



Teacher's Guide

NC Wheat Connection Teacher's Guide

NC Wheat Connection



The North Carolina Wheat Connection is provided to you by the North Carolina Small Grain Growers Association. Our primary objective for this publication is to help third-graders in North Carolina become familiar with agriculture in the state with a major focus on wheat. Hopefully, as they become better acquainted with the impact that agriculture plays in their lives, these students will greater appreciate and understand the importance of the food and fiber system.

Teachers receiving this publication are encouraged to use the materials in the ways most beneficial in their classrooms. If the content of this teaching magazine fits better into the curriculum program at another grade level, teachers receiving the *Wheat Connection* are encouraged to share the material with the appropriate classroom teachers.

The *North Carolina Wheat Connection* is designed to help:

- provide students with a greater understanding of the wheat industry in North Carolina
- build an awareness of North Carolina agriculture, career opportunities and a daily impact focused on the production of wheat
- provide students with a general understanding of agriculture and the importance of the role and application it plays in their every day lives

To request additional copies and/or materials please contact:

North Carolina Small Grain Growers
P.O. Box 32165
Raleigh, NC 27622
(919) 562-2155

For more information on wheat or agriculture

U.S.D.A Ag in the Classroom
Attn: Dorothy Jackson
3920-S 1400 Independence Ave. Southwest
Washington, D.C. 20250
202/720-7925

Wheat Foods Council
Attn: Lori Sachau
10841 S. Crossroads Dr.
Suite 105
Parker, CO 80138
303/840-8787
www.wheatfoods.org

The NC Small Grain Growers Association represents over 5,000 producers across the state and is a non-profit organization.



HISTORY

When and where wheat was first discovered is not exactly known. Like all cereal grains, it was originally a wild grass. The grass wheat came from is called einkorn. Evidence exists that it first grew in Mesopotamia and in the Tigris and Euphrates river valleys in the Middle East. As early as 6,700 B.C., Swill lake dwellers used wheat in flat cakes. It was also mentioned by the Chinese.

Wheat was actually cultivated after millet, oats, rice and barley. However, when the Egyptians discovered how to make yeast-leavened breads between 2,000 and 3,000 B.C., wheat quickly became the favored grain.

Wheat is not native to the United States and was not even grown by the colonists. It did not do well in the New England soil and climate and was in little demand. Not until 1777 was wheat even planted in the United States, and then only as a hobby crop. Today, the United States exports more than half of its wheat and is one of the worlds four largest exporters.

