

# WHEAT LIFE

The official publication of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers

**MAY | 2021**

## IN THIS ISSUE:

From field to flour: Identity preserving wheat is no easy task

What's happening with carbon markets?

Program aims to help farmers in crisis

Scott Yates concludes his career in wheat

Social media is key to informing consumers about farming

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109 East First Avenue, Ritzville, WA 99169

# WHEAT LIFE

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The official publication of



**WASHINGTON  
ASSOCIATION OF  
WHEAT GROWERS**

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# President's Perspective



## We are stronger together despite differences

By Ryan Poe

As I sit down to work on this month's column, I just wrapped up branding day on our place in Grant County. Like many operations across the state, we've diversified into more than one commodity. We raise beef cattle and grow wheat and canola. For us, wheat is still king; obviously, that's not true for other growers, but no matter what the priority crop is, agriculture is still agriculture.

In this legislative session, we've been dealing with a number of bills that would impact our industry, especially agricultural overtime and the question of retroactive liability. We had hoped to see a seasonal exemption included in the bill, and when it wasn't, we had to decide whether or not the protection from potential retroactive liability was worth accepting the fact that agriculture would no longer be exempt from paying overtime.

I think it's fair to say that the wheat industry isn't as threatened as other commodities that are much more labor intensive, such as dairy or tree fruit. So far, we haven't had wheat farms threatened with lawsuits for retroactive overtime pay, and we may never have to face that. It is hard to support overtime requirements when wheat isn't under attack right now. In our discussions, we agreed that we weren't happy with the legislation, but we understood the importance of protection against retroactive liability to other commodities. In the end, we decided that it was more important to support our industry as a whole, especially when the urban/rural divide in Olympia is making agriculture's voice harder to hear.

See more on SB 5172 on page 16.

I think it is important to understand why the different commodities should try and stick together, even if they don't quite agree. The state's small grains industry faces some major hurdles, and we will likely need our friends in ag to come to the table to help us out in the near future. For example, wheat is the major commodity that utilizes the navigation component of the Snake River. Other commodity groups may not see the threat that breaching the lower Snake River dams poses quite like we do, but if it comes to a fight, we'll need their help and support. After all, the agricultural industry is much stronger if we stick together.

This issue of *Wheat Life* touches on a sensitive subject, but one that we can't afford to ignore—suicide, especially in agriculture. Just recently, my local communities have been devastated by two suicides. It's a very stressful time of the year for farm families, and this year presents a lot of challenges, including COVID-19, lots of fieldwork that needs to be done and drought conditions across a broad part of the state. It's a good time to check in on friends and neighbors and make sure they are doing okay. See page 32 to learn what one county Extension office is doing to address the problem, tips on recognizing the signs of someone in crisis, and where to find help.

I hope your spring fieldwork is progressing well. Like most of you, I'll be anxiously watching the weather, waiting to see some rain in the forecast. ■

**Cover photo:** Franklin County winter wheat in spring. All photos are Shutterstock images or taken by *Wheat Life* staff unless otherwise noted.



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# Dialogue

## Alternative to dam breaching suggested

Dear WAWG,

This letter regards Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson's proposal to remove four of the Snake River dams. His proposal may or may not save the salmon and would greatly negatively impact the Northwest's economy. I have an idea and am writing with a solution that your readers may wish to learn about.

Discussion and negotiations of dam removal will take a decade. The salmon don't have that long—their end-time is nearing. If we want to get the salmon past the dams in a hurry, the company, WHOOSHH Innovations, Inc., has a proven design, a "fish tube" that efficiently and harmlessly transports salmon of all sizes over the dams. I spoke with Steve Dearden, vice president of sales, at WHOOSHH. He verified that:

- WHOOSHH passage products can be both a short- or long-term solution for salmon passage at the four Snake River dams;
- WHOOSHH fish passage systems could be in place and operating by the end of 2022; and
- Their technology not only counts and images each fish, but can be used to sort out nonnative fish species so that those fish species do not get past the dam.

This is efficient and economical and is a win-win solution for the salmon and the dams:

- Provides the salmon upstream passage to their spawning grounds without the delays and stress of having to climb so many ladders;
- Saves billions of taxpayer dollars in the removal of the dams, loss of jobs, increased transportation costs of farm products and damage to roads;
- Saves consumers billions in electric rates over the course of the next innumerable years; and
- Begins immediately (without a 10-year delay) and tracks the result.

WHOOSHH fish tubes are being successfully used in North America, Europe and Asia. Once installed, they are long-lived and require little maintenance. The video "WHOOSHH, A New Era in Fish Passage," available on YouTube, explains how the system works. Check out their website at [whooshh.com](http://whooshh.com), where there are more videos on projects they've done.

The leadership and engineers at WHOOSHH should be consulted about how they can save our salmon, our dams—and us—billions of dollars.

Thank you very much.

Robin Wylie

Wylie Farms, LLC

## Correction

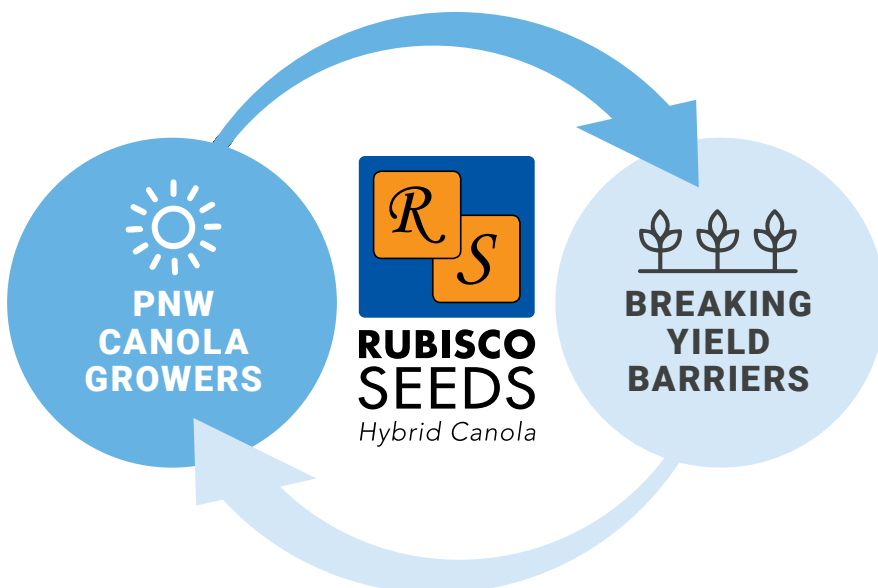
In last month's On Lease article about Linda Johnson's family farm on the breaks of the Tucannon River near Dayton, we inadvertently identified Mike Thompson as a cousin instead of as her father. Thompson farmed his mother's and aunt's land until 1975 when he died suddenly in the middle of harvest. We are sorry for the error.

## Receiving your ALERT?






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

*Share your comments with us via email at [editor@wawg.org](mailto:editor@wawg.org) or mail them to 109 East First Avenue, Ritzville, WA 99169-2394. Please keep your submissions less than 300 words.*





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Ericka	3,716 (18)	2,865 (30)	3,829 (25)	3,516 (25)
Rubisco Seeds' Hybrids				
<b>Kicker</b>	—	—	—	5,145 (1)
<b>Mercedes</b>	4,427 (1)	4,933 (1)	5,145 (1)	4,419 (6)
<b>Plurax CL</b>	4,397 (2)	4,708 (2)	4,959 (2)	4,717 (2)
<b>Phoenix CL</b>	—	4,636 (4)	4,900 (4)	4,611 (3)
PNWVT Mean	3,910	3,956	4,470	4,085
LSD (p=0.05)	285	326	287	253
C.V. (%)	15.0	14.7	12.4	12.3

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☐ Landlord \$125      ☐ Convention \$600  
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	Greensheet Newsletter	Wheat Life Magazine	National Wheat Grower Newsletter	Annual Harvest Prints	WAWG Convention Free Registration	One Vote per Member
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<b>Grower or Landlord \$125</b>	X	X	X			X
<b>Family \$200</b> (2 family members)	X	X	X			X
<b>Partnership \$500</b> (1-5 family members)	X	X	X	X		X
<b>Convention \$600</b> (2 individuals)	X	X	X		X	X
<b>Lifetime \$2,500</b> (1 individual)	X	X	X	X		X
<b>Non-Voting Membership</b>						
<b>Student \$75</b>	X	X	X			
<b>Industry Associate \$150</b>	X	X	X			

## WAWG's current top priorities are:

- ✓ Protecting agriculture from liability for complying with state overtime laws.
- ✓ Fighting mandatory carbon regulations that would raise prices on fuel and fertilizer.
- ✓ Maintaining a safe and sound transportation system that includes rail, river and roads.
- ✓ Protecting existing tax policy.
- ✓ Preserving the Snake River dams.

**If these issues are important to your operation, become a member today and help us educate our legislators and advocate for agriculture.**  
**We are making sure the wheat industry's voice is heard.**

## More member benefits:

- Greensheet ALERTS • WAWG updates
- Voice to WAWG through opinion surveys
- National Wheat Grower updates
- State and national legislative updates



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## WAWG continues advocacy as Legislature winds down

Members of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) continued their advocacy work last month, meeting with more state legislators from both sides of the aisle and testifying in hearings.

Overtime in agriculture and retroactive overtime pay, capital gains tax and carbon policies, such as a low carbon fuel standard and cap and trade, were the main topics discussed in legislative meetings.

Andy Juris, WAWG secretary/treasurer, testified in a meeting of the House Environment and Energy Committee against E2SSB 5126, the Climate Commitment Act, otherwise known as a cap-and-trade program. He told legislators that wheat growers are concerned that people living in rural areas were going to be disproportionately impacted by the legislation. Additionally, any increase in petroleum and natural gas prices would have a direct effect on the cost of production for farmers who cannot raise the price tag on their products as the price for most agricultural products is set by the global market.

"Any higher cost we're faced with—like higher fuel prices caused by cap and trade—is a financial hit that my farm is expected to absorb somehow," Juris said. "It's a struggle



### House Environment & Energy Committee

April 14, 8:00 am

Public Hearing: E2SSB 5126 - Concerning the Washington climate commitment act. (Remote testimony.) (If measure is referred to committee.)

because we're already operating on a thin profit."

The bill passed the House on April 23 with a vote of 54-43 with one absence. On April 24, the bill passed the Senate by a vote of 27-22. The bill specifies that the policy will only take effect if the Legislature passes a statewide transportation spending package by 2023. As of press time, the bill had not been signed by Gov. Inslee.

Two bills that wheat growers supported have passed the legislature. The first, a bill requiring the Washington State Department of Natural Resources to compensate lessees, should the agency terminate a lease early on state land used for agricultural purposes, has been signed into law by Gov. Inslee. The second, a bill that phases in overtime in agriculture but protects the industry from retroactive liability, is waiting for the governor's signature. See page 16. ■

## WAWG leader named to climate committee

From the National Association of Wheat Growers

Last month on Earth Day (April 22), the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) launched their new Special Climate and Sustainability Committee. The committee will work together to review wheat sustainability issues and guide the development of NAWG policy priorities on climate policy.

"Wheat growers are having a positive impact on the environment and have increased resource-efficient practices in land, water and energy use," stated NAWG president and Cass City, Mich., wheat farmer, Dave Milligan. "Launching the Special Climate and Sustainability Committee will enhance

**The next Washington Association of Wheat Growers state board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 11. Contact WAWG at (509) 659-0610 for more information.**



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NAWG's ability to have an effective seat at the table as Congress and the U.S. Department of Agriculture consider options for farmers playing a role addressing climate change. This farmer-led venue will prioritize having discussions on what climate-related policies and principles NAWG should advocate."

The committee will report to the NAWG board and will provide recommendations on policy options and NAWG's engagement in climate discussions. The committee is made up of current and past NAWG board members, representing a broad variety of production areas.

Justin Knopf from Kansas and Derek Jackson from Wyoming will serve as co-chairs.

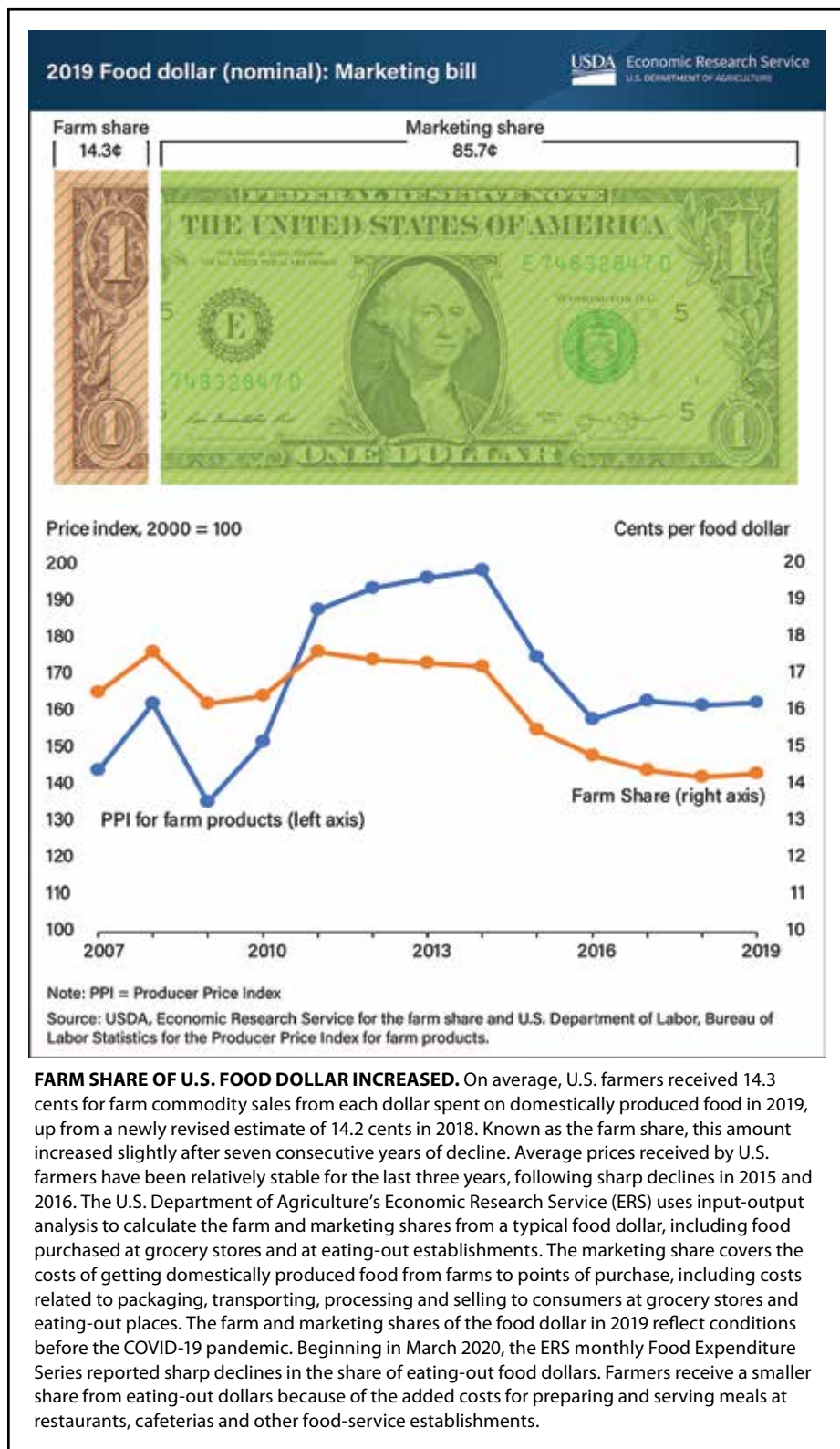
Committee members are **Marci Green** from Washington; Ty Iverson from Idaho; Brian Books from Colorado; Clay Pope from Oklahoma; Eric Spates from Maryland; Aaron Heilers from Ohio; Vince Mattson from Montana; and Tate Perry from Minnesota.



"As we celebrate Earth Day, NAWG is excited to take initiative by engaging in climate policy discussions and focusing on practices that benefit the environment, wheat producers and the general public," Milligan said. ■

## Wheat contributed \$1.9 billion to economy in 2020

In 2020, the Washington state wheat industry contributed \$1.9 billion to the state's economy and was directly and indirectly respon-



sible for 9,466 jobs. Those numbers were updates to existing figures compiled by T. Randall Fortenbery and Timothy P. Nadreau for the Washington State University IMPACT Center.

Growers exported \$849.7 million of wheat in 2020. Farmer purchases of farm business inputs (everything from seed and fertilizer to business services includ-



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ing accounting and legal fees) contributed \$492 million, and the personal purchases of both farmers and their employees (eating in local restaurants, attending a local sporting event or movie theatre, etc.) contributed \$589 million. All total, every dollar from wheat exports resulted in another \$2.273 in economic activity throughout the state, much of it in the rural communities where grain producers operate.

According to the report, sales of Washington wheat in 2020 came in at approximately \$944.1 million. Of that, roughly \$849.7 million was exported out of the state. The national average wheat price for the 2019/20 marketing year (the marketing year is from June 1 to May 31) fell slightly to \$4.58 per bushel, well below the 2012/13 marketing year high of \$8.07. Wheat producers in Washington did better than the national average price, averaging \$5.70 per bushel in the 2019/20 marketing year. This reflects the higher value of soft white wheat grown in Washington compared to varieties grown in other regions of the U.S. ■

## CRP expands to boost enrollment, address climate

Last month, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will open enrollment in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) with higher payment rates, new incentives and a more targeted focus on the program's role in climate change mitigation. Additionally, USDA is announcing investments in partnerships to increase climate-smart agriculture, including \$330 million in 85 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) projects and \$25 million for On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials.

"Sometimes, the best solutions are right in front of you. With CRP, the U.S. has one of the world's most successful voluntary conservation programs. We need to invest in CRP, and let it do what it does best—preserve topsoil, sequester carbon and reduce the impacts of climate change," Vilsack said.

USDA's goal is to enroll up to 4 million new acres in CRP by raising rental payment rates and expanding the number of incentivized environmental practices allowed under the program. CRP is one of the world's largest voluntary conservation programs with a long track record of preserving topsoil, sequestering carbon and reducing nitrogen runoff, as well as providing healthy habitat for wildlife.

To target the program on climate change mitigation, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) is introducing a new Climate-

### Projected Cost Impacts from Proposed LCFS, Cap & Trade and Fuel Tax Increase by 2028 (cents per gallon)

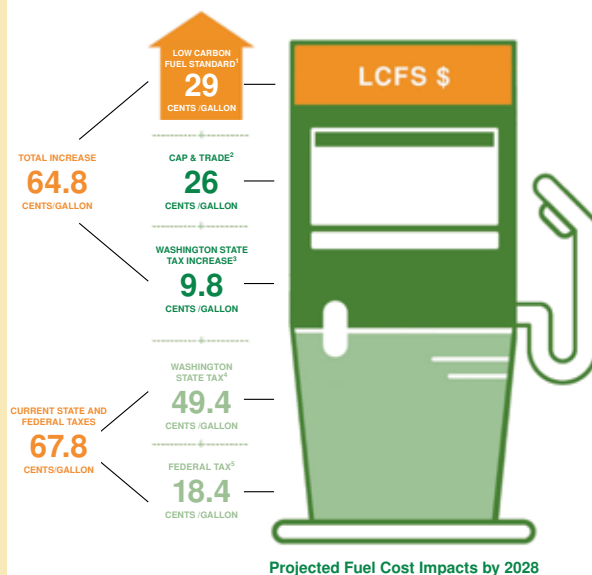


Illustration shows estimated added costs of LCFS, Cap & Trade, and proposed Washington state gas tax increase by 2028. This infographic shall not be construed as a forecast of fuel prices. The basic rules of supply and demand have a predictable impact on the price of gas. Additionally, inflation and taxes also account for the cost of gas to consumers.

Sources:  
 1. Stillwater Associates, LLC, "Implications of Washington HB 1091: Proposed LCFS Legislation that is Twice as Ambitious as California LCFS," January 28, 2021.  
 2. Washington Research Council, Memo estimating allowance costs and fuel-specific per gallon allowance prices under SSB 5126 cap and trade system, prepared for WSPR, March 8, 2021.  
 3. Proposed Washington State Transportation Package, "Forward Washington," Senate Transportation Committee, 4/5/2021.  
 4. Washington State Department of Revenue, <https://dor.wa.gov/motor-vehicle-fuel-tax-rates>  
 5. U.S. Energy Information Administration, <https://www.eia.gov/total/energy-topics/price.php?tid=108&id=10>

Prepared for Affordable Fuel Washington GP\_154\_06

**FUELING UP.** There's no question that the various carbon bills being debated by the Washington State Legislature will raise the price of fuel in Washington. The question is how much will the cost of fuel go up? Affordable Fuel Washington has released a graphic that estimates if a cap-and-trade system, a state tax increase and low carbon fuel standard are passed, fuel costs will go up by \$.64 per gallon by 2028.

Smart Practice Incentive for CRP general and continuous sign-ups that aim to increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Climate-Smart CRP practices include establishment of trees and permanent grasses; development of wildlife habitat; and wetland restoration. The Climate-Smart Practice Incentive is annual, and the amount is based on the benefits of each practice.

### Higher rental rates and new incentives

In 2021, CRP is capped at 25 million acres, and currently, 20.8 million acres are enrolled. Furthermore, the cap will gradually increase to 27 million acres by 2023. To help increase producer interest and enrollment, FSA is:

- Adjusting soil rental rates. This enables additional flexibility for rate adjustments, including a possible increase in rates where appropriate.
- Increasing payments for practice incentives from 20 percent to 50 percent. This incentive for continuous CRP practices is based on the cost of establishment





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and is in addition to cost share payments.

- Increasing payments for water quality practices. Rates are increasing from 10 percent to 20 percent for certain water quality benefiting practices available through the CRP continuous sign-up, such as grassed waterways, riparian buffers and filter strips.

### Enhanced natural resource benefits

To boost impacts for natural resources, FSA is:

- Moving State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) practices to the CRP continuous sign-up. Unlike the general sign-up, producers can sign up year-round for the continuous sign-up and be eligible for additional incentives.
- Establishing national grassland priority zones. This aims to increase enrollment of grasslands in migratory corridors and environmentally sensitive areas.
- Making Highly Erodible Land Initiative practices available in both the general and continuous sign-ups.

### Partnership programs contribute to priorities

In addition to changes to CRP, Secretary Vilsack also announced significant investments for climate-smart policies. First, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is investing \$330 million in 85 locally driven, public-private partnerships under the RCPP to address climate change and other natural resources challenges.

Second, NRCS is investing \$25 million in proposals for on-farm trials, which are part of the Conservation Innovation Grants program. NRCS is seeking proposals through June 21. Project priorities include climate-smart agricultural solutions and soil health practices. ■

## Washington growers to plant more spring wheat in 2021

Wheat producers in Washington are estimated to have 2.33 million total acres planted to wheat in 2021, down slightly from last year. Winter wheat planted acres are expected to total 1.75 million acres for this year, down 3 percent from 2020. Spring wheat acres planted are estimated at 580,000 acres, up 7 percent from last year.

Idaho producers expect to plant 1.27 million acres of wheat for harvest this year, up 2 percent from 2020. Winter wheat acres planted are estimated at 730,000 acres, up 1 percent from last year. Planted acres of Durum wheat in Idaho, are estimated at 10,000 for 2021, unchanged from the previous year. Spring wheat planted acres, excluding Durum, are expected to total 530,000 acres, up 4 percent from last year.

Total acres planted to winter wheat in Oregon are estimated at 720,000 acres for 2021, down 3 percent from 2020.

Nationally, all planted wheat acres are expected to total 46.4 million acres, up 5 percent from 2020. Winter wheat acres are estimated at 33.1 million acres, up 9 percent from 2020. Durum wheat planted acres in the U.S. for 2021 are estimated at 1.54 million acres, down 9 percent from the previous year. All other spring wheat is estimated at 11.7 million planted acres, down 4 percent from 2020.

Barley planted in Idaho for 2021 is expected to total 510,000 acres, down 4 percent from 2020. Oregon barley growers are expected to seed 45,000 acres, up 22 percent from last year. In Washington, acres planted to barley are estimated at 90,000 acres, unchanged from last year. ■



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# POLICY MATTERS

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## Washington agriculture to pay overtime beginning in 2022

One of agriculture's highest priorities this legislative session has reached the governor's desk.

With just 10 days left in the 2021 Legislative Session, the Senate passed SB 5172, a bill that phases in overtime in agriculture, but protects the industry from retroactive liability. While the agreement didn't include a seasonal exemption for overtime, the bill was amended in the House to restructure it so all the critical components were contained in the same section to protect important language from being susceptible to a veto. The bill passed out of the House by a vote of 91-7. It passed out of the Senate by a vote of 42-6.

"Getting this legislation to the finish line has been complicated and stressful. There has been a tremendous amount of work done by the industry and its advocates to find a solution that protects farmers from having to pay back wages and phases in the overtime requirement gradually," said Ryan Poe, president of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG). "While we are happy to have two of our main concerns addressed, we are disappointed that a seasonal exemption wasn't included in the final bill."

As of press time, the bill had not yet been delivered to the governor for signing. Bills that are delivered to the governor more than five days before the Legislature adjourned on April 25 have five days to be acted on. Bills delivered fewer than five days before the Legislature adjourns have 20 days to be acted on by the governor.

The legislation was in response to a Supreme Court decision in November 2020 (Martinez-Cuevas, et al. v. DeRuyter Brothers Dairy) requiring dairy workers to be paid overtime and overturning a state law in place since 1959 that exempted all agriculture from paying overtime. The court did not make clear if the ruling applied to the entire agriculture industry or to just dairy. In addition, the question of whether or not employers would be required to retroactively pay overtime was still to be decided. The legislation was critical as lawsuits were already being filed seeking retroactive overtime wages in response to the case.

Agriculture groups were unsuccessful in getting a seasonal exemption to overtime that would have allowed farmers to choose 12 weeks a year to pay time-and-a-half after 50 hours. This was very disappointing as five of the

six states who currently require overtime for agriculture have this flexibility. Agriculture plans to come back and introduce legislation to fix this issue.

Besides the protection against retroactive liability, the bill also phases in the overtime requirement. Starting in 2022, employers will have to pay overtime to workers who accrue more than 55 hours in a week. That drops to 48 hours in 2023 and 40 hours in 2024.

### DNR lease bill update

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) lease termination legislation (SHB 1199), sponsored by Rep. Chris Corry (R-Yakima), was signed by Gov. Inslee on April 14. The bill requires DNR to compensate lessees should the agency terminate a lease early on state land used for agricultural purposes. WAWG testified in support of this legislation several times. ■

## Lawmakers introduce several pieces of climate legislation.

Climate legislation is happening at all levels of government. Last month, multiple leaders in Congress introduced legislation to address the issue.

The first piece of legislation, the Conservation and Innovative Climate Partnership Act, was introduced by Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.). The legislation would establish a grant program to help producers adopt conservation and climate practices and reduce emissions. The legislation is co-sponsored by Reps. Abigail Spanberger (D-Va.) and Chellie Pingree (D-Maine) and Sens. Todd Young (R-Ind.), Tina Smith (D-Minn.), Mike Braun (R-Ind.) and Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii).

The Conservation and Innovative Climate Partnership Act would link research from land-grant universities to farmers to enable them to use individualized tools to meet their specific needs on their operations without mandates or punitive measures. The act would:

- Enable partnerships between land-grant institutions and local farmers to increase uptake of conservation and innovative climate practices;
- Allow farmers to voluntarily adopt practices that suit



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their individualized needs;

- Require land-grant institutions to partner with a non-profit, state or federal entity;
- Allow the partnership to conduct a variety of activities to support farming communities like workshops, distribution of digital materials and tests to measure the effectiveness of conservation and climate smart practices; and
- Provide \$13 million in funding for four-year grants, with a maximum grant of \$400,000.

“Productivity and conservation go hand in hand, but farmers need access to individualized tools to meet their specific needs. Land-grant institutions are uniquely situated to use the Extension network to reach farmers and provide boots on the ground,” a press release said.

The Washington Association of Wheat Growers released a statement supporting Newhouse’s legislation, saying, “The Washington Association of Wheat Growers welcomes Congressman Newhouse’s Conservation and Innovative Climate Partnership Act as an opportunity to address and provide solutions to climate changes, especially the unique challenges faced by the wheat growing region of the Inland Northwest. Wheat growers across Washington state have collaborated with and continue to rely on the innovative research conducted at land-grant universities for more than a century. Washington State University is a trusted institution with the resources needed to continue to aid in the advancement of the agricultural industry in our state.”

More legislation was introduced by Glenn Thompson (R-Pa.), Republican leader of the House Agriculture Committee, and comprises five different proposals that are described as “natural solutions” to addressing climate change.

“Agriculture Republicans are crafting innovative climate solutions by empowering the original stewards of our land—our farmers, ranchers and foresters. These thoughtful, science-based policies will help promote a stronger agriculture economy by growing climate-friendly innovations that are already being carried out by producers,” Thompson said in a press release.

The five proposals are:

- Sponsoring USDA Sustainability Targets in Agriculture to Incentivize Natural Solutions Act, or SUSTAINS Act, from Thompson. This proposal encourages private-sector partnerships for agriculture sustainability by allowing businesses to invest in conservation practices in geographic regions of their choice. The bill also would allow the U.S. Department of Agriculture to match these funds.

- Restoring Environments, Soils, Trees and Operations to develop the Rural Economy Act, or the RESTORE Act, from Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-Calif.). This proposal provides new tools for USDA to work with states on landscape-scale management projects to prioritize reduction of wildfire risk, restoration of ecological health and climate adaptation and resiliency.
- Naturally Offsetting Emissions by Managing and Implementing Tillage Strategies Act, or the NO EMITS Act, from Rep. Rodney Davis (R-Ill.). This proposal provides incentives for producers to adopt soil health cropping systems in order to increase farm productivity and optimize agriculture’s ability to sequester carbon and reduce net emissions.
- Forestry Improvements to Restore the Environment Act, or the FIRE Act, from Rep. Dusty Johnson (R-S.D.). This proposal provides new management tools to expedite forest restoration activities, restore forest health, grow rural economies and produce climate resilient communities and landscapes.
- Producing Responsible Energy and Conservation Incentives and Solutions for the Environment Act, or the PRECISE Act, from Rep. Ashley Hinson (R-Iowa). This proposal increases cost share and practice payments under existing federal programs to incentivize the purchase of precision agriculture equipment, systems and technology. ■

## Bonnie nominated at USDA

**Robert Bonnie** has been nominated to serve as under secretary for farm production and conservation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Bonnie is the deputy chief of staff and senior climate advisor at USDA. Prior to joining the agency, he was at Duke University as an executive in residence at the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions working on conservation and environmental issues in rural America. In 2020, Bonnie also worked with the Bipartisan Policy Center on its Farm and Forest Carbon Solutions Initiative. Bonnie served as the under secretary for natural resources and environment at USDA during Pres. Obama’s second term. In this role, he oversaw the U.S. Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service on natural resource issues, including management of the 193 million-acre National Forest and Grassland System; implementation of farm bill conservation programs on America’s farms, ranches and forests; and climate change. ■





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## Schoesler-Heinemann-Thiel farm, established in 1886 in Ritzville

In the late 1800s, three families emigrated from eastern Europe to settle near Ritzville. Little did they know that their stories would be woven together more than 100 years later.

In 1886, Jacob and Henrietta Schoesler emigrated from Russia and settled on a 640-acre plot four miles west of Ritzville. The same year, William and Anna Heinemann emigrated from Germany, settling on a homestead four miles south of Ritzville. A decade later, in 1899, Peter and Katherine Thiel also emigrated from Russia and settled on a plot nine miles west of Ritzville.

More than 100 years later, in 2021, all three of those original homesteads are still in operation by their descendants.

Mark and Gail are a 5th generation brother-sister team who, with relatives, own and operate this 3,000+ acre farm. Today, they raise wheat, barley, peas and canola. They both have children who are part-owners in the farms, and they intend to continue their family farming legacy.



A team of horses posed for a photograph at the Thiel farm.

"The biggest lesson I have learned from previous generations is that farming is a legacy," says Gail. "It has taught me and my children strong work ethics—and we have that feeling of pride and appreciation of carrying it on from one generation to the next."

"The biggest and most helpful change on the farm has been the crop protection products and applications," said Mark. "They really are game-changing, especially the John Deere self-propelled self-sprayer. It eliminated the waste and overspraying."

Technology has also changed drastically. In the beginning, farmers were hand cutting the wheat. Animals were used to power the farm equipment and caring for the horses and mules was a full-time job in itself.

There's much more to this story! To learn more about the Schoesler farm and other centennial grain farms in Washington, visit our website or follow us on social media. ■



Sister and brother team, Gail Schoesler Gering and Mark Schoesler, now own and operate the farms settled by their ancestors.

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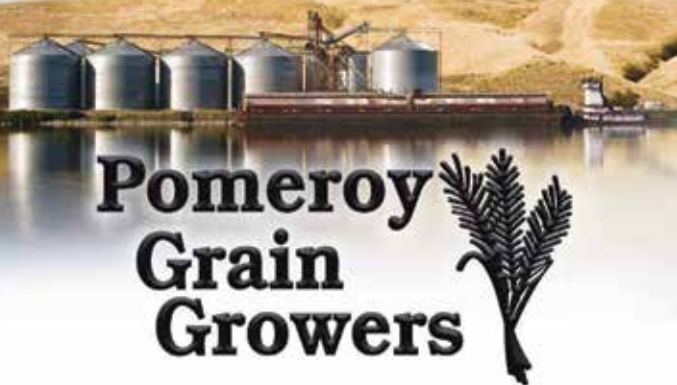


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# FROM FIELD TO FLOUR

IDENTITY PRESERVING WHEAT IS NO EASY TASK | BY TRISTA CROSSLEY



**Jeremy Bunch**  
COO, Shepherd's  
Grain



**Brad Heald**  
Director of Mill  
Relations, King  
Arthur Baking  
Company



**Garrett Egland**  
General Manager,  
Uniontown Co-Op  
Association

Identity preservation in agriculture isn't a new concept, but as consumers become more interested in how and where their food is grown, it could give growers a way to connect with the public and add value to their product.

Identity preservation in agriculture is generally defined as tracking a specific commodity shipment or load by segregating it to maintain something unique, such as a trait or method of production, that would be lost if commingled during storage, handling or processing. While the advantages of identity-preserved (IP) wheat might be enticing, there are some obstacles to implementing such a system, namely how to store and handle the product.

In the Pacific Northwest (PNW), Shepherd's Grain is an example of a company that uses IP wheat to promote its farmers who employ no-till, direct-seed production methods. The company works with 35 farmers in Northern Idaho, Eastern Washington and a few in Oregon and Montana. It uses third-party certification to ensure its growers meet sustainability and land improvement criteria. On its website, [shepherdsgrain.com](http://shepherdsgrain.com), consumers can enter a code printed on a Shepherd's Grain bag of flour to see information about the farmer who grew the wheat. Jeremy Bunch, COO of Shepherd's Grain, said the concept is an opportunity to educate consumers on sustainable farming practices.

"It's been a growing market because consumers value transparency and traceability. They know the farms the wheat is coming from. They have an opportunity to learn about agriculture directly from the farmer," Bunch said, adding that he believes demand will continue to grow for identity preserving specific varieties of wheat that function for a particular baking application.

Most of Shepherd's Grain's growers have some on-farm storage; for those that don't, they work with a commercial elevator to keep their wheat segregated. Bunch said at harvest, the company takes a five-pound sample from each farmer's bin. That sample is sent to a lab to be milled and

a flour bake test is made.

"I know what each growers' protein is for their wheat, and I know how the dough from each farmer performs. I'm able to blend for consistency," he explained. In many cases, Shepherd's Grain will end up blending two to five growers' wheat to maintain a specific protein level. When a consumer tracks a bag of flour, it leads back to one of those farms that contributed to that batch.

King Arthur Baking Company started an IP program for white whole wheat with Farmer Direct Foods back in 2011. It came out of an effort by Kansas White Wheat Producers to market their grain from a specific pool of growers. Like the Shepherd's Grain program, King Arthur Baking's IP flour can be traced back to a specific field, but the company has chosen to release only county-level information to consumers to preserve their Kansas growers' privacy.

"The purpose of the IP program is to foster good and sustainable farm practices in a farm-to-table model," explained Brad Heald, director of mill relations for King Arthur Baking. "The program has different checks and balances in it. There are grower agreements which drive growing practices and reporting for the acres in the program. The IP program is the method to administer these different attributes, so what we say on the bag is true."

Growers who participate in King Arthur Baking's IP program are required to test their grain immediately upon harvest for protein levels, especially if they are doing on-farm storage. Like Shepherd's Grain, wheat from different farmers may be blended in order to maintain product consistency. The product is still considered IP as all the sources of wheat are adhering to the program's requirements.

Heald said the first step in developing an IP program is deciding what the reason or goal for the program is. For King Arthur Baking, it's a combination of food safety and sustainability. Then comes the practical considerations, such as





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where is the wheat going to go? Is there enough on-farm storage to store the wheat? Do farmers need to bring it to a more centralized point, and once they get it there, how are they going to bin it to keep it segregated?

"Getting that wheat tested and binned appropriately, whether it's on-farm or at a centralized location for the multiple growers in the program, that's really, really key," he said. "Unless a grower has the resources, they are not going to be able to enter the IP market on their own. Most grain goes to a country elevator or a terminal elevator. Once it gets in there, it has lost its identity. So having either on-farm storage or delivering it to someplace that will roll it up and put it into a blending operation to meet a specific goal is pretty key."

Another issue King Arthur Baking has had to address is keeping a consistent spec from crop year to crop year.

"On the very end of it, I have a flour spec that has to be consistent, has to be tight, and the flour has to perform for the bakers," Heald said. "Wheat is a raw agricultural commodity that has to be put into a blending program to come out with a consistent flour on the back end. Whether it is a good crop year or a bad crop year, we are still tied to acres in the program."

Storage is also one of the biggest issues that Shepherd's Grain farmers have to deal with. Having on-farm storage is one way to address that, especially as the consolidation of grain warehouses in the PNW continues.

"Smaller, more independent grain warehouses had more flexibility to identity preserve wheat for farmers," Bunch said. "But as co-ops have consolidated, they generally

want to operate more efficiently and use their space more efficiently, and IP wheat can sometimes be a cog in their wheel. That's where it really gets challenging and tricky, ensuring commercial grain warehouses have the capability to identity preserve. In our region, which exports 90 percent of its wheat, these grain warehouses want to blend, commingle everybody's soft white wheat together. To go to a commercial warehouse and say we need 5,000 bushels of space to fill up with Shepherd's Grain...it becomes challenging for warehouses. That, in my mind, is the biggest challenge for this region."

Another challenge Shepherd's Grain farmers have run into is finding an elevator to handle crops other than wheat or pulses. One of the goals that the company's growers strive for is diversifying their crop rotations, such as planting flax or sunflowers. Bunch said many elevators in the PNW don't have much experience handling those types of crops.

In most cases, farmers will end up paying extra in storage and handling costs to segregate IP wheat. Bunch estimated that his growers will pay anywhere between \$.25 to \$.50 per bushel just for the handling. The growers, however, are often paid a premium for their participation in an IP program that helps offset those extra costs.

**D**own in Uniontown, Wash., the Uniontown Co-Op Association handles a fair bit of IP wheat and other specialty crops. General Manager Garrett Egland said the reason they've been able to offer that service is because the facility has four older crib houses that provide storage for smaller lots. The facility has expanded over the years to include much larger storage tanks, but along





the way, they've maintained the older bits well enough to continue using them. They also have multiple dump pits. He said that during harvest, they are able to dedicate the two fastest dump pits to wheat that doesn't have to be segregated and have the crops that need to be segregated use the slower dump pits.

"We are able to use the slowest, older pits for that and not have those trucks and loads jam up our wheat lines," he said. "But since we have (that extra storage) and our members want us to do it and we can, we find a way. Our goal is to get as much money into our members' pockets as possible."

Uniontown Co-Op tries to clear out product before the next year's harvest so they can bring in more of the current crop. This gives them a chance to inspect the bins to make sure there is no leakage between them. The co-op also charges a higher handling rate to growers who want to segregate their product.

Egland called maximizing the segregated storage they have a high stakes game of Tetris.

"It's about efficiency. If I have a 6,000 bushel bin and only put 4,000 bushels in, I have 2,000 bushels of dead air, and nobody is benefiting from that," he explained. "I tell growers that I have a 4,000 bushel bin that I can hold for them. They can fill it up, but the rest (of the grain) will be commingled. If the bin is full, I'm using that storage to capacity. We don't want to have half empty bins and wasting potential storage space that could benefit other members."

**A**ccording to both Bunch and Heald, an IP program has to provide a benefit for all parties involved, including the consumer, in order for it to be successful.

"The IP program needs to serve some goal or some criteria, otherwise, it's not worth having," Heald said. Heald believes farming is becoming less about the volume harvested and more about how the farming practices are impacting the land and other natural resources. "I think that is where food companies like King Arthur Baking can step up and say, 'we want to support this, and we want growers to be profitable.' Hopefully, we can continue to align with growers." ■

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# MARKETWATCH

Carbon regulation, carbon markets taking up air at all levels of government

Carbon, in the context of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change, is being talked about at all levels of government. In Washington state, the legislature has been focused this session on a trio of potential carbon regulation bills—a low carbon fuel standard, a cap-and-trade program and a carbon tax. At the federal level, carbon markets are becoming increasingly front and center. *Wheat Life* sat down (virtually, of course) with Keira Franz, environmental policy advisor for the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG), and Nicole Berg, NAWG's vice president and a wheat grower from Paterson, Wash., to ask them what they are seeing and hearing.

**What's happening at the national level in regard to carbon regulations and carbon markets? Are you seeing a big legislative push like we are seeing in Washington state?**

**KF:** The discussions in D.C. have been centered on infrastructure projects. That's the big thing right now, infrastructure and the proposal the new administration has been seeking. On the agricultural side, it's been more about how to facilitate some of the private carbon market efforts.

**But you are seeing discussions about carbon markets.**

**KF:** The difference this time, from say 10 or 12 years ago, is a lot of discussion is on private carbon markets not government markets. The discussions we are having both on the Hill and at USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture) are more about how does the federal government support the private markets? We don't know that they necessarily will be looking to develop a government-based or a federal carbon market as it relates to agriculture. They could do that, of course, but they could just continue to try to support what's going on in the private sector. We aren't certain what the policies will look like.

**What is happening on the private market?**

**KF:** I would say there's probably eight or 10 different companies, maybe more, that have their own sort of approach to carbon markets. Bayer Crop Science, Nutrien and Indigo Ag are some of the big ones. NAWG is in-



**Nicole Berg**  
Vice President, National  
Association of Wheat  
Growers



**Keira Franz**  
Environmental Policy  
Advisor, National  
Association of Wheat  
Growers

involved with the Ecosystem Service Market Consortium (ESMC). That's a coalition of farmer groups, conservation groups and private industry that are all working together. ESMC is still in the development phase, so they won't have a public launch until 2022, probably in the fall, but they have pilot projects that are underway.

Private carbon markets are all different. They range from agribusiness companies all the way to nonprofits to grower-based organizations that have put together these different proposals. They are all different. They all have different requirements, different provisions. There isn't necessarily uniformity in what a farmer's contract looks like, what the requirements on that farmer are, how they get paid, when they get paid, those types of things. In the Pacific Northwest, the ESMC projects center more around grazing than crop production.

**NB:** Some of the folks that have gotten involved in the private sector are looking for a standardization of it, because there's a lot of confusion out there in the countryside.

I've always kind of scratched my head about why there aren't more private companies in the PNW offering a carbon market program. I suspect it's because our state government is already going down a cap-and-trade path. We will be mandated, so what's there to buy? The wheat industry has been opposed to a cap and trade for years, but we've always been open to voluntary, incentive-based programs. We have also always been supportive of quantifying the good work we do, how we treat soil health, etc.

**What is NAWG's official position on carbon markets. Would the organization like to see something done more at the federal level?**

**KF:** We are still looking into those. Our policy, generally, is to support the private and federal carbon-related programs and practices. We want to make sure they are voluntary, incentive-based approaches. Farmers have the option to participate—it's not a requirement, but if it works with their operation, they can do that. And we really want to make sure that if there is something done on the federal side with agriculture, it stays within the jurisdiction of the ag committees on the Hill and within USDA. ►





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We are hearing from USDA that they are looking at some regional pilot projects that focus on more of the conservation and forestry programs, looking at cost shares where they focus on climate-smart practices in certain regions. Some of the things we've been hearing are related to the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, such as projects that focus on practices that sequester carbon or reduce greenhouse gas emissions, whether that's fertilizer or manure, forestry issues, crop production or grasslands.

### **Do you think farmers would prefer these programs be more of a federal effort vs. a private one?**

**NB:** I think it depends on who you talk to. Some folks prefer no government, and some prefer big government, so it would be a question that I would suspect has different answers from different farmers.

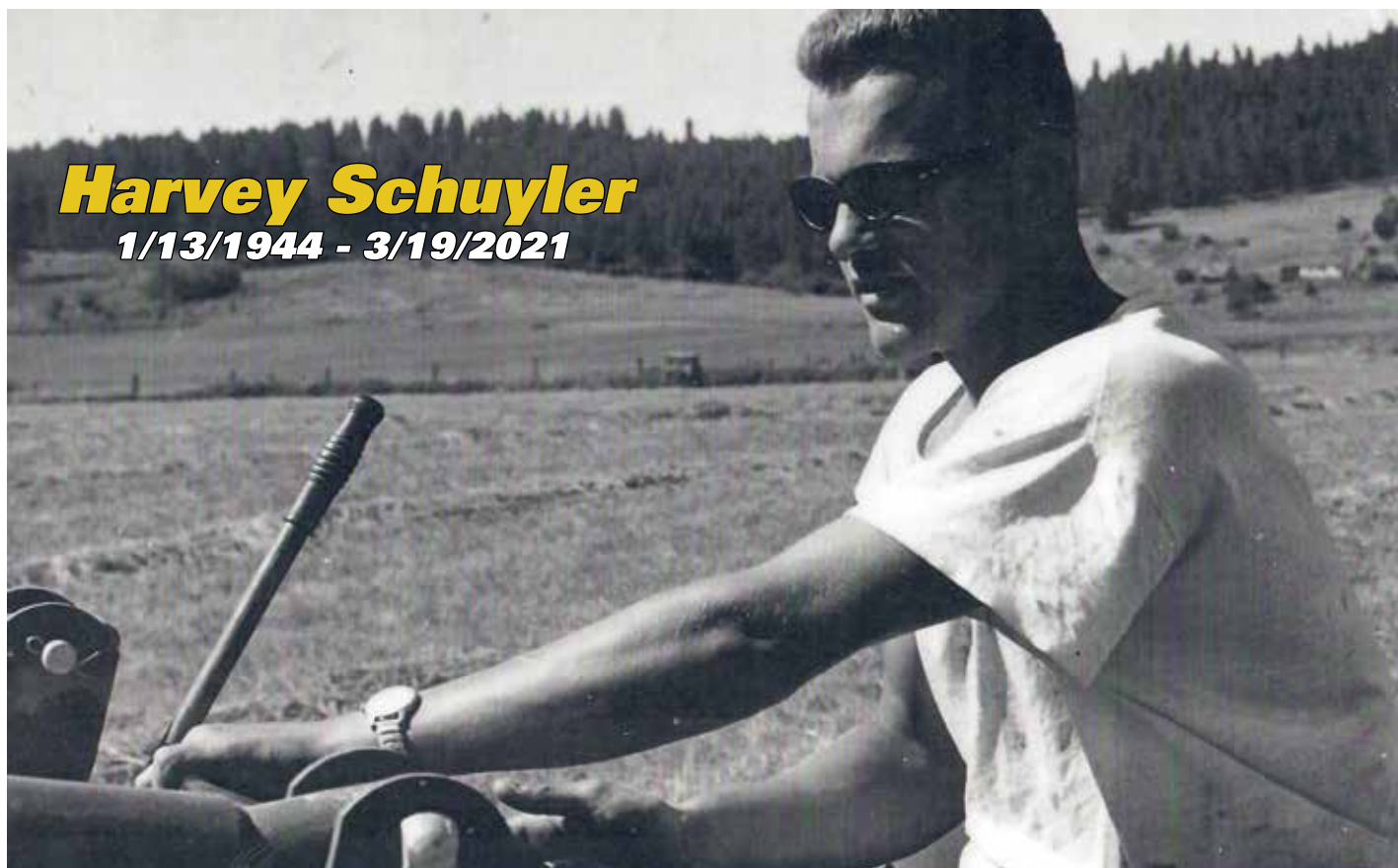
### **We've been talking about carbon and climate for a long time, and for a long time, it's just been talk. Is the action part here, and is it here to stay?**

**NB:** I agree, but I kind of don't agree. Like with the Conservation Stewardship Program or some of the new programs we've implemented, farmers have done a lot of work with regards to soil health, climate and sustainabil-

ity in our practices, such as direct seeding. I think wheat farmers are very sustainable, and we have turned some corners. My dad has told me that my generation has made more strides forward for agriculture and farming than he or his dad's generation made.

**KF:** I would agree with Nicole. There's a lot of innovation that's taken place over the last 20 or 30 years that has substantially changed the way farming is done, and there needs to be expansion of that, such as broadband for making sure everybody has access to and can use precision ag tools. We also need to defend crop protection tools. For us, that's pesticide use, herbicide use, treated seeds. We need to make sure we have continued access to those. We need to share the message that if we want to continue conservation tillage and direct seeding and maybe expand into cover crops in areas where that works, we are reliant on crop protection tools to help facilitate those practices and sequester the carbon.

We are having those discussions on Capitol Hill so they understand that we want to have a balance, and we want it to be something that recognizes that the way wheat growers in Washington state are producing their crop is very different than what happens in Minnesota or what



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happens in North Carolina. There is such a regional difference, probably even down to county by county, in how producers are going to go about those practices and what works for them.

### What are you hearing from farmers about what they'd like to see or not see when it comes to carbon markets?

**NB:** I hear farmers wondering, "If I do this private market program, what if another one shows up, and it pays more?" There's a lot of those conversations being had. I think farmers would be open to a voluntary program, something they'd get some compensation for. It definitely needs to be science based. I think they would want something quantifiable.

### Are there things that would be a hard no?

**NB:** I don't want to be told how to farm as a mandate.

**KF:** None of this can tell the farmer exactly how to farm. You have to have options on your farm. If you are sequestering carbon, or you are improving soil health, or you are reducing runoff...whatever the practice might be, how do we do it in a way that works best for that farmer and achieves that environmental goal while still allow-

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## In Memoriam Lt. Col. Frank T. Hager USAF, Retired



April 14, 1920

January 22, 2021



Frank True Hager, age 100, US Air Force Lt. Col. Retired, died on January 22, 2021 in Spokane, WA. He did not die from Covid or Covid-related issues. Frank was born in Tekoa, WA on April 14, 1920. He was the youngest of two sons born to Ralph and Florence Hager. He grew up in Tekoa and was a graduate of Tekoa High School. Upon graduation, he enlisted in the US Army Air Corps, which later became the US Air Force. He received training and became a pilot. He participated in the Berlin Air Lift, flew the China-Burma Hump and later became the base safety officer at Evreux Air Force Base in France. He retired from the Air Force in 1963 as a Lt. Colonel. From 1965 to 1969, Frank had a Ski-Doo snowmobile business. In 1967, he started his own business, Custom Seed Conditioning, Inc. He continued working his business of cleaning seed wheat until he retired.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Elizabeth "Betty" Hager and his brother George Hager. Frank is survived by his son Gary of Spokane, his son Jeff and wife Paula of Spokane and his son Frank and wife Shelby of Elk WA. He is also survived by two grandsons, Scott and Greg, one great-grandson, one great-granddaughter, numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

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ing the farmer to be economically viable? They've got to maintain their operation to have the success we all want. If they can't do that, there's no point in it.

### How important is it that wheat farmers be involved in discussions on climate and carbon?

**NB:** If you aren't at the table, you are on the menu. I've always been a proponent of having discussions that center around solutions or solution-oriented conclusions and then actions. I do think, with this administration, carbon and climate change are some of their priorities, so we definitely want to be part of that discussion.

**KF:** I would agree. I think we have seen this administration move very quickly on these topics. We've seen Congress engaging with it as well. I think it is very important that we continue to be part of the discussion and be talking about some of those solutions, like what's going to work for wheat growers? How does it work in different regions, and what are those things that both Congress and the administration need to be taking into consideration as they develop any programs, plans or actions? ■



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# Holding out a hand

Suicide prevention program is dedicated to helping farmers who are in crisis

By Trista Crossley

You can't really put a price on a life, but **Don McMoran** is hoping that \$7.18 million is a substantial start.

McMoran, director of the Washington State University (WSU) Skagit County Extension office, is parlaying a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) into expanding a program that offers assistance and resources to farmers and farmworkers who are struggling with mental stress and thoughts of suicide. It's an issue that hits home for him. When he was a sophomore in college, a hired man on his parents' Skagit County farm took his own life.

"I had no idea his decision would have such a major impact on my own life. I always think about why he did what he did," McMoran explained. "When I took the job here in 2006, I was noticing there were some suicides happening in the county, but between 2016 and 2019, we had three of them in agriculture, and the third one was a gentleman I worked with at the Skagit Conservation District."

Shortly after that third death, McMoran met with the man's niece and her twins (who were the same age as McMoran's own twins). That meeting was, as he put it, the final straw.

"I came back to the office that Monday, and I got together with my staff and said, 'Enough. I don't ever want to see another agricultural suicide in my county. Would you join with me in trying to stop this epidemic?' They agreed, and rest is kind of history," he said.

At that same time, the Washington State Legislature was putting together a task force to look at agricultural suicide prevention. Funding was eventually allocated to the Washington State Department of Health (WSDH).

"The WSDH, although they are fabulous people and they do a great job on all things health, they really didn't know how to go about educating farmers and farmworkers in regard to farm stress and suicide prevention. We were kind of on the sidelines waving our hands saying 'me, me. This is something we want to get involved in.' We got together and decided that it would be great for our little Extension office to be able to start a pilot program



with the intent of growing that pilot program and trying to service more people within Washington state for farm stress and suicide prevention," McMoran said.

That pilot program began in 2019 with a website and promotional material. Suicide prevention education was incorporated into Extension workshops. McMoran said he received positive feedback from his farmers, especially that the information was really going to "help their neighbor.

"That's just kind of the stigma that is associated with suicide prevention," McMoran said. "You are taught from a very young age as a farm kid that there are things we don't talk about in our family. You keep a stiff upper lip. It's been fun to try to work through some of those stigmas and educate folks and let them know it's okay to seek out help. But when you start sitting down with farmers and saying you think they should see a counselor, those are fighting words for some people. You have to admit you have a problem first, and that's really difficult for a lot of our farmers."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention rates agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting as industries with significantly higher rates of suicide than the national average. Farmers face a daunting gauntlet of low prices, increasing input costs, unpredictable weather, uncertain market conditions and the pressure to keep the family farm afloat for the next generation, not to mention a global pandemic. The American Farm Bureau Federation did







a survey at the end of last year asking rural adults and farmers/farmworkers about mental health and COVID-19. Some of the key findings included:

- More than half of rural adults think financial issues (60 percent), fear of losing the farm (54 percent), an uncertain future (51 percent) and the state of the farm economy (50 percent) impact the mental health of farmers a lot.
- The main obstacles to seeking help or treatment for a mental health condition remain cost, availability, accessibility, stigma and embarrassment.
- Two in three farmers/farmworkers say the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted their mental health.
- Farmers/farmworkers were 10 percent more likely than rural adults to have experienced feeling nervous, anxious or on edge during the pandemic.
- Farmers/farmworkers were 7 percent more likely than rural adults to say stress and mental health have become more of a problem in their community in the past year. Younger rural adults also are more likely than older rural adults to say stress and mental health have become more of a problem in their community and personally in the past year.

Back in Skagit County, the program seemed to be working, but McMoran and his staff were reading about agricultural suicides in other locations. They decided to try reaching the rest of Washington and Oregon by applying for a \$480,000 FR SAN grant, which they got in 2019. That federal money allowed them to create a regional website and print more promotional material. At the same time, the state pilot program was extended into Skamania, Klickitat, Lincoln, Adams and Stevens counties. And McMoran's team wasn't done yet. They applied for and received a second round of FR SAN funding in 2020—\$7.18 million—to expand the program throughout the western U.S., covering 13 states and four territories.

The second round of FR SAN funding has been used on a new website, [farmstress.us](https://farmstress.us), and to hire two Skagit County-based farm aid operators in conjunction with the Farm Aid Hotline (1-800-FARM-AID) to increase the call center's hours. ►

## Signs of crisis

While there are many different ways people show stress, McMoran said there are some common warning signs when a person, particularly a farmer or farmworker, is in crisis. Those signs include:

- Changes in routine.
- A decline in the care of farm and livestock.
- A major change in moods, being anxious, agitated or angry.
- New or increased financial pressures.
- A loss of interest in hobbies and activities.
- The farmer or farmworker wanting to give their possessions, especially prized possessions, away. A big red flag is saying things like "I'm not going to be here anymore, so you need to have this."

If you or somebody you know is exhibiting this behavior, they may be struggling. Noncrisis resource help is available at 1-800-FARM-AID (1-800-327-6243). Hotline hours are Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Pacific Standard Time. For immediate crisis help, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at (800) 273-8255.

You can also find information at [farmstress.us](https://farmstress.us) and [extension.wsu.edu/skagit/suicide-prevention/](https://extension.wsu.edu/skagit/suicide-prevention/). ■

"We are really excited about that, because we really liked the model Farm Aid uses," McMoran said. "It's a resource line, so any farmer can call the resource line, explain the problem and operators will help put them in touch with the right folks. The operators are also looking for signs of stress and crisis and can intervene when they see those issues and can help folks out."

While McMoran said he is satisfied his office has achieved their original goals (and then some), there are still things he wants to do. He'd like to take a page out of a Michigan State University program that has ag economists meeting with farmers to go over financial matters and looking for signs of crisis. A second program would involve handing out vouchers for free counseling.

"Scientifically, we know if you give a farmer or farmworker a voucher to send them to counseling, they will use it. Otherwise, there's that stigma again," he explained. "The farmer doesn't want his or her pickup truck seen parked at a local counselor's office. They aren't going to pick up the phone to make that happen on their own. But if we give them a voucher, chances are they'll go, they'll use it, and they'll continue to go after the free voucher has been used up."

The third thing McMoran would like to see is a program where farmers and farmworkers are sent encouraging text messages. A similar program in the 1970s using written letters was shown to be effective in reducing military suicides.

"That research looks really good. We just need a little bit of funding to get it up and running," he said.

But is a suicide prevention program specifically for farmers and farmworkers necessary? McMoran believes it is vital.



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"I don't think any of my farmers would pick up the phone if they were in crisis and call a general suicide prevention hotline, and if they did, I don't think the operator on the other end would know how to deal with them and be able to relate," he explained. "I'm not saying crisis lines aren't doing an amazing job out there. I just don't think that they're connected to this population. That's why I like the Farm Aid call center, because you have an operator on the other end of the line that understands farming. They know the plight of the American farmer, and they can have those in-the-weeds conversations to be able to relate and get that individual help."

McMoran will likely never truly know how many people he and his staff have helped, but he's confident the work has made a difference. He recounted an instance where following one of his Extension presentations, he got a call from a gentleman who had heard it. That gentleman was at a farm in a neighboring county and recognized the signs of someone going through crisis. McMoran said the gentleman was able to use some of the tools and techniques he'd learned to get the farmer help.

"That's the problem with this work, you never know who you save. You only know who you lose," he said. "I'm really pleased to be able to do this work. If it saves one life, then it's worth it, and I believe we have. I just want to continue that. Hopefully, in the meantime, while we are doing this great education outreach, prices will come back, and all of our farmers will get independently wealthy, and we won't need this program anymore." ■



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## WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION

By Mike  
Carstensen



I recently asked a number of individuals to name the world's most successful partnership. It's an extensive list. To name a few, there are Adam and Eve; Bert and Ernie; Batman and Robin; Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson; Marie and Pierre Curie; Wilbur and Orville Wright; and Tom and Jerry. While each individual of the pair can act independently, it is by combining forces and cooperating that they have, through their partnership, increased the likelihood of accomplishing their mission and amplifying their reach.

While our mission at the Washington Grain Commission (WGC) is to enhance the long-term profitability and competitiveness of the state's small grain producers, we accomplish that goal through numerous partnerships. At the top of my list of the wheat industry's most successful pairings, U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) can't be beat.

USW is the export market development organization for the U.S. wheat industry. Gary Bailey and I from the WGC sit on their board. The organization's No. 1 job is to promote the reliability, quality and value of all six U.S. wheat classes to buyers, millers, bakers, food processors and government officials in more than 100 countries. The mission of the hundreds of individuals who work for USW isn't to sell the most wheat. It is to "develop, maintain and expand international markets to enhance wheat's *profitability for U.S. wheat producers* and its value for their customers." Note the italics. Profitability is key.

Younger farmers take for granted that USW has always been around. In fact, the organization got its start when the Great Plains Market Development Association and Western Wheat Associates, created respectively in 1958 and 1959 (which is also when I was created), saw they could do more for farmers if they joined forces. That occurred in 1980.

On the other side of this highly successful partnership are 17 state wheat commissions that support the organization with dues based on an Olympic average of their state production. In Washington, our contribution based on production is \$494,500. In addition, we spend another \$140,000 with USW on special projects to promote our flagship class, soft white wheat.

Other states' contributions bring grower funding to \$5.3 million. That's a lot, but it's not nearly enough to effectively counter our competition on the world stage. The real secret to USW's effectiveness is how it leverages contributions from states with cost-share funding from the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) of the U.S.

Department of Agriculture. Together with grower funds, that brings USW's annual budget to around \$16.3 million.

Most of those annual matching funds from FAS come through the Market Access Program (MAP) and the Foreign Market Development (FMD) program, which are reauthorized by Congress every five years. While FAS funding varies, its recent match has been more than \$2 for every \$1 in state funding.

As a result of the trade impasse with China, in 2018, USW also received one-time access to \$8.25 million in Agriculture Trade Promotion funding to be spent over three years. This money is specifically earmarked to develop new markets and mitigate the adverse effects of other countries' tariff and nontariff barriers.

Reporting on crop quality is USW's largest trade service activity. It begins with each year's U.S. harvest. Partner organizations of USW collect and analyze thousands of samples from country elevators with USW compiling the data in an annual Crop Quality Report. Seminars are subsequently held in dozens of countries where growers, traders, consultants and customers have the unique opportunity to learn about and discuss the functional qualities of all six U.S. wheat classes.

As a result of the pandemic, virtual seminars replaced in-person seminars in most cases during 2020. In addition, comprehensive discussions on crop storage and blending; rail and barge freight systems; freight markets; and contract specifications are conducted. These presentations are intended to reinforce to our buyers the U.S. infrastructure's ability and advantages in providing a consistent and ample supply of quality wheat.

The willingness and ability of USW to provide technical service (both before and after a sale), to stress sound purchasing decisions for value and application, is very important. The U.S. market is the go-to market for a reliable supply of quality wheat. Many years of development from farmers, WGC and USW have resulted in our current position, and we need to keep it that way.

That is why I hope that after reading this, if anybody asks you to choose your most successful partnership, you won't name Rowan and Martin, Simon and Garfunkel or even Bill Gates and Paul Allen. Instead, I hope you'll think of that profitable combination of the Washington Grain Commission and U.S. Wheat Associates, because together, these two organizations do more than provide the highest quality wheat for almost every customer around the world. They put money right where we need it—in our pocketbooks. ■

## A bountiful career in wheat concludes

By Scott A. Yates

You might assume that directors of communications would be extroverts, at ease with talking and pressing the flesh, energized by being around people—social butterflies, if you will. But in my case, you would be wrong. The fact is, I'm reserved in real life, although friends and family might take issue with that description.

That I have served for the last 14 years as director of communications and producer relations for the Washington Grain Commission (WGC), a post that requires a certain amount of confident chatter, attests to what I like to think of as bravery. No one wants to be considered a coward, after all.

No job is easy. Each of us has obstacles to overcome. As a reporter for 30 years before I took the WGC job, I overcame my lack of confidence by faking it. Those 22 years working for the agricultural weekly, the *Capital Press*, during which many people mistook me for a headstrong, pushy reporter, was not me. It was me doing my job. I laugh to remember the meetings when I was the only one in a crowd of farmers to stand and ask probing questions of government officials, feeling sick with fear, hoping no one could hear the tremulousness in my voice.

I got better with time, of course. We all get better with repetition. Really, what is confidence, but repeating something over and over again? Practice may not make perfect, but at least the result is better than adequate.

When Tom Mick hired me as director of communications in 2008, my primary skill set was a broad knowledge of the wheat industry and my ability to communicate complex ideas in a way that people could not only understand, but enjoyed reading. I have to give Tom credit for hiring me. Our professional relationship prior to him bringing me on staff was, to put it lightly, tense. Tom liked controlling the narrative, and he couldn't control me—at least not when I was a reporter!

There was a time that Tom, and a lot of other people for that matter, thought that I was too intense. Perhaps they believed our little corner of agriculture didn't deserve the scrutiny I brought to my reporting. As for me, I was only doing what I'd been trained to do, which was to get



both sides of the story while trying my hardest in the process to remain objective.

The day Tom interviewed me for the job at what was then the Washington Wheat Commission, he asked whether I felt we could work together? I told him that I had been doing my best job as a reporter and that if he hired me, I would be doing my best job for him. Later on, he told me he'd asked two industry veterans what they thought about his hiring me. One was an enthusiastic yes. The other was a passionate no. I'm so grateful Tom had the vision to see his way to yes.

Tom retired in 2012, and since then, I have been doing my best for Glen Squires. It hasn't been that tough, actually. That 22 years working for the *Capital Press* was like getting paid for doing a graduate degree in agriculture. During that time, I wrote stories on ostriches and emus and llamas and alpacas, myriad breeds of beef, all kinds of alternative crops and king wheat, of course. I went to hundreds of meetings where ag practices were discussed, taught and debated. I learned about different soils and the microbes that lived in them. I began to observe the climate instead of the weather. I learned



about El Niño, La Niña and micro-climates. I covered new chemical introductions and wrote about the old ones being withdrawn. I learned, as few do, that the farm bill is a cheap food bill and that corporations, not farmers, hold most of the power. For someone who has always been curious, I had the luxury of satisfying my curiosity every day.

Along the way, I met hundreds of farmers, and whenever I was one-on-one with them, they were almost universally patient and kind. That goes for government officials, too, who may not have liked seeing their quotes in the paper, but never argued they were inaccurate. Certainly, accuracy has been the guiding star throughout my career, both as a reporter and as a communications director.

I know a little about a lot of different parts of agriculture, but I know most about wheat. And what a crop! Think of it. Twenty thousand years ago, our hunter-gatherer ancestors, people who looked just like us without a shave, started picking seeds out of the heads of this peculiar plant and eating them directly. About 15,000 years ago, they graduated to smashing the kernels and making flat bread from the resulting flour on stone hearths. Then, 10,000 to 12,000 years ago, these people began planting the wild seeds, and roaming families of *Homo sapiens* put down roots, established tribes, villages, city states and then countries. I can't tell you how pleased I am for attaching myself to a crop that has been so crucial to the history of civilization. It has been a damn fine way to make a living.

But all good things come to an end, and while my association with the wheat industry has been a particularly good thing, it has now



Scott Yates with his three daughters and granddaughter.

come to a close. I can't say enough about the opportunity I was afforded. As a reporter, I worked out of my home and raised three daughters. Like the children of farmers, my girls grew up knowing what their father did for a living. They listened to my phone interviews, and on deadline days, when I still had three stories to write, they would cheer me on—"You can do it, dad!"

Now, they are grown, launched, with careers of their own, with husbands and boyfriends. I have a couple of grandchildren, and more, I'm sure, are on the way. I'm not certain what I'll do in retirement, but when people ask that question, I think about my family and what farmers say with respect to their land and their desire to "leave it better than when they found it."

To all of you over the years who have read the stories I've written and listened to the podcasts I've produced, I wish you the very best. Good luck harvesting all the happiness you can run through your header and export into life. And never forget, my farmer friends, you are part of humanity's first industry, the one that made us who we are and built the civilization we enjoy today. ■

# Yields, test weights mostly up

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2020 WSU WINTER WHEAT VARIETY TRIALS

By Clark Neely

The 2020 season turned out to be pretty favorable for most winter wheat production in Washington.

In the high rainfall zones, yields and test weights were up across the board. Farmington stood out with a 69 percent greater yield compared to 2019, while Dayton saw the biggest bump in test weight of +3.2 pounds per bushel.

Both yields and test weights were mostly up in the 12-to-16-inch zone as well, with Lamont being the main



exception. However, this had more to do with the exceptionally high yields experienced at Lamont in 2019, rather than a low year in 2020. On the flip side, Dusty saw a 55 percent increase in yield.

Yields were down between 10 and 30 percent in the less-than-12-inch rainfall zone. Lind, however, held nearly steady, while test weights were a mixed bag.

The soft white winter wheat (SWW) trials consisted of 53 entries in all dryland rainfall zones in 2020, while 47 entries were planted at our only irrigated site at Moses Lake. A total of 30 entries were planted at all hard red winter wheat (HRW) trials. Two of those entries were hard red spring wheat cultivars in the irrigated site, while between six and seven hard white winter wheat entries were included at each site.





Public breeding programs contributed 45 to 60 percent of trial entries depending on the precipitation zone and wheat class being tested. Between 23 and 34 percent of SWW entries were advanced experimental lines, while the HRW trials were composed of 43 to 50 percent experimental lines.

There are some entries worth pointing out from the 2020 season. We had some newly named varieties recently that were previously tested under experimental numbers in 2020. These include Piranha CL+ (WA 8305 CL+), Sockeye CL+ (WA 8306 CL+), VI Voodoo CL+ (UIL 17-6268 CL+), VI Presto CL+ (UIL 17-6451 CL+) and AP Exceed (11PN039#20). Piranha CL+ (from Washington State University (WSU)) appears to be widely adapted across all precipitation zones, landing in the top yielding group in every case on the two-year average. Sockeye CL+ (WSU) was only tested in high rainfall and irrigated sites where it, too, landed right beside Piranha CL+ in the top yielding group. This variety is best adapted to high rainfall zones and has better stripe rust resistance than Piranha CL+. Both had good test weight.

Two more two-gene Clearfield varieties were also named by the joint Limagrain/University of Idaho breeding program in 2020: VI Voodoo CL+ (high rainfall) and VI Presto CL+ (low rainfall). Both had strong showings in 2020, always landing in the top 10 for each of their respective rainfall zones. VI Voodoo CL+ had solid test weight, and VI Presto CL+ had exceptional test weight. VI Voodoo CL+ is rated intermediate on stripe rust resistance, while VI Presto CL+ is rated with excellent resistance.

AP Exceed (AgriPro) was first included in the trials in 2020 and only tested in the low rainfall zones where it landed in the top third of the trial in the 12-to-16-inch precipitation zone and bottom third of the less-than-12-inch zone. It did have one of the highest test weights in the trial and is rated resistant to stripe rust.

In the SWW trials, LCS Ghost, LCS Blackjack, LCS Shine and Norwest Duet continue to stand out for yield in the high rainfall zones, nearly always landing in the top 10 entries of the trial again in 2020. M-Press had another good showing in the intermediate rainfall zones, ranking fourth place in both cases.

In both the low precipitation zones, LCS Sonic and Norwest Duet continued to yield well, while ARS-Crescent, LCS Hulk, Devote and Mela CL+ had a good year in the less-than-12-inch zone. M-idas yielded well along the Highway 2 corridor, though we do not have any winter survival or snow mold ratings for this variety yet. All of these varieties have very good stripe resistance with the following exceptions: LCS Ghost (moderately resistant), Devote (intermediate) and Mela CL+ (moderately susceptible).

In the HRW trials, LCS Rocket and LCS Jet were the only two varieties to yield in the top group in all three dryland precipitation zones. In the high rainfall sites, LCS Zoom, Scorpio, LCS Aymeric, LCS Evina and AP Redeye were all in the top statistical grouping for yield; however, of these, only Scorpio will continue to be tested in 2021. In both the low rainfall zones, AP Redeye and Keldin were in

**Table 1. 2020 WSU Extension Soft White Winter Wheat Variety Trial Summary**

IRRIGATED				
	MOSES LAKE	2-YR AVG YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE PROTEIN
Variety	-Yield-	Lb/Bu	%	
Sockeye CL+ (WA 8306 CL+)	91	72	59.4	12.9
Piranha CL+ (WA 8305 CL+)	91	72	58.6	13.1
Norwest Tandem	91	75	58.2	13.2
SY Raptor	90	67	57.5	13.2
Stingray CL+	87	71	58.5	13.9
UI Castle CL+	87	65	59.2	13.6
LCS Ghost	87	66	55.7	11.5
VI Bulldog	85	68	57.9	13.3
OR2x2 CL+	84	68	57.5	14.1
UI Sparrow	84	66	56.7	13.5
AP Iliad	83	66	58.0	13.3
LCS Drive	83	66	55.5	13.2
UI Magic CL+	83	66	59.4	13.2
LCS Hulk	83	69	58.3	13.8
M-idas	82	--	56.6	12.4
Dyna-Gro Impact	81	67	58.2	14.1
SY Dayton	80	66	57.6	13.1
SY Assure	80	60	58.9	13.1
M-press	80	67	57.8	13.6
Appleby CL+ (ORI2161250 CL+)	80	65	58.7	13.5
WB1529	80	64	60.3	13.4
WB1532	80	--	57.2	15.2
LCS Blackjack	80	69	54.9	13.8
Purl	79	63	57.7	13.3
Puma	79	66	58.7	14.1
Resilience CL+	78	65	59.9	13.6
Norwest Duet	77	66	55.7	14.1
WB1376CLP	77	57	60.0	14.6
Nixon	76	64	56.9	13.3
WB1604	76	60	58.7	13.4
Xerpha	75	63	54.5	13.8
LCS Shark	74	64	54.2	13.6
Jasper	74	63	52.7	14.7
LCS Artdeco	73	62	53.9	12.9
WB1783	73	62	59.9	14.6
Rosalyn	71	59	55.8	13.2
YS-201	71	58	55.8	14.4
YS-215	71	--	58.1	14.7
YS-221	64	--	58.2	14.9
C.V. %	8	8	1.6	3.1
LSD (0.05)	10	6	1.7	0.8
Average	80	65	57.5	13.6

**Table 1. 2020 WSU Extension Soft White Winter Wheat Variety Trial Summary**

Precipitation Zone=>20"										Precipitation Zone=16-20"									
	COLTON	FAIRFIELD	FARMINGTON	PULLMAN	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE PROTEIN		DAYTON	MAYVIEW	ST. JOHN	WALLA WALLA	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE PROTEIN		
Variety (Club)	-----Yield (Bu/A)-----				Lb/Bu		%			Variety (Club)	-----Yield (Bu/A)-----				Lb/Bu		%		
Piranha CL+ (WA 8305 CL+)	149	148	148	155	<b>150</b>	<b>132</b>	62.0	10.0		LCS Blackjack	133	109	134	142	<b>129</b>	<b>113</b>	59.9	9.9	
Sockeye CL+ (WA 8306 CL+)	138	145	149	155	<b>147</b>	<b>131</b>	61.4	9.8		LCS Shine	129	112	131	143	<b>129</b>	--	62.1	9.5	
LCS Ghost	142	145	135	165	<b>147</b>	<b>129</b>	58.8	9.1		LCS Ghost	130	110	140	134	<b>128</b>	<b>112</b>	59.7	8.8	
LCS Blackjack	144	149	127	146	141	125	59.9	10.1		M-press	131	110	119	146	<b>127</b>	<b>110</b>	61.7	9.7	
UI Sparrow	137	146	135	144	141	123	60.4	9.9		SY Dayton	131	106	122	145	<b>126</b>	<b>110</b>	62.1	10.1	
LCS Shine	146	136	132	150	141	--	62.1	9.9		VI Voodoo CL+ (UIL 17-6268 CL+)	132	104	133	134	<b>126</b>	<b>110</b>	62.3	9.5	
VI Voodoo CL+ (UIL 17-6268 CL+)	140	137	140	144	140	119	61.7	10.2		Norwest Duet	126	111	127	138	<b>126</b>	107	62.2	9.4	
Norwest Duet	140	139	133	147	140	119	61.6	10.0		LCS Hulk	130	103	136	132	<b>125</b>	107	63.7	9.9	
Jasper	132	137	141	148	140	121	60.5	10.2		LCS Artdeco	130	107	129	134	<b>125</b>	106	61.6	9.7	
Purl	146	139	130	142	139	122	62.3	10.0		SY Raptor	135	102	127	134	<b>125</b>	109	61.5	10.0	
LCS Artdeco	139	145	130	143	139	117	61.0	9.8		Sockeye CL+ (WA 8306 CL+)	134	104	136	121	<b>124</b>	<b>115</b>	61.6	9.6	
M-press	140	142	131	142	139	122	61.6	10.1		Purl	132	94	130	139	<b>124</b>	106	62.4	10.2	
LCS Hulk	141	137	135	137	138	121	63.2	10.4		Jasper	130	100	133	130	<b>123</b>	107	61.4	<b>10.4</b>	
SY Raptor	133	147	125	138	136	119	60.7	9.6		Piranha CL+ (WA 8305 CL+)	130	99	138	126	<b>123</b>	<b>114</b>	61.8	10.0	
Norwest Tandem	128	141	138	135	135	119	61.3	10.3		ARS-Crescent	127	104	130	132	<b>123</b>	108	61.1	9.8	
SY Dayton	134	140	124	145	135	117	61.6	9.7		AP Dynamic	133	98	129	126	121	--	61.1	9.9	
YS-215	133	123	134	149	135	--	62.5	9.8		UI Castle CL+	127	93	121	143	121	108	62.6	<b>10.8</b>	
Stingray CL+	139	136	125	138	135	118	61.1	<b>10.7</b>		Pritchett	131	97	124	132	121	--	60.2	10.1	
AP Iliad	124	143	124	146	135	119	62.1	10.6		M-idas	133	92	129	129	121	--	62.0	9.5	
Nixon	133	133	129	143	134	117	61.3	10.3		Nixon	125	103	124	129	121	105	62.4	<b>10.3</b>	
M-idas	129	139	133	136	134	--	61.0	9.4		Rosalyn	120	98	136	126	120	106	59.9	9.5	
Rosalyn	139	130	129	138	134	122	59.7	9.4		LCS Shark	117	95	112	151	119	100	61.2	<b>10.4</b>	
ARS-Castella	125	130	131	145	133	118	62.1	10.1		WB1783	123	96	122	131	118	104	<b>63.8</b>	<b>10.3</b>	
Pritchett	120	135	137	135	132	--	58.9	9.8		AP Iliad	127	93	119	133	118	104	62.5	10.2	
UI Castle CL+	127	133	132	134	132	114	62.0	10.6		UI Sparrow	121	93	122	133	117	105	60.4	9.9	
ARS-Crescent	130	135	137	124	131	118	60.9	9.7		Norwest Tandem	125	97	119	127	117	104	62.2	10.0	
Puma	132	125	138	130	131	116	61.8	10.3		Puma	116	90	128	133	117	103	62.0	9.6	
LCS Drive	127	137	129	131	131	109	60.3	10.4		WB1532	114	93	119	134	115	--	62.5	<b>10.6</b>	
VI Bulldog	125	134	127	137	131	116	62.3	10.5		Dyna-Gro Impact	120	92	123	125	115	101	62.6	<b>10.6</b>	
OR2x2 CL+	128	127	125	141	130	111	61.7	<b>11.0</b>		Stingray CL+	126	104	115	113	114	106	61.8	<b>10.5</b>	
AP Dynamic	131	138	118	132	130	--	60.7	10.3		WB1529	115	100	114	122	113	98	<b>64.0</b>	<b>10.7</b>	
WB1604	128	130	123	137	130	111	63.2	<b>10.8</b>		VI Bulldog	119	90	118	124	113	100	62.8	10.2	
WB1783	128	134	119	134	129	115	63.3	10.5		Resilience CL+	118	100	114	118	112	104	62.6	10.2	
WB1532	122	128	130	133	128	--	61.5	<b>10.8</b>		OR2x2 CL+	123	92	122	106	111	102	61.8	<b>10.6</b>	
Dyna-Gro Impact	131	129	123	131	128	115	61.8	10.2		UI Magic CL+	113	90	108	129	110	103	62.5	10.2	
Resilience CL+	132	127	123	132	128	114	62.3	10.5		YS-215	101	93	123	116	108	--	62.3	9.7	
LCS Shark	128	139	106	138	128	110	60.9	10.4		YS-201	109	94	111	118	108	94	61.7	<b>10.4</b>	
YS-201	128	128	118	134	127	112	61.8	10.3		LCS Drive	118	92	111	110	108	94	61.3	10.2	
UI Magic CL+	133	113	120	129	124	112	61.9	10.5		ARS-Castella	123	57	115	134	107	98	61.8	10.2	
WB1529	126	131	115	118	123	105	<b>63.9</b>	<b>10.9</b>		Appleby CL+ (ORI2161250 CL+)	116	91	106	115	107	96	62.5	<b>10.5</b>	
Appleby CL+ (ORI2161250 CL+)	119	120	120	129	122	105	62.7	<b>10.7</b>		WB1604	110	87	107	117	105	91	63.1	<b>10.6</b>	
C.V. %	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>3.8</b>		C.V. %	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>6.2</b>	
LSD (0.05)	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.3</b>		LSD (0.05)	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	
Average	<b>133</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>61.5</b>	<b>10.2</b>		Average	<b>124</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>61.9</b>	<b>10.0</b>	



**Table 1. 2020 WSU Extension Soft White Winter Wheat Variety Trial Summary**

Precipitation Zone=12-16"										
	ALMIRA	ANATONE	CRESTON	LAMONT	REARDAN	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE PROTEIN	
Variety (Club)	Yield (Bu/A)					Lb/Bu		%		
Piranha CL+ (WA 8305 CL+)	83	82	93	99	116	<b>94</b>	<b>99</b>	61.0	9.8	
Jasper	76	74	95	93	125	<b>93</b>	<b>100</b>	59.8	10.2	
LCS Sonic	78	82	89	88	127	<b>93</b>	<b>96</b>	60.6	10.0	
M-press	79	71	95	91	122	<b>92</b>	<b>96</b>	60.8	9.7	
VI Presto CL+ (UIL 17-6451 CL+)	82	78	101	86	111	<b>91</b>	93	<b>62.6</b>	10.3	
Norwest Duet	82	78	78	95	122	<b>91</b>	<b>97</b>	60.3	10.1	
M-idas	82	63	97	91	118	<b>90</b>	--	60.3	9.6	
SY Command	75	77	93	88	116	<b>90</b>	95	59.4	9.7	
LCS Shine	76	71	91	92	116	89	<b>100</b>	60.7	9.5	
ARS-Crescent	77	75	73	95	127	89	<b>98</b>	60.0	9.8	
Dyna-Gro Impact	74	80	84	92	116	89	90	61.4	10.2	
AP Dynamic	74	81	86	94	111	89	<b>96</b>	60.2	10.2	
LCS Hulk	81	86	82	84	109	88	93	<b>62.1</b>	10.3	
AP Exceed (11PN039#20)	76	79	91	87	108	88	--	<b>62.3</b>	9.6	
Purl	74	83	82	88	114	88	--	61.2	10.0	
Pritchett	81	73	72	95	117	88	<b>96</b>	59.4	9.9	
UI Sparrow	74	77	79	91	118	88	<b>96</b>	59.0	9.9	
ARS-Castella	74	59	88	95	119	87	<b>99</b>	61.2	10.3	
Puma	74	76	87	91	105	87	94	60.8	<b>10.6</b>	
WB1783	69	77	94	79	113	86	87	<b>62.7</b>	<b>10.9</b>	
Stingray CL+	72	72	91	92	104	86	--	60.4	10.5	
Resilience CL+	79	75	83	82	105	85	--	61.4	10.3	
Devote	66	70	88	89	108	85	92	61.4	10.3	
SY Banks	71	82	79	89	102	84	85	60.1	10.2	
Otto	66	72	81	94	108	84	92	59.7	10.3	
VI Frost	80	74	73	84	108	84	91	60.8	<b>10.8</b>	
UI Magic CL+	76	71	81	80	108	83	86	61.4	<b>10.6</b>	
Curiosity CL+	76	67	87	78	107	83	94	60.5	9.8	
Norwest Tandem	69	72	85	80	108	83	94	60.8	10.3	
Appleby CL+ (ORI2161250 CL+)	75	75	84	79	99	82	84	61.5	<b>10.7</b>	
Mela CL+	73	65	80	84	110	82	90	60.2	10.0	
YS-215	64	75	80	85	106	82	--	61.4	9.9	
Bruehl	73	66	81	88	101	82	89	58.0	10.3	
UI Castle CL+	74	71	70	84	108	81	86	60.7	<b>10.7</b>	
WB1532	67	68	76	83	101	79	86	60.7	<b>10.8</b>	
YS-201	68	65	82	72	105	78	--	60.5	<b>10.8</b>	
WB1529	66	62	83	81	90	76	85	<b>62.7</b>	<b>11.0</b>	
WB1604	62	66	75	81	90	75	80	<b>62.3</b>	<b>10.7</b>	
C.V. %	7	8	8	5	6	7	8	1.3	5.1	
LSD (0.05)	10.43	11	13	8	14	4	4	0.6	0.4	
Average	74	73	84	87	111	86	92	60.8	10.2	

Precipitation Zone=<12"										
	BICKLETON	CONNELL	HARRINGTON	HORSE HEAVEN	LIND	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT <sup>1</sup>	AVERAGE PROTEIN <sup>2</sup>	
Variety (Club)	Yield (Bu/A)					Lb/Bu		%		
ARS-Crescent	27	69	67	40	70	<b>56</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>62.9</b>	9.8	
LCS Hulk	30	76	65	47	64	<b>55</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>63.5</b>	10.8	
UI Sparrow	30	60	72	39	66	<b>54</b>	<b>56</b>	61.7	9.8	
Norwest Duet	32	67	68	37	59	<b>53</b>	<b>55</b>	61.5	10.2	
Piranha CL+ (WA 8305 CL+)	33	59	67	40	64	<b>53</b>	<b>56</b>	62.2	10.1	
LCS Sonic	30	65	70	41	52	<b>52</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>62.6</b>	10.9	
Devote	25	64	60	45	61	<b>51</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>62.9</b>	10.6	
Mela CL+	30	65	59	44	60	<b>51</b>	54	62.3	10.2	
VI Presto CL+ (UIL 17-6451 CL+)	27	64	66	41	61	<b>51</b>	54	<b>62.8</b>	<b>11.6</b>	
SY Banks	29	69	49	45	61	50	53	61.8	10.8	
Puma	26	59	60	42	62	50	53	62.0	<b>11.3</b>	
Dyna-Gro Impact	28	62	61	33	65	50	52	<b>62.6</b>	<b>11.2</b>	
SY Command	32	62	60	40	55	50	54	61.7	10.1	
Curiosity CL+	29	58	60	39	60	50	54	<b>62.6</b>	10.0	
Jasper	28	60	61	38	58	50	53	61.5	11.0	
LCS Shine	29	62	45	43	70	50	<b>56</b>	62.4	10.0	
M-press	29	68	57	38	56	50	54	62.4	10.5	
AP Dynamic	27	69	60	39	57	50	54	61.7	10.2	
Pritchett	29	62	54	39	59	49	53	61.9	10.3	
WB1783	29	52	61	35	62	49	51	<b>63.0</b>	<b>11.5</b>	
WB1532	27	59	49	42	63	48	50	62.4	<b>11.2</b>	
Purl	27	65	51	40	60	48	--	<b>62.6</b>	<b>11.4</b>	
UI Castle CL+	27	60	64	31	57	48	49	62.4	<b>11.1</b>	
Bruehl	25	64	54	39	58	47	50	61.1	10.7	
YS-215	29	57	56	40	52	47	--	<b>63.4</b>	10.1	
Norwest Tandem	31	64	54	38	53	47	54	62.0	10.8	
Otto	27	57	49	39	57	46	52	61.7	11.0	
ARS-Castella	25	56	51	38	60	46	51	61.4	10.5	
AP Exceed (11PN039#20)	31	64	43	39	52	46	--	<b>63.8</b>	10.8	
Resilience CL+	28	46	59	31	63	46	--	61.8	10.6	
Appleby CL+ (ORI2161250 CL+)	27	59	52	38	50	45	48	62.1	<b>11.4</b>	
M-idas	24	70	42	37	54	45	--	61.9	10.9	
UI Magic CL+	28	57	57	30	49	44	49	<b>62.6</b>	-- <sup>3</sup>	
Stingray CL+	28	50	57	31	55	44	--	60.7	<b>11.2</b>	
YS-201	28	63	52	32	48	43	--	61.1	-- <sup>3</sup>	
VI Frost	30	53	52	31	49	43	49	61.6	<b>11.6</b>	
WB1529	30	53	32	33	51	41	47	<b>62.8</b>	-- <sup>3</sup>	
WB1604	25	49	14	27	46	32	41	-- <sup>4</sup>	-- <sup>3</sup>	
C.V. %	6	12	11	10	11	12	10	2.0	6.5	
LSD (0.05)	3	14	15	8	12	4	3	1.2	0.6	
Average	28	61	55	38	58	48	52	62.2	10.7	

<sup>1</sup>Test Weight averaged across Connell, Harrington, and Lind only<sup>2</sup>Protein averaged across Bickleton, Connell, Harrington, and Horse Heaven only.<sup>3</sup>Protein average not shown due to high variability at Horse Heaven.<sup>4</sup>Test weight average not shown due to high variability at Harrington.

**Table 2. 2020 WSU Extension Hard Winter Wheat Variety Trial Summary**

IRRIGATED					Precipitation Zone=>16"							
	MOSES LAKE	2-YR AVG YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE PROTEIN		DAYTON	PULLMAN	WALLA WALLA	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE PROTEIN
Variety (Hard white)	-Yield-	Lb/Bu	%		Variety (Hard white)	-----Yield (Bu/A)-----				Lb/Bu	%	
AP Redeye	92	69	61.8	13.7	LCS Rocket	131	138	132	134	117	62.2	10.7
LCS Jet	90	70	57.8	13.9	LCS Zoom	118	146	129	131	111	61.6	10.8
WB4303	89	69	61.9	14.0	Scorpio	126	138	124	129	114	62.5	11.2
LCS Rocket	87	66	56.9	13.9	LCS Aymeric	118	138	128	128	111	61.6	10.2
UI Bronze Jade	87	--	59.0	13.1	LCS Evina	118	132	131	127	114	62.6	12.0
WB4311	86	67	61.6	14.1	LCS Jet	120	136	126	127	114	62.7	10.8
LCS Aymeric	86	67	55.4	12.5	AP Redeye	117	128	132	125	109	64.1	10.9
Keldin	85	68	59.1	14.1	Millie	112	122	125	120	106	64.4	11.9
LCS Evina	84	68	57.0	15.0	UI Bronze Jade	115	121	120	119	106	62.1	10.7
CP 7909	83	--	61.5	13.7	WB4394	111	121	119	117	101	64.1	11.4
Kairos	80	--	59.6	14.5	SY Touchstone	112	105	121	113	102	63.9	12.1
WB4394	78	--	59.9	13.4	Keldin	115	117	95	109	100	64.3	11.2
Scorpio	78	64	58.0	13.7	Kairos	113	114	100	109	--	63.7	12.1
WB4623CLP	78	61	61.4	15.2	WB4311	103	114	110	109	94	63.7	12.3
LCS Zoom	77	--	56.6	14.1	WB4623CLP	99	101	108	103	92	63.5	13.3
AP Venom	76	--	57.0	14.8	SY Clearstone CL2	89	102	112	101	91	63.1	11.9
Millie	75	--	61.5	14.3	WB4303	74	86	97	86	84	63.4	12.3
AP Octane	71	--	58.1	14.2	CP 7010	97	108	--	--	--	--	--
C.V. %	7	6	2.2	2.0	C.V. %	4	5	8	6	7	0.8	3.7
LSD (0.05)	9	5	2.6	0.6	LSD (0.05)	9	13	27	7	5	0.5	0.4
Average	82	67	59.1	14.0	Average	110	120	118	117	104	63.1	11.5

<sup>1</sup>Test Weight averaged across Connell, Lind, and St. Andrews only.

<sup>2</sup>Protein averaged across Bickleton, Connell, Horse Heaven and St. Andrews only.

<sup>3</sup>Protein average not shown due to high variability at Horse Heaven.

Precipitation Zone=12-16"									Precipitation Zone=<12"									
	ALMIRA	ANATONE	LAMONT	REARDAN	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE PROTEIN		BICKLETON	CONNELL	HORSE HEAVEN	LIND	ST. ANDREWS	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT <sup>1</sup>	AVERAGE PROTEIN <sup>2</sup>
Variety (Hard white)	-----Yield (Bu/A)-----				Lb/Bu	%			Variety (Hard white)	-----Yield (Bu/A)-----				Lb/Bu	%			
LCS Rocket	89	87	97	105	94	98	61.4	11.0	Sequoia	24	71	43	57	68	53	52	61.7	13.0
WB4394	82	91	98	100	93	99	63.2	11.0	Keldin	28	61	45	53	71	52	53	62.7	12.9
LCS Jet	81	86	94	107	92	102	61.4	10.7	LCS Jet	30	68	39	56	62	51	55	61.6	13.3
AP Redeye	96	82	92	95	91	96	63.3	11.2	Scorpio	29	59	42	63	61	51	--	62.2	13.3
Keldin	86	81	91	100	90	98	63.6	11.2	AP Redeye	30	58	42	56	67	51	51	62.0	13.6
Scorpio	81	73	86	100	85	--	60.9	11.0	LCS Zoom	24	57	39	65	65	50	55	62.1	13.5
UI Bronze Jade	70	79	92	95	84	--	61.2	10.7	LCS Rocket	26	52	39	50	76	49	51	61.3	13.1
LCS Zoom	82	70	90	91	83	96	60.5	11.0	UI Bronze Jade	25	54	40	55	64	48	--	60.8	12.9
SY Clearstone CL2	80	71	82	94	82	88	62.4	11.8	SY Touchstone	30	57	31	53	59	46	47	62.3	13.4
WB4311	81	82	77	85	81	88	63.2	12.2	Farnum	25	57	36	52	60	46	47	60.0	13.3
SY Touchstone	77	68	88	87	80	85	62.9	11.6	WB4394	26	56	36	48	64	46	49	61.9	13.8
WB4623CLP	84	64	77	89	78	--	63.5	13.0	WB4311	28	58	32	40	66	45	48	63.0	13.9
Sequoia	71	67	59	99	74	83	60.2	11.5	SY Clearstone CL2	28	45	33	41	76	45	48	58.7	14.1
Farnum	63	75	64	86	72	80	58.7	12.1	WB4303	27	54	34	41	63	44	48	61.2	-- <sup>3</sup>
CP 7010	73	58	74	75	70	--	64.4	11.2	WB4623CLP	23	52	40	45	60	44	--	62.2	14.8
WB4303	59	50	84	75	67	82	63.1	13.4	CP 7010	22	50	34	45	56	41	--	61.8	13.4
C.V. %	8	11	6	6	8	7	1.2	5.1	C.V. %	9	12	11	8	9	10	10	2.6	5.1
LSD (0.05)	12.12	15	10	12	5	4	0.6	0.5	LSD (0.05)	4	13	8	8	12	4	2	1.5	0.6
Average	78	74	84	93	82	91	62.1	11.5	Average	27	57	38	51	65	48	50	61.6	13.5

<sup>1</sup>Test Weight averaged across Connell, Lind, and St. Andrews only.  
<sup>2</sup>Protein averaged across Bickleton, Connell, Horse Heaven and St. Andrews only.  
<sup>3</sup>Protein average not shown due to high variability at Horse Heaven.





the top yielding group as well. WB4394 did well in the 12-to-16-inch zone, and Sequoia and Scorpio did well in the less-than-12-inch zone. Sequoia and Farnum will no longer be tested in the trial in 2021.

WB4623 CLP continued to lead the trial in grain protein at nearly every site in 2020, though WB4303 also had consistently high protein compared to the rest of the trial. Of the previously mentioned HRW varieties, stripe rust ratings reflect the following: resistant (LCS Evina, LCS Zoom, WB4623CLP); moderately resistant (AP Redeye); intermediate (LCS Rocket, LCS Aymeric, Keldin, Sequoia); moderately susceptible (LCS Jet, Scorpio, WB4394); and susceptible (WB4303).

Only results from named varieties are presented in Tables 1-2. While yield, test weight, protein and stripe rust resistance are only briefly mentioned in this article, other agronomic data, grain quality, falling number rating and more is available on our website. To view the full results from these nurseries please visit [smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/variety-2020-data/](http://smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/variety-2020-data/). When possible, always use multiple years and locations within a region to better gauge the adaptation and yield stability of a particular

variety. Every year brings its unique challenges, and a cultivar must be able to adapt to each and every one of them, not just one or two.

Be on the lookout for our new WSU Variety Selection Tool mobile app coming this spring. The 2021 Preferred Wheat Varieties brochure has also been recently published online ([wagrains.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/WGC-2021PVB-4Web.pdf](http://wagrains.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/WGC-2021PVB-4Web.pdf)) along with falling numbers data produced by Dr. Camille Steber ([steberlab.org/](http://steberlab.org/)).

And lastly, we are excited to announce that WSU is planning to host some in-person field days in 2021; however, these are subject to change based on COVID-19 cases by county. Growers and industry representatives are encouraged to check our website ([smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/](http://smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/)) regularly for updates on the field day schedule. ■

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# WHEAT WATCH

WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION

## Watch the weather for price swings



By Mike Krueger

The markets have been flooded with a variety of news over the past 30 days.

Most of that news has been positive or even outright bullish to prices. The list is long, but here's a recap:

- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) March 31 planting intentions estimates showed smaller corn and soybean acres than expected. The next acreage report doesn't come until the last day of June.
- The USDA March 1 quarterly stocks numbers were slightly supportive to corn and soybeans and neutral to wheat.
- The April USDA WASDE (World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates) estimates were considered slightly bearish to corn, wheat and soybeans. Corn ending stocks were cut by 150 million bushels, but the market believes the USDA is still at least 150 million bushels too high. They made no adjustments to the soybean ending stocks number and increased wheat ending supplies slightly.
- Russia has implemented a

wheat export tax, but no one really knows what it will mean for Russian wheat exports until more is known about the size of their 2021 wheat crop.

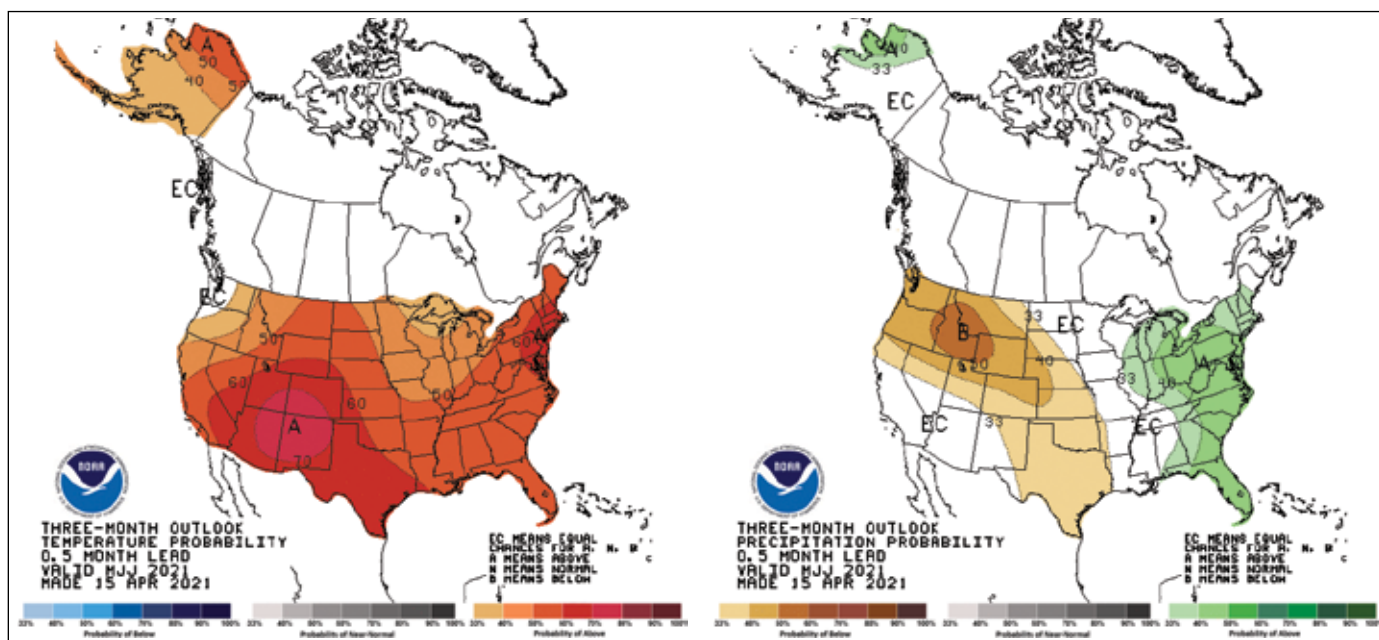
- There are signs of more turmoil between Russia and the Ukraine that could eventually affect export shipments from the Ukraine.
- Brazil has been too dry for the Safrinha (second crop) corn. This accounts for 65 percent to 70 percent of total Brazil corn production. It was planted very late because of the late soybean harvest.
- It turned wet across Argentina during the soybean harvest, and analysts are reducing their soybean production estimates and indicating some quality problems.
- U.S. southern Plains feedlots have been aggressive buyers of old and new crop hard red winter wheat as corn supplies are scarce. Wheat is cheaper than corn into the feedlots.
- The U.S. northern Plains and most of western Canada are extremely dry and getting drier.
- Thirty-, 60- and 90-day forecasts for the U.S. continue to look for above-normal temperatures and below-normal precipitation for the western half of the country, and above-normal temperatures and normal-to-above normal precipitation for the eastern half of the country.
- Western Europe has been dry and very cold. A severe mid-April freeze across France and Germany has severely hurt canola and grapes. There has been little talk about damage to wheat, but it seems clear wheat must have also suffered some damage.
- China continues to buy corn, sorghum, soybeans, wheat, feed barley, canola and nearly every other feed ingredient from a wide variety of origins.

These events pushed Minneapolis wheat futures to new highs (while KC futures barely moved). Old crop and new crop corn futures also set new highs with the May and December futures closing above \$5. Soybean futures didn't set new highs, but traded back solidly above \$14.

The southern Plains hard red winter wheat crop appears to have survived the record cold temperatures in mid-February. March precipitation across the state of Kansas was among the highest in the last 100 years, although the far western third of Kansas missed much of this precipitation. The USDA began publishing weekly crop ratings the first Monday in April. Fifty-three percent







of the U.S. winter wheat crop was rated good to excellent in mid-April. Fifty-five percent of Kansas was rated good to excellent with 74 percent of Washington's winter wheat crop rated good to excellent.

What appeared to be the start of a very early planting season across the western Corn Belt and northern Plains turned into an average planting season as the middle two weeks in April turned cold and damp. That has created some doubts that an early season might bring more corn and soybean acres than reflected in the USDA planting intentions report.

All of these widely varied market factors still leave us in a bullish market outlook. China remains the biggest bullish factor because no one knows just how big their appetite for feed grains, oilseeds and wheat really is. There are two things we do know about China:

- Their huge surpluses of corn and wheat are not as big as reported and likely not very good quality. Domestic corn and wheat prices in China are at record high levels despite record imports of soybeans, corn and wheat and despite weekly auctions of their surplus corn and wheat reserves.
- Their level of imports has little to do with the Phase One trade agreement with the U.S. It has everything to do with short domestic supplies. China has not only been an active buyer of U.S. commodities. They have been active buyers of wheat, feed barley and canola from Canada and the EU.

This brings us back to the central theme of markets going forward.

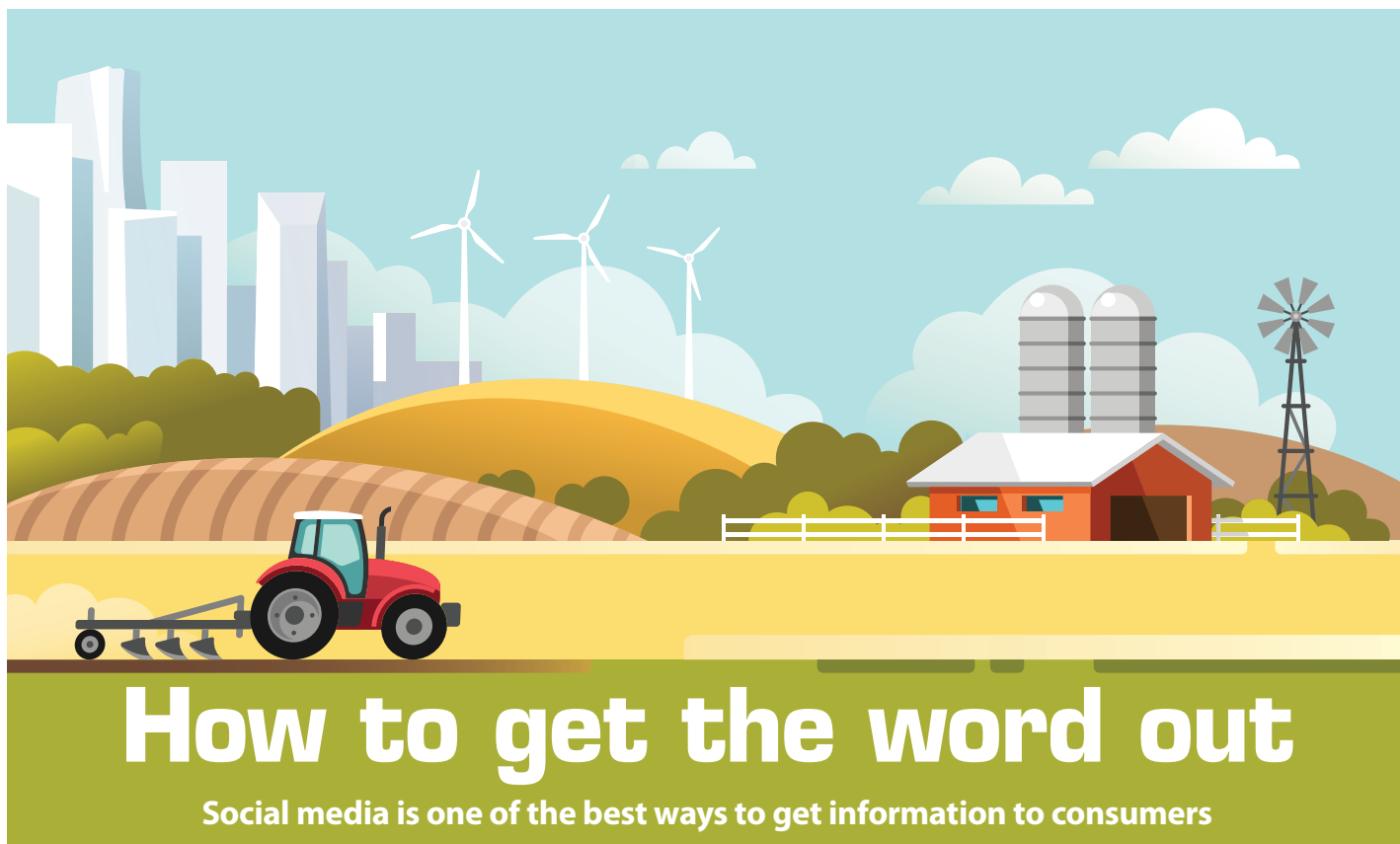
**Simply stated, the world needs another nearly perfect growing season across the Northern Hemisphere.**

U.S. corn, wheat and soybean ending supplies will tighten further in the 2021-22 marketing year EVEN WITH record yield estimates. Old crop soybean stocks will be at bin-bottom levels. That means 2021-22 soybean ending stocks will also be at bin bottoms. The 2021-22 corn ending supplies will also tighten significantly next year with record yields. Wheat stocks will also tighten. Record yields for corn, soybeans and wheat is a stretch considering the current dry conditions across the western half of the U.S. when coupled with warm and dry summer forecasts. No one knows what the summer will bring, but there is no room in U.S. or world balance sheets for any significant production problems.

We already know that corn and soybean production in Argentina will be smaller than the USDA's April estimates. It is becoming evident that Brazil's 2021 corn crop will also be smaller than expected. Western Europe has some potential problems with cold weather and dry conditions. Western Canada is in a significant drought, although it is early enough for that situation to improve. Most of the Black Sea region is okay today.

Old crop and new crop prices should push to new highs based on what we see happening today. Markets have ignored the gradual tightening of supplies and underestimated China's needs. Supply cushions have been absorbed. Weather will now be the key factor for the next three to four months. ■

**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.



By Grace Hanning  
*Wheat Ambassador*

We all witnessed the panic buying and food flying off the shelves at the beginning of the pandemic. I'll never forget the sight of the bread aisle at my local Fred Meyer being completely bare. People were calling us asking if we had beef for sale. Even if we did, the butchers quickly filled up, and there were no appointments available.

For those of us involved in farming, our worlds didn't change much. Our animals still needed to be fed every day, and our crops still needed to be sprayed, harvested and taken to the elevators. We watched our friends be locked down and not able to go to work, but showing up to our jobs became more important than ever.

Posts appeared on social media praising farmers for still going to work while plenty of people were scared and uncertain of the future. I also realized during that time that it's not just the farmers that are important but all the support system too. The grocery store workers, truck drivers, food processors and many other crucial parts of the chain also played a big role in keeping America fed. Even as the farmers brought in crops from the field, the shutdowns in processing plants and lack of workers made it difficult to



get the products to the consumers.

I can say that I am very proud to be part of an industry that stepped up and continued the work that needed to be done in the face of unprecedented uncertainty. Farming and ranching are the most essential of all essential jobs, and what I witnessed the past year furthered my resolve to someday have a career in agriculture.

Social media is hands down the easiest way to get information to consumers who weren't raised on a farm. That's why it is so important to have someone who is comfortable with both social media and farming running the social media accounts for farm groups. Using pictures that will catch attention and simple, interesting facts are good ideas for getting a message across, even to those who have no knowledge of farming themselves. The hard truth is that sometimes social media spreads around a negative and even false image of farmers. As the saying goes, "If you don't tell your story, someone else will!" Being willing to openly and respectfully answer questions will show transparency and affirm that we have nothing to hide.

Besides organized farm groups running social media accounts and pushing out information, individual farmers can too! Even if it's just using your own social media to post an interesting picture here or there or a quick statement about why you are doing a certain task, your nonfarm audience may find it very educational and



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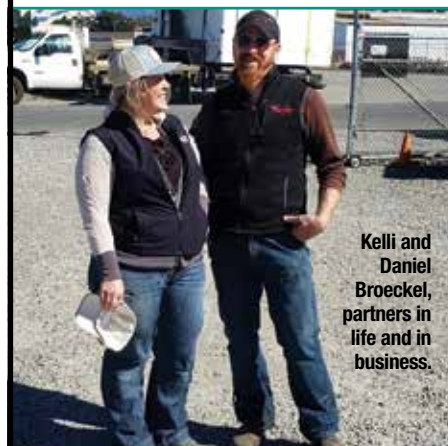
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thought-provoking. I think we sometimes forget that the things that seem very ordinary and everyday to us can be completely foreign and strange to a friend raised in an urban environment. There are a variety of social media options to choose from and telling your story can be fun! Always be prepared to accurately answer questions about farm-related topics that may be in the news. We always hope that consumers will ask a farmer directly if they have a question or concern, so we need to be ready when they do. Even wearing your Washington Association of Wheat Growers hat to the grocery store might create an opening for a curious person to strike up a conversation about what you do for a living!

One of my favorite events of my high school years has been the yearly Ag Day that my FFA chapter puts on. Even though we live in a rural community, it is always surprising how many school-aged children do not know a thing about where their food comes from. Getting the surrounding schools together and exposing them to farming facts, animals and tractors is a great learning experience for the young kids. Our FFA chapter also frequently visits elementary classrooms to teach lessons related to agriculture. Supporting your local FFA chapter so they may continue outreach is a good way to indirectly spread the

good news about farming.

County fairs are another great opportunity to share the farming message with younger community members. Our fair has a "Grain King" competition where local farmers enter a grain sample for judging. The samples are then set out as a display, and the community is able to see the difference in the samples.

However YOU choose to reach consumers, it is beneficial. Promote your industry; there is a lot to be proud of! ■

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The Columbia Basin Foundation is a community foundation that serves the Columbia Basin and beyond. As a tax-exempt public charity, CBF enables people to establish charitable funds. Community foundations like CBF make grants to community groups from funds established by individuals, families and businesses who wish to support the work of nonprofits, schools and other organizations that address community needs. Assets donated to CBF create one of several types of funds to support your charitable goals such as a scholarship fund or designated fund. A fund can be created in honor of someone you love or for a nonprofit that you want to support. You can direct your gift broadly wherever needs are the greatest or to issues you care about deeply. Your fund's assets will be pooled with our other funds



### PLANTING SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE

Locally grown since 1994, the Columbia Basin Foundation has been improving and shaping the quality of life in the Columbia Basin and beyond. As a 501c3 non-profit community foundation, our mission is to meet the needs of the communities we serve. The Basin is deeply rooted in agriculture, and we see the future of our agricultural communities dependent on the next generation receiving the proper education and training to pursue their agricultural careers. Thus, the **Columbia Basin Foundation Agriculture Education Endowment** has been established. The Endowment will provide educational scholarships for students pursuing careers in agriculture and funding for agriculture organizations, clubs, events and activities.

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and managed by investment professionals. The foundation's distribution design is created to spend a portion of the growth each year from the fund and retain earnings each year to "grow the fund" allowing the fund to be in place for perpetuity.

Like all community foundations, we are governed by a volunteer Board of Directors comprised of leading citizens and professionals with expertise in knowing community needs. We go beyond simply making grants to advance charitable activities. We also strive to identify current and emerging issues in our communities and stimulate resources to address those needs and help our region prepare for the future. During COVID-19, CBF established our COVID-19 Crisis Fund and raised \$126,000 in 30 days to assist food security, youth services, family services, senior services, first responders, small business support, and mental health services. During this pandemic, CBF business has been as busy as ever because communities are depending on us for support and direction during the crisis. Clearly, we provide a conduit of charitable giving and are a gathering place for generosity.

At CBF, we keep our system simple. We offer you the power and flexibility in charitable giving without the paperwork, time and expenses associated with managing your own private foundation. We assist donors in setting up funds that will maximize both tax advantages and community impact.

However you decide to give, your gift changes lives today and in the future. For farmers and ranchers, the CBF Ag Endowment is one way for the agricultural community to set aside funding for students to pursue degrees in agriculture and dollars for 4H, FFA and Ag awareness programs. Please contact Executive Director, Corinne Isaak for more information.

### Key features of a community foundation include:

#### SIMPLICITY

Creating a philanthropic fund through a community foundation can avoid the legal complexity, administrative burdens and compliance requirements of establishing and maintaining a private foundation.

#### TAX BENEFITS

Gifts and bequests to a community foundation typically receive maximum income, gift and estate tax benefits; integrating a charitable giving program through a community foundation with your overall financial plan can further these benefits.

#### COMMUNITY IMPACT

Giving through a community foundation allows donors to put their charitable dollars directly to work in their own communities.

#### FLEXIBILITY

A community foundation can accept nearly any kind of gift, from cash and real estate to stock, QCD and other appreciated assets. An individual, family, business or organization can create a philanthropic fund for virtually any charitable purpose.

#### RECOGNITION

Endowing a fund at a community foundation is a fitting way to memorialize or honor a loved one and create a permanent legacy to be remembered for generations. Also, if a donor is interested in complete anonymity to protect their identity, this type of fund can be established as well.

#### COST EFFECTIVENESS

Because a community foundation manages many individual donor gifts, it can service and administer each of them at a fraction of the cost of a private foundation or smaller non-profit organization. The Columbia Basin Foundation looks forward to working with you. We are just a call away and can assist you in creating a lasting legacy that will benefit the community where you have lived and worked for your lifetime.

## Consider leaving a charitable gift as a legacy

By Aaron McMurray

*Chief Strategy Officer, Innovia Foundation*

In a region like ours, we prepare for the inevitable change in seasons. From planting and harvesting, to planning for the future and finally enjoying the fruits of our labor, there truly is a season for everything.

As the community foundation for Eastern Washington and North Idaho, Innovia Foundation recognizes the unique season we are living through right now. A recent transfer of wealth study for our region ([innovia.org/news/5percent/](https://innovia.org/news/5percent/)) shows that over the next 10 years, nearly \$42 billion in wealth will transfer from one generation to the next—a historically unprecedented number. Much of that wealth is held by folks who don't consider themselves wealthy—farmers, teachers, community volunteers and small business owners. As individuals, we may not feel that our charitable contributions can make a difference, but collectively, the impact we could have is staggering. If even 5 percent of the wealth in our region is set aside for community endowments or nonprofits, we would see more than \$2 billion invested in leaving stronger, healthier, safer and more vibrant communities for the season

awaiting the next generation.

The transfer of wealth study also showed that a vast majority of the wealth in our region is held in appreciated, noncash assets, like real estate, farms, life insurance policies or retirement accounts. In many cases, without intentional estate planning, much of that wealth will leave this region to heirs or trustees who do not maintain a connection to communities in this area, or it will go to pay taxes that might have been avoided.

However, it doesn't have to be this way. Just as we recognize the inevitable passing of seasons, we can see that the time is now for generous people across our region to work together and leave a legacy that resonates for decades to come.

Inspired by the unique opportunity to galvanize charitable giving and create significant and meaningful community impact, Innovia Foundation has launched a 5 percent campaign for our region. This campaign will involve many community partners working together to inspire people in Eastern Washington and North Idaho to plan now to leave 5 percent of their wealth to local com-





munity endowments and nonprofits. Just 5 percent will make a massive difference.

In rural communities, the exodus of wealth can be particularly devastating, drawing community resources out of formerly active small towns. The 5 percent campaign provides a way for all of us, joining as friends and neighbors, to bring hope and vitality back to the communities we love.

An example of this kind of thoughtful planning and charitable impact can be seen in the late Willard Hennings and his wife, Patricia. As long-time farmers in Ritzville, the Hennings' passion for their community inspired them to give back to the place they had lived in and loved for decades.

The first fund they established was a beautification fund for the benefit of Ritzville. Additional planning, through their estate attorney, created an endowed fund in memory of their daughter, Tamara Hennings, to support a cancer research position at the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine at Washington State University.

Finally, they planned future gifts to start a scholarship for students in Ritzville, Washtucna, Lind, Kahlotus and Connell, and a fund to support graduate medical education to incentivize medical interns to establish their residencies in rural communities.

Imagine the impact if all of us followed the Hennings' example. Imagine the impact if landowners included a portion of their wealth, even 5 percent, to scholarship endowments to support local students who could then someday give back to the same community. Imagine the impact of rural economic development programs, funded through charitable endowments, to create jobs and open new opportunities for

rural communities to serve a global market. Imagine the impact of farms being placed in charitable endowments, rather than sold to the highest bidder, creating a lasting legacy for the community, while keeping production local.

Since 1974, Innovia Foundation's mission has been to ignite generosity that transforms lives and communities in Eastern Washington and North Idaho. We believe that philanthropy is most powerful when every person sees opportunities to give back to the place they call home. The 5 percent campaign is a call to action for generous, community-minded people to plan now to invest back into the community with the type of commitment and legacy that will be remembered for generations.

We invite you to join us. Imagine the impact. Imagine your impact.

Call Innovia Foundation at (509) 624-2606 or your professional advisor for more information about how you can participate in the 5 percent campaign to make a lasting impact for your community. ■



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# THE BOTTOM LINE

## Using an LLC to protect a family vacation home

By William O. Etter

Attorney, Foster Garvey PC

One of the most treasured assets for many families is a part-time, seasonal residence (a “family vacation home” or “FVH”). Whether it is a lake place, river property or hunting cabin, families often attach a larger value to a FVH than a specific monetary amount due to the lasting memories and family bonds forged through a lifetime of use. In the context of estate planning though, a FVH creates a unique set of issues. How do the current owners (assume it is “mom and dad”) insulate themselves from personal liability associated with the FVH? When ownership transitions to the next generation, how will the use of the FVH and the costs associated with ownership be handled equitably among the new owners? How can mom and dad ensure that the FVH stays in the family? An effective approach to solving these issues is the use of a limited liability company (LLC).

### What is an LLC?

An LLC is a separate legal entity created under state law that provides its owners (called “members” under Washington law) protection from liabilities incurred by the LLC. In Washington, an LLC is created by the filing of a Certificate of Formation with the Washington Secretary of State and the payment of a modest filing fee (currently \$180). Once the LLC is formed with the state, the members should engage legal counsel to draft a limited liability company agreement (often called an “operating agreement”), which governs the operation of the LLC. As discussed below, the operating agreement is the most important legal document of the LLC and the primary means to address ownership transition issues.

For purposes of utilizing a LLC in the context of FVH ownership, once the LLC is formed, the current owners of the FVH would record a quit claim deed transferring title to the FVH to the LLC. The current owners would then own a 100 percent interest in the LLC, which in turn, would own a 100 percent interest in the FVH.

### Liability protection

A primary benefit of the LLC structure is the protection from personal liability that is afforded the owners of the FVH. If mom and dad own the FVH in their individual names, then they may be personally liable for any liabilities related to the property. For example, assume a college-aged grandson decides to use the FVH one summer weekend for an informal gathering of his friends (assume also that this gathering has not been approved by mom and dad). After consumption of one too many adult beverages, an attendee of the gathering is catastrophically injured. If litigation were to ensue from this incident, mom and dad would very likely be a named defendant as owners of the FVH where the accident occurred. Since mom and dad own the FVH in their individual names, all of their personal assets (not just the FVH) would potentially be up for grabs in that lawsuit.

As an alternative, assume the same facts as above, but instead, the FVH is owned by an LLC, not mom and dad individually. In any future litigation, the property owner that may be sued is the LLC, not mom and dad individually. The only assets held by the LLC are the FVH and a small LLC bank account used to pay annual expenses related to the property. Through use of the LLC, mom and dad have effectively shielded their personal assets (other than the FVH) from the lawsuit.

### Ownership transition and transfer restrictions

An LLC may also serve as an efficient mechanism to transfer ownership of the FVH from mom and dad to the next generation. The most common issue I experience in assisting clients’ transition of ownership of the FVH to the next generation concerns the equitable use of the FVH and the efficient collection of each owner’s share of expenses. Even though the next generation may assume they are receiving the FVH for “free” through inheritance from mom and dad, as with all real property, there are continuing, regular expenses—namely, proper-

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ty taxes, insurance and maintenance costs. In these types of scenarios, there always seems to be one next generation owner that maximizes their personal use of the FVH during the summer months, yet is nowhere to be found when it comes time to contribute their share of expenses related to the FVH upkeep.

An effective way to avoid this potential issue is through well-drafted, clear provisions in the LLC operating agreement. Remember, if the LLC owns the FVH, then when the next generation inherits ownership, they will receive

an interest in the LLC, and thus their ownership will be subject to the terms and conditions of the operating agreement. It is common to include provisions in the operating agreement providing for how much and when each member gets to use the FVH, in addition to when each member must pay his or her share of LLC expenses. If a member refuses to pay his or her fair share, the operating agreement may provide that such member's interest in the LLC is diluted or forfeited.

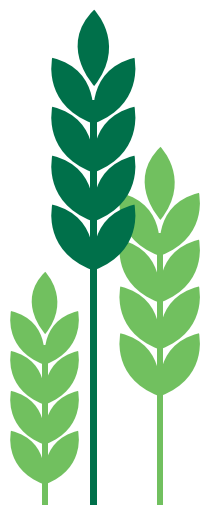
Finally, the LLC structure can also ensure that ownership of the FVH remains within the lineal descendants of mom and dad. This can be accomplished by including certain transfer restrictions in the LLC operating agreement that limit ownership of the LLC to mom and dad's children and grandchildren. These provisions ensure that a son-in-law or daughter-in-law never receives an ownership interest in the LLC, which is particularly helpful in the case of a later divorce of an LLC member. ■

**William O. Etter** is a tax attorney that specializes in estate planning, probate, and trust administration in the Spokane office of Foster Garvey PC. He has previously served on the executive committee of the Real Property, Probate, and Trust section of the Washington State Bar Association and can be reached at (509) 777-1600 or at [william.etter@foster.com](mailto:william.etter@foster.com).

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A bountiful harvest for John Laib just outside of Dayton.  
Photo by Jessica Nelson.



Audrie (16) and Paityn (6) at Deardorff Farms  
in Colville. Photo by Jayson Deardorff.



Nick Wittman harvesting wheat in Uniontown. Photo by Ed Anegon.





(Above) Jackson Plucker (2) felt like king of the wheat field, when his daddy (Chris) let him drive at his great-grandfather Robert Plucker's farm in Touchet. Photo by Tami Plucker.  
(Left) Hilty (3) and Henry (8) looking for a ride during KHEM Farms' harvest outside Rosalia. Photo by Erin Lundt.



Harvest at Alpowa Ridge Farms in Pomeroy, owned by Nate and Taylor Gilbert. Photo by Keishia Gilbert.



Piper (6) and Caulder (7) Lockard visiting Eslick Farms for a day during the 2020 harvest. Photo by Lindsay Lockard.



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