

WHEAT LIFE

The official publication of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers

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OLYMPIA DAYS 2020

Dams, carbon, taxes top list of issues
as growers meet with legislators

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President's Perspective



Personal stories needed in dam fight

By Ryan Poe

We are a community and an industry that bases almost everything we do on facts, science and technology. We need varieties that don't fall victim to low falling numbers? We look to the latest in breeding for answers. We need a way to more effectively use herbicides or fertilizer? We turn to state-of-the-art technology to precisely apply chemicals when and where we most need them. We need to convince a customer that Washington wheat is the best in the world?

The facts, bolstered with years of research, don't lie. So why is it, when we have boatloads of facts and studies and research to back us up, that we can't seem to win the dam removal argument?

Emotion. I believe the antidam community has learned to use emotion like a weapon to cut through all the facts and science we base our position on. It's hard to win an argument when one side shows pictures of a mother orca carrying her dead calf around Puget Sound for 17 days against the value of the dams for moving cargo (one four-barge tow carries the same amount of freight as 1.4 100-unit trains or 538 trucks) or how much clean energy the four lower Snake River dams produce (enough to power 1.87 million homes).

Most of the producers I know, including myself, come from multigenerational farming families and are incredibly passionate about what we do. We all have interesting, personal stories about why we've chosen to make a living growing a crop. We are all extremely proud that through our industry, we provide jobs for others and food for the world. We need to share those stories and those emotions.

Facts have their place in this argument, but if we rely only on facts, we could find ourselves on shaky ground in the public's opinion. We need to be as vocal and as passionate as possible in telling our story and how important those dams are to our families and our communities.

Later this month, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Bonneville Power Authority will be releasing a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) that has to take into consideration removing the dams as a part of restoring salmon runs on the Columbia-Snake River System. They will be accepting public comments on the EIS. If there was ever a time for farmers to respond, this is it.

At our January board meeting, we were talking about a dam stakeholder meeting in Clarkston, Wash., that Alex McGregor spoke at. One of our board members mentioned a tweet that described Alex as "speaking with passion." Now, if you've ever heard Alex McGregor speak, you know he's incapable of speaking without passion, especially when it comes to the farming history of Eastern Washington. So that's what I'm asking you to do. When this draft EIS comes out, be like Alex—passionate in telling your personal story. Every single farmer in our region needs to submit a comment on that draft letting the government know what the dams mean to them, their family and their livelihood, and how they'd be impacted if the dams were removed.

We'll provide links on our website, wawg.org, for people to submit comments.

The facts are already on our side. We just need to make this story personal. ■

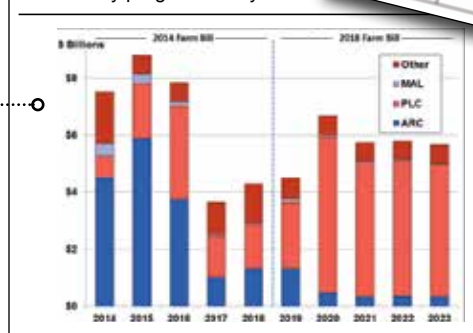
Cover photo: Washington Association of Wheat Growers members, leaders and staff spent two days in Olympia, meeting with legislators on both sides of the aisle to talk about the issues wheat growers are facing. The group also met with multiple state agencies, including Ecology, DNR and WSDA. Read more about the trip on page 22. All photos are Shutterstock images or taken by *Wheat Life* staff unless otherwise noted.

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Commodity program outlays 2014 and 2015



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WAWG's current top priorities are:

- ✓ Preserving the Snake River dams.
- ✓ Maintaining a safe and sound transportation system that includes rail, river and roads.
- ✓ Establishing favorable trade agreements.
- ✓ Fighting mandatory carbon emission regulations.
- ✓ Fighting unreasonable notification and reporting requirements for pesticide applications.

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State, federal priorities set at January board meeting

The first Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) state board meeting of 2020 was all about setting state and federal priorities for the year ahead and rounding out the executive committee and committee chair assignments.

Ben Adams of Douglas County, Marci Green of Spokane County and Anthony Smith of Benton County were appointed to the executive committee. In committee assignments:

- Ryan Poe of Grant County will chair the Budget Committee;
- Andy Juris of Yakima/Klickitat County will chair the Marketing Committee;
- Anthony Smith of Benton County will chair the Membership Committee;
- Marci Green of Spokane County and Ben Adams of Douglas County will chair the National Legislation Committee;
- Nicole Berg of Benton County and Larry Cochran of Whitman County will chair the Natural Resources Committee;
- Marci Green of Spokane County will chair the Public Information Committee;
- Jim Moyer of Columbia County will chair the Research Committee
- Howard McDonald of Douglas County will chair the State Legislation Committee; and
- Ryan Poe of Grant County will chair the Transportation Committee.

January was a very busy travel month for WAWG leaders and members, with advocacy trips to Olympia and Washington, D.C., on the schedule. Michelle Hennings, WAWG's executive director, presented the board with a list of state and federal priorities that growers will be talking about during the trips. After some discussion and reprioritizing, the priorities and talking points were approved. The state priorities include preserving the lower Snake River dams; working with the state's department of natural resources to provide accountability in their ag leases; opposing regulations that place an unfair burden on farmers, such as carbon regulations or a road usage charge; and enhancing short-line rail infrastructure. On



To see more about the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) top state and federal priorities, see pages 22 and 28 for a recap of Olympia Days and WAWG leaders' trip to Washington, D.C.

the federal side, WAWG's priorities include swift ratification of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) and full reauthorization of the federal Grain Standards Act; timely implementation of the 2018 Farm Bill; preserving the lower Snake River dams and immediate action regarding the Columbia River Treaty; and full funding for research programs. For more information on WAWG's priorities and a recap of the Olympia and Washington, D.C., trips, see pages 22 and 28.

Diana Carlen, WAWG's lobbyist, attended the meeting and provided a preview of the state's upcoming legislative session. She said two of the top issues legislators will be dealing with are homelessness and transportation. Thanks to passage of Initiative 976, the measure that lowers car tabs to \$30, the state is looking at a hit of more than \$400 million to its transportation budget. Projects that hadn't been started have been put on hold, while committee chairs begin looking for a way to, as Carlen said, "spread the pain" and prioritize those projects that have matching funding or are required due to safety concerns.

On carbon regulations, Carlen said the governor and the House are eager to pass a low carbon fuel standard while the Senate seems to be a little more cautious. There is also



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some talk around a tax based on miles driven that the ag lobby will be keeping an eye on.

Finally, Carlen talked briefly about the new director of the Washington State Department of Ecology, Laura Watson, who replaced Maia Bellon in December. Carlen said Watson has a similar background to Bellon.

Joe Bippert, program director for the Washington Grain Commission, gave the commission report. He said trade is looking good with the passage of the Japan trade deal. As of the first of the year, U.S. wheat is on equal footing with Australian and Canadian wheat. He also said progress on the USMCA looks positive, and he's cautiously optimistic on China. Bippert also touched on the situation regarding the lower Snake River dams. A federal draft environmental impact statement is expected to be released next month (see more on page 12).

Ben Thiel, director of the Risk Management Agency (RMA) Spokane regional office, was also at the meeting. He said progress on combining offices for the Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and RMA are moving along and should be com-

pleted in the next few months. Thiel reviewed RMA policies for new and beginning farmers, which now includes veterans, and answered grower questions about insuring crops planted on land coming out of the Conservation Reserve Program.

The next state board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 11. ■

Counties hold meetings to kick off new year

Three counties held wheat grower meetings last month to discuss county issues and Olympia Days.

Franklin County

A small group of Franklin County wheat growers met at Star School last month to talk about herbicide application requirements, research and how to get more growers involved in the group.

Todd Harris from the Franklin County Weed Board was

Klickitat county farmer joins WAWG state board

Mitchell Powers is the newest member of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) state board. He is the sixth generation on his family's dryland wheat farm and cattle ranch near Bickleton in Klickitat County.

Powers graduated from Washington State University with a degree in ag technology management. He returned to the farm shortly after graduation, something he wasn't originally planning on doing.

"The longer I was at college, the more I saw I wanted to be back on the farm," he explained. He particularly enjoys troubleshooting the issues that seem to be part and parcel of farming and exploring new ways of doing things. The family's farm was originally settled in 1880. They are 100 percent no till, a transition that started back in 1999.

Besides WAWG, Powers is also a volunteer on his local fire department and is on the school board. In his spare time, he enjoys riding UTVs and going to Cougar football games in the fall.

Powers said that while his parents have been members of WAWG, he wasn't too familiar with the organization before joining the board.

"I want to see how WAWG interacts with legislators because that's the most important part of what they do," he said, adding that it's important for younger farmers to get involved in advocating for the wheat industry. "As our country as a whole becomes less and less associated with agriculture, I think those in ag have to be good advocates for themselves and the industry." ■



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a guest speaker. He talked to growers about application requirements for the herbicide paraquat, including classes that growers will need to attend.

Growers also discussed the upcoming Washington Grain Commission Research Review where growers hear research proposals and vote on which ones should be funded.

All Franklin County wheat growers are invited to dinner at Michael Jay's Restaurant in Connell on Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. on the county group's dime. County President Leonard Van Buren said he hopes the offer of a free dinner will get more growers interested in being active in the county group. He also hopes to have a guest speaker at the dinner but is still working on details.

Spokane County

Spokane County wheat growers started the new year on a positive note by slipping in a county meeting prior to the snowy weather that socked Eastern Washington in early January. During the meeting, they discussed county issues, including the required documents to prove the county's open spaces qualifications, burn permitting and the need for farmer involvement on the county's growth and development board. Michelle Hennings, executive director of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG), and WAWG's lobbyist, Diana Carlen, were in attendance.

Hennings updated the growers on WAWG's recent activities including the upcoming Olympia Days trip and a trip to Washington, D.C. While in D.C., WAWG leaders will be visiting with the state's federal delegation and talking to them about trade, the lower Snake River Dams and farm bill implementation. Carlen previewed the state's 2020 Legislative Session, saying that homelessness and transportation are likely to be two of the biggest issues legislators will be dealing with this session. She added that carbon regulations, including a low carbon fuel standard, will also be a big issue as there's been some movement to impose regulations at a more local level.

Growers also heard a financial report from treasurer Debbie McGourin. She asked growers for suggestions on using more of their funds. Currently, the county offers several scholarships and helps fund farm fairs and AgForestry.

Finally, growers elected new officers for the coming year. Marci Green was elected president, replacing Jeff Entman. David DeGon will remain as vice president and McGourin as secretary/treasurer. The next Spokane County wheat growers meeting will be Feb. 13 at 6 p.m. at the Harvester in Spangle.

Whitman County

In Whitman County, growers compiled a list of issues they wanted to address during the upcoming trip to Olympia. That list included

- Preserving the lower Snake River dams;
- Preserving ag tax preferences;
- Opposing mandatory carbon regulations;
- Opposing any state mileage tax;
- Opposing title-only bills; and
- Opposing a state income tax.

Rep. Joe Schmick, the state representative for the area, was at the meeting to provide feedback.

Growers also discussed upcoming regional meetings on the lower Snake River dams that all growers were encouraged to attend, as well as how the fires in Australia could impact that country's upcoming wheat crop.

Washington State University Extension weed science professor Drew Lyon also attended the meeting to talk about weed resistance and what farmers can do to help. He gave a number of suggestions including:

- Rotating crops more, with a longer number of years between winter or spring wheat;
- Use glyphosate with a follow up of paraquat two weeks later;
- Mix and rotate herbicides and don't cut back on rates;
- Reduce row spacing and increase seeding rates; and
- Capture weed seeds at harvest. Lyon brought along a brochure that showed some of the methods farmers in Australia are using to do this. Those methods include pulling a chaff cart behind the combine; narrow windrow burning; baling the chaff; smashing weed seeds with impact mills on the back of a combine; and chaff lining, which is directing the chaff behind the combine into very small rows where weeds don't compete well after germinating.

Lyon finished up by saying that even a small amount of tillage from time to time is extremely beneficial. He also mentioned groups of farmers with the same resistance issues are now getting together to collectively see what they can do to prevent their weeds from spreading into neighboring land.

The next meeting of the Whitman County wheat growers is scheduled for Feb. 3 beginning at noon at Eddy's in Colfax, Wash. ■

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POLICY MATTERS

Growers urged to submit comments when EIS released

By Trista Crossley

We are less than two months into 2020, and it's already proven to be a busy year where the Columbia-Snake River System is concerned.

In January, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee's office finished accepting public comments on their draft report on the impacts of breaching the lower Snake River dams. And later this month, a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) on the operations, maintenance and configurations for 14 federal projects in the Columbia River System will be released.

In 2016, U.S. District Judge Michael Simon struck down the federal government's 2014 river system operating plan and ruled that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Bonneville Power Administration must redo it and consider dam removal as a way to bolster salmon numbers. When the draft EIS is released, the public will be able to comment on it, something that is crucial for every farmer in the region who relies on the river system to move their product to market, said **Tom Kammerzell**, port commissioner for the Port of Whitman County and a Whitman County wheat farmer.



"Agriculture is, at present, a complex system. It's going to get more complicated in the future, more expensive, and shipping costs will go up if we lose navigation on the river system," he said. "So everybody has to take a look at their own operation and see if they can bear the burden of that cost. If the answer is, as I suspect, no, then they need to take the opportunity to help influence present change. This is an opportunity for proactive action, and that doesn't come along all that often."

Kammerzell said the agencies responsible for the EIS have made it clear that how those comments are submitted will play a big part in how much weight they carry. He cautioned growers to avoid signing onto group form

letters and should instead submit personalized, individual comments. Form letters, no matter how many signatures they include, will only be counted once.

"If they (the agencies) get a form letter with 100 people signing the bottom, those people have wasted their time. That will be considered one letter. But if you write to the agencies and talk about how removing the dams is going to affect you, your letter will stand alone and will weigh as heavily as those 100," Kammerzell explained. "Farmers need to tell their story, every single person needs to tell their story."

The Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) is firmly opposed to breaching any of the dams along the Columbia-Snake River System. WAWG has partnered with other stakeholders to educate the public on why the dams are so important to growers and to the region's economy. One of those partners is the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association (PNWA), an organization that advocates for the region's waterways; Kammerzell is treasurer for the PNWA.

A study, commissioned by the PNWA and released last month (see page 16), estimates that removing the four lower Snake River dams would cost the U.S. more than \$2.3 billion over the next 30 years and put more than 1,100 farms in the region at risk of bankruptcy due to higher transportation costs.

"(Removing the dams) will be a game changer for sustainability in the future for farming in this area because I expect in these pressured times, where we don't have much margin, that this would be the stake in the heart for many farms," Kammerzell said.

Another potential cost of removing the dams that is often overlooked is the millions of private dollars that have been invested in infrastructure along the river. Many of those businesses have been built specifically to use the transportation opportunities the river offers and can't easily be relocated.

"All that money, all that time and that private investment will have been for naught. Who will make that right?" Kammerzell asked. "Who's going to pay to move the Almoda elevator? They have no other outlet. They are river focused. They will have no business (on the river) so will have to be relocated up on the rail line. Who is going to pay for that?" ▶



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ADVOCACY IN ACTION. While in Olympia meeting with legislators, wheat growers had an opportunity to testify during a House Rural Development, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee public hearing on HB 2498. (From left) Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) lobbyist Diana Carlen, WAWG President Ryan Poe and WAWG Past President Marci Green all testified in support of the bill, which would compensate growers if the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) terminates a lease early under their higher and better use clause. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Chris Corry (R-Yakima), was written with input from grower and cattle groups and with the support of DNR. Poe told legislators that he holds two DNR leases, one of which his family has had for about 50 years. He explained that the DNR land is an integral part of his operation, and due to the rising cost of equipment, he has to spread that cost over as many acres as possible. Although Green's operation doesn't currently include any DNR leases, much of their land is leased. She said that being able to count on those leases running through the end of their contract is an important part of any growers' business plan.

Kammerzell added that some of the suggestions he's heard from dam removal proponents are unrealistic.

"I've heard, can't you just make a longer chute down to the river? What would the point be because there's not to going to be any navigation? Everything that has been built along the river from the Tri-Cities up is a stranded asset, and somebody would have to make them whole, but that hasn't been talked about."

Even farmers who don't directly send their grain to the river will be im-

pacted if the dams are removed. Kammerzell pointed out that removing the dams will create upland pressure because without the river, all grain will have to move by rail or road, both of which are already at or above capacity.

Ryan Poe, WAWG president and a Grant County farmer, agrees that the dams are vital to his operation, even though he looks mostly to the rails to move his grain to market.

"Why are the lower Snake River dams important to me? Our state is very fortunate to have multiple modes of transportation available to move our products, a luxury most other states don't have," he said. "Having the option of barging allows us to keep rail and road rates in check through competition. That's important for my ability to make a living as a wheat farmer, especially when commodity prices are so low."

For more information on the EIS, visit nwd.usace.army.mil/CRSO/. When the draft EIS is released, farmers will be able to find a comment link at wawg.org.

"The sustainability of agriculture in our part of the world will come from the actions we take today. What we do today is going to affect what happens with our farms and agriculture for the next generations," Kammerzell said. ■

How are we doing?

Like something you read in *Wheat Life*? Disagree with something you read in *Wheat Life*? Let us know by emailing your comments and suggestions to editor@wawg.org or mail them to 109 East First Avenue, Ritzville, Wash., 99169-2394. Please keep submissions less than 350 words. Submissions may be edited for length. ■

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Study puts billion dollar price tag on dam removal impacts

From Pacific Northwest Waterways Association

The removal of four lower Snake River dams would cost the U.S. more than \$2.3 billion over the next 30 years, lead to significant additional carbon emissions that contribute to climate change and jeopardize health, safety and livelihoods in already economically fragile local and regional economies, according to an independent evaluation commissioned by the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association (PNWA).

The study was performed by financial and economic consultants FCS Group to assess several impacts that would result if barging on the Snake River is lost. Significant additional effects due to the loss of hydropower, irrigation and other authorized uses would also occur, but are not captured in this targeted report.

Carbon emissions equivalent to the cumulative emissions generated by a Boardman coal-fired power plant every five to six years would result. Breaching the Snake River dams would cause diesel fuel consumption to increase by nearly 5 million gallons per year as barges are replaced by less efficient truck-to-rail shipments. At least 201 additional unit trains and 23.8 million miles in additional trucking activity would be required annually, resulting in increases in CO₂ and other harmful emissions by more than 1.2 million tons per year.

Transportation and storage expense will likely increase 50 percent to 100 percent for grain suppliers and shippers. At the current reported “break even” cost per bushel of \$5 the transportation/storage cost is now approximately \$0.40 per bushel of wheat. These costs could increase by up to \$0.80 per bushel with barging removed as a transportation option.

If farm subsidies are not increased, more than 1,100 farms may be at risk of bankruptcy. Average regional net farm cash income was only \$42,825 in 2017. With wheat prices already down near the break-even point, the federal government would need to increase annual direct payments to farmers by up to \$38.8 million to maintain current income levels.

Highway, rail and grain elevator networks would need more than \$1.6 billion in capital investment. If barging were removed from the Snake River, new infrastructure or costly upgrades would be needed to accommodate the displaced cargo. This includes hundreds of miles of short-line rail track that have been abandoned, new rail, major highway improvements and retrofits for grain elevators that do not have rail-loading capabilities.

Essential health, sanitation and safety services would be jeopardized, along with other public services. Additional rail and truck traffic would also lead to corresponding increases in accidents and fatalities. As observed in the 1992 Snake River drawdown experiment, existing wastewater infrastructure is likely to be damaged or rendered useless if the river level drops, requiring new investments in water intakes, filtration and pumping/transmission systems for a number of cities, counties and major industrial businesses. Roadways, public docks and other infrastructure would also be damaged or rendered useless.

The impacts would be socially unjust and target fragile economies. The 10 counties most impacted by a dam-breaching scenario are primarily rural areas in which one in five people are already at or below the federal poverty level, and average wages are 25 percent below the national average. Dam breaching would have a negative regional economic impact on agriculture, manufacturing, transportation, warehousing and tourism businesses that are physically or functionally related to freight movement and river access.

“Dam breaching extremists talk about how easy and inexpensive it would be to compensate Washington, Oregon and Idaho businesses and residents if the lower Snake River dams were removed,” said PNWA Executive Director Kristin Meira. “We commissioned this study to show federal and state decision makers the real economic and environmental impacts on real people and communities that would result.”

The complete study is available on the PNWA website at pnwa.net/energy-salmon/.

PNWA is a nonprofit trade association of ports, businesses, public agencies and individuals who support navigation, energy, trade and economic development throughout the region. ■

Senate passes USMCA; president to sign agreement

Last month, the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) was passed by the U.S. Senate by a vote of 89 to 10 and was expected to be signed by President Trump within a few weeks. Across the wheat industry, organizations applauded the passage.

USMCA retains tariff-free access to imported U.S. wheat for those long-time flour milling customers in Mexico, a crucial step toward rebuilding trust in the U.S. as a reliable supplier in this important, neighboring market. In addition, the USMCA makes important progress towards more



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open commerce for U.S. wheat farmers near the Canadian border by allowing U.S. varieties registered in Canada to receive reciprocal grading treatment.

Other measures that benefit the wheat industry include the agreement's language around agricultural biotechnology which supports 21st century innovations in agriculture and new language to strengthen disciplines for science-based SPS measures.

At press time, Canada still needed to approve the agreement. ■

China Phase One deal signed

In mid-January, President Trump and Liu He, the Chinese vice premier who represented President Xi Jinping, signed Phase One of a China trade agreement.

In a press release, the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) and U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) said they were very encouraged by the signing, because Chinese imports of U.S. soft white, hard red spring and hard red winter wheat were trending up before abruptly ending when China implemented retaliatory tariffs on U.S. wheat and other ag commodities in March 2018.

"Even though China has huge domestic wheat stocks, they were buying more U.S. wheat because they needed it to meet growing demand for higher quality wheat foods," said Vince Peterson, president of USW, the organization funded by farmers and the U.S. government to promote wheat exports. "The losses we demonstrated soon after China stopped importing U.S. wheat have only grown since then, so we hope the agreement signals a potential turnaround."

"Wheat farmers have experienced the harm of unfair trading practices at the hands of China for far too long, as reinforced by the recent World Trade Organization (WTO) wins. This step forward in negotiations between the U.S. and China is a tremendous way to begin the new year," stated NAWG CEO Chandler Goule.

According to a fact sheet released by the Administration, since 2009, China has been one of the top four largest export markets in the world for U.S. food, agricultural and seafood products. While China represents a major market for U.S. agricultural exports, China's overly restrictive and burdensome import requirements have hampered the ability of U.S. farmers to compete on a level playing field.

The Phase One agreement addresses structural barriers to trade and will support a dramatic expansion of U.S. food, agriculture and seafood product exports, increase American farm and fishery income, generate more rural

Receiving your ALERT?

With their annual membership, Washington Association of Wheat Growers members can receive industry updates through the weekly digital Greensheet ALERT via email. If you are not receiving this ALERT, either we don't have your current email address, or our ALERT is going into your spam folder. Call our office at (509) 659-0610 to make sure we have your current email address. ■

economic activity and promote job growth.

Key outcomes of the Phase One agreement include:

- China will purchase and import on average at least \$40 billion of U.S. food, ag and seafood products annually over the next two years. Products will cover the full range of U.S. food, agricultural and seafood products. On top of that, China will strive to import an additional \$5 billion per year over the next two years.
- China has agreed to implement a transparent, predictable, efficient, science- and risk-based regulatory process for the evaluation and authorization of products of agricultural biotechnology. China's time frame for review and authorization for products for feed or further processing will be an average of 24 months. China has also agreed to certain administrative improvements in the application process and to certain steps to address situations of low-level presence.
- China has agreed to abide by its current WTO obligations on the transparency of its domestic support measures. Separate from this agreement, as part of a WTO dispute brought and won by the U.S., China previously agreed to comply with its WTO obligations on its domestic support for rice and wheat by March 31, 2020. The U.S. maintains the right to take actions related to that dispute.
- China has agreed to comply with its WTO obligations and to make specific improvements to its administration of wheat, corn and rice tariff-rate quotas (TRQs), including the allocation methodology, treatment of nonstate trading quota applicants and transparency. Separate from this agreement, as part of a WTO dispute brought and won by the U.S., China agreed to comply with its WTO obligations for the administration of TRQs for wheat, corn and rice by Dec. 31, 2019.
- The Phase One agreement streamlines and establishes timeframes for Chinese regulatory actions for meat, poultry, seafood, dairy, infant formula, rice, pota-

toes, nectarines, blueberries, avocados, barley, alfalfa pellets, hay, feed additives, distillers' dried grains (DDGs), distillers' dried grains with solubles (DDGS) and pet food. The parties agreed to not implement food safety regulations that are not science- and risk-based and shall only apply such regulations to the extent necessary to protect human life or health. In addition, recognizing the importance of ensuring that sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures are science-based, nondiscriminatory and account for re-

gional differences, the parties have agreed that China will improve SPS measures affecting a wide variety of products, which will facilitate exports of U.S. food and agricultural products to China.

- China has agreed to prohibit the unauthorized disclosure of undisclosed information, trade secrets or confidential business information by government personnel or third-party experts or advisors when such information is submitted to the central or subcentral levels of government. ■



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SURVEY RESULTS SHOW TRUST IN FARMERS WITH SOME RESERVATIONS

December was another busy month, with much of North By Northwest's (NXNW) staff time focused on preparing the Washington consumer survey report once all 500 responses were compiled. The respondents were largely the primary grocery shoppers in the household. They used the information from the report to target messaging in 2020.

Largely, survey results seem to indicate a general public trust in the farmer himself, but significantly less trust in the connected elements of farming, such as chemical use, food processors and agriculture companies, transportation, etc. NXNW believes that most or all of those are due to misinformation and therefore are prime opportunities to educate the public on why each part of the modern farming process is so important.

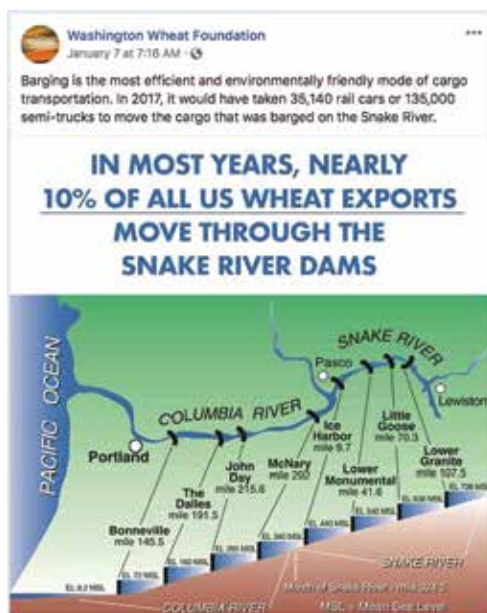
The vast majority (85 percent) of consumers say that they're concerned about climate change and have altered some of their food-buying habits accordingly. Our messaging should consistently show that farmers are, by and large, very conscientious about being good stewards of the land and are working hard to reduce our carbon footprint.

Some of the recommended actions include:

- Develop messaging to educate the public on the necessity of dams and barge transportation on the Columbia and Snake rivers.
- Develop messaging to educate the public on how farmers use chemicals safely and responsibly.
- Develop messaging to educate the public on how farmers are addressing climate change.
- Focus current messaging on Washington-grown wheat is non-GMO; Washington-grown wheat is a cost effective way to feed the family; and Washington-grown wheat is grown on family farms near you—support local farmers (large and small).

WHEAT FOUNDATION AUCTION RECAP

The Foundation greatly appreciates the generous donations to the 2019 auction at the Tri-State Grain Grower Convention in November, which brought in more than \$11,000. From gift baskets to fine wines and golf, spa and concert packages, there was something for everyone to bid on. Donations and those who bid on and purchase the items make it possible for us to support the educational programs and scholarships administered by the Foundation. ■



Calendar:

Washington Wheat Foundation Meeting **Feb. 3, 2020**, beginning at 1 p.m. at the Wheat Foundation Building in Ritzville, Wash.

Washington Wheat Foundation Meeting **June 1, 2020**, beginning at 1 p.m. at the Wheat Foundation Building in Ritzville, Wash.

Reminders:

- Remember the Foundation in your charitable giving. Go to wawheat.org to find out more about ways that you can support your industry.

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Olympia Days 2020

GROWER MEMBERS, INDUSTRY LEADERS TAKE PART IN ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE TRIP

What do you get when you give 30 plus growers and industry stakeholders only a day and a half to meet with 60 legislators and agency staff? A busy, but successful 2020 Olympia Days trip.

"Many times, legislators don't really understand the real world impacts that legislation can have on Eastern Washington producers and their ability to make a living growing a crop," said Michelle Hennings, executive director of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG). "By bringing those growers into legislators' offices, we can share those stories and put names and faces to the people who will likely bear the brunt of something like a low carbon fuel standard, removing the lower Snake River dams or a per-mile-driven tax. Our 2020 Olympia Days trip was a huge success, and we thank all the grower members who took part."

Besides meeting with legislators from both sides of the aisle, as well as top officials from the Washington Department of Agriculture, the Washington State Department of Ecology, the Washington State Department of Transportation and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), growers also testified during a public hearing on HB 2498, which would require DNR to compensate growers when terminating a lease early (see page 14). The 2020 Washington Wheat Ambassadors, Spencer Miller and Gunnar Aune, watched a Senate Rules Committee meeting and had lunch with Senate Minority Leader Mark Schoesler (R-Ritzville). The wheat growers also hosted an evening reception for legislators.

During their legislative visits, growers addressed WAWG's top issues, including preserving the lower Snake River dams, carbon regulations and transportation funding, especially for the short-line rails. Photos of the 2020 Olympia Days trip are on the following pages.

WAWG's top 2020 state legislative priorities are:

- **Preserving the lower Snake River dams.** The federal dams on the lower Snake River provide incredible benefits to the Pacific Northwest, including carbon-free hydro power generation; flood and erosion control; irrigated farming; recreation; and barge shipping. The dams make safe, efficient barge transportation possible, which is critical to the competitiveness of U.S. farmers and other shippers. According to an independent evaluation, the removal of the dams would cost the U.S. more than \$2.3 billion over the next 30 years, lead to significant additional carbon emissions that contribute to climate change and jeopardize health, safety and livelihoods in already economically fragile local and regional economies.
- **Providing accountability in DNR's ag lease program.** DNR ag leases contain a provision allowing DNR to unilaterally terminate a lease with only 180 days advance notice if DNR has a plan to generate higher rent for the property. To allow some assurances that land investments will be protected and realized, WAWG supports legislation sponsored by Rep. Chris Corry requiring fair compensation to farmers for the remainder of their lease term when DNR chooses to terminate an ag lease early.
- **Preserving Washington's economic competitiveness.** Carbon policies should ensure that Washington state retains its economic competitiveness and not

Thank you to all the growers, landlords and industry leaders who participated in the 2020 Olympia Days trip:

Ben Adams, Douglas County
Morgan Adams, Douglas County
Doug Anderson, Whitman County landlord
Gunnar Aune, 2020 wheat ambassador
Mark Booker, Adams County
Diana Carlen, WAWG lobbyist
Casey Cochrane, Franklin County
Gil Crosby, Spokane County
Trista Crossley, *Wheat Life* editor
Matt Doumit, WAWG lobbyist
Perry Dozier, Walla Walla County
Leslie Druffel, Whitman County
Marci Green, Spokane County
Michelle Hennings, WAWG executive director
Christi Janett, Lincoln County landlord
Jim Kent, Walla Walla County
Michele Kiesz, Adams County
Kevin Klein, Lincoln County
Howard McDonald, Douglas County
Spencer Miller, 2020 wheat ambassador
Jim Moyer, Columbia County
Mary Palmer Sullivan, WGC vice president
Ryan Poe, Grant County
Tracy Rush, Lincoln County
Wysteria Rush, Lincoln County
Jeff Shawver, Franklin County
Anthony Smith, Benton County
Chad Smith, Benton County
Glen Squires, WGC CEO
Danny Stone, Grant and Lincoln counties
Randy Suess, Whitman County
Jim White, Whitman County
Lori Williams, WAWG outreach coordinator

disadvantage Washington farmers. Carbon policies such as a low carbon fuel standard and a cap and trade program will raise fuel, fertilizer, transportation and processing costs. Farmers cannot pass these costs on. Any carbon policies should factor in the significant benefit that agricultural soils sequester and store carbon through sustainable farming practices.

- **Opposing road usage charges (miles traveled tax).** WAWG understands the need to replace lost gas tax revenues because of increasing fuel efficiency in modern vehicles. However, rural areas have fewer public transportation options and often have longer commute distances.
- **Enhancing short-line rail infrastructure.** Short-line railroads are an important part of how many Washington farmers get their products to market and are an essential piece of infrastructure for rural communities around the state. WAWG supports protecting commitments from the 2015 Connecting Washington revenue package including funding to rehabilitate and expand Washington's short-line rail system.
- **Protecting existing tax policy.** Retaining all food and farm-related tax incentives are critical to the agricul-

tural industry. Agriculture tax incentives are a valuable benefit to our economy and offer farmers a more level playing field with other major ag production states. Incentives are intended to be a long-term state investment into the agricultural industry.

- **Promoting broadband infrastructure.** Broadband has become a critical service for economic development, education and health care. WAWG supports expanding and improving internet connectivity (broadband) in rural, unserved and underserved areas. ■

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OLYMPIA DAYS



1. Rep. Mary Dye (R-Pomeroy), right. 2. Past Washington Association of Wheat Growers presidents abounded this trip. 3. Rep. Andrew Barkis (R-Lacey), second from right. 4. Rep. Debra Lekanoff (D-Bow), standing. 5. Sen. Brad Hawkins (R-East Wenatchee), second from left. 6. Rep. Jeremie Dufault (R-Selah), center. 7. Washington State Department of Agriculture Director Derek Sandison, center.



1. Rep. Chris Corry (R-Yakima), right. 2. Sen. Ron Muzzall (R-Oak Harbor), second from right. 3. Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz, center. 4. Rep. William Jenkin (R-Prosser), right. 5. Rep. Mike Chapman (D-Port Angeles), left. 6. Rep. Joe Schmick (R-Colfax), center. 7. 2020 Washington Wheat ambassadors Spencer Miller (left) and Gunnar Aune.



OLYMPIA DAYS

OLYMPIA DAYS



1



2



7



3



6



4



5

1. Washington State Department of Ecology Director Laura Watson, in red.
2. Rep. Tom Dent (R-Moses Lake), right. 3. Senate Minority Leader Mark Schoesler (R-Ritzville), right. 4. Rep. Eric Pettigrew (D-Seattle), left. 5. Rep. Amy Walen (D-Kirkland), center. 6. Senate Rules Committee meeting. 7. Sen. Jim Honeyford (R-), center.



1. Krista Winters, Senior Executive Assistant to Sen. Mark Schoesler, second from left, and Philip Garcia, Washington State Department of Agriculture, right. 2. Rep. Brian Blake (D-Longview), right. 3. Rep. Keith Goehner (R-Dryden), left. 4. Sen. Maureen Walsh (R-Walla Walla), second from left. 5. Rep. Alex Ybarra (R-Quincy), left. 6. Sen. Christine Rolfes (D-Bainbridge Island), right. 7. Washington State Department of Ecology's Heather Bartlett, left, and Ben Rau, right. 8. Sen. Dean Takko (D-Longview), left.



OLYMPIA DAYS

Right place, right time

TRADE HAS A BIG MOMENT WHILE WAWG LEADERS ADVOCATE IN WASHINGTON, DC

Sometimes you find yourself in the right place at the right time. So it was for officers and leaders of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG), whose first major advocacy trip to Washington, D.C., in 2020 coincided with critical developments in trade, one of the group's top priorities.

"We happened to be in Washington, D.C., the same week that Phase One of the China trade deal was signed and the Senate passed the USMCA (U.S.-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement). Both of these trade agreements are major accomplishments that will help bolster the U.S. wheat market," said Ryan Poe, WAWG president and a farmer from Grant County. "We were able to personally thank members of our congressional delegation for recognizing how important trade is to our industry and for their support in getting these agreements across the finish line."

For more information on USMCA and Phase One of the China trade deal, see page 16.

Other priorities for the trip included:

- Supporting the 2020 full reauthorization of the federal Grain Standards Act. WAWG supports the official grain inspection system and the reauthorization needed to continue the unbiased inspection and smooth export of grain. WAWG also supports recognizing the Washington State Department of Agriculture as the delegated authority to conduct federal grain inspections in Washington state.
- Supporting timely implementation of the 2018 Farm Bill by the



Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) leaders spent a week in January meeting with the state's federal delegation and taking part in the national organization's winter conference. From left are Howard McDonald, WAWG vice president; Jeffrey Shawver, WAWG past president; Ryan Poe, WAWG president; Michelle Hennings, WAWG executive director; Andy Juris, WAWG secretary/treasurer; and Marci Green, co-chair of the WAWG National Legislation Committee.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), which will allow for more certainty for farmers to budget for possible payments (or lack of) under the farm bill's commodity programs, as well as allowing for certainty on how conservation programs will be implemented.

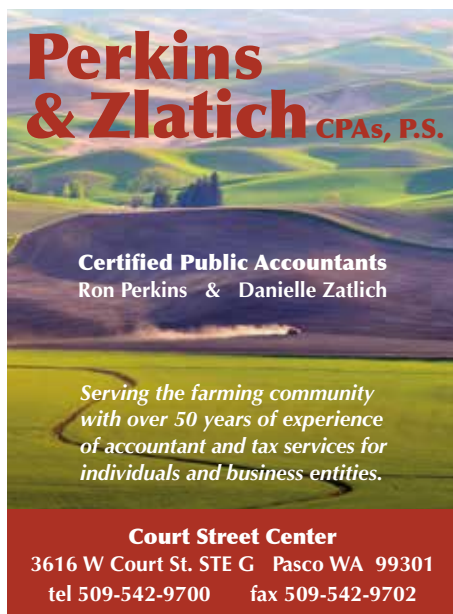
- Supporting keeping the lower Snake River dams intact as they are vital to Washington and the nation's ag economy and transportation infrastructure. According to an independent evaluation, the removal of the four lower Snake River dams would cost the U.S. more than \$2.3 billion over the next 30 years; lead to significant additional carbon emissions that contribute to climate change; and jeopardize health, safety and livelihoods in already economically fragile local and regional economies. WAWG also supports funding for maintaining the Columbia River System.
- Supporting immediate action regarding the Columbia River Treaty, which protects the viability of U.S. navigation, hydropower, irrigation and flood control.
- Supporting funding to maintain and improve Washington road, river and rail systems.
- Evaluating changes to conservation programs within the 2018 Farm Bill, especially concerning the amount of acreage coming out of critical land stewardship programs.
- Supporting FY2021 funding for USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) salaries and expenses at or above FY2020 levels and that also cover any mandated pay cost increases. Additionally, all USDA ARS and National Institute of Food and Agriculture vacancies should be filled to help ensure that USDA meets their congressional directive.

The group met with almost every member of the state's federal delegation or their legislative aides. They also met with officials at the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the agency responsible for maintaining the Columbia-Snake River System), the Farm Service Agency, the Risk Management Agency and the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Leaders and staff of the Washington Grain Commission also took part in the meetings.

While advocacy on The Hill was a major part of this trip, WAWG officers also took part in the National Association of Wheat Growers' (NAWG) winter conference to help set national policy and direction for the coming year.

"NAWG is an invaluable resource for helping address many of the federal-level issues Washington wheat farmers face," said Michelle Hennings, executive director of WAWG. "They have a talented, dedicated staff that has spent countless hours cultivating relationships in Congress and USDA and making sure the wheat industry has a seat at the table when it comes to ag-related legislation." ■



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Washington Association of Wheat Growers leaders advocated for farmers' conservation needs during a meeting with Astor Boozer (right), Natural Resources Conservation Service's regional conservationist for the West Region. The group also discussed 2018 Farm Bill changes in conservation programs.



Washington state wheat industry leaders took their support of the lower Snake River dams all the way to Washington, D.C., where they met with representatives of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to discuss the important role the dams play in the Pacific Northwest.



Amanda Wyma-Bradley (second from right), a legislative aide for Rep. Adam Smith, met with wheat growers to hear about industry concerns.



Wheat growers met with Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (center) and thanked her for all her support on preserving the lower Snake River dams. The group also discussed trade and conservation programs.



(Above) Rep. Derek Kilmer (third from right) is chair of the New Democrat Coalition, a group committed to pro-economic growth, pro-innovation and fiscally responsible policies, which supported passage of the USMCA. (Left) Rep. Dan Newhouse (third from left) has been a tireless supporter of the lower Snake River dams and advocated for quick implementation of the 2018 Farm Bill.



In a meeting with Hubert Hamer (right), administrator of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), and other NASS officials, wheat growers discussed grower surveys and how data is gathered and used.



Howard McDonald (left), vice president of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers, was part of the group that met with Samuel Wilcoxson, a legislative aide for Rep. Rick Larsen.



Wheat growers met with Sen. Patty Murray (front) and members of her staff and thanked them for all their work on trade, Conservation Reserve Program issues and the lower Snake River dams.



The Washington wheat group thanked congressional staffers for their help addressing the state's wheat industry concerns during a dinner at a local restaurant.



Ben Bruns, a legislative aide for Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler, discussed wheat industry issues with the group.



Legislative aides for Sen. Maria Cantwell, Jonathan Hale and Megan Thompson (left), listened to wheat growers' concerns.

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WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION

By Gary Bailey



Not many people outside of the wheat industry leadership and a handful of government officials know that we dodged a bullet given the outcome from the last discovery of genetically engineered wheat plants found growing in a field in Washington. But I'm here to tell you—we dodged a bullet.

Behind the scenes, there was a great deal of back and forth among our major customers and U.S. government officials. As you might imagine, nobody likes being told something won't happen again, only to find it has happened again. It was nip and tuck there for a moment.

I typically believe that involving government is not the solution. But in this case, officials at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) were instrumental helping us dodge the bullet through transparent government-to-government communication. I was especially grateful to Bernadette Juarez, deputy administrator of APHIS's Biotechnology Regulatory Services, for the wisdom, guidance and firm hand she brought to the process.

I think every wheat farmer knows that GE wheat has been found several times in the Northwest. The first time, in 2013, it was discovered in Oregon. The second time, in 2014, it was found in Montana. The third (2016) and fourth times (2019) it was found in fallow fields in Washington. There's also been a find in southern Alberta in Canada.

How the GE wheat has shown up, 15 years after Monsanto announced it was abandoning its Roundup Ready wheat project, is anybody's guess. We may never know, and I'm okay with that, if we can accomplish the things that make it unlikely to ever happen again.

Washington State University has played a key role in the response to the GE wheat discoveries. After the first Oregon event in 2013, the university began spraying the borders and alleyways in the variety testing plots with Roundup, checking all wheat varieties in the trials for the GE trait. This year, the Washington State Crop Improvement Association, at the direction of the Washington State Department of Agriculture, began testing all wheat inventory. No GE wheat has been found in the testing trials or the seed supply, ruling out at least one potential avenue of contamination.

Which brings me to Washington State University's set of best management practices (BMP) intended to address herbicide resistant weeds and volunteer wheat. At a

Washington Grain Commission meeting and again at the Tri-State Grain Commission meeting held during the Tri-State Grain Growers Convention last November, Juarez emphasized the need for growers to monitor their fields to ensure they are clean, not just of herbicide-resistant weeds, some of which are now resistant to glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, but also to any suspect volunteer wheat.

I know that when it comes to the most pressing issues facing wheat farmers in the Pacific Northwest, mitigating GE wheat discoveries probably doesn't even make the list. Before I became educated about the larger world of wheat challenges, I would have said prices were my biggest worry. Of course, they still are, but another GE wheat discovery could give our customers a reason not to buy from us. Yes, it's that serious.

To date, all GE grains have been discovered in fallow fields and not in the supply chain. Although it's unknown exactly how countries would react if GE wheat was found in the supply chain, I fear it would disrupt our markets. The market disruption would likely filter throughout all countries that will not buy GMO wheat. The Japanese and Koreans have been testing each load of wheat for the GE markers with tests that Monsanto supplied after the 2013 event.

As frequently happens in agriculture, a problem that was not of farmers' making is suddenly a problem we are supposed to solve. I'm not happy about that, but we do have tools at our disposal to address herbicide-resistant weeds. With persistence, we can make great strides in solving herbicide resistance, particularly when it comes to volunteer wheat. As farmers, if we don't aggressively address glyphosate-resistant volunteer wheat, we risk losing markets.

Thanks to fast intervention and tolerant customers, we dodged a bullet in 2019, but there is no guarantee we can expect similar treatment in the future. We have no alternative but to redouble our efforts to monitor fields for unusual sightings and utilize the very best practices to solve the problem—including following the information on the BMP placard you'll find in the following WGC section. Please tear it out and hang it on the wall of your shop as a constant reminder of the stakes we face.

This is a serious challenge, but by bringing our awareness to it and adhering to the BMPs, we can eradicate both a very important trading issue and an agronomic obstacle. ■

REVIEW

WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION



Three down, one to go

Three studies that purport to judge the wisdom of breaching the four lower Snake River dams (LSRD) have been published in recent months, with the fourth and arguably most important scheduled for release this month (February).

The Columbia River Systems Operation Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), a requirement of a ruling by Portland District Judge Michael Simon in 2016, has the potential to be the most far reaching. As part of striking down the 2014 Biological Opinion, under which federal agencies operate the Columbia River hydropower system, Simon gave direction to evaluate dam breaching among alternatives as part of restoring salmon populations.

In advance of the federal EIS report, a report commissioned by Washington Gov. Jay Inslee was released Dec. 20, 2019. The draft was funded by a \$750,000 state appropriation to gather information for the governor as he prepared to submit comments regarding the EIS. While the EIS is looking at four different alternatives to operate the river system, the governor's report focused only on questions of breaching versus maintaining the status quo. Called the Lower Snake River Stakeholder Engagement Draft Report, the 113-page paper (with footnotes) lays out the perspectives of individuals on both sides of the issue. Without picking sides, the study illuminated the challenges that would result from implementation of the breaching option. In summing up its findings, the report concluded that "there are significantly different views of the impacts from breaching the dams on salmon, orca, agriculture, transportation and economics." The investigation was broken down into those categories starting with the LSRD/salmon/orca connection.

One study cited in the governor's report estimated that breaching the dams would result in a four-fold increase in smolt to adult salmon. But yet another study cited in the paper stated that while Snake River spring and summer chinook stocks are among the top 10 most important food sources for orcas, they are "a lower priority than north and south Puget Sound salmon stocks because the southern residents foraging patterns do not overlap as much with Columbia and Snake river salmon as they do with the north and south Puget Sound salmon."

This was a particularly telling point for Glen Squires, CEO of the Washington Grain Commission. "The dam breaching community's focus on the lower Snake River dams is like the magician who distracts his audience to perform an illusion. The challenge to the orca's diet begins in the Puget Sound, and that is where the state should direct its energies," he said.

The governor's report briefly addressed hatchery stocks, noting that hatchery releases have declined in recent years due to funding not keeping pace with operational expenses. In fact, during the 1979 to 1982 time frame, hatchery-raised Chinook salmon released into the system grew from 50 million to 80 million in 1989. Is it coincidence that the number of orcas peaked in 1995, closely corresponding with the record numbers of hatchery fish returning from their years-long ocean sojourn?

Hatchery releases have since declined to half of the 1989 number, reduced not just because of funding, but also complicated, as the governor's report puts it, by "concerns about interactions between wild and hatchery fish" resulting in a potential to reduce genetic diversity.

When it came to comments from those who support breaching, the answer to most drawbacks anticipated by farmers is to offset them with government subsidies. According

to the report, proponents of breaching do not want farmers to “suffer significant economic losses if the dams are breached,” suggesting funding to offset the cost of lowering irrigation pumps and wells, subsidizing the increased cost of energy required to pump water, subsidizing farmers for increased transportation costs and building or upgrading infrastructure for storage and transportation.

Another recent report, this one funded by the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association (PNWA) and conducted by the FCS GROUP, estimates the cost of breaching the LSRD at \$2.3 billion over the next 30 years including:

- Construction cost of dam breaching;
- Truck and rail costs;
- Increased river dredging costs;
- Rail safety/accidents;
- Replacement of hydropower;
- Water supply and wastewater treatment upgrades;
- Irrigation;
- Revenue loss at Clarkson and Lewiston ports; and
- Regional economic dislocation costs.

That \$2.3 billion figure does not take into consideration increases in grain transportation costs, which the PNWA study estimated would rise from 40 cents a bushel to 60 to 80 cents a bushel. This potential doubling of transportation costs would require the federal government to increase annual direct payments to farmers by up to \$38.8 million to keep operations at current levels of net cash income, with the report warning, “If farm subsidies are not increased, devastating economic impacts could result as over 1,100 farms may be at risk of bankruptcy.”

The third published study comes from ECONorthwest, funded by Vulcan Inc., a company founded by now-deceased Microsoft co-founder, Paul Allen. It came out strongly in favor of dam breaching, arguing that “nonuse values” favor the alternative. Nonuse is a controversial way of measuring the extent to which the public appreciates a restored natural river system. The ECONorthwest study estimated benefits of breaching the dams at more than \$8 billion over the cost of removing the dams based on these public values. River users called the figure a “pie in the sky number environmentalists use when all else fails.”

The Washington wheat industry continues to support the multiuse river system and maintains its strong opposition to breaching dams. ■



Hip, hip, hoorah!

The Washington Grain Commission (WGC) recognized office staff for a combined 55 years of service at a recent meeting. Gary Bailey presented (from left) Sheila McCrea, Parker Dawson and Shari McCarthy with plaques recognizing them for their exemplary service to the wheat industry. McCrea, finance and administrative specialist, has worked for the WGC for 30 years; Dawson, systems and data processing specialist, for 15 years; and McCarthy, receptionist and account specialist, for 10 years. Bailey praised the trio for their efforts as the staff who work behind the scenes to ensure the success of the state's wheat farmers. ■

Early bird gets the quality

Eastern Washington may be known for its soft white wheat, which comprises more than 80 percent of the state's production, but hard red winter and hard red spring wheat are both grown here as well. That's why Glen Squires, CEO of the Washington Grain Commission, attends the Plains Grain board meeting each year. Held in Denver in December, the organization has wrestled with hard red winter (HRW) quality, but is seeing improvement. One HRW variety released several years ago was so bad that some mills refused to buy it. Thanks to the Pacific Northwest's (PNW) quality conscious Asian buyers, Washington, Oregon and Idaho have published a Preferred Wheat Variety Quality Brochure for many years. That is not the case in the Midwest, but there is discussion on how to facilitate a preferred variety list for the region. Other suggestions for enhancing quality parameters were to invite overseas buyers to participate in Wheat Quality Council (WQC) meetings. The PNW WQC began inviting overseas buyers to their meetings about 10 years ago. According to Squires, the PNW continues to excel in producing high quality varieties of all classes. In fact, although the percentage of hard red from the Pacific Northwest is small, its quality is high enough to improve the overall average of the U.S. crop at export locations. ■

Breeders soak up overseas experiences

By Mike Pumphrey

One of the best things about working in agriculture is seeing the fruits (or seeds) of my labor turn into products people enjoy and rely on for nutrition. Watching people eat foods baked from wheat that I've had a hand in creating gives me enormous satisfaction.

And yet, because all but around 10 percent of the wheat produced in Eastern Washington is sent overseas, I rarely have that experience, except when I see international customers, thanks to the Washington Grain Commission (WGC) and U.S. Wheat Associates (USW), which organize overseas trips that often include wheat breeders.

Washington State University (WSU) winter wheat breeder Arron Carter was in South America a few times in 2019, Agriculture Research Service scientist and club breeder Kim Campbell was in Japan in 2018, and I had the opportunity to travel to Thailand in 2017. As important as breeder interactions with trade teams that come to the U.S. are, traveling to the countries these teams represent is also critical.

Each time breeders participate in one of these overseas, customer-focused events, we return with knowledge that would have been impossible to gain otherwise. As I was part of a USW-organized Japan Buyers Conference in November 2019, I thought it appropriate to reflect here on what these overseas experiences mean to those of us making the first wheat crosses.



When spring wheat breeder Mike Pumphrey isn't traveling overseas as part of learning how to better breed wheat for customers, you can find him at any number of field days held as part of Washington State University's Variety Testing Program.

I often see a disconnect between the scientists developing wheat varieties and those who are actually buying and consuming our grains. That divide can be extended to include others along the grain chain, from seedmen and farmers to input dealers, marketers and exporters. The bottom line is this: All of us need to strive to be better informed about market preferences.

With a surplus of wheat on the world market, we must continue to maintain a quality-based market. That starts with educating ourselves and investing in developing and delivering good information. Certainly, each time I participate in a customer-focused event, I learn something which changes the way I do my job.

In the U.S. and in many of our major wheat markets, less than 5 percent of the population is engaged in agricultural professions and a fraction of that number in the wheat supply chain. The average person in almost every country in the world moves farther from food production, or raw food ingredients, almost every year. As a result, we need to better communicate with our customers on science, production and processing issues.

Clearly communicating basic crop production practices, the biology of wheat and the technologies available and how they work is very important for the future of the industry. Almost every Asian trade team that visits us in the Palouse wants to discuss genetically modified organisms, falling numbers and emerging gene editing techniques.

These same questions are asked when we travel abroad for market develop-

ment and customer support events. They are not simple subjects, but the value in our exchanges is two way. As breeders, we learn how to perform our jobs better, while our customers are alerted to technical information that will benefit them. Connecting with your customers' issues and concerns is an important part of any business.

As a wheat breeder, I'm often reminded we have many customers and stakeholders to consider. Direct relationships with other researchers, extension agents, seed dealers, crop consultants, farmers, cooperatives, milling and baking companies, grain traders, federal agencies and even specific international customers must be maintained to ensure consistent supply and demand for a high-quality, suitable product. Far from being overwhelmed, I feel fortunate that I am connected to so many parts of the production and supply chain, from research to overseas customers' tables.

I appreciate the way the WGC and USW proactively discuss industry challenges and continue to enlist technical experts to inform and work with our customers directly. With gene editing techniques specifically, the conversations need to become more frequent, as the technology will be a major force in the industry looking forward.

At the Japan Buyers Conference in November, ag economics professor William Wilson from North Dakota State University highlighted how venture capital investment in gene editing is experiencing a major boom with more money available than good projects to invest in. Preparing the market for the flood of new products is paramount, and I believe the first step toward that goal is talking about how they are made.

In meetings with the Japan Flour Millers Association and Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries officials, I learned that the Japanese government has already framed their basic policies on gene-edited crops and how various agencies will coordinate their imports and regulation. This type of information needs to be discussed and shared with other countries, among plant breeders and within the entire wheat industry.

In the Pacific Northwest, we are primarily a high-quality commodity market, but there is increasing demand for differentiated grain products, which new technologies will develop. Advanced breeding techniques such as genomics-enabled mutation screening, genomic selection approaches, large-scale doubled haploid production, not to mention gene editing, will continue to accelerate the rate that novel traits can be developed and deployed in commercial varieties. As a result, we will see more rapid development of varieties with distinctive production traits and end-use properties.

Although Japan appears open to commercialization of gene-edited products, the standards for production and use of gene-edited crops in other countries are likely to be variable and subjective. This is a complex challenge for our internationally traded commodity, and we must work together to get ahead of the deluge of products that are coming.

Milling and baking companies from both domestic and international markets regularly express interest in distinct, exclusive or specialty wheat functionality. Here, I'm talking about varieties that have been developed to be full waxy, higher in fiber or with reduced gluten. Soft durum is another trait that can be exploited in identity-preserved markets.

All of these traits plus others will accelerate as more advance breeding methods come online, providing both an opportunity and challenge for our traditional commodity market streams. With varieties and traits being introduced more rapidly than in the past, industry diligence cannot flag. A specialty grain that ends up in the wrong supply chain can have profound consequences for the farmer, the marketer, the exporter and the customer.

By and large, the message I received from customers in Japan and across Asia is that they really like Pacific Northwest (PNW) wheat and don't want us to change the status quo too much. We've heard the same message from South America and our small domestic market. As a result, we have been careful to maintain a balance between dough elasticity and extensibility in our keystone soft white wheat germplasm, the traits that makes PNW soft white so useful in so many different products.

Club wheat adds another tool to optimize functionality for Asian customers that purchase the Western White Wheat class, an 80 percent soft white, 20 percent club blend. But disruptive changes in the overall quality of our wheat varieties should be of concern, as new traits often come in less-than-perfect packages as variety developers rush to capture market share and return on investment.

Washington wheat growers and the Washington Grain Commission have, over a 60-year history, traveled the world listening to customer needs as they marketed high quality Northwest wheat. Returning home, they have leveraged the feedback they've received by supporting research that strengthens the industry and improves end-use quality.

Wheat breeders are arguably the first link in what is a complicated grain chain, but by working together with every other link, I believe we can rest assured the fruits of our labors will always be sweet. ■

In with the new: An update from the WSU variety testing program

By Clark Neely

The 2019 season was a transition year for the Washington State University (WSU) Variety Testing Program (VTP) as I took over the program's reins in August following a two-year period during which Extension agronomist Aaron Esser helmed the effort following the resignation of Ryan Higginbotham.

This past summer and fall have been both challenging and rewarding as I learn more about the VTP and the growing environments in Washington. Needless to say, the contrast between wheat production in Texas, where I was previously employed by Texas A&M University, and here, is astounding.

I need to thank Aaron for keeping the program running smoothly during the past two seasons and for his assistance during the transition into my new position. I also want to thank the VTP crew, Andrew Horton and Josh DeMacon, for all their hard work during the year. DeMacon has been assigned to the VTP temporarily while a replacement for the former lead technician can be hired. Vadim Jitkov was the former lead technician. He now works for the spring wheat breeding program but has continued to assist the VTP in data analysis while his replacement is identified.

In 2019, the VTP had 18 spring wheat nurseries across five precipitation zones. Looking at the long-term averages for each site, yields were down roughly six bushels an acre in the less-than-12-inch rainfall zone and the more-than-20-inch rainfall zone. But yields were up six bushels an acre in the 12-to-16-inch zone as well as the 16-to-20-inch zone.

Planting was significantly delayed in many cases this spring due to excessive rainfall. This pushed maturity later into the fall, which was accompanied by an unseasonably wet August and September, delaying harvest approximately three weeks, which led to reduced quality in some fields.

VTP entries included submissions from two land-grant university breeding programs; the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA); and five private companies. The soft white spring trials in 2019 consisted of 16 commercial varieties, two of which were club wheats, combined with five experimental soft whites and two experimental club wheats. The hard spring wheat trial included 20 commercial



Table 1. 2019 WSU Extension Spring Wheat

Precipitation Zone=Irrigated							
VARIETY		MOSES LAKE	PASCO	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG. YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE PROTEIN
SOFT WHITE	---Yield (Bu/A)---				Lb/Bu	%	
	Tekoa	154	158	156	136	63.9	12.3
	WB6341	146	154	150	140	63.0	11.4
	Melba ¹	151	140	146	126	62.3	11.4
	YS-603	140	146	143	128	63.2	12.3
	WB6121	135	146	141	126	63.6	13.3
	WB-1035CL+	128	147	137	--	62.5	13.8
	AP Mondovi CL2	137	130	133	--	61.5	13.7
	SY Saltese	143	122	132	117	62.0	12.8
	Whit	138	125	131	120	61.3	13.2
	Ryan +Zn	133	127	130	--	60.4	12.7
	AP Coachman	133	113	123	--	60.8	11.1
	Seahawk	134	111	123	116	62.9	13.0
	Ryan	122	115	119	116	60.5	12.7
	USDA Lori	133	103	118	--	60.5	13.3
	Louise	128	107	117	110	61.3	12.5
	Diva	123	101	112	--	60.9	12.8
	JD ¹	117	106	112	--	61.3	13.5
	C.V. %	5	7	6	6	2	2
	LSD (0.05)	10	13	8	5	0.9	0.2
Average	137	128	133	124	62.0	12.8	
HARD RED SPRING	---Yield (Bu/A)---				Lb/Bu	%	
	Dayn ²	141	160	151	136	63.5	14.3
	SY Basalt	142	148	145	131	62.3	14.1
	SY Gunsight	142	144	143	132	62.8	13.9
	WB7202CLP	140	145	142	--	63.5	13.5
	AP Octane	141	143	142	131	62.7	13.9
	AP Renegade	138	146	142	127	62.8	13.8
	SY Coho	133	147	140	126	61.4	15.2
	AP Venom	137	137	137	--	62.2	14.6
	LCS Iron	133	137	135	126	62.7	14.2
	WB9717	132	138	135	123	64.0	14.2
	WB9668	128	137	133	120	63.7	15.5
	AP Kimber CL2	131	132	132	--	62.6	14.9
	WB9662	127	137	132	118	63.3	15.8
	Kelse	128	127	127	--	62.7	15.3
	LCS Luna	125	128	126	113	62.9	13.9
	LCS Buck Pronto	116	131	123	115	62.7	15.9
	Alum	131	113	122	113	62.1	15.2
	Salzburg ³	117	127	122	--	61.5	15.4
	SY Selway	122	120	121	--	61.3	14.7
	Net CL+ WA 8280 CL+)	128	105	117	113	62.2	15.1
	YS-801	102	129	115	--	63.5	16.0
	Glee	115	106	111	113	62.1	14.9
	SY605 CL	99	113	106	--	63.1	17.2
	Chet	105	101	103	--	62.6	16.4
	C.V. %	6	6	6	6	1	2
	LSD (0.05)	10	10	7	5	0.6	0.3
Average	127	128	128	121	62.7	14.8	

at Variety Trial Summary

Precipitation Zone=>20"									
VARIETY	FAIRFIELD	FARMINGTON	PALOUSE	PULLMAN	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG. YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE PROTEIN	
	-----Yield (Bu/A)-----				Lb/Bu	%			
Seahawk	64	77	98	71	78	83	59.0	9.0	
Tekoa	61	78	97	64	75	84	59.8	8.7	
Ryan	64	75	91	68	75	83	58.3	8.8	
WB6341	58	79	94	64	74	77	58.3	8.1	
Whit	63	72	94	64	73	78	58.4	8.7	
Ryan +Zn	60	74	90	66	72	--	58.1	8.9	
AP Coachman	56	72	90	61	70	77	58.5	8.7	
Louise	60	62	94	53	67	76	58.5	8.8	
Melba ¹	42	73	95	57	67	76	58.3	8.5	
Diva	60	61	89	50	65	74	58.6	9.1	
AP Mondovi CL2	49	67	82	62	65	74	59.2	10.0	
WB6121	60	64	80	55	65	73	60.3	9.9	
YS-603	43	64	89	61	64	--	58.8	9.6	
WB-1035CL+	56	68	78	50	63	65	58.5	9.8	
JD ¹	55	58	84	48	61	73	59.0	9.5	
SY Saltese	45	57	88	48	60	67	58.9	8.9	
USDA Lori	46	58	80	50	58	--	57.4	9.2	
C.V. %	12	6	4	6	7	6	1	6	
LSD (0.05)	9	6	5	5	3	2	0.5	0.4	
Average	55	69	89	59	68	76	58.9	9.1	
	-----Yield (Bu/A)-----				Lb/Bu	%			
Dayn ²	--	68	90	74	77	84	59.6	10.1	
AP Renegade	--	67	86	68	74	80	58.6	10.2	
WB7202CLP	--	65	85	65	71	79	59.1	10.2	
Glee	--	71	76	66	71	79	59.6	10.3	
LCS Luna	--	59	82	66	69	77	59.7	11.3	
WB9717	--	59	80	65	68	75	59.3	10.4	
Alum	--	58	78	65	67	74	59.7	10.6	
Chet	--	62	78	59	66	74	60.4	10.9	
LCS Iron	--	58	82	60	66	75	58.3	10.4	
SY Coho	--	60	80	58	66	75	57.6	10.8	
Net CL+	--	59	79	61	66	73	60.5	10.9	
SY Gunsight	--	59	81	58	66	75	58.3	10.2	
Kelse	--	63	71	60	65	69	60.0	11.2	
AP Kimber CL2	--	62	76	53	64	70	59.2	10.2	
SY Selway	--	59	71	59	63	70	59.5	10.6	
LCS Buck Pronto	--	54	75	60	63	73	58.7	11.5	
WB9668	--	59	69	56	61	68	59.1	12.1	
YS-801	--	55	74	54	61	--	59.0	10.9	
Salzburg ³	--	56	63	52	57	--	57.8	10.8	
WB9662	--	47	67	51	55	63	57.7	12.0	
SY605 CL	--	46	69	49	55	61	60.1	11.2	
C.V. %	--	7	5	6	6	7	1	3	
LSD (0.05)	--	6	5	5	3	3	0.6	0.3	
Average	--	60	77	61	66	75	59.4	10.8	

Precipitation Zone=16-20"									
VARIETY	DAYTON	MAYVIEW	PLAZA	ST. JOHN	WALLA WALLA	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG. YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE PROTEIN
	-----Yield (Bu/A)-----				Lb/Bu	%			
Diva	52	66	109	73	90	78	76	61.8	10.2
Tekoa	59	65	109	72	83	78	78	63.0	9.8
AP Coachman	61	69	103	74	81	77	79	60.5	9.8
Ryan +Zn	60	63	103	74	84	77	--	61.3	10.2
Louise	47	63	110	79	82	76	78	61.6	9.9
WB6341	59	68	96	77	81	76	78	61.7	9.5
Ryan	59	58	108	69	84	76	76	61.5	10.1
Seahawk	56	62	108	72	80	76	77	61.7	10.0
Whit	57	62	101	71	79	74	72	61.4	10.0
SY Saltese	53	63	105	77	72	74	76	61.7	9.8
Melba ¹	58	68	102	76	61	73	74	61.7	9.8
AP Mondovi CL2	48	54	101	66	74	69	68	61.3	11.4
WB6121	52	56	101	63	68	68	69	62.6	11.3
YS-603	56	58	97	66	54	66	69	61.7	10.8
WB-1035CL+	51	57	83	68	71	66	66	60.9	11.1
JD ¹	55	58	91	68	57	66	--	62.3	10.9
USDA Lori	55	59	66	60	54	59	--	59.8	10.1
C.V. %	8	8	8	8	8	8	7	1	4
LSD (0.05)	6	6	12	7	8	4	2	0.4	0.3
Average	55	61	101	72	75	73	74	61.8	10.3
	-----Yield (Bu/A)-----				Lb/Bu	%			
AP Renegade	62	59	102	72	78	75	72	61.4	12.2
WB7202CLP	63	56	97	79	74	74	73	62.8	11.7
Dayn ²	60	66	103	69	69	73	72	61.9	12.1
Net CL+	54	58	97	74	73	71	71	62.2	13.0
Alum	47	58	95	79	73	71	71	62.0	13.0
LCS Luna	57	64	89	78	64	70	70	61.9	12.8
Glee	61	54	94	68	72	70	69	62.1	12.6
SY Selway	53	52	95	69	73	68	69	61.2	12.9
Kelse	55	55	88	71	69	67	66	61.9	13.5
LCS Iron	63	58	86	73	55	67	67	61.5	11.9
Chet	50	54	93	71	67	67	67	62.1	13.3
SY Gunsight	52	58	92	70	58	66	67	61.7	12.1
SY Coho	54	62	87	67	53	65	63	60.3	12.6
WB9717	58	59	77	70	59	65	63	62.9	12.3
LCS Buck Pronto	46	59	87	62	66	64	63	61.4	14.1
AP Kimber CL2	57	53	82	59	67	64	64	62.2	13.0
YS-801	55	55	77	68	60	63	--	62.1	13.3
SY605 CL	55	50	77	63	58	61	60	62.4	13.6
WB9668	49	43	86	59	56	59	59	61.6	14.7
WB9662	55	53	81	58	44	58	--	60.6	14.5
Salzburg ³	50	51	69	63	55	58	58	60.6	12.9
C.V. %	9	9	9	9	6	8	7	1	4
LSD (0.05)	7	7	11	8	5	3	2	0.3	0.3
Average	55	56	91	68	67	67	67	61.9	12.9

¹Club Wheat ²Hard White ³Durum Wheat

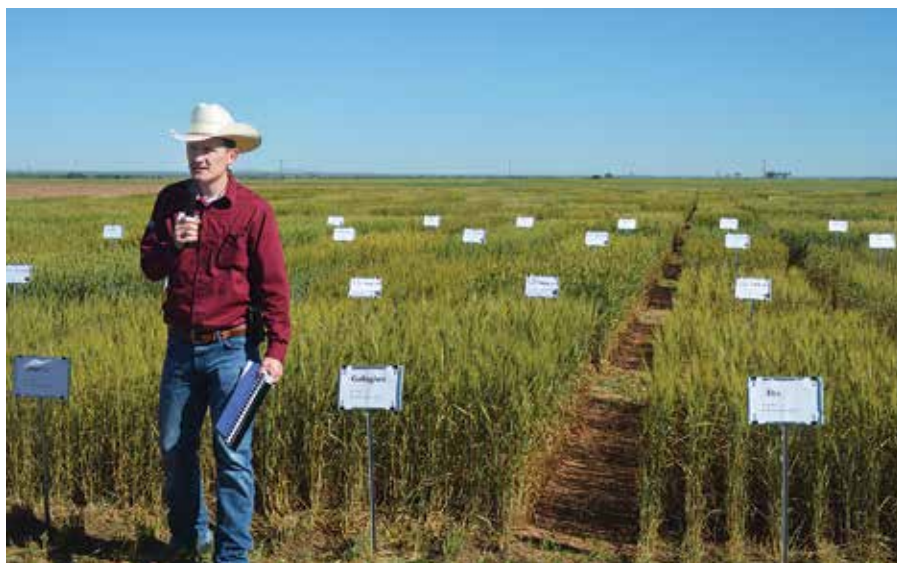
Private company abbreviations: LCS-Limagrain Cereal Seeds; SY-Syngenta; AP-AgriPro (part of Syngenta); WB-WestBred (owned by Bayer); YS-Yield Star Cereal.

varieties plus one durum wheat and nine experimental lines.

"YS-603" and "USDA Lori" were new additions to the soft white trial in 2019, while "AP Coachman" and "AP Mondovi CL2" (contains the 2-gene Clearfield trait) were newly named varieties but had appeared in 2018 as experimental entries. In the hard wheat trials, "Net CL+," "AP Kimber CL2," "YS-801" and "Salzburg" (durum wheat) were new entries in the low and high rainfall zones. These entries plus "AP Octane," "AP Venom," "Kelse," "SY Selway," "Chet" and "SY605 CL" were new additions to the irrigated sites. Net CL+ had previously appeared in the trials as the experimental entry WA 8280 CL+.

Among the new soft white and club varieties tested, AP Coachman yielded the highest in all rainfall zones except irrigated sites. Based on the 2019 regional averages, it was not significantly different from the top yielding variety in rainfall zones under 20 inches. Net CL+ was a good yielder with the best consistency among the new hard wheat varieties, even topping the trial in the less-than-12-inch regional summary. However, it did not compete as well in the highest rainfall or irrigated zones.

AP Octane and AP Venom out-yielded the other new entries in the irrigated summary. Table 1 summarizes the commercial soft white and hard wheat cultivars across the irrigated, greater-than-20-inch precipitation zones and 16-to-20-inch precipitation zones. Table 2 summarizes the commercial soft white and hard wheat cultivars across the 12-to-16-inch and less-than-12-inch precipitation zones. Results from two hard spring wheat locations, Endicott and Fairfield, were not shown due to a high C.V. (coefficient of variation), indicating too much



Clark Neely, the new director of Washington State University's Variety Testing Program, was raised in Pennsylvania, but as director of the Texas equivalent of the VTP, he adopted the region's ubiquitous cowboy hat during presentations to farmers.

unexplained variability within the trials.

As growers review the 2019 data, I encourage them to view it in the context of data from multiple years and locations when possible to show overall trends. Every year is different, and single-year data can be misleading if environmental conditions line up just right to favor a certain variety. A good variety is one that can reliably perform well across multiple years and environments. This article includes a two-year average for most entries, but three and five-year averages are available for some at smallgrains.wsu.edu.

Besides yield, there are many other traits to consider, some of which may be critical to reach maximum yield potential under certain circumstances. For example, growers battling consistent problems such as acidic soils or Hessian fly should consider acid tolerant or Hessian fly tolerant varieties, since high yielding varieties without these traits are not likely to yield well under those scenarios. Also, if all else is equal between two varieties, choose the one with higher grain quality to ensure Pacific Northwest wheat maintains its status as a premium source of wheat on the global market. More information on variety quality rankings can be found in the Preferred Wheat Varieties brochure at wagrain.org/2018-preferred-wheat-varieties/.

To make navigating the immense amount of data available easier, we maintain a variety selection tool on our small grains website. This tool aids growers in choosing varieties that are best suited to their farms and addresses their most yield-limiting issues. Growers are able to sort varieties not only by yield, but by disease resistance, insect tolerance, grain quality and more.

As we look ahead to 2020, I look forward to meeting many of you at field days and at grower meetings around the state. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at clark.neely@wsu.edu or (509) 335-1205. ■

Acknowledgements: Funding for the WSU Extension Uniform Cereal Variety Testing Program is provided by the Washington Grain Commission. Variety trials are made possible by the donation of land and time from farmer cooperators where the trials are located.

Table 2. 2019 WSU Extension Spring Wheat Variety Trial Summary

Precipitation Zone=12-16"									
VARIETY	ALMIRA	ENDICOTT ⁴	LAMONT	REARDAN	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG. YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE PROTEIN	
SOFT WHITE	-----Yield (Bu/A)-----				Lb/Bu		%		
Louise	45	73	44	62	56	53	60.0	10.0	
Diva	47	66	44	63	55	54	59.5	10.4	
Ryan	52	60	37	66	54	54	59.6	10.7	
WB6341	49	61	37	67	54	53	60.0	9.8	
AP Coachman	48	59	41	65	53	54	58.6	10.0	
Ryan +Zn	52	60	37	62	52	52	59.4	10.6	
Whit	49	62	37	61	52	--	59.2	10.3	
SY Saltese	46	63	38	61	52	50	59.3	10.8	
Melba ¹	49	58	34	65	52	52	60.0	10.5	
Tekoa	49	57	33	68	51	52	60.3	10.2	
WB6121	46	58	38	59	50	52	60.4	11.6	
Seahawk	48	58	32	64	50	51	59.5	10.7	
JD ¹	42	64	34	59	50	50	59.9	10.8	
AP Mondovi CL2	45	55	36	56	48	48	59.4	12.4	
YS-603	37	52	33	64	47	--	59.4	11.3	
WB-1035CL+	43	51	35	54	46	46	59.1	11.7	
USDA Lori	37	33	28	49	37	--	57.5	11.3	
C.V. %	7	12	8	9	10	10	1	7	
LSD (0.05)	5	10	4	8	3	3	0.5	0.5	
Average	46	58	36	62	51	51	59.6	10.9	
HARD RED SPRING	-----Yield (Bu/A)-----				Lb/Bu		%		
WB7202CLP	49	--	38	49	45	47	60.2	12.4	
AP Renegade	45	--	35	51	44	44	59.2	12.5	
LCS Luna	43	--	39	48	43	47	58.8	13.1	
Glee	44	--	38	44	42	45	60.4	12.9	
LCS Iron	45	--	31	48	42	45	59.0	12.6	
Dayn ²	43	--	36	46	42	44	60.2	13.0	
SY Coho	38	--	37	48	41	41	57.5	13.5	
Kelse	44	--	35	45	41	44	60.9	13.9	
AP Kimber CL2	47	--	32	43	41	43	60.4	13.0	
Net CL+	45	--	31	45	40	44	61.0	13.4	
SY Selway	42	--	32	44	39	44	59.4	13.5	
Chet	42	--	34	42	39	43	60.9	13.7	
Alum	43	--	35	41	39	43	60.4	13.4	
YS-801	41	--	32	44	39	--	61.2	13.3	
LCS Buck Pronto	39	--	33	42	38	41	59.4	14.6	
WB9668	40	--	29	42	37	38	60.2	15.6	
SY605 CL	40	--	31	36	36	39	61.3	14.0	
WB9717	41	--	23	41	35	43	60.5	13.3	
SY Gunsight	38	--	25	41	35	38	57.9	13.5	
WB9662	35	--	27	41	34	36	58.6	15.1	
Salzburg ³	37	--	23	32	31	--	58.6	14.1	
C.V. %	7	--	12	7	9	10	1	5	
LSD (0.05)	4	--	6	4	3	2	0.4	0.5	
Average	43	--	33	44	40	43	60.0	13.5	

Precipitation Zone=<12"									
VARIETY	BICKLETON	HORSE HEAVEN	LIND	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG. YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE PROTEIN		
SOFT WHITE	-----Yield (Bu/A)-----				Lb/Bu		%		
Melba ¹	38	25	34	32	34	60.3	10.8		
Diva	40	23	32	32	37	61.9	11.2		
Ryan +Zn	43	22	29	32	--	60.3	11.6		
WB6341	40	23	31	31	35	60.6	10.9		
AP Coachman	37	25	30	31	35	61.0	10.8		
Louise	39	22	31	31	35	61.7	10.9		
Whit	39	22	30	31	34	60.8	11.2		
Seahawk	37	23	29	30	33	61.8	11.2		
Ryan	39	21	29	30	33	61.4	11.3		
SY Saltese	36	22	30	30	32	62.2	11.2		
Tekoa	35	24	29	29	34	62.5	11.1		
WB-1035CL+	36	18	29	28	--	59.5	12.9		
WB6121	34	22	28	28	32	60.8	12.6		
YS-603	37	21	25	28	32	61.9	12.1		
USDA Lori	33	22	27	28	--	60.3	11.4		
JD ¹	32	23	26	27	33	62.7	11.7		
AP Mondovi CL2	35	19	24	26	29	61.4	12.7		
C.V. %	8	8	7	8	8	1	3		
LSD (0.05)	4	2	3	2	1	0.7	0.3		
Average	37	22	29	29	33	61.4	11.6		
HARD RED SPRING	-----Yield (Bu/A)-----				Lb/Bu		%		
Net CL+	45	20	31	32	33	63	13.8		
SY Gunsight	40	16	30	29	32	60	13.3		
LCS Iron	34	21	30	28	32	59	13.2		
Alum	35	18	32	28	31	61	13.6		
WB7202CLP	37	19	28	28	32	62	13.2		
Dayn ²	37	17	29	28	31	60	13.3		
SY Coho	35	18	29	28	31	59	13.4		
Chet	33	19	29	27	31	61	14.1		
Glee	35	17	29	27	31	62	13.8		
AP Kimber CL2	36	18	25	26	29	62	13.4		
AP Renegade	34	17	27	26	31	61	13.6		
SY Selway	31	18	28	26	31	59	14.0		
LCS Luna	30	17	29	26	29	61	13.8		
WB9717	35	17	25	25	29	63	13.1		
Kelse	32	18	26	25	29	62	14.6		
YS-801	33	17	26	25	--	63	14.1		
WB9662	32	18	23	24	28	61	15.0		
SY605 CL	30	16	25	24	26	61	14.8		
LCS Buck Pronto	28	16	23	22	26	59	14.5		
WB9668	26	15	25	22	26	59	16.4		
Salzburg ³	28	14	20	21	--	57	14.1		
C.V. %	10	9	8	10	9	1	3		
LSD (0.05)	5	2	3	2	1	1	0.3		
Average	34	18	27	26	30	61	13.9		

¹Club Wheat ²Hard White ³Durum Wheat ⁴Endicott HRSW data not shown due to high variability

Private company abbreviations: LCS-Limagrain Cereal Seeds; SY-Syngenta; AP-AgriPro (part of Syngenta); WB-WestBred (owned by Bayer); YS-Yield Star Cereal.

A barley bump for Washington

By Clark Neely

Overall, barley in the Washington State University (WSU) Variety Testing Program (VTP) performed well in 2019, beating the five-year regional averages in the greater-than-20-inch precipitation zone as well as the 16-to-20-inch zone. Yields slipped slightly below the average in the less-than-16-inch precipitation zone.

Test weight followed a similar trend as yield with locations in the 16-to-20-inch precipitation zone produced considerably higher yields (22 percent more). Test weights also improved compared to the average (2.5 lb/bu more).

The wet spring was a mixed blessing with good soil moisture heading into the summer but delayed planting. The first trial was planted at Lamont, Wash., on April 15, and the last planting occurred May 8 at Fairfield, Wash. Cooler temperatures prevailed for much of the summer, which helped late-planted fields. After a dry summer, rains returned just in time for harvest, which complicated getting the crop out of the field in a timely manner. Late planting combined with a wet fall led to a very late harvest, particularly in the higher precipitation regions.

Despite a rapid decline in barley acres in recent years, acreage saw a slight bump in 2019. The wet conditions may have encouraged growers to plant more spring barley in favor of spring wheat, which typically performs better when planted late. More favorable barley prices compared to DNS and soft white wheat also didn't hurt. Some growers were also able to capitalize on premiums for food and malt barley contracts.

Washington ended up planting 10,000 more acres of barley in 2019 compared to 2018, coming in at 95,000 acres. Despite the average yield for the state being down three bushels per acre (70 bushels per acre) compared to 2018, harvested acres were up 18,000 acres, which increased overall production 22 percent to 5.95 million bushels.

Twelve spring barley variety trials were planted across three precipitation zones in 2019. Data from

Table 3. 2019 WSU Extension Spring Barley Variety Trials

Precipitation Zone=>20"									
VARIETY	FAIRFIELD	FARMINGTON	PALOUSE	PULLMAN	AVG. YIELD	2-YEAR AVG. YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE PROTEIN	
	Yield (Bu/A)						Lb/Bu	%	
Altorado	4600	5020	6800	4910	5330	5450	53.9	10.4	
Lyon	4010	4830	6550	5310	5180	5230	52.8	10.1	
Lenetah	4430	4820	6610	4770	5160	5310	53.1	9.7	
Champion	4310	4890	6520	4770	5120	5110	54.0	10.2	
Survivor	4310	4630	6240	5240	5110	4840	53.4	10.4	
Muir	4080	4790	6140	5190	5050	5290	53.4	9.8	
Oreana	4130	4470	6490	5010	5030	5140	52.3	10.1	
Claymore	3930	4900	6150	5040	5010	5180	51.6	9.9	
LCS Vespa	4320	4650	6310	4740	5010	4990	52.1	10.3	
LCS Opera	4870	4300	7610	5330	5530	5640	51.6	9.6	
LCS Odyssey	4170	4900	6700	5160	5230	5370	51.6	10.2	
LCS Genie	4670	4570	6370	5050	5170	5210	52.0	10.3	
CDC Copeland	4440	4490	6300	4950	5050	4900	51.4	10.3	
Palmer (11WA-107.43)	4180	4120	6600	4570	4870	5060	52.8	11.1	
AAC Connect	4350	4390	5940	4610	4820	--	51.3	10.7	
Meg's Song	3190	4060	5620	4370	4310	4370	60.5	12.4	
Havener	2190	3800	5490	4380	3970	4310	60.7	11.7	
CV (%)	14	7	6	7	8	9	2.2	5.4	
LSD (0.05)	800	430	480	490	280	220	0.8	0.4	
Average	4150	4500	6340	4860	4960	5090	53.5	10.4	

Private company abbreviations: LCS-Limagrain Cereal Seeds; SY-Syngenta; AP-AgriPro (part of Syngenta); WB-

Endicott is not shown due to high C.V. values and unreliable results. Yield, test weight and protein results from the remaining 11 barley locations are summarized in Table 3. The trials included nine feed, six malt, two hullless food varieties and seven experimental lines. Of these varieties, "AAC Connect" (malt type) was the only new variety, however it ranked the lowest in yield for each precipitation zone out of all feed and malt varieties. "Palmer" is a newly released malt variety that was previously tested under the experimental number 11WA-107.43. It yielded close to the trial average in most cases.

When looking at the two-year averages, it is interesting to note that several of the newer malt varieties yield similar to or better than some of the best feed barleys in all three precipitation zones.

Additional information and yield data can be found at the small grains website at smallgrains.wsu.edu. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at clark.neely@wsu.edu or (509) 335-1205. ■

Acknowledgements: Funding for the WSU Extension Uniform Cereal Variety Testing Program is provided by the Washington Grain Commission. Variety trials are made possible by the donation of land and time from farmer cooperators where the trials are located.

ial Summary

Precipitation Zone=16-20"									
VARIETY	DAYTON	MAYVIEW	ST. JOHN	WALLA WALLA	AVG. YIELD	2-YEAR AVG. YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE PROTEIN	
	-----Yield (Bu/A)-----						Lb/Bu	%	
Champion	4600	5040	5480	5140	5070	4930	55.4	11.5	
Oreana	4430	5150	5940	4690	5050	4900	54.5	11.2	
Claymore	4250	5020	5760	4820	4960	4960	53.4	11.2	
Lenetah	4800	5030	5290	4700	4960	4920	54.4	11.1	
Altorado	4600	5310	5030	4660	4900	4940	53.3	11.6	
LCS Vespa	4540	4920	5000	4850	4830	4850	54.1	11.8	
Lyon	4240	4600	5030	5370	4810	4870	53.9	11.9	
Muir	4560	4030	5100	4790	4620	4730	54.3	11.5	
Survivor	4280	4640	4490	4830	4560	4360	54.7	11.7	
LCS Opera	4630	5610	5550	5210	5250	5390	54.5	10.3	
LCS Odyssey	4280	5440	5400	5000	5030	4810	53.6	11.2	
LCS Genie	4770	4760	5070	4900	4880	4790	54.2	11.2	
Palmer (11WA-107.43)	4140	4820	4830	4630	4610	4690	54.0	12.1	
CDC Copeland	4170	4800	4910	4460	4590	4450	52.9	11.2	
AAC Connect	4220	4790	4880	3980	4470	--	53.1	12.0	
Meg's Song	3870	4110	4440	4020	4110	3910	61.7	13.7	
Havener	3690	3690	3790	3880	3760	3920	62.1	12.4	
CV (%)	8	8	10	6	8	8	1.0	4.2	
LSD (0.05)	470	550	680	380	260	170	0.4	0.3	
Average	4340	4740	4970	4680	4680	4700	55.7	11.7	

Precipitation Zone=<16"									
VARIETY	ALMIRA	LAMONT	REARDAN	AVG. YIELD	2-YEAR AVG. YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE PROTEIN		
	-----Yield (Bu/A)-----						Lb/Bu	%	
Oreana	4040	1900	2820	2920	3330	49.9	12.8		
Survivor	3890	2260	2610	2920	3130	51.4	13.0		
Altorado	3740	2210	2640	2860	3350	48.6	12.7		
Claymore	3710	2000	2660	2790	3230	49.0	12.8		
Lenetah	3650	1910	2780	2780	3230	50.7	12.6		
Lyon	3730	2060	2290	2690	3160	46.6	13.0		
Muir	3470	2020	2470	2650	3170	49.3	12.6		
Champion	3250	1900	2750	2630	3060	50.7	13.7		
LCS Vespa	3460	1880	2450	2600	3050	49.9	13.3		
LCS Opera	3850	3070	3150	3360	3690	50.5	12.1		
LCS Odyssey	4370	2050	2870	3100	3170	49.7	12.7		
Palmer (11WA-107.43)	3640	2240	2230	2700	3110	49.1	12.9		
LCS Genie	3560	1870	2570	2670	3010	49.8	12.7		
CDC Copeland	2700.3	2160	2940	2600	2990	48.2	12.6		
AAC Connect	3030	1960	2160	2380	--	49.0	13.7		
Havener	3260	1960	1880	2370	2720	58.5	13.4		
Meg's Song	2510	1940	2090	2180	2480	59.0	15.1		
CV (%)	15	11	12	14	12	3.5	5.4		
LSD (0.05)	750	320	420	300	200	1.4	0.6		
Average	3540	2060	2570	2720	3120	50.7	13.1		

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WHEAT WATCH

WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION

Major announcements fall flat for wheat



By Mike Krueger

Two major events the wheat market had been anticipating for months in the hopes that they would kick-start moribund prices failed to deliver recently.

The two events happened in mid-January. The first was the series of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reports. They included the “final” 2019 corn and soybean yield and production estimates; the WASDE (supply and demand) revisions; the Dec. 1 quarterly stocks numbers; and the initial winter wheat plantings estimate.

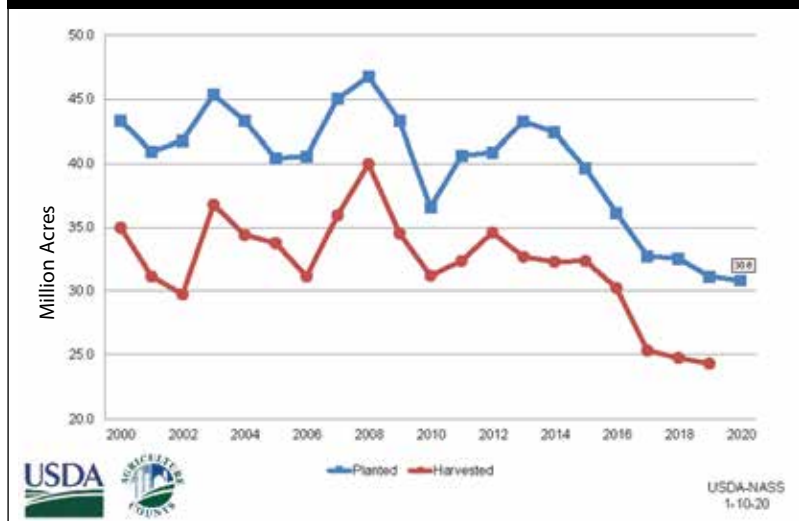
The second was the signing of the Phase One trade agreement with China. It was hoped that all this news would be at least slightly positive to prices. Unfortunately, the initial market reaction to both events was negative.

None of the numbers within the series of USDA reports contained any bullish surprises. The most important numbers were corn and soybean production estimates. As a result of weather issues both at planting and harvest, there has been some amount of controversy over the harvested acreage and yield estimates.

The big issue has been how many acres of corn and soybeans got planted, and how many got harvested due to very late spring planting and the very wet and prolonged harvest. Even now, there is a significant amount of standing corn across the northern Plains.

The USDA's production estimate, however, made very minor downwards adjustments in corn and soybean harvested acreage and actually increased the yield estimates. Corn production was increased by 31 million bushels, while the corn export forecast was reduced by 75 million bushels. U.S. corn exports continue to run nearly 50 percent behind last year.

Chart 1: U.S. winter wheat acres



This is caused in large part by Brazil's record 2019 corn crop coupled with their very weak currency, which has allowed them to dominate the world corn export market. A small increase in soybean production, meanwhile, was offset by a small adjustment in demand, leaving ending supplies unchanged.

The bullish side of the market was hoping to see significant reduction in corn and soybean ending supplies. That didn't happen.

There were few changes in the U.S. wheat outlook as there was no production update. The “final” wheat production estimate was released last September. There was a small increase in feed usage and a small reduction in ending supplies.

The wheat story today revolves around the various wheat classes, not the overall total. Ending supplies of hard red winter wheat and hard red spring wheat are big. Ending supplies of soft red winter wheat are rapidly shrinking, mostly as a result of reduced soft red winter wheat plantings and production. The export market for U.S. soft red winter is still declining.

The white wheat outlook rarely changes. Exports and domestic consumption pretty well eat up what we produce, and ending supplies hold steady. Despite the fact that Australia is basically out of the export market because of their ongoing severe drought, the USDA is forecasting a slight reduction in white wheat exports.

Chicago wheat futures, based on soft red winter wheat, continue to trade at an 80-cent premium to Kansas City futures. Hard red winter wheat basis levels have rallied 50 to 70 cents a bushel over the past couple of months because the class had become the cheapest wheat.

The first estimate of 2020 winter wheat acres is for a total of 30.804 million acres. That compares to 31.159 a year ago. It includes 21.8 million acres of hard red winter, 5.64 million of soft red winter and 3.37 million of winter white. The initial winter white estimate a year ago was 3.44 million acres. The USDA will release an updated total and state-by-state breakdown in the March 31 prospective plantings estimate. See Chart 1.

The other big deal that happened in January was the official signing of the Phase One trade agreement with China. The first trade tariffs in this “war” were put in place in July 2018. Phase One has been described as about 60 percent agriculture. It is supposed to result in China buying up to \$40 billion a year in agriculture products over the next two years. That is a huge number, and there have been all sorts of speculation in recent weeks over the actual breakdown by commodity.

Rumors were that it would include as much as 5 million metric tons (mmt), or 184 million bushels, of wheat and 8 mmts (320 million bushels) of corn plus large amounts of soybeans, sorghum, DDGs, pork, etc. The trade was expecting to see details of these amounts by specific commodities in the agreement. Unfortunately, none of those details were in the documents that were released.

That created a sigh of uncertainty, and markets traded sharply lower the day of the signing and the day following the signing. There is no confidence in the estimates of how much of each commodity China will purchase. Not to mention, no one knows when all this buying will begin. All of this, coupled with somewhat bearish USDA

numbers, left markets in a negative posture.

The other question regarding the China trade deal is when or even if China’s imports from the U.S. will be factored into supply and demand forecasts by increasing export forecasts. That is unlikely to happen quickly unless the actual sales to China start to happen soon.

But there is good news for wheat producers. The outlook for wheat markets is starting to improve with or without immediate wheat purchases by China. Basis level for every class of wheat continues to be very strong, and export sales of wheat are running slightly ahead of the USDA’s marketing year forecast.

There have also been rumors that Russia might initiate wheat export controls, but that hasn’t been verified. Australia, sadly, has major drought-related production problems that will result in a smaller wheat export number than currently expected.

The condition of the U.S. winter wheat crop, meanwhile, has been declining. Crop conditions across much of the Black Sea region are also problematic with dryness causing poor emergence. Temperatures have recently been much above normal. That could create some winter kill concerns should temperatures quickly turn cold. Although all of these crops can recover with good spring weather, the odds of big yields are likely gone. ■

Mike Krueger is president and founder of The Money Farm, a grain advisory service located in Fargo, N.D. A licensed commodity broker, Krueger is a past director of the Minneapolis Grain Exchange and a senior analyst for World Perspectives, a Washington, D.C., agricultural consulting group.



Winter workshops scheduled

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOCUS ON FARMER WELL-BEING, QUICKBOOKS, MARKETING, WEATHER

By Trista Crossley

Despite its reputation as an idyllic lifestyle, any grower will tell you that farming is a high-stress, demanding job, especially when it's a struggle just to break even. This year, in addition to its usual core of workshops on weather and markets, the Agricultural Marketing and Management Organization (AMMO) will feature a workshop addressing the general well being of farmers and provide tips to help farmers address physical and mental health stress.

"This is a new direction for our grower education workshops," explained Lori Williams, outreach coordinator for the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG). "When we ask members for workshop ideas, the general well-being of farmers, both physically and mentally, is frequently mentioned. We are bringing in Lesley Kelly, co-founder of Do More Agriculture, a nonprofit organization that highlights the stresses farmers face and provides resources to those who are in need. The afternoon portion of this workshop will feature a panel of industry experts to talk about the warning signs of overwhelming stress, developing healthy coping mechanisms through a support network and general rural healthcare. We are sure growers will find this workshop informative and timely."

The workshop, Breaking Barriers in Agriculture, is scheduled for Feb. 18.

Two other workshops on Feb. 20 and Feb. 26 will focus on weather, markets and QuickBooks.

Eric Snodgrass is an atmospheric scientist for Nutrien Ag Solutions, where he develops predictive, analytical software solutions to manage weather risk for global production agriculture. He provides frequent weather updates that focus on how high-impact weather events influence global agriculture productivity.

Kevin Duling grew up on a wheat and alfalfa farm in Oregon and is the founder of KD Investors. He will take a look at world supply and demand for wheat, especially soft white wheat, and discuss what tools may best fit each situation. Williams said that unlike some of the Midwest marketing professionals brought in by AMMO in the past, Duling has a deep understanding of Pacific Northwest agriculture and can provide a more specialized discussion.

Another topic long requested by growers is a workshop on QuickBooks, a popular financial software program. This workshop, presented by QuickBooks expert Cassi Johnson, will discuss budgeting, payroll, reconciling and creating reports to help producers better navigate the software and realize its full potential.

All three workshops will be held at the Northern Quest Casino in Airway Heights, Wash., from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. WAWG members are admitted free of charge; nonmembers are charged \$25 per person for each workshop they attend. Lunch is provided. Advanced registration is required at least three days prior to each workshop. To register, call (877) 740-2666 or email lori@wawg.org. Registration forms can also be printed out and mailed from the AMMO website at wawg.org/ammo-workshops.

Finally, scheduled for June 11 in Ritzville, will be the popular Wheat College,

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which is a mixture of indoor and outdoor presentations, providing interactive demonstrations on the latest agronomic research being conducted in the region. This year's event will focus on nitrogen stabilizers with presentations by Corteva Agriscience and Washington State University Extension. Pesticide credits will be offered, and more information will be available closer to the date of the event.

Williams said WAWG is considering livestreaming some of the AMMO programs on Facebook so that producers will be able to access the content after the fact.

"One of WAWG's charges is to provide grower education and information, and the AMMO program is a good avenue for us to do that in," Williams said. "Although the AMMO program has been running for a number of years now, I think there's still a great deal of producer demand for high quality, timely and informative content. We've tried to mix it up a little this year by bringing in some new topics that are still appealing to growers."

For more information on the 2020 AMMO schedule, see the ad on page 48. ■



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2020 WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

FEB 18 BREAKING BARRIERS IN AGRICULTURE

Speaker: Lesley Kelly

Location: Northern Quest Casino Pavilion
100 North Hayford Road, Airway Heights, WA

FEB 20 THE WILD SIDE OF WEATHER AND MARKETS

Speakers: Eric Snodgrass and Kevin Duling

Location: Northern Quest Casino Hotel
100 North Hayford Road, Airway Heights, WA

FEB 26 QUICKBOOKS

Speaker: Cassi Johnson

Location: Northern Quest Casino Hotel
100 North Hayford Road, Airway Heights, WA

JUNE 16 WHEAT COLLEGE

Speakers: Live presentations

Location: Wheat Land Community Fairgrounds
811 East Main Street, Ritzville, WA

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

*All sessions (except Wheat College) start at 10 am and end around 2 pm.
Lunch is included free of charge for WAWG members, \$25 for non WAWG members.*

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Washington State University Ag Economist
and Director of WSU Extension's Western
Center for Risk Management Education



Randy Fortenbery

Washington State University Ag Economist



Aaron Esser

Washington State University Extension
Adams County Director

By Trista Crossley

The take away from last month's farm bill education workshops was that the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program looks to be the most attractive option for the next two years, but that growers should run the numbers for themselves to make sure.

Sponsored by the Agricultural Marketing and Management Organization in conjunction with Washington State University (WSU) Extension, three workshops were held in Davenport, Walla Walla and Colfax. More than 155 growers and landlords braved snowy weather to attend the sessions.

Copies of the workshop presentations can be found at wheatlife.org. A livestream of the Colfax session can be found online at facebook.com/AgriculturalMarketingManagementOrganization/

This article reviews the Colfax session.

How did we get here?

Shannon Neibergs, WSU ag economist and director of WSU Extension's Western Center for Risk Management Education, kicked off the workshop by reviewing the timeline of the 2018 Farm Bill and some of the changes made to the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and PLC programs. Growers could begin signing up for ARC or PLC on Sept. 1, 2019. Growers have to make a program election for crop years 2019 and 2020 by March 15, 2020, but actual enrollment deadline for 2019 is March 15, and for 2020, it's June 30. Growers will be able to change their program election yearly beginning with the 2021 crop year. If growers don't make a program election for 2019 and 2020 by the March 15 deadline, they will default to the program chosen in 2014 and will be ineligible for payments for the 2019 crop year.

Meeting that deadline is important, because, as Neibergs explained, in 2014, most farmers selected the ARC county option (ARC-CO), and if they don't make a choice, they will default back to that program. Based on the available data, it appears that for the next two years, at least, PLC is more likely to generate larger payments. Neibergs added that while crop insurance is the bulk of a grower's risk management plan, ARC and PLC are critical on a cash flow basis.

Neibergs also pointed out other ARC/PLC changes made in the 2018 Farm Bill, including:

- Base acres will not change from 2014 Farm Bill enrollment;
- ARC-CO yields are based on data from the Risk Management Agency rather than data from the National Agricultural Statistics Service;
- ARC-CO yields are trend adjusted; and
- There's a one-time opportunity to update PLC program payment yields that takes effect beginning with the 2020 crop year.

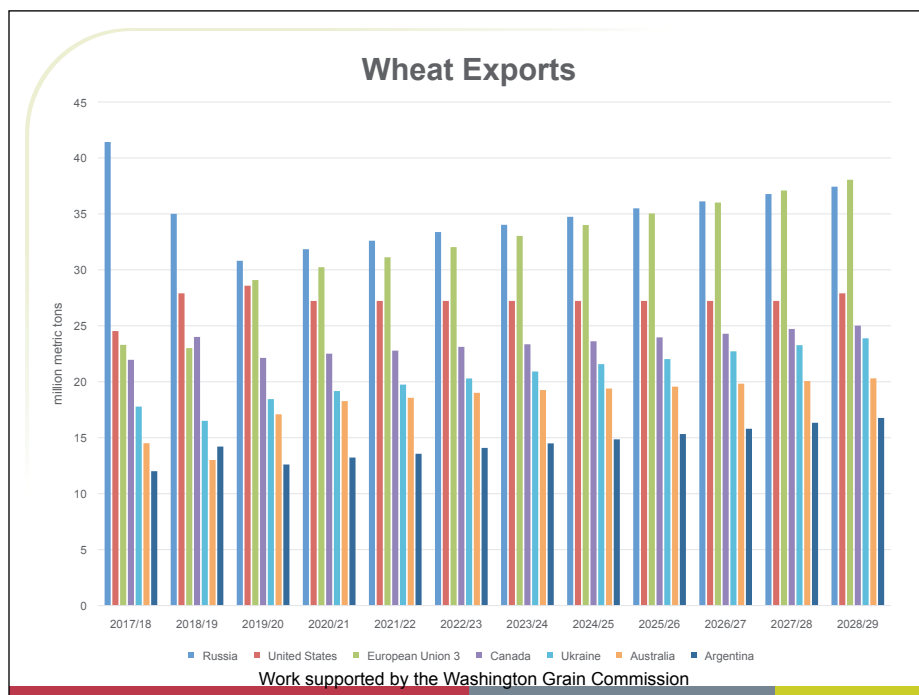
Regarding the decision to use RMA versus NASS data, Neibergs said that when he compared the two, he didn't see much difference in yield data in most of Eastern Washington's wheat-producing counties. In Whitman and Spokane counties, for example, there's expected to be a change of less than two bushels either way.

“Not much changed in yield by changing the data source, so its not going to be all of sudden ARC-CO is going to be more beneficial because the yield factor data changed,” he said. “It’s not going to be a critical factor in evaluating the difference between the two programs.”

Using Whitman County as an example, Neibergs said average yields have moved slightly downward, from 75 bushels per acre in 2014 to 70 in 2018. Prices are also moving downward.

“What that does to revenue, when you multiply yield by price, is to trend it down as well,” he said. Because ARC-CO averages are based on Olympic year averages (meaning you throw out the high and low in a five-year spread), it will take at least two years of high prices to make ARC-CO reverse that downward trend, another reason PLC is a more attractive option for at least the next two years.

Neibergs wrapped up his portion of the workshop by touching on the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), which opened a general sign-up in December. He explained that it’s challenging to discuss the program because of the unique attributes of each CRP contract. Some of the changes producers will see in the program under the 2018 Farm Bill include increasing the acreage cap from



24 to 27 million acres; upper limits on the county average soil rental rates used to set field-specific maximum annual payment rates; tighter restrictions on maximum payment rates for re-enrollments; and expanded opportunities for CRP land management. The general CRP enrollment period ends Feb. 28.

Why PLC?

WSU Ag Economist Randy Fortenbery addressed the market outlook and why PLC is likely to be the more attractive option for growers for 2019 and 2020.

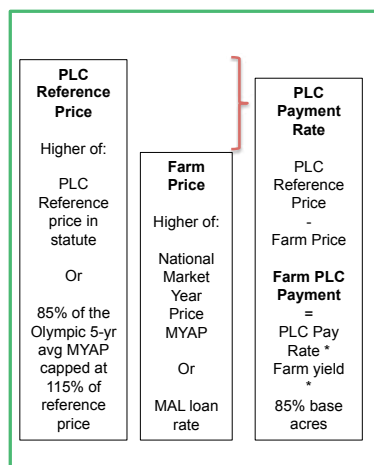
The market year average price (MYAP), as determined by USDA, is what determines whether or not there’ll be a PLC payment. That price is also used to calculate the Olympic average prices for the ARC program.

“To get a PLC payment, the MYAP has to be below \$5.50 a bushel. When we signed up for the 2014 Farm Bill, just like this year, one crop year was already gone and the other one we were pretty far into. When we looked at that, we could project no PLC payments whatsoever and that ARC-CO was going to pay for most of us for the next two years. We got those first two payments, prices deteriorated, and suddenly, PLC was paying much more than ARC-CO as we went forward,” Fortenbery explained.

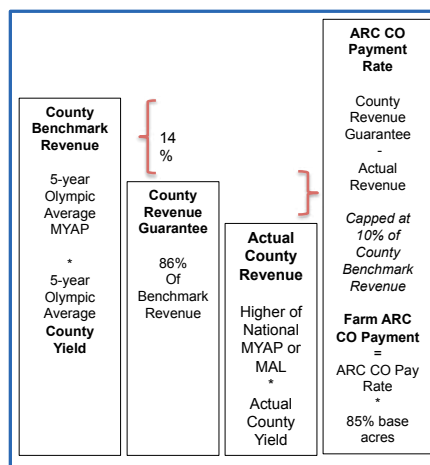
USDA’s current MYAP forecast is

PLC and ARC CO payment formulas

PLC



ARC CO



\$4.55. Fortenbery said that even though over the last several weeks there's been some price improvement in the futures market and cash market in Washington, the MYAP is based on all wheat classes across the U.S. It's also weighted each month by how much wheat is sold, meaning if a lot of wheat is sold early in the marketing year at relatively low prices, even with a price rally later in the marketing year, the average price won't move much because less wheat is being sold at the higher price.

That matters, he went on, because growers need to use the MYAP as their reference price, not whatever is currently happening in the market. Even with a price rally, because so much wheat has already been sold at a lower price, that MYAP probably won't move much.

"It is highly unlikely, in my opinion, that next year, the 2020 crop we harvest and the 2021 price will be high enough that we will not get a PLC payment, and it will probably be low enough that the ARC payment isn't going to change much relative to the projections you'll figure out when you use the tool before you do your sign-up," he said, adding that even if there's a huge rally, because of the Olympic year average, that high price would be thrown out. "And it would take a hell of a rally, frankly, to get us above the \$5.50 reference price for the marketing year next year. So probably, for the next two years, PLC will be your most attractive alternative, although you'll want to go through the tool to verify that for wheat."

The tool, Fortenbery was talking about, refers to the ARC/PLC online tools that can help growers calculate which program is more attractive to them.

Fortenbery also took a look at what he sees happening to wheat

prices in the future. The key, he said, is not U.S. stocks, but the world's stocks. Even though globally, wheat consumption has been growing, it hasn't grown as fast as production, so the world's stock is increasing even as U.S. stocks are decreasing. Looking ahead 10 years, the picture doesn't get much better for several reasons, including increasing world stocks, decreasing U.S. acreage and other countries starting to compete with U.S. wheat exports on quality. See chart on previous page.

"The smaller amount we represent of the world market, the less what happens here matters to the price," he explained.

The online tools

Before tackling the online tools, Aaron Esser, WSU Extension Adams County director, cautioned growers to coordinate their program choice with their crop-share landlords and to make sure to have all the necessary signatures.

While there are two online tools available to growers, one by Texas A&M and the other by the University of Illinois, Esser showed only the Texas A&M tool. He recommended that growers have their FSA-156EZ form with them that shows farm and crop data, as well as something that shows their yields, such as their crop insurance APH database form. Growers will need to figure out their yearly all-wheat average before using the tools.

Using the Texas A&M tool, once you've logged in, you need to set up your farm units (or edit existing farm units if you logged in under the same user/password from 2014). From the home screen, you can see if you are eligible for a payment yield update and then compare possible payments from PLC versus ARC-CO.

"The tool isn't designed to tell you the exact number," Esser said, telling growers not to count on the payment figures the tool shows you. "The tool is simply to help you make the decision on what is the best choice between ARC-CO and PLC. Don't get caught up in the numbers."

Esser said he has run different, plausible scenarios through the tool, but hasn't "found a scenario where ARC-CO is better than PLC." Growers can also enroll in the ARC Individual option, but Esser said circumstances would have to be



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pretty unique for that program to be more attractive than the other options.

The Texas A&M tool can be found at afpc.tamu.edu/tools/farm/farmbill/2018/, and the University of Illinois tool can be found at fd-tools.ncsa.illinois.edu. There will also be a link to the tools at smallgrains.wsu.edu. ■

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Grant County farm native provides precision ag expertise

Jason Emerson, Vantage-PNW

By Kevin Gaffney

While growing up in the Eastern Washington dryland wheat farming community of Hartline, **Jason Emerson** always believed he would have a career in agriculture.

Upon graduation from Almira-Coulee-Hartline (ACH High School) in 1998, Emerson earned his diesel mechanics degree from Walla Walla Community College. Deciding against making diesel mechanics his life's work, he pursued additional education at Spokane Community College (SCC). He thought being an ag teacher might be a better direction for him. During his time at SCC, he met his future wife, Heidi.

Emerson had worked on the Kelly Brothers Farm through high school and was comfortable with their dryland wheat operation near Almira.

"As I advanced further into the academic program, it just didn't feel right for me," Emerson said. "So, it was excellent timing when the Kelly brothers contacted me. I worked for them for the next 14 years."

Emerson and his father also ran a small cow-calf cattle operation while he worked for the Kelly brothers.

"Then, in the fall of 2013, I was offered a position by Odessa Trading Co.," recalled Emerson. "I decided it was time for a change, and signed up. Aside from marrying my wife Heidi, joining the team at Vantage-PNW was the best move I ever made."

Emerson and his wife live in Coulee City and have an eight-year-old daughter, Josie, and a six-year-old son, Gavin. Heidi is the second-grade teacher and the career and technical education counselor for the Coulee City School District.

Emerson began with in-house training in precision ag (PA) sales and service, mostly from Robb Soliday and Eric Eilertson, fellow team members at Vantage-PNW. Emerson has also received instruction at various workshops and seminars over the years, including specialized training provided by Trimble, their main PA supplier. About a year ago, Emerson was promoted to manager of the Coulee City store, which has added more record keeping, ordering and staff management responsibilities to his duties.

The WEED-IT spraying system is a revolutionary development for PA that has Emerson enthusiastic about a tool that can greatly reduce costs for farmers. The new Quadro-Blue LED system from WEED-IT is the third generation of this product since being brought to the agriculture industry.



The new Quadro-Blue LED system is 50 percent lighter than the previous red-light LED product and is more efficient, using four detection zones on each unit to ensure every weed is sprayed.

Emerson explained that the WEED-IT system uses infra-red light to reflect off the chlorophyll in weed plants. When the sensor sees a reflection back from the weed, it sprays.

"We were the first dealer selling the WEED-IT spraying system for agricultural use in the United States," he said. "The sole vendor for WEED-IT in America is AgriTech America. We now have 19 WEED-IT units in use and are in the process of building four more. We are completing one in our Coulee City shop right now."

Now mostly being used in direct seeding operations on chemical fallow, the system has the potential to be a game-changer in saving farmers money on spraying costs.

"On the first spraying pass, there are many weeds, so the savings are about 40 percent or more. On the second



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Bruce Nelson, Whitman County Farmer

For more information about the program and an authorization form, see your local elevator, e-mail WGGAH@2-harvest.org or call Second Harvest at (509)252-6273.

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application, savings are 80 percent, and by the third spraying pass, the savings are 90 to 95 percent compared to a standard broadcast spray application on all acreage.

“In comparison to the widely accepted auto-steer systems, which were sold with promises of 10 percent savings, this is truly ground breaking. The return on investment is like no other product in agriculture. When you pencil out the savings, the payback is truly huge.

“WEED-IT is very effective in direct seed operations, but can be used for post-harvest spraying on minimum-tillage acreage, when the most opportunity for saving money is there.”

The WEED-IT spraying system is compatible for a retrofit on virtually any brand of sprayer. Vantage-PNW has converted sprayers built by John Deere, CaseIH, Apache, Flexicoil and other brands. Vantage-PNW teamed up with AGPRO of Lewiston to build a prototype sprayer that has been used on several farms in Whitman County, generating much interest from farmers in Palouse country.

As would be expected, the technology is not inexpensive. The price currently runs about \$1,300 per foot. At that price, a 100-foot sprayer will cost \$130,000 to be converted. With the savings being delivered, however, it is taking only two years to get the return on investment and begin saving huge amounts on spray bills.

“We realize this is a sizable investment, and we will work with our customers on the best way going forward for each operation,” said Emerson. “Some farmers convert their existing sprayers. Others who have a sprayer with a lot of wear and tear will first acquire a newer sprayer before converting to the system.”

The WEED-IT product was



The new Quadro-Blue LED system is 50 percent lighter than the previous red-light LED product and is more efficient, using four detection zones on each unit to ensure every weed is sprayed.

developed by Rometron, a company based in the Netherlands. It came from an original application to spray roadside weeds by using the smallest amount of chemical possible. The agricultural industry application potential was quickly realized.

An additional benefit pointed out by Emerson is that the system allows for more options to farmers regarding which products to use because much smaller amounts of chemicals are being sprayed. This can also help in the fight against the growing problem of resistant weeds.

Some of their customers have experienced problems with herbicide resistance in Russian thistle, mare's tail and rush skeleton weed. The WEED-IT system can avoid this problem by more efficiently targeting the weeds using the most effective herbicide at the proper rate to ensure a total kill on the weeds being sprayed.

“Because less product is being used, a grower can use a spray mix they might not be able to afford if they were spraying every acre,” Emerson said. “This is also advantageous because no farmer wants to use any more herbicide than what is needed to efficiently get the job done.”

Emerson believes more than ninety percent of Pacific Northwest wheat farmers are now using some form of PA in their operations. Most growers are now using GPS mapping to identify various levels of productivity in their fields and are fertilizing accordingly.

“Our company is always looking ahead. We try to think out a decade or more and imagine what the farmers will need in regards to PA technology and equipment to continue to be efficient and successful.

“Competitive pricing will get a customer once, but offering top-scale service to our growers is absolutely critical to keeping loyal clientele. With so many parts and products available online, we understand the need to provide superior service.”

The Vantage-PNW sales territory encompasses eastern and central Washington, northern Oregon and northern Idaho. A division of Odessa Trading Co. and Ritzville Warehouse Co., they have eight, full-time employees

for their two offices in Coulee City and Ritzville.

"My favorite part of the job is working with the farmers, helping them to solve problems and to run more efficient farming operations," said Emerson. "It's my opinion that we work with some of the best food producers in the world."

"Sadly, most consumers don't understand where their food comes from or how it is produced. There is a lack of appreciation for how fortunate we are in the United States for our bountiful and affordable food supply. Many people take this for granted. There are millions of people all over the world who are not so blessed."

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Land leaves thumbprint on Clizer legacy

By Trista Crossley

Shortly before Wes Clizer's mother, Marilyn Pratt Clizer, passed away, she told him that if a person had land ownership in a county, that person's thumbprint is on the land. For Clizer and many members of his family, decades of owning farmland in the Palouse has left a similar thumbprint on their own lives.

The Clizer family's roots in the Palouse stretch back to the late 1800s when Clizer's great-grandfather and his family traveled the Oregon Trail to the Pacific Northwest, stopping briefly in Colfax, Wash.

"Rumor is, he spent his last nickel on a plug of tobacco, and then made his way from Colfax to homestead near Latah," Clizer said.

Clizer's grandfather, Charles B. Clizer Sr., grew up on that farm, the youngest of nine children. Unfortunately, that original farm slipped out of the family in 1912 when it was sold. Charles graduated from medical school, enlisted and married the day before he left for WWI. When he returned, he and his wife moved to Tekoa to set up a medical practice and raise their family, including Clizer's father, Charles B. Clizer Jr. Towards the end of his medical career, in about 1946, the senior Clizer began buying

farmland in the surrounding area.

Clizer's family connection to the land was cemented when his father, Charles Jr., met and married Marilyn Pratt, the daughter of a farming family who lived near Tekoa, Wash.

"Dad quit high school at 17 to fight in WWII. He was the prom king who never showed up to the high school prom dance. Mom was prom queen. Grandfather Clizer was president of the draft board. He signed his own kid up to fight in WWII," Clizer explained.

The family's current farm holdings are a bit complicated, consisting of the land that was bought by Charles B. Clizer Sr. and land inherited by Marilyn Pratt Clizer through her parents. Today, all of the family's land is rented out and managed by the Pratt-Clizer Farms LLC, which is overseen by a board made up of the four Clizer siblings: Wes, Teresa Jeffreys, Claircy Clizer and Charlotte Klicker. The land is planted in wheat, lentils, barley and bluegrass seed. Jeffreys, the eldest Clizer sibling, is the farm manager for the LLC. She took over managing the farm three years ago.

"I'm in a pretty good position because my siblings and I get along so well. They are usually eager to go along with my suggestions. The farmers have been really good



Harvest on the Pratt farm circa 1930. Photo courtesy of Teresa Jeffreys and the Clizer family.

to work with. I don't bug them, but they are responsive when I call. I'm very blessed to have the situation that we have. We've got great farmers and can totally trust them," she said.

Jeffreys works with three different tenants, all under crop share agreements. She is responsible for tracking all the bills and paying them, tracking crop rotations, inputs and yields, as well as dispersing money when their share of the crop is sold. Jeffreys emails quarterly reports to her siblings, and they try to hold an annual farm meeting. She gets advice from her farmers as well as from reading industry publications.


While Clizer and his three siblings didn't grow up on a farm, they all spent time helping their relatives out.

"I know that my parents felt farming was really the core of the Pacific Northwest, and so my older sister, Teresa, would go to the Thompson farm and spend time there during summer. She would do the cooking for harvest crews and do babysitting. My job would be to go out on the farms and learn how farms worked," Clizer said. "Farming is a method of life that pretty much washes things

down to the core. You are either taking care of the land or not. That ranges from the crops you plant to the way you sell them and who is responsible when it comes time to do that. In a primary sense, land needs to be taken care of. It is an additional life on top of your family's life."

As each generation of the Clizer clan moves farther away from the farm, Jeffreys said there's no clear indication that the next wave of the family will want to continue to own the property.

"The big thing coming up, is what happens with the next generation now. We (the Clizer siblings) are writing wills and trying to figure out where to go with this," she said. "The heritage of the land is near and dear to my heart. The next generation is so removed that they don't have the same desire to manage the farm. I don't want to see that land go outside the family before I die. (My parents, grandparents and great-grandparents) invested their whole lives in this, and I feel a duty to do well by the land as long as I can." ■



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THE BOTTOM LINE

The importance of a durable power of attorney

By William O. Etter
Attorney, Foster Garvey PC

When most people contemplate completing their “estate planning,” they think only of making sure they have an updated will (or in some instances, a revocable living trust). Unfortunately, this creates an issue I find myself dealing with more regularly in my estate planning practice, namely, the inability of family members to properly manage the affairs of an incapacitated parent or spouse due to the lack of a properly drafted and updated durable power of attorney.

What is a power of attorney (and what makes it “durable”)?

A power of attorney is a legal document whereby the “principal” (the maker of the document) designates an “agent” to act with legal authority on the principal’s behalf. A “durable” power of attorney is simply a power of attorney which provides that the legal authority of the agent

remains effective when the principal becomes incapacitated. Although a power of attorney document can be drafted to provide legal authority to an agent for a specific purpose (often called a “limited power of attorney”), every person, as part of his or her general estate planning, should have a properly drafted durable power of attorney that covers financial and health care decisions.

The primary purpose for having a durable power of attorney is to ensure that if you become incapacitated, and thus unable to make financial or health care decisions, you have a trusted agent that can make those decisions on your behalf. The most common third parties that your agent will have to deal with once you become incapacitated are health care providers and financial institutions. These parties are particularly risk averse, and it is highly likely that they will accept no direction from your spouse or child without requesting a copy of a valid durable power of attorney. The importance of having the durable power of attorney in place before it needs to be utilized cannot be understated, as incapacity can arise not only from a prolonged illness but also from an unexpected accident.

In the event you do not have a durable power of attorney document in place and you become incapacitated, your family members will have to rely on a court-supervised guardianship in order to make financial and health care decisions for you. This is a situation that should be avoided at all costs as the guardianship process is a public legal proceeding that requires the intervention of a court and attorneys, in addition to a considerable amount of time and money.

Key provisions for a durable power of attorney

Once you have decided to have a durable power of attorney prepared (or to update your existing durable power of attorney), you should speak with your estate-planning attorney to ensure that the following key provisions are included. Washington laws regarding durable power of attorney documents (RCW 11.125) changed significantly on Jan. 1, 2017, therefore, if your durable power of attorney document was executed prior to the enactment of the new law, you should consult with your attorney to confirm that no updates are required.

- **Durable.** A power of attorney is “durable” only if stated expressly in the document. As discussed above, making a power of attorney durable means that an agent’s powers continue even after the principal becomes incapacitated. Accordingly, if you have a power of attorney that fails to state expressly that it is durable, then it defeats the entire purpose of having a power of attorney, which is to plan for incapacity.
- **Effective date.** A durable power of attorney may become effective either immediately upon signing of the document or at a later date. Most commonly, if the document is not effective immediately, it will include provisions that the document becomes effective when the principal’s physician determines that he or she is incapacitated. Although there may be reasons to delay the effective date of the provisions concerning financial powers, I see no good reason for not making the health care provisions of a durable power of attorney effectively immediately.

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- **Plan of successorship.** I always advise clients to nominate at least one successor agent that may act under the durable power of attorney. This ensures that if the primary appointed agent is unable or unwilling to act, you have a contingency plan in place. Although a durable power of attorney may appoint multiple co-agents to act jointly, my preference is to appoint only a single agent to act, primarily to avoid a situation where the co-agents cannot agree (and thus, the principal ends up having no agent that may act).

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- **Gifting powers.** Pursuant to Washington law, if a principal wishes to provide authority to his or her agent to gift property, that authority must be specifically stated in the durable power of attorney document. Many older durable power of attorney documents contain ambiguous language stating that the agent shall have "all powers that I might have under law." Under the new statute, that ambiguous language is no longer sufficient for providing an agent with authority to gift property. For those interested, RCW 11.125.240 provides the full list of powers that must be specifically set forth under the durable power of attorney. ■

William O. Etter is a tax attorney that specializes in estate planning, probate and trust administration in the Spokane office of Foster Garvey PC, one of the largest law firms in the Northwest region. He works regularly with families to preserve and transition assets and businesses to successive generations. He has previously served on the executive committee of the Real Property, Probate, and Trust section of the Washington State Bar Association and can be reached at (509) 777-1600 or at william.etter@foster.com.



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Grandpa (Randy Repp) is in the combine, grandson Derek Repp (14) is in the tractor pulling the bank-out wagon, and Varin Repp (12) is waiting for them to fill his truck during harvest 2019 near Dusty. Photo taken by Grandma (Kristin Repp).



Jack McKinley (5) embraces harvest near Starbuck. Photo by Krista McKinley.



September evening on the farm near Lind. Photo by Anne Grassl.

Your wheat life...



After harvest near Pomeroy. Photo by Resa Cox.



Three generations of the family farm (Bob Clements, Justine Clements and Chad Clements) are happy to end harvest 2019 in Waterville. Photo by Jacque Clements.

HAPPENINGS

All dates and times are subject to change.
Please verify event before heading out.

FEBRUARY 2020

4-6 SPOKANE AG EXPO. The largest farm machinery show in the Inland Northwest. More than 250 agriculture suppliers and service companies all under one roof at the Spokane Convention Center. greaterspokane.org/ag-expo/

11 WAWG BOARD MEETING. Meeting starts at 10 a.m. at Washington Wheat Foundation Building, Ritzville, Wash. (509) 659-0610, wawg.org

18 BREAKING BARRIERS IN AGRICULTURE. AMMO workshop presented by Lesley Kelly. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Northern Quest Casino Pavilion, Airway Height, Wash. Lunch is provided. No charge for WAWG members; cost for nonmembers is \$25. Preregister at least 3 days in advance by calling (877) 740-2666 or print out and mail registration form at wawg.org/ammo-workshops/

20 THE WILD SIDE OF WEATHER AND MARKETS. AMMO workshop presented by Eric Snodgrass and Kevin Duling. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Northern Quest Casino Pavilion, Airway Height, Wash. Lunch is provided. No charge for WAWG members; cost for nonmembers is \$25. Preregister at least 3 days in advance by calling (877) 740-2666 or print out and mail form at wawg.org/ammo-workshops/

26 QUICKBOOKS. AMMO workshop presented by Cassi Johnson. 10 a.m. to

2 p.m. at the Northern Quest Casino Pavilion, Airway Height, Wash. Lunch is provided. No charge for WAWG members; cost for nonmembers is \$25. Preregister at least 3 days in advance by calling (877) 740-2666 or print out and mail form at wawg.org/ammo-workshops/

27 3RD ANNUAL PALOUSE ALTERNATIVE CROPPING SYMPOSIUM.

This event will promote healthy soils and profitable farming. Local farmers will share experiences on cover cropping, intercropping and integrating livestock. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., View Room, Gladish Community Center in Pullman. More information at palousecd.org/symposium

MARCH 2020

1 SAUSAGE FEED. All you can eat from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Menu includes home-made sausage, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll, applesauce, pie and beverage. Beer garden. Uniontown Community Center, Uniontown, Wash. uniontownwa.org/events/

6-8 SPRING ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW.

Features 300 professional artists and crafters from across the U.S. Spokane Fair and Expo Center, Spokane, Wash. custershows.com

10 WAWG BOARD MEETING. Meeting starts at 10 a.m. at Washington Wheat Foundation Building, Ritzville, Wash. (509) 659-0610, wawg.org

20-22 SPRING ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW. Features 150 professional artists

and crafters from across the U.S. HAPO Center, Pasco, Wash. custershows.com

APRIL 2020

11 EASTER EGG HUNT. Kids should bring their own baskets and enjoy an Easter egg hunt dash from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Holzer Park in Uniontown, Wash. uniontownwa.org/events/

16-19 WASHINGTON STATE SPRING FAIR. Baby animal exhibits, food, entertainment, demolition derby and monster truck show. Washington State Fairgrounds in Puyallup, Wash. thefair.com/spring-fair

18 LEAVENWORTH ALE-FEST. Brews, food and music. 12 to 4 p.m. leavenworth.org/event

23-MAY 3 WASHINGTON STATE APPLE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL. Parade, carnival, golf tournament, apple pie and dessert bake-off, live entertainment, auction. Wenatchee, Wash. appleblossom.org ■

Submissions

Listings must be received by the 10th of each month for the next month's *Wheat Life*. Email listings to editor@wawg.org. Include date, time and location of event, plus contact info and a short description.



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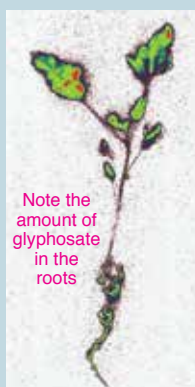
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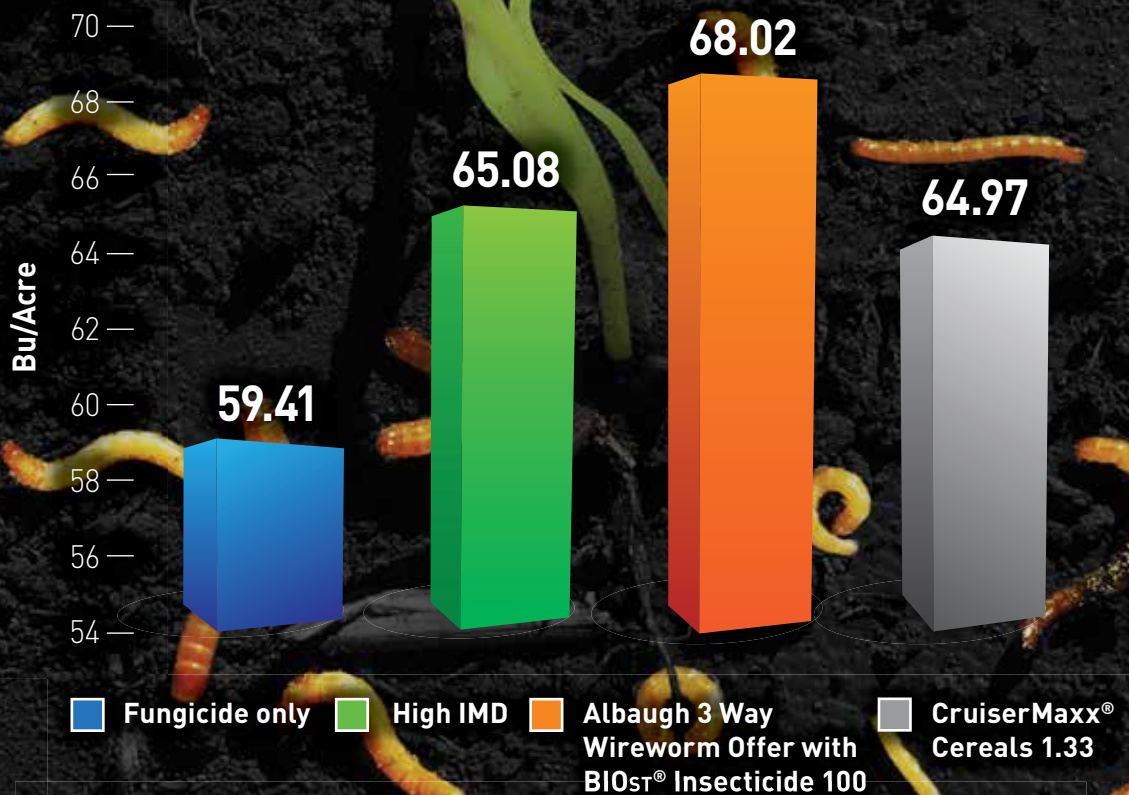
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3 Year Wireworm Summary (Bu/A)



Yield data from University and 3rd party trials (7 trials) - 2017-2019. Trials conducted in WA, ID & MT



BIOst® Insecticide 100 Proven Field Performance providing growers with increased stands, DEAD wireworms and increased profits:

1. BIOst® Insecticide 100 has proven commercial wireworm performance over the last 3 years on spring and winter wheat.
2. Albaugh's 3-way insecticide seed treatment offer kills wireworms DEAD.
3. Growers have had success over the past 3 years using Albaugh's 3 Way Wireworm offer with BIOst® Insecticide 100.

Contact your local seed retailer for more information on the 3 Way Wireworm offer with BIOst® Insecticide 100

Refer to each product label for complete use directions and restrictions. BIOst® and Resonate® are trademarks of Albaugh, LLC. NipsIt Inside® Insecticide is a trademark of Valent USA, LLC. *Dead wireworms have been observed in Albaugh's 3 Way wireworm seed treatment offer both in replicated trials and commercial seed treatment applications. CruiserMaxx® is a registered trademark of Syngenta Participations AG. Always read and follow label directions. EPA Reg. No. 84059-14-42750 AD No. 100616, EPA Reg. No. 42750-133 AD No. 110316, EPA Reg. No. 59639-151