

WHEAT LIFE

The official publication of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers

JULY | 2019



**On the
education
of growers,
policymakers**



- Legislative Food and Farming Tour
- Wheat College
- County grower meetings
- Lind Field Day

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WHEAT LIFE

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**WASHINGTON
ASSOCIATION OF
WHEAT GROWERS**

109 East First Avenue
Ritzville, WA 99169-2394
(509) 659-0610 • (877) 740-2666

WAWG MEMBERSHIP

(509) 659-0610 • (877) 740-2666
\$125 per year

EDITOR

Trista Crossley • editor@wawg.org
(435) 260-8888

AD SALES MANAGER

Kevin Gaffney • KevinGaffney@mac.com
(509) 235-2715

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Devin Taylor • Trista Crossley

AD BILLING

Michelle Hennings • michelle@wawg.org
(509) 659-0610 • (877) 740-2666

CIRCULATION

Address changes, extra copies, subscriptions
Chauna Carlson • chauna@wawg.org
(509) 659-0610 • (877) 740-2666
Subscriptions are \$50 per year

WAWG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Michelle Hennings

WAWG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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President's Perspective



School is never out for farmers

By Jeffrey Shawver

June may be the month when schools let out for the summer, but for Washington wheat growers, last month was overflowing with educational opportunities. We held our annual Wheat College in Dayton where growers learned about soil fertility and soil sampling, 2018 Farm Bill program options, precision agriculture, marketing and grass identification. Growers gathered at the Lind Dryland

Research Station to hear the latest updates on soil health, winter peas, biosolids and spring and winter wheat research. Washington Association of Wheat Growers' (WAWG) leaders and staff took part in a legislative tour that brought policymakers out of their Olympia offices and onto farms in the Columbia Basin. Finally, we saw variety testing plot tours happening all around the region. These tours give growers the opportunity to evaluate how well suited new and upcoming varieties are to their area.

I've been farming for the last decade, and even in that relatively short time, I've seen some huge advances in technology. I remember when I got my first GPS. There was definitely a learning curve as I figured out how to use the technology to effectively apply different rates of chemicals and fertilizer on different parts of my field to maximize my yields while minimizing my expenses.

I think most farmers these days are highly educated, but there's always something new to learn in some area. Farming is a business; it's not just working the ground anymore. Farmers have to understand bookkeeping, and they have to be at least a little comfortable marketing their grain. They also have to be part scientist and part banker. And last but not least, they have to be an advocate for their industry. The workshops and seminars that WAWG provides try to fill in some of those gaps, and I think we do a great job, especially the staff in Ritzville.

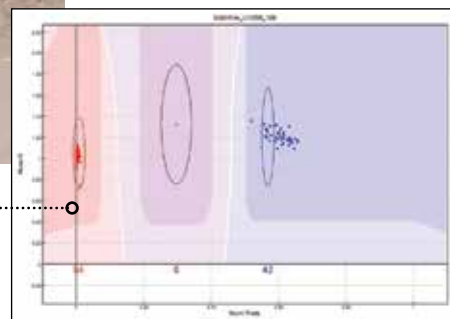
Speaking of education and advocacy, one of the most important things WAWG does, I believe, is participate in events that bring legislators who live in the city out to the farm. When policymakers who know nothing about farming can see where and how crops are grown and talk to the people growing them, it makes a big impression. They very quickly realize that crops don't just magically appear in the grocery store, that there are living, breathing humans who are working hard to grow food that is abundant and healthy for the public and for the environment. Just like farmers might need some education on how to use the latest technology, legislators need some education on how that technology helps the environment and helps us save money.

By the time you read this column, there's a good chance that harvest has started in the southern part of the state. In my area, we'll be firing up the combines likely in mid-July. It's always gratifying to see all the hard work of the past year pay off, and I look forward to putting this crop away. I hope you all have a safe and bountiful harvest. ■

Cover photo: Growers had a lot of educational opportunities last month, from the annual Wheat College in Dayton to Lind Field Day, not to mention the many county meetings and variety testing plot tours that happened around the region. State legislators also got in on the act, as they took part in an annual ag legislative tour in the Columbia Basin. Stories and photos are inside this issue. All photos are Shutterstock images or taken by *Wheat Life* staff unless otherwise noted.

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Contributors

Jeffrey Shawver, president, Washington Association of Wheat Growers
Gary Bailey, chairman, Washington Grain Commission
Scott A. Yates, communications director, Washington Grain Commission
Steve Mercer, vice president of communications, U.S. Wheat Associates

Arron Carter, associate professor. O.A. Vogel Endowed Chair of Wheat Breeding and Genetics, Washington State University
Mike Krueger, president and founder, The Money Farm
Daniel Moore, wheat farmer, Lacrosse, Wash.
Tim Cobb, president, Hatley/Cobb
Dr. David M. Kohl, president, AgriVisions, LLC

Dialogue

Share your comments with us by emailing them to editor@wawg.org or mail them to 109 East First Avenue, Ritzville, WA 99169-2394. Please keep your submissions less than 300 words.

More to that 'dam' story than meets the eye

Many people have done a fine job explaining why removing the lower Snake River dams would hurt our farm economy and really not accomplish the goal of restoring the number of Southern Resident Killer Whales (orcas).

There are a couple of issues that I believe need to be covered to help people understand that we need those dams, but also want to consider other problems associated with dwindling orca numbers.

A lot of environmental groups claim that the dams are not needed for power production, because of wind and solar projects, and that they really don't produce that much electricity.

The facts show that each dam produces 3,000 megawatts of carbon-free power. That is enough to power 300,000 homes. I discovered that the Bonneville Power Administration released a statement on March 4, where they asked customers to conserve energy. At issue was a strain on the region's electricity system, or basically a shortage. I think very few people heard that we could actually be running short on electric production. Were you aware of this? This was caused by a situation when water flows on the river were low, the wind wasn't blowing, and the sun wasn't shining. At least the dams operate 24 hours a day, every day.

With more people moving to the Pacific Northwest, along with industries that want our cheap source of power, keeping the dams in place is extremely important. Unless we want to burn fossil fuels, which need to be eliminated by 2045 because of legislative action, you have to question where will we get the power that we need.

Another issue which hardly makes the press is the amount of sewage being dumped into the Puget Sound. Some of this pollution has come from Seattle. A flood shut down the state's largest wastewater treatment plant in 2017 and dumped unknown millions of gallons of untreated waste into the sound. Emergency discharges on three occasions since the flood dumped 235 million gallons of untreated wastewater, including 30 million gallons of raw sewage.

It is not just the sewage that causes concern, but also the water runoff from the 4 million people who live around



Puget Sound. Everything from gasoline, brake dust, oil, antifreeze, plastic, building materials and pesticides from lawns can end up in the water. What is being done to curb that pollution?

Seattle is not the most egregious culprit when it comes to pollution. That claim has to go to Victoria, B.C. For more than 100 years, they have been dumping raw sewage into the Salish Sea, which adjoins the Puget Sound. With a population of 400,000, they are dumping 31.8 million gallons of raw sewage per day into the water. That amounts to more than 11 billion gallons per year. They hope to have a treatment facility completed by 2020.

The bottom line of this pollution is that it is unknown what effect this may have on the declining orca population. It surely must be taken into account, along with Chinook salmon numbers, predators, ocean conditions, overfishing, increased spills at the dams and gill netting.

I hope we do not rush to judgement when it comes to finding solutions that will benefit us, the Snake River dams and the orcas. ■

Randy Suess is a retired wheat farmer from Whitman County. He served on the Washington Grain Commission for many years. He is the president of the Whitman County wheat growers group.



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LEVELS OF MEMBERSHIP

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Grower or Landlord \$125	X	X	X			X
Family \$200 (2 family members)	X	X	X			X
Partnership \$500 (1-5 family members)	X	X	X	X		X
Convention \$600 (2 individuals)	X	X	X		X	X
Lifetime \$2,500 (1 individual)	X	X	X	X		X
Non-Voting Membership						
Student \$75	X	X	X			
Industry Associate \$150	X	X	X			

WAWG's current top priorities are:

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

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.

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



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Board members pass budget before harvest break

June's state board meeting of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) was brief, with board members quickly resolving business before the harvest break. The next time the board meets will be in September.

The main order of business was to pass the 2019-20 budget and to approve a motion that allows the executive committee to take care of business as necessary until the board meets again.

Ben Thiel, Spokane regional office director of the Risk Management Agency, brought in planting date maps in response to a board request to review them. Diana Carlen, WAWG's lobbyist, attended the meeting, updating the board on the Legislature's interim activities, which mostly are focused on workgroups. One of those workgroups, Gov. Inslee's Orca Task Force, met last month to discuss vessel impacts to orcas, the impacts of current and projected population growth in the Puget Sound region and what happens after the task force expires this fall.

The next Washington Association of Wheat Growers board meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 10, beginning at 10 a.m. in the Wheat Foundation Building in Ritzville, Wash.



LIND FIELD DAY. Washington Association of Wheat Growers' (WAWG) president, Jeffrey Shawver, spoke to attendees at last month's Lind Field Day on WAWG's recent activities, including Wheat College and the recent ag legislative tour. Representatives from other stakeholder groups also gave updates.

The board also discussed the recent press release from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) regarding the recent discovery of GE wheat in Washington which highlighted APHIS communication efforts and that there is no evidence that GE wheat has entered the food supply. See page 24 for more information. ■

NAWG submits testimony to committees

On June 11, National Association of Wheat Growers President Ben Scholz submitted testimony to the House Agriculture Livestock and Foreign Agriculture Subcommittee in a hearing looking at the current state of U.S. agricultural products in international markets. In his remarks, Scholz argued that "...wheat farmers are facing an incredibly challenging economic environment and that trade disruptions have negatively impacted farmers." His testimony also focused on the importance of finalizing the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), holding China to its World Trade Organization commitments and securing a trade deal with Japan. On June 13, the Senate Committee on Agriculture held a similar hearing which looked at the certainty in global markets for U.S. agriculture. Scholz also submitted testimony for the record. ■



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PNWVT	2017	2018
Control Varieties	lbs. per acre (<i>rank</i>)	
Athena	3,805 (14)	4,084 (10)
Dwarf Essex Rapeseed	3,678 (20)	3,413 (28)
Ericka	3,716 (18)	2,865 (30)
Rubisco Seeds' Hybrids		
Edimax CL	4,362 (3)	4,413 (5)
Mercedes	4,427 (1)	4,933 (1)
Plurax CL	4,397 (2)	4,708 (2)
Popular	---	4,706 (3)
Phoenix CL	---	4,636 (4)
PNWVT Mean	3,910	3,956
LSD (p=0.05)	285	326
C.V. (%)	15.0	14.7

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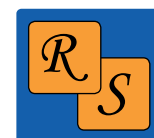
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FSA reporting deadline nears

To maintain program eligibility and benefits, producers must timely file acreage reports. Failure to file an acreage report by the crop acreage reporting deadline may result in ineligibility for future program benefits. FSA can no longer accept acreage reports provided more than a year after the applicable acreage reporting deadline.

County offices are currently scheduling appointments, so producers can timely report their spring planted acres. July 15, 2019, is the final day to report crops for the 2019 crop year. ■

Counties meet in June

Three counties held meetings last month, two in con-

Spokane County growers award scholarships to seniors

The Spokane County wheat growers have awarded scholarships this year to two graduating high school seniors, Jon Denny and Kolbey Browning, both from Fairfield, Wash.

Kolbey Browning

Kolbey Browning is hoping her experience growing up on her family's farm helps her succeed in her planned career path of bridging the gap between farmers and environmentalists who are pushing for big changes in how food is grown. She is the daughter of Kynda and Dean Browning and will be attending the University of Washington this fall, working towards a degree in environmental sciences and sustainability with an emphasis on ag resources.

"I want to thank the growers for giving me money to fund my future," she said. "I appreciate them seeing me as a worthy candidate."

For her last two years at Liberty High School, Browning has been taking classes at Spokane Falls Community College. She volunteers at SpokAnimal, a Spokane animal shelter, as well as at a waffle cone booth at local parades and the Southeast Spokane County Fair. All proceeds from the booth are donated to charity. While at Liberty, Browning was involved in FFA and Future Business Leaders of America, as well as volleyball.

Browning is aware that her chosen career path could be rocky, but she is confident she has a unique perspective that could bring both sides together, and she is willing to listen to both.

"(Some farmers) think I'm not willing to listen to



their point of view, but I do understand where they are coming from because I grew up on farm, and I've seen how farming is done," she explained. "There has to be a compromise. Farmers can't make huge changes right away, but they've got to be willing to not only listen but consider where (the other side) is coming from."

Jon Denny

Jon Denny is the son of Chad and Marie Denny. They grow wheat, barley, lentils, peas, garbanzos and hay on their farm, as well as keep about 200 head of cattle. Denny grew up helping out on the family's farm, along with his three siblings. He said driving the combine was his favorite farm task.

Denny will be attending Washington State University in the fall, where he'll be studying ag technology management and playing for the Cougars on the football field. After graduation, if his football career doesn't work out, he hopes to return to the farm to help out his father. He said he's thankful to the county wheat growers for awarding him a scholarship.

"I really respect everything they do as wheat growers," he said. "I've learned from my dad and grandpa that it takes a lot to be a successful wheat grower. This scholarship is very helpful. Because I'm a preferred walk-on on the football team, school isn't paid for, so this is important as it will help pay for tuition."

While at Liberty High School, Denny participated in FFA and Associated Student Body. He was president of both groups his senior year. Besides football, he also played basketball. ■



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junction with local Washington State University (WSU) variety testing plot tours.

Adams County

Following their variety testing plot tour, Adams County growers met at the Ritzville home of Ron Jirava to enjoy some BBQ. Michelle Hennings, executive director of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG), stopped in to update growers on what WAWG's been working on at the state and federal levels.

Hennings was just back from an ag tour for legislators in the Columbia Basin that WAWG helped sponsor (see page 30 for more information). Several of WAWG's recent lobbying activities have been in conjunction with the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) and Washington State University. She told the group that the wheat growers have successfully built a relationship with WSDA and Derek Sandison, WSDA director, that they haven't had for a long time. Other state issues that Hennings talked about were pesticides, preserving the Lower Snake River dams and working to oppose legislation on carbon emissions.

At the national level, WAWG has been advocating for quick implementation of the 2018 Farm Bill and working to educate policymakers on issues important to the wheat industry, especially trade and the need for fair trade agreements. While in Washington, D.C., wheat growers have been able to meet with the office of the U.S. Trade Representative, White House administration staff, U.S. Department of Agriculture officials and members of the House and Senate ag committees.

After hearing from Hennings, growers took care of some minor county business.

Benton County

Although Benton County's variety testing plots had a slight hiccup (many of them were accidentally sprayed), farmers still gathered to look over the surviving varieties before heading into the Horse Heaven Hills Community Center for a county meeting and lunch.



Benton County growers held their summer meeting at the Horse Heaven Hills Community Center following the local Washington State University variety testing plot tour.

Vic Reeve, weed control coordinator at the Benton County Noxious Weed Control Board, talked about the county roads spray program. State Rep. Bill Jenkins (R-Prosser) stopped in to give updates on many of the bills passed by the state Legislature this session. Farm Service Agency County Executive Director Victoria Barth brought growers up to speed on 2018 Farm Bill implementation and talked about an Agriculture Risk Coverage pilot program that Benton County is taking part in. Growers also heard farm bill updates from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Horse Heaven Grain's Larry Jenson talked about warehouse space and grain handling. Horse Heaven Grain also sponsored lunch for the growers. According to county vice president, Anthony Smith, it was a good turnout.

Douglas/Grant counties

Douglas and Grant county growers gathered at Larry and Marilyn Tanneberg's shop for a short county meeting, followed by their annual BBQ and the WSU plot tour.

WAWG leaders reviewed recent association activities, including multiple trips to Olympia and Washington, D.C. Ben

Adams, WAWG past president, discussed local, state and federal issues that WAWG has been working on, while Washington Grain Commissioner Mike Miller covered international trade and the recent discovery of GE wheat in Washington state that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is investigating. Owen Jorgensen, a Douglas County grower, spoke on behalf of the Foster Creek Conservation District. He also brought his 92-year-old mother, Betty, to the dinner for the first time!

Jeff Malone will take over as the new Douglas County president. The wheat growers want to thank the dinner sponsor, HighLine Grain Growers. ►



Before their local variety testing plot tour, Douglas and Grant county growers gathered at the Tanneberg's shop for a short county meeting to hear state and national updates and then dinner. Photo courtesy of Marilyn Tanneberg.

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Whitman County

Growers in Whitman County joined more than a dozen WSU and Agricultural Research Service personnel at their June meeting at the South Fork Restaurant in Pullman. According to county president Randy Suess, the dinner meeting was an opportunity to visit with researchers and thank them for the work they do on behalf of wheat growers.

Prior to the dinner, growers held a quick county meeting where they voted to donate money to the Washington Wheat Foundation's June shoot, as well as some funding to Whitman County Extension. ■



Whitman County growers invited Washington State University and Agricultural Research Service researchers and breeders to a dinner to thank them for all the work they do on growers' behalf.

Year in Review 2018/19

This past year, the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) dealt with a number of issues impacting growers, including passage of the 2018 Farm Bill, renewed attacks on the lower Snake River dams, retaliatory trade tariffs and more. Here's a quick look at some of the issues agriculture dealt with, and how your WAWG leaders spent their time advocating for the wheat industry.

JULY 2018

For WAWG leaders, the fiscal year starts off with a trip to Washington, D.C., to take part in the Washington State University (WSU)/Washington State Department of Agriculture's (WSDA) first ever **Taste of Washington** trip. This event showcased the Evergreen state's agricultural industry to Congress. While in the nation's capital, WAWG leaders also take the opportunity to lobby policymakers on the importance of the 2018 Farm Bill.

Throughout this year, pesticide regulation is never far from WAWG's radar screen. At the end of the 2018 Legislative Session, the Washington State Legislature authorized a **Pesticide Application Safety Workgroup** to study the use of pesticides in the state and to develop recommendations for improving the safety of pesticide applications. In July, the workgroup holds a farm tour in Quincy, Wash., to look at advancements in sprayer technology and equipment.

Eastern Washington plays host to two high-level U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) officials this month. Ag

Secretary **Sonny Perdue** spends two days in Washington state talking to producers and visiting WSU agricultural research facilities. Just a few weeks later, **Bill Northey**, USDA undersecretary for farm production and conservation, arrives in Eastern Washington to talk to producers about conservation practices and programs, crop rotations and trade.

The Trump Administration announces it will provide \$12 billion to help farmers impacted by retaliatory tariffs, mainly from China. The **Market Facilitation Program** authorizes \$.14 per bushel for wheat. WAWG and the national wheat organizations express their disappointment with the payment, saying the loss wheat farmers are experiencing is actually closer to \$.75 per bushel. They encourage the administration to focus on ending the trade war with China, as well as passing fair trade agreements with other countries, such as Canada, Mexico and Japan. "Trade, not aid" becomes the wheat industry's unofficial slogan.

Progress on passing the **2018 Farm Bill** takes a big step forward this month when leaders of the U.S. House of Representatives name the House conferees.

The Eastern Washington wheat industry says goodbye to **Andy Rustemeyer** who passed away in his home in Sprague, Wash., on July 12. He was president of WAWG in 1992/93.

Harvest starts in earnest in parts of Washington state.

AUGUST 2018

The **Pesticide Application Safety Workgroup** holds its third meeting, this time in Yakima. WSDA, Labor &

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Industry and the Department of Health each give presentations on their investigative process when a pesticide exposure complaint is made. Participants also hear about a California pilot program on advance application notification.

Rep. Mike Conaway (R-Texas) travels through Eastern Washington to talk about the farm bill, trade and trade relief.

SEPTEMBER 2018

WAWG President Marci Green testifies in front of the **U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources** during a full committee oversight hearing in Pasco, Wash. The hearing focuses on the economic and environmental benefits of federal infrastructure on the Columbia and Snake rivers and the challenges to their long-term viability.

At the September board meeting, growers hear from representatives of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) about how the department is working with solar companies to **lease DNR land for solar farms**. According to the agency, approximately 30 parcels in the southeast region of the state have been identified as potential sites. DNR is actively moving forward on several of those sites.

WAWG leaders take part in a **policy fly-in** to Washington, D.C., organized by the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG). At this time, the farm bill conference committee is trying to reconcile the House and Senate versions of the 2018 Farm Bill. Growers had meetings with Washington state's federal delegation to emphasize the need for swift passage of the farm bill before the old one expires on Sept. 30...

...which comes and goes without any new legislation. Despite pressure from ag groups across the country, lawmakers are unable to come to a consensus and vote on a new farm bill before the deadline. The **expiration of the 2014 Farm Bill** leaves approximately 39 farm programs unauthorized, including overseas market development programs and conservation programs.

For the most part, **wheat harvest wraps up** in Eastern Washington. The winter wheat crop comes in at an average 76 bushels per acre, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

The **Pesticide Application Safety Workgroup** holds its final meeting in Olympia. Their next step is to begin drafting a report for the Legislature on their findings and recommendations.

OCTOBER 2018

WAWG submits comments on draft recommendations

stemming from a Washington state taskforce created by Gov. Inslee to study the recovery and future sustainability of the southern resident killer whales. In its comments, WAWG reiterates support for the lower Snake River dams and advocates using science to make environmental decisions.

WAWG joins a **coalition opposed to Initiative 1631**, which would enact a carbon emissions fee of \$15 per metric ton of carbon on certain large emitters beginning in 2020. The measure fails at the ballot with more than 56 percent of Washington voters rejecting it.

WAWG leaders find their work moving from the field and into the conference room as they take part in **NAWG's annual fall meetings** in Tampa, Fla. The meetings give NAWG committees an opportunity to discuss issues and set policy.

NOVEMBER 2018

Prior to the 2018 Tri-State Grain Growers Convention, many **county meetings** are held so growers can discuss issues and review resolutions. In Franklin County, Leonard Van Buren takes over as president, while Nolan Hollebeke becomes vice president. Bill Harder Jr. remains in the secretary/treasurer position.

The wheat organizations of Washington, Oregon and Idaho wrap up another successful **Tri-State Grain Growers Convention**, this year in Portland, Ore. Approximately 300 growers make the trip west to hear from state and national leaders, learn about the issues affecting the industry and to socialize. One highlight of the convention is the keynote presentation by former U.S. Army Ranger Keni Thomas, whose combat experiences in Somalia became the basis for a book and movie. Ambassador Gregg Doud, chief agricultural negotiator in the office of the U.S. Trade Representative, and Jason Hafemeister, special trade council to the USDA agriculture secretary, address trade issues, while Dr. Randy Fortenbery, an economist at WSU, moderates a panel of exporters talking about the grain export market.

Awards are also handed out at the convention. During the Washington annual banquet, Douglas County grower Ben Adams is named **WAWG member of the year**, while Benton County is named **WAWG county of the year**. WAWG President Marci Green hands the gavel to incoming president, Jeffrey Shawver of Franklin County. Grant County grower Ryan Poe steps into the vice president's seat, and Howard McDonald, a grower from Douglas County, becomes the new secretary/treasurer.

Two new **Washington Wheat Ambassadors** are named for 2018/19. Evan Henning of Thornton, Wash., and Lacey



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Miller of Ritzville, Wash., will be advocating alongside growers throughout the year and learning how WAWG works.

The results of the **November 2018 elections** bring solid Democratic majorities in both the state House and state Senate. At the federal level, Republicans lose their majority in the House. Retiring Republican Rep. Dave Reichert's District 8 seat goes to Democrat Kim Schrier, while Republican incumbents Jamie Herrera Beutler (District 3), Dan Newhouse (District 4) and Cathy McMorris Rodgers (District 5) all hold onto their seats, as does Democratic Sen. Maria Cantwell. Schrier will eventually be named to the House Agriculture Committee.

WAWG members and staff attend meetings of the **Ag Burning Task Force** and the **Palouse River and Coulee City (PCC) Shortline Rail Authority**.

DECEMBER 2018

After more than a year of negotiating and compromise, the bipartisan **2018 Farm Bill is passed** and is signed into law right before Christmas. The Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC)-County, ARC-Individual and Price Loss Coverage programs are reauthorized, and farmers will be able to re-elect their programs multiple times through the life of the bill. Other changes include an increase in the Conservation Reserve Program acreage cap and a directive to the Risk Management Agency (RMA) to develop an alternative method of adjusting for quality losses that doesn't impact a producer's actual production history. The bill also directs the Farm Service Agency to use RMA data, when available, when setting program payments.

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee releases his **proposed budget**, which includes \$1.1 billion geared towards saving the southern resident killer whale population. Of particular concern to wheat growers is the \$750,000 set aside for a task force to investigate the impacts of removing the lower Snake River dams.

The state-owned **PCC rail system** gets a major boost when it is selected as one of the recipients of a federal BUILD grant. The grant's \$5.6 million will be matched with state and private funding.

Eddie Johnson, a former Washington Grain Commissioner and Lincoln County grower, passes away on Dec. 4.

The longest **federal government shutdown** in history begins, as neither side can agree on government funding. The shutdown ultimately lasts 35 days, seriously delaying implementation of the 2018 Farm Bill.

JANUARY 2019

The **2019 Washington State Legislature**, with its

Democratic majorities, hits the ground running, introducing in the first few weeks bills that would tighten emission limits and set low carbon fuel standards. Gov. Inslee, in his State of the State address, outlines his top priorities for the 2019 Legislative Session that, to no one's surprise, includes policies addressing climate change. The centerpiece of the governor's agenda is a 100 percent clean energy bill that would require all electric utilities to be 100 percent carbon free by 2045.

The **Pesticide Application Safety Workgroup** releases its report, calling for expanded training for pesticide applicators and handlers and the establishment of a new pesticide application safety panel. WAWG supports the report's conclusions.

Growers and WAWG staff **flood Olympia** for two days of meeting with legislators to talk about the industry's top issues including preserving the Snake River dams; protecting existing tax policy by retaining all food and farm-related tax incentives; preserving Washington's economic competitiveness by not disadvantaging Washington farmers through low carbon fuel standard policies; increasing pesticide safety by supporting legislation that creates a pesticide application safety panel and increases funding for pesticide safety training; advocating for the soil health initiative; enhancing shortline rail infrastructure; and completing the WSU Global Animal Health Facility.

Volunteers man the WAWG booth at the **Eastern Washington Ag Expo** in Pasco, Wash. This is the fourth year WAWG has participated in the event.

FEBRUARY 2019

Visitors to WAWG's booth at the **Spokane Ag Expo** answer a wheat-related trivia question to enter a drawing for a television. Lance Lindgren, of Oakesdale, Wash., is the winner. Other giveaways include licorice, ice scrapers, letter openers and rulers. Membership forms and industry materials are also handed out.

A bill is introduced into the state legislature insinuating that the **agriculture industry engages in human trafficking and slavery**. The outcry from the state's farmers and ranchers is immediate and loud. The bill eventually dies in the Senate Rules Committee.

WAWG testifies in support of a bill that would **prohibit DNR from terminating a lease early**, other than for default, without the written consent of the lessee. The bill doesn't pass out of fiscal committee.

WAWG leaders and staff head to Washington, D.C., to take part in **NAWG's winter conference**. Besides attending committee meetings, wheat growers also spend two



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days on the Hill meeting with members of Washington's federal delegation, ag committee staff and USDA agency officials. Trade and farm bill implementation top the list of WAWG's priorities.

The **Agricultural Marketing and Management**

Organization's (AMMO) winter schedule kicks off with workshops on agricultural policy, weather outlooks, wheat export markets, production challenges and chemical applications.

Just days after returning from D.C., WAWG leaders and staff again take to the skies, bound for San Antonio, Texas, for the annual **Commodity Classic**. Nicole Berg, a Benton County grower and WAWG past president, is named NAWG treasurer.

Just as it looks like this winter will pass with barely a whimper, much of the state is slammed by a series of **February snow storms** that close roads, schools and airports.

MARCH 2019

During Senate floor debate in Olympia, Sen. John McCoy (D-Tulalip) says **Washington farmers don't pay any taxes**. The statement is quickly refuted by Sen. Mark Schoesler (R-Ritzville). The ag community in Washington rallies and provides lots of evidence that farmers do, in fact, pay taxes.

A bill establishing a **pesticide safety committee** passes both the state House and Senate. The state House passes a low carbon fuel standard, while the Senate transportation committee passes a revenue package that includes a carbon fee. The Legislature isn't done with clean energy policies yet, as a cap and trade bill is introduced in the Senate.

Approximately 600 5th grade students visit WAWG's booth at the **Benton-Franklin County Farm Fair** in Kennewick, Wash. Students learn what wheat farmers do during each season of the year and discuss what happens to wheat when it leaves the farm.

APRIL 2019

Michelle Hennings, WAWG's executive director, joins with many of the state's other commodities and stakeholder groups in an **agricultural lobbying effort in Olympia**. Some of the topics the group discusses with legislators are preserving the lower Snake River dams, the Soil Health Initiative, budget requests for the Office of Columbia River and H-2A worker legislation.

WAWG leaders and staff make **another trip back to D.C.** to advocate for trade and farm bill implementation. WSDA Director Derek Sandison joins the group for many of their meetings with policymakers.

WAWG signs a coalition letter asking members of the state Senate Ways and Means Committee to remove operating budget funding proposed by Gov. Inslee for a study that considers the impacts of breaching the lower Snake River dams. Unfortunately...

...The funding is ultimately included in the budget, which is passed with just minutes to spare by the state Legislature. Lawmakers approve a \$52.4 billion, two-year operating budget that included a number of tax increases, including a graduated real estate tax and an increase in the B&O tax for some service-type businesses.

As the **2019 Legislative Session comes to an on-time close**, a number of bills WAWG had an interest in had their fates decided. Bills that passed included one that implements the recommendations of the Pesticide Application Safety Workgroup (WAWG supported) and one that allows vehicles carrying farm products from the field to exceed road weight limits by up to 5 percent on public roads (WAWG supported). Bills that didn't pass included one that would have established minimum crew size requirements on trains transporting hazardous materials (WAWG opposed); only a fraction of the funding requested for the Soil Health Initiative was approved (WAWG supported funding the initiative); and a bill that would have incorporated environmental justice principles into agency rulemaking (WAWG opposed).

Carbon policies also meet with mixed results in this year's legislative session. The state Senate gives final approval to a law that requires Washington utilities to be 100 percent clean energy by 2045. The law also mandates a coal phase-out by 2025 by electrical utilities. Cap and trade legislation and a low carbon fuel standard are not passed.

The World Trade Organization rules that China's government does not fairly administer its annual **tariff rate quotas** for imports of corn, rice and wheat, news that is welcomed by the wheat industry.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service releases the **2017 Census of Agriculture**. Since the last census, in 2012, the number of farms and the amount of land in farms has declined slightly. There are fewer middle-sized farms with the largest and smallest farm operations growing. In addition, the average age of all farmers and ranchers increased slightly.

MAY 2019

It's **budget time** at WAWG. Financials are the main topic at the May state board meeting. Board members reviewed the proposed 2019/20 budget, which is a 2 percent increase over last year's budget.

Another month, another trip to Washington, D.C., for WAWG

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KEYNOTE

Geopolitical Strategist **PETER ZEIHAN** is a global energy, demographic and security expert. Zeihan's worldview marries the realities of geography and populations to a deep understanding of how global politics impact markets and economic trends, helping industry leaders navigate today's complex mix of geopolitical risks and opportunities.

KEYNOTE

Retired from playing baseball, **JIM MORRIS** was challenged to pursue his own goals. He was soon a major league player for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. A schoolteacher by trade, Jim is a loveable storyteller whose miracle story (as depicted in the movie "The Rookie") captivates and inspires audiences to never give up on a dream.

Additional keynote and break-out session topics to include weather forecast, budgeting, research, conservation, tax law, market outlook and many more.

USDA Deputy Secretary Stephen Censky has been invited!

Online registration opens Aug. 1.
For information, visit wawg.org/convention or call (877) 740-2666

leaders and staff as part of a **fly-in organized by NAWG**. Because the WAWG group had met with Washington's federal delegation just a few weeks prior, they spend this trip meeting with other states' congressional legislators. The importance of trade agreements to the U.S. wheat industry and farm bill implementation are stressed.

Every year, county wheat growers award **scholarships** to area high school seniors. This year, Asotin County growers award three to Anna Aarstad, Carmen Eggleston and Jolee Sanford. Up north, Spokane County wheat growers award two scholarships to Jon Denny and Kolbey Browning.

An **editorial** written by WAWG leaders opposing breaching the lower Snake River dams appears in newspapers across the PNW. In the op-ed piece, WAWG argues that the money allocated by the state to the study of breaching the dams is unnecessary and wasteful since the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is already undertaking a federally mandated environmental impact study on the dams.

Despite conducting a tremendous effort by NAWG's staff and grower leaders to find a solution, the North Dakota Grain Growers Association (NDGGA) chooses to **withdraw their membership** amid claims that they weren't being fairly represented by NAWG. WAWG leaders reiterate their belief in the value of the work NAWG does representing the wheat industry at the federal level.

On the trade front, the Trump Administration announces it will **remove Section 232 tariffs** on steel and aluminum imports from Mexico and Canada, hopefully paving the way towards approval of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement.

Lori Williams, WAWG's outreach coordinator, takes part in the **Lincoln County Conservation Day**, an annual event that brings hands-on learning to the county's sixth graders.

JUNE 2019

WAWG joins other commodities as sponsors of the annual **legislative Food and Farming Tour**. Approximately 20 legislators and their aides take part in the two-day event in the Columbia Basin. At the wheat stop, which takes place on one of Jeff Malone's Grant County fields, legislators saw a demo of the WEEDit technology (precision herbicide application equipment) and discussed pesticide regulations, trade and the lower Snake River dams. Afterwards, they snacked on bread slices with dipping oils and sampled regional beers (no barley, no beer!).

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This year's **Wheat College** takes place in Dayton, where more than 90 growers from around the Pacific Northwest learn about soil fertility and soil sampling, 2018 Farm Bill program options, precision agriculture, marketing and grass identification.

The 103rd annual **Lind Field Day** takes place on one of the hottest days so far this year. Growers gather at the nation's premiere dryland research station to hear the latest updates on soil health, winter peas, biosolids and spring and winter wheat research. ■

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POLICY MATTERS

Wheat growers sign letter urging ratification of USMCA

From the National Association of Wheat Growers

Nearly 1,000 groups representing the U.S. food and agriculture value chain at the national, state and local levels have called on Congress to support the ratification of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). In a letter sent to Congress, the groups reiterate that USMCA will benefit the U.S. agriculture and food industry while providing consumers a more abundant supply of high-quality, safe food at affordable prices.

“Prior to NAFTA, state intervention and import tariffs kept U.S. wheat exports to the Mexican market very low,” said NAWG president and Lavon, Texas, farmer Ben Scholz. “When NAFTA was implemented, tariffs on U.S. wheat went to zero, allowing

the market to grow expeditiously. Now, Mexico consistently serves as the second largest market for U.S. wheat exports.”

Over the last 25 years, U.S. food and agricultural exports to Canada and Mexico have more than quadrupled under NAFTA—growing from \$9 billion in 1993 to nearly \$40 billion in 2018. USMCA builds on the success of the NAFTA agreement while making improvements to further enhance U.S. food and agricultural exports to our neighbors.

“NAWG commends the Senate and House agriculture committees for holding hearings on USMCA and ag trade recently,” Scholz said. “NAWG submitted testimony for the record to both hearings and hopes that Congress will maintain this momentum and ratify the agreement.” ■

USDA agency investigating new GE wheat discovery

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed

last month the discovery of genetically engineered (GE) wheat plants growing in an unplanted agricultural field in Washington state. The GE wheat in question is resistant to glyphosate, commonly referred to as Roundup.

There is no evidence that GE wheat has entered the food supply.

In a press release, USDA said it is collaborating with state, industry and trading partners and is committed to providing all partners with timely and transparent information about their findings. The agency goes on to say that there are no GE wheat varieties for sale or in commercial production in the U.S. at this time, as APHIS has not deregulated any GE wheat varieties.

After previous detections of GE wheat, USDA strengthened its oversight of regulated GE wheat field trials. APHIS now requires developers to apply for a permit for field trials involving GE wheat beginning with GE wheat planted on or after Jan. 1, 2016. Bringing GE wheat under permit enables APHIS to create and enforce permit conditions that ensure confinement and minimize the risk that the regulated GE wheat will persist in the environment.

In response to the announcement by APHIS, U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) and the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) issued a joint statement reiterating that there are no GE wheat varieties for sale or in commercial production in the U.S. at this time.

The statement also said the wheat industry appreciates that USDA is collaborating with the organizations and state, industry and trading partners to provide timely and transparent information about their findings as they investigate this discovery. The samples of the wheat plants were sent to the USDA Federal Grain Inspection Service lab in Kansas City, Mo., as well as the USDA

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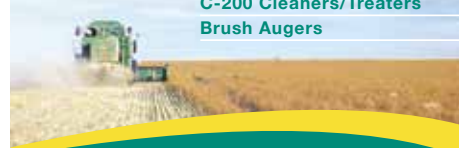
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Agricultural Research lab in Pullman, Wash., for testing and confirmation.

“We cannot speculate or comment about any potential market reactions until we have a chance to discuss the situation in more detail with overseas customers,” the statement read. “Based on what we know from APHIS, we are confident that nothing has changed the U.S. wheat supply chain’s ability to deliver wheat that matches every customer’s specifications.” ■

USDA to offer \$14.5 billion in new round of trade aid

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced in May that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will take several actions to assist farmers in response to trade damage from unjustified retaliation and trade disruption. The president has authorized USDA to provide up to \$16 billion in programs, which is in line with the estimated impacts of unjustified retaliatory tariffs on U.S. agricultural goods and other trade disruptions.

The Market Facilitation Program (MFP) for 2019, authorized under the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Charter Act and administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), will provide \$14.5 billion in direct payments to producers.

Producers of alfalfa hay, barley, canola, corn, crambe, dry peas, extra-long staple cotton, flaxseed, lentils, long grain and medium grain rice, mustard seed, dried beans, oats, peanuts, rapeseed, safflower, sesame seed, small and

large chickpeas, sorghum, soybeans, sunflower seed, temperate japonica rice, upland cotton and wheat will receive a payment based on a single county rate multiplied by a farm’s total plantings to those crops in aggregate in 2019. Those per acre payments are not dependent on which of those crops are planted in 2019 and therefore will not distort planting decisions. Moreover, total payment-eligible plantings cannot exceed total 2018 plantings.

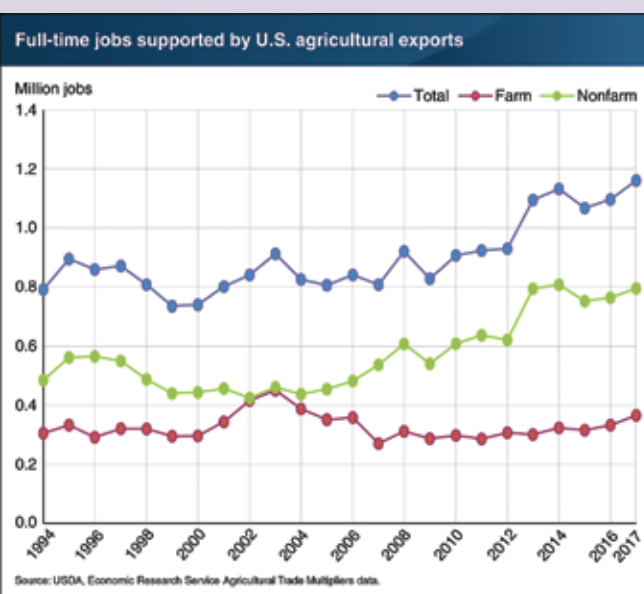
These payments will help farmers absorb some of the additional costs of managing disrupted markets, to deal with surplus commodities and to expand and develop new markets at home and abroad. Payments will be made in up to three tranches, with the second and third tranches evaluated as market conditions and trade opportunities dictate. The first tranche will begin in late July/early August as soon as practical after Farm Service Agency crop reporting is completed by July 15. If conditions warrant, the second and third tranches will be made in November and early January.

In response to the trade aid news, the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) said that they “... will continue to work with the administration and USDA as the agency crafts a relief strategy to ensure that the program works best for wheat farmers. We are pleased to hear that USDA will take a broader look at what the tariffs have had on all trade deals and markets when considering a longer-term relief package.”

NAWG added that while wheat growers appreciate the trade mitigation program, it doesn’t make farmers whole. The U.S. exports 50 percent of its wheat, which means the industry needs a long-term solution. This includes getting the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) across the

Ag exports support a million jobs in 2017

U.S. agricultural exports support output, employment, income and purchasing power in the overall domestic economy. Economic Research Service (ERS) economists estimate that every \$1 billion of U.S. agricultural exports in 2017—the most recent year in which data is available—supported approximately 8,400 American jobs throughout the economy. At \$140.2 billion in 2017, agricultural exports supported about 1.2 million full-time jobs. These included 795,000 jobs in the nonfarm sector. Farmers’ purchases of fuel, fertilizer and other inputs to produce commodities for export spur economic activity in the manufacturing, trade and transportation sectors. Data processing, financial, legal, managerial, administrative and many other types of services are also needed to facilitate the movement of export commodities. Consequently, U.S. agricultural exports support economic activity in both the farm and nonfarm sectors of the domestic economy. In terms of employment growth, sectors outside of farming were the major beneficiaries of U.S. agricultural exports during 2004-17. This chart appears in the June 2019 ERS Amber Waves article, “U.S. Agricultural Exports Supported 1.2 Million Full-Time Jobs in 2017.”



finish line, completing negotiations with China and supporting wheat's WTO case and closing a trade deal with Japan.

Producers, especially those in the Midwest where planting has been severely delayed or abandoned due to extremely wet weather, raised questions about whether or not they would be eligible for the aid if they didn't plant a crop. Several weeks later, in June, Perdue confirmed that farmers who were not able to plant a crop will not get a payment.

"In the coming weeks, USDA will provide information on the MFP payment rates and details of the various components of the disaster relief legislation. USDA is not legally authorized to make Market Facilitation Program payments to producers for acreage that is not planted. However, we are exploring legal flexibilities to provide a minimal per acre market facilitation payment to folks who filed prevent plant and chose to plant an MFP-eligible cover crop, with the potential to be harvested and for subsequent use of those cover crops for forage," Perdue said in a press release. ■

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WHEAT FOUNDATION AWARDS EDUCATIONAL GRANTS

Every June, the Foundation trustees gather to review and award educational grants to Washington nonprofit entities that support programs and activities that increase the public awareness of farming's responsible approach to the essential production of our safe food supply and the development of new knowledge about environmentally sound farming practices.

This year's recipients include:

The **Washington Agriculture and Forestry Education Foundation** (AgForestry), "a leadership development organization that focuses on developing adult leaders in agriculture, forestry and natural resources. The purpose of our project is to address the need and provide



Washington's premier leadership development and skill-building program to cultivate 'leaders for life.' Each leadership class includes 11, three-to-four-day leadership development seminars across the state at

public and private institutions of higher education and various businesses on multiple topics." The Wheat Foundation awarded requested funds to the organization's general fund and two scholarships designated specifically for wheat producers.

Northwest Natural Resources Institute (NNRI), is striving to "increase agriculture/wheat education throughout Washington state through farm fairs, student programs, teacher workshops and classroom presentations." The programs will include Farm Fair at the Spokane Jr. Livestock Show, a three-day natural resources educator workshop, as well as funding scholarship requests from regional teachers.



The **Washington State FFA Foundation** "provides many different events throughout the year to the student members of the Washington FFA." The 'Emerge' Leadership Conference



(one held in Eastern Washington and one in Western Washington) exposes "FFA members to all ranges of the agricultural industry in Washington state, including the grain industry." The Evergreen Tour is a state-

wide program that is put on throughout all nine Washington FFA Districts. The State FFA Officer team explains the depth of FFA to both members and nonmembers and introduces them to FFA offerings and industries, therein. The Foundation is "proud to have three State FFA Officers from wheat country – Sprague, Davenport and Ritzville."

Each organization has visibly and measurably built and strengthened current and future agricultural leaders. They provide these leaders tools and skills needed to increase agricultural awareness and demand. We are always impressed with the results and encouraged by the outlook of future endeavors.

WASHINGTON WHEAT FOUNDATION CAMPAIGN

The Foundation's mission is to EDUCATE, ENGAGE and ENLIST social media and digital followers into actively understanding grain farming in Washington and sharing their knowledge and experience with others. We are building an army of genuine spokespeople for Washington wheat. Our partnership with North By Northwest Digital Studio is helping to foster that mission. We have increased the number of followers and engagements on social media platforms and have done so while engaging consumers on the west side of the state. Stay tuned for more progress and follow us on Facebook and Instagram at @WaWheatFoundation. ■

Calendar:

- Washington Wheat Foundation Meeting **Sept. 16, 2019**, at 1 p.m. at the Wheat Foundation Building in Ritzville, Wash.
- Washington Wheat Foundation Meeting **Oct. 21, 2019**, at 1 p.m. at the Wheat Foundation Building in Ritzville, Wash.

Reminders:

- Don't forget, the National Wheat Foundation is accepting grower enrollment for the 2019 National Wheat Yield Contest! The spring wheat entry deadline is Aug. 1, with an early registration deadline of June 15. For more information visit wheatfoundation.org.
- Remember the Foundation in your charitable giving.

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Washington ag stakeholders take state legislators

ON TOUR

By Trista Crossley

What do you get when you take a legislator out of Olympia and set them down on a farm? The Washington state ag industry is hoping you end up with policymakers who have a better understanding of the issues farmers are dealing with.

The Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) joined other commodities, including the wine and food processing industries, potatoes, tree fruit growers, dairy and cattlemen, as sponsors of the annual legislative Food and Farming Tour. Approximately 20 legislators and their aides took part in the two-day event last month in the Quincy, Wash., area. In previous years, tours have taken place in Skagit Valley and Prosser.

“Being able to partner with other commodities in this effort is very valuable because legislators are so busy,” said Michelle Hennings, WAWG executive director. “By packaging different commodities together on the same tour, we can explore the issues individual commodities are dealing with, but at the same time, we can emphasize the issues that all commodities are impacted by, such as trade, pesticide regulations and transportation.”

At each stop along the tour, legislators took part in an activity that highlighted aspects of a specific commodity. Many stops also provided a related snack or meal. At the wheat stop, which took place on one of Jeff Malone’s Grant County fields, legislators saw a demo of the



At Royal Dairy and Composting, legislators learned how worms are turning manure and waste liquids into compost.

WEEDit technology (precision herbicide application equipment) and discussed pesticide regulations, trade and the lower Snake River dams. Afterwards, they snacked on bread slices with dipping oils, sampled regional beers and played the “which product doesn’t contain wheat” game that WAWG usually features at their farm fair and ag expo booths. Other stops on the tour included:

- **Golden West Vineyards.** Over a lunch that included sampling local wines, irrigation, labor challenges and mechanization issues were discussed. Legislators were then able to walk through the vineyards and learn about how the vines are planted.
- **Royal Ridge Fruits.** During a tour of the processing, freezing and dehydrating lines, labor, energy use and food safety issues were discussed. Legislators snacked on some of the dried fruit that the company produces.
- **Royal Dairy and Composting.** Legislators got to bottle feed calves and see how worms are turning manure and waste liquids into compost gold. Dairy products, including chocolate milk, cheese and ice cream, were handed out after a discussion on sustainability, trade and labor impacts in the dairy industry.
- **Weber Farms.** Water and fertility management in potatoes were discussed as legislators snacked on fresh french fries and learned how to take soil and petiole samples for nutritional analysis.
- **Quincy Flying Service.** This stop highlighted the technology employed by the aerial application industry to precisely apply chemicals and avoid pesticide drift. Rep. Tom Dent (R-Moses Lake) took his crop duster in the air to



(Inset left) At Weber Farms Potato and Storage, (Inset right) Learning about precision spray application on a Grant County wheat farm. (Big picture) Lunch at Golden West Vineyards high above the Columbia River.

demonstrate how the chemicals are applied aerially.

- **Double M Orchards.** Legislators snacked on Ambrosia apples while they learned about fruit thinning, organic vs. conventional growing systems and pheromone trapping.
- **Qualls Research Farm.** During a catered lunch by the Cattle Feeders Association, legislators learned about EPA chemical registrations and how ag chemicals are tested for efficacy, residue and toxicity.
- **Beef Northwest.** Legislators got up close and personal with a feedlot and learned about animal husbandry, waste treatment and antibiotic use in cows.
- **Quincy Columbia Basin Irrigation District.** Roger Sonnichsen, the technical services assistant manager for the irrigation district, met the group at one of the area's canals to talk about the Columbia Basin Project, as well as how the system of canals and siphons moves water throughout the region and the maintenance the system requires.

At the beginning of the tour, Derek Sandison, director of the Washington State Department of Agriculture, gave the group an overview of the state's agricultural industry. Washington grows about 300 crops, second only to California. There are approximately 26,000 farmers in the Evergreen state with 92 percent of them being family owned.

"We can offer something for everyone," he said. Sandison also talked about the federal Columbia Basin Project and how it allowed agriculture in the Columbia Basin to flourish.

Besides Hennings, WAWG past president Marci Green and Glen Squires, CEO of the Washington Grain Commission, participated in the tour and answered legislators' questions about the wheat industry.

"Bringing legislators out to the farm allows us to connect the issues we talk to them about in their offices with the actual farms and farmers," explained Green. "Many legislators, especially those from urban areas, can't really understand the scope of the state's agriculture until they experience it first hand." ■



The Quincy Columbia Basin Irrigation District talked to legislators about the infrastructure that moves water throughout the Columbia Basin.



At Beef Northwest, one of the four-legged workers was happy to pose with legislators for selfies.



Bottle feeding calves was one stop at Royal Dairy and Composting.



Mick Qualls (right) of Qualls Research Farm talked about the chemical residue testing they do for various state and federal agencies.



The benefits of aerial application and the technology the industry uses was a popular stop on the tour. Rep. Tom Dent (R-Moses Lakes) took to the skies to demonstration how products are applied aerially.



Legislators learned about the latest in apple production at Double M Orchards.



After wine tasting and lunch at Golden West Vineyards, legislators were able to wander down into the vineyards to take a close look at how grapes are planted and grown.

WHEAT COLLEGE

Growers learn about soil fertility, farm bill programs, digital farming, marketing

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By Trista Crossley

One of the highlights of the Agricultural Marketing and Management Organization's schedule is the annual Wheat College, a one-day workshop that strives to bring the latest in research and technology to Eastern Washington wheat growers. This year's Wheat College was held June 6 in Dayton, Wash. More than 90 growers attended the event to hear about soil fertility and soil sampling, 2018 Farm Bill program options, precision agriculture, marketing and grass identification. Marci Green, past president of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG), welcomed growers and gave them a short overview of the issues WAWG has been working on for the past year, including pesticide regulations, tax preferences, protecting the lower Snake River Dams and farm bill implementation. She then introduced the featured Wheat College speaker, Neal Kinsey, owner and operator of Kinsey Agricultural Services Inc., a St. Louis-based company that specializes in soil fertility management.

Getting more from your soil samples

Kinsey's presentation focused on how to find the right balance of nutrients in the soil to help increase yields. He recommended that growers invest in soil sampling and then take the time to understand what the numbers mean.

"What does it take to grow a plant? What kind of nutrients do we need to put on, and what's going to happen to all the other nutrients already there?" he asked. "When you put something on, something else gets out of the way."

Kinsey said the role of calcium in the soil is often overlooked, which is a mistake, since "calcium acts like the doorman that opens the door that lets all the other nutrients in." He said that soils in Eastern Washington tend to be deficient in calcium, which should be a minimum of 60 percent saturation compared





to other nutrients. If the calcium level is lower than that, sulfur will pull calcium out of the soil.

Sulfur is another element that tends to be lacking in Eastern Washington soils, while they tend to have too much potassium. According to Kinsey, too much potassium makes the soils so hard that water can't penetrate it very easily, and it is likely limiting yields. He advised growers to take a small area, find out what they have in the soil and then treat half of that area, monitoring it for three years.

“See what it does. Sixty-eight to 70 percent is the ideal calcium saturation. Then you'll have to watch the magnesium,” he said. “Calcium is the answer as long as you make sure it doesn't tie up something else you need.”

On the other hand, most Eastern Washington soils have “great boron.”

Kinsey also cautioned growers that 75 percent of the time, soil pH tells them the wrong story.

“If your pH looks good, that doesn't mean the soil is good,” he explained. “When you get your soil right, you'll get your pH right.”

At the beginning of May, soil samples from three sites around Dayton were taken and sent to Kinsey to be analyzed. He went through the results and explained to growers how to understand what the numbers were telling them.

At the beginning of May, soil samples from three sites around Dayton were taken and sent to Kinsey to be analyzed. He went through the results and explained to growers how to understand what the numbers were telling them.

2018 Farm Bill program options

Washington State University (WSU) Extension ag economist Shannon Neibergs is the director of WSU Extension Western Center for Risk Management Education. He updated growers on 2018 Farm Bill implementation. Currently the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is in the rulemaking process, which is supposed to be finished by Aug. 1. Sometime after that date, decision aids for the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage



(PLC) programs will be released. Sign-up dates for ARC and PLC are scheduled for Sept. 1.

Under the 2018 Farm Bill, growers will be able to change their program enrollment for the 2019 and 2020 crop years. After that, they'll be able to re-elect their program choice on an annual basis for crop years 2021 through 2023. Owners will also be able to update their farm's PLC payment yield beginning with the 2020 crop year.

In Washington state, 90 percent of wheat acres were enrolled in the ARC-County program. Neibergs analyzed the past five years of data and found that overall, ARC-County payments were larger than PLC in 2014 and 2015, but PLC payments were larger in 2016. USDA is projecting that in the future, more growers are going to choose the PLC program. Neibergs told growers that declining wheat prices tend to decrease the ARC-County revenue, which has a payment cap. PLC has no payment cap and is based on farm yields, “so farms with higher yields than the county average may benefit better under PLC.”

Some of the other points that Neibergs made included:

- PLC and ARC-County payment formulas will remain the same as from the 2014 Farm Bill;
- Yield data used in ARC-County will be drawn from Risk Management Agency yield data where available, instead of from the National Agricultural Statistics Service;
- The 2018 Farm Bill introduced a reference price escalator for PLC; and
- Preliminary estimates indicate that large chickpeas, rapeseed, lentils and small chickpeas will have higher reference prices due to the escalator in 2019.

Neibergs also touched on the Conservation Reserve Program, telling growers that although the acreage cap was increased, rental rates were decreased. The Conservation Stewardship Program and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program funding didn't change.

“Expect lower farm profitability, increasing the importance of overall risk management on everything that you are doing, from program enrollment to insurance decisions to all your management functions,” he summarized. “There's not a lot of optimism on the horizon, and so conservative management is important.”

Welcome to digital farming

Jeff Hamlin, director of learning and development at Climate FieldView, gave a demonstration of his company's software, which allows farmers to aggregate much of the data they are collecting into one place. ►

“Our belief is that the next breakthrough in agriculture will be driven by using data to optimize decision making on the farm,” he told growers. “Having data is not a problem. The problem is, can we make it tell a story?”

Hamlin walked growers through his company’s app, showing them how they can use chemical application maps or satellite maps to diagnose problems and help with input decisions. That data can also be shared.

“Farming is a team sport these days,” he explained, adding that if all the people who play a role on a farm had better information on what’s happening in the field, they can be more efficient.

The Climate FieldView software platform is available to growers for an unlimited acreage, free, one-year trial. For more information, go to climate.com/free-trial.

Marketing and managed money

Randall Ward of Tri-Cities Grain gave a short marketing update. He told growers that there’s too much wheat in the world despite record consumption, which is keeping prices depressed. Looking a little closer to home, U.S. wheat stocks are also high, especially hard red wheat stocks, which Ward called “burdensome.” White wheat stocks, however, are a little tighter.

Ward touched on the role of managed money in the grain markets, and how algorithmic trading, which uses a computer program to make trades at a speed and frequency that is impossible for a human to match, is changing how growers need to market their wheat.

“Managed money isn’t going away, so you need to learn to use it to your advantage,” he explained. He said understanding basis and using hedge to arrive should be tools in everyone’s marketing tool kit.

Tips on grass identification

WSU Regional Extension Specialist Steve Van Vleet



talked about increasing instances of Hessian fly being found in Eastern Washington and said genetics is the best way to combat the pest.

Van Vleet walked growers through different means of identifying grasses at the seedling stage and encouraged growers to always carry a hand lens with them.

“You need to identify the species so you know how to control it,” he said.

Drivers of long-term wheat prices

Randy Fortenbery, WSU economic professor, wrapped up Wheat College by taking a look at what drives wheat prices long term:

- Balance sheets, from global supply and demand down to local supply and demand;
- International economic conditions;
- Public policy such as the farm bill, trade arrangements and disaster aid; and
- Other commodity prices.

He said that USDA has been way too aggressive in the demand estimates over the last few years, and the current forecast says that the world’s major exporters will increase production. Fortenbery also explained how a stronger dollar makes it more expensive for other countries to buy our goods.

In summary, he said:

- Longer term, international and macro-economic conditions will have a large influence on U.S. commodity prices;
- If current forecasts of Asian GDP and dollar values are realized, then wheat prices will continue to be pressured in the absence of a production issue in a major wheat export country; and
- Even with a production issue, current trade frictions and exchange rates activity may challenge the U.S. in managing trade share. ►





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103rd Annual Lind Field Day

Last month, growers from around Eastern Washington gathered at the nation's premiere dryland research station in Lind, Wash., to hear from researchers, breeders, Washington State University (WSU) ag leaders and other industry stakeholders. Topics discussed included:

- Making soil health assessments useful for farmers;
- Winter peas;
- Spring and winter wheat breeding updates;

- Biosolids;
- 2019 State Legislative review;
- Updates from WSU's College of Agriculture, Human and Natural Resource Sciences and the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences; and
- Wheat industry updates from the Washington Grain Commission and the Washington Association of Wheat Growers. ■



The school buses are a familiar sight at Lind Field Day.



This year's field day was one of the hottest on record, with temperatures in the 90s.

Kimberly Garland-Campbell, USDA-ARS winter wheat/club wheat breeder

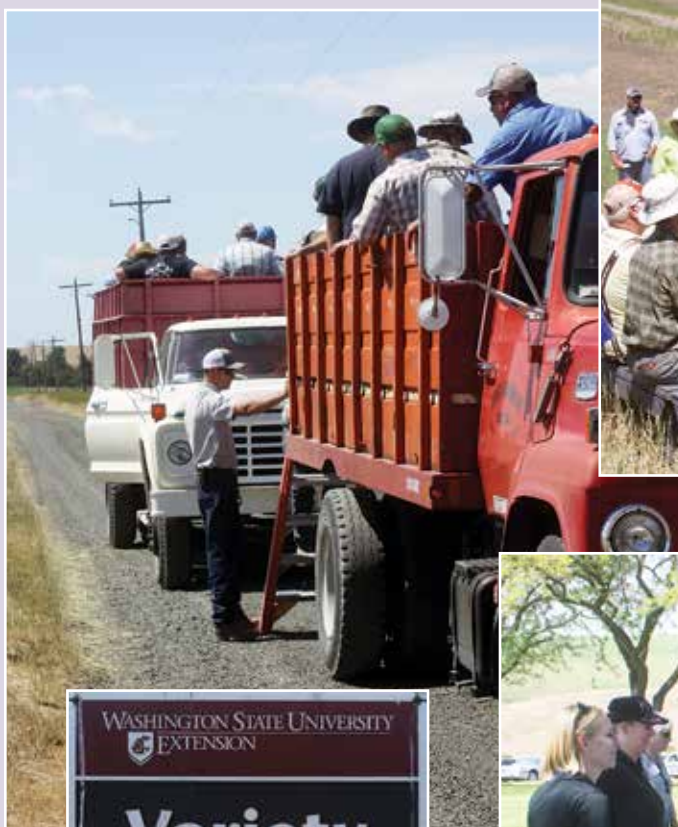


Mike Pumphrey, WSU spring wheat breeder





Besides learning about the latest dryland research, Lind Field Day is also an opportunity to socialize with other growers and industry leaders.



Bill Schillinger (left), WSU professor and scientist, and Tim Paulitz, USDA-ARS Research Plant Pathologist



Lind Field Day wouldn't be complete without an ice cream social that included Ferdinand's grabbers.



Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-Wash.) was only one of many elected officials who gathered at the HighLine Grain Growers shuttle loading facility in Cheney, Wash., last month to celebrate the selection of the PCC shortline rail as a recipient of a \$5.6 million federal BUILD grant.

SHORTLINE RAIL ‘BUILDS’ ON SUCCESS

Federal, state and local officials gather at grain facility to celebrate federal grant

By Trista Crossley

Last month, Washington grain industry stakeholders joined federal, state and local officials at the HighLine Grain Growers shuttle loading facility in Cheney, Wash., to celebrate the news that the Palouse River and Coulee City (PCC) Shortline Rail System has been selected to receive a \$5.6 million federal grant.

Last December, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced that \$1.5 billion in discretionary grant funding would be awarded through the Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development Transportation Discretionary Grants Program—otherwise known as BUILD grants. The PCC was one of 91 projects nationwide to be awarded a grant, which will be matched with \$5.6 million of state and private funding.

The money will be used to replace or rehabilitate approximately 10 bridges, replace about a mile of rail and rehabilitate 28 miles of track. The 298-mile-long rail system serves agriculture and other industries in five Eastern

Washington counties: Adams, Grant, Lincoln, Spokane and Whitman.

Paul Katovich, CEO of HighLine Grain Growers, welcomed the group and thanked them for their support of the PCC rail system, especially the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) who chose the PCC as one of their applications for the grant.

“WSDOT only has three shots at the BUILD grant. They picked the PCC as one of their three shots,” he said. “Out of all the things in the state of Washington they could have chosen, they chose the PCC rail system, and it goes to show how important it is to them and how much commitment they have (to it). Without their rail team and their expertise in putting grant applications together, we wouldn’t be here.”

Katovich told the elected officials present that farmers and their communities appreciated the time that they spend understanding the issues around the PCC and the role it plays in the region’s transportation system.

Lincoln County Commissioner Rob Coffman echoed that sentiment.

"It's impossible to overstate how important these three rail lines are to the economies of our local communities and Eastern Washington as a whole. This strategic investment that you made in the Palouse and Coulee City Railroad by the federal government, the state of Washington and the private sector is definitely going to help ensure the sustainability of these lines and agriculture in Eastern Washington for generations to come," he said.

Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-Wash.) also spoke at the event. She called the grant funding a "great public, private partnership" that came together on a community solution.

"This is an economic development solution. This is a jobs solution. This is a carbon emissions solution," she said. "Yes, we want all forms (of transportation), but we know that rail is lower emissions than other forms. This is a good solution, and I'm proud to be here to help celebrate what it means to agriculture."

Besides McMorris Rodgers, the event was attended by Sen. Curtis King (R-Yakima); Sen. Judy Warnick (R-Moses Lake); Rep. Jenny Graham (R-Spokane) and Rep. Andrew Barkus (R-Lacey). Sen. Maria Cantwell's (D-Wash.) office was represented, as well as several Spokane county commissioners. WSDOT officials were also on hand. ■

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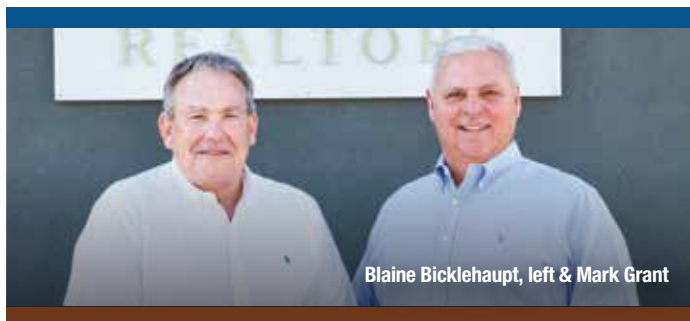
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CHAIRMAN

WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION

By Gary Bailey



You've probably heard about the lawsuits filed against Bayer, which purchased Monsanto in 2018 for \$63 billion, over glyphosate use. Three lawsuits have been won by plaintiffs worth billions of dollars in damages. Although it's likely those verdicts are going to be reduced on appeal, 10,000 lawsuits are waiting in the wings.

Many of the folks suing allege spraying Roundup on their weeds caused non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL). Scientists really don't really know why NHL starts, but there is a long list of risk factors. Most lymphomas occur in people over 60 years old. Obesity is also a risk factor as is having breast implants or a weakened immune system. Nuclear radiation may also be a trigger. And yes, there's a list of agricultural chemicals that have a potential link. But until recently, glyphosate wasn't on anybody's list. In fact, just a couple of months ago, the Environmental Protection Agency reaffirmed its 2013 determination that glyphosate isn't carcinogenic. You'd think that would impact the lawsuits, but it hasn't.

Type the word "glyphosate" in your web browser and up pops links to attorneys with bold headlines like "Roundup Cancer Lawsuit, Find Out if You Qualify," or "Speak with an experienced attorney, you may be entitled to compensation," or "Call if you or someone you love was exposed to Monsanto's weed killer and developed cancer. Free case review." Lawyers see potential opportunity for large verdicts, and there doesn't seem to be any shortage of clients.

I didn't mean to go into such detail about glyphosate. My original idea for this column was to talk about science versus emotion, and how emotion seems to be winning the day when opponents of any advancement seek to scuttle progress.

Take the four lower Snake River Dams. In the late 1940s when they were proposed and in the 1960s and early 1970s when they were built, they were forward-thinking structures that would help tame the region's flooding; supply an enormous amount of greenhouse-gas free electricity; provide a corridor for grain and other cargo; and support recreation. It's not often so many benefits result from a single infrastructure project. I imagine our forefathers were very proud of these accomplishments!

But science told us in the 1970s and 1980s that dams on the river were impacting salmon smolt migrating downstream, and in 1991, the Snake River Sockeye was the first salmon named as an endangered species. That made a lot of money available, and a lot of thinking

and engineering since has gone into retrofitting 1960-era dams to meet the demands of today. For the record, around 98 percent of salmon smolts now successfully pass each of the four lower Snake River dams. That is not only a tremendous success, it is a testament to what man can achieve when tasked to find a solution.

Nevertheless, whenever there's a decline in salmon numbers, the dams are target No. 1, even though salmon spend most of their lives in the ocean, which is full of perils, both from predators and changing weather patterns. Meanwhile, as salmon numbers on the Columbia-Snake River System continue to improve over time, rivers on the west side of the state—without dams—show a continued decline.

Anybody who has lived a few decades knows we don't always make the right decisions the first time. But anybody who has lived a few decades also knows how to improve his or her performance and the outcome. It's the same with infrastructure and, yes, chemicals.

We do the best we can with the information we have at the time, making certain that regulatory decisions are based on scientifically sound risk assessments. But we also trust that if a drawback arises American ingenuity, grit and determination will save the day. Europe operates on what is called the precautionary principle, or the assumption that when the risks of an activity are unclear or unknown, it's best to assume the worst and avoid the activity. That is not how the West was won.

I don't think there's a U.S. farmer alive who would argue with the statement that glyphosate has done more to advance conservation efforts than any product in history. And yet, that benefit isn't being addressed and probably won't be until opponents of the chemical have their way and we farmers find ourselves being attacked for unsustainable erosion!

When it comes to the lower Snake River dams, the Washington Grain Commission not only ensures the wheat farmer's point of view is part of meetings on the subject, we also help fund educational activities, like the third annual RiverFest being held Sept. 7 at Columbia Park in Kennewick, Wash. The dams are also on the agenda of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers when meeting with state and federal legislators.

Science and research can't anticipate all the potential pitfalls of a project or a chemical, but science should always be the basis for sound decisions when it comes to issues that invoke a lot of emotion. I believe that has been the message of the wheat industry all along. ■

REVIEW

WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION

Rough waters ahead

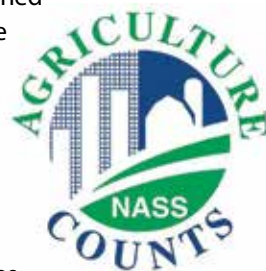
Speaking to the Washington Grain Commission on May 15, **Jim Jesernig**, the commission's Olympia lobbyist, said farmers dodged a few bullets this session and scored a few victories, but he was cautious about the future. He expects tax incentives critical to the future of Washington agriculture will eventually become a target. Jesernig said some legislators believe farmers don't pay any taxes at all, a misconception that is being remedied. Although agricultural interests navigated the 2019 session relatively well because all of the ag groups worked together, he believes the retirement of Rep. Frank Chopp (D-Seattle)

as House speaker will have a huge impact on rural Washington. The vote on a new speaker is scheduled for July 31. Jesernig said the House Democratic Caucus has moved left on many issues, which could impact the outcome of several key agricultural issues during the next legislative session. ■



Honey, we shrunk the farmers

Wheat farms in Washington declined 20 percent between the 2012 Census of Agriculture and the 2017 census, which was released in April. But harvested acreage only declined 2 percent, meaning farms are getting larger and farmers fewer. Nationally, the census revealed that the number of farms growing winter wheat declined 31 percent from 2012 to 2017. The good news is the value of all commodities grown in Washington has increased nearly 95 percent from 20 years ago. Learn more about the Census of Agriculture in episode 129 of the Washington Grain Commission (WGC) podcast, *Wheat All About It!* In the episode titled, "There's something for everybody in the 2017 Ag Census," Scott Yates, director of communications and producer relations at the WGC, sits down with Chris Mertz, Northwest regional director of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, to dissect the census numbers and talk about what they mean. ■



Trump supporters targeted by tariffs

A recent paper from the Brookings Institution, a think tank, estimated 61 percent of the jobs affected by retaliatory tariffs are in U.S. counties that voted for President Trump. Was that a coincidence? Another paper from the University of Warwick indicates America's trade rivals, whether the EU or China, did consider politics when crafting their responses as they attempted to mitigate disruption to their domestic consumers while putting the screws to supporters of the president. ■

Well, that's good news!

China announced in late May that it would not appeal a ruling handed down by a World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute panel in April in a case involving the country's promises upon entering the WTO. Under terms of the 2001 accession, China agreed to allow imports of 9.6 million metric tons of wheat at a 1 percent duty each year, but has never filled this tariff rate quota (TRQ). If the established TRQ had been fully used in 2015 alone, \$3.5 billion worth of wheat, corn and rice would have been imported into the country. China could have appealed the decision but decided on May 28 that it would let the matter stand. The panel's ruling confirms that China's practices inhibited adoption of the TRQ and resulted in severely limited access to China's market by other WTO members in violation of its WTO commitments. Although the current trade impasse between the U.S. and China means the decision has little impact now, it could be an enormous new export opportunity for Pacific Northwest wheat farmers in the future. Thanks to U.S. Wheat Associates for its part in helping drive the effort to a successful conclusion! ■



There's a difference, if you don't eat meat

Between 1961 and 2013, the average Chinese person went from eating 8.8 pounds of meat a year to 137 pounds. You can actually see the change in diet in the population. In 1985, the average 12-year-old boy was three and a half inches shorter than a boy in 2010. For girls, it was 2.7 inches. ■



Prehistoric and oh so tasty!

The new meatless hamburger at Burger King has boosted sales by double digits, but on a grander scale, red meat rules. In the decade to 2017, global meat consumption rose by just short of 2 percent a year, twice as fast as population growth. Despite meatless burgers and even lab-grown meat, the trend is expected to continue, with the number of ruminant livestock set to rise from 4.1 billion to nearly six billion by 2050. But that's not stopping Impossible Foods, the company that supplies Burger King with its meatless burgers, from making incendiary claims about cattle. It's website said that using animals to make meat is a prehistoric and destructive technology, concluding that they're doing something about it by making meat using plants, "so that we never have to use animals again." ■

Guilt by association?

Refined grains, that is wheat that has been milled with the endosperm removed, are bad for human health, right? Many studies have indicated as much. Glen Gaesser, a Ph.D. professor at Arizona State University, says wait a minute! A member of the scientific advisory board of the Grain Foods Foundation, Gaesser recently published research which showed that refined grain wasn't associated with all-cause mortality, cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease or obesity. So what about the previous studies? Gaesser's work indicates that consumers who eat more refined grains also eat more red and processed meats; beverages high in sugar; french fries; and high fat dairy products. Or, as Gaesser put it in his study, while refined grains are frequently characterized as unhealthy, this can be attributed to their inclusion in a dietary pattern that contains foods that are the real culprits in the link between an unhealthy dietary pattern and increased risk of a number of chronic diseases." So there. ■

Got chickpeas?

Owing to a rising price, Washington wheat farmers quickly adopted chickpea plantings in rotations with wheat, but trade issues with India and China have sent the price tumbling. Can the introduction of chickpea milk help reverse the trend? YoFiit created the plant-based milk substitute using chickpeas, peas and vegan omega 3 oil. The concoction boasts 10 grams of protein and 1,000 mg of omega 3. ■

Eeny, meeny, miny, moe

What do Downy brome, Mayweed chamomile, Italian ryegrass, prickly lettuce, wild oat and Russian thistle have in common? They are among the most common and difficult weeds to have developed herbicide resistance. Learn more about resistance issues and the fate of glyphosate in episodes 131 and 132 of the podcast, Wheat All About It!, when Washington State University weed scientists Drew Lyon and Ian Burke discuss resistance issues and what that means for the future of farming. Go to the WGC website, wagrains.org, and click summaries to access all of the podcasts. ■



Really organic

Archer Daniels Midland Co., which has facilities located in the Spokane area, has introduced a line of organic flours. "We're excited to bring our customers some of the most reliable organic flours on the market," said Kevin Like, vice president of commercial and sales for ADM Milling in Overland Park, Kan. The new line makes use of ADM's wheat sourcing network. The company has selected its facility in Lincoln, Neb., to house the organic operations. The facility is certified through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. ■

A love of food, technology bakes in value, loyalty

By Steve Mercer, vice president of communications
U.S. Wheat Associates

Editor's note: This is the third in a series of posts profiling U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) technical experts in flour milling and wheat foods production. USW Vice President of Technical Services Mark Fowler says technical support to overseas customers is an essential part of export market development for U.S. wheat. "Technical support adds differential value to the reliable supply of U.S. wheat," Fowler says. "Our customers must constantly improve their products in an increasingly competitive environment. We can help them compete by demonstrating the advantages of using the right U.S. wheat class or blend of classes to produce the wide variety of wheat-based foods the world's consumers demand."

Growing up in Mexico City and Monterrey, Mexico, young **Marcelo Mitre's** experiments in his family kitchen firmly established his interest in food and, eventually, a career in the science of food production.

"I have always loved to eat, and as a kid, I would try to make every recipe I saw in newspapers or on TV shows, and my mom has many funny stories about my early attempts in the kitchen," Mitre said. "But eventually, I was making cakes at home and selling them at my high school."

Although he wanted to continue exploring his interest, Mitre did not initially see options to do professional studies in the food sector, so he enrolled as a marketing major at Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM).

"Then during a function at school near the end of my first semester, I bumped into this small program called Food Industry Engineering," he recalled. "When I looked at the academic curriculum, the laboratory courses looked very interesting, and I immediately switched my major."

Mitre's undergraduate experience in many ways framed his work today as a technical specialist with U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) serving flour milling and wheat food processing organizations in Mexico, Central America, Venezuela and the Caribbean. Internships at a large brewing company, a meat packing plant and a frozen food manufacturer gave him experience in different food industries. He also considers his ITESM professor of cereal science, Dr. Sergio Serna-Saldivar, as his mentor.



Name: Carlos Marcelo Mitre Dieste

Title: Technical Specialist

Office: USW Mexican, Central American and Caribbean Regional Office, Mexico City

Providing Service to: Barbados, Belize, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Leeward-Windward Islands, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Suriname, Trinidad-Tobago, Venezuela

Regional Profile: The combination of economic growth, consolidation, increasing urbanization and a steadily growing population is a catalyst for rising wheat food product consumption in this region. For example, the evolution of franchising, fast foods, convenience stores, snack foods, dual-income households, and more demanding consumers has led to the establishment of new products, better quality, more uniform standards and a larger overall market for bread but also for Asian-style noodles, cookies, crackers and pasta. Given the quality and diversity of U.S. wheat supplies and the comparative geographic advantages, USW's focus on increased technical service and assistance is paying dividends as the region's demand for wheat continues to grow. ■



During a visit to the Wheat Marketing Center, Mexico City-based Marcelo Mitre works on the pilot-scale cracker line that allows companies to test formulations without having to shut down an entire line at one of their plants.

"After graduating, I continued working at the frozen food products company in Mexico," Mitre said. "Then Dr. Serna suggested I apply for a master's program studying cereal science with Dr. Lloyd Rooney at Texas A&M University. My master's thesis was barley tortillas and barley flours in corn tortillas. We chose the topic because tortillas are the staple food in Mexico, and I wanted to see if we could increase the health benefits and textural characteristics of tortillas."

Post-graduate experience in commercial food research and development and technical sales continued Mitre's path toward his responsibilities at USW. At Sage V Foods in Texas, he developed rice products. At Illinois-based Continental Custom Ingredients Inc., Mitre represented the company's stabilizers, emulsifiers and ingredient systems with Latin American food customers. He eventually opened a laboratory in Mexico City for the company, which was later acquired by Tate and Lyle.

"I liked the combination of R&D and sales a lot," Mitre

said. "I am a very hands-on person, and technical sales gave me the opportunity to interact with the clients and understand their needs. I also liked being in the laboratory using what I learned from clients to help develop solutions for them."

In 2009, Mitre had returned to the U.S. to work at a cooking fats and oils company in Miami, Fla. At the same time, USW Regional Vice President Mitch Skalicky was searching for the right individual who could serve in a wide-ranging technical position.

"All the candidates that I had interviewed were either not qualified or did not fit the profile we needed," Skalicky said. "I asked a contact at ITESM to let us know if they had a potential candidate. Not long after, Dr. Serna made the connection that brought Marcelo to USW. In Marcelo we saw a highly intelligent person, having graduated from one of the top universities in all Latin America, with a very strong background in engineering, technology and food science." ►

Mitre was attracted to the job for several reasons. “It was a chance to continue doing hands-on work across the very active flour and wheat foods industry based in Mexico City, but still travelling throughout the region and internationally. Mitch and others explained that this was a not-for-profit organization representing U.S. wheat farmers with very low turnover of people. That told me this would be a nice work environment.”

Based on customer needs and the annual regional activities plan, Mitre is responsible for activities that range from helping flour mills blend flour from different U.S. wheat classes to improving product quality and reducing costs, to conducting cookie and bread baking seminars for food processors, alone or with consultants, to pasta production courses across the region.

“Mitre represents the very positive and strategic support we get from U.S. Wheat Associates,” said an executive with a large flour milling company in Honduras. “We know we can count on him to guide us or give us suggestions on how to address a challenge, and we bring him to visit our clients to find ways to improve their processes or products.”

A baking company manager in Guatemala also testifies to Marcelo’s technical baking knowledge and how he applies it in workshops to demonstrate the benefits of U.S. wheat flour. The manager said, “I can attest that Marcelo is a responsible person who is committed to his work, is very organized and has excellent people skills.”

Mitre said long-distance running, which was something he started in high school “to lose weight,” taught him to balance work, social life, sleep and training for five mara-



Sporting the paraphernalia that is a required part of visiting most modern flour mills, Marcelo Mitre, U.S. Wheat Associates technical specialist based in Mexico City, hands out certificates of completion for a bread baking seminar he conducted in 2011 for local independent bakery workers. The seminar helped them to recognize how artisan processes can be used to improve quality and value.

thon races, running four of them in less than three hours!

“There are no excuses if you fail to do one of the four,” he said, “because you will be the only one affected. You become very organized in your life because every minute counts in your schedule.”

Skalicky said Mitre has shown an exceptional work ethic combined with the ability to learn quickly, adapt to a diverse set of circumstances and respond in a very flexible way to any challenge.

“He has the interpersonal skills to work with both management as well as production and quality control staff,” he said.

“It is a pleasure to work with U.S. Wheat Associates and for the U.S. farmers we represent,” Mitre said. “The people in all our offices are very friendly, and you can contact anyone anywhere about any question, and they will share information without hesitation. Most important,” he added, “our work is focused on giving to our customers freely, without obligation, the information and skills they need to improve their products and their businesses. And we feel very good about being able to do that!” ■

Game changer

ADVANCES IN MOLECULAR TECHNOLOGY OPEN NEW DOORS IN BREEDING

By Arron Carter

Molecular technology has been rapidly changing in the past 20 years, making my job as Washington State University's winter wheat breeder more complicated and more streamlined simultaneously.

There are many different aspects of "molecular technology." Manipulating genetic material and cellular process is part of it, but so are innovations in computational and manufacturing technology.

On that last point, consider that just 12 years ago, while working on my Ph.D., how amazed I was by the innovative molecular technology I had available. We moved from plates that could hold 96 genetic samples for evaluation to plates that could hold 384 (a four-fold increase)! New pipettes allowed me to move 12 liquid samples at a time.

With the technology, I could set up a 384-well plate to run four different DNA markers on 96 samples in about an hour. Then, once the PCR reaction was complete, I had a machine that could visualize 96 samples at a time and only took 90 minutes to run. Within a day, I could set up and run about 12 markers and have them visualized. With the 1,000 markers I needed to run, it only took me about three months to collect the genotypic information I needed for my research! Life was good—and amazing!

But time does not stand still. A trip to Illumina two years ago put everything in perspective. A company that manufactures molecular equipment, some of Illumina's new machines can run 1,152 samples at



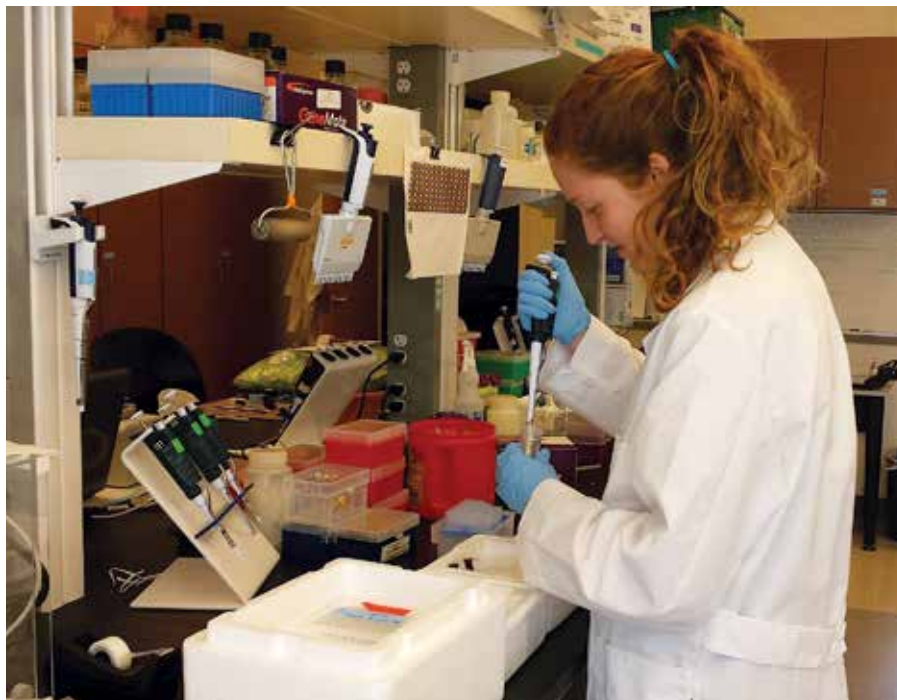
(Above) The Biosprint 96 is a DNA extraction machine that allows Washington State University researchers to extract DNA from 96 different leaf samples simultaneously, which can then be used for molecular analysis. The plots (below) show a wheat line with three genes for rust resistance (on the left) as determined through the use of DNA markers, and a plot of a wheat line without genes for resistance.



a time (three of my 384-well plates) and evaluate multiple markers at a time. What took me three months to complete 12 years ago takes them a couple of days to accomplish. Today, our newest DNA marker technology actually allows us to run tens of thousands of markers in about a week's time. That's more than enough for the plant breeding work we are interested in doing—and all for only \$40 per line. ►

Now that we have looked at how the technology has changed, let's look at how we use the technology. DNA markers are small sequences of DNA that are closely linked to a particular gene we are interested in. For example, we have DNA markers that are linked to highly effective stripe rust resistance genes. We can use these DNA markers to select early generation breeding material so that we only advance lines carrying resistance genes. These lines are then moved to the field for validation, as you can get some false-positives using markers alone.

We then combine this selection with other DNA markers for traits such as eyespot foot rot, end-use quality and a host of other stress tolerance traits. With many selections being made in the greenhouse, we only advance selected breeding lines to field testing. Our field program still tests the same number of lines in field trials, but we are now guaranteed these lines contain genes for important traits required to make a successful cultivar. Field testing continues to look at traits which we do not have good DNA markers for, such as



Carmen Swannack, an undergraduate in winter wheat breeder Arron Carter's research program, assists in setting up PCR reactions. Swannack is now a graduate student working with U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service club wheat breeder, Kim Campbell.

yield potential, high test weight and adaptability across environments.

But wait! Why even run DNA markers anymore? Over the past few years genome sequencing technology has become the buzz. The wheat genome has been sequenced, and a new protocol of genotyping lines just by sequencing them has emerged. No more need to run individual markers. Now, in about a week, I can do genotyping by sequencing on as many lines as I want for only \$7 per sample. While we can still look at the presence or absence of individual genes using this technology, it also opens the door to use what is called genomic selection.

Genomic selection evaluates every DNA sequence in the individual breeding line and gives an estimate of the value of that line. Using statistical models, which have incorporated the performance of thousands of lines over multiple locations and years, we can begin to understand whether each DNA sequence identified is valuable or not.

Now, when I have a new breed-

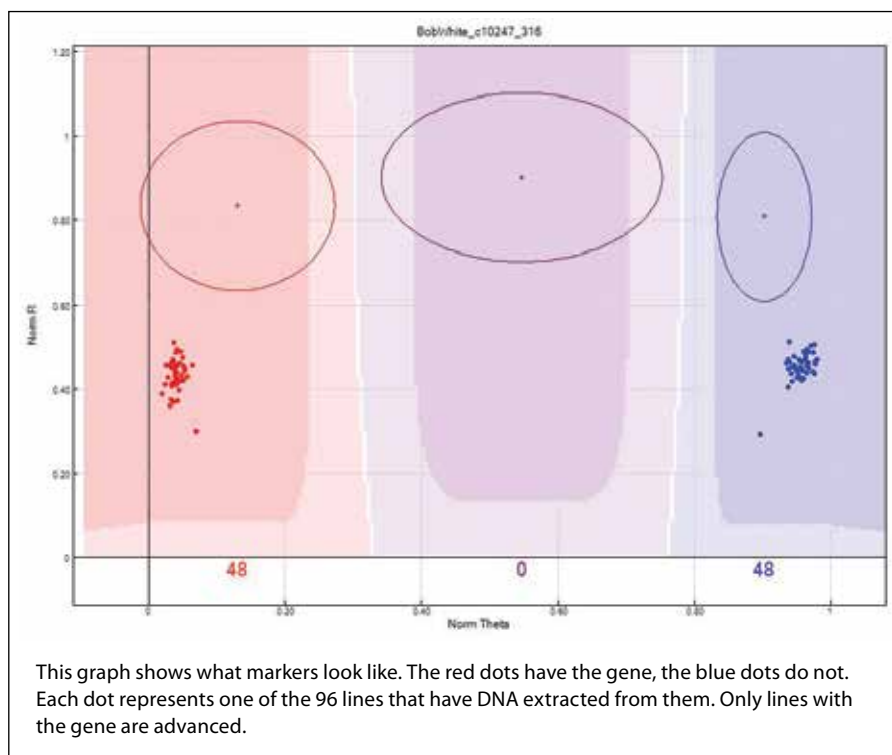


An undergraduate student intern works on analyzing results of the PCR test. Although much of the process is automated, it is necessary to manually mark each of the white dots on the screen to determine if the gene is present or not.

ing line, I can simply sequence it and run the selection model. The program will then tell me how many valuable sequences the line has. The more valuable sequences, the more probable that line will be successful under field testing. Lines which have very few valuable DNA sequences can be discarded before field testing. It is like picking your All-Star team before the season has even begun.

This has been a simplistic view of how we can use molecular technology within the breeding programs, but hopefully it provides a glimpse into what we can now do to advance the breeding process. To paraphrase an advertisement for the now defunct Oldsmobile brand, this is not your father's wheat breeding!

Selection using molecular technology can speed up the process, ensure certain genes and traits are in the breeding lines and make predictions about which lines will be



the most successful. While it does not allow us to test more lines in the field, it does allow us to test the best lines in the field, which will allow identification of superior varieties in a shorter time frame and with more confidence. The only question now is what will another 20 years bring? ■

Canada moving swiftly on trade

Talks between Japan and the U.S. on a bilateral trade deal are not exactly moving swiftly. But Canada, which is part of the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) that includes Japan, is making hay while the sun shines. Canadians are hosting trade-oriented meetings with Japanese importers and restaurant suppliers. The prize? Reduced Japanese tariffs for wheat, beef, pork and canola oil. Japan is the world's seventh largest wheat buyer and the third largest beef buyer.

"The interest was as high as I've ever seen," said Dennis Laycraft, executive vice president for the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, after a trade event, calling the CPTPP "one of the most significant opportunities we've seen since the original North American Free Trade Agreement was signed." Japan typically buys 1.5 million tons of Canadian wheat annually, but that could rise to 3 million tons over the next nine years if a Japan/U.S. deal isn't signed. ■



WHEAT WATCH

WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION

Corn Belt weather is moving markets



By Mike Krueger

There's nothing like a weather problem to turn markets from bearish to bullish.

Historically, it's almost always weather that turns markets. Rarely have demand surprises accomplished the feat. The biggest demand surprise ever occurred in the early 1970s when the Former Soviet Union (FSU, Russia) purchased millions of tons of corn and wheat from the U.S. over a weekend while futures markets were closed. The major grain companies showed up in the corn and wheat futures' market trading pits Monday thinking they were the only ones to make sales. There were no sellers that morning, and markets began the most significant rally in history. That era ended with President Carter's embargo on grain sales to the FSU in 1980. That action killed U.S. grain exports and markets for 25 years.

Weather has changed the current complexion of the corn market. As I write this in mid-June, it still hasn't stopped raining across most of the Corn Belt. A lot of corn and soybean crops didn't get planted in what has developed into the most delayed planting season in modern history. The season is so late that the market is now trying to figure out how many intended acres of corn weren't planted. Estimates range from 5 to 10 million acres.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), in its June World Agriculture Supply and

Demand Estimate (WASDE) report, lowered 2019 corn acres by three million. The bigger surprise was the reports reduction in the expected yield by 10 bushels per acre. The May WASDE pegged the U.S. corn crop at 15 billion bushels. The June WASDE dropped that estimate to 13.7 billion bushels. Some estimates have dropped below 13 billion bushels. A 2 billion bushel drop in corn production would drop U.S. corn ending supplies to less than a billion bushels. That is bullish, and as most wheat farmers know, corn has a strong influence on wheat prices.

The USDA will release their next planting estimates on June 28. These numbers might not be accurate since the surveys for this report were completed in early June. At that time, there was still a huge amount of corn and soybean acres left to plant. In addition, much of the central and eastern Corn Belt were still battling saturated soils—and more rain—into the middle of June.

Farmers can plant soybeans until midsummer. Soybean yields are not nearly as correlated to late planting as is corn. The question now will be how many acres of both corn and soybeans won't be planted as farmers choose the prevent plant insurance option. The USDA made no changes to the soybean outlook in their June WASDE.

The offset to a small U.S. corn crop is that Brazil and Argentina produced

Chart 1: December corn

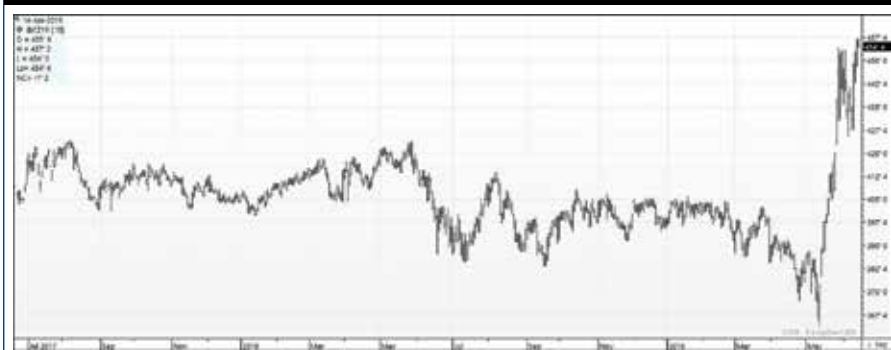
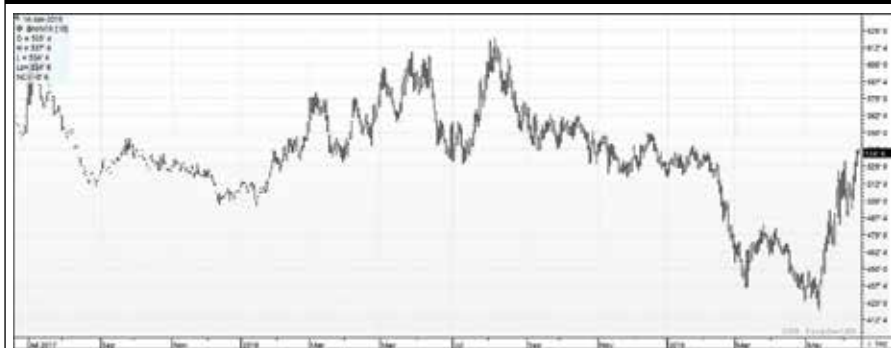


Chart 2: Chicago wheat



record corn crops this year. Still, the world corn stocks-to-use ratio (without China) will drop to a historically tight 14 percent.

Chart 1 shows the rally in December corn futures

The same heavy and frequent rains that have plagued spring planting across the Corn Belt have also impacted winter wheat crops. The hard red winter wheat crop across the southern Plains is projected to be bigger than last year, but early harvested wheat has very low protein. Saturated soils across Kansas could also result in quality losses and harvest yield losses. Similar issues are present across the soft red winter wheat region.

There are other potential trouble spots in wheat production around the world. Most of western Canada's prairies have been extremely dry since late last summer. This has not attracted much market attentions yet. The USDA left their estimate of Canadian wheat production unchanged despite the drought.

Parts of Russia have also been on the dry side. The USDA increased their estimate of Russia's 2019 wheat crop despite the dryness. The continent of Australia has also not fully recovered from last year's drought. West Australia got some beneficial rains in mid-June, but significant parts of the eastern half of the country are still dry.

The December Chicago wheat chart (Chart 2) shows the extent of the recent wheat rally.

The USDA released their first estimate of winter wheat production in their June reports. Table 1 shows a class breakdown compared to 2018.

Washington winter wheat production is estimated to be 113,850 million bushels compared to 125,400 million bushels last year. Oregon winter wheat production is estimated to be 40,470 million bushels compared to 46,565 million bushels last year.

The U.S. spring wheat crop is still a big question mark.

Table 1: U.S. winter wheat production (million bushels)

	2018	2019
Hard Red Winter	662,249	794,395
Soft Red Winter	285,558	258,302
Hard White	19,347	22,399
Soft White	216,785	199,355
Total Winter	1,183,939	1,274,451

SOURCE: USDA/NASS

Planting across the northern Plains was delayed by a cool, wet spring. Our opinion is that not as much spring wheat was planted as expected in the March planting intentions report. The USDA will update all the acreage estimates on June 28. In the meantime, the Canadian drought has drifted south into northern and northwestern North Dakota. That dryness is now showing up on the weekly drought monitor maps.

The corn market should be the driving force in these markets through the growing season. The sharp reduction in corn acres will mean that yield will be very important. If the USDA confirms a 10 million acre reduction in corn and if yields dip below their June estimate of 166 bushels per acre, corn will continue to rally. That should pull wheat along as well. Wheat can add to corn's strength if crop problems develop in Russia or worsen in Canada or Australia.

The soybean complex should remain the weakest link because of record world supplies and reduced consumption in China. It will take a significant yield reduction to push soybean prices much higher. ■

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.





Just Pushing Dirt Around

By Daniel Moore

"What?" The remark bit my ear.
Years away from his ground.
Farming to him, I did hear
"Just pushing dirt around."

"Really?" I sat in the meeting
Scientist, chemistry, and haploid.
Research figured odds of beating
Diseases and weeds that annoyed.

"How so?" Continued the bite.
Guidance became programmed
Downloaded from satellite.
Office of tractor crammed.

"Seriously?" Busy driving combine
Computer records the yields.
Information assembled online
Matching data with fields.

"Aw C'mon!" Seeding in hope
The Lord above will multiply.
Feeding the world is my scope
With His help, I'm gonna try.

"Remember!" The joy of seasons
Sprout of Spring to Winter's rest.
Generations imply the reasons
Land treated as honored guest.

"Come Back!" See the dream
Look beyond the jest.
Meet the members of my team
Embrace hearty progress.

"Oh Well." I shouldn't be tough
Lucky few tied to the ground.
For me it is quite enough
"Just pushing dirt around." ■

Daniel Moore is a wheat farmer from Lacrosse, Wash. His family has been in the area for about 120 years.

He attended Washington State University, graduating with a master's degree in agricultural economics in 1986. He came home to farm in the Dusty area with his brother, Steve. They currently grow winter wheat on a 2-year rotation.

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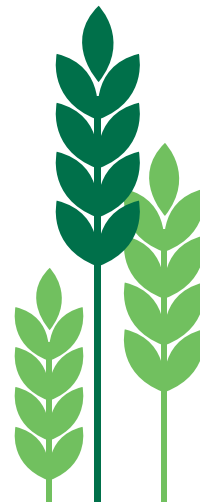
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Tips for a smooth farmland transition

By Tim Cobb, president
Hatley/Cobb

It is no secret that “the only thing constant in this world is...change.” With farmland, there are a myriad of “constants” every day, from the effects of daily temperature fluctuations to wind and erosion factors to rising crop and property expenses and lower revenues, to say nothing of the change that will come as long-time farmers and ag professionals begin to retire. It is clear that we are facing an accelerated transition out in farm country, and the thoughtful landlord/owner of farmland must work diligently to be ready for every change that is on the horizon.

What is it about “change/transition” that can cause fear and trepidation? We have to look no further than a perceived uncertainty that exists. It is the uncertainty that we strive to overcome and control what can be controlled and accept those things that can’t be completely controlled.

Let’s look at three key questions farmland owners should be asking themselves during times of transition.

How best can I renew my farm lease now amidst lower commodity prices? Farms in our region are feeling the financial effects of nearly six years of downward movement in the grain complex with stagnate pricing that is taking its toll on farm operators and farm owners alike. There are many keys to successful farm lease negotiations, and from the perspective of a landowner, the following are among the most important to consider.

- Be current with the leasing market and industry-focused information. Making sure you are armed with the latest rental rates and structures of leases, as well as a clear view of what types of leases are being renewed in the region, will give both parties the tools they need to come to terms.
- Understand the type of farming that is happening on your property (i.e. conventional, reduced or no-till applications). Knowing how your land is being farmed will assist as you negotiate chemical and fertilizer splits in a crop share scenario. Generally understanding the approach to the establishment of a crop will give you perspective into the effort that the farm operator exerts to bring a crop to market.

- Be fair and equitable with your farm operator. Ag financials continue to cycle, and the way we treat each other in good times and less-than-good times will determine any long-term legacy. For example, taking note that profitability shifts are occurring and adjusting percentage crop share splits or cash rents to align with market fundamentals is key to being able to adjust back up when higher pricing and profitability return.

What do I do when my farm tenant decides to retire or slow down? We are entering a phase of “retirement/slowing down” for an abnormally high number of operators in our region. Whatever the reason for the transition with your farm operator, you can be certain that this day will eventually come. Some key things to consider and prepare for are:

- Ask the hard questions early enough to be able to understand how this transition will affect your farm property.
- Meet and work with the whole farm operator team. Get to know the children or other family members who have the potential to one day be an operator on the farm.
- Work on setting some transition goals. At first, just use general ranges of dates and then as those ranges progress, more detailed plans can be agreed upon.
- Be patient as the transition carries as much uncertainty for your farm operator as it does for you.

It is not uncommon to be working on this transition for five to 10 years from the initial conversation. However, the more time taken for this process, the less uncertainty will remain for both parties.

Who will manage my farmland asset in the future?

The long-term future of any asset, especially farmland, will depend on the effort put into training the next generation to care for the land and the legacy as it has been cared for in this and past generations.

Owners of farmland that is in or near significant transitions would do well to surround themselves with people inside and out of the current ownership circle.

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

Designating a family member to run point and empowering them to work with competent professionals early in the process will eliminate most uncertainty. Key third party professionals include ag specific accounting firms, qualified and ag knowledgeable attorneys, financial consultants and professional farmland managers and appraisers

The earlier the team is assembled, the more likely it is that uncertainty will be worked through based on existing business systems and collective years of experience.

More than ever, the level of communication and knowledge of changing farmland conditions is critical to short- and long-term success for all parties involved. Don't shy away from hard questions or the opportunity to make and effectuate solid plans to deal with transition on your farmland. ■

Tim Cobb is the president and owner of Hatley/Cobb Farmland Management in Spokane, Wash. His firm works daily with owners of farmland to ensure the legacy of the land is preserved. His team handles absentee farmland ownership representation, farm real estate brokerage, appraisal and general consulting services in five western states. More information can be found online at hatleycobb.com.

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THE BOTTOM LINE

Positioning for the next generation of leaders

By Dr. David M. Kohl

The agriculture industry is fast approaching the third decade of the 21st century. This period from 2020 to 2030 will bring more change than in the past 70 years. The agriculturalists of the future will require a high business IQ and proactive leadership skills to meet the opportunities and challenges that will intensify in the decade ahead.

Drivers of change

Leadership in the agriculture industry must be positioned to understand the drivers of change. First, technology and demands of domestic and international consumers will accelerate change. The millennials, Generation Z and Generation A, will observe the aging process of the baby boomers and Generation X. The incorporation of dietary and lifestyle habits with personalized technology will be closely monitored. Use of technology designed to analyze an individual's health data, such as a Fitbit or an Apple Watch,



will increase tenfold over the next five years.

Although a fad today, plant-based meat and meat cultured in laboratories may become a trend. Consumer preferences in the U.S. and abroad will alter the methods of production, processing and delivery of food and fiber. Whether it is grain, meat or other agricultural products, the customer of the future will desire products produced with transparency, personalization and customization. In the future, more consumers will desire buying an experience rather than a product.

Awareness of nongovernmental organizations, often centered in urban areas with a growing population, will be an important bridge for agriculture leaders to connect with consumers. A focus on education, personal development and networking with peers and community members at a regional, national and international level will be a high priority for those in a leadership role.

Leadership skill base

Everyone can play a role in effective leadership. I often observe that leaders enjoy contributing to the professional and personal development and growth of others. Known as the "king or queen makers," silent leaders are behind the scenes getting the right people in position to make forward progress. Whether it is athletic teams, churches, school groups or civic organizations, silent leadership has been demonstrated numerous times over the years.

Competent leaders set aside time to plan because they know that failing to plan is planning to fail. These individuals know how to strategize and focus on what is important versus what is urgent. They cut to the chase on the \$100 decisions and allocate the necessary resources to the \$1,000 and \$100,000 decisions. A key characteristic of effective leaders is that they can make plans, execute

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strategy and accept the positive and negative consequences. Leaders will set aside time to monitor outcomes so that adjustments can be made given the aforementioned drivers of change.

Finally, regardless of position, good communication is a universal leadership skill. With the use and dependency on technology, a gap in the writing and interpersonal skills of individuals is becoming more apparent. Whether it is at the dinner table, a meeting or in everyday interaction, technology is like an old oak tree drowning out the seedlings of interpersonal communication.

The development of listening skills and writing abilities, which are on the decline as a result of texting and email, will be a high priority. Great leaders know that communication techniques vary depending upon cultures, localities, customers and a given circumstance. A leader with a high emotional intelligence, along with an understanding of nonverbal communication in a sincere manner, can be a difference maker. Engaging in personality style assessments can be advantageous in team building and interpersonal interaction.

There is an old saying, "If you aspire to lead, you must read." In today's world, this may mean listening to a podcast, watching a financial literacy video presented by a coach or business leader, reading a good book or learning from everyday people who are making a difference. During a recent executive program held at Disney World, we learned there is a saying at Disney—"In times of drastic change, it is the learners who inherit the future." ■

Dr. David Kohl received his Ph.D. degree in agricultural economics from Cornell University. For 25 years, he was professor of agricultural finance and small business management and entrepreneurship at Virginia Tech. He has published four books and more than 2,100 articles on financial and business-related topics. Dr. Kohl is currently president of AgriVisions, LLC, a knowledge-based consulting business providing cutting-edge programs to leading agricultural organizations worldwide. He is also a business coach and part owner of Homestead Creamery, a value-added dairy business in the Blue Ridge Mountains. This content was provided by  **Northwest**
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Your wheat life...



Madelyn Schluneger (8), daughter of Jeremy and Amy Schluneger, helps service combines near Tekoa. Photo by Jeremy Schluneger.



Brody Geissler (2 ½) at last year's vintage harvest in Davenport. Photo by Stacy Geissler.



A golden harvest near Oakesdale. Photo by Teresa Hodges.



Wildflowers on CRP land in Benton County. Photo by Nicole Berg.



This is a picture from Aug. 20, 2018, (first day of classes at Washington State University) at Spillman Farm near Pullman. The picture shows the spring wheat breeding program hand threshing with a Vogel thresher. Wycliffe Nyongesa is loading the thresher, and Vic DeMacon is catching the sample. The others carrying bundles are students. It was very smoky due to the wildfires. Picture by Frank Ankerson.



Mt. Rainier from the back window of Paul and Deb Horak's home, located between Ritzville and Odessa. Photo by Deb Horak.

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Please include location
of picture, names of all
people appearing in the
picture and ages of all
children.

HAPPENINGS

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

JULY 2019

4 GRAND OLD FOURTH. Pancake breakfast, parade, fireworks. Pasco, Wash. pasco-wa.gov/index.aspx?nid=844

4 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION. Games, food and fireworks. Sunnyside Park in Pullman, Wash. pullmanchamber.com/events/chamber-events/

4-7 NORTH IDAHO DRAFT HORSE AND MULE SHOW. Kootenai County Fairgrounds in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. idahodrafthorseshow.com

9 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP TOUR. Farmington, Wash., at 8 a.m. For information call Steve Van Vleet at (509) 397-6290 or variety.wsu.edu

9 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP TOUR. Palouse, Wash., at 3:30 p.m. For information call Steve Van Vleet at (509) 397-6290 or variety.wsu.edu

12-13 WATERVILLE DAYS. Spaghetti feed and live music, 5k run, parade, classic car show, kids zone, food and craft vendors, quilt show, horseshoe tournament. Pioneer Park, Waterville, Wash., historicwatervillewa.org

12-14 CHENEY RODEO. Dances Friday, Saturday nights after rodeo. Saturday parade. Cheney, Wash. cheneyrodeo.com

12-14 CHATAQUA DAYS. Food, arts and crafts, carnival, beer garden, entertainment. Chewelah City Park in Chewelah, Wash. chewelahchataqua.com

19-21 PIONEER DAYS. Fun run, parade, music, BBQ and beer garden. Davenport, Wash. davenportpioneerdays.org

27 PALOUSE MUSIC FESTIVAL. Vendors, food and family-friendly activities available. 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Hayton-Greene Park, Palouse, Wash. Adult tickets are \$10, kids 6-16 are \$5 and kids under 6 admitted free. facebook.com/PalouseMusicFestival/

AUGUST 2019

1-3 MOXEE HOP FESTIVAL. Parade, beer garden, live entertainment, food and crafts, games, BBQ cookoff. Moxee, Wash. evcea.org/hopfestival/

2-4 KING SALMON DERBY. Up to \$20,000 in cash and prizes available. Registration required. Brewster, Wash. brewstersalmonderby.com

3 SCOTTISH HIGHLAND GAMES.

Enjoy the traditional features of Scottish Highland Games, such as massed bands, pipe band exhibitions, individual piping, heavy athletics and highland dancing. 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Spokane County Fair and Expo Center in Spokane Valley, Wash. spokanehighlandgames.net

7-10 YAKIMA VALLEY FAIR AND RODEO. ProWest rodeo, car show, parade, beer garden. County Fair Park in Grandview, Wash. yvfair-rodeo.org

8-11 OMAK STAMPEDE. Parade, carnival, art show, rodeo dances and vendors. Omak, Wash. omakstampede.org

10 SWIM THE SNAKE. Only .7 of a mile on calm water, lots of flotilla support including a certified dive master on site. Come to Lyon's Ferry to watch the swimmers and enjoy a BBQ and beautiful scenery. cityofwaitsburg.com/events-calendar

13-17 GRANT COUNTY FAIR. Ag exhibits, livestock competitions, carnival, arts and crafts, entertainment, food. Moses Lake, Wash. gcfairgrounds.com

13-18 SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON FAIR. Exhibits, live entertainment, demolition derby. Chehalis, Wash. southwestwashingtonfair.net

16-17 NATIONAL LENTIL FESTIVAL. Stop by and see the world's largest bowl of lentil chili. Fun run, parade, softball tournament, beer garden. Pullman, Wash. lentilfest.com

17 ROCKING ON THE RIVER. C+C Music Factory and Vanilla Ice are main acts. Gates open at 3 p.m., music at 3:30 p.m. Food and beverage vendors on site. No outside food or drink. Dave's Valley Golf in Clarkston, Wash. rockinontheriver.org

17-18 PIONEER POWER SHOW AND SWAP MEET. Farm equipment, vintage trucks, equipment parade, wheat threshing and binding demos, working sawmill, blacksmith shop farm tractor pulls. Central Washington Ag Museum, Fullbright Park in Union Gap, Wash. centralwaagmuseum.org/pioneer-power-show-union-gap.asp

20-24 BENTON FRANKLIN FAIR AND RODEO. Demolition derby, BBQ cookoff, parade, live entertainment. Kennewick, Wash. bentonfranklinfair.com

21-25 NORTH IDAHO FAIR AND RODEO. Fireworks, draft horse show

and pull, demolition derby, entertainment, carnival, rodeo. Kootenai County Fairgrounds in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. northidahostatefair.com

22-24 LINCOLN COUNTY FAIR. Rodeo, livestock, exhibits, food and games. Davenport, Wash. lincolncountywafair.com

22-25 NCW FAIR. Live entertainment, carnival, livestock sale, rodeo and horse. Waterville, Wash. ncwfair.org

22-25 NORTHEAST WASHINGTON FAIR. Exhibits, parade, talent show, live entertainment, Colville, Wash. www.co.stevens.wa.us/NE_WA_Fair/new_fair_home_page.htm

23-24 VINTAGE HARVEST. Ride with the old-timers as they harvest wheat with restored vintage combines, trucks and tractors. Donations gladly accepted and will benefit the Lincoln County Historical Society. Big Red Barn east of Davenport, Wash., on Hwy 2. Search @ VintageHarvestDavenport on Facebook for more information.

24 SPRINT BOAT RACING. Enjoy 5 grass terraces, two beer gardens and a great atmosphere to watch fantastic racing in St John, Wash. Fun for the entire family! Bring the lawn chairs, sunscreen and blankets. 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. or until racing is finished. webbsslough.com or (509)648-8900.

28-SEPT. 2 PIG OUT IN THE PARK. Music and food. Riverfront Park in Spokane, Wash. spokanepigout.com

30-SEPT. 2. Wheat Land Communities' Fair. Rodeo, exhibits, entertainment. Ritzville Rodeo Grounds. fair.goritzville.com/fair.php

30-SEPT. 2 ELLENSBURG RODEO AND KITTITAS COUNTY FAIR. Carnival, midway, hoedown, pancake breakfast and parade. Ellensburg, Wash. ellensburgrodeo.com ■

Submissions

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

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