WHEAT LIFE

The official publication of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers

MAY 2019

Planting problems?

OPTIONS LEAVE SOME GROWERS FEELING STUCK

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A progress report
on 2018 Farm Bill implementation
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2018 winter wheat variety trial results
Wheat ambassadors recap Olympia Days

WHEAT LIFE

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ASSOCIATION OF WHEAT GROWERS

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President's Perspective



Despite late start, spring is filling up

By Jeffrey Shawver

I'm usually out in my fields in late February or early March. This year, however, I'm a few weeks behind, thanks to the late winter snows we had and my busy travel schedule. Fortunately, I don't plant much spring wheat, so I rarely run up against my final planting date. The same can't be said for some of my neighbors. I suspect a few of them will miss that deadline despite running themselves ragged trying to get their seed in the ground. The good news is they'll

get a crop sown; the bad news is they'll have to take a reduction in their production guarantee because they missed that crop insurance deadline.

In the past, and again this year, the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) has asked the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to waive that production guarantee penalty for a few days. For most farmers, that's all they'll need, just a few more days, but RMA refused our request. You can read more about their reasons for doing so on page 22.

While I understand most of the reasoning behind RMA's decision, my personal opinion is that there ought to be some leeway in when that penalty is applied, especially when the delay is due to weather. There would certainly have to be some stipulations, and it should only happen under certain conditions, but I believe it would work.

Once I get my spring fieldwork done, my attention usually turns to what's happening in other fields, specifically the Washington State University (WSU) research plots where variety testing takes place. Here in Eastern Washington, we are fortunate enough to have one of the premiere dryland research stations in the country—the Lind Dryland Research Station. Every year, the station holds a field day where growers can learn about the latest variety research, not only in wheat, but in other crops as well, such as peas or triticale. I'm always looking for another crop to pair with my wheat, and the Lind field day is an excellent opportunity to see what's out there.

WSU also holds plot tours across Eastern Washington so growers can see how different varieties (both public and private) do in different precipitation zones. Chances are, there's a plot tour near you. Take the time to show your support of the work WSU does by attending. See page 51 for a schedule of WSU's 2019 plot tours.

But plot tours and field days aren't just for growers. At the beginning of June, WAWG and other agricultural stakeholders will be holding a field tour for legislators and their staff. With all of the misinformation floating around—farmers don't pay taxes!—this is an excellent way to demonstrate the steps we take to protect the environment, the technology we employ to make ourselves and our workers safer and the commitment we have to our farms, family and the public.

Finally, I have one last plug to get in. WAWG will be holding our annual Wheat College on June 6 in Dayton, Wash. See a preview of this year's event on page 32. All growers are welcome; you don't have to be a WAWG member to attend. Wheat College is free and includes lunch. The only thing we ask is that you RSVP to the WAWG office by May 31 by calling (877) 740-AMMO (2666) or emailing Lori Williams at lori@wawg.org. ■

Cover photo: Nealey Road in Spokane County. All photos are Shutterstock images or taken by Wheat Life staff unless otherwise noted.

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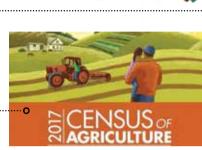
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WAWG's current top priorities are:

- ✔ 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.
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WAWG at WORK

ADVOCATING FOR THE WHEAT FARMERS OF EASTERN WASHINGTON



Leaders from multiple Washington state agricultural stakeholder groups joined the Washington State Department of Agriculture in Olympia last month to meet with state House and Senate leaders on issues facing agriculture. The ag leaders posed for a group photo with Rep. Frank Chopp (center) and thanked him for his service as Speaker of the House and his commitment to the state's agricultural industry. Michelle Hennings (holding gavel), executive director of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers, represented the wheat industry.

WAWG participates in agriculture lobby effort in Olympia

In the midst of the 2019 Legislative Session, agricultural group leaders from around the state came together in Olympia to lobby House and Senate leaders on issues facing agriculture.

The meetings were arranged by the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) and included representation from multiple ag industries including potatoes, wine, water, cattle, dairy, the farm bureau, tree fruit and Washington Friends of Farms & Forests. Michelle Hennings, executive director of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG), represented the wheat industry.

"It was very beneficial to have many of the state's major agricultural sectors represented and working together to lobby our state lawmakers," Hennings said. "Lately, there's been some misinformation floating around Olympia that farmers don't pay taxes. We were able to set that record straight and educate some of the more urban legislators on the issues impacting farmers. Thank you to

WSDA and Director Sandison for scheduling the meetings and supporting the state's agricultural system."

Some of the topics that were discussed included:

- A bill that would impose state fees on H-2A workers, and the ag industry's opposition to it;
- Support for the Office of Columbia River's capital budget requests;
- Support for the Yakima Integrated Plan;
- Concerns about a proposed grant program at WSDA;
- Support for the Soil Health Initiative; and
- Support for the lower Snake River dams.

Meetings were held with Sen. Kevin Van de Wege (D-Sequim), chair of the Senate Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources and Park Committee; Sen. Christine Rolfes (D-Kitsap County), chair of the Senate Ways & Means Committee; Robert Duff, natural resources and environment senior policy advisor for the governor;



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Dwarf Essex Rapeseed	3,678 (20)	3,413 (28)			
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Edimax CL	4,362 (3)	4,413 <i>(5)</i>			
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Popular		4,706 (3)			
Phoenix CL		4,636 (4)			
PNWVT Mean	3,910	3,956			
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Rep. Timm Ormsby (D-Spokane), chair of the House Appropriations Committee; Rep. J.T. Wilcox (R-McKenna), House Republican leader; Speaker of the House, Rep. Frank Chopp (D-Seattle); Sen. Andy Billig (D-Spokane), Senate majority leader; Sen. Mark Schoesler (R-Ritzville), Senate minority leader; David Schumacher, director of the Office of Financial Management; and Rep. Brian Blake (D-Aberdeen).

Legislators were also invited to attend the agricultural industry's legislative tour, scheduled for June 3 and 4 in the Columbia Basin.

DC fly-in focuses on trade, farm bill

Trade was the focus of an April Washington, D.C., fly-in that partnered leadership and staff of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) with Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) director, Derek Sandison.

On the schedule were meetings with White House staff,
Ambassador Gregg Doud, the U.S.
Department of Interior and the U.S.
Department of Agriculture's (USDA)
Agricultural Research Service (ARS).
The group also met with members of Washington state's congressional delegation and the Senate
Agriculture Committee.

"Being able to visit our congressional delegation and various USDA agencies with our state director of agriculture adds a lot of value to our message and shows the positive relationship we have with WSDA," said Jeffrey Shawver, WAWG president. "It is of utmost importance to both of our organizations that this administration quickly resolves the trade issues the U.S. has with Canada, Mexico, China and Japan. We are

grateful for the support our elected officials have shown our industry in these matters."

Doud updated the group on progress on the U.S.-Mexico-Canada-Agreement (USMCA) and said there was positive movement towards reaching ratification. However, some congressional members indicated they still had concerns that needed to be addressed, such as removal of the 232 tariffs, before voting.

Other topics that were discussed included the Columbia Basin Project, the Columbia River Treaty, the lower Snake River dams, ARS research funding, farm bill implementation, H-2A legislation and the Trump Administration's budget.

WAWG signs coalition letter opposing financing of dam study

The Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) was part of a coalition of stakeholders that sent a letter to members of the state Senate Ways and Means Committee in April asking them to remove funding for a study of breaching the lower Snake River dams.

The letter urges committee members to remove the \$750,000 Gov. Inslee proposed for the study, saying, "...This issue remains profoundly controversial and



KENNEWICK FARM FAIR. Wysteria Rush talks about wheat at the Washington Association of Wheat Growers' booth at the 26th annual Franklin County Farm Bureau Farm Fair March 28-29. Approximately 1,200 fifth-grade area students from 60 classrooms participated. Marci Green also volunteered her time to discuss what farmers do during each season of the year, wheat exporting and what happens to wheat after it leaves the farm. Students played a game of "which product does NOT contain wheat." Students were mostly receptive, and overall, they seemed interested in learning about agriculture. All teachers were provided bags with Wheat Facts and small giveaways. All students received the new "Win with the wheat teams" booklets and a pencil.



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divisive, and the general issue of Snake River dam operations is already being thoroughly studied under the federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion and the comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement associated with that effort. A parallel state study, which is less comprehensive and with far less funding, will divide the interests who are working to recover orca whales and will not occur within a time frame that will provide meaningful progress in orca recovery efforts."

Besides WAWG, 25 groups signed on in support of the letter, including the Washington Farm Bureau, Washington Public Ports Association, Avista, the city of Pasco and more.

The Snake River dams are a key part of the region's transportation infrastructure, providing an alternative, lower-emission method of moving goods. The dams also provide reliable, carbon-free power that underpins the Pacific Northwest's baseline power needs.

Despite the coalition's best lobbying efforts, the final version of the 2019-2021 operating budget included the full amount Gov. Inslee asked for. The funds will be used to contract with a neutral third party to establish a process for local, state, tribal and federal leaders and stakeholders to address issues associated with the possible breaching or removal of the dams in order to recover the Chinook salmon populations. The budget also notes that the contract is exempt from competitive procurement requirements.

CSP sign-up deadline nears

The next deadline for Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) applications to be considered for funding this year is May 10, 2019. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) plans to invest up to \$700 million for new enrollments and contract extensions in fiscal year 2019. The 2018 Farm Bill made several changes to this critical conservation program, which helps agricultural producers take the conservation activities on their farm or ranch to the next level.

"CSP continues to be a very effective tool for private landowners working to achieve their conservation and management goals," NRCS Chief Matthew Lohr said. "It is the largest conservation program in the United States with more than 70 million acres of productive agricultural and forest land enrolled."

While applications are accepted throughout the year, interested producers should submit applications to their local NRCS office by May 10, 2019, to ensure their applications are considered for 2019 funding.

THE FARMER'S SHARE. On average, U.S. farmers received 14.6 cents for farm commodity sales from each dollar spent on domestically produced food in 2017, down from 14.8 cents in 2016—a 1.4 percent decline. The Economic Research Service (ERS) uses input-output analysis to calculate the farm and marketing shares from a typical food dollar, including food purchased at grocery stores and at restaurants, coffee shops and other eating-out places. Although 2017 was the 6th consecutive year the farm share dropped, the decline in 2017 was smaller than in 2016 (4.5 percent) and 2015 (9.9 percent). Unlike in the previous two years, average prices received by U.S. farmers went up in 2017 as measured by the Producer Price Index for farm products. The decline in farm share also coincides with six consecutive years of increases in the share of the food dollar going to the foodservice industry. Increases in foodaway-from-home spending by consumers drives down the farm share of the food dollar. Farmers receive a smaller percentage from eating-out expenditures because food makes up a smaller share of total costs due to restaurants' added costs for preparing and serving meals. The data for this chart can be found in ERS's Food Dollar Series data product, updated March 2019.



The 2018 Farm Bill authorizes NRCS to accept new CSP enrollments from now until 2023, and it makes some important improvements to the program. These updates include:

- NRCS now enrolls eligible, high-ranking applications based on dollars rather than acres.
- For fiscal year 2019, NRCS can spend up to \$700 million in the program, which covers part of the cost for producers implementing new conservation activities and maintaining their existing activities.
- Higher payment rates are now available for certain conservation activities, including cover crops and resource conserving crop rotations.
- CSP now provides specific support for organic and for transitioning to organic production activities and a special grassland conservation initiative for certain producers who have maintained cropland base acres.

CSP is offered in all 50 states and the Pacific and Caribbean areas through continuous sign-ups. The program provides many benefits including increased crop yields, decreased inputs, wildlife habitat improvements and increased resilience to weather extremes. CSP is for working lands including cropland, pastureland, range-











land, nonindustrial private forest land and agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe.

For additional information about CSP, contact your local USDA service center.

Higher limits available on USDA farm loans

Higher limits are now available for borrowers interested in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) farm loans, which help agricultural producers purchase farms or cover operating expenses. The 2018 Farm Bill increased the amount that producers can borrow through direct and guaranteed loans available through USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) and made changes to other loans, such as microloans and emergency loans.

"As natural disasters, trade disruptions and persistent pressure on commodity prices continue to impact agricultural operations, farm loans become increasingly important to farmers and ranchers," FSA Administrator Richard Fordyce said. "The 2018 Farm Bill provides increased loan limits and more flexibility to farm loans, which gives producers more access to credit when they need it most."

Key changes include:

- The Direct Operating Loan limit increased from \$300,000 to \$400,000, and the Guaranteed Operating Loan limit increased from \$1.429 million to \$1.75 million. Operating loans help producers pay for normal operating expenses, including machinery and equipment, seed, livestock feed and more.
- The Direct Farm Ownership Loan limit increased from \$300,000 to \$600,000, and the Guaranteed Farm Ownership Loan limit increased from \$1.429 million to \$1.75 million. Farm ownership loans help producers become owner-operators of family farms as well as improve and expand current operations.
- Producers can now receive both a \$50,000 Farm
 Ownership Microloan and a \$50,000 Operating
 Microloan. Previously, microloans were limited to a
 combined \$50,000. Microloans provide flexible access
 to credit for small, beginning, niche and nontraditional farm operations.
- Producers who previously received debt forgiveness as part of an approved FSA restructuring plan are now eligible to apply for emergency loans. Previously, these producers were ineligible.
- Beginning and socially disadvantaged producers can now receive up to a 95 percent guarantee against the

loss of principal and interest on a loan, up from 90 percent.

About Farm Loans

Direct farm loans, which include microloans and emergency loans, are financed and serviced by FSA, while guaranteed farm loans are financed and serviced by commercial lenders. For guaranteed loans, FSA provides a guarantee against possible financial loss of principal and interest.

For more information on FSA farm loans, visit their website at fsa.usda.gov or contact your local USDA service center.

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POLICY MATTERS

Legislature passes budget with only minutes to spare

The 2019 Washington State Legislative Session came to an end minutes before the deadline on April 28 when law-makers passed a \$52.4 billion, two-year operating budget. The budget included a number of tax increases, including a graduated real estate tax and an increase in the B&O tax for some service-type businesses. However, a proposed capital gains tax was not included.

The Legislature spent \$3.9 billion in education funding, including salaries and cost-of-living raises. Democrats also passed a plan to lift the existing cap on local school levies in an effort to ward off budget cuts and layoffs in school districts across the state. Other spending included more than \$45 million on preventing and fighting wildfires; \$41 million to combat homelessness; and more than \$10 million to address a backlog of untested rape kits. They also reversed a state ban on affirmative action.

The agricultural industry, including the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG), had been advocating against a proposal to spend \$750,000 over two years to study the impacts of breaching the lower Snake River dams to aid in salmon survival. WAWG and other stakeholders feel the dam study is unnecessary and is duplicative of the federal EIS process. Unfortunately, that funding was included in the budget.

The budget agreement now heads to the governor's desk for signing. Watch our website, wawg.org, for more details on results of the 2019 Legislative Session.

In the weeks leading up to the end of the 2019 Legislative Session, our lobbyist, Diana Carlen, provided updates on a number of bills the agricultural industry had been monitoring. They include:

- HB 1841, a bill that established minimum crew size requirements on trains transporting hazardous materials, was scheduled to be voted on by the Senate in the late afternoon on April 17. However, there were a number of other controversial bills on the floor calendar, and they ran out of time. It was referenced previously in the House proposed operating budget.
- E2SSB 5438 dealt with the H-2A worker program and was sponsored by Sen. John McCoy (D-Tulalip). As the bill came over from the Senate, it would have required those who use H-2A temporary workers to pay an additional state fee (farmers who utilize these workers currently pay a fee to the federal government). The ag-

ricultural industry, including WAWG, opposed the bill because these fees will make the use of H-2A workers cost prohibitive. Rep. Bruce Chandler (R-Granger) had an amendment adopted in the House Appropriations Committee that removed the state fees and clarified the duties of the Office of Agricultural and Seasonal Workforce created in the bill. The bill passed the House unanimously, and the Senate concurred on the House amendments. The bill will be delivered to the governor for his signature.

- SSB 5550, implementing recommendations of the pesticide safety workgroup, was sponsored by Sen. Rebecca Saldaña (D-Seattle). The bill establishes the pesticide application safety committee to explore how state agencies collect and track data and consider the feasibility and requirements of developing a shared database, including how the Department of Health could use existing tools to better display multi-agency data regarding pesticides. The bill passed both the Senate and House and will be delivered to the governor for signing. WAWG supports this legislation.
- SSB 5883, sponsored by Sen. Curtis King (R-Yakima), allows vehicles carrying farm products from the field to exceed road weight limits by up to 5 percent on public roads. It also requires that a farm receive at least four written warnings for excess weights before traffic penalties can be imposed. The bill was amended and voted out of the House Transportation Committee on April 8 with a 30-1 vote. Amendments by Rep. Sharon Shewmake (D-Bellingham) changed the bill to refer the exemptions to the driver (and not the farm) and that two excess weight warnings per driver (instead of four per farm) are required before penalties can be imposed. The bill passed off the House floor with a 94-3 vote. WAWG supports the bill. The Senate concurred with the House amendments by a vote of 47-1. It now heads to the governor for signing.
- SHB 2009, sponsored by Rep. Kristine Reeves (D-Federal Way), was the House version of the environmental justice bill. It was amended on the floor to create a large 22-member task force to make recommendations on incorporating environmental justice principles into various agency responsibilities; require certain agencies to incorporate cumulative impact analysis tools and task force guidance (upon legisla-

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tive approval); and requires the Department of Health to develop model policies (subject to legislative approval). The bill would have required agencies represented on the task force to use all practicable means to promote environmental justice and "fair treatment." The bill passed out of the House with an 88-10-0 vote, but the Senate failed to bring it up for consideration. However, nearly \$400,000 was set aside in the final operating budget for a taskforce to recommend strategies for incorporating environmental justice principles into state agencies' responsibilities.

Industry groups urge China to comply with WTO agreements

U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) and the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) welcome the April ruling by a World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute panel that China's government does not fairly administer its annual tariff rate quotas (TRQ) for imports of corn, rice and 9.64 million metric tons (mmt) of wheat. This decision follows a separate ruling in late February that determined China provides excessive domestic price supports in excess of its WTO commitments. The U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) brought these disputes to the WTO in 2016, armed with clear evidence that China's policies distort world trade of those commodities and create an unfair advantage for domestic production.

"With these decisions, we call on the Chinese government to come into compliance with the rules it accepted when it joined the WTO," said USW President Vince Peterson. "The world now sees that their policies stifle market-driven wheat trade, block export opportunities and force private sector buyers and consumers to pay more than they should for milling wheat and wheat-based foods. We appreciate that the Trump Administration continues to shine a light on these distorting policies by supporting the WTO dispute cases."

"NAWG applauds the administration for pressing the WTO to enforce trade rules that ensure fair trade for U.S. wheat growers," said NAWG CEO Chandler Goule. "Further, we appreciate the work done by those members of Congress who continued to press on this issue and move the process forward."

China's wheat TRQ was established in its WTO membership agreement in 2001. Under that agreement, China may initially allocate 90 percent of the TRQ to government buyers, or state trading enterprises (STEs), with only 10 percent reserved for private sector importers. The private sector typically imports its full portion due to growing

demand for flour from different wheat classes with better milling and baking characteristics than domestically produced wheat provides. However, China's notifications to the WTO on TRQ usage show an average fill rate of just 25 percent. The WTO does not require that TRQs fill every year, but it has rules regarding transparency and administration that are intended to facilitate the use of TROs.

Considering that China's domestic wheat prices are significantly more than the landed cost of U.S. wheat imported from the Pacific Northwest, Peterson said the TRQ should be fully used if the system were operating fairly, transparently and predictably as the rules intend. The facts also argue against potential claims that enforcing the TRQ agreement would threaten China's food security. China produces more wheat each year than any other single country. If China met its 9.64 mmt wheat TRQ, its farmers would still produce 90 percent of domestically consumed wheat.

"Once China meets its obligations under the WTO and the temporary retaliatory tariffs are removed, wheat farmers from the U.S. and other countries can compete fairly for sales to this growing market," Peterson said.

Report underscores importance of NAFTA; passing USMCA

From the National Association of Wheat Growers

In mid-April, the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) released its report on the economic benefits of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). National Association of Wheat Growers' (NAWG) president and Lavon, Texas, farmer, Ben Scholz, issued the following statement in response:

"It is critical for Congress to understand how substantial USMCA is for agriculture, especially the undervalued wheat market. Once NAFTA was implemented, U.S. wheat exports to Mexico shot up to an annual average of almost 3 million metric tons (more than 100 million bushels). This made Mexico the largest U.S. wheat importer in the world in the 2016/17 marketing year

"USMCA retains tariff-free access to imported U.S. wheat for our long-time flour milling customers in Mexico. Furthermore, the USMCA makes important progress towards more open commerce for U.S. wheat farmers near the border with Canada by working to fix the broken grain-grading system and making trade more reciprocal along the U.S.-Canadian border.

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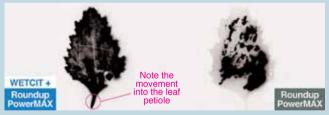
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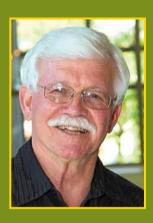


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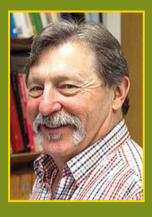


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Dr. Randy Fortenbery Washington State University

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Thursday, June 6

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"Live demonstrations helped me understand the processes. Wheat College is a fantastic program for growers"

AMMO attendee

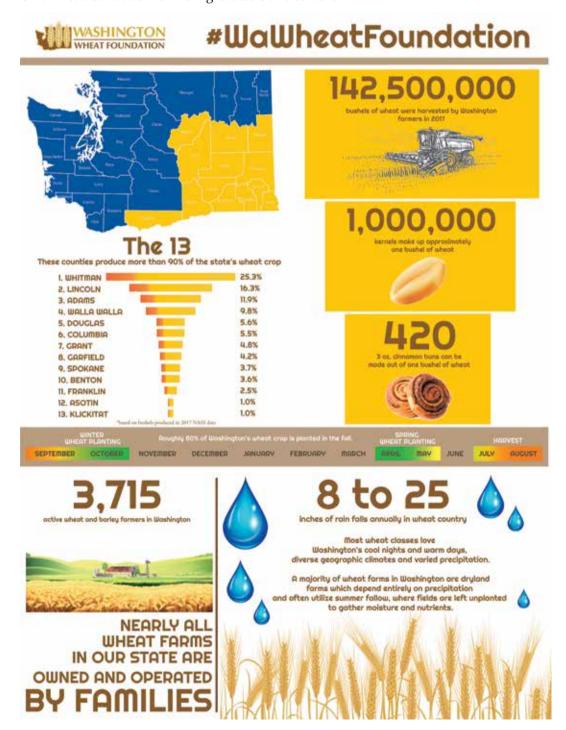




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Are you looking for some common ground when talking about the unpredictability of this spring, or wheat farming in general, with friends and family that aren't too familiar with agriculture in Eastern Washington? We'd like to help bridge the gap with this informative infographic, which can help people understand some Washington wheat basics. Tear out this page and share it with all the nonfarm people you know. Also, follow us on Facebook at @WaWheatFoundation for more great tools and content.



Calendar:

Washington Wheat Foundation Meeting June 3, 2019, beginning at 1 p.m. at the Wheat Foundation Building in Ritzville, Wash.

Reminders:

- Don't forget, the **National Wheat** Foundation is accepting grower enrollment for the 2019 National Wheat Yield Contest! The deadline for winter wheat entries is May 15. The spring wheat entry deadline is Aug. 1, with an early registration deadline of June 15. For more information visit wheatfoundation.org.
- Remember the Foundation in your charitable giving. Go to wawheat.org to find out more about ways that you can support your industry.

Washington Wheat Foundation

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PLANTING WOES?

Tough field conditions leave some farmers facing crop insurance decision | By Trista Crossley

In some years, just getting seeds planted is a struggle for farmers. The fields may be too wet, or, conversely, too dry. The fields may be fine, but access to those fields may be blocked, thanks to flooded roads or washed-out bridges.

In any case, the longer a farmer has to wait to plant, the more likely it is that they'll run afoul of the Risk Management Agency's (RMA) final planting deadline, and when that happens, farmers will need to make a choice: forego planting altogether and receive a crop insurance payment (called prevented planting coverage), which is 60 percent of their total insurance guarantee, or plant late and take a deduction on their crop insurance production guarantee. For many Eastern Washington wheat farmers, neither of those choices makes them particularly happy.

At planting time (both in the spring and the fall), farmers have two dates they need to keep in mind: the final planting date and the late planting period. Both dates are

set by the regional RMA office, and the dates vary according to crop and geographic location. In the event a farmer can't plant by the final planting date, they can choose not to plant that crop and will be compensated for some costs they might have incurred while getting ready to plant. Farmers can still plant a crop after the final planting date. This falls into the late planting period, which typically extends 25 days after the final planting date. Every day after the final planting date costs a farmer 1 percent of their production guarantee. So if a farmer plants his crop seven days after the final plant date, their production guarantee is reduced by 7 percent.

In the spring of 2017 and again this year, the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) asked RMA to either move the final planting deadline back a few days or waive the production guarantee deduction for a week or so to give growers a few more days to



get their crops in the ground without penalty. Both times, the RMA regional office in Spokane denied WAWG's request, saying such a move would constitute a change in the terms and conditions of policies that could result in a breach of contract between producers and their insurance companies.

Michelle Hennings, executive director of WAWG, said it is unfortunate that they were unable to come to a mutual agreement regarding the planting dates. With the current field conditions, an extension of the plant dates would have been a relief to many growers.

"Our farmers are hurting and could use every little bit of relief they can get," she said. "While I understand RMA's reasons for not moving the final planting date, I think there should be some flexibility in waiving the crop insurance penalty for a few days. It seems detrimental to penalize farmers who only need a few extra days to finish up their planting, and most farmers would rather put a crop in the ground than take a prevented planting payment."

In Eastern Washington, final planting dates for spring wheat start as early as April 15 in parts of Adams, Benton, Grant and Walla Walla counties. The latest final plant date is May 15 in parts of Asotin, Douglas, Grant, Klickitat, Spokane, Whitman and Yakima counties.

At press time, spring wheat planting was behind schedule in multiple locations across Eastern Washington, and some farmers were facing the decision whether or not to take the prevented planting payment or plant late and take the crop insurance deduction (see sidebar on next page). According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service's April 22 crop progress report for Washington state, spring wheat planting was only at 27 percent, compared with 39 percent this time last year and a five-year average of 59 percent.

en Thiel, director of RMA's regional office in Spokane, said Eastern Washington growers aren't the first or only ones who have had this request denied. Even in areas with more challenging conditions think the late snow and flooding in the Midwest—RMA generally doesn't budge when it comes to final planting dates.

"I empathize with farmers," Thiel said. "Farming is a difficult business, and they are constantly challenged. Weather is a frustrating thing. That's why there is crop insurance, because you can't control the weather. The structure of federal crop insurance isn't designed to be punitive, but rather to provide insured producers with options when impacted by insured perils. When a producer is unable to plant their insured crop by the final planting

date, the policy has several options including a prevented planting payment, which compensates the producer for costs incurred in preparation for planting."

Thiel gave another reason for not moving the final planting date—if that date were moved, it could conceivably force producers who wouldn't normally plant past the final planting date to do exactly that.

Final planting dates are reviewed approximately every three years, and the Spokane office is responsible for setting them for Washington state. According to Rick Williams, senior risk management specialist at the Spokane office, RMA bases their dates on actual data from crop insurance policyholders.

"We look at many years of internal planting data. Another thing we do is we will contact industry representatives—that could be Extension service, it could be plant breeders, it could be seed company reps. We get their input and their opinion on what the dates should be," Williams said. "What it boils down to is it's an average. We consider early years, we consider late years, but it's an average of all years."

Thiel said that the final planting date is an average of when 90 percent of an insured crop is planted.

On the 1 percent production guarantee reduction, Thiel said beyond contractual reasons, waiving that reduction isn't actuarially sound. He explained that according to Extension agents and agricultural experts, delays in planting can impact yields, so late-planted crops have a higher probability of not achieving a yield that forms the basis of the producer's actual production history (APH).

"We shouldn't insure late-planted acreage for a yield that, based on experts, probably won't be attained," Williams added.

ichael Pumphrey, the spring wheat breeder at Washington State University, said while he wasn't aware of any trials in Eastern Washington designed to measure the yield impact of late-planted wheat, there have been studies done in the Midwest. A recent study done in Minnesota showed that on average, yields decreased 1 percent per day when planted late. Another study from North Dakota State University saw similar results. Pumphrey said it was likely late-planted wheat in Eastern Washington would suffer similar yield losses. In fact, he theorized the yield loss might be greater because Eastern Washington gets less rain in the summer than the Midwest, so the damage may be greater.

"I've been planting in this area for 10 years. We plant timely, but then when we decide to plant more studies



a couple of weeks later, yields are significantly lower," he said. "I've seen that kind of response (lower yields in late-planted wheat). I have no experiment to study it, but I know the trend is true."

The losses in late-planted spring wheat generally occur due to a combination of higher temperatures during the initial growing season and less moisture availability. Even irrigated spring wheat may be susceptible. Pumphrey recalled a three-year study he did in Othello and Central Ferry to study heat stress. In the irrigated research plots that were intentionally planted one month late, they saw a yield reduction of about 55 percent compared to the same varieties planted on time.

Farmers who opt to do prevented planting need to

contact their insurance agent within 72 hours of their final planting date. They also need to let their agent know what their intentions for the ground are, such as leaving it idle, putting in a cover crop or planting a different crop. Taking the prevented planting option doesn't impact a grower's actual production history (APH). Thiel said growers will still need to report that acreage, but because there is no yield associated with it, it doesn't build a producer's APH, but it also doesn't hurt it.

A set of frequently asked questions about prevented planting is available on RMA's website at rma.usda.gov/News-Room/Frequently-Asked-Questions/Prevented-Planting-Wheat-2019CY. Growers should also talk to their crop insurance agents about their options.

WHAT THE FARMERS HAVE TO SAY

Kevin Klein, Lincoln County

Kevin Klein doesn't have much of a problem with RMA's final planting date, it's the 1 percent crop insurance deduction that he finds troublesome.

"Why can't we have a 10-day grace period before the crop insurance deduction takes effect? From my viewpoint, this would be a tremendous help because as we've seen this year, it has been a late start for farmers, and any rain showers that we receive will continue to slow up spring planting. Setting a date with Mother Nature usually does not end up with favorable results," he said.

Klein figures he's about a week behind schedule on some of his fields, but thinks he'll make his final planting dates, although a substantial rainstorm could threaten that. He pointed out that while farmers tend to know how long it will take them to get their crops planted, they have to work around not only the weather, but their own busy schedules.

"Things are looking good, but if we get rain showers, that changes the whole scenario. That's what we usually fight in the spring, unpredictable rain showers," he said.

Jeff Yerbich, Franklin County

Like much of Eastern Washington, Franklin County was hit by snowstorm after snowstorm this winter. Grower Jeff Yerbich wasn't sure if was going to make his final planting date but figured he'd be right up against it either way.

"This year is throwing everything off. With the weather, the snow, it's just too muddy out there. I'm just a one-man operation with one tractor to do all the work with," he said.

In the past, Yerbich has run up against his final planting date and said it's been a struggle to get his planting done by that deadline. He'd like to see RMA have a little more flexibility to move those final planting and late planting period dates.

"It's always a gamble," he said, about being able to get his fields planted on time.

Ben Barstow, Whitman County

Down near the town of Palouse, Wash., Ben Barstow pointed out that weather is only one of the reasons that farmers might have trouble meeting their final planting date. Reduced tillage and no-till farmers typically have to wait longer for their fields to warm up and dry out than conventional farmers. In addition, farmers who have more acres to plant may struggle to get all their crops in on time.

Even with the weather being as unpredictable as it is, Barstow doesn't think RMA should change their final planting date policies.

"Those dates are there for a reason, and if the weather is such that you are having to plant after the first of June, chances are, your yields aren't going to be very good no matter how you plant your crop. Those dates are a long-term average, which is about the best anybody could do," he explained, adding that because no-till fields tend to maintain soil moisture later into the summer than conventionally tilled fields, farmers might make an argument for planting deadlines based on planting method. However, later planting can make harvest later and shift grain filling to a generally hotter time of the year. "The risks are just different, but I think a deadlines-by-planting-method system would be a nightmare to fairly administer."



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Moses Boone, Whitman County

The Boones have implemented reduced tillage and notill practices on their farm. Hitting their final planting date is something that they have to continually think about.

"The reason that no till is delayed compared to conventional tillage is that the extra surface residue shades the soil and preserves the moisture," Moses explained. "When the ground isn't aerated as it is with tillage, it doesn't dry out as fast, and the crop residue is typically a lighter color than the soil so it reflects more light. It doesn't warm up as fast or dry out as fast (as conventionally tilled ground)."

Reduced till and no-till practices also cause the ground to dry out unevenly. That can make planting a spring crop somewhat "exciting," Moses said, if you can't clearly see the ground because of the residue. "You can be going along thinking you are fine and then suddenly find yourself in the swamp."

Moses figured about every other year he and his father have to decide if they are going to take the prevent planting option or go ahead and put in a spring crop and take the crop insurance deduction. So far, he said, they've always put a crop in.

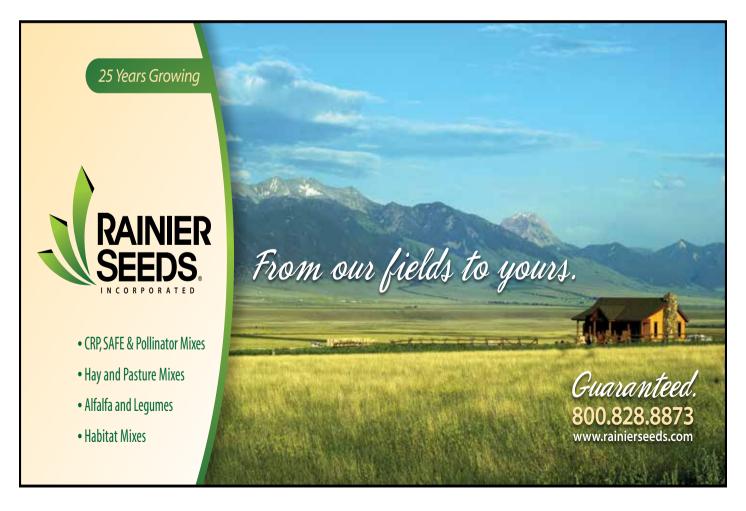
Andy Juris, Klickitat County

Andy Juris figures he's gone past the final plant date nearly half the time in the past 10 years on his farm near Bickleton, Wash., and this year looks like it will be a race to meet the deadline.

When Wheat Life spoke with him in early April, he said farmers in his area hadn't even started working in the fields yet as the snow was still melting, and there was a lot of standing water. Like other growers, he wants to see a little more flexibility in the way RMA administers the final plant dates.

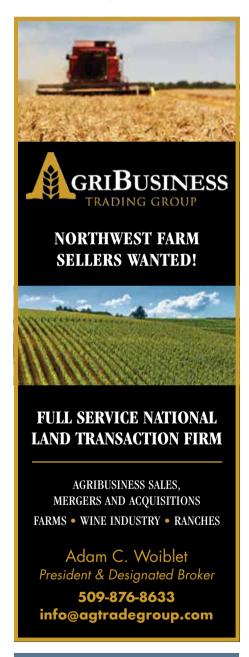
"I sympathize with them in a way," he said. "Their hands are sort of tied by the regulations they have. The biggest problem is in no way you can take the letters of 'government' and spell 'flexibility' with it. Risk is constantly changing. It's a dynamic thing, and we need to have a complex, changing, dynamic approach to deal with it."

Juris farms land in both Klickitat and Yakima counties and said different rules and deadline dates apply in each of the counties, even though some of his fields sit right next to each other. On the crop insurance deduction, Juris said that if RMA's argument is based on potential yield



losses for late-planted wheat, why are two fields that are side by side governed differently?

"It's the exact same climate up here, but along that political boundary of counties, they've made a determination of what's good and what isn't," he explained. "I would say that their understanding of what constitutes insuring a loss is at best flawed, probably completely inaccurate and at worst, ludicrous."



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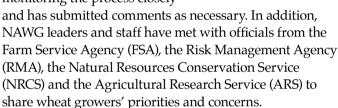
Moving forward

STAKEHOLDER INPUT HELPS DRIVE PROGRESS ON 2018 FARM BILL IMPLEMENTATION

By Trista Crossley

Nearly five months after the 2018 Farm Bill was signed into law, implementation continues to move forward.

In March, many of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies held listening sessions to gain input from stakeholders and the public on farm bill implementation. The National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) has been monitoring the process closely



Josh Tonsager, NAWG's vice president of policy and communications, said implementation is a little behind because of the government shutdown at the beginning of the year and because USDA has prioritized implementation of the new dairy support provisions. He said NAWG has been pressuring USDA that wheat growers need to know what the Title I programs—Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC)—are going to look like before they have to sign up for them. USDA has announced ARC and PLC program sign-ups will start in September.

"All of agriculture is experiencing a significant downturn, but dairy has also been hit hard. I think the interest in USDA is to get it out to (dairymen) right away so they can sign up to programs that are retroactive to the beginning of the year," Tonsager said. "We are messaging about the impact of the shutdown and will continue to use it to avoid future shutdowns, but the fact that they are getting diary programs out first shouldn't be alarming for wheat growers. We have more time than the dairy support programs since ARC and PLC payments for the 2019 crop year won't go out until October 2020. At the same time, certainty about how the safety net will be structured is necessary to help farmers plan."

Tonsager added that NAWG is pleased USDA has increased loan rates for market assistance loans as well as



implemented higher loan (credit) program caps as required in the farm bill.

NAWG is closely watching several issues that are important to Eastern Washington wheat growers that have implications for wheat growers nationwide, including a quality adjustment provision that directs USDA to look for alternative methods for adjusting a grower's actual production history (APH) due to a quality issue. Tonsager said one of the options USDA is talking

about would be similar to a yield exclusion where growers will have the option to buy the right not to have a quality adjustment applied to their APH. The basic premise is that RMA would calculate the difference in premiums from a yield with no quality discount to the yield with a quality discount, and growers would pay the difference if they wanted to maintain their APH.

"This quality adjustment provision was a big win for NAWG and our states in the farm bill," Tonsager said. "Because Washington wheat, NAWG and other states have been so active over the last couple of years, communicating with RMA and the Hill on this issue, RMA picked this provision as one of the first items for implementation. I think that's been very positive, and they have been very proactive in getting feedback from us."

Some of the other implementation issues NAWG is monitoring include an increase on the ARC yield plug so yields can't drop to less than 80 percent from one year to the next instead of the previous level of 70 percent. The 2018 Farm Bill also allows for trend-adjusted yields to be incorporated into the ARC formula. NAWG is watching how USDA will implement the new base acre provision that dictates that acreage that hasn't been planted in anything other than grass for 10 years is ineligible for Title I payments. Those acres will be eligible for a new conservation program that is a subset of the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

"We've been pressing USDA that growers need to be informed as soon as possible if they are going to impacted by this program," Tonsager said, adding that USDA has said they will be in communication with growers "soon."

And finally, something that has been of particular inter-



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est in Eastern Washington recently is the requirement that FSA use RMA data instead of NASS data when setting program payments. Tonsager said FSA will have to go through and aggregate that RMA data, so implementation of this provision could take some time.

Farm bill implementation will continue to top NAWG's list of priorities, including making sure USDA is "communicating with us throughout the process so we can weigh in as changes are made so they are workable for growers," Tonsager said. NAWG is also urging USDA to utilize funding in the farm bill to update and maintain the decision tools created in the 2014 Farm Bill as an educational resource for Extension and FSA offices.

In mid-April, USDA issued an update on farm bill implementation on a title-by-title basis. Here are some of the highlights:

TITLE I-COMMODITY PROGRAMS. FSA will open elections for ARC and PLC programs for the 2019 and 2020 crop years beginning in September 2019. FSA also announced the 2019 Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) rates for wheat, feed grains, oilseeds, rice and pulse crops. Relative to 2018-crop MAL levels, the 2018 Farm Bill increased the national loan rates for most of these commodities for each

TITLE II-CONSERVATION.

of the 2019-2023 crops.

In March, USDA published an announcement regarding the availability of \$450 million for wetland and agricultural land easements that will help private landowners, tribes, land trusts and other groups wanting to restore and protect critical wetlands and protect agricultural lands and grasslands.

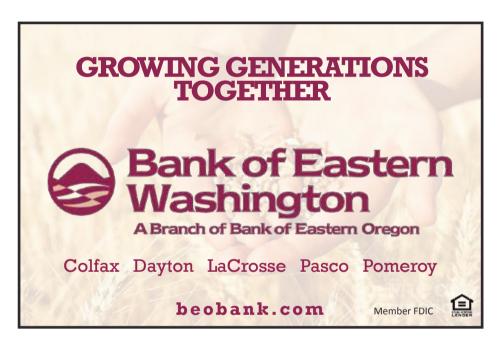
NRCS has announced May 10, 2019, as the next deadline for CSP

applications to be ranked and considered for funding this year. CSP will have higher payments for enhancements that include cover crops, resource conserving crop rotations and advanced grazing.

NRCS has also determined that Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) projects with agreements entered into prior to Sept. 30, 2018, may continue to enter into new RCPP-CSP contracts with eligible producers, which will be administered under the new CSP authority.

TITLE III-TRADE. In February, FAS allocated more than \$204 million for the Agriculture Trade Promotion Program. U.S. Wheat Associates, the marketing arm of the U.S. wheat industry, was awarded \$8.25 million, which will be distributed over the next three years.

TITLE V-CREDIT. In April, FSA announced that eligible agricultural producers will have access to higher loan amounts to better provide them with the





credit needed during the current period of lower market prices and numerous natural disasters.

TITLE VI-RURAL DEVELOPMENT. In February, the American Broadband Initiatives Milestones report was released, describing how the federal government is partnering with the private sector to expand rural broadband. The report's recommendations are grouped into three categories: streamlining federal permitting processes to speed broadband deployment, leveraging federal assets to lower the cost of broadband buildouts and maximizing the impact of federal funding. The report can be downloaded at usda.gov/broadband (scroll about halfway down the page).

TITLE XII-CROP INSURANCE. RMA has implemented the new definition for the Whole Farm Revenue Protection program that extends the time for new beginning farmer and rancher eligibility from five years to 10 years for the sales closing dates.

Starting with sales closing dates after the passage of the farm bill, RMA is offering a new endorsement for farmers. Producers of corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, cotton, canola, peanuts, rice, barley, wheat and sunflowers now have the option to combine acreage in one county that does not qualify for enterprise units with crop acreage in another county that does qualify. The option offers flexibility and a low-cost option for producers.

RMA has fully implemented yield cups that provide producers with an election to limit the decrease in actual production history (APH) to not more than 10 percent of the prior crop year's APH. This prevents abnormally low yielding years from dramatically impacting a producer's APH and stabilizes insurance guarantees.



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Wheat College heads to Dayton

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By Trista Crossley

Mark your calendars! The Agricultural Marketing and Management Organization (AMMO) is wrapping up its 2019 schedule with the annual Wheat College. The event will be June 6, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Columbia County fairgrounds in Dayton, Wash. The event is free and includes a BBQ lunch.

"Wheat College is our main, hands-on event for AMMO that rotates through Eastern Washington, bringing agronomy and industry information to growers," said Lori Williams, outreach coordinator for the Washington Association of Wheat Growers. "Jim Moyer, Columbia County's WAWG board member, has helped develop the content of this year's Wheat College by gathering input from his county's growers on topics they wanted addressed, and we appreciate his

efforts and research expertise."



Neal Kinsey is one of this year's featured presenters. Kinsey is owner and operator of Kinsey Agricultural Services Inc., a St. Louis-based company that specializes in soil fertility management. Kinsey has offered soil consulting services since 1973 in more than 75 countries.

Kinsey's presentation will start by focusing on nutrients from nitrogen sources to the micronutrients most needed in small grains and what forms are most effec-

tive. He'll talk about why growers need those micronutrients and what each does for the soil and the plants growing there. The second part of his presentation will be based on soil testing with plans to have some pre-analyzed local soil samples on hand to discuss.

"We'll be presenting the tests, and they'll be local, and we'll be looking at them from the standpoint of growing wheat or small grains," Kinsey said. If time allows, he would also like to touch on the nutrient differences between what's required for growing a crop versus correcting the soil to achieve a crop's top potential.

Another timely topic likely to be a hit with growers is a presentation from Shannon Neibergs, director of the Washington State University (WSU) Extension Western Center for Risk Management Education, on choosing between the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) program and the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program. Under the 2018 Farm Bill, farmers will have the option to make a new program election for the 2019 crop year. In addition, producers will be able to change their program choice annually beginning with the 2021 crop. This presentation will provide information that farmers can use to help them make those decisions.

Other topics this year's wheat college will cover include:

- Collecting precision agriculture data and using it and a Climate FieldView demonstration with Jeff Hamlin of WestBred;
- Technical marketing with Randy Ward of Tri-Cities Grain;
- Updates on WSU research; and
- A marketing presentation from WSU's Randy Fortenbery on external factors affecting the market and a look at how markets work.



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WL FEATURE

Growers will also have the opportunity to participate in problem-solving exercises by analyzing various scenarios commonly encountered by wheat farmers and suggesting strategies to address the situations.

Random prize drawings will be held throughout the day, sponsored by Syngenta and WestBred. Northwest Grain Growers is sponsoring the morning and afternoon breaks. Wheatland Bank is sponsoring the lunch.

"We are excited by this year's schedule," Williams said. "I think this year's event will continue our tradition of bringing timely, accurate information to growers to help them be successful."

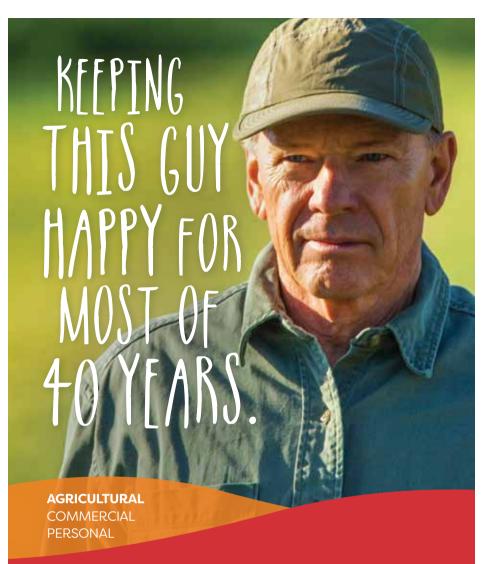
Although there is no charge to attend Wheat College and growers don't have to be WAWG members, Williams is requesting that growers RSVP by calling (877) 740-AMMO (2666) or emailing her at lori@wawg.org by May 31. The



This year's Wheat College will be held in Dayton, Wash., on June 6. Wheat College is an annual event sponsored by the Washington Grain Commission, the Washington Association of Wheat Growers and regional businesses and stakeholders. This photo is from last year's Wheat College.

first 100 to RSVP will receive 2.5 gallons of RoundUp free, compliments of Albaugh LLC, Helena Chemical Co. and Wilbur-Ellis Co. ■



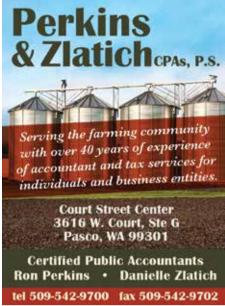


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Agriculture by the numbers

USDA releases census data on the state of farming throughout the U.S.

It was a few weeks later than planned, but in mid-April, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released the 2017 Census of Agriculture.

The new census spans 6.4 million new points of information about America's farms and ranches and those who operate them. Information for the census is collected by

the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) by surveying farmers and ranchers. The Census of Agriculture is done every five years and includes national, state and county-level statistics.

"The importance of the census and the need for growers to accurately fill out the surveys can't be underestimated," said Michelle Hennings,

executive director of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG). "Many USDA agencies, such as the Farm Service Agency, use census data to develop and administer farm and conservation programs, and lawmakers use the data to help inform policymaking decisions. We know growers are busy, but WAWG encourages them to participate in NASS surveys to the best of their ability."

According to the 2017 census, the number of farms and the amount of land in farms has declined slightly since

the last census in 2012. There also are fewer middle-sized farms with the largest and smallest farm operations growing. Finally, the average age of all farmers and ranchers continues to rise.

"We are pleased to deliver Census of Agriculture results to America, and especially to the farmers and ranchers

> who participated," said U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue in a press release. "We can all use the census to tell the tremendous story of U.S. agriculture and how it is changing. As a datadriven organization, we are eager to dig in to this wealth of information to advance our goals of supporting farmers and ranchers, facilitating rural prosperity and

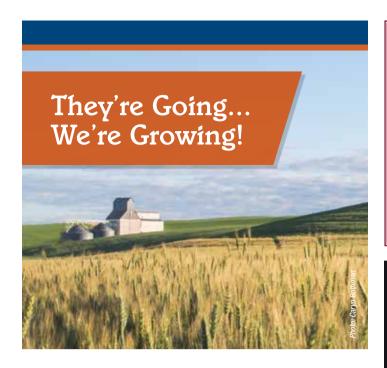
strengthening stewardship of private lands efficiently, effectively and with integrity."

Some of the national highlights include:

- There are 2.04 million farms and ranches (down 3.2 percent from 2012) with an average size of 441 acres (up 1.6 percent) on 900 million acres (down 1.6 percent).
- Just 105,453 farms produced 75 percent of all sales in 2017, down from 119,908 in 2012.

The new Census Data Query Tool (CDQT) is a web-based tool that is available to access and download table-level data from the Census of Agriculture. It automatically displays data from the past five Census of Agriculture publications. Here's some of the historical highlights for Washington state.

2017	2012	2007	2002	1997
Number of farm operations	37,249	39,284	35,939	40,113
Total acres operated14,679,857	14,748,107	14,972,789	15,318,008	15,778,606
Number of cropland operations24,234	25,045	26,005	28,184	30,082
Total acres of cropland	7,526,742	7,609,210	8,038,469	8,291,529
Total cropland acres harvested	4,342,904	4,387,169	4,894,634	5,160,717
Average operating expenses per operation \$236,473	\$210,463	\$137,214	\$123,215	\$94,659
Average net cash income per operation\$47,641	\$47,047	\$45,454	\$33,925	
Total wheat acres harvested	2,186,813	2,096,350	2,355,451	2,584,849
Total wheat production in bushels145,728,346	141,020,565	120,617,390	128,410,931	160,547,364



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WL FEATURE

- Average farm income is \$43,053.
 A total of 43.6 percent of farms had positive net cash farm income in 2017.
- Ninety-six percent of farms and ranches are family owned.
- The average age of all producers is 57.5, up 1.2 years from 2012.
- The number of producers who have served in the military is 370,619, or 11 percent of all. They are older than the average at 67.9.
- There are 321,261 young producers age 35 or less on 240,141 farms. Farms with young producers making decisions tend to be larger than average in both acres and sales.
- One in four producers is a beginning farmer with 10 or fewer years of experience and an average age of 46.3. Farms with new or beginning producers making decisions tend to be smaller than average in both acres and value of production.
- Thirty-six percent of all producers are female and 56 percent of all farms have at least one female decision maker. Farms with female producers making decisions tend to be smaller than average in both acres and value of production.

In Washington state, the number of farm operations dropped to 35,793, a decline of 3.9 percent from 2012. The number of acres in farm operations also declined slightly by just more than 68,000, but the total value of ag land, including buildings, increased by approximately 25.6 percent. The average net farm income in Washington is \$47,641, a slight increase over 2012, but operating expenses increased by nearly 8 percent.

The total number of Washington state operations that harvested wheat decreased from 2012 by 365,

but the total number of wheat acres harvested increased by just more than 32,000 acres.

To explore the 2017 Census of Agriculture data for yourself, visit their website at nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/. ■





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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WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION

What a difference a few months makes!

During the Washington Grain Commission's (WGC) Jan. 11 meeting, farmers around the table talked about the mild winter. In Ritzville, Mike Miller was fencing, looking for wet ground to put posts in. It was 40 degrees at Kevin Klein's place in Edwall, the fields were open, and he was anticipating spring work. Mike Carstensen was watching the wheat come up on his uncovered fields north of Almira. I reported that grain was emerging in the bare spots in my fields outside of St. John.

A lot of us were lulled into thinking winter was over in January. And then February came along.

Anyone who watches the weather with more than a casual glance—and that would include all farmers knows February's heavy snowfall wasn't unprecedented. But it was unusual. As I write this at the beginning of April, the snow has largely melted, except for the remnants of snow drifts that will be with us a while longer. Depending on how the weather unfolds, it's unknown how much, if any, prevented plant acres there will be this spring.

In the positive column, it appears the winter wheat made it through the season in pretty good shape. Nothing like a blanket of snow to protect against the elements. Certainly, we have ample moisture to tide us over for now. The slow thaw allowed most of the melting snow to soak into the ground.

The definition of the word "transition" is "the process or a period of changing from one state or condition to another." Certainly, the weather provided us with significant challenges as we transitioned from winter to spring, but we are constantly in a state of flux in agriculture, aren't we?

On my farm, we are bringing my brother Mark's daughter, Erin, into a permanent role on the farm. Erin has farming in her blood, and she joins more and more women who have found the word "farmer" does not have a gender. I'm happy for Erin, and for my brother, who has had to shoulder an increasing load as I have focused more of my time on wheat industry business.

Speaking of transitions, the wheat industry is getting ready to say goodbye to Wataru Utsunomiya, U.S. Wheat Associates' (USW) country director for Japan. Known as "Charlie" by those of us who have difficulty with Japanese pronunciation, Utsunomiya served for 13 years as USW's main man in what is arguably our main market. Japan may not be the largest buyer of soft white wheat every year, but they have been our most reliable and consistent buyer for many years.

A new country director for Japan has been hired, and I'm sure Kazunori Nakano, known as Rick, will serve us as well as his predecessor. Nakano comes from Marubeni, where he served as a trader with Gavilon Grain in Omaha and managed trading operations at Columbia Grain's Portland office. To ensure a smooth transition for Japan's new country director, Charlie will remain with USW until the end of September. Still, it is never easy to say goodbye to friends who have devoted their careers to helping sell the crops we raise. Happy retirement, Charlie!

Closer to home, we are in the midst of a few transitions at Washington State University (WSU) that will affect the wheat industry. A new person has been identified to lead the Cereal Variety Release Program, but a formal announcement has yet to be made. As you may know, Ryan Higginbotham led the program until about a year ago when he accepted a position with HighLine Grain. Aaron Esser has graciously filled the role on an interim basis until a new person is hired. Look for that announcement in the near future.

Progress is also being made in identifying an individual to assume the Nilan Endowed Chair in Barley Breeding at WSU. Kevin Murphy, who has been breeding barley, took on other responsibilities. Washington barley acreage has been declining, but the crop has incredible potential. In addition to its main role serving as feed for livestock, barley has been shown to be heart healthy for human consumption. It is also getting more press among craft beer brewers as an important flavor ingredient.

Another kind of transition will be featured in the June issue of Wheat Life. WSU's Land Legacy Council will have a special section to remind farmers of an alternative to traditional succession planning. The Council, of which I am a member, manages land that has been donated to WSU and plows the profits back into programs guided by donor wishes, typically research.

We are constantly dealing with changes in agriculture. As some farmers transition out through retirement, the younger generation is filling the void by moving into family operations. I think we can all agree that we need more young people in our business, and I'm thrilled with the transition that is happening in our own operation.

Have a safe and productive spring. ■



Peter Lloyd is the International Man of Milling

From Botswana to Denmark to Morocco, milling expert's career spans the globe

Name: Peter Lloyd

Title: Regional Technical

Director

Office: U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) Casablanca office

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What is technical Support?

USW Vice President of Technical Services, Mark Fowler, says technical support to overseas customers is an essential part of export market development for U.S. wheat. "Technical support adds differential value to the reliable supply of U.S. wheat," he says. "Our customers must constantly improve their products in an increasingly competitive environment. We can help them compete by demonstrating the advantages of using the right U.S. wheat class or blend of classes to produce the wide variety of wheat-based foods the world's consumers demand."

By Steve Mercer
USW Vice President of Communications

Editor's note: This is the second in a series of articles profiling U.S. Wheat Associates technical experts in flour milling and wheat foods production.

Peter Lloyd's eyes lit up the moment he saw the MIAG pilot flour mill and baking lab at Mennel Milling's Fostoria, Ohio, plant.

Lloyd, who was with U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) colleagues gathering

information on new U.S. wheat export opportunities, said. "There is no end to that plant's potential in soft wheat product development."

This is strong praise coming from someone who has designed, serviced and visited more flour mills around the world than he can count. Lloyd's USW title of regional technical director does not do justice to his global responsibilities. Based in Casablanca, Morocco, he travels the world to conduct technical support that helps prove the value of U.S. wheat in customers' mills.



"I believe the work I do and that my

USW colleagues and consultants do brings the greatest value where it makes the most difference—on the bottom-line profit for a supply chain manager, miller or baker," Lloyd said. "A clear knowledge of the customer's business is also vitally important to opening the door to U.S. wheat farmers as valued suppliers."

A thumbnail of Lloyd's professional credentials would be enough to open that door, starting with his British father's successful flour milling career that took him from Liverpool to Kenya where Lloyd was born. Intrigued by his youthful visits to mills with his father, Lloyd decided to follow him into the business in 1977.

Milling engineering training and working with Henry Simon in the United Kingdom and South Africa built the foundation for Lloyd to become a mill manager in Botswana in his mid-20s. He returned to the UK with the Simon Group in an engineering sales position in 1986 that, along with his emerging knowledge of high technology applications, led to a position with the United Milling Systems division of the Carlsberg Research Center in Denmark. Lloyd eventually started his own consulting business that continued his work in Africa.

"Then in 1991, I saw an advertisement in World Grain magazine for the post of dean of the new Egyptian Milling School in Cairo from an organization called U.S. Wheat Associates," Lloyd recalled.

Per an agreement with its Egyptian business partners at the time, USW had management responsibilities for the school's development and the first two years of operation. After Lloyd was selected for the position, he directed construction and curriculum development...and discovered a love of teaching. Moreover, he was impressed by USW's approach to export market development.

"Building trust is crucial, and I think USW's biggest asset is not having sales objectives. We give advice based upon its merit only," Lloyd said. "From farms all the way to the school in Cairo, we were truly committed to forging long-term partnerships with overseas customers, offering technical assistance without a commercial profit motive."

USW's substantial funding for the school ended in 1994, and Lloyd moved on to a technical support position in Egypt with the Australian Wheat Board (AWB), which was at the time a governmental organization. After AWB

privatized, Lloyd said the drive to meet sales goals and quarterly returns did not match his values. A return to consulting in the Middle East, including for USW, opened an opportunity to join the Wheat Marketing Center (WMC) in Portland, Ore., in 1996.

"Working with the director, Bob Drynan, wheat growers, the grain trade and the researchers at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Washington State University was one of the most enjoyable periods in my career," Lloyd recalled. "Perhaps most significant in terms of my future work with USW was the interaction with Asian millers and bakers to learn about the product quality and diversity in their markets."

After personal choices drew him back to the UK and consulting work in 1998, Lloyd answered another call from USW to help address challenges at the new IFIM Milling School in Casablanca. That role grew into a longer-term opportunity implementing a Miller Outreach Program with a goal to build professional expertise and greater understanding of U.S. wheat quality and value in North Africa and the Middle East through the IFIM school.

"That was very rewarding, but I recognized I needed



When you've been involved in the wheat milling industry for as long as Peter Lloyd has, rows of milling machines, like these he's examining at the Beijing Food Bureau in China, contain secrets and challenges beyond the grasp of mere mortals.

WL WGC REPORTS

to get reacquainted with the latest mill operations and moved to a technical milling position in Dubai for two years," Lloyd said. "In 2005, I returned to USW to run the Tunisian Outreach Program and served in Tunis until 2009. During this time, we were able to expand the technical assistance role from Tunis to many of the other USW offices in Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, as well as supporting the opening of new markets in Libya and Algeria."

Though much has changed in the last 10 years, including his move to USW's Casablanca office, Lloyd's work with USW in North and South Asia, the Middle East, Africa and occasionally Latin America and Europe continues today.

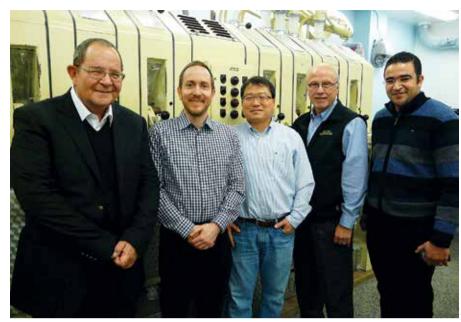
"Our objective remains the success of the people we support," he said. "Why? Because successful millers and bakers are most likely to buy what we have to offer: high quality wheat from high quality farmers to produce high quality flour for high quality products."

The beneficiaries of his work agree.

"Peter Lloyd has been an invaluable resource for us for the better part of 10 years, giving advice ranging from mill cleanliness and fumigation to more complex topics like milling economics and flour customization," said an executive with a large flour milling company in the Philippines. "We cannot thank him enough for all his help. He is a true encyclopedia of flour milling."

A Chinese milling executive said Lloyd's efforts have helped his team better understand the processing characteristics of the individual classes of U.S. wheat.

"His constructive opinions on our production process has helped



February 2016 at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service's (USDA-ARS) Soft Wheat Quality Laboratory in Wooster, Ohio. From left are Peter Lloyd, U.S. Wheat Associates (USW)/Casablanca; Marcelo Mitre, technical specialist, USW/Mexico City; Dr. Byung-Kee Baik, acting research leader, USDA-ARS; Brad Moffitt, director of market development and membership, Ohio Small Grains Marketing Program; and Tarik Gahi, milling and baking technologist, USW/Casablanca.





(Above) At a U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) Buyers Conference in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, in 2013 are (from left) Nihal Habib, formerly with USW/ Cairo; Peter Lloyd (USW)/ Casablanca; and Hoda Moawad, formerly with USW/ Cairo. (Left) It's not all milling all the time. In Botswana in 1985, Peter Lloyd took time to greet his eldest son, Mike.

us be more efficient in milling U.S. wheat and helped improve the competitiveness of our flour products," the executive said.

"USW is so lucky to have such a talented, charismatic individual like Peter on our staff," said USW Regional Vice President Ian Flagg, who directs export market development activities in North Africa, the Middle East and Europe. "Not only is Peter a great technical asset, he is completely committed to our mission to return value to the farmers we represent and to their customers, and that is what he does all over the world."

Lloyd said he's doing exactly what he wants at this stage of his career.

"Our customers welcome us to their offices, listen to what we have to say and trust us. Coming back months later and finding that we helped them improve their business is very rewarding. And the U.S. wheat farmers we work for represent values I hold in the highest esteem: honesty, integrity, human decency, hard work, a love of the land and a deep respect for our Creator."

He also remains very upbeat about the global wheat industry.

"End products are made from flour, not whole wheat kernels, so the growth of the milling and food processing industries are inextricably linked," he said. "As much as any foodstuff, wheat-based products have a prominent place in shopping baskets in every country of the world, and for every income group for the foreseeable future and there are more and more shoppers every day."



Peter Lloyd is a citizen of the world who now makes his home base in Morocco, a country where he dressed in a "jallubah" in 1981 during a mill commissioning.



Peter Lloyd has been involved in building many relationships in the milling industry. Among his favorites: In 1987, he was commissioning a mill built by UMS Denmark in Harbin, China. The man on the left was the installation engineer. The woman was the installation engineer's translator—and eventually his wife.



Winter wheat yields well across the region

2018 WSU EXTENSION TRIAL SUMMARIES ARE NOW AVAILABLE

By Aaron Esser

As I start my second year as the interim director of the Washington State University (WSU) Variety Testing Program (VTP), I need to thank a few people who have helped make the change nearly seamless.

First, I want to express my appreciation to Ryan Higginbotham, former director of the VTP who oversaw the planting of the 2018 winter wheat trials and organized a smooth transition. I also want to thank the VTP staff, most notably Vadim Jitkov and Andrew Horton, for all their hard work and dedication during the year. They really stepped up and assured the VTP moved forward during the program's latest evolution.

Speaking of evolution, WSU has conducted an extensive search and extended an offer to an individual we hope will become the new director of the variety testing program. I'm very excited about the new person and hope he will be available to meet farmers at field days

around Eastern Washington in May and June.

The 2018 soft white winter trials consisted of 54 entries in the greater-than-16" zone and 48 entries in the less-than-16" zone. Hard winter wheat trials consisted of 18 entries in both precipitation zones. The irrigated nurseries were made up of 42 soft and 18 hard entries. Of the entries, 48 percent came out of land-grant schools in the Pacific Northwest with the other 52 percent released by private companies.

Only results from named varieties are presented in Tables 1-3. Results from the 16-20" zone are unique because the Dayton and Walla Walla trials are done in cooperation with Oregon State University Extension. Meanwhile, Clearfield varieties are separated into a unique trial. To view the results from these nurseries go to smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/variety-2018-data/.

In the two irrigated locations, yields were down between 25-31 percent over the previous year. Our irrigated





Aaron Esser, who serves as director of Adams County Extension, agreed to pitch in and take over duties of the Cereal Variety Testing Program (VTP) on an interim basis after Ryan Higginbotham left for private industry. A new director of the VTP is expected to be hired soon, allowing Esser to return to his previous duties full time.

nurseries are supposed to show a cultivar's topend yield potential, but in reality, water is more valuable on other crops and often gets diverted from wheat as summer advances. However, the high rainfall zones showed the top-end yield potential with yields up between 6-17 percent.

Similar to last year, a column of data in the tables titled "2-YR AVG YIELD" is included. This is the two-year average yield across all locations in a given precipitation zone. Entries with dashes (--) in the 2-year average column have not been tested in that zone for two consecutive years. This provides you with additional information with which to evaluate your ever-growing list of viable varieties.

The results presented in this article consist of 2018 grain yield, protein, test weight and the 2-year average yield. Variety selection, of course, is about much more, and the VTP section on the Wheat and Small Grains website (located at smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety) contains more information to help farmers determine the similarities and differences among varieties.

Table 1. 2018 WSU Extension Soft White Winter Wheat Variety Trial Summary

Dr	ecini	tatio	n 70	ne—`	>20"			
110	cupi	tatio	11 20	IIE—,				
	COLTON	FAIRFIELD	FARMINGTON	PULLMAN	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	average Protein
Variety		γ	ield'	(Bu/A	()		Lb/Bu	%
Rosalyn	151	77	150	181	140	135	60.0	8.9
Bobtail	144	76	141	179	135	127	58.9	9.2
SY Ovation	144	45	141	177	134	122	60.8	9.6
Jasper	144	74	144	173	134	131	59.9	9.4
Norwest Duet	144	74	136	169	131	129	60.1	9.5
LCS Hulk	130	70	136	178	129	126	62.4	10.0
UI Sparrow	147	73	135	155	128	120	58.7	9.7
PNW Hailey	134	75	130	171	127		62.9	9.7
LCS Artdeco	143	71	144	150	127	123	60.1	9.6
SY Candor (09PN008#72)	143	72	129	165	127		61.7	10.2
UI Castle CL+	130	67	141	170	127	122	61.2	10.3
ARS-Crescent ¹	146	74	128	155	126	121	59.4	9.4
SY Raptor	139	61	136	166	125	122	61.3	9.6
SY Dayton	143	63	137	156	125	124	61.2	9.6
Xerpha	144	72	135	147	125	126	59.7	9.5
ARS-Castella ¹	131	69	136	160	124		60.5	9.6
Norwest Tandem	128	76	133	156	123	125	60.9	9.9
Dyna-Gro Impact	134	66 69	130	161	123		61.0	10.1
M-Press Puma	135 133	72	132 129	155 156	123 123	118	60.9 60.8	9.4 9.7
WB1604	132	67	135	154	123	117	62.1	10.0
Purl (WA 8234)	133	65	131	159	122	121	61.3	9.6
LCS Drive	128	60	137	160	121	117	59.8	10.2
UI Magic CL+	130	67	132	153	121	119	60.0	9.9
SY Assure	118	70	135	153	119	121	62.3	10.2
SY Banks	135	54	129	153	119		59.7	9.4
WB1783	131	61	124	155	118	117	62.1	10.0
ORCF-102	121	76	123	150	117	117	61.0	10.0
WB 1532	131	62	118	159	117		60.7	10.4
LCS Shark	134	68	30	137	117	119	59.2	10.3
UI Palouse CL+	123	71	122	151	117	113	60.4	9.9
WB1529	135	59	120	151	116	117	62.8	10.2
Resilience CL+	121	67	119	150	114	116	60.8	10.3
WB-528	135	48	125	149	114	113	61.4	10.3
Madsen	119	61	117	153	112	113	60.4	10.2
WB1376CLP	115	60	114	146	109	110	63.5	11.0
C.V. %	5	10	4	5	6	7	1	4
LSD (0.05)	10	9	7	11	5	4	0.5	0.3
Average	134	68	132	159	123	121	60.8	9.9

¹Club Wheat

--Entries have not been tested in that zone for two consecutive years.



Table 1. 2018 WSU Extension Soft White Winter Wheat Variety Trial Summary

<u>Pre</u>	cipita	<u>atior</u>	1 <u>Zor</u>	1e=1	<u>6-20</u>	‴		
	DAYTON	MAYVIEW	ST. JOHN	WALLA WALLA	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE PROTEIN
Variety		Υ	ield	(Bu/A)		Lb/Bu	%
Rosalyn	111	129	131	136	127	136	60.7	8.9
Bobtail	105	128	125	149	127	131	59.9	9.2
Jasper	104	125	118	136	121	121	61.4	9.9
LCS Artdeco	106	125	111	135	119	126	61.1	9.3
Norwest Tandem	107	123	107	139	119	125	62.3	9.8
SY Ovation	99	133	113	132	119	122	61.5	9.6
Puma	98	125	111	138	118	121	62.0	9.9
M-Press	111	122	114	125	118		61.5	9.1
SY Raptor	110	118	106	137	118	124	61.6	9.4
PNW Hailey	102	127	112	128	117		63.4	10.1
Dyna-Gro Impact	104	127	111	125	117		62.5	9.7
Norwest Duet	102	127	114	124	116	121	62.3	9.5
LCS Sonic ²	100			133	116		62.0	10.1
LCS Hulk	103	128	108	126	116	118	63.2	9.7
Xerpha	104	119	108	132	116	117	61.9	9.6
SY Command ²	99			132	116		60.7	9.3
ARS-Crescent ¹	92	122	118	131	116	115	61.3	8.9
SY Dayton	101	118	115	126	115	124	62.1	9.6
UI Sparrow	94	116	109	140	115	116	60.6	9.4
LCS Shark	102	122	108	126	114	124	61.2	9.9
Purl (WA8234)	98	114	111	131	114	121	62.7	9.8
SY Assure	94	132	108	121	114	118	62.9	10.0
WB1604	95	122	112	124	113	119	61.9	10.0
LCS Drive	102	124	104	122	113	119	60.5	9.6
Mary ²	101			121	111		62.6	10.3
ARS-Castella ¹	94	100	112	138	111		61.3	9.5
WB-528	95	119	105	116	109	114	62.7	10.2
WB1529	93	114	109	114	107	114	63.4	10.2
WB1783	93	114	101	115	106	113	63.9	10.6
SY Candor (09PN008#72)	96	120	104	103	106		62.7	10.2
Stephens ¹	90			118	104		61.6	10.3
WB1532	89	107	103	117	104		62.3	10.7
Madsen	87	106	100	114	101	113	61.8	10.5
SY Banks	90	104	94	110	99		60.9	10.0
C.V. %	5	8	5	8	6	6	1	5
LSD (0.05)	9	10	9	14	5	4	0.4	0.4
Average	127	95	134	137	124	123	61.9	10.6

	IRRIC	ATE	D			
	MOSES LAKE	PASC0	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE PROTEIN
Variety	Yi	eld (Bu/A)	Lb/Bu	%
SY Assure	93	107	100	115	60.1	12.5
LCS Drive	94	105	99	115	58.9	12.4
LCS Artdeco	95	99	97	115	58.8	11.6
SY Raptor	91	100	96		56.2	12.5
Norwest Tandem	93	96	95	113	58.9	12.5
LCS Shark	87	100	94	113	59.0	12.6
PNW Hailey	95	93	94		59.0	12.5
WB1783	85	103	94	111	60.3	13.3
WB1529	88	98	93	110	58.2	12.2
LCS Hulk	95	90	92	115	57.5	13.5
WB1604	96	88	92	111	59.6	12.6
Norwest Duet	96	86	91	116	54.7	13.1
SY Ovation	84	97	91	110	56.9	12.6
Purl (WA 8234)	88	92	90	111	56.8	13.0
UI Magic CL+	94	85	89	109	58.7	13.0
Bobtail	89	89	89	112	53.9	12.2
Dyna-Gro-Impact	92	86	89		56.3	13.2
Puma	91	86	88	110	56.3	13.2
Resilience CL+	96	81	88		58.0	13.1
WB-528	82	94	88	111	57.3	13.1
Jasper	94	80	87	110	54.8	13.2
Rosalyn	84	88	86	112	54.2	12.8
SY Dayton	81	89	85	108	54.2	12.8
UI Palouse CL+	90	76	83	96	54.1	14.4
WB1532	75	90	83		55.2	14.6
WB1376CLP	77	84	81	99	58.0	14.8
UI Castle CL+	82	75	79	96	55.5	14.0
C.V. %	9	8	8	7	3	5
LSD (0.05)	11	9	7	5	1.5	0.6
Average	89	89	89	110	56.7	13.1

¹Club Wheat

At the website, you'll find two-, three- and five-year averages for each location, as well as long-term averages across locations within each precipitation zone. At the bottom of the results from each location, you'll also find brief statements summarizing site conditions, seeding rate, fertility levels, etc. This is valuable information that can help you interpret the results from a given location.

Additionally, the Variety Selection Tool (also located on the Wheat and Small Grains website) provides farmers with end-use quality rankings, disease ratings and a two-year average of agronomic traits from VTP locations within a given precipitation zone. End-use quality is another factor farmers need to consider when selecting a variety. The Washington, Oregon and Idaho wheat and grain commissions recently released the 2019 Preferred Wheat Varieties brochure. It is available on various websites including WSU's small grain website and the Washington Grain Commission website, wagrains.org.

 $^{^2}$ Entries grown only in cooperative trials at Dayton & Walla Walla. Average of two locations.

⁻⁻Entries have not been tested in that zone for two consecutive years.

Table 2. 2018 WSU Extension Soft White Winter Wheat Variety Trial Summary

Prec	ipita	atio	ı Zo	ne=	12-1	6"		
	ALMIRA	ANATONE	CRESTON	REARDAN	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE PROTEIN
Variety		Yi	eld (Bu/	4)		Lb/Bu	%
LCS Sonic	119	106	106	120	113	120	60.5	8.9
Norwest Duet	121	101	109	115	112	122	61.2	9.1
Jasper	116	99	105	125	111	123	60.4	8.9
Xerpha	122	95	104	124	111	115	60.6	8.8
M-Press	122	98	101	120	110		60.8	8.8
ARS-Crescent ¹	118	97	106	117	110	112	60.5	8.7
SY Command	119	97	101	119	109	113	59.5	8.8
Pritchett	120	97	97	120	109	112	59.3	8.8
LCS Hulk	115	104	102	112	108	118	62.2	9.2
Dyna-Gro Impact	121	91	101	112	106		61.6	9.2
ARS-Castella ¹	112	99	99	112	106	118	60.3	8.6
Norwest Tandem	120	93	98	111	105	119	61.1	9.1
UI Sparrow	113	104	99	104	105	112	59.5	8.9
Puma	111	100	101	109	105	112	61.2	9.4
ORCF-102	109	94	100	113	104	110	61.4	9.3
WB1783	118	95	89	110	103	115	62.8	9.6
WB1529	114	100	92	106	13	108	62.7	9.6
UI Castle CL+	111	86	96	112	102	109	61.7	9.9
SY Candor (0+PN008#72)	112	107	88	97	101		61.7	9.5
UI Magic CL+	115	87	91	107	100	109	61.6	9.6
SY Banks	110	99	91	100	100	115	60.2	9.3
WB1604	106	102	91	99	99	107	61.7	9.7
Bruehl	113	83	101	99	99	103	58.9	9.3
Curiosity CL+	114	81	93	102	97	101	61.0	9.1
Eltan	109	84	93	101	97	99	60.9	9.0
Mela CL+	110	85	90	98	96	99	61.3	9.1
WB1532	110	89	83	102	96		61.3	9.8
Otto	111	75	92	103	95	101	60.9	9.4
ORCF-103	97	94	82	94	92	93	60.4	9.5
WB1376CLP	99	88	78	88	88	94	63.1	10.3
C.V. %	6	7	7	7	7	7	1	5
LSD (0.05)	9	10	9	10	5	4	0.2	0.3
Average	114	94	97	109	104	110	60.9	9.2

	_	•	•		7		.45//				
	r	reci	oltai	cion	Zon	e=<	< 12"				
	BICKLETON	CONNELL	HARRINGTON	HORSE HEAVEN	ONIT	RITZVILLE	ST. ANDREWS	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE PROTEIN
Variety				-Yiel	d (B	u/A)-				Lb/Bu	%
Xerpha	37	71	72	65	87	91	75	77	69	59.8	9.0
Pritchett	37	76	73	63	77	91	71	75	68	58.8	9.0
Dyna-Gro Impact	35	77	70	62	83	85	64	74		61.1	9.6
M-Press	37	75	68	57	87	77	72	73		60.1	9.2
LCS Sonic	36	72	76	55	80	86	67	73	68	59.8	9.6
ARS-Crescent ¹	34	65	70	63	84	84	66	72	63	59.5	9.2
Jasper	33	78	67	55	82	82	68	72	66	59.2	9.6
Norwest Duet	36	74	71	53	82	79	72	72	69	60.3	9.6
ARS-Castella ¹	36	71	69	62	77	82	63	71	69	59.2	9.0
SY Command	36	78	71	62	87	69	57	71	61	59.1	9.1
Curiosity CL+	38	70	66	62	73	82	67	70	66	60.2	8.7
LCS Hulk	36	707	70	59	76	79	62	69	67	61.7	9.9
Norwest Tandem	42	68	65	60	76	70	70	68	63	60.4	9.5
SY Candor (09PN008#72)		68	69	52	72	83	64	68		60.9	10.1
Puma	36	76	63	57	77	80	83	68	61	60.2	9.7
UI Sparrow	36	58	65	55	76	80	71	68	62	59.3	9.5
ORCF-102	35	74	64	55	79	78	54	67	62	60.7	9.7
WB1529	39	70	67	59	71	78	58	67	63	61.9	9.8
Mela CL+	34	65	64	54	72	82	65	67	67	60.6	9.0
WB1783	40	62	60	59	78	73	70	67		62.0	10.3
SY Banks	32	71	63	54	72	77	63	67	65	59.3	9.7
UI Castle CL+	33	74	64	51	70	81	54	66	59	60.6	1.0
Bruehl	34	71	61	49	75	69	69	65	62	58.8	9.7
Otto	33	66	59	53	73	75	66	65	63	60.4	9.8
Eltan WB1604	35 30	64 66	63 72	53 47	67 68	80 67	64 65	65 64	61 59	60.3 60.9	9.1 9.8
	36	68	64	51	71	70	60	64	59 59		9.8 9.7
UI Magic CL+ WB1376CLP	33	74	56	53	69	70	58	64	57	61.0 62.1	10.9
ORCF-103	23	64	46	43	61	65	60	57	52	59.9	9.7
C.V. %	8	7	40 7	9	8	8	9	8	9	39.9 1	9.7 7
LSD (0.05)	4	7	7	7	9	9	8	3	2	0.4	0.4
Average	35	70	67	59	77	79	64	69	64	60.2	9.7

1Club Wheat

--Entries have not been tested in that zone for two consecutive years.

By selecting varieties rated higher for end-use quality and avoiding varieties in the least desirable category, you can help maintain the superior quality of our Pacific Northwest wheat. For farmers who want to compare falling numbers data among varieties, go to steberlab.org/. In years when late maturity alpha-amylase develops due to a cold shock in the spring, this information is particularly valuable.

Good luck this year as spring progresses. I hope to see each and every one of you at a VTP tour this summer.

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 contribution of land and time from farmer cooperators where the trials are located.



Table 3. 2018 WSU Extension Hard Winter Wheat Variety Trial Summary

Preci	pita	tion	Zon	e=>´	16"		
	DAYTON	PULLMAN	WALLA WALLA	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE PROTEIN
Variety		Yie	ld (B	u/A)-		Lb/Bu	%
LCS Rocket (NSA10-2196)	107	179	138	141	138	61.0	10.2
LCS Jet	104	170	121	132	134	62.3	10.9
WB4303	95	171	123	129		62.0	10.9
Kelden	92	171	111	125	124	63.7	10.6
SY Touchstone	93	167	109	123	126	63.2	11.1
WB4311	88	154	106	116	117	63.5	11.4
Mandala	75	149	114	113	110	63.6	11.3
LCS Evina	88		137	112		62.8	11.2
Whetstone	68	152	108	109	111	62.9	11.1
LCS Aymeric	92		125	109		60.5	9.3
Northwest 553	93		110	101		62.9	11.0
WB-Arrowhead	88		112	100		63.6	10.7
Langin	83		116	99		62.6	10.2
Metropolis	84		99	91		63.6	11.7
Rebelde	84		94	89		64.2	11.6
C.V. %	7	5	8	7	6	1	5
LSD (0.05)	9	13	13	7	4	0.5	0.4
Average	91	190	141	142	124	62.5	10.8

Pred	ipit	atio	n Zoi	ne=1	12-16	″		
	ALMIRA	ANATONE	LAMONT	REARDAN	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE PROTEIN
Variety		Y	ield	(Bu/	4)		Lb/Bu	%
LCS Rocket (NSA10-2196	129	105	73	98	101		60.6	9.3
LCS Jet	119	119	66	98	100	106	61.5	10.1
WB4303	123	108	65	88	96		61.4	10.1
Kelden	119	96	68	98	95	102	62.9	9.8
SY Touchstone	109	94	65	94	90	95	62.7	10.5
SY Clearstone CL2	104	107	58	89	89	92	61.6	10.5
Mandala	103	94	63	83	86	93	62.7	10.6
WB4623CLP	106	89	52	84	83	86	62.7	11.8
Whetstone	98	88	43	92	80	89	62.9	10.9
Farnum	95	81	47	86	77	82	60.9	11.0
Sequoia	95	64	52	86	74	80	60.4	10.2
WB4311 ¹		103	45					
C.V. %	9	6	11	10	9	8	1	4.8
LSD (0.05)	14	9	9	13	6	4	0.4	9.5
Average	110	97	60	93	90	92	61.6	10.3

	Precipitation Zone=<12"											
	BICKLETON	CONNELL	HORSE HEAVEN	TIND	RITZVILLE	ST. ANDREWS	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE PROTEIN		
Variety			Y i	ield (Bu/A)			Lb/Bu	%		
LCS Jet	42	74	51	78	97	66	73	67	603.8	10.3		
SY Clearstone CL2	38	66	49	66	78	60	64	58	61.4	10.6		
Kelden	40	67	53	64	69	57	62	58	62.0	10.0		
LCS Rocket (NSA10-2196)	40	53	52	64	67	47	60		59.6	10.0		
Sequoia		64	51	58	79	48	60	57	61.1	10.4		
WB4303	34	68	36	58	82	52	59		61.2	10.4		
Mandala	34	57	54	61	67	56	59	55	61.5	10.9		
WB4623CLP	32	61	44	60	75	51	58	53	62.2	11.9		
SY Touchstone	38	51	52	67	73	48	58	52	61.8	11.2		
Whetstone	29	58	43	57	73	61	58	53	61.9	11.2		
Farnum		44	41	50	70	44	50	48	59.7	11.2		
WB4311 ¹		44	41	50	70	44	50	48	59.7	11.2		
C.V. %	4	9	8	10	10	11	10	10	1	6		
LSD (0.05)	2	7	6	9	11	9	4	2	0.4	0.4		
Average	37	62	48	65	79	56	62	57	60.8	10.6		

	MOSES LAKE	PASC0	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE PROTEIN
Variety	Yi	eld (Bu/A)	Lb/Bu	%
LCS Rocket (NSA10-2196)	98	115	107	124	58.0	12.8
LCS Jet	97	110	104	123	58.6	13.5
LCS Aymeric	96	105	101	116	54.0	12.6
WB4303	92	109	100	116	59.4	14.0
Kelden	98	101	100	114	59.2	14.0
WB4311	86	107	97	108	61.5	14.2
SY Touchstone	82	95	89	108	59.9	13.5
Metropolis	75	95	85	105	59.8	15.2
Rebelde	75	92	84	99	59.7	15.3
Mandala	80	86	83	99	57.9	14.3
C.V. %	7	7	7	6	3	3.9
LSD (0.05)	9	10	6	4	1.6	0.5
Average	89	102	96	113	58.4	13.7

IRRIGATED

¹ WB4311 was not planted due to late seed arrival

2019 PNW crop tour schedule

The 2019 crop tour season will soon be starting and provides opportunities to view field trials and interact with Washington State University personnel and others about cereal varieties and crop management practices. Cereal breeders, extension agronomists, plant pathologists and other scientists will be presenting information at various events. The small grain variety and research tours, listed below, provide a guide for wheat, barley and legume tours in Washington and nearby locations.

Please check with the contact listed prior to the tour to verify the time, location, agenda and ensure a place

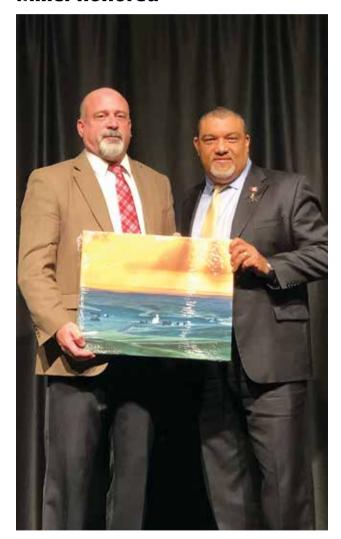
Date	Tour	Time	Contact
4-Jun	Horse Heaven	8 am	Aaron Esser, 509-659-3210
5-Jun	Ritzville Field Tour	1 pm	Aaron Esser, 509-659-3210
6-Jun	LaCrosse Western Whitman Co.	8:30 am	Steve Van Vleet, 509-397-6290
6-Jun	Connell	5 pm	Aaron Esser, 509-659-3210
11-Jun	Pendleton Field Day	7:30 am	Stewart Wuest, 541-278-4381
12-Jun	Moro Field Day	7:30 am	Stewart Wuest, 541-278-4381
13-Jun	Lind Field Day	8:30 am	Bill Schillinger, 509-235-1933
13-Jun	Harrington	4 pm	Aaron Esser, 509-659-3210
14-Jun	St. Andrews	5 pm	Dale Whaley, 509-745-8531
18-Jun	Moses Lake (irrigated)	8 am	Andy McGuire, 509-754-2011
19-Jun	Pullman WSU Weed Science	1 pm	Drew Lyon, 509-335-2961
19-Jun	St. John	10 am	Steve Van Vleet, 509-397-6290
19-Jun	Lamont	1:30 pm	Steve Van Vleet, 509-397-6290
20-Jun	Bickleton	11:00 am	Hannah Brause, 509 773-5817
21-Jun	Mayview	9 am	Mark Heitstuman, 509-243-2009
21-Jun	Anatone	3:30 pm	Mark Heitstuman, 509-243-2009
24-Jun	*Eureka	3 pm	Aaron Esser, 509-659-3210
25-Jun	*Walla Walla (cereals)	1 pm	Aaron Esser, 509-659-3210
26-Jun	Wilke Farm Field Day	8 am	Aaron Esser, 509-659-3210
26-Jun	Reardan	2 pm	Aaron Esser, 509-659-3210
27-Jun (l	Lewiston, ID Univ. of Idaho/Limagrai	8:30 am n)	Doug Finkelnburg, 208-799-3096
27-Jun	*Dayton (cereals & legumes)	8 am	Paul Carter, 509-382-4741
27-Jun	Almira	3 pm	Aaron Esser, 509-659-3210
28-Jun	Fairfield	8 am	Aaron Esser, 509-659-3210
9-Jul	Farmington	8 am	Steve Van Vleet, 509-397-6290
9-Jul	Palouse	3:30 pm	Steve Van Vleet, 509-397-6290

*Cooperative trials/tours with Oregon State University and Northwest Grain Growers Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication or program information or reasonable accommodation need to contact the coordination person listed under Contact above at the telephone number listed at least two weeks prior to the event. Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office.

at the table if food is served. Location maps for the WSU Cereal Variety Trials are available online at smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety. Washington Grain Commission funds support the trials and the tours. We look forward to seeing you in the fields.

- Aaron Esser, WSU Cereal Variety Testing

Miller honored



Mike Miller (left), a Washington Grain Commissioner since 2011, was honored by the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences at Washington State University on March 21, when he was inducted as the newest member of the Dean's Wall of Honor. A Ritzville farmer who served as chairman of the WGC in 2016 and 2017, Miller also served as chairman of U.S. Wheat Associates in 2017. In honoring Miller, CAHNRS Dean André-Denis Wright told those attending the college's annual gala that he has shown again and again what it means to be a friend to WSU. "He understands the role our work plays in safeguarding Washington's agricultural economy," Wright said.

WHEAT WATCH

WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION

Light at end of marketing tunnel grows dimmer



By Mike Krueger

The wheat markets all continue to be on life support.

Every U.S. Department of

Agriculture (USDA) report seems to enlarge the size of U.S. wheat ending supplies even though recent increases have been relatively small. The real bearish culprit in the wheat market is that the pace of U.S. wheat export sales has never started to accelerate as most analysts had expected, or at least hoped.

The wheat marketing year ends on May 31. Any increase in the wheat export sales pace now will be reflected in the 2019/20 marketing year. The world is also again on the cusp of starting the 2019 winter wheat harvest and the spring wheat planting season.

The critical development for the 2019 world winter wheat crop is still ahead of us, but analysts are already talking about a world wheat crop significantly larger than last year. Remember that Russia's 2018 wheat crop was small because of a drought. Australia's 2018 wheat crop was also very small because of dry conditions. The EU suffered its worst drought in more than 30 years last year. There are still some concerns about dry conditions in parts of the Black Sea region and eastern Europe. Not to mention, much of western Canada is entering the spring season very dry. Nonetheless, 2019 world wheat production estimates are as much

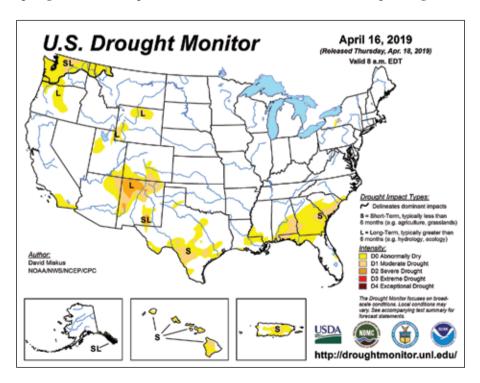
as 40 to 50 million metric tons bigger than last year.

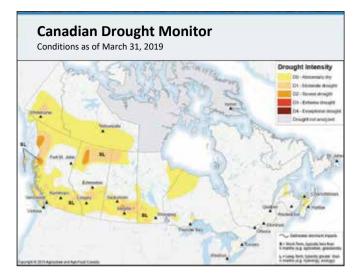
The USDA also struck a bearish blow to the corn market in their March 29 quarterly stocks estimate. That number came in almost 300 million bushels above the average trade estimate. That was the largest "miss" by the trade in decades. The USDA had little choice but to reduce feed/residual corn usage. They also reduced the export and ethanol production forecasts in their April WASDE (supply and demand) report. Corn ending supplies were increased by 200 million bushels. That was a bearish surprise to the market, and corn prices crashed the day of the report. A bearish corn market makes it tough to have a bullish wheat market.

The news surrounding the year-long trade negotiations between the U.S. and China has all been positive, but no deal has been finalized. The markets are tired of positive trade talk. They want to see a finalized deal that includes additional corn and wheat sales to China.

The recent spate of bearish fundamental news has given the speculative trading funds many reasons to sell wheat and corn futures. As a result, their short positions have gotten larger with nearly every traders' report. The funds' short in the corn market is now a new record. That is unusual heading into the spring planting season in the Northern Hemisphere.

It has been a very wet and cold early spring across the western Corn Belt and northern Plains. Spring wheat planting across the Dakotas and western Minnesota got off to a very slow start. This could mean that fewer acres of spring wheat will be planted than the estimate in the March 29 planting inten-





tions report, although it is too early to make that call. Weather patterns can change quickly, and farmers can plant a lot of acres in a very short time.

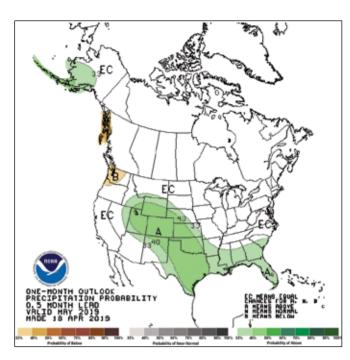
It appears likely that farmers across western Canada will increase spring wheat acres significantly because of canola trade problems between Canada and China. China has been a significant buyer of canola from Canada, and those canola exports are now in jeopardy.

Markets are now back to being all about weather as the growing season in the Northern Hemisphere gets underway. The map on the previous page is the U.S. drought monitor as of the middle of April. It's interesting to note that there is no production region in the U.S. that is currently showing any drought problems with one exception, the northeastern corner of Washington. A large percentage of eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington did appear on the drought monitor last fall. Those drought concerns have been eliminated. In fact, eastcentral Washington received more than 10 inches of rain in mid-April. The Washington wheat crop was rated 65 percent good to excellent in mid-April. Oregon's wheat was rated 63 percent good to excellent.

The situation across western Canada looks much different. The map above is the latest drought monitor map that was released back on March 31. Note that a significant portion south of the Trans-Canada highway is very dry. This could develop into a problem, but it is too early for the market to deal with it now.

The National Weather Service (NWS) released their temperature and precipitation forecasts for the month of May in late April. Temperature forecasts for the Pacific Northwest are above normal with precipitation below

The unexpected increase in corn supplies also takes some of the edge off of this summer's weather and yield



concerns for corn. Corn supplies should tighten in the 2019/20 marketing year, but it will now take a bigger yield issue to tighten supplies enough to significantly alter the direction of the corn market. Also remember that everyone expects more corn acres than last year.

The soybean complex has the most bearish numbers of the big three (corn, wheat, soybeans). U.S. and world supplies are at record large levels. China has long been the driver of the world soybean market. They have increased soybean imports every year for more than a decade in order to feed their rapidly expanding hog herd.

Soybean imports to China will decline this year. The trade problem and high soybean import tariffs on U.S. soybeans is part of the problem. African Swine Fever (ASF) is an even bigger problem. Some analysts estimate more than 20 percent of China's hogs have been lost to ASF, and the situation still isn't under control. Fewer hogs mean less soybean meal consumed. China has also decided to substitute other sources of protein in their feed rations.

The markets still have bearish headwinds as we head into the 2019 growing season. It wouldn't take big yield or production problems with wheat or corn to give prices a boost, but we just don't have any crop or weather problems present today.

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.



Raising awareness

WHEAT AMBASSADOR SEES A SIDE OF AGRICULTURE THAT DOESN'T TAKE PLACE ON A FARM

By Evan Henning

Waking up early Tuesday morning, I didn't know what to expect as I was grabbing my bags and getting into the car to head to the airport. I was very excited, and I couldn't wait to experience the trip to Olympia representing the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) as a wheat ambassador. After getting through security, I met up with Lacey Miller, Lori Williams, Michelle Hennings, Jim White and Randy Suess who is our current Whitman County Wheat Growers' president.

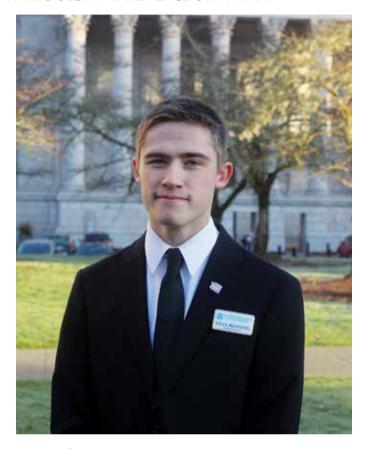
Tuesday was spent traveling as a group, flying from Spokane to Seattle. Once in Seattle, we drove a rental car down to Olympia where we would spend the next three days, meeting new people, sharing our priority list/hot sheet and educating the legislators on many issues. In the evening we met for dinner and set our agenda by making the appropriate appointments of who would meet with members of the House and Senate the following day.

Wednesday morning came rolling around, and I couldn't have been more thrilled about what the day had in store for me. My first appointment was to meet Sen. Judy Warnick. I really enjoyed her input on the topics that we shared with her, including her ideas on pesticide safety issues in Washington.

Next, I met with Rep. Joe Schmick. The topic I most enjoyed going through with him was the preservation of the lower Snake River dams and talking in general about farming in Whitman County. I also enjoyed learning about the legislative process and the history of the capitol building itself. I was fortunate enough to be in on meetings with many representatives and senators from districts all over the state.

I was honored to spend extra time with Sen. Mark Schoesler. Lacey Miller, WAWG President Jeff Shawver and I were invited to dine in the legislative cafeteria for our lunch hour. It was nice to visit and share information about farming. After lunch, we met with Sen. Schoesler and discussed agricultural issues. I really enjoyed the amount of time he spent discussing his views on them. Most of my time Wednesday and Thursday morning was spent in and out of meetings. It was amazing to participate with the wheat growers, lobbying for our agricultural issues. Having the opportunity to listen in on some of the discussions about current problems that agriculture is facing and sharing some of my own opinions was very valuable.

When I first went into the meetings, I wasn't quite



certain what some of our agriculture issues were really about, but after listening and paying close attention, I felt that I really learned a lot about the carbon footprint issue and the important role dams have for wheat to travel efficiently from the fields to Portland. When I was in one of my last meetings, I thought to myself, "What an incredible experience this has been!", not only getting to travel to the capital, but learning about some of the major issues the wheat industry faces. That was a huge eye opener for me.

Finally, when it was time to leave, I was extremely grateful for the time and the people with whom I had spent the past few days. Being a wheat ambassador this year has been a phenomenal experience. It has allowed me to look further into the agricultural business side of farming. It has also allowed me to stay up to date on issues the farmers are facing. Learning about these issues has helped me to share with others and to teach and talk to the younger generation of students so they are also informed on what is going on.

Overall my trip to Olympia was an amazing experience. It's definitely a treasured memory that I will be able to keep and remember for the rest of my life.



These dollars will be used to support candidates that understand what is critical to our industry and the livelihood of our members

Political advocacy is something many of us think we can never get involved in; the Washington Wheat PAC is out to change that.

The Washington Wheat PAC is a nonpartisan political action committee that is dedicated to supporting ag-friendly candidates.

The Washington Wheat PAC pledges to promote and support elected officials from all parts of the state that positively influence agriculture.

Why Support the Washington Wheat PAC?

Washington farmers are losing ground politically! The ability to protect our interests is slowly dwindling. Washington wheat producers need elected officials who know and understand the industry. Without these relationships our ability to remain competitive is at risk. During the legislative session, thousands of bills are introduced; many not favorable to farming. Now is the time for the industry to join together and proactively influence legislation that directly impacts the Washington wheat producer.

Please join our efforts by financially supporting the Washington Wheat PAC. Your contribution will strengthen the network of elected officials who understand the wheat industry's goals and objectives by fighting for what is critical to the livelihood of our members.

Protect your interests by supporting farm-friendly candidates who can make a difference in Olympia.

DONATION PROMISE Yes, I would like to join with the Washington Wheat PAC's vision and support their actions with my donation.
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Donation amount:

When you make a donation to the Washington Wheat PAC, you are investing in the future of agriculture in Washington State.



Seizing the moment

WHEAT AMBASSADOR FINDS AN OPPORTUNITY TO ADVOCATE IN AN UNEXPECTED PLACE

By Lacey Miller

I have never been to Olympia before, so Olympia Days was something I will never forget. What made my experience worthwhile was that I was not there just to sightsee, but I was given this extraordinary opportunity to help make a difference in the wheat industry. Every year, the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) takes this advocacy trip to work for our industry. By being an ambassador, I was lucky enough to help this year.

We got to meet with many legislators and talk to them about our agriculture industry. This is a side of agriculture I had personally never seen. WAWG had a good-sized group who traveled to Olympia to help advocate for our industry and talk about the problems that are impacting it. One topic we discussed was the potential removal of the lower Snake River dams. Before my trip, I knew only a small part about how it would affect the wheat industry (importing and exporting), but there are ways it would impact everyone, such as increasing our carbon footprint. We also brought up upcoming bills we supported and noted ones we had concerns about. As a young adult about to enter the real world, being able to experience this was amazing.

Sen. Mark Schoesler took Evan (the other ambassador) and I to lunch in the dining room reserved for legislators. While I've know the senator as simply a farmer from my hometown, it was eye opening to see what he does with the rest of his time. We got to hear legislators voting and stand on the Senate floor. That was definitely a huge highlight of the trip for me.

The Washington Wheat Ambassador Program not only allows young kids to get to know a different side of our industry, but exposes them to new experiences. When visiting with legislators, they were always excited to see young faces in the room. Most asked us about our future plans, our background and tried to get a sense of who we are. Seeing young people take an interest in the future says a lot to them and says a lot about our industry. I am honored to be able to be one of the young people advocating for our industry. Meeting with the legislators, even for a short amount of time, goes a long way. It shows our dedication and passion for our industry.

One the biggest highlights of my trip actually happened on the plane rides. Now I know that this sounds crazy or boring...and no it wasn't sleeping. On both of the plane rides from Spokane to Seattle and Seattle back to Spokane,



I sat next to two of the sweetest people I have ever met.

On the first plane ride, it was a older lady who was traveling to California to see her family. From the moment we boarded to the moment we left, we talked about our lives. When she asked what I was traveling for, I explained that I was the Washington Wheat Ambassador and that we were on our way to Olympia. She, like most, had no idea what our trip was about and wanted to know more. From explaining what WAWG's mission was on this trip, to life on my family's farm, to our faith in God, we covered it all. Without even realizing it, I was advocating for our industry in another way.

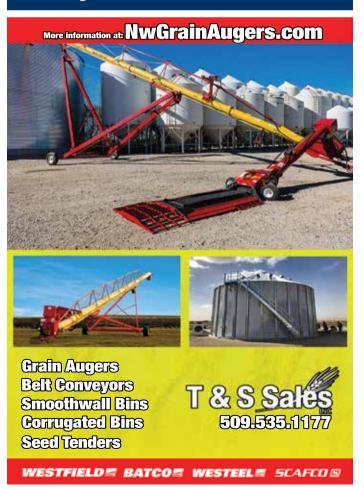
On our plane ride home, I sat next to another lady who was fairly new to Eastern Washington. She and her husband had moved to Spokane about a year ago. Ironically enough, she was coming home from visiting family in California. This conversation was somewhat comical because how much of agriculture was unknown to her. One question she asked me went something like, "So on the news, I keep seeing this thing called the Palouse. Is that a town or a place?" Needless to say, she now knows where

Colfax and Pullman are and what the rolling hills of the Palouse region are with the help of lovely visual aids I drew. With that being said, I loved talking to her. She enjoyed learning about the area, and it opened my eyes to a different experience as well.

Some people really don't know what GMO stands for, or where our small farming communities are. Without this trip, I would have never been exposed to this situation or lifestyle. You don't have to travel to the Capitol to advocate for our industry; it can happen wherever you go. Sometimes we think of those who aren't experienced with agriculture as "small minded," and some people can be. But if those of us involved in the industry can help them learn, then we can help resolve the problem.

From the plane rides, meeting with legislators, to learning more about myself and our industry, I loved every bit of my trip to Olympia. Overall, WAWG did an amazing job of representing our industry and advocating for it. The trip was an amazing experience that I was blessed to have, and I can't thank WAWG enough for this amazing opportunity.

Like our Facebook page and follow us on Twitter for the latest industry news. Search for **Washington Association of Wheat Growers.**









The ins and outs of being an absentee landlord

By Trista Crossley

Like many landlords, Jim Moyer and his brother, Jerry, became responsible for the family's Columbia County farm when one of their parents passed away. However, their situation was a little more complicated as Jim lived in North Carolina while Jerry lived in California. The two brothers made a decision to keep the farm and manage it together as absentee landlords.

"We saw it as a long-term commitment, building the family legacy," Jim said. "We agreed during the process of forming our partnership that we were going to invest in the future of the farm. We didn't view it as a source of income necessarily. We viewed it like an IRA—you are going to get the benefits of it sometime later."

Although the brothers had grown up on the farm, they had moved away shortly after finishing their education. They made a commitment that they'd each visit the farm two to four times every year, something that Jim said was a major part of being a successful absentee landlord. Even

with that effort, however, he conceded that it took more effort than they had anticipated.

"If you really want to be successful and get most out of it, you have to commit to being there," Jim said. "The tenant appreciates that effort to maintain a certain knowledge and understanding of what's going on, and you fully appreciate the efforts and challenges that the tenants face in getting those results. Being there and having conversations on site is a big part of that."

Just a few years after inheriting the property, the Moyers faced the situation that most landlords dread—their current tenant decided to retire. Jim said when that happened, they were still reacquainting themselves with the farm. They were able to reach out to several local farmers, asking if they were interested in renting the land. The brothers ultimately choose two individuals who farm adjacent to the family farm.

"We were fortunate enough to have chosen really good tenants, and I think that is key. It's got to be a good tenant



Jim and Jerry Moyer's family farm near Dayton. For many years, the brothers were absentee landlords—Jim lived in North Carolina and Jerry lives in California. Photo by Jerry Moyer

for you, with good chemistry. That's the foundation that you've got to build on," Jim said.

It's no surprise that distance was the hardest aspect of being an absentee landlord that the Moyers dealt with. Having tenants who lived near the farm helped, because not only did they look after the crops, but the tenants also kept an eye on the farm's buildings, including the original house and outbuildings. The tenants were able to alert Jim and Jerry to any problems.

"They've been very good at keeping an eye out," Jim said. "When little things would happen, like good neighbors, good farmers, they would just take care of them, for which we were very, very grateful."

Besides the tenant-landlord relationship, Jim also pointed to the fact that the farm is rented out under a crop share agreement as a factor to their success as absentee landlords. Shouldering part of the responsibility for input costs and having to market their share of the crop has helped them better appreciate and understand what was happening on the farm.

Jim advised other absentee landlords to make sure they had a long-term plan that considered the rented farmland as more than just a source of income, because "there's probably better places to put your money." He also said that absentee landlords need to have regular conversations with their tenants and should visit the land at least once a year.

While the term "absentee landlord" might raise a few hackles in farm country, Jim pointed out one benefit—many times, an absentee landlord lives in an urban area and can be an inside advocate for agriculture.

"They are out in the part of the population that farmers are trying to reach and, quite frankly, need their support to continue to thrive," he explained.

While Jerry still lives in California, Jim moved back to Washington state five years ago to take up a position at Washington State University. Both brothers are now retired and have started thinking about the future of the

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family's farm when their children inherit it. Jim said they are both optimistic that the farm will stay in the family.

Even though he's no longer working full time and lives in the same state where the farm is, Jim has no plans to become a more hands-on landlord. Instead, he said he's getting involved in agriculture by participating in advocacy groups, such as the Washington Association of Wheat Growers.

"I'm involved (in the farm) but not so much day to day," he explained.

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BOTTOM LINE

The practicalities of dealing with a spouse's death

Editor's note: This is the first in a two-part series on what to do when your spouse passes away. Part two will appear in our August/September issue.

By Paul D. Fitzpatrick

Attorney, Foster Pepper PLLC

After years of effort and wellthought-out plans, it happens—your spouse passes away!

The following points are the significant elements of any strategy aimed at implementing the estate plan you created; addressing the administration of an estate or trust; establishing values for estate and income tax purposes; determining if an estate tax return is required; and distributing assets and funding trusts to minimize current and deferred estate and income taxes.

Take care of you. Generally, there are few matters that require immediate action. Of course, this has to be tempered with the current farming situation, i.e. planting has begun or you are in the middle of harvest.

Sponsored by the Agricultural Marketing & Management Organization.

For more information and a schedule of classes visit wawg.org/ammo-workshops/



Those are business decisions, not estate administration discussions.

Contact your advisors. This may include your accountant, attorney, banker or financial planner. If you do not have legal counsel, it may be advantageous to consult one for guidance. For a small estate (one that is less than \$100,000) or those with only contractual benefits (life insurance, joint financial accounts, IRAs, Roth IRAs or a 401k) legal counsel may not be necessary. However, I cannot imagine a farm family not needing legal counsel; there tends to be too many practical and taxation concerns.

Funeral or cremation arrangements. Review the decedent's files for reference or records of funeral instructions or prearranged funeral contracts. If nothing is found, contact a funeral home of your choice. This is an expense of the estate. You are entitled to reimbursement if you advance the cost.

Social security and veterans benefits. This is organization specific and will take time and effort to complete the necessary forms and documentation to establish your entitlement to any particular benefit.

Key elements of probate

An estate administration ("probate") in Washington or Idaho is not the many-headed monster described in folktales. Probate is the technical, legal term for the management and distribution of the decedent's estate. It is designed to protect all those who have an interest in the decedent's property—family members, beneficiaries, joint tenants, creditors and the taxing authorities. In addition, it provides for the transfer of property in an orderly fashion.

An estate administration can be commenced in a couple of days. Once established, the personal representative (the individual or entity appointed by the court to administer the estate) of a solvent estate has nonintervention powers. In other words, he or she can act without further courtroom theatrics. The horror stories arise from nasty family feuds, lots of creditors or estate tax auditors who do not accept an estate tax return.

While the probate procedures in some states can be burdensome, the procedure in Washington is relatively simple and requires very little court activity in most cases. It is the duty of the personal representative to protect the value of the estate property. This includes the duty to invest the property in a prudent manner.

The probate proceeding directs the personal representative to:

- Assume control of all of the decedent's property;
- Ascertain the parties entitled to receive the decedent's property;
- Compile a complete listing of all of the property in which the decedent had an interest;
- Establish values for all of the decedent's property;
- Pay the debts of the decedent, funeral expenses and administration expenses;
- File all required tax returns and pay any taxes due; and

• Distribute the property to the persons or entities as directed by the decedent or statute entitled to it.

It is important that adequate insurance coverage be maintained on estate property, including residential and business buildings, motor vehicles and items of tangible personal property.

The property owned by the decedent is segregated between "probate property" and "nonprobate property." Both probate property and nonprobate property are included in the decedent's estate for estate tax purposes.

Probate property is your home, your vacation retreat, cars, brokerage accounts, family farm, business entities and similar assets. Probate property is subject to the jurisdiction of the probate court and distributed in accordance with the terms of the decedent's will. If the decedent died without a valid will, the property will be distributed according to the intestacy laws of the State of Washington.

Generally, nonprobate property is assets held by a third party and that have a beneficiary, such as bank accounts held as joint tenants with rights of survivorship; transfer or payable on death accounts; life insurance policies; retirement accounts; and other similar accounts. These are not governed by a will.

A probate is commenced (most often) by the personal representative filing the will with the appropriate superior court. A petition and order will need to be filed with the same court. Key elements of any petition and order will be:

- Name and date of death of decedent;
- Where decedent had assets:
- That decedent had a will:
- That the person filing is the designated personal representative;
- That no bond is required of the personal representative;
- That the estate is nonintervention;
- That the estate is solvent (more value than liability);
- That the court appoint petitioner as personal representative;
- That the court accepts and appoints the personal representative;
- Request Letters Testamentary. This document allows the personal representative to act on behalf of the estate; and
- Give notice to beneficiaries of appointment.

Part two of this article will cover the actions the personal representative will need to do to probate an estate.

Paul D. Fitzpatrick has more than 40 years of legal practice in Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho. He has worked with families to preserve and transition assets and businesses to successive generations. He is an accredited estate planner with the National Association of Estate Planning Councils and can be reached at (509) 777-1600 or at paul.fitzpatrick@foster.com.

HAVE AN IDEA FOR A FUTURE BUSINESS TOPIC? EMAIL IT TO EDITOR@WAWG.ORG





Your wheat life...

Gracie Pfaff (5) riding her horse, Hannah, while celebrating America in Garfield. Photo by Stevie Pfaff.

At Ledgerwood Farms in Pomeroy, big brother Cayle (9) gives little sister Aubree (5) a lesson in how harvesting works while dad Travis Ledgerwood, uncle Brock Ledgerwood and grandpa Mike Ledgerwood are harvesting wheat. Photo by Micki Ledgerwood (grandma).

Send us photos of your wheat life!

Email pictures to editor@wawg.org.
Please include location of picture, names
of all people appearing in the picture and
ages of all children.





Colton Birrenkott (5) loves driving combine with his mom, Sarah, on their family's farm outside of Plaza. Sarah and her brother, Matt Solbrack, are fourth generation farmers and truly love what they do. Photo by Sarah Birrenkott.



Jason Wiley and his son, Johnny, demonstrate just how much snow parts of Benton County got. Snow drifts were still hanging around on April 1, and that ain't no April Fools joke. Photo by Rachelle Wiley.



Congratulations to the 2013 Wheat Ambassador, Charlene Gray, who was married last summer to Wyatt Anderson on her family's farm in Reardan. Charlene's veil was made out of her mother's wedding dress's train by her mother.

Photo by Panisha Miller.

HAPPENINGS

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

MAY 2019

- 4 LIONS CLUB RIB FEED. All-you-can-eat rib feed annual fundraiser. 5-9 p.m. at the fairgrounds. Waitsburg, Wash. cityofwaitsburg.com/events-calendar
- 4-5 RENAISSANCE FAIR. Music, entertainment, food, arts and crafts and maypole dances. East City Park, Moscow, Idaho. moscowrenfair.org
- **11-12** 2019 OLD TIME MULE & HORSE **PLOWING.** Teams of mules and horses take part in plowing events. Lunch available. About 2.5 miles east of Davenport, Wash., at 42591 Four Corners Rd. E, Davenport. Contact Jon Overmyer at (509)
- 10-12 WINTHROP '49ER DAYS. Parade, rendezvous party, Sat. dinner, Sunday cowboy breakfast. Winthrop, Wash. winthropwashington.com/event/49er-days

721-1110 for more information.

- 11-12 MAIFEST. Flowers, music, entertainment. Leavenworth, Wash. leavenworth.org
- **14 WAWG BOARD MEETING.** Meeting starts at 10 a.m. at Washington Wheat Foundation Building, Ritzville, Wash. (509) 659-0610, wawg.org
- 17-19 WAITSBURG CELEBRATION

DAYS. Parade, car show. Waitsburg, Wash. cityofwaitsburg.com/events-calendar

17-19 SELAH COMMUNITY DAYS.

Carnival, poker run, potato feed, arts and crafts. Selah, Wash. selahdays.com

24-26 TOUCHET RIVER ROUNDUP.

Woody's world famous pig roast, Chili feed, camping, dancing, kids games. Registration required. Fairgrounds in Waitsburg, Wash. snafubar.com/pigroast/

27 WAITSBURG MEMORIAL DAY

CELEBRATION. Local veterans give a presentation at the City Cemetery honoring all veterans. Waitsburg, Wash. cityofwaitsburg.com/events.html

24-27 MOSES LAKE SPRING FESTIVAL.

Three on three basketball tournament, 5k and 10k run, car show, parade, carnival, beer garden. Moses Lake, Wash. moseslakespringfestival.com

25-26 METHOW VALLEY RODEO.

Saddle bronc, bareback, bulls, barrel racing, team roping and junior events. Held at the rodeo grounds between Twisp and Winthrop. *methowvalleyrodeo.com*

25-27 LAST STAND RODEO. Cowbov breakfast, 5k run, rodeos. Coulee City, Wash, laststandrodeo.com

JUNE 2019

- 1 ROSALIA BATTLE DAYS. Community festival, parade, car show, vendors market, fun run, live music, kids activities, beer garden and more. Rosalia, Wash. facebook.com/RosaliaBattleDays/
- 1 REARDAN MULE DAYS. Three on three basketball tournament, craft fair, poker ride, car show, parade. Reardan, Wash. reardanmuledays.net
- **1-2 MULE MANIA.** Join us for a two-day mule and donkey competition. Chuck wagon cook-off, entertainment, parade. Dayton, Wash. http://mulemaniadayton.com
- **4** WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP TOUR.

Horse Heaven, Wash., at 8 a.m. For information call Aaron Esser at (509) 659-3210 or variety.wsu.edu

5 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP TOUR.

Ritzville, Wash., at 1 p.m. For information call Aaron Esser at (509) 659-3210 or variety.wsu.edu

6 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP TOUR.

Western Whitman County-LaCrosse, Wash., at 8:30 a.m. For info call Steve Van Vleet at (509) 397-6290 or variety.wsu.edu

6 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP TOUR.

Connell, Wash., at 5 p.m. For information call Aaron Esser at (509) 659-3210 or variety.wsu.edu

- **7-9 DEMOLITION DERBY.** Combine demolition derby, parade, barbecue. Lind, Wash. lindwa.com
- **7-9 PROSPECTORS' DAYS.** Pan for gold! Three on three basketball tournament, 10k run, logging and mining competitions. Republic, Wash. prospectorsdays.com
- **8 FLAG DAY CELEBRATION.** Parade, fun run, vendors. Fairfield, Wash. fairfieldflagday.com
- **8** SNAKE RIVER FAMILY FESTIVAL. Free food, kids' activities, live music. Boyer Park & Marina, Colfax, Wash. facebook.com/snakeriverfamilyfestival/
- **8-9 JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW.** Area youth show off their prized animals at the fairgrounds. Waitsburg, Wash. cityofwaitsburg.com/events-calendar

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

11 PENDLETON STATION FIELD DAY.

Event begins at 7:30 a.m. at Pendleton Station on Tubbs Ranch Road outside Pendleton, Ore. For information call Stewart Wuest at (541) 278-4381 or cbarc.aes.oregonstate.edu/

- **12 MORO FIELD DAY.** Event begins at 7:30 a.m. at Sherman Station on Lone Rock Road outside Moro, Ore. For information call Stewart Wuest at (541) 278-4381 or cbarc.aes.oregonstate.edu
- **13** LIND FIELD DAY. Event begins at 8:30 a.m. at the WSU Dryland Research Center in Lind, Wash. For more information call Bill Schillinger at (509) 235-1933 or smallgrains.wsu.edu
- **13** WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP TOUR. Harrington, Wash., at 4 p.m. For information call Aaron Esser at (509) 659-3210 or variety.wsu.edu
- **14** WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP TOUR.

St. Andrews, Wash., at 5 p.m. For information call Dale Whaley at (509) 745-8531 or variety.wsu.edu

14-16 UNION GAP OLD TOWN DAYS.

Trading post, blacksmith, train rides, games and wagon tours. Fullbright Park in Union Gap, Wash. centralwaagmuseum. org/old-town-days-union-gap.asp

- 14-16 ALL WHEELS WEEKEND. Car show, golf tournament, fireworks, music. Dayton, Wash. allwheelsweekend.com/
- **14-16** WENATCHEE RIVER BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL. Chelan County Expo Center (fairgrounds) in Cashmere, Wash. cashmerecoffeehouse.com/wrbfest.htm
- **15 SLIPPERY GULCH DAYS.** Chamber breakfast, tractor show, parade, fishing, fireworks. Tekoa, Wash. slipperygulch.com
- **15 SPRINT BOAT RACING.** Enjoy 5 grass terraces, two beer gardens and a great atmosphere. St John, Wash. 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. or until racing done. webbsslough.com or (509)648-8900.
- **18** WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP TOUR.

Irrigated plot at Moses Lake, Wash., at 8 a.m. For information call Andy McGuire at (509) 754-2011 or variety.wsu.edu

19 WSU WEED SCIENCE. Pullman, Wash., at 1 p.m. For info, Drew Lyon at (509) 335-2961 or variety.wsu.edu

19 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP

TOUR. St. John, Wash., at 10 a.m. For information call Steve Van Vleet at (509) 397-6290 or *variety.wsu.edu*

19 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP

TOUR. Lamont, Wash., at 1:30 p.m. For more information, please call Steve Van Vleet at (509) 397-6290 or *variety.wsu.edu*

20 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP

TOUR. Bickleton, Wash., at 11 a.m. For information call Hannah Brause at (509) 773-5817 or *variety.wsu.edu*

21 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP

TOUR. Mayview, Wash., at 9 a.m. For information call Mark Heitstuman at (509) 243-2009 or *variety.wsu.edu*

21 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP

TOUR. Anatone, Wash., at 3:30 p.m. For information call Mark Heitstuman at (509) 243-2009 or *variety.wsu.edu*

24 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP

TOUR. Eureka, Wash., at 3 p.m. For information call Aaron Esser at (509) 659-3210 or *variety.wsu.edu*

25 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP

TOUR. Cereals at Walla Walla, Wash., at 1 p.m. For info call Aaron Esser at (509) 659-3210 or variety.wsu.edu

26 WILKE FARM FIELD DAY.

Davenport, Wash., at 8 a.m. For more information call Aaron Esser at (509) 659-3210 or wilkefarm.cahnrs.wsu.edu

26 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP

TOUR. Reardan, Wash., at 2 p.m. For information call Aaron Esser at (509) 659-3210 or *variety.wsu.edu*

27 UOFI/LIMAGRAIN VARIETY TESTING CROP TOUR. Lewiston,

Idaho, at 8:30 am. For information call Doug Finkelnburg at (208) 799-3096

27 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP

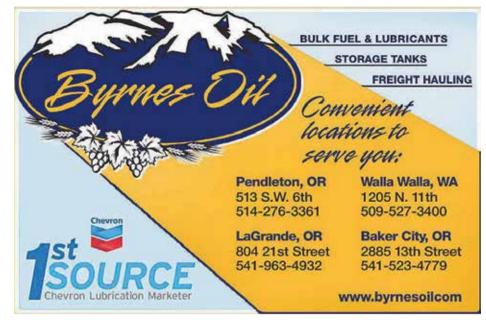
TOUR. Dayton, Wash., at 8 a.m. For information call Paul Carter at (509) 382-4741 or *variety.wsu.edu*

27 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP

TOUR. Almira, Wash., at 3 p.m. For information call Aaron Esser at (509) 659-3210 or *variety.wsu.edu*

28 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP

TOUR. Fairfield, Wash., at 8 a.m. For information call Aaron Esser at (509) 659-3210 or *variety.wsu.edu* ■







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