.
7. We are confident that biotechnology will deliver significant consumer and producer benefits and we support continued biotechnology research, and product and market development. We invite valued and interested customers to join with us in a working partnership to explore the emerging biotechnology industry.

¹ U.S. Wheat Industry Definition: Biotechnologically-Derived (Genetically Modified Organisms). "Genetically modified organisms (commonly referred to as "transgenic") are organisms derived from somatic cell fusion or direct insertion of a gene construct, typically but not necessarily from a sexually-incompatible species, using recombinant DNA techniques and any genetic transformation technology (e.g., bacterial vectors, particle bombardment, electroporation)."

² Low Level Presence is the unintentional, low level presence, of an agricultural biotech product approved in one or more countries, but not yet approved in the importing country.