



**National  
Barley  
Growers  
Association**

**Click to make your  
Winter Meeting hotel  
reservation by Jan  
10!**

# WELCOME TO

## National Barley Growers Association



### NBGA Winter 2020 Meeting

Hyatt House Washington, DC/ The Wharf  
725 Wharf St. SW, Washington, DC 20024

*Click to make your hotel reservation* by January 10, 2020 to receive the NBGA group rate of \$229/night and *click to register for the meeting* on our website.

Monday, Feb 3: Travel day  
Tuesday, Feb 4: Board meets all day, board dinner  
Wednesday, Feb 5: Hill visits, evening reception  
Thursday, Feb 6: Board meets until noon

### Upcoming Barley Industry Events

**January 2020: Deadline to reserve hotel room for NBGA winter meeting in Washington, DC 1/10!**

**February 2020: NBGA Winter Meeting in DC 2/3-2/6; Craft Maltsters Guild Advanced Class in Craft Malt Production 2/3-2/6; Craft Malt Conference in Fort Collins, CO 2/7-2/8, Craft Maltsters Guild Annual Meeting 2/8; Idaho Barley Commission Research Review (Joint with Idaho Wheat Commission) in Boise, ID 2/20; Idaho Barley Commission Meeting**

**April 2020: World Beer Cup San Antonio, TX 4/17-4/19; Craft Brewers Conference San Antonio, TX 4/19-4/22**

**May 2020:**

**June 2020: Idaho Barley Commission Annual Budget Meeting in Soda Springs, ID 6/11-6/12; NBGA meeting tentatively scheduled for 6/15-6/18 in St. Louis, MO**

**July 2020:**

in Boise, ID 2/21; Canadian Barley Symposium and BRMBRI Triennial Meeting Winnipeg, AB 2/24-2/25

**March 2020:** National Barley Improvement Committee, Washington, DC 3/8-3/11

**August 2020:** MBAA and ASBC World Brewing Congress Minneapolis, MN 8/1-8/4

**September 2020:** Great American Beer Festival Denver, CO 9/24-9/26

*Send upcoming events here...*

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## Appropriations For Fiscal Year 2020

Before adjourning in December, the House and the Senate passed fiscal year 2020 appropriations bills, including agriculture. HR1865, which contains the agriculture appropriations bill, passed by a 207-120 vote in the House and 71-23 in the Senate, and was signed into law on Dec. 20th. Funding for the Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative was increased by \$5.5 million (to a total of \$15 million). Funding for the Smalls Grains Genomics Initiative was increased by \$1 million.

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## Disaster Assistance

Included in the Fiscal Year 2020 Agricultural Appropriations bill is an additional \$1.5 billion in funding for the Wildfires & Hurricane Indemnity Program (WHIP+). This funding supplements the initial \$3 billion provided for WHIP+ and expands the disaster assistance coverage by authorizing USDA to cover quality losses, in addition to production losses and clarifies eligible disaster events by including losses related to excess moisture and D3 drought.

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## USMCA

The Trump Administration and Congressional Democrats reached agreement on the United States-Mexico-Canada trade agreement (USMCA) in mid-December. The House passed it by year-end but Senate action is still pending. Senate Majority Leader McConnell has indicated his intent to hold a vote on the USMCA

in late January after the potential Trump impeachment proceedings. Enactment of the USMCA would maintain existing policies for agricultural trade and result in:

- An increase in U.S. agricultural exports by \$2 billion with a \$65 billion increase in gross domestic product.
  - New market access for American dairy and poultry products while preserving zero tariffs for all other agricultural products.
  - Non-discriminatory grading standards underpinning sanitary and phytosanitary measures and progress on geographic indications.
  - Cooperation, information-sharing, and other trade-promoting rules related to agricultural biotechnology, including gene editing.
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## Beer Tax Provisions Extended

Congress also reached agreement on a "tax extenders" package that included a one-year extension of the reduced excise tax rate on beer. The tax provisions originally enacted in the 2017 Tax Cut and Jobs Act were set to expire at the end of 2019. The tax extender provisions were signed into law along with the FY20 Appropriations bills.

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## Crop Insurance FY2021 Budget

NBGA joined the American Association of Crop Insurers, American Farm Bureau and over 20 other agricultural groups on a letter to the White House urging them to not propose cuts to crop insurance in their Fiscal Year 2021 budget proposal. In recent years, Administrations of both political parties have included proposed cuts to the federal crop insurance program in their annual budget proposals. While agricultural groups have been successful in convincing Congress not to cut crop insurance in the final spending bills, we hope such cuts will not be proposed by the White House for FY 2021.

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## China Trade Agreement

The Trump Administration and U.S. Trade Representative announced a "phase one" agreement with China that will reportedly include significant increases in China's purchases of U.S. products (\$40 billion in 2020 and 2021- a \$16 billion increase over 2017 levels). China has confirmed it will include "notable" increases of U.S. agricultural products, but it has not publicly confirmed a specific amount. Neither the Trump Administration nor China have announced amounts for specific ag products. The White House has indicated that the phase one agreement will be signed on January 15.

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## NASS Reporting Comments

NBGA joined the Tri-Societies (American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, Soil Science Society of America) and other agricultural groups on comments submitted to the White House Office of Management & Budget (OMB) opposing proposed cuts to the County Estimates program produced by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The joint comments encourage USDA NASS and OMB to work together to find a way to fully reinstate the County Estimates program without canceling other important data collection efforts and suggested sharing of RMA data and/or additional funding to cover any shortfalls.

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