

2026 National Wheat Yield Contest Rules

(5-Acre Categories)



Thank you for your interest in the National Wheat Yield Contest. Please read the entire rules. You must register for an account on the contest website before putting in your entries. www.wheatcontest.org. Good Luck!

CONTEST DEADLINES

Entries must be submitted by May 15, 2026 (Winter categories) and July 31, 2026 (Spring categories). Harvest Data is due October 1, 2026. No late entries or harvest data will be accepted. Entries must be completed online at www.wheatcontest.org

CONTEST ENTRY FEES

Each entry costs \$100. There are many entry fee vouchers available from our partners. On your entry form, please indicate whether you will be paying with a credit card or voucher. If you use a voucher, please identify which voucher.

CONTEST QUALIFICATIONS

MEMBERSHIP Entrants must be a member of their state wheat grower association or NAWG (if no state association affiliated with NAWG) **at the time of entry**. Also, entrants must enter as an individual and must be at least 14 years of age at time of entry. Partnerships can enter under the partnership name if the partnership holds a membership. Entrants must be a certified FSA owner/operator (or child) showing a minimum of 50 acres wheat in an operation. Only one winner per FSA tract number is eligible to be a state and national winner.

CONTEST CATEGORIES

Winter Wheat – Dryland, Winter Wheat – Irrigated, Spring Wheat – Dryland, Spring Wheat - Irrigated

FIELD QUALIFICATIONS

Field must be at least 5 contiguous acres, planted with professionally produced, certified, branded, newly purchased wheat seed. Qualified seed will be verified upon entry with an attachment of proof of purchase. Field will be verified by 3rd party supervisor during harvest of the contest field.

WHEAT QUALITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible to win a National Award, wheat must meet quality standards:

- Test weight for hard red spring or white club must be 57+ lbs.
- Test weight for all other classes must be 58+ lbs.

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(5-Acre Categories)



Test weight must be documented on the weigh tickets, along with moisture on the day of harvest. If test weight is below the standards, you may dry the wheat and test it again at a later date as long as the new test weight is reported on an official ticket and signed by a 3rd party witness (such as a grain elevator employee, or your supervisor for the contest).

QUALITY RECOGNITION

All contestants must save a 10-pound wheat sample at harvest. Wheat samples of only the National Winning entries will be sent in to specified laboratories and evaluated for grain, milling, and baking quality. A panel of experts will rank the wheat quality by class and top industry-desired quality will be recognized with a cash award. Please save your 10-pound sample in a safe place until the contest notifies you in late fall.

SUPERVISOR/3rd PARTY WITNESS QUALIFICATIONS

Supervisors must be present at harvest and verify that the contest rules were followed. Supervisors should be from the following list: FFA Advisors, Vo Ag Instructors, County Agent, NRCS Employee, College of ag instructor, accredited farm manager, crop consultant, ag banker, crop insurance agent or adjuster, certified crop advisor, or anyone who is retired from one of these positions.

Supervisors *cannot* be: An employee or relative of the contestant or the contestant themselves. For more information on supervisor roles and responsibilities see the contest website under "Supervisor Information".

HARVESTING RULES

Detailed rules for measuring, weighing, moisture and quality testing and calculating the results can be found online in the harvest section of the contest entry.

The supervisor must be present during the entire harvest of the contest area, make all field measurements and computations, witness the harvesting and weighing for the contest plot, verify the date of harvest, location of contest field and obtaining the 10-pound wheat sample. Supervisors must sign all weigh tickets to show that they were present at time of weighing.

MOISTURE TESTING

Experienced person must make moisture determination of a representative sample of the wheat. If sampling and scaling are performed by the grower, it is best to have the same sample run through the meter 3 times and take the average of the 3. The moisture % must be listed on the weigh ticket or attached on a separate moisture ticket. The moisture analysis on the day of harvest will be used to determine yield.

2026 National Wheat Yield Contest Rules

(5-Acre Categories)



INITIAL CHECK

The contestants must harvest and report at least 1.5 contiguous acres. No recheck is required.

CONTEST WINNERS

Each contestant can only win one National Award.

Out of the dryland and irrigated high yield categories, the entries with the highest yield will earn a National Bin Buster Award. The remaining top entries from each state will compete for the National awards.

NATIONAL WINNER CATEGORIES

Winter Wheat Dryland: Yield: Bin Buster plus 1st-5th; & % increase county avg. 1st-5th

Winter Wheat Irrigated: Yield: Bin Buster plus 1st-2nd

Spring Wheat Dryland: Yield: Bin Buster plus 1st-3rd; & % increase county avg. 1st-3rd

Spring Wheat Irrigated: Yield: Bin Buster plus 1st-2nd

PRIZES

National award winners will receive travel, lodging, and registration to the Commodity Classic. Top Quality will be recognized with a cash award in addition to Commodity Classic trip.

State Winners (top 3 in yield categories) will be recognized with certificates and publicity on the website and press releases.

NOTE: National Winners who do not travel to the Commodity Classic will not receive the cash value of their trip. Quality winners who do not travel to the Commodity Classic will receive the cash award in the mail after the Commodity Classic.

APPROVED PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Partners may pay the entrant's membership dues or entry fees into the contest. Membership must be paid at time of entry. Partners may provide company products or samples to cover the contest plot area or field up to 40 acres. They may also provide additional prizes to the winners for Commodity Classic travel for family members or farm employees.

JUDGING

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(5-Acre Categories)



Decisions of the National Wheat Foundation in all matters pertaining to the contest are final. The NWF reserves the right to disqualify any entry without a refund for violation of these stated rules. Any contestant committing fraud will be barred from the contest for three years.

HARVEST RULES

Do not use end/ turning rows and the outermost rows of the field as part of the contest acres. Reminder: the field must be at least 5 contiguous acres and harvest, under supervision, must be a minimum of 1.5 acres from the contest area. No rechecks are required. Please contact the contest if yield is over 250 bpa. Reminder: Supervisor must be present at harvest (witness) and verify that the contest rules were followed.

MEASURING

Preferred measurement tools are a tape or chain. Plot length: If all rows are the same length, measure the length and record the same length for each of the rows harvested. If the rows are not 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 non-planted grass waterway in total row length.

CALCULATING ACRES HARVESTED

The total row length (feet) measure the width harvested(feet) divided by 43,560 (sq ft.in an acre) equals acres harvested.

WEIGHING

Weigh the wheat as soon as possible after harvesting.

All wheat must be weighed on a state certified scale with the supervisor 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. If time and date are not stamped on the scale ticket, the supervisor is to sign and note the time and date on the ticket. Scale tickets must be legible. All weigh wagons are prohibited.

**Supervisors must sign weigh tickets to show that they were present at the time of weighing.

MOISTURE TESTING

2026 National Wheat Yield Contest Rules

(5-Acre Categories)



An experienced person must make moisture determination of a representative sample of the wheat. If sampling and scaling are performed by the grower, it is best to have the same sample run through the meter 3 times and take the average of the 3. The moisture % must be listed on the weigh ticket or attached on a separate moisture ticket. The moisture analysis on the day of harvest will be used to determine yield.

CALCULATING YIELD

Yield will be corrected to 0% moisture. All calculations will be carried to **4** decimal places by the Contest.

The Contest will determine lbs. of wheat harvested from the scale Ticket and gross & tare weights. That will be corrected to 0% moisture, then divided by a 0% moisture bushel weight (51.9), then divided by the acres harvested to get bushels/acre.

REPORTING

Yield data must be submitted by October 1, 2026. 11:59 pm eastern time. If you have trouble submitting, you must notify contest director before the October 1 deadline.

The Online harvest submission form will be closed after Oct. 1 11:59 pm eastern time and harvest data will NOT be accepted after October 1. Keep a copy of your harvest submission.

DETERMINING NATIONAL WINNERS

A grower can only win one National Award.

BIN BUSTER AWARD- the entry with the highest per acre yield from each high yield basis category will be selected as the BIN BUSTER. The bin buster can be awarded within the same state as any of the remaining high yield National Award winners.

High Yield. The Contest will select the highest yielding entry from each state for each category. From this group of entries, National Winners will be selected based on the highest yield. Only the top State yield winners will be eligible for this group of HIGH YIELD National awards.

% increase over county- dryland categories only. After determining the high yield National winners, the remaining dryland entries will be judged based on their % increase over the county average.

USDA Olympic County average will be used to determine the % increase. Increases below 0 will not be eligible. Percent increase over county winners can be selected from the same state.

In the event of a percentage tie, the contestant harvesting and reporting the largest actual bushel yield will be declared the winner. If a second tiebreaker is needed the

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contestant with the longest time between entry date and harvest date will be named the winner.

STATE WINNERS

The top 3 high yield entries in each category by state will be recognized by the Contest. State winners all receive certificates and recognition in a news release by the Contest.

QUESTIONS

For questions or issues with your entries, please contact Anne Osborne before the deadlines at 701-368-9815

(aosborne@wheatworld.org)

Please go to the website for ENTRY FORM, MORE DETAILS & CONTEST PARTNERS

www.wheatcontest.org

