

# WHEAT LIFE

The official publication of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers

JULY | 2021

## DAM CHAMPIONS

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highlights fish  
recovery effort

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# WHEAT LIFE

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**WASHINGTON  
ASSOCIATION OF  
WHEAT GROWERS**

109 East First Avenue  
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(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

Lance Marshall • lance@wawg.org  
(253) 221-7000

## 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

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# President's Perspective



## Why supporting our wheat PAC matters

By Ryan Poe

What a busy June I've had on the farm and as your president of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG).

Washington wheat leaders and I participated in an industry tour of Lower Granite Dam where we all got an education on the importance of the lower Snake River dams and a crash course on all that is being done to help salmon recovery (which is a lot and is impressive). You can read more about that tour on page 34.

On the farm, we received our first measurable rain in a long time. It will hopefully help our heads fill and maybe increase our test weight a little. Unfortunately, for where the crop is at, the rain came a little too late to have a major impact on it. We will take the rain when it comes, though, as it is needed, and we are already starting to ponder fall planting conditions. Harvest on our farm is going to be early. We are estimating starting right after the 4th of July on winter canola and will likely be able to roll right into the wheat.

At our June board meeting—the first in-person board meeting in more than a year—we discussed the Washington Wheat PAC. For those of you that aren't familiar with our PAC, it's a grower-funded political action committee that supports ag-friendly legislators by donating to their campaigns. I hear a lot of people grumbling about current politics and claiming there's nothing they can do. I, for one, believe that donating to our wheat PAC is something that can be very effective in helping our cause. I'd like to make a case for why every grower should be donating to the PAC.

This last state legislative session was challenging because of the number of bills introduced that were harmful to agriculture. The only way to protect ourselves is to have legislators in office that are willing to oppose those type of bills and defend our industry. That's where the PAC comes in. During election season, we identify candidates who are sympathetic to ag, especially candidates from urban districts, and donate to their campaigns. After all, our lobbyist, Diana Carlen, can only do so much if she's working with legislators whose priorities don't align with ours.

On our farm, we received payments from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Coronavirus Food Assistance Program parts 2 and 3. I truly believe we would not have received those payments without the lobbying efforts of the National Association of Wheat Growers in D.C., which also uses a PAC to support ag-friendly Congressional candidates. In the upcoming farm bill, we want to increase the Price Loss Coverage reference price for wheat closer to the crop's break-even price. That's another issue an ag-friendly lawmaker could help us with.

The logistics are a little trickier for donating to our national PAC, so that's why I am encouraging you to donate to our state PAC. You can learn more about the Washington Wheat PAC by visiting wheatpac.org. I urge all those who are able to donate to do so, as I know it's a worthy cause that helps protect our livelihood. ■

**Cover photo:** As controversy over the lower Snake River dams continues, wheat industry leaders took part in an industry tour of Lower Granite Dam last month. Participants went through the locks and saw the steps Bonneville Power Administration and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are taking to help fish safely make the passage through the dam. See more on page 34. Photo by Michelle Hennings. All photos are Shutterstock images or taken by *Wheat Life* staff unless otherwise noted.



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## Contributors

**Ryan Poe**, president, Washington Association of Wheat Growers  
**Mike Carstensen**, chairman, Washington Grain Commission  
**Lori Maricle**, communications director, Washington Grain Commission  
**Michelle Hennings**, executive director, Washington Association of Wheat Growers  
**Diana Carlen**, lobbyist, Washington Association of Wheat Growers  
**Joe Bippert**, program director, Washington Grain Commission

**Clark Neely**, Extension agronomist and Cereal Variety Testing lead, Washington State University  
**Ian Burke**, associate professor, Washington State University  
**Aaron Esser**, Extension regional specialist, Washington State University  
**Mike Krueger**, president and founder, The Money Farm  
**Dr. David M. Kohl**, president, AgriVisions, LLC

## Virtual advocacy doesn't make the same connections

The first half of this year has been a challenge, to say the least, both professionally and personally. I'm normally a very social person, and not being able to interact and converse face to face with family, friends and coworkers due to COVID-19 has been really tough. The one positive from the whole ordeal was that I've been able to spend more time with my family.

I've definitely experienced Zoom fatigue. There are so many meetings, and you try to participate in all of them to make sure you are on top of all the issues so you could piece together the moving parts...with Zoom, I feel like there is no concept of time, and it almost feels like it was more intense than traveling to our meetings.

At the end of last year, we began planning how we were going to carry out our advocacy if we couldn't travel to Olympia or Washington, D.C., to meet with legislators. We knew most of our efforts would have to be virtual, and I was worried we'd have a harder time making a connection. And it was tougher. Meeting in a lawmaker's office or testifying in person in a committee hearing is much more effective. There are so many nonverbal nuances that get lost when you're just a picture on a screen, not to mention all the technical glitches that seem to accompany nearly every Zoom meeting I've ever been on.

When we talk about meeting with our elected officials, sometimes we forget to talk about the other, nearly as important meetings we have with their staff. Usually, those meetings take place at a reception or a dinner. It's a much more relaxed atmosphere, and we are able to get to know them, and they can get to know us. Staffers are the key to knowing what's going on behind the scenes, and they usually have a direct line to the boss.

This past year, we missed out on a lot of those networking opportunities, which is a big deal, especially with a new administration and lots of new faces at both the state and national levels.

There were some positives to advocating virtually. It was a little easier to book meetings with lawmakers at the last second, we were able to spread those meetings out



**Michelle Hennings,**  
Executive Director  
*Washington Association  
of Wheat Growers*

(instead of trying to pack them in in two days), and we were able to testify in more committee hearings than we usually do. However, because it was easier for everyone else to testify as well, many times, we only had one or two minutes to make our case on why a particular piece of legislation was going to hurt our industry. I feel like that's nearly impossible to do, especially with the complicated issues we were talking about.

Overtime in agriculture and retroactive overtime pay was one of those complicated issues we dealt with at the state level. From the beginning, we felt it wasn't right that farmers were in danger of being penalized for following the law for the past 60 years. We felt very strongly that it was an issue that had to be addressed by ALL of agriculture, not just the more labor-intensive sectors. With the

current climate in Olympia, fighting issues individually just wasn't going to get us a positive end result.

As negotiations dragged on and it became clear that some legislators weren't interested in rectifying the court decision that struck down the overtime law, wheat growers had to make a decision. Would we support a compromise bill that would subject agriculture to overtime pay, but stop the industry from having to pay three years' worth of back wages or not? We made the decision to band together as ag to support an end result that would be beneficial to the industry overall. We fought to include a harvest exemption in the bill, but that effort fell short. However, I'm proud of our work, and we didn't fail without a fight. We plan to work hard on getting a harvest exemption next year and will, hopefully, talk some sense into the legislators that just don't get it.

Carbon is another issue we worked hard on. As I've said before, this issue has legs and arms and will walk. We have to deal with it, especially since our state government has made carbon a priority by passing a low carbon fuel standard and a carbon tax. Both of these bills will increase fuel and other input costs for farmers, not to mention rural residents who generally just have to drive more than the urban population. At the national level, we are working to make sure that any type of carbon market or climate



legislation is voluntary, benefits the grower and recognizes that farmers sequester carbon by growing crops. Growers shouldn't be forced to implement costly practices that aren't suitable for their unique growing conditions. There are many questions still to be addressed, such as how will the government help farmers make these changes, who will administer a carbon market, and what about farmers who have already put many of these practices in place?

Infrastructure has been a hot topic this year, thanks to Rep. Simpson's dam-breaching proposal, which is causing us grave concerns. It's also an issue much bigger than the Washington wheat industry can take on alone. Our dams are under constant scrutiny, and it's important we join coalitions and fund efforts defending the dams and bargaining, which is the cleanest, most carbon-friendly mode of transportation available to us. We have allocated more money in this year's budget to help address infrastructure.

Regarding Rep. Simpson's proposal, the big elephant in the room is Idaho dams don't have fish passage. Before the Congressman starts targeting our dams, he needs to take a look in his own backyard! Through today's technology, dams and fish can coexist. The wheat industry in the Pacific Northwest is united in our message that the lower Snake River dams should not be removed. We are looking for an opportunity to discuss our talking points with Congressman Simpson and explain why his proposal hurts agriculture.

Our meeting season may be over for a few months, but that doesn't mean we are relaxing. We are dealing with a number of issues, not the least of which is this drought. We are reviewing a federal program, the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus, which covers quality losses due to natural disasters, to see if it can help our growers. We've also asked Gov. Inslee to make a disaster declaration for wheat counties to open the door to federal

resources. And then there's the farm bill. It feels like we just got done with one, but now it's time to start working on the next. We are working with NAWG to set our priorities for this farm bill. As always, protecting crop insurance will be one of our priorities, but we will also be watching the conservation title very, very closely.

All of these issues are ongoing and developing a strategy to deal with them is critical to successful policy work. There's another way we advocate, and that's by financially supporting legislators who are sympathetic to agriculture. We do that through our political action committee, the Washington Wheat PAC. In today's political climate, you have to "pay to play," and it's critical that we help ag-friendly legislators get into leadership positions, especially in the state legislature. I think it's safe to say that most of the legislators in Eastern Washington are on our side, so we need to target urban legislators who can help us. I understand this next year may be tough, financially, due to the drought, but I hope, if you can, you'll consider donating to the PAC.

You can find more information about the wheat PAC at [wheatpac.org](http://wheatpac.org). Members will also be receiving a PAC pamphlet in the mail in a couple months that has more information on it.

One last plug. WAWG is a nonprofit, member-led organization. We exist to support and represent our growers, and as a group, we help make growers' voices heard in Olympia and Washington, D.C. If you aren't a member, please consider joining. If you are a member, thank you for your support. I also want to thank our amazing team of officers and our WAWG staff. We've had a crazy year so far, and the main reason we've been successful is that we've all pulled together. I'm always available to talk. You can always contact me at [michelle@wawg.org](mailto:michelle@wawg.org) or by calling (509) 659-0610. ■

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## WAWG's current top priorities are:

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

**If these issues are important to your operation, become a member today and help us educate our legislators and advocate for agriculture.**  
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- Voice to WAWG through opinion surveys
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## Board discusses financials, drought in June meeting

Last month, leaders and staff of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) met for their first in-person board meeting in more than a year at the Wheat Foundation Building in Ritzville.

"It was nice to be able to meet face to face after such a long time," said Michelle Hennings, WAWG's executive director. "We had a good turnout and got our business done in time for the summer break. Unfortunately, all the counties reported that their crops were suffering due to drought."

The consensus from the board was harvest this year is going to come early and go fast. Most spring wheat was struggling, but (as of the first of June) the winter wheat was still holding on. Quality, thanks to the spring's temperature swings, could be an issue.

Ben Thiel, director of the Risk Management Agency's (RMA) regional office in Spokane, said soil moisture was bad and likely to get worse. He recommended that growers review their crop insurance strategy—if this pattern of dryness continues in the future—and consider possibly scaling up their coverage or considering whole farm coverage. In the next few weeks, RMA plans to publish a set of frequently asked questions on the drought at [rma.usda.gov](http://rma.usda.gov).

Thiel also updated growers on RMA's enterprise units. In the past, the agency was considering allowing enterprise units by practice (fallow, continuous planting), but has decided not to offer that option for the time being. However, growers



Washington Association of Wheat Growers board members met in June in Ritzville. They heard from U.S. Department of Agriculture agencies, discussed the impact the drought is having on their crops and approved the 2021/22 budget.

will be able to separate enterprise units by winter or spring crops.

Roylene Comes At Night, state conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, said the agency continues to fill open positions throughout the state. The state office is meeting their funding obligations, including some extra funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and staff continues to work on Conservation Reserve Program contracts.

On the state legislative side, WAWG lobbyist Diana Carlen called the 2021 Legislative Session one of the most brutal for agriculture that she's been a part of.

"It was tense. Agriculture was on the defense the entire time," she told the board, referring to the fight over agricultural overtime, carbon legislation and a capital gains tax that could end up hurting farmers (see page 22 for more on the capital gains tax).

This year's legislative session was entirely virtual, and Carlen said that seemed to make it easier for legislators to ignore voters' wishes and pass controversial bills. She doesn't think there will be a special session later this year to pass a transportation revenue package, which was tied to the low carbon fuel standard and carbon tax that lawmakers passed.

"A lot of rule making will be done on carbon (in the near future), and we need to be involved," she said. "We are going to have to work hard to make our voices heard."

Glen Squires, CEO of the Washington Grain Commission (WGC), talked about the Commission budget, which had recently been passed. Commissioners approved the purchase of two new combines and protein testing machines for



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researchers. The Commission staff has a new face, as Lori Maricle, the new communications director, started at the beginning of June.

Finally, the board reviewed and approved the 2021/22 budget. Additional funds were allocated to the Transportation Committee for additional policy work regarding infrastructure and advocating for the lower Snake River dams.

The next state board meeting is scheduled for Sept. 14. ■

## Washington farmers spotlight drought in local, national media

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, but a combination of both brought a big spotlight on the drought conditions in Eastern Washington and highlighted how important crop insurance is to farmers.

In June, Nicole Berg, a grower in Benton County and vice president of the National Association of Wheat Growers, sent out photographs of a coat hanger in her wheat field to illustrate how poorly her crops were doing because of the drought. The photographs made the rounds of social media and caught the eye of Anna King, a writer for Northwest News Network. The story was picked up by NPR and became the top story for NPR's national feed for a brief time.

A week later, Spokane television station KXLY interviewed Ryan Poe, president of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG), and Michelle Hennings, WAWG's executive director. Poe walked through his wheat field,



In June, growers in Adams County met at the Ritzville home of County Vice President Ron Jirava to discuss county business and hear updates from Michelle Hennings (left), executive director of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers, and other industry stakeholders. The meeting followed the local crop variety testing plot tour.



Approximately 40 Columbia County growers gathered last month to hear updates on a variety of topics, including filling county Extension positions, marketing challenges, the 2021 Washington State Legislative Session and advocacy efforts at the state and national levels.

showing the KXLY reporter how lack of moisture has stunted his wheat.

"This is definitely the driest, kind of late winter and going into spring that I've seen," he says in the video.

In the latest drought monitor, all Eastern Washington counties are categorized as having a level of moderate drought. Every major wheat producing county except Douglas County is at least partially categorized as experiencing extreme drought. Crop insurance will be critical for many farmers this year, emphasize-





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A photo taken by Benton County farmer Nicole Berg highlights the effects of the drought on her crops. Stories on the lack of rain featuring Eastern Washington growers ran in local and national media. Unfortunately, Berg said the storm in the background didn't manage to make its way over to her fields.

ing the need for a strong safety net.

"It's going to be a difficult year, and it's very important that farmers do have crop insurance. They aren't going to get 100 percent of their crop back," Hennings says in the KXLY segment.

Hennings also gave an interview to RFD-TV, telling the outlet that if the region doesn't see precipitation later this summer and into the fall, the drought could impact the 2022 winter wheat crop as well.

You can read the Northwest News Network's story at [npr.org/2021/06/03/1002589739/farmers-are-feeling-the-pain-as-drought-spreads-in-the-northwest](https://npr.org/2021/06/03/1002589739/farmers-are-feeling-the-pain-as-drought-spreads-in-the-northwest). The KXLY segment is at [kxly.com/its-going-to-be-a-difficult-year-local-dryland-farmers-struggling-with-severe-drought-conditions/](https://kxly.com/its-going-to-be-a-difficult-year-local-dryland-farmers-struggling-with-severe-drought-conditions/). And the RFD-TV interview is at [rfdtv.com/story/44131482/northwest-wheat-growers-face-worst-drought-in-100-years-according-to-one-expert](https://rfdtv.com/story/44131482/northwest-wheat-growers-face-worst-drought-in-100-years-according-to-one-expert). ■

## Asotin wheat growers award scholarship to Clarkston senior

**Macy Green**, a high school senior from Clarkston, Wash., is the recipient of this year's scholarship from the Asotin County wheat growers.



Green is the daughter of Christina, a teacher, and James, a pastor. She has three brothers. Originally from Missouri, the family moved to Eastern Washington when Green was 12. Although she had been around horses at her grandparents' farm in Missouri, it wasn't until church friends introduced her to 4-H that she really fell for them. Green spent the next six years showing horses and taking jumping lessons. She's also showed bunnies, pigs and steers throughout her 4-H and FFA career. Green heard about the wheat growers' scholarship through her 4-H leader.

Green plans to attend Washington State University in the fall and major in preveterinary medicine and then go onto vet school and focus on large animals. Ever since she was a child, Green said she has wanted to be a veterinarian.

"My absolute dream would be to start up my own practice and have a rescue that goes along with it," she said. "I love the idea of rescuing all kinds of animals, not just large ones."

Besides horses, Green's other hobbies include playing the ukulele and enjoying the beaches and walking trails in the Lewis Clark Valley. With older brothers already in college, she said the scholarship from the wheat growers will help cover her college expenses.

"Thank you. It (the scholarship) is really greatly appreciated," she said. "I've been blessed to get a few good scholarships." ■

## Pandemic cover crop program offers crop insurance benefits

Agricultural producers who have coverage under most crop insurance policies are eligible for a premium benefit from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) if they





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planted cover crops during this crop year. The Pandemic Cover Crop Program (PCCP), offered by USDA's Risk Management Agency, reduces producers' overall premium bills and helps them maintain their cover crop systems.

PCCP provides premium support to producers who insured their spring crop with most insurance policies and planted a qualifying cover crop during the 2021 crop year. The premium support is \$5 per acre, but no more than the full premium owed.

Qualifying cover crops include all that are reportable to the Farm Service Agency, including cereals and other grasses; legumes; brassicas and other nonlegume broad-leaves; and mixtures of two or more cover crop species planted at the same time. PCCP does not change acreage reporting dates, reporting requirements or any other terms of the crop insurance policy.

Cultivating cover crops requires a sustained, long-term investment, and the economic challenges of the pandemic made it financially challenging for many producers to maintain cover crop systems. PCCP helps ensure producers can continue this important conservation practice.

PCCP is part of USDA's Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative, a bundle of programs to bring financial assistance to farmers, ranchers and producers who felt the impact of COVID-19 market disruptions. For information, visit [farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance/cover-crops](https://farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance/cover-crops). ■

## WAWG sends letter supporting Extension

The Washington Association of Wheat Growers has sent a letter to Washington State University (WSU) administrators supporting the WSU County Extension Offices and asking the administration to prioritize filling open positions, especially in Columbia, Garfield and Walla Walla counties.

"There is currently no Extension support in southeastern Washington for rain-fed agriculture," the letter states. "In today's world, there is a core of innovative farmers anxiously seeking to continue collaborations with Extension in the adaptive research that has transformed Eastern Washington into one of the most productive and diverse agricultural regions in the world. Through its research, Extension and growers in this higher rainfall region have benefitted substantially from increased productivity, and, in turn, increased dollars generated for WSU research. We support filling the position(s) with individuals that have expertise in soil health, cropping systems and precision agriculture." ■

## CRP sign-up deadline set

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has set a July 23, 2021, deadline for agricultural producers and landowners to apply for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General Sign-up 56. Additionally, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will accept applications for CRP Grasslands from July 12 to Aug. 20. This year, USDA updated both sign-up options to provide great incentives for producers and increase conservation benefits, including reducing the impacts of climate change.

Both sign-ups are competitive and will provide for annual rental payments for land devoted to conservation purposes.

"We are excited to roll out our new and improved CRP General and Grasslands sign-ups," said FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux. "CRP now makes more financial sense for producers while also providing a bigger return on investment in terms of natural resource benefits. The general and grasslands sign-ups are part of a broader suite of tools available through CRP to integrate key conservation practices on our nation's working lands."

Through CRP, producers and landowners establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees, to control soil erosion, improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat on cropland. Lands enrolled in CRP also play a key role in mitigating impacts from climate change, and FSA has added a new Climate-Smart Practice Incentive for practices that sequester carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

FSA is also adding a one-time "inflationary" adjustment for payment rates, as well as having more flexibility on adjusting soil rental rates.

CRP Grasslands helps landowners and operators protect grassland, including rangeland, and pastureland and certain other lands, while maintaining them as grazing lands. Protecting grasslands contributes positively to the economy of many regions, provides biodiversity of plant and animal populations and improves environmental quality. FSA has updated the grasslands sign-up to establish a minimum rental rate of \$15 per acre, as well as new National Grassland Priority Zones.

To enroll in the CRP general sign-up, producers and landowners should contact their local USDA Service Center by the July 23 deadline. To enroll in the CRP Grasslands sign-up, they should contact USDA by the August 20 deadline. While USDA offices may have limited visitors because of the pandemic, service center staff continue to work with agricultural producers via phone, email and other digital tools. ■



# 2021 TRI-STATE Grain Growers Convention



Watch for additional event highlights at  
[www.wawg.org/convention](http://www.wawg.org/convention)

## 2021 Tri-State Grain Growers Convention



**Sara Wyant**

As a veteran farm policy reporter, she is recognized on Capitol Hill, as well as with farm and commodity associations across the country. The newsletter and website she founded, Agri-Pulse, include the latest updates on farm policy, commodity and conservation programs, trade, food safety, rural development, and environmental and regulatory programs.



**Eric Snodgrass**

Principal Atmospheric Scientist for Nutrien Ag Solutions, where he develops predictive, analytical software to help agricultural producers manage weather risk. His frequent weather updates focus on how high-impact weather events influence global agriculture productivity.



**Steve Miller**

Recognized throughout Idaho as an ag event emcee, he was born and raised on a farming/ranching operation in North Dakota. While retired from the animal health pharmaceutical industry, Steve has remained closely tied to the ag community and his rural roots. He currently resides in Middleton, Idaho, with his wife. He is a father to 3 and grandfather to 7.

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# Year in Review 2020/21

Another year, another 12 months of advocating for the Washington wheat industry. Here's some highlights and a look at what the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) has been up to for the last 365 days.

## JULY 2020

As wheat harvest looms for counties in southeast and southcentral Washington, growers wonder how they are going to operate under Gov. Jay Inslee's **one-size-fits-all COVID-19 requirements for agriculture**. Besides social distancing, those requirements require employers to disinfect surfaces regularly; do daily temperature checks and provide PPE for their employees; and make handwashing stations available in the field. WAWG submits comments to the governor's office asking him to limit the regulations to more labor-intensive farm operations.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) **expands the list of commodities that are eligible for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP)**, but fails to include all wheat classes as requested by the wheat industry, including WAWG. Currently, only durum and hard red spring are eligible.

The grower organizations of Washington, Oregon and Idaho make the difficult decision to **cancel the 2020 Tri-State Grain Growers Convention** due to the pandemic.

As of July 1, the **U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) is fully implemented**. The USMCA replaces the 26-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement.

The **Risk Management Agency (RMA) introduces a quality loss option** that helps producers protect their 10-year actual production history when experiencing a quality loss that isn't big enough to trigger an indemnity payment. This is a direct result of lobbying done by the wheat industry, including WAWG.

Four months into the pandemic, the **need for reliable, fast internet becomes painfully clear**, particularly in rural areas, as just about every facet of life goes virtual, especially work and school.

This growing season saw cooler, wetter weather, especially in the Palouse, and **area elevators begin preparing for a large wheat harvest**.

The **final environmental impact statement evaluating the four lower Snake River dams'** impact on salmon is released. The wheat industry supports the preferred alternative, which calls for spilling more water in the spring for juvenile fish passage rather than breaching the dams.

## AUGUST 2020

**Harvest 2020 is full steam ahead** across Eastern Washington.

The USDA **adds commodities to the CFAP eligibility list**, but still doesn't include any classes of wheat besides durum and hard red spring. The National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) and WAWG continue to state their case to lawmakers that all wheat classes should be eligible.

**Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.) meets with wheat growers** in Ritzville to talk about CFAP, trade and transportation.

## SEPTEMBER 2020

**Labor Day windstorms ignite several major fires** in Eastern Washington, burning hundreds of thousands of acres in Okanogan, Douglas, Lincoln and Whitman counties. Fortunately, most of the wheat in the affected areas is already harvested. Ranchers aren't so lucky as they lose pasture, fencing and livestock. In Whitman County, the small towns of Malden and Pine City are nearly leveled.

**Harvest 2020 is mostly over**. In the Palouse, yields were above average with excellent quality. In Douglas and Grant counties, yields were average to below average due to a dry summer.

USDA announces that **all classes of wheat are eligible for the second round of CFAP**.

**WAWG Vice President Howard McDonald films a 30-second video spot** that airs on KXLY's "Tribute 4 Our Farmers." A copy is at [youtube.com/channel/UCE3w4Xa7EmV8CxJlt\\_UgQQ](https://youtube.com/channel/UCE3w4Xa7EmV8CxJlt_UgQQ).

## OCTOBER 2020

**Nicole Berg**, a WAWG past president and vice president of NAWG, is sworn in as the specialty crop representative to the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation's board of directors. Another WAWG past president, **Marci Green**, accepts a position as a farmer ambassador for U.S. Farmers & Ranchers in Action.

The **governors of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana sign a letter** agreeing to collaboratively advance the goals of the Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force and work together to rebuild Columbia River salmon and steelhead stocks. The Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force was convened in 2017 by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and tasked with establishing a common vision and goals for the Columbia Basin.

**NAWG joins the Ecosystem Services Market Consortium**, a nonprofit organization that is working to advance



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The state Supreme Court strikes down the **\$30 car tab initiative** passed by voters in 2019.

## NOVEMBER 2020

WAWG leaders and staff **virtually attend NAWG's fall meetings**.

The Washington State Supreme Court rules that the **state statute exempting agricultural employers from paying overtime as it applies to dairy workers is unconstitutional**. The court does not say if the ruling affects workers outside the dairy industry.

WAWG staff takes part in an **Agriculture Burn Practices and Research Task Force** conference call. As one of the worst fire seasons in state history finally cools down, the task force reports that, year to date, 310 agricultural permits have been issued on 61,000 acres, about a 5,000 acre increase from 2019. It's been a challenging fall season with late wildfires and air quality—there have been 55 no-burn days. This year, there have been 36 smoke complaints with six ag burn complaints. All were investigated, and one was contributed to ag burning.

In election news, **voters re-elect Jay Inslee as governor and choose Joe Biden over Donald Trump as the next U.S. president**. Democrats maintain their majorities in the state House and Senate.

**Grace Hanning** from Centerville and **Julia Klein** from Ritzville are selected as the 2020/21 Washington Wheat Ambassadors.

WAWG joins with dozens of other Northwest stakeholders in signing a letter to the governors of Washington, Oregon and Idaho asking them to **explore solutions to salmon recovery that are grounded in science** and balance the purposes of the Columbia-Snake River System with fish recovery.

## DECEMBER 2020

WAWG holds its **annual meeting** with more than 50 growers in virtual attendance. Participants hear updates from USDA agency leaders, including RMA Administrator Martin Barbre; NAWG's vice president of policy, Josh Tonsager; and Derek Sandison, director of the Washington State Department of Agriculture. The group reviews resolutions and makes changes as necessary. Growers also decide to keep the same slate of WAWG officers for another year.

Like everything else this year, the Agricultural Marketing and Management Organization's (AMMO) slate of **grower seminars goes virtual**. Agriculturist, author and business

consultant Damian Mason kicks the schedule off by discussing ag trends and supply chain impacts in the wake of COVID-19.

Washington wheat industry leaders, including WAWG President Ryan Poe, send a **letter to Gov. Jay Inslee thanking him for including \$8 million in funding** in his proposed capital budget for the demolition of Washington State University's (WSU) Johnson Hall.

President-Elect Joe Biden nominates former Ag Secretary **Tom Vilsack to serve as agriculture secretary**.

A piece of legislation that the wheat industry has been lobbying for for months is finally signed into law. The **Grain Standards Reauthorization Act of 2020** assures overseas buyers that an independent agency has certified shipments to their contracted specifications.

The year comes to a close with COVID-19 still ravaging the world. According to World Health Organization numbers, nearly **1.8 million people have died globally**. The U.S. death toll sits at just more than 335,000. The good news is that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approves two vaccines, and the rollout begins immediately.

## JANUARY 2021

The **2021 Washington State Legislative Session begins**.

With the pandemic still raging, the capital campus shuts down to visitors, and almost all activity, including testimony given in committee hearings, goes virtual. Agricultural overtime, carbon legislation and a capital gains tax emerge almost immediately as legislative priorities. At the federal level, climate change, farm bill and trade are WAWG's top priorities.

WAWG member **Randy Suess is appointed to serve on the federal Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee for Trade in Grains, Feed, Oilseeds and Planting Seeds**.

Suess is a retired wheat grower from Whitman County. He also served on the Washington Grain Commission for many years.

The **AMMO seminars continue** this month with online presentations from Syngenta and Peter Johnson.

## FEBRUARY 2021

**Rep. Mike Simpson (R-Idaho) releases a proposal to breach the four lower Snake River dams** and establish a \$32 billion fund to mitigate the impacts of removing the dams. Wheat industry advocates and stakeholders immediately push back.

**WAWG leaders testify in a number of state House and Senate committee meetings** on a low carbon fuel standard, a cap and trade program and retroactive overtime pay in agriculture. ►



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Topics such as **strategic marketing, national ag policy, weather and American globalization** round out the AMMO winter schedule. Presentations are given by Randy Fortenbery, NAWG, Peter Zeihan, USDA farm agencies and Eric Snodgrass.

## MARCH 2021

At the beginning of March, **WAWG leaders travel to Dallas** to take part in a socially distanced NAWG annual conference. Carbon and climate policies dominate the discussion.

Wheat growers spend much of March in **Zoom** meetings with state and federal legislators to talk about wheat industry priorities.

With pandemic numbers slowly coming down thanks to vaccines and mask mandates, **several counties carefully resume in-person county wheat grower meetings.**

USDA announces that after reviewing past COVID-19 financial assistance programs, the **USDA is dedicating a further \$6 billion** towards new programs and efforts to bring financial assistance to growers. Wheat farmers will get an extra \$20 per acre.

Rep. Simpson holds a conference call with Pacific Northwest river stakeholders to **defend his dam-breaching proposal.** Wheat growers dispute some of his facts, and the wheat organizations of Washington, Oregon and Idaho send a letter to the congressman offering feedback on his proposal.

## APRIL 2021

The state Legislature **passes two bills mostly supported by the wheat industry** and sends them to the governor to sign. The first bill requires the Washington State Department of Natural Resources to compensate lessees if the agency terminates a lease early on state land used for agricultural purposes. The second bill phases in overtime in agriculture but protects the industry from retroactive liability.

The **Legislature adjourns on time**, spending the last week of the session passing a low carbon fuel standard, cap-and-trade legislation and a capital gains tax. Agriculture is not pleased. One bright spot is that \$8 million is included in the capital budget for demolition of WSU's Johnson Hall in preparation for the construction of a federally funded replacement science facility.

WAWG Past President **Marci Green is appointed to NAWG's new Special Climate and Sustainability Committee.** The committee will provide recommendations to NAWG on policy options and engagement in climate discussions. Green is a grower from Spokane County.

Ag Secretary Vilsack **announces higher payment rates and new incentives** for enrollment and a more targeted focus on the Conservation Reserve Program's role in climate change mitigation.

## MAY 2021

Gov. Inslee **vetoes the parts of the low carbon fuel standard and cap-and-trade legislation** that ties their implementation to successful passage of a transportation revenue package, meaning the legislation could go into effect immediately. Legislators from both sides of the aisle express concern about executive overreach.

Eastern Washington, along with much of the West, experiences **one of the driest springs since the 1920s.** Dryland wheat farmers, especially in the southeast part of the state, are already bracing for significant crop losses.

At the federal level, WAWG joins with other ag groups to **advocate for the renewal of Trade Promotion Authority (TPA)**, which is set to expire in July. TPA allows the current administration to negotiate trade agreements without Congressional interference.

As the COVID-19 vaccines are made available to everyone and the state sees significant numbers of people vaccinated, **Gov. Inslee lifts mask and meeting restrictions for fully vaccinated people.**

President Biden **outlines a conservation plan** that seeks to conserve at least 30 percent of America's land and waters by 2030 through voluntary, locally led conservation and restoration efforts.

## JUNE 2021

WAWG leaders take part in a commodity and industry tour sponsored by the Idaho Grain Producers Association that includes a **tour of Lower Granite Dam and discussion of Rep. Simpson's proposed plan** to breach the four lower Snake River dams.

Even though meeting restrictions are slowly being loosened, this year's **Wheat College remains a virtual event.** WSU Extension faculty present on managing herbicide resistance, stripe rust and Hessian fly.

WSU **resumes in-person variety testing field days**, and more county wheat groups hold in-person county meetings.

WAWG and the WGC **send a letter to Gov. Jay Inslee** asking him to announce a drought declaration in all the state's wheat counties so farmers can begin to access federal resources. ■



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# POLICY MATTERS

## Capital gains tax will likely impact some family farms

By Diana Carlen  
WAWG Lobbyist

On the final day of the legislative session (April 25), the Washington State Legislature passed a new tax on capital gains above \$250,000 that goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2022. The legislation exempts retirement accounts, sales of real estate, timber, livestock and some agricultural property. Additionally, it exempts sales of sole proprietor businesses, provided they have a gross revenue of up to \$6 million.

The bill passed on a party-line vote with no Republicans supporting the legislation and less than a handful of Democrats in each chamber voting against it.

Proponents of the bill argued that the capital gains tax was needed to bring economic justice to our tax system. While originally the legislation was portrayed as exempting all agricultural property from payment of the tax, an analysis conducted by the Washington State Department of Revenue conceded that not all agricultural property would be exempt from paying the capital gains tax. Unfortunately, despite agricultural groups raising the issue and proponents of the capital gains tax insisting that it was not their intent to tax farmland, the issue was not fixed before its passage.

While the bill that passed exempts capital gains from selling real estate when the farmer sells the land directly, a share in an entity that owns farmland may not be exempt.

This is important because farms are often owned by multiple entities in various corporate structures, including LLCs, corporations and partnerships. Family farms are structured this way as part of their succession plans and to pass the farm from one generation to the next.

In another disappointing move, the Legislature also added language in the final bill that prevents the people from filing a referendum on the bill by inserting language in the legislation that the tax was necessary to fund the government.

The capital gains tax, however, could still be challenged by an initiative, but that could not happen until 2022 and requires double the number of signatures to qualify for the ballot.

As predicted, lawsuits have already been filed challenging the capital gains tax as an illegal income tax. Thus far, two separate lawsuits have been filed. The first was filed by the Freedom Foundation. The second challenge was filed by former Attorney General Rob McKenna on behalf of a group of farmers, business owners and the Washington State Farm Bureau. The lawsuits argue that the new bill imposes a tax on income, and thus violates our state constitution, which clearly states taxes must be applied uniformly across the same class of property.

The Washington State Supreme Court has repeatedly held that income is property. This is why a graduated income tax has been prohibited without the passage of a constitutional amendment. Notably, voters have previously rejected six constitutional amendments to overturn the graduated income tax restriction.

The Washington Association of Wheat Growers will continue to follow the lawsuits and legislation to fix this issue for next year's legislative session. In the meantime, farmers are advised to consult their CPAs and attorneys on the impact the new capital gains tax may have on their respective farms and succession planning. ■

## Industry sends governor letter asking for drought declaration

Grower leaders from the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) and the Washington Grain Commission (WGC) have sent a letter to Washington Gov. Jay Inslee asking him to announce a drought declaration in wheat counties so growers will have access to federal resources.

The letter comes as drought conditions deepen across the state. As of June 15, all or portions of 13 Eastern Washington counties are in a designated "D3," or extreme drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. More than 90 percent of the state is considered abnormally dry or worse. ►





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“The Washington wheat industry is asking for your assistance with a growing disaster in our state. Deepening drought conditions are spreading throughout Washington—particularly in counties known for producing high quality wheat. While we have benefitted from having hardy varieties to match each region’s growing conditions, the lack of moisture we are experiencing year-to-date will, ultimately, result in significant quality concerns and a sharp reduction in yield. Complete crop loss is also a looming reality for some dryland growers,” the letter states.

WAWG President Ryan Poe, a grower from Grant County, and WGC Chairman Mike Carstensen, a grower from Lincoln County, both signed the letter. A copy of the letter can be found at [wawg.org/wheat-leaders-send-letter-asking-governor-to-make-a-drought-declaration/](http://wawg.org/wheat-leaders-send-letter-asking-governor-to-make-a-drought-declaration/). ■

## Agencies announce intent to revise definition of WOTUS

Last month, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of the Army announced their intent to revise the definition of “waters of the United States” (WOTUS) to better protect the nation’s vital water resources that support public health, environmental protection, agricultural activity and economic growth.

“After reviewing the Navigable Waters Protection Rule, the EPA and Department of the Army have determined that this rule is leading to significant environmental degradation,” said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. “We are committed to establishing a durable definition of ‘waters of the United States’ based on Supreme Court precedent and drawing from the lessons learned from the current and previous regulations, as well as input from stakeholders, so we can better protect our nation’s waters, foster economic growth and support thriving communities.”

Upon review of the Navigable Waters Protection Rule, the agencies have determined that the rule is significantly reducing clean water protections. The lack of protections is particularly significant in arid states, like New Mexico and Arizona, where nearly every one of more than 1,500 streams assessed has been found to be nonjurisdictional. The agencies are also aware of 333 projects that would have required Section 404 permitting prior to the Navigable Waters Protection Rule, but no longer do.

The agencies’ new regulatory effort will be guided by the following considerations:

- Protecting water resources and communities consistent with the Clean Water Act.

- The latest science and the effects of climate change on the U.S.’s waters.
- Emphasizing a rule with a practical implementation approach for state and Tribal partners.
- Reflecting the experience of and input received from landowners, the agricultural community, states, Tribes, local governments, community organizations, environmental groups and disadvantaged communities with environmental justice concerns.

The agencies are committed to stakeholder engagement to ensure that a revised definition of WOTUS considers essential clean water protections, as well as how the use of water supports key economic sectors. To learn more about the definition of waters of the U.S., visit [epa.gov/wotus](http://epa.gov/wotus). ■

## Wheat organizations welcome resolution of WTO dispute

U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) and the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) congratulate the Biden Administration and U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai for resolving the long-running World Trade Organization dispute over aircraft subsidies and suspending retaliatory tariffs that were a barrier to U.S. wheat exports to the EU.

Under the dispute, the EU placed retaliatory tariffs on nondurum U.S. wheat, which effectively blocked average annual imports of more than 538,000 metric tons of mainly U.S. hard red spring and some hard red winter wheat. Three months ago, the U.S. and the EU agreed to temporarily suspend all retaliatory tariffs and imports resumed almost immediately.

The agreement announced in June suspends the retaliatory tariffs for five years, pending how negotiations on aircraft subsidies go. ■

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## KHEM Farms, established in 1887 in Rosalia

At the age of 15, John Paulson immigrated from Norway and arrived in the U.S. via Ellis Island.

In 1887, John bought a quarter (160 acres) from the Marshall Field Company for \$2.50 per acre six miles west of Rosalia, Wash. He plowed the land himself, and his first wheat crop was eaten by squirrels. His second was lost to drought. Despite being broke, he was able to continue, and his third year, his crop was a success.

Joe Faires started farming near Colfax in 1917.

The farm, at that time, was roughly 480 acres. Paul Faires, Joe's nephew, joined the farm operation in 1943 with his wife, Martha. Prior to Paul Faires' passing in February of 2000, he farmed roughly 885 acres.

KHEM Farms was established in 2007 and combines the Faires family farm and the Paulson family farm. It consists of Kevin and Helen (Faires) Paulson and their daughters, Erin Lundt and Marla Mathison. Kevin manages the farm. Together, they farm roughly 1,900 acres. Kevin's brother, Arlin, and his dad, Wilbur, also still farm with the family. While they continue to raise legumes, roughly 60 percent of their farm is wheat. And harvest is still a family affair today.

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John Paulson and wife.



Kevin Paulson with his daughters, Erin and Marla.

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# IN THE WEEDS

2021 Wheat College focused on resistance, stripe rust, Hessian fly | By Trista Crossley

Resistance isn't futile when it comes to managing weeds in wheat. You just have to be willing to mix things up.

Approximately 60 growers dialed in to the Agricultural Marketing and Management Organization's 2021 Wheat College to hear Washington State University Extension faculty talk about herbicide resistance and weed management in wheat production systems. While Wheat College typically consists of both classroom and hands-on learning, this year, it was once again held virtually because of COVID-19.

Participants earned two pesticide credits. Gordon Gering of Ritzville was the winner of the Blackstone Grill drawing. A recording of the session is available at [youtube.com/channel/UCE3w4Xa7EmV8CxFjlt\\_UgQQ](https://youtube.com/channel/UCE3w4Xa7EmV8CxFjlt_UgQQ).

## HERBICIDE RESISTANCE

Drew Lyon, who holds the Endowed Chair in Small Grains Extension and Research, Weed Science, kicked off the session, tackling the thorny subject of herbicide resistance. Herbicide resistance develops over time as a process akin to natural selection weeds out the plants that are susceptible to a chemical, leaving mostly resistant plants to reproduce. If the genetic variation (which occurs naturally) that provides resistance is passed to a plant's offspring,

eventually, the resistant plants outnumber the susceptible plants, and the chemical stops being effective. Resistance can develop within just a few short years, even when the percentage of resistant weeds in a population is just .0001 percent at the beginning (see slide).

In order for natural selection to take place, three things have to happen. There has to be a struggle for existence, there has to be variation in the population, and that variation has to be inheritable. The amount of time it takes for resistance to occur depends on a number of factors, including cultural practices; the frequency of herbicide use; the herbicide mode of action (single site-of-action will be faster); the biology of the weed species; and the frequency of resistant biotypes among weed species.

"Eventually, weed populations will develop resistance to an herbicide given enough time and enough use," Lyon said, adding that herbicide resistance has been around as long as we've had synthetic organic herbicides, but the pace of herbicide resistance is quickening. "We've relied more on herbicides in the last 20 or 30 years than we did before. We used to use more methods of weed control back in the 1950s, 60s and 70s."

Chemicals rely on modes of action to be effective. A

### Progression of Weed Resistance

Weed resistance progresses logarithmically

Treatment	% Resistant Weeds in Population	Weed Control
0 Application	.0001	Excellent
1 <sup>st</sup> Application	.00143	Excellent
2 <sup>nd</sup> Application	.0205	Excellent
3 <sup>rd</sup> Application	.294	Excellent
4 <sup>th</sup> Application	4.22	Excellent
5 <sup>th</sup> Application	60.5	Failure

Herbicide resistance cannot be reversed in a practical time frame. In many cases, the seed pool is unlikely to change back because there is no fitness penalty.

Year 5 Credit: Mike DeFelice

seed pool or seed bank in soil

Weed plants and seed pool are now mostly herbicide-resistant

Washington State University Extension's Drew Lyon talked about how herbicide resistance develops and what growers can do to slow it at the 2021 Wheat College.



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mode of action is the way a chemical controls a susceptible plant, with different chemicals using different modes of action. It used to be that when one chemical stopped being effective, all a grower had to do was switch to a chemical with a different mode of action. But Lyon said we are developing more weeds that are resistant to more than one mode of action, and growers are running out of the ability to control some weeds, such as Italian ryegrass in Eastern Washington.

“It’s a scary situation when you start developing weeds that are resistant to multiple mechanisms of action,” he said.

The current state of herbicide development is grim. Besides one possibility from FMC, there are no herbicides with new modes of action in advanced development trials. The last new mode of action was introduced more than 30 years ago. The number of weeds with herbicide resistance continues to increase within the U.S. and globally, and the number of weeds with herbicide resistance to more than one herbicide continues to increase. Part of the problem, Lyon said, is that the introduction of Roundup Ready crops in 1996 sucked all of the profitability out of the herbicide market in the U.S.

“Basically, companies make money by selling herbicides to the corn and soybean market, and if they can’t make a profit in the corn and soybean market, they don’t make a profit in the U.S.,” he explained. “When Roundup Ready soybeans came out, everything was cheap, easy and effective,

and people no longer bought other herbicide products. Only the big players still had discovery programs, and they didn’t really see herbicides as a place to make money. That might be starting to change now that we have glyphosate-resistant weeds, but we’ll never be back to the heyday. We have to work with what we have today. If we lose the effective products we have today, there’s not much coming down the road to save us.”

So what can farmers do to avoid or delay herbicide resistance in weeds? Lyon pointed to integrated weed management, which has five components: sanitation, mechanical, biological, cultural and chemical. Dryland farming is limited in biological control options, and in direct seed or no-till operations, chemical has replaced mechanical.

“I’ve just shown you that our chemicals are becoming less and less effective. We need to spend more time on the cultural and sanitation, things like crop rotation,” he said.

General principles of integrated weed management include:

- Using agronomic practices that limit the introduction and spread of weeds.
- Helping the crop compete with weeds.
- Using practices that keep weeds “off balance.” In other words, don’t keep doing the same thing over and over again. Some things farmers can do are raise a new crop, change the timing and/or type of herbicide application or introduce a different tillage system. ►

## What Does 5% Rust Look Like?



Washington State University Extension’s Tim Murray focused on stripe rust biology and management at the 2021 Wheat College.



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Lyon also talked about research he's done on herbicide effectiveness in different weeds, including Russian thistle, prickly lettuce and Italian ryegrass. His message to growers was to combine different modes of action to control weeds.

"The lesson is, we need to try to get more mechanisms of action working," he said. "It would have been nice to do that before we developed resistance to some of these things, but now it's almost imperative that we don't rely on a single mechanism of action to control these troublesome weeds."

## STRIPE RUST

According to WSU Extension Plant Pathologist Tim Murray, there are three different wheat rusts in the Pacific Northwest: stripe rust, leaf rust and stem rust, with stripe rust being the most common. The most visible symptom of stripe rust is either pustules on seedlings or long yellow stripes on plants that are post jointing. Stripe rust can be very destructive on susceptible varieties, causing yield losses of more than 50 percent when it occurs early in the growing season. The primary control method of stripe rust is planting a disease-resistant variety.

The factors that affect stripe rust are:

- Favorable temperatures/moisture for infection (temperatures



Hessian fly biology and management was the focus of Washington State University Extension's Steve Van Vleet at the 2021 Wheat College.

of 50-64 degrees F with six hours of dew). Murray said cool temperatures are best for disease development, but that is less important than infection.

- Fall infection. There has to be susceptible plants in the fall because stripe rust only survives on living wheat plants. It is carried over from fall to spring.
- Winter survival. Temperatures in the single digits without snow cover will be detrimental to stripe rust. Under those conditions, Murray said the disease will die but wheat plants will be fine. Snow cover, unfortunately, provides enough insulation that the fungus can survive.

Stripe rust control options include:

- Cultural controls such as green bridge management, avoiding early planting and excessive irrigation (furrow irrigation is better than using sprinklers).
- Plant disease resistant varieties, preferably those with high temperature adult plant (HTAP) resistance that has a 1-4 variety resistance rating. HTAP resistance is more effective against all stripe rust races.
- Monitor the stripe rust forecast from Dr. Xianming Chen, scout fields and spray fungicides when necessary. Spraying is recommended when planting susceptible varieties (5-9 variety resistance rating) or when 1 to 5 percent of plants in the field have active rust.

If growers do need to spray, Murray said there are lots of choices, most of which will provide about three weeks of effectiveness when used at full label

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rates. A product with two modes of action will give growers an extra week of protection, while three modes of action will likely give them another week. Murray cautioned growers that it is important to follow growth stage and harvest restrictions on herbicides.

"In general, we don't recommend spraying after anthesis because of diminishing returns in the benefit of the herbicide," he said. "Usually, an earlier spray application is going to be more effective than one that's made later in the season."

## HESSIAN FLY

Stephen Van Vleet, an Extension educator in Whitman County, called Hessian fly a silent pest that is becoming more widespread. It poses a serious threat not only to wheat, but also barley and rye. It has long been a problem in spring wheat, but is increasingly becoming a problem in winter wheat. Susceptible spring wheat varieties can typically see upwards of a 70 percent loss in yield. There is also some evidence that the resistant breeding source is losing effectiveness.

"You don't see it or really notice it (Hessian fly) for a while, then we have these populations on susceptible varieties. When we notice this problem, they are already in the puparium down there and trying to get control of it is more or less impossible," Van Vleet said. "The only way to solve this problem at this point in time is resistant varieties."

Rotation and other cultural practices are helpful, and research has shown that insecticide seed treatments may help winter wheat more than spring wheat. Hessian fly susceptibility can vary by rotational system:

- Winter wheat/spring wheat/fallow is at higher risk.
- Annual spring wheat is at very high risk.

- Later planting is often higher risk in spring/lower risk in fall wheat.
- Direct seeding is a higher risk.
- Spring wheat adjacent to winter wheat is a higher risk.
- Poor volunteer control puts crops at a higher risk.

Other Hessian fly considerations include:

- Hessian flies don't travel very far.
- The repeated use of the same resistance gene will/has led to a breakdown.
- Our knowledge/surveillance of Hessian fly is minimal.
- Winter wheat has served as refuge crop.

Growers can learn more about all of these topics at [smallgrains.wsu.edu](http://smallgrains.wsu.edu). There are also variety selection tools that can help growers choose which varieties will work best in their area and for their conditions. ■

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# Dam champions

STATE, NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LEADERS TAKE PART IN DAM ADVOCACY TOUR

Leaders and staff of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) joined with other agricultural industry stakeholders in Lewiston, Idaho, last month to highlight the importance of the lower Snake River dams. The group also discussed the region's concerns about Rep. Mike Simpson's (R-Idaho) \$33 billion proposal to breach the dams, toured Lower Granite Dam and visited the Lewis-Clark Terminal at the Port of Lewiston.

Michelle Hennings, WAWG's executive director, said one of the highlights of the tour was learning how Lower Granite Dam worked and the research and technology the staff there uses to facilitate fish passage, including fish ladders and fish monitoring.

"This is definitely something we need to

showcase to Congress and our legislators. They need to take a tour and see what is being accomplished at Lower Granite Dam. Dams and salmon can coexist, and this is the perfect example. If we could implement this level of effort at all the dams on the Snake River, it would be a win-win situation," she said, adding the staff at the dam did a fantastic job explaining how everything worked.

Zippy Duval, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, as well as Farm Bureau leaders and staff from Idaho, Oregon, Montana and Washington, all participated in the tour. Duval addressed the group, telling them he didn't think it made sense to tear out dams that were providing jobs. He suggested, instead, that a smaller amount of money than what Simpson is proposing could be used for research and development as a way to effectively restore salmon populations.

The group also heard from Chandler Goule, CEO of the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG). Goule warned that Simpson's proposal is gaining steam in Congress, and it's possible that the Congressman will try to insert the funding into a future appropriations bill without introducing any legislation. ►

Part of the fish passage system at Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River.





Chandler Goule (third from right), CEO of the National Association of Wheat Growers, spent an afternoon in Spokane County last month seeing firsthand how the drought is affecting growers' crops. From left are Marci Green, past president of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG); Michelle Hennings, WAWG executive director; Harold McDonald, WAWG vice president; Lonnie Green, owner of Green View Farms; Goule; Ben Adams, WAWG past president; and Glen Squires, CEO of the Washington Grain Commission.



The fish passage system at Lower Granite Dam includes sorting and monitoring what fish species are passing through the dam.



Zippy Duval, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, addressed tour participants, telling them he didn't think it made sense to tear out the dams.



Once the money is allocated, Goule believes it will be easier for Simpson's proposal to tear down the dams to pass.

Previous to the river tour, Goule spent a day in Eastern Washington, seeing first-hand the effects of the drought on wheat, lentils and bluegrass seed at WAWG Past President Marci Green's Spokane County farm.

In all, more than 40 stakeholders took part in the tour, including wheat industry leaders from Idaho, Montana and Oregon; Michael Seyfert, president and CEO of the National Grain and Feed Association; Jeff Van Pevenage, CEO from Columbia Grain International in Portland; representatives from regional grain handling facilities; and area businesses.

Ryan Poe, WAWG president, was also on the tour. He said it was gratifying to have representatives from national agricultural organizations at the event showing their support for the industries that utilize the dams, including the wheat industry. He hopes they'll take the story of the importance of the dams back to Washington, D.C., and include that in their messaging.

"We need to get people out here and do this type of activity with as many congressional delegates and staff as we can," he said. "The Pacific Northwest wheat industry needs to tell their story, and the importance of barging on the Snake River is a critical part of that."

If the lower Snake River dams were breached, it would make barging untenable on the Snake River. To replace the shipping capacity of a four-barge tow would require approximately 150 railcars or 538 semitrucks. Nearly 10 percent of all U.S. wheat exports move by barge just on the Snake River.

"Barging is the cleanest, most carbon-friendly mode of transportation available to us," Hennings said. "With all the emphasis on carbon reduction and climate change, why would we replace that mode of transportation with others that produce more carbon and increase the wear and tear on our roads and railways?" ■



(Above) Besides visiting Lower Granite Dam, tour participants also stopped by the Lewis-Clark Terminal at the Port of Lewiston. (Left) Chandler Goule, CEO of the National Association of Wheat Growers, surveys a drought-stricken field of canola at Marci and Lonnie Green's farm in Spokane County. (Below) After making their way through Lower Granite Dam's fish passage system, fish are discharged below the dam to continue their journey to the ocean.







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## To Washington (DC), with love, from Washington (state)

Mariah Wollweber, National Association of Wheat Growers

By Trista Crossley

Does it take a wheat grower to know how to represent wheat growers?

It certainly doesn't hurt, which is good news for the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) as they welcome **Mariah Wollweber**, a fifth-generation Washington wheat grower, as their new director of communications and partnerships.

Wollweber grew up on her family's farm in Edwall, Wash., where she began helping her grandfather bale hay at age 8 and stepped up to driving a harvest truck at 13. She graduated from Eastern Washington University in 2018 with a degree in public relations and a minor in journalism.

For the past two years, Wollweber's been a public relations specialist for the Denver Regional Council of Governments. She credits her involvement with 4-H and an appearance on a Spokane TV morning show to talk about goats (she was showing goats at the time) as the things that sparked her interest in communications and agriculture.

"From a young age, I started falling in love with communications, and then my favorite thing I found to communicate about was agriculture," she explained. "I've worked really hard to understand politics. I was in Know Your Government for 4-H and was a state ambassador in 4-H. I spent a summer in D.C. when I was a sophomore in high school to learn about journalism and PR and how that plays in government. I've just basically focused on those two things my whole life. Coming to NAWG is a dream come true where I get to combine my two passions."



One of the reasons Wollweber is so passionate about representing farmers is because agriculture is a critical industry being performed by a small minority, and minorities are often easy to overlook. She pointed out that if lawmakers aren't hearing how their policies are affecting the agricultural industry, those policies could seriously hurt "the people who feed us."

In her new position, Wollweber handles all of NAWG's external and internal communications, as well as website and social media updates. She also oversees all the organization's partnerships with other companies and industry groups. She is still living in Denver but hopes to make the move to D.C. by the end of summer.

Wollweber's passion for talking about the ag community is also spurred by the disconnect she sees between farmers and the public. She feels a responsibility to help bridge that gap and believes that social media is an important educational tool and a way to talk about the farming industry with an urban population.

"Farmers are kind of at a disadvantage, being out in the middle of a field and not really having an opportunity to share their story," she said. "That's why organizations like NAWG are so important. They give farmers a voice and allow farmers to be heard. That really highlights how important organizations that focus on that communication and education side of things are."

While Washington state wheat growers may hold a special place in her heart,





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Wollweber is excited to learn how wheat is grown in other states and about the different issues wheat farmers across the nation face.

"It's so awesome to see how geographically diverse our board and our officers are, because they come from such different areas. When they give their updates, it's fascinating to hear the things their farmers are telling them, and the weather they are dealing with. To hear all those differences is incredible, and I love it," she said.

Wollweber said her direct connections back to an active farming community help her see firsthand how government policies and practices affect growers. She credits her agricultural upbringing for teaching her to work hard and giving her a drive to succeed in her education and career. She says that attitude is something she shares with other NAWG employees.

"I know NAWG has the farmers' backs, and so do I. It's who we care about, and who we want to be the voice for. We want to make sure our leaders in this nation are aware of our farmers and the challenges farmers are facing," she said. "I truly believe in the organization that I work for. I encourage farmers to talk with their states and their states to talk with NAWG, because NAWG really is the voice of the farmers and the lobbying arm for our wheat growers." ■



In 2007, Mariah Wollweber (left) and her best friend, Keiton Klein, both from Edwall, Wash., entered a goat clipping contest in the third grade at the Spokane interstate fair. Contestants were judged based on how well and fast they trimmed the goat, cleaned its hooves, etc., and then showed it. Wollweber and Klein didn't win, but then the next year, they entered again and did win. Photos courtesy of Mariah Wollweber.

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Dad and son team, Brandon and Fred Rosman, from Wilbur, Wash., and Doug Costello (middle), Class 8's man of knowledge.

It seemed like a good time to snap a shot, as the finer points of an air dryer were being discussed.

Brandon and his wife, Alicia, know that efficiency is everything for farm time. "Being able to keep more time for family is part of that efficiency," Brandon says.

I think that "efficiency thinking" may have come from Fred and Sabine to this young, 5th generation farmer. A white Pete with a Yellow CAT is hard to beat, when it purrs like it does in this truck.


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# CHAIRMAN

## WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION

By Mike  
Carstensen



Talk to Grandpa Henry or other old-timers about the “Good Ol’ Days” of farming, and you might think it was an idyllic era filled with joshing harvest crews, dances in town, lots of neighbors and simple pleasures. But if you listen long enough, you’ll also hear about the endless wood chopping, the ornery pull combines, the disagreeable moldboard plowing and wheat varieties with so much rust it was like harvesting in a red storm of spores. Needless to say, we all are glad to be rid of all that.

One thing that hasn’t changed between generations of wheat farmers is the goal to raise the most bushels while spending the least dollars, or, to put it another way, how do we balance maximum yield against minimum inputs, a small environmental footprint and overall production system sustainability?

Here at the Washington Grain Commission (WGC), we understand that research is the primary avenue to accomplish our mission of enhancing the long-term profitability and competitiveness of Washington grain farmers. That’s why, among the three categories we allocate funds collected by assessments from farmers and landlords on each bushel of wheat and barley to, research is the big daddy.

In the 2021/22 budget, research took nearly 27 percent of the WGC funding, or \$1,947,909. That doesn’t mean marketing, which came in at 20.5 percent of the budget, or \$1,501,981, isn’t just as important, but it does mean farmers have to have bushels to sell before they can be marketed. The board also increased funding toward education and grower services as the need for public education and the defense of the integrity of the navigation system is front and center.

The WGC was established in 1958 because farmers— independent as we are—understood 63 years ago there are some things we simply can’t accomplish on our own. As smart as some of us think we are, we’re not scientists, and research (and marketing, for that matter) required us to band together for the greater good.

Every year, the commission goes through its budget during the May annual meeting. I’m talking every single line. It makes for a long couple of days, but it’s important work. The research category of the budget is a who’s who of the best and the brightest researchers in the College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resource Sciences at Washington State University (WSU). If you don’t believe me, go to the WGC website at [bit.ly/wgc-budgetFY21](https://bit.ly/wgc-budgetFY21) for a copy of the complete budget. There, you’ll find the names and amounts going to each researcher we fund.

It’s not just WSU researchers either. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) has one of the largest contingents of scientists in the nation working hand-in-glove alongside WSU researchers. Except for which organization issues their paychecks, it’s really hard to tell the difference between researchers at the two organizations.

Since Jasper Spillman served as WSU’s first wheat breeder in the early 1900s, breeding wheat has been a central mission at the land-grant school. The focus has paid big dividends over the years, making it all that much easier to raise more bushels. And the quality! Eastern Washington and the Pacific Northwest is so far ahead of the pack on that basis it’s difficult to see second place. Our customers like that.

But breeding is only one line item. There’s also research to combat diseases and pests; to control weeds and fight resistance; and improve soil health.

Prior to developing our 2021/22 budget, the commission updated its research strategic plan. Our stated objective is to “encourage and support research to optimize grower, buyer and end-user benefits.” The way we figure to do that is by “improving varietal end use and processing attributes, agronomics, production systems and new uses for wheat and barley through efficiencies, targeted research and public/private collaboration.”

While we make the final decisions about where to spend research funding, we don’t do it in a vacuum. Every year, the WGC hosts a wheat and barley research review in collaboration with the Washington Association of Wheat Growers.

At this annual review, WSU and USDA-ARS researchers present their funding requests. The majority of projects are ongoing, and researchers provide a progress report of what they accomplished in the last year and summary of what they will be doing in the upcoming year. New projects can also be presented. The meeting is held every February with the 2021 event being held virtually. Funding priorities are ranked by the farmers who attend, and the WGC takes those standings into consideration at our annual meeting when the budget is set.

As farmers, we all know there are a multitude of reasons for the problems we see in our wheat crops. It’s complicated for sure, but unlike for generations past, it’s not a mystery. We have found most problems have solutions, whether it’s a resistant variety, a cultural practice or a new chemical. But one thing is certain, research points the way to the answer. ■

## WGC announces new communications director

FORMER AWB MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION MANAGER TAKES ROLE IN WHEAT INDUSTRY

The Washington Grain Commission (WGC) is pleased to announce that **Lori Maricle** became its new communications director on June 1. Maricle is an accomplished public relations professional with strategic communications experience in business advocacy and health sciences education.

Maricle earned a bachelor of arts in public relations from the Washington State University (WSU) Edward R. Murrow College of Communication and a bachelor of arts in business management from the WSU Carson College. Maricle has been accredited in public relations (APR) through the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) since 2017. The APR is a national benchmark in strategic communications that demonstrates knowledge of public relations strategy and best practices, including campaign planning, crisis communication, an understanding of ethics, social media, management and leadership. She is also an active PRSA member and former volunteer with the PRSA Greater Spokane Chapter board of directors, serving as secretary, president, past-president and treasurer. Her main professional interests include competitive strategy and assessment; marketing research and behavior; data analytics; and multimedia production.

Maricle has won repeated recognition for excellence in communications on projects ranging from public relations campaigns and digital media to writing and design from multiple professional organizations, including the Spokane Regional MarCom Association; the PRSA Puget Sound Chapter; the Hermes Creative Awards, an international competition for creative professionals; and the Council for Advancement and Support for Education, a global nonprofit association dedicated to educational advancement.

Maricle returns to Spokane after serving as the marketing and communications project manager



PHOTO COURTESY BRIAN MITTGE/AWB

for the Association of Washington Business (AWB), in Olympia. AWB is Washington's oldest and largest statewide business association, serving as both the state's chamber of commerce and its manufacturing and technology association. Before her role with AWB, Maricle spent 12 years working for WSU, including five years serving as the communications director for the WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Spokane and four years serving in administration and human resources at WSU in Pullman.

A Washington native, Maricle grew up on a small farm just outside Bellingham where her family raises Dorset sheep. Throughout her youth, she was an avid participant in Grange, 4-H and FFA programs and is a former Northwest Washington Fair 4-H large animal Round Robin champion.

Maricle replaces Scott Yates, a former ag journalist who served as a dedicated and accomplished voice on behalf of Washington wheat for more than three decades. Yates retired in April.

During his tenure at the WGC, Yates championed the story of Washington farmers during a period of significant innovation and technological advancement in the agricultural industry. His contributions to advancing awareness and knowledge of the industry, and specifically Washington small grains, have been significant.

Yates was also the mastermind and producer behind WGC's "Wheat All About It," the first podcast devoted to wheat and wheat farming in the Pacific Northwest, running weekly for the last four years and covering a variety of crucial, WGC-sponsored initiatives, as well as stories that bring rural living and country culture to life.

Prior to his time at the WGC, Yates was a reporter for 22 years with the Capital Press, a weekly agricultural newspaper. ■



# Transportation issues facing small grains

By Joe Bippert

Program Director, Washington Grain Commission

Washington's farmers depend on a robust transportation network as the critical link between the fields of growers and the tables of consumers.

Transportation demand is a derived demand because the production and consumption of an agricultural commodity create the demand for transportation services. As such, it is an essential part of marketing; any change in supply or demand of the underlying commodity or commodities that compete for transportation services can affect the transport system's efficiency by bringing about either shortages or surpluses in transportation capacity. Short-term agricultural transportation demand can be influenced by many factors that create unexpected shifts in transportation patterns and costs, adding to the ever-present commodity price risk to be managed by agricultural producers, processors and shippers.

We have seen this in recent years as many commodity groups—who don't rely on barge transportation to bring their product to market—show support for a transportation network along the Columbia-Snake River System. Maintaining balance in our state's transportation helps maintain sufficient capacity and competition to service Washington's diverse and robust agricultural industry.

Currently, every transportation sector for Washington farmers is facing issues that could dramatically impact the price farmers pay to move their goods to market. In each case, the Washington Grain Commission (WGC) leverages our

partnerships to stay abreast of the issues and engage when appropriate.

**RIVER** Barging and the dams on the Columbia-Snake River System have received a lot of press lately. Rep. Mike Simpson (R-Idaho) put forward an idea in February that targets breaching the four lower Snake River dams. The environmental impact study (EIS) for the Columbia-Snake River Operations is starting another legal battle, and the governors of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana are trying to come up with a plan that increases salmon populations to harvestable levels, honors tribal agreements and meets clean energy goals. There is not a shortage of conversations and efforts regarding the dams and salmon.

The river system is vital for our state's small grains producers, and the WGC works with partners such as the Washington Association of Wheat Growers, Pacific Northwest Waterways Association, handlers and others across the region and in Washington, D.C.

**RAIL** On March 21, 2021, Canadian Pacific (CP) Railways announced a \$25 billion plan to merge with Kansas City Southern (KCS), calling it a "transformative" remake of the freight-rail industry. The proposed new railroad would be the first U.S.-Mexico-Canada-linked rail line.

Not to be outdone, Canadian National Railway (CN) began talks with KCS in late April, saying it could yield a "superior" rail merger proposal and offered \$30 billion after KCS had agreed to CP's \$25 billion. The KCS board deemed the CN proposal as the "superior offering" and is moving forward



The proposed rail merger of Canadian Pacific and Kansas City Southern would create a new rail system linking Canada, the U.S. and Mexico. Source: Canadian Pacific.

with approval at the Surface Transportation Board (STB). The STB regulates U.S. rail service.

The WGC, through its work with the Transportation Work Group at U.S. Wheat Associates, is closely watching both proposals. U.S. Wheat Associates, along with a coalition of shippers, has asked the STB to apply its most strict standard of “enhancing competition” to both proposals.

**CONTAINERS** Historically, containers filled with imports are railed east, particularly to Chicago, Memphis, Kansas City and Dallas. Once unloaded, the empty containers, which must eventually be returned to the West Coast ports to return to Asia, are filled with agricultural export cargoes. Many of the containers must be repositioned by truck or rail to the rural ag origin points, for loading, before proceeding back to the West Coast ports for exports.

Now, instead of letting a container move inland to be loaded with agricultural products, ocean carriers are declining that export cargo in favor of immediately returning empty containers to Asia in order to quickly load U.S.-bound imports, which are commanding unprecedented high freight revenue. This practice strands our agricultural exports not just in Eastern Washington, but throughout the U.S., making it impossible to make timely deliveries to foreign customers.

The WGC signed onto a letter drafted by the Agriculture Transportation Coalition (AgTC). The letter, which had more than 300 signatures from agricultural companies and associations, was delivered to U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, urging immediate intervention to protect U.S. exporters and their access to foreign markets.

### WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER

With the impacts of transportation being so big for our industry, it is nice to know that there are so many partners to sound the alarm and work on the issues that can disrupt our system. The mission of the WGC is to enhance the long-term profitability and competitiveness of Washington small grains, and part of that long-term competitiveness comes from our continued work to educate external stakeholders and the public on the importance of a robust and balanced transportation system. ■

# Nontariff barriers' real world impacts

## IMPORTED WHEAT IS OFTEN SUBJECTED TO ADDITIONAL SCRUTINY, RESTRICTIONS

For those that work in or follow trade policy, getting used to swimming in a sea of acronyms has long been part of the job. But with specific trade barriers proliferating, especially in the areas of plant and human health, even wheat farmers are facing questions or hearing concerns about barriers such as SPS, NTBs or MRLs. Whether a person knows the acronyms or not, the increasing use of trade barriers can have an impact on their bottom line. But with cooperative work across the U.S. government and wheat industry, we can both limit their scope and manage their impact on trade.

### So, what are they?

An NTB is a nontariff barrier to trade. They encompass a large set of more specific barriers, like nonscience-based sanitary and phytosanitary—that's the SPS—rules and measures, such as requirements for import permits, country of origin labeling and preshipment inspections. Sanitary refers to human and animal health, and phytosanitary refers to plant health.

### What does a real-world NTB look like?

As a widely grown, staple human food, imported wheat often receives additional scrutiny from NTBs. At times, countries may enforce tight rules to protect domestic growers. Some markets may also seek to protect growers of other staples like rice, or even corn, by placing additional scrutiny on wheat imported for feed.

Examples of recent NTB challenges to wheat include:

- Weed seed restrictions, such as jointed goatgrass seeds in Chile, which, for a time, required mills to burn mill screenings rather than processing them for feed. Or, despite ample evidence the weed can't reproduce in the local climate, Vietnam's zero tolerance policy on Canadian thistle seeds. As a result, U.S. exporters have had to run additional cleaning to service one of the fastest growing Asian Pacific markets.
- The detection of restricted plant pests such as bunts or smuts. All shipments to China from the U.S. must be tested for TCK (dwarf bunt) and be under a pre-established threshold. The EU continues to test all U.S. cargoes for karnal bunt using a complex and time-consuming spore wash method.
- The presence of crop protection product residues is an NTB that is growing quickly. Residues are governed by individual countries using Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs), and many are based on trade-facilitating sound science. But more and more countries are setting MRLs so low that any detection results in violations. This past year, we saw the EU and





Thailand set effective zero limits for the stored-grain insecticide chlorpyrifos methyl and place restrictions on other chemicals.

## What can be done?

While it may seem there is little an individual producer can do about these issues, we can work together to ensure wheat exports are unimpeded. The first is to insist on the use of sound science both in the U.S. and abroad. The U.S. and EU are models for other countries when they set their own regulations, but in different ways. The U.S. follows a risk-based approach that evaluates the actual risks posed to the environment or humans from either a plant pest or pesticide. The EU follows a hazard-based approach and regulates threats based solely on whether they can be hazards, regardless of their residue level or the actual risk posed. To put this in other terms, the EU would look at a risky activity such as driving a car and ban it outright due to the potential for deadly car accidents, rather than considering the actual risk to the population and setting rules to mitigate those risks, such as speed limits, lane dividers and seatbelts. The U.S. must take a strong position in international organizations like the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations or CODEX to support the use of science in regulatory matters.

We can also insist that our producer organizations, including groups like U.S. Wheat Associates (USW), make reducing these barriers a part of their everyday missions. USW has committed three staff members to work on trade policy and SPS barriers, plus has a working group

(chaired by Glen Squires, CEO of the Washington Grain Commission) that regularly reviews changes proposed by importers and advocates aggressively to oppose or mitigate trade restrictions.

A final, key part of avoiding such barriers falls to individual producers. To encourage them to use the latest crop production technologies judiciously, such as following label directions, heeding chemical company advice on product selection and doing their part to keep weeds (many of which may be common in the U.S.) from ending up in large quantities in wheat shipments (keeping them out of regulators' ire).

## Solutions

When the industry works together, solutions can be found, and markets opened. Sometimes, solutions are quick, such as Chile's mid-2020 acceptance of hammer milling goatgrass seeds rather than burning. Other times, it takes years of concerted work, as in the case of TCK and China. The agreement that opened all U.S. ports to serve China and established a spore limit for TCK was decades in the making and required due diligence on the part of Pacific Northwest growers using TCK-controlling fungicides and responsible handling by exporters. But that work eventually led to 2020 being a break-out year for soft white wheat exports to China with record sales of more than 1 million tons.

With more focus and cooperative work, the U.S. wheat industry can make solutions to NTBs like these more common and facilitate wheat movement from our farms to mills and wheat customers around the globe. ■



# Testing the variety weather

*Growers, researchers to benefit from placement of weather stations near field trials*

By Clark Neely

*Cereal Variety Testing Lead, Washington State University Extension*

In 2020, the WSU Extension Cereal Variety Testing Program (VTP) teamed up with the Washington State University (WSU) AgWeatherNet Program (AWN) to install weather stations near variety trials around Eastern Washington. Between winter and spring variety trials, the VTP manages 27 different locations. Efforts in the past have installed stations in close proximity to some of these sites, but not all. Out of the 27 locations, about 15 were five or more miles away from the nearest station and some as many as 20 miles away. Because topography and weather vary considerably over short distances in the Pacific Northwest, five miles can make a big difference. With funding support from the Washington Grain Commission, U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) and the Lincoln County Association of Wheat Growers, new weather stations were purchased and installed at all 15 remaining trial locations.

As most growers know, wheat end-use quality can be greatly influenced by environment, especially when it comes to grain protein and falling numbers. Of particular interest are conditions responsible for the expression of late maturity alpha-amylase (LMA) and preharvest sprouting (PHS), two causes of low falling numbers. Researchers believe sharp swings in air temperature or simply cool temperatures during the soft dough stage of grain filling can trigger LMA in certain varieties. Much remains to be learned about the exact temperature or humidity conditions that cause LMA in northwest wheat.

Preharvest sprouting is triggered by rain before harvest. However, weather during grain development can impact the degree of grain dormancy and susceptibility to preharvest sprouting when it rains before harvest. Moreover, there is interest in learning if heavy dew or fog can trigger PHS in wheat.



Dr. Camille Steber with USDA-ARS in Pullman, Wash., specializes in this field and has documented and shared falling number data from the WSU variety trials since 2013. She has used VTP and AWN data to examine whether low falling numbers was caused by LMA or PHS. However, site-specific weather data was not always available, and that limited her ability to home in on exact conditions that triggered the low falling numbers problem. Her research has documented trends in certain varieties that are more prone to low falling numbers and led to changes in planted varieties across the state. In the future, this additional weather data could contribute to models used to predict when LMA will occur and for which varieties. This would be incredibly useful to breeders and researchers, as well as growers and elevators. The ability to anticipate grain quality issues before harvest would help growers and elevators with marketing and storage plans.

In addition to LMA and PHS, other researchers will invariably benefit from the additional weather stations, including anyone interested in disease or insect outbreak forecasts. A group of researchers at WSU are also pairing the weather data with growth notes from variety trials to help develop a tool that would model wheat crop growth in order to notify growers when critical growth stages are going to occur and when to apply fertilizer or pesticides. In the meantime, local growers and the VTP benefit from simply having real-time, site-specific weather data to plan field activities for spraying and fertilizing, and season-long precipitation will be value-added data to pair with yield or other performance data from the variety trials themselves.

Major advancements in technology and cost made now a good time to add weather stations. The new, all-in-one weather station, “Atmos 41” by the METER Group,

combined with the ZL6 datalogger, makes these “Tier 2” stations comparable to weather data acquired from “Tier 1” professional stations (Campbell datalogger and individual sensors mounted on a tripod or tower). Accuracy between Tier 1 and Tier 2 stations is essentially the same, the differences being that Tier 1 stations have the capability of recording data in five minute intervals compared to every 15 minutes for Tier 2, and wind speed is recorded at 10 meter height compared to a two meter height.

Another primary motivation for making the Atmos 41 the standard station for Tier 2 sites in the AWN program was reduced maintenance. The design of this station is completely sealed to insect intrusion with no moving parts to wear out. The associated ZL6 datalogger has a built-in solar panel and runs on AA rechargeable batteries. Measurements collected by the Atmos 41 includes air temperature; dewpoint; vapor pressure; barometric pressure; wind speed and direction; solar radiation; precipitation; leaf wetness; soil temperature; and soil water potential.

Internet connection is achieved through wireless cell-phone service with very little bandwidth needed. As cell phone towers and coverage continue to increase, so has the range of sites that stations can be placed. Still, there are numerous places in Eastern Washington with limited connectivity, but in some cases, the AWN was able to alleviate the problem by installing a directional antennae to boost reception.

In addition to the newly purchased stations, the VTP is working closely with the AWN program to identify cooperators when other stations need to be moved for various reasons. This mutually benefits AWN by providing reliable contacts to host stations on their property and the VTP by moving stations closer to variety trials in some cases. ■



# Weeds beware

The sensor sprayer revolution is upon us as systems continue to improve

By Ian Burke and Aaron Esser  
*Washington State University*

Change often happens slowly on the farm, particularly in areas where wheat-fallow rotations are practiced. The margins are too thin to risk significant change. A new variety, perhaps, or an autosteer system. Management of weeds with herbicides, in particular, has been essentially unchanged since we started using Roundup back in the 1970s. Different mixtures have been used, but the application equipment and the basic philosophy are the same—inexpensive herbicides applied through a broadcast sprayer when the weeds are bigger than they really should be. That approach is very quickly becoming obsolete because of a new generation of optical sensor sprayer systems.

Sensor systems aren't a new idea, but they have most definitely evolved. The very first systems developed in the early 1990s were able to detect weeds and spray them, but they were challenging to use, didn't work well in fields with soil or residue variation and required constant calibration. The very first system was called Detectspray. It relied on ambient light and was prone to error as a consequence, but was still capable of reducing overall herbicide use compared to broadcast applications.

The next system was called WeedSeeker, which was equipped with LED lights operating in the near infrared. With its own light source, the WeedSeeker could operate in a greater range of conditions, but still required the operator to clear an area of green vegetation for calibration—a challenging task on a boom that might extend 100 feet. And if the residue or soil color changed, the system had to be recalibrated. Needless to say, although a few such systems were acquired by a few farmers, researchers and organizations in the Pacific Northwest, they were not widely adopted.

The most recently introduced systems are something different, though. And there are now choices—WEED-IT, the WeedSeeker 2 or the See and Spray system are currently the most easily obtainable, but more are coming. Each system has a unique system design, and the See and Spray system uses real time image analysis. The See and Spray system can selectively detect weeds in crop, while the WEED-IT and WeedSeeker 2 spray anything green. As a consequence, there are performance differences because of those approaches and differences in cost. But they work, are easy to use (a very important attribute!) and are robust enough to survive life on the farm.



The system Washington State University researchers have been evaluating is an eight-foot boom with two sensors. The sensor heads are the white boxes. The sensor emits near infrared light, which is visible on the concrete floor.

By work, we mean they can significantly reduce overall herbicide use without any real sacrifice in weed control. That doesn't mean that things can't go wrong. In the course of the last few years working with one system, we've learned a great deal about how and also how not to use an optical sensor sprayer.

The first lesson we learned was about rate and plant population. The most obvious tactic a farmer might attempt is the use of higher herbicide rates in the optical sensor sprayer system. We have found that approach to potentially cut both ways. Yes, higher rates can improve control. However, if you drive an optical sensor sprayer into a particularly weedy patch, the cost to treat that patch can very quickly exceed the cost of a typical broadcast treatment if the rate applied is too high.

We settled on a break-even threshold system based on



the cost of the herbicide we were using and the percent area treated. The cost of herbicides varies widely, as do weed population densities. An inexpensive herbicide like glyphosate, which has a wide range of rates that can be used to treat the acre, can have a break-even threshold well below 15 percent of the broadcast application cost—at the normal broadcast rate.

Another issue we discovered is that using herbicides that take time to kill can cause issues when that area is retreated. Certain weeds like prickly lettuce, Russian thistle and tumble mustard can remain green long after treatment, and green enough to be retreated when the optical sensor sprayer system detects the weed again.

After using our sprayer for several seasons, it's clear that the use of optical sensor sprayer systems will require a fundamental change in philosophy around managing weeds in fallow with herbicides.

Instead of waiting, the real savings with a such a tool will be achieved by using it early and more often. The new generation of weed sensing sprayer systems detect small weeds, and those small weeds die faster. The next pass will pick up newly germinated weeds, so there's no need to wait for more weeds to germinate. Waiting is counterproductive when using a weed sensing sprayer—use it earlier and a little more often.

There's minimal need to use higher rates when spraying small weeds, minimizing the risk of overuse and the resulting increase in cost. We found that Sharpen, in particular, fit well as a mixture partner with glyphosate to speed weed death. Using mixtures of herbicides at normal rates is an effective approach and a good integrated pest management practice,

rather than using higher rates of one herbicide.

If higher rates are of interest, know your weed population density. Even a moderately weedy field—a field that appears green as you drive by—likely has a very low percent area covered by weeds. We have found that anything more than about 25 to 30 percent weed cover is likely best treated with an equivalent broadcast rate, rather than an elevated rate.

The use of a preemergence herbicide in the fall, at the start of the fallow rotation, can significantly reduce the overall weed population and thus the use of postemergence herbicides through the optical sensor sprayer. Coupling a preemergence herbicide program with an optical sensor sprayer system can significantly reduce overall postemergence herbicide applied using the optical sensor sprayer.

And if you don't use a preemergence herbicide, these systems may also have a very good fit with postharvest weed control where weed populations in stubble are too low to justify a broadcast herbicide or sweep-plow tillage operation.

Optical sensor sprayer systems are well documented to reduce overall yearly herbicide costs, when careful attention is given to which herbicides are used and when they are applied. Even the earliest systems were capable of reducing overall herbicide use by 70 percent, and our experience is no different. In our experiments, herbicide use was reduced 40 to 95 percent.

The optical sensor sprayer systems available today are the first really transformative robotic technology capable of significantly altering the cost of production. The systems are expensive. They should not be viewed as an additional sprayer, but as the primary sprayer. These systems are highly capable pulse width modulation broadcast sprayers and can be used for general purpose sprayer work with the right nozzles.

As more are purchased and deployed in the region, overall herbicide use will likely decline significantly, and that's a real achievement and great step toward improving the sustainability of our systems. ■



A sensor system from just outside Ritzville, Wash. The sensor heads are the evenly spaced green boxes on the front of the boom.

# WHEAT WATCH

WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION

## Market craziness looks to continue



By Mike Krueger

The craziness in these markets shows no signs of going away anytime soon. Weather is now the most important factor for the next 60 days. The first 60 days of the 2021 growing season were marked by record dryness across much

of the western Corn Belt, northern Plains and the Pacific Northwest (PNW). The dry May was followed by the hottest first half of June on record in these same areas. The third week of June brought some rain and cooler temperatures, but extended forecasts are still calling for above-normal temperatures and below-normal precipitation for July and August.

The big question is can the U.S. produce a record corn yield and the second highest soybean yield ever under these conditions? That is what the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is using in the production estimates in their recent WASDE (World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates). Soybean ending supplies will be bin-bottoms again, and corn ending supplies will also get very tight, even if these yield estimates are achieved.

The latest U.S. wheat estimates are also questionable. Hard red winter wheat yields across the southern Plains are good, but protein content is lower than normal. That was expected with a wet growing season. The spring wheat crop will be a very different story. The drought and heat across the northern Plains will reduce yields much below the June USDA guess. Dryness across the PNW will trim spring wheat and white wheat production in that area as well. Some analysts believe we will see one of the biggest downward adjustments in spring wheat and white wheat production between the June and July estimates ever.

Much of western Canada also had a very dry start to the growing season with hot temperatures. This was followed by a risk of frost in late June. Moisture relief here was greater than across the northern Plains in early to mid-June, but we still think Canada's spring wheat and durum crops are overstated by the USDA.

The most important weather development in South America was the late season drought in southern Brazil that severely impacted their second crop corn production. The second crop corn is called the Safrinha crop. It

represents 70 percent or so of Brazil's total corn production. It is also most of Brazil's exportable corn surplus. Early production estimates for Brazil's crop were as high as 108 million metric tons (mmt). The June USDA estimate was 102 mmt. Most every other estimate is now at 90 mmt or lower. This will seriously reduce Brazil's ability to export corn and will result in Brazil importing corn.

There are other factors at work in these markets that can add to the volatility:

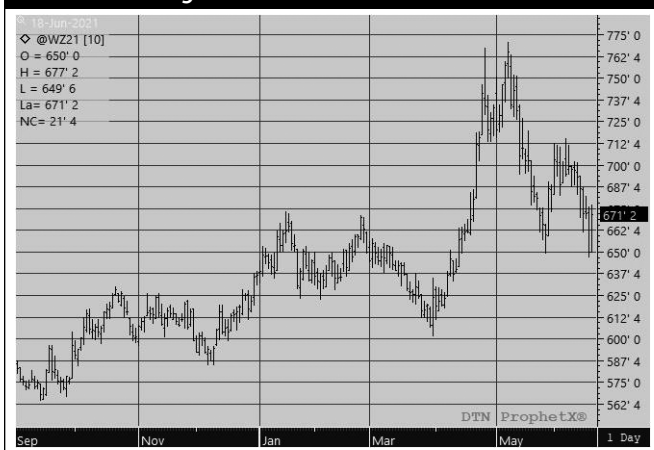
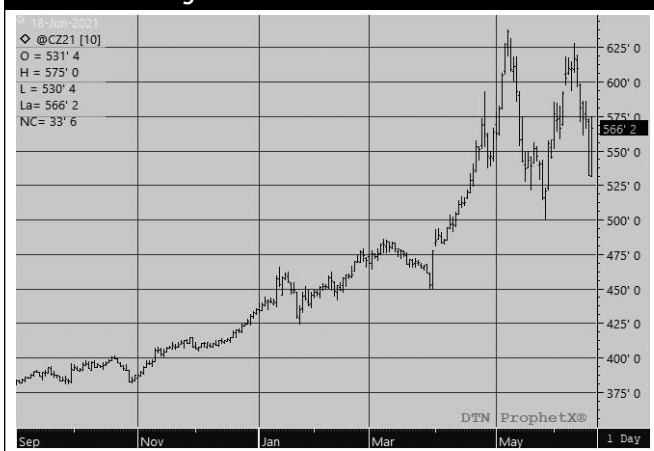
- There are some weather concerns with Russia's spring wheat crop. It has been dry.
- Domestic feeding of winter wheat will likely be a record for the summer because of the scarcity of corn.
- The Biden Administration has created uncertainty over the possibility that biofuels requirements might be reduced. That led to limit-lower trade in soybean oil futures in June.
- China has already purchased 10-12 mmt (400-500 million bushels) of new crop corn. The USDA's corn export forecasts are too low.

The Chicago December wheat and December corn charts on the next page clearly show the volatility in these markets in the past few months. Forecasts for tightening U.S. and world wheat, corn and soybean ending supplies leaves little room for projected yields to drop from the June USDA estimates. The USDA, in our opinion, has been using a "best case" yield guess.

The USDA's June WASDE for corn used 83.5 million harvested acres and a 179.5 yield per acre (a new record). The projected ending stocks for next year is 1.357 billion bushels. Just a five bushel per acre reduction in yield (less than 3 percent) would drop ending supplies below 1 billion bushels. That would be bin-bottoms. That's how sensitive the corn market must be to yield changes. The USDA will update the planted acreage estimate on June 30. Most analysts are looking for a slight increase in acres. That would buffer the yield slightly. Many analysts also believe the corn export forecast is understated. That would also overstate ending supplies.

The soybean situation is very similar. Ending supplies for 2021/22 are forecast to be 155 million bushels. That is based on the second biggest yield ever of 50.8 bushels per



**Chart 1: Chicago December wheat****Chart 2: Chicago December corn**

acre and 86.7 million harvested acres. A one bushel per acre yield reduction cuts ending supplies in half.

The 2021/22 wheat ending supplies are projected to be 770 million bushels. That would be the lowest in five years. We believe their export forecast is too low (the USDA reduced it by 85 million bushels from last year)

and that their spring wheat, durum and white wheat production estimates are too high.

The next major factor, aside from weather developments, will be the June 30 USDA reports. These reports will include:

- Quarterly stocks as of June 1. The quarterly stocks reports are very important this year because supplies are small and getting smaller. The quarterly stocks reports are also the only way to measure corn and wheat feed consumption. The trade is guessing that June 1 corn stocks will be 4 billion bushels compared to 5 billion a year ago. They estimate soybean stocks will be about 760 million bushels compared to 1.38 billion last year, and that wheat stocks will be 840 million bushels compared to 1.028 billion bushels last year.
- Planted acreage will be updated. The trade is looking for 2 to 3 million more acres of corn than was reflected in the March 30 report. Soybean acres are expected to be a million acres higher than the March report, and wheat acres could be slightly higher than in March. The thing to watch in the wheat acres is how much spring wheat and durum were planted because of the very dry April and May across the entire northern Plains.

Our market bias remains more bullish than bearish. Extended weather continues to look hot and mostly dry. Demand isn't faltering. The dollar should slowly weaken. Funds have cut their long positions in half. That gives them more buying power. ■

**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.





# ALL ABOARD!

*Last month, Wheat Life had the opportunity to take a speeder car\* ride through Whitman County, from Winona to Thornton, with local members of NARCOA, the North American Railcar Operators Association.*



(Above) Unloading and moving a speeder car onto the rail tracks in Winona.  
(Left) Before the ride started, all drivers and riders met for a safety meeting.



\*Speeder cars are what track inspectors and railroad workers used to ride to do repairs and maintenance on the rails. According to Wikipedia, speeder cars date back to the 1890s. They are called speeder cars because although they are slow compared to a train or car, they are faster than a human-powered vehicle such as a handcar. Most of them have gas-powered engines and can go at least 15 mph. In the 1990s, trucks began replacing speeder cars.





(Above) Date nails, such as this one from 1930, were used by railroads to identify the age of a tie. (Right) The elevators at Willada.



(Left) Crossing the Palouse River. (Below) John Zampino, from Virginia, has spent the last few weeks towing his speeder car around the western U.S. and joining NARCOA rides.







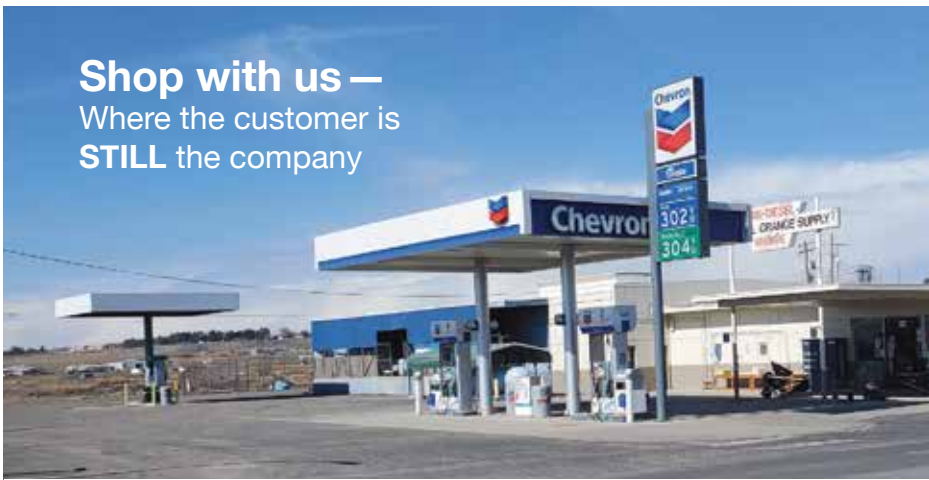
(Above) People couldn't help smiling and waving as the cars rode past. (Below) Many speeder cars have a hydraulic foot that extends down and lifts the car off the tracks so it can easily be turned around.

(Above) Frank Fleener, a wheat farmer from Viola, Idaho, shows other riders what a canola plant looks like close up. (Below) Bill Evans' car was more basic than most. Besides missing doors and a roof, it started with a hand crank. It was also a blast to ride.





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## Do you know who's on your property's title?

By Trista Crossley

When was the last time you checked to see who actually owns your land?

Title searches are generally run when buying or selling a property and can reveal surprising truths about property ownership. Rusty McGuire, an attorney who specializes in agricultural law at Carpenter, McGuire & DeWulf, said unless the right documents have been recorded, property ownership may not be what you think it is.

"People think that property is owned the way they believe it to be held, but Washington recognizes public record—recorded documents—and that may differ from the owner's belief," he explained. "Realize that when you pay off a debt, the escrow company or bank will mail you the deed. Then it needs to be recorded. If it's not recorded, it is not of record and (the bank or lien holder) still shows on the title. Also, title reports aren't infallible. Sometimes they are wrong, and you can clear them up much like a credit report."

Title reports are also run to see if a property is subject to a mortgage, lien or other encumbrance. McGuire pointed out that with the advent of alternative energy sources, more and more titles are encumbered by wind or solar leases, and those encumbrances can impact the willingness of a bank to lend against or refinance the property, since it puts the bank in a secondary position. In Washington law, it's first in time, first in right when it comes to property, meaning the vested interest in property is determined by recording date.

Another reason to run a title search is to make sure that the title on inherited property is clear. Because Washington is a community property state, the death of a spouse (in most cases) means property automatically vests in the surviving spouse, but until a document has been recorded to reflect that, the property title is still in both spouses' names. That can become an issue if the second spouse dies without recording the change in ownership. Upon the second spouse's death, they can only convey half ownership of the property to their heirs because the remaining half is still in the first spouse's name.

"When someone dies, we usually like to run a title search to see how the title actually is," McGuire said. "Several estates have shown to be farming land that has a title issue that needs to be cleared up before it passes to the next generation."



In cases where title isn't clear, the interested party files what's called a quiet title against the names on the title report, even if those people are dead, McGuire said. The suit is meant to "quiet" a claim or objection to a title. The suit is filed in the county where the property is located, and a legal notice is printed in the local newspaper of record for three consecutive weeks. Any disputes are settled in court.

McGuire said that in Washington state, it is common to do a personal representative's deed to handle the transfer of property owned by an estate to an heir. But prior to the 1960s or 70s, those type of deeds weren't done, so a title company had to go to the courthouse, read the will and insure the title based on what was in the person's will. The result, he explained, could be a title report with unexpected names on it.

One other bit of advice McGuire has concerning titles is that it's important to keep documents, like wills and deeds, as a title company may have records that you don't and vice versa.

"If you are confident that the title report shows (the correct) easements, and there's nothing else on the title, and you want to throw all these old things away, then it doesn't matter. You have nothing to prove," he said.

Property owners interested in doing a title search should contact a title company. If they have questions about the results or need to fix something on the report, their best bet is to contact an attorney for advice. ■





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# THE BOTTOM LINE

## Landlords can benefit from a written plan

By Dr. David M. Kohl

If one takes a journey down memory lane, between 15 and 20 percent of all farm and rangeland was rented post-World War II. Fast forward to the decade of the 2020s, and approximately 50 percent of farm and rangeland is leased. Business planning for both the landlord and the tenant has never been more important.

Landlords come in all shapes and forms. Some are parents or grandparents of family members that are carrying on the farming legacy. Others may be distant relatives who have inherited the assets from family members and are absentee owners. Some landlords are investors who seek diversification in their portfolios. Some of the aforementioned are directly in contact with the individuals that utilize the asset base. Other landlords have third-party individuals, farm management companies or investment managers that provide oversight and facilitation between all individuals.



Regardless of the situation, a sound business plan can stimulate critical thinking for a productive win-win situation between the lessor and the lessee. A written business plan is critical for communication in cases where multiple landlords share ownership of the same property to ensure that everyone is on the same page.

In my decades of working with landlords, a good starting point is the history and timeline of the assets involved. This can be a very important—and often overlooked—segment of the business-planning process. The farm history provides a view of the family's heritage, which establishes the legacy that can bond family members to the history of the land. An old barn or farmhouse can be important symbols of past times and markers for moving forward. For example, three sisters who are landlords indicated that the old red barn represented happy childhood memories with their parents and grandparents. With today's technology, a video or interview can bring color and flair in the development of the land's history within the business plan.

Whether one or many landlords are involved, written goals are extremely important. Goals establish the basis for what is important and whether all individuals involved are on the same page. These goals need to be updated periodically as people's lives and the agriculture and economic landscapes change.

Within the context of the landlord's goals, the same process can be done with the tenants. These goals can assist in finding commonality amongst parties and establish reference points if changes or disputes occur. The goal-setting process also assists in forming expectations of all parties.

In addition to goals, the mode of operation is also a part of the business plan. With today's technology, periodic crop reports on input applications, yields and how agronomy practices are impacting soil and water health are now part of the landlord plan. The timeline of reporting is outlined in the business plan and is often called the stewardship plan.

Of course, a major part of the business plan are the financial outcomes. How and when are the landlords compensated? What part of the revenue is a result of government payments or incentives? How often are rent payments made?

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Expect the business plan of the future to include a section for financial compensation from carbon or green payments.

The next section of the agriculture business plan should document stewardship practices and key performance indicators that will measure a win-win success for the landlord and the parties leasing or operating the assets.

Finally, a well-written business plan has A, B and C scenarios, along with an exit plan. The best time to develop an exit plan is at the beginning of the relationship. This is

also the best time to agree on what will dissolve the agreement. A transition plan in case of ownership changes due to death, disability or the desire to exit the business also needs to be discussed.

A business plan with the aforementioned details can provide a written format to ensure a relationship that is financially rewarding to all parties. The planning process can also spur critical thinking beyond the numbers, which is often just as important as the financial outcomes. In conclusion, the basic business plan develops a code of conduct that can be integral in the communication of expectations of all parties and provide a road map of financial outcomes and carrying on the legacy of the assets involved. ■

**Dr. David Kohl** is an academic hall-of-famer in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va. Dr. Kohl is a sought-after educator of lenders, producers and stakeholders with his keen insight into the agriculture industry gained through extensive travel, research and involvement in ag businesses. He has traveled nearly 10 million miles; conducted more than 6,500 workshops, speeches and seminars; and published more than 2,250 articles for leading publications. Dr. Kohl's involvement with ag businesses and interaction with key thought leaders provide a unique perspective into future trends of the ag industry and economy. This content was provided by  **Northwest**  
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# Your wheat life...



(From left to right) Greg Moore, Joe Roach and Mandi Matthews harvesting south of Kahlotus during harvest 2020.  
Photo by Travis Matthews.



Lincoln Cook (18 months) waiting for her combine ride with Uncle Z near Steptoe.  
Photo by Jordyn Cook.



Erik Johnson (4) gets ready for a sprayer ride with family friend Justin Aune in LaCrosse. Erik has his heart set on being a farmer, and he absolutely loves learning everything there is to know about farming! Photo by Jenn Johnson.





Harvest last year in Davenport. Photo by Cady Zellmer.



Ty Pierson (12) harvesting with his dad, Chad Pierson, on their farm near Hay. Photo by Karie Pierson.



Luke English (30 months) helping his dad, Drew English, in the wheat harvest in Rosalia. Luke will be a sixth-generation farmer. Photo by Ashley English.

Email pictures to [editor@wawg.org](mailto:editor@wawg.org).  
Please include location of picture, names of  
all people appearing in the picture and ages  
of all children.



Some of the native flora in the Horse Heaven Hills. Photo by Chad Smith.



# HAPPENINGS

The events listed here are being planned and scheduled in accordance with COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines with the assumption that they will be able to occur. However, CDC guidelines and restrictions are continually evolving and changing, so please make sure to check the contact information prior to the event for updates. Please observe all social distancing and masking guidelines. All dates and times are subject to change. Please verify event before heading out.

## JULY 2021

**1 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP TOUR.** Farmington, Wash., at 8 a.m. For information call Steve Van Vleet at (509) 397-6290 or [smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/](http://smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/)

**1-4 IDAHO STATE DRAFT HORSE AND MULE INTERNATIONAL SHOW.** Kootenai County Fairgrounds in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. [idahodrafthorseshow.com](http://idahodrafthorseshow.com)

**8 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP TOUR.** Bickleton, Wash., at 1 p.m. For information call Hannah Brause at (509) 773-5817 or [smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/](http://smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/)

**9-11 CHENEY RODEO.** Saturday parade, cowboy church. Cheney, Wash. [cheneyrodeo.com](http://cheneyrodeo.com)

**16-18 PIONEER DAYS.** Chalk contest, kids' fishing derby, parade, live music, food and vendors. Davenport, Wash. [davenportpioneerdays.org](http://davenportpioneerdays.org)

## AUGUST 2021

**6-7 MOXEE HOP FESTIVAL.** Parade, beer garden, live entertainment, food. Moxee, Wash. [evcea.org](http://evcea.org)

**6-8 KING SALMON DERBY.** Up to \$20,000 in cash and prizes available. Registration required. Brewster, Wash. [brewstersalmonderby.com](http://brewstersalmonderby.com)

**11-14 YAKIMA VALLEY FAIR AND RODEO.** ProWest rodeo, youth livestock show. County Fair Park in Grandview, Wash. [yvfair-rodeo.org](http://yvfair-rodeo.org)

**12-15 OMAK STAMPEDE.** Parade, carnival, art show, rodeo and vendors. Omak, Wash. [omakstampe.de.org](http://omakstampe.de.org)

**17-21 GRANT COUNTY FAIR.** Ag exhibits, livestock competitions, carnival, arts and crafts, entertainment, food. Moses Lake, Wash. [gcfairgrounds.com](http://gcfairgrounds.com)

**20-29 NORTH IDAHO FAIR AND RODEO.** Monster trucks, demolition derby, entertainment, carnival. Kootenai County Fairgrounds in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. [northidahostatefair.com](http://northidahostatefair.com)

**21-22 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](http://centralwaagmuseum.org/pioneer-power-show-union-gap.asp)

**24-28 BENTON FRANKLIN FAIR AND RODEO.** Demolition derby, parade, live entertainment. Kennewick, Wash. [bentonfranklinfair.com](http://bentonfranklinfair.com)

**26-28 LINCOLN COUNTY FAIR.** Rodeo, exhibits, food and games. Davenport, Wash. [lincolncountywafair.com](http://lincolncountywafair.com)

**26-29 NCW FAIR.** Entertainment, carnival and livestock show. Waterville, Wash. [ncwfair.org](http://ncwfair.org)

**28 SPRINT BOAT RACING.** Reserved bleacher seating, track-side beer garden and a great atmosphere to watch fantastic racing in St. John, Wash. Fun for the entire family! Bring the lawn chairs, sun-

screen and blankets. 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. or until racing is finished. More information at [webbslough.com](http://webbslough.com) or (509)648-8900.

## SEPTEMBER 2021

**1-6 PIG OUT IN THE PARK.** Music and food. Riverfront Park in Spokane, Wash. [spokanepigout.com](http://spokanepigout.com)

**3-6 ELLENSBURG RODEO.** Carnival, midway, hoedown, pancake breakfast, parade. Ellensburg, Wash. [ellensburgrodeo.com](http://ellensburgrodeo.com)

**10-19 SPOKANE COUNTY INTERSTATE FAIR.** Livestock exhibits, rides, food booths, rodeo and entertainment. Fair and Expo Center, Spokane Valley. [spokanecounty.org/fair/sif/](http://spokanecounty.org/fair/sif/)

**11-18 PENDLETON ROUNDUP.** Rodeo, parade, cowboy breakfast. Pendleton, Ore. [pendletonroundup.com](http://pendletonroundup.com)

**14 WAWG BOARD MEETING.** Meeting starts at 10 a.m. at Washington Wheat Foundation Building, Ritzville, Wash. (509) 659-0610, [wawg.org](http://wawg.org)

**16-19 DEUTSCHESFEST.** German music, food and crafts. Parade. Biergarten, fun run. Odessa, Wash. [deutschesfest.com](http://deutschesfest.com)

**18 PALOUSE DAYS.** Fun run, pancake breakfast, parade, car show, live music, duck race, ping pong ball 'drop', more! [visitpalouse.com/palouse-events/](http://visitpalouse.com/palouse-events/)

**24-26 VALLEYFEST.** Duathlon, family bike ride, car show, pancake breakfast, entertainment. Mirabeau Point Park in Spokane Valley, Wash. [valleyfest.org](http://valleyfest.org)

**24-26 GREAT PROSSER BALLOON RALLY.** Prosser, Wash. [prosserballoonrally.org](http://prosserballoonrally.org) ■



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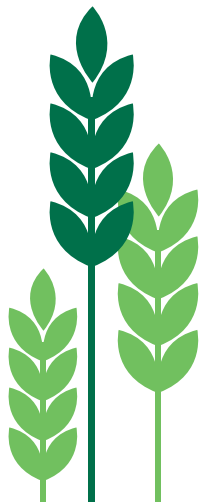
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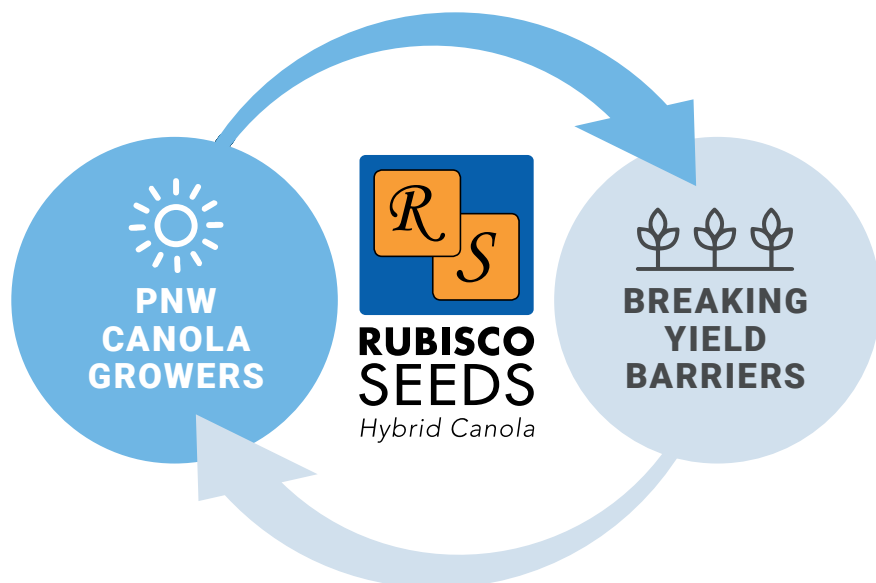
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As most of the speeder car rides travel through the backcountry where facilities are extremely limited, it is necessary to bring "the necessary" with you.







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- All hybrids developed with a strong focus on shatter tolerance
- Organic growers, please inquire

PNWVT	2017	2018	2019	2020
Control Varieties	lbs/ac (rank)			
Athena	3,805 (14)	4,084 (10)	4,344 (18)	4,015 (15)
Dwarf Essex	3,678 (20)	3,413 (28)	—	3,698 (23)
Ericka	3,716 (18)	2,865 (30)	3,829 (25)	3,516 (25)
Rubisco Seeds' Hybrids				
<b>Kicker</b>	—	—	—	5,145 (1)
<b>Mercedes</b>	4,427 (1)	4,933 (1)	5,145 (1)	4,419 (6)
<b>Plurax CL</b>	4,397 (2)	4,708 (2)	4,959 (2)	4,717 (2)
<b>Phoenix CL</b>	—	4,636 (4)	4,900 (4)	4,611 (3)
PNWVT Mean	3,910	3,956	4,470	4,085
LSD (p=0.05)	285	326	287	253
C.V. (%)	15.0	14.7	12.4	12.3

**\* Phoenix CL & Plurax CL compatible within Clearfield wheat rotations.**

Strong cross tolerance to Imi / SU herbicides. Can be sprayed post emergence with Beyond herbicide.

SU or SURT Canola cultivars are not viable in a Clearfield rotation. (50% yield reduction in soils containing IMI residues, independent research Caldbeck Consulting.)

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