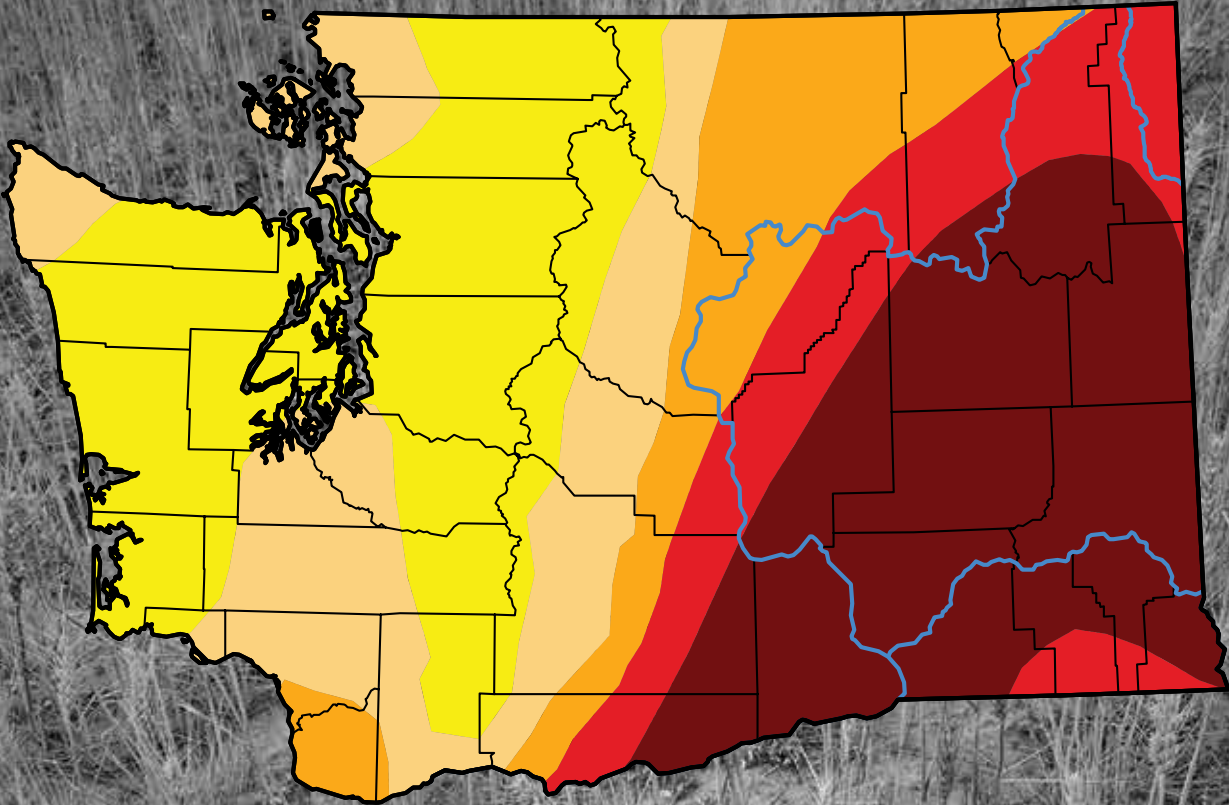


WHEAT LIFE

The official publication of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER | 2021



**DROUGHT DEEPENS
ACROSS EASTERN
WASHINGTON**

Washington Association of Wheat Growers
109 East First Avenue, Ritzville, WA 99169

Address Service Requested

WHEAT LIFE

Volume 64 • Number 08
www.wheatlife.org

The official publication of



**WASHINGTON
ASSOCIATION OF
WHEAT GROWERS**

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

WAWG MEMBERSHIP

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

EDITOR

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

AD SALES MANAGER

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
Katie Teachout • katie@wawg.org
(509) 659-0610 • (877) 740-2666
Subscriptions are \$50 per year

WAWG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Michelle Hennings

WAWG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

Ryan Poe • Hartline

VICE PRESIDENT

Howard McDonald • Coulee City

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Andy Juris • Bickleton

PRESIDENT EMERITUS

Jeffrey Shawver • Connell

APPOINTED MEMBERS

Ben Adams • Coulee City

Anthony Smith • Richland

Marci Green • Fairfield

Wheat Life (ISSN 0043-4701) is published by the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG): 109 E. First Avenue • Ritzville, WA 99169-2394

Eleven issues per year with a combined August/September issue. Standard (A) postage paid at Ritzville, Wash., and additional entry offices.

Contents of this publication may not be reprinted without permission.

Advertising in *Wheat Life* does not indicate endorsement of an organization, product or political candidate by WAWG.

President's Perspective



This harvest, the hits keep coming

By Ryan Poe

On a normal year for our farm, we would start harvesting tomorrow (July 19), but instead, as I write this, we are well over a week into harvest. The drought has definitely left its mark on our crop, and we are finding yields less than we had hoped for. Coming out of winter, we had good stands that, with some timely moisture, could have led to a very good crop. Unfortunately, the rains never came, at least not in the quantity or time frame needed.

Over the past month, I've had the opportunity to be interviewed for several news stories regarding the drought. Although I know there are others who have been hit worse than I, I took the opportunity to tell our story. One thing I tried to convey is the importance of crop insurance. Without it, this year would be even more challenging than it already is. We don't yet fully know the drought's impact on the quality of our crop or the particulars of quality discounts on crop insurance. Will these discounts be eligible for the federal Quality Loss Adjustment (QLA) program? Will the QLA program even be funded for 2020 and 2021? I know different elevators are handling protein discounts differently, but it's hard, first taking a yield hit and then receiving substantially less at the elevator for your grain.

And even if you have a decent crop, there could still be some pain to come. At this point, there's nothing that can be done to save the 2021 harvest. The bigger concern now is having adequate moisture to plant our winter wheat into. With fall planting just more than a month away for many of us, I, for one, will be watching the weather closely.

There's no doubt this has been an extremely tough year for a lot of us. This early harvest sent our farm scrambling, trying to get everything done, all in unseasonably hot weather. Now, we are into harvest, and we've had some mechanical issues. It can be hard to bear sometimes. I saw a social media post recently about a sign that Aaron Esser and his group put up at the Wilke Farm in Davenport, and I thought it was quite fitting for the year we are having. If you are struggling, know you aren't alone and that help is out there.

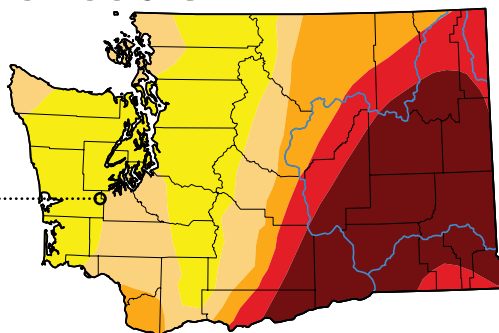
I hope everyone stays safe, has minimal breakdowns and finds more bushels than they expected. ■



Cover photo: The U.S. Drought Monitor tells the tale of Washington's hot, dry spring and summer. Thanks to that, the wheat industry is expecting an early, fast harvest. See page 26. The U.S. Drought Monitor is jointly produced by the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the United States Department of Agriculture and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Map courtesy of NDMC. All photos are Shutterstock images or taken by *Wheat Life* staff unless otherwise noted.

Inside This Issue

WAWG President's Perspective	2
Dialogue	4
Membership Form	6
WAWG at Work	8
Policy Matters	20
Washington Wheat Foundation	24
Drought fears coming true	26
Lower yields, quality issues likely	
Benefits of barging	30
Columbia Grain CEO speaks out	
Underextended?	36
Growers worried about Extension vacancies	
L&I team dedicated to ag	42
Move is response to complaints	
Profiles	44
Kristin Meira, PNWA	
WGC Chairman's Column	49
WGC 2021 Annual Report	50
Roger that!	56
Pending club wheat variety is hat tip to advisor	
Wheat Watch	58
In the Corner of the Field, Part I	60
A short story in three parts	
On Lease	66
The Bottom Line	68
Your Wheat Life	70
Happenings	72
Advertiser Index	74



Contributors

Ryan Poe, president, Washington Association of Wheat Growers
Mike Carstensen, chairman, Washington Grain Commission
Lori Maricle, communications director, Washington Grain Commission
Ben Thiel, Spokane Regional Office director, Risk Management Agency
Kevin Gaffney, writer, Cheney, Wash.

Michael Pumphrey, O.A. Vogel Endowed Chair of Spring Wheat Breeding and Genetics, Washington State University
T. Randall Fortenbery, Thomas B. Mick Endowed Chair in Grain Economics, Washington State University
Daniel Moore, writer, Dusty, Wash.
Curtis Evanko, McGregor Risk Management Services

Dialogue

NASS comes through!

Agricultural surveys still arrive in the mail, but there has been an online version for many years. This June 1 survey, I typed my survey code into the Agcounts.USDA.GOV website and found a pleasant surprise, one that I wasn't sure I would live long enough to see, but there it was for my wondering eyes to see!

Years ago, when NASS (the National Agricultural Statistics Service) first started offering the option of online filing instead of pencil and snail mail or 25 minutes on the phone, I jumped on the chance to file online. My number one reason was not to avoid a phone call in the middle of dinner at the end of a long day with some nice person who was just trying to get their job done prying information out of grumpy farmers. It was because I found you could leave a comment at the end of each survey, and BOY, did I have a comment to leave.

NASS faces a perennial struggle to get people to respond to their surveys, and to me, one of the most bothersome parts of their surveys was filling in the same land ownership information on every survey, every time. In my operation, those numbers have only changed three or four times since I started farming, yet I was entering the same numbers over and over.

I complained to NASS in D.C. on at least two different occasions that I can recall. I made sure to complain in person at every trade show where NASS had a booth, and I have been leaving the same comment on every survey they dared to send me: "If the Social Security Administration can confidentially keep track of my employees' information from year to year, why can't the U.S. Department of Agriculture keep track of my acreage ownership from year to year? It is no mystery that no one wants to fill these out."

After over a decade of badgering, I finally got a survey that was pre-filled! I am thrilled! The wheels of bureaucracy are notoriously slow, but the change actually appears to have happened, and I am, frankly, a little shocked. Wow! If the next survey works the same way, I just might have to find a new hobby!

Ben Barstow

Whitman County

Receiving your ALERT?

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

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

MAKE THE INVESTMENT THAT PAYS YOU DIVIDENDS EVERY HARVEST

ALWAYS PLANT CERTIFIED SEED



CLEANER FIELDS + HIGHER YIELDS + GUARANTEED QUALITY



Find your closest certified seed dealer at www.washingtoncrop.com/dealers

WASHINGTON STATE CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

509-334-0461

www.washingtoncrop.com

WAWG MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please check level of membership

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$75 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$200 (up to 2 members) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grower \$125 | <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership \$500 (up to 5 partners) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landlord \$125 | <input type="checkbox"/> Convention \$600 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industry Associate \$150 | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime \$2,500 |

Name

Farm or Business

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Fax

Email

County Affiliation (if none, write state)

Circle all that apply:

Producer Landlord Individual Industry Rep. Business Owner Student Other

Return this form with your check to:

WAWG • 109 East First Ave. • Ritzville, WA 99169.

Or call 877-740-2666 and use your credit card to enroll by phone.

Thank you to our current members

We fight every day to ensure that life on the family farm continues to prosper and grow.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

If you are not a member, please consider joining today.

LEVELS OF MEMBERSHIP

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

WAWG's current top priorities are:

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

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

More member benefits:

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



**Washington Association
of Wheat Growers**

109 East First Ave. • Ritzville, WA 99169

509-659-0610 • 877-740-2666 • 509-659-4302 (fax)

www.wawg.org

Call 877-740-2666 or visit www.wawg.org

The only Wheat Seed Treatment against Wireworm, Cutworm, Armyworm and Aphids

Lumivia® CPL insecticide provides a new seed treatment **mode of action** and when combined with Resonate® insecticide the combination provides improved protection against **wireworm, cutworm, armyworm and aphids**.

Pest	Resonate® + Lumivia® CPL	Lumivia® CPL Alone	Resonate® Alone
Wireworm - High pressure	++++	+++	+
Wireworm - Moderate pressure	++++	++++	++
Cutworm	++++	++++	-
Armyworm	++++	++++	-
Aphid	+++	-	+++
Hessian fly	++	-	++
Grasshoppers	++	-	++



Aphid



Cutworm



Armyworm



Wireworm



Albaugh is committed to delivering a complete seed treatment solution for insect and disease control. Albaugh is excited to provide a seed treatment solution with activity on wireworms, armyworms, cutworms and aphids.

Contact your local seed retailer for more information on using Albaugh's complete pest management seed treatment offer. Refer to each product label for complete use directions and restrictions. Resonate® is a trademark of Albaugh, LLC. Lumivia® CPL is a trademark of Corteva Agriscience. Always read and follow label directions. EPA Reg. No. 42750-133 AD No. 110316. EPA Reg. No. 352-841.

Lumivia® CPL

INSECTICIDE SEED TREATMENT

Resonate®
600 ST

WAWG welcomes new state board members

In June, the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) welcomed two new board members, Leif Claassen from Asotin County and Dave Swannack from Whitman County.

Leif Claassen

Claassen is the third generation on his family's Asotin County farm. He graduated from Washington State University (WSU) in 2006 with a degree in ag technology and management with a minor in business. He said coming out of high school, he wasn't sure if he wanted to farm, but a conversation with one of his professors was instrumental in changing his mind.

After college, Claassen headed to Texas to take a job as a farm manager. That job fell through after a few months, so he took work in a family dirt construction business. In 2011, he returned to the Pacific Northwest and went to work for CHS Primeland, where he remained for eight years.

"At some point in there, I realized that I was interested in all aspects of farming," he said. "As a typical kid, I just liked the big machines and liked to drive stuff. During my years at Primeland, I had passion for more than just the things that moved, so to speak."

By this time, Claassen's children were getting involved in various activities, and he was looking for the flexibility to spend more time with them. He began exploring other career options, including considering working for another area farmer.

"That individual and my dad started talking, and my dad realized that it was time for me to come back to the family farm," he said. "While coming back 18 years after high school was a little odd, considering how most family farms go, in way, it was a real blessing. I got a lot of life experiences and can contribute a lot more with the knowledge I have now compared to what I had coming out of college."

The Claassens employ no-till, direct seeding methods, following a two-year rotation of chem fallow winter wheat.

"We are open to growing other things, it just has to fit economically," Claassen said.

Claassen's father, Steve, has been involved in the Washington wheat industry for many years, serving on the Washington Grain Commission. It was his encouragement that got Leif involved in WAWG.

"My father saw how important getting involved with grain production outside of the farm really is. I expressed interest in getting involved at the county level at one of the first meetings I went to," Claassen said. "When we were finally able to meet again, I was elected."

Regulations around pesticide use is one issue Claassen feels is of concern. He said he is apprehensive about being allowed to use pesticides in the future, and he hopes decisionmakers consider a more individualistic approach instead of a one-size-fits-all approach if pesticides are to be more heavily regulated in the future. That's not all he's concerned about.

"My number one concern would be logistics for continuing to produce wheat in the inland Pacific Northwest. The river system and what it allows is so important to us to be able to keep producing with the rainfall that we have and the average yield that we work within. Without river transportation, I don't know that we would be able to do it," he explained.

Claassen and his wife, Rikki, have two children, Braxton, who is 6, and Jayli, who is 3. He also has two sons from a previous marriage, Grady, 11, and Landry, 10. He replaces Bruce Petty as county president and WAWG board representative.

Dave Swannack

Dave Swannack was raised in Eastern Washington. As he was finishing up his agronomy degree from WSU in 1979, he was offered the opportunity to lease farmland near his hometown of Lamont. He jumped at the chance and has been farming ever since. He primarily grows dryland wheat and barley, but used to raise cattle as well. He's been married to his wife, Leslie, for 42 years and has two sons that have careers in computer science and technology.

Swannack replaces Randy Suess as county president and WAWG board member. He said Suess has done more for Pacific Northwest farmers than just about anyone else he knows. ▶



Lumivia® CPL

INSECTICIDE SEED TREATMENT

BROAD ACRE, BROAD PROTECTION

A revolutionary insecticide seed treatment
that protects beyond just the seed.

This unique translocation approach doesn't
just protect the seed, but also moves
within the roots and the seedling
above ground to protect against
damaging insects.



Armyworm



Cutworm



Wireworm



Lumivia® CPL insecticide seed treatment is registered in select states with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for sale in wheat. All information being transferred is technical in nature and subject to change. Always read and follow label directions.™ © Trademarks of Corteva Agriscience and its affiliated companies. © 2021 Corteva.

"It's important farmers get involved (in industry organizations) because we are going to lose everything we farm for if we don't get involved," he said. "We've got to keep our markets going. We need to let the rest of the U.S. know we are important, that we work hard, and we love it. We aren't living off the government."

Swannack said he's concerned about depression in farmers because of the amount of pressure they are under, from adverse weather to the rising cost of inputs and machinery. He's also concerned that politics is the driving force in agriculture.

"The price of machinery is horrible," he said. "I only know one or two farmers with a combine that's less than three years old. Most of them are 10 years old. Tractors are the same. You just can't afford them anymore." ■



Wheat industry working to extend quality loss program

The Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) is working with the National Association of Wheat Growers asking Congress to add funds to the Quality Loss Adjustment (QLA) program for crop years 2020 and beyond. This is especially important as many Eastern Washington wheat growers are likely facing quality adjustments for their 2021 crop due to the drought.

"We would like to see the Quality Loss Adjustment program be included in the 2024 Farm Bill as a permanent program. This would allow for more timely payments in the event of a natural disaster and more certainty of program availability into the future," said Michelle Hennings, WAWG's executive director. "We are seeing the necessity for these types of funds this year."

In its current form, the QLA program aids producers who suffered eligible crop quality losses due to natural disasters occurring in the calendar years 2018 and/or 2019. This ad hoc disaster program was an added element of the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program to address quality losses due to qualifying drought, excessive moisture, flooding, hurricanes, snowstorms, tornadoes, typhoons, volcanic activity or wildfires occurring to certain crops during those crop years. A producer's harvested eligible crop must have had at least a 5 percent quality loss reflected through a quality discount. The deadline to

apply for the QLA was April 9, 2021. According to Farm Service Agency (FSA) numbers, 93 Washington producers applied for the program. FSA has not released the number of producers that were approved nor the amount paid.

WAWG will be working with the state and national FSA office to clarify QLA program parameters and will coordinate with NAWG on communicating quality parameters on each wheat classification to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, such as acceptable levels of protein in red vs. white wheat.

For more information on the QLA, see farmers.gov/quality-loss. ■

Grassland program sign-up deadline approaching

Agricultural producers and landowners can apply for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Grasslands sign-up until Aug. 20, 2021.

This year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) updated sign-up options to provide greater incentives for producers and increase the program's conservation and climate benefits, including setting a minimum rental rate and identifying two national priority zones.

The CRP Grassland sign-up is competitive, and USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will provide for annual rental payments for land devoted to conservation purposes.

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

CRP Grasslands helps landowners and operators protect grassland, including rangeland, and pastureland and certain other lands, while maintaining the areas as working grazing lands. Protecting grasslands contributes positively to the economy of many regions, provides biodiversity of plant and animal populations and provides important carbon sequestration benefits. FSA has updated the Grasslands sign-up to establish a minimum rental rate of \$15 per acre, which will benefit 1,300 counties.

To enroll in the CRP Grasslands sign-up, producers and landowners should contact USDA by the Aug. 20 deadline. Service center staff continue to work with agricultural producers via phone, email and other digital tools. Because

Many
Hands
Make
Light Work

Many adjuvants in Full Load Complete™
make for Better Performance.



Full Load Complete™ contains these adjuvants:

- ✎ Patented Hard Water Conditioning adjuvant
- ✎ Glyphosate's Favorite Surfactant adjuvant
- ✎ Fully loaded NIS surfactant blend adjuvant
- ✎ Best Drift Reduction adjuvant
- ✎ Best Volatility Reduction adjuvant
- ✎ Best Deposition aid adjuvant
- ✎ Great with glyphosate, glufosinate, and paraquat

Get CONFIDENCE in a Jug with Full Load Complete™

Full Load Complete is patented technology you can't get anywhere else.

Looking for More Information?

Contact Chase Boman at AgraSyst: (801) 791.7186



To learn more about Full Load Complete or other great AgraSyst Products, visit our website at: www.agrasyst.com

PNW winter wheat production down 26 percent from 2020

From the National Agricultural Statistics Service

Based on July 1, 2021, conditions, production of winter wheat in Washington is forecast at 93 million bushels, down 4 percent from last June and down 30 percent from last year. Harvested area, at 1.69 million acres, is down 60,000 acres from 2020. Yield is expected to be 55 bushels per acre, down 21 bushels from the previous year. Idaho winter wheat production is forecast at 57 million bushels, down 4 percent from the June 1 forecast and down 15 percent from last year. Harvested area, at 670,000 acres, is up 10,000 acres from 2020. Yield is expected to be 85 bushels per acre, down 16 bushels from 2020. Oregon winter wheat production is forecast at 33.4 million bushels, down 5 percent from June and down 28 percent from last year. Harvested area, at 695,000 acres, is down 30,000 acres from 2020. Yield is expected to be 48 bushels per acre, down 16 bushels from the previous year.

Washington spring wheat production is forecast at 20 million bushels, down 39 percent from last year. Harvested area, at 540,000 acres, is up 5,000 acres from 2020. Yield is expected to be 37 bushels per acre, down 24 bushels from the previous year. Idaho spring wheat production is forecast at 35.1 million bushels, down 22 percent from last year. Harvested area, at 495,000 acres, is unchanged from 2020. Yield is expected to be 71 bushels per acre, down 20 bushels from 2020.

Washington barley production is forecast at 3.13 million bushels, down 51 percent from last year. Harvested area, at 59,000 acres, is down 12,000 acres from 2020. Yield is expected to be 53 bushels per acre, down 37 bushels from the previous year. Idaho barley production is forecast at 37.3 million bushels, down 32 percent from last year. Harvested area, at 460,000 acres, is down 40,000 acres from 2020. Yield is expected to be 81 bushels per acre, down 29 bushels from 2020. ■

of the pandemic, some USDA service centers are open to limited visitors. Contact your local service center to set up an in-person or phone appointment. For more information, visit fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/index. ■

FSA loans, deficiency payments available to help producers

With the start of the 2021 crop harvest, keep in mind that Farm Service Agency (FSA) marketing assistance loans are available for harvested commodities. A loan can provide you with interim financing to meet cash flow needs without selling your harvested crop at a time when market prices are at harvest-time lows. Your 2021 harvested farm-stored or warehouse-stored commodity is used as collateral for the loan.

Marketing assistance loans typically mature nine months after the month loan funds are disbursed to you, with repayment due at loan maturity. Due to the pandemic, all open nonrecourse commodity loans in good standing requested by Sept. 30, 2021, will mature 12 months after loans funds are disbursed, unless a nine-month maturity is requested. Before moving farm-stored loan collateral, you must contact the county FSA office and obtain an authorization to move the collateral.

Producers who have a commodity pledged as collateral

for a marketing assistance loan can purchase a commodity certificate that can be immediately exchanged for the outstanding loan collateral in situations when the loan rate exceeds the exchange rate. Producers who are eligible for marketing assistance loans can obtain a loan deficiency payments (LDPs) in lieu of a loan. LDPs are available when the posted county price for a crop falls below the county loan rate. You can check the daily LDP rates online at fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/price-support/Index.

For a commodity to be eligible for a loan, loan deficiency payment or certificate, you must have beneficial interest in the commodity, which is defined as having title, possession and control of the commodity. The quality of stored collateral must be maintained, and you are responsible

Your Rural Property Specialist



realtordad@aol.com

Farmland, timberland, recreational properties, Lake Roosevelt and homes on acreage!

I work all over Eastern Washington. I am a farm land owner in Lincoln and Whitman counties; I know the markets! To BUY or SELL property, call me!

Contact Greg Schuster, Broker
Rural Property Sales
Coldwell Banker Tomlinson



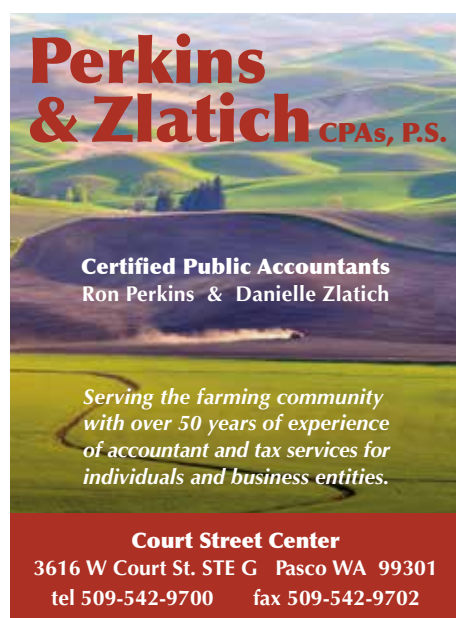
509-993-2545

for loss or damage to the commodity through the term of the loan. To retain eligibility for an LDP when beneficial interest in your harvested crop will be lost upon delivery, you must file form CCC-633 EZ Page 1 with your local FSA office prior to loss of beneficial interest.

Marketing assistance loans or loan deficiency payments are available for wheat, barley, oats, corn, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas, large chickpeas, grain sorghum, soybeans, sunflower seed, rapeseed, canola, safflower seed, flaxseed, mustard seed, crambe, sesame seed, graded and non-graded wool, mohair and honey. Unshorn pelts are available for an LDP only. If you are interested, please contact your local FSA county office to learn more about marketing assistance loans. ■

How are we doing?

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



Perkins & Zlatich CPAs, P.S.

Certified Public Accountants
Ron Perkins & Danielle Zlatich

Serving the farming community with over 50 years of experience of accountant and tax services for individuals and business entities.

Court Street Center
3616 W Court St. STE G Pasco WA 99301
tel 509-542-9700 fax 509-542-9702



Investing is about more than money.

At Edward Jones, we stop to ask you: "What's important to you?" Without a real understanding of your goals, investing holds little meaning.

Call today to discuss what's really important: your goals.



Jay Mlazgar AAMS*
Financial Advisor
609 S. Washington
Ste. 203
Moscow, ID 83843
208-882-1234



Greg Bloom
Financial Advisor
Professional Mall I I
1260 SE Bishop Blvd. Ste C
Pullman, WA 99163
509-332-1564



Hank Worden
Financial Advisor
109 S. Second Ave
Walla Walla, WA 99362
509-529-9900
800-964-3558



Terry A. Sliger
Financial Advisor
1329 Aaron Drive
Richland, WA 99352
509-943-2920
888-943-2920



Ryan Brault CFP*
Financial Advisor
3616 W. Court St. Ste. I
Pasco, WA 99301
509-545-8121
888-545-8126



Joy Behen
Financial Advisor
6115 Burden Blvd. Ste A
Pasco, WA 99301
509-542-1626
877-542-1626



Chris Grover AAMS*
Financial Advisor
1835 First Street
Cheney, WA 99004
509-235-4920
866-235-4920



Brian E. Bailey AAMS*
Financial Advisor
931 6th Street
Clarkston, WA 99403
509-758-8731
866-758-9595



Dean E. Roy AAMS*
Financial Advisor
1024 16th Avenue, Ste C
Lewiston, ID 83501
208-798-4742

www.edwardjones.com
Member SIPC

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Remembering Tedd Randolph Nealey, 1947-2021

Tedd Randolph Nealey, beloved father, husband, brother, uncle and friend, died on July 2, 2021, in a farming accident near Reardan, Wash. He led his life with a strong faith, competitive spirit, moral conviction for his country, pride in his community, love for his family and passion for the game of basketball. Wherever he went, he strove to leave it a better place and made many friends along the way.

He was born on Jan. 29, 1947, to Darwin and Edith Nealey in Walla Walla, Wash., with an identical twin brother, Terry, and they were later joined by siblings, Rebecca and Lane. Raised on the family farm homesteaded by his grandparents, he graduated from LaCrosse High School in 1965. After three semesters at Whitworth College in Spokane to play basketball, he transferred to Washington State University and became a member of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity. He was one of the highest-ranking military cadets in the Army ROTC program, graduated with a degree in agricultural business and became an avid, life-long Coug supporter.

Following graduation, Tedd immediately entered active duty and served in Vietnam as a military police officer and then returned home to Washington state. He moved to Spokane, Wash., where he met Teresa Knudson, and the two were married on Sept. 29, 1972, and had three children, Tamara, Todd and Troy. They moved to Harrington, Wash., and ran a cattle ranch for five years before taking over the family farm in LaCrosse in 1978, where he lived and worked since. Tedd and Teresa later divorced.

He married Patricia Colvin in 2003, and the merging of their families resulted in nine children and 21 grandchildren.

Tedd was always an active member of the community, seeking to improve the areas in which he lived. He was accepted into Class I of the Ag Forestry Leadership program, and his class traveled to China in 1979. He was elected to the LaCrosse School Board where he lobbied for the school to combine with the Endicott School District. He chaired the Whitman County Planning Commission, served as a Sunday School teacher at the LaCrosse Methodist church, coached his children in youth sports and performed in local community theater—the LaCrosse 89ers and Pullman's Summer Palace.

In 1984, Turner Broadcasting Network highlighted Tedd and the Nealey farm in the Washington state seg-



ment of "Portrait of America."

He successfully spearheaded the initiative to achieve a nonsmoking ban in public places in Washington.

He also served on the Washington Wheat Growers Board, where he led in the creation of a new fee structure, establishing a profitable foundation that other farming organizations sought to mimic.

Always an active member of the Republican party, he ran for the state legislature in the 9th District and, though he lost, he was proud to have been endorsed by the *Spokesman Review* as the most informed candidate. Most recently, he helped form the LaCrosse Community Pride and successfully recruited businesses to the small town to stimulate economic growth.

While his commitment to service was undeniable, it was inferior to his obsession for the game of basketball. He fostered his love for athletics in his children, each of whom excelled in their respective sports, with his sons competing in basketball at the college level. He consistently played 6 a.m. games in Pullman and Spokane and formed senior league teams who traveled around the world to play. Nothing gave him more pleasure than competing against former NBA stars, Olympians and college-level athletes—and beating them. He was proud to have accomplished summiting Mt. Rainier and all peaks in Washington with the exception of Mt. St. Helens, which he planned to climb at the end of the month with his daughter, Tamara.

Accolades aside, Tedd was a man of tremendous faith, integrity and dedicated his life to service and stewardship of the land. He was a valiant warrior, who fought for the causes and people he believed in. His determination, leadership, friendship and influence will forever be known and missed.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia; children, Tamara and Troy; stepchildren, Jesse, Brenna, Jeremy, Nick, Tricia and Alan; brother, Terry (Jan); sister, Rebecca Kekuna (Curt); former wife, Teresa; and numerous grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; stepmother, Evelyn Nealey; son, Todd; and brother, Lane.

A memorial service was held at the LaCrosse High School gymnasium on July 16. Donations can be made to the LaCrosse Community Pride and Methodist Church Memorial/Benevolence Fund. ■



**Different fields
have different
climates, different soils,
different weeds, and
different rainfall levels.**

At CoAXium We Get That.

It used to be that farmers chose CoAXium® wheat because they were desperate to control grassy weeds.

Now, they are choosing CoAXium wheat because it controls grassy weeds like nothing else AND is available in a growing list of superior varieties developed for specific environmental conditions.



© 2021 Albaugh, LLC; CWRF and Limagrain Cereal Seeds, LLC.

CoAXium® and Cleaner Fields. Higher Yields® are trademarks of Albaugh, LLC; CWRF and Limagrain Cereal Seeds, LLC. Driven by Aggressor® Herbicides and Aggressor® are trademarks of Albaugh, LLC. Refer to the Aggressor® product label for complete directions and instructions. Aggressor® EPA Reg. No. 42750-313 AD030118

The Washington Association of Wheat Growers wishes farmers a safe harvest!



Waylon Davis (2 1/2), son of Nick and Maggee Davis of Colfax, and Brant Van Tine (1 1/2), son of John and Jaime Van Tine of Steptoe, supervise a preharvest combine check. Photo by Maggee Davis.



OFFICES:
Genesee
208-285-1141
Colfax
509-397-4381
Rosalia
509-523-3511
Oakesdale
509-285-4311
Fairfield
509-283-2124



- **Grain Marketing & Storage**
- **Pulse & Specialty Crop Processing**
- **Quality Pulse & Cereal Seeds**
- **Rail & River Shipping Terminals**
- **Country Hedging Futures & Options**



"A Family of Farmers"

1-866-986-2008
www.pnw.coop

Northwest **FIRST REALTORS**

**WE SPECIALIZE IN *Mountain Properties,*
*Farms & Ranches!***



**OUR *Roots*
RUN DEEP**

509-524-9055

NorthwestFirstRealtors.com

320 N. COLVILLE, WALLA WALLA, WA
INFO@NORTHWESTFIRSTREALTORS.COM



MIRIAM GRANT
Owner /
Designated Broker
509-520-5220



MARK GRANT
ALC, Owner /
Designated Broker
509-520-1906



MICHAEL GRANT
Broker
509-520-0895



MARK KLICKER
Broker
509-520-7370



TALEN LARSEN
Broker
509-540-9939



Nov. 30-Dec. 3, 2021

**Davenport Grand
Hotel, Spokane, WA**

**Register online
at wawg.org**



**For hotel reservations
call 800-228-9290**

Located in the heart of Downtown Spokane, within walking distance of theaters, art galleries, spas, restaurants and outdoor activities is the home of the 2021 Tri-State Grain Growers Convention. The Convention Center and INB Performing Arts Center are connected to the hotel via a skybridge. The Spokane Veteran's Arena, River Front Park, Spokane River and Centennial Trail are all within walking distance.

**Early bird registration
ends October 29, 2021**

Steve Miller, emcee

Recognized throughout Idaho as an ag event emcee, Steve Miller 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 agriculture industry and his rural roots. He currently resides in Middleton, Idaho, with his wife. He is the father to three and grandfather to seven.



Tom Vilsack (invited)

Thomas J. Vilsack returns to the role as secretary of agriculture, where he served for eight years under President Obama. Vilsack served two terms as the governor of Iowa, served in the Iowa State Senate and as the mayor of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. He received his bachelor's degree from Hamilton College and his law degree from Albany Law School in New York. Between 2017 and 2021, he served as president and CEO of the U.S. Dairy Export Council.

Mark Mayfield, keynote

Hall-of-Fame speaker and former National FFA president has merged his corporate background as a lobbyist and his comedy background as a nightclub performer to create a unique experience. His program focuses on the changing face and challenges of agriculture. He'll explain the reason change is hard for ag and the best response to ensure success and profitability. He delves into the need for communication and activism and why we have to continue that ag spirit of optimism.



Eric Snodgrass, keynote

Eric Snodgrass is the 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.

National update with Sara Wyant

Sara Wyant is president of Agri-Pulse Communications, Inc. 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.



Breakout session topics to include:

- Wheat market report
- Crop insurance update
- Lower Snake River dams
- Variety panel discussion
- Managing stress
- Legislative happenings
- Precision ag technology
- Tax updates
- And many more...

Auction and Dinner

Auction and Dinner is Thursday, Dec. 2, at 6 p.m. Social hour starts at 5:30 p.m. Donation forms can be found at wawg.org.





November 30 -
December 3, 2021
The Davenport Grand Hotel
Spokane, WA

Mail, Phone, Fax or online at
www.wawg.org/convention
109 E. 1st Ave, Ritzville, WA 99169
Phone: (509) 659-0610 • Fax: (509) 659-4302

Farm or Business Name _____

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone Number _____

Email _____ State Affiliation (circle) WAWG OWGL IGPA

FULL REGISTRATION (includes meals)

	#ATTENDING	AMOUNT
Regular Registration	_____ x \$ 210 =	\$ _____
Spouse Registration	_____ x \$ 210 =	\$ _____
After 10/29/2021	_____ x \$ 250 =	\$ _____
Non-Member	_____ x \$ 320 =	\$ _____

***Note: FULL Convention Registration includes Wednesday, Thursday & Friday meetings and all meals.**

SINGLE DAY REGISTRATION

Single Day	_____ x \$ 150 =	\$ _____ Wednesday/Thursday
Single Day	_____ x \$ 100 =	\$ _____ Friday
Non-Member Single Day	_____ x \$ 200 =	\$ _____ Wednesday/Thursday/ Friday

DINNER & AUCTION - Heads & Tails **Auction Fundraiser**

_____ x \$ 10 per person = \$ _____

ADDITIONAL Meal Tickets *Available to purchase ONLY with a Full Registration

_____ Individual Breakfast	_____ x \$ 30 =	\$ _____
_____ Individual Lunch	_____ x \$ 45 =	\$ _____
_____ State Banquet	_____ x \$ 50 =	\$ _____
_____ Dinner & Auction	_____ x \$ 70 =	\$ _____

Please Indicate Which Meals you will be Attending (for head count purposes):

_____ National Organization	_____ Oregon Banquet (Wednesday)	_____ Luncheon (Thursday)
_____ Update Breakfast (Wednesday)	_____ Washington Banquet (Wednesday)	_____ Dinner & Auction (Thursday)
_____ Tri-State Luncheon (Wednesday)	_____ Idaho Banquet (Wednesday)	_____ Breakfast (Friday)
	_____ Opening Breakfast (Thursday)	

Please Indicate All that apply:

_____ Speaker	_____ Committee Chairperson	_____ Past Washington Wheat Commissioner
_____ Exhibitor	_____ Idaho Wheat Commissioner	_____ Past Washington Barley Commissioner
_____ Sponsor	_____ Idaho Barley Commissioner	_____ Wheat Foundation
_____ Past President	_____ Oregon Wheat Commissioner	_____ First Time Attendee
_____ State Officer	_____ Washington Grain Commissioner	_____ 15x40 Attendee
_____ County President	_____ Past Idaho Wheat Commissioner	_____ WA Lifetime Member
_____ Board Member	_____ Past Idaho Barley Commissioner	
_____ Executive Committee	_____ Past Oregon Wheat Commissioner	

_____ Charge my AMEX/MasterCard/VISA _____ Enclosed is my check-Payable to WAWG Total Paid \$ _____

Card Number _____ Exp. _____ 3 or 4 digit code _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

POLICY MATTERS

Most wheat counties designated as natural disaster areas

By Trista Crossley

On July 6, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) designated 14 counties, mostly in Eastern Washington, as primary natural disaster areas. The declaration allows the Farm Service Agency (FSA) the ability to offer emergency loans to producers to help them replace essential equipment, inputs or to refinance certain farm-related debts.

Producers in 10 Washington counties that are contiguous to the primary counties are also eligible to apply for emergency loans. A federal drought designation is made when a county has D2 (severe drought) conditions for eight weeks in a row or D3 (extreme drought) conditions during the growing season.

The primary counties are Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lincoln, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman and Yakima. The contiguous counties are Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Ferry, King, Lewis, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Pierce and Skamania.

Travis Martin, Washington State FSA district director, said not a lot of Eastern Washington wheat farmers take advantage of emergency loans because they typically see comparable rates for regular loans. Fortunately, there are some other programs that might offer help.

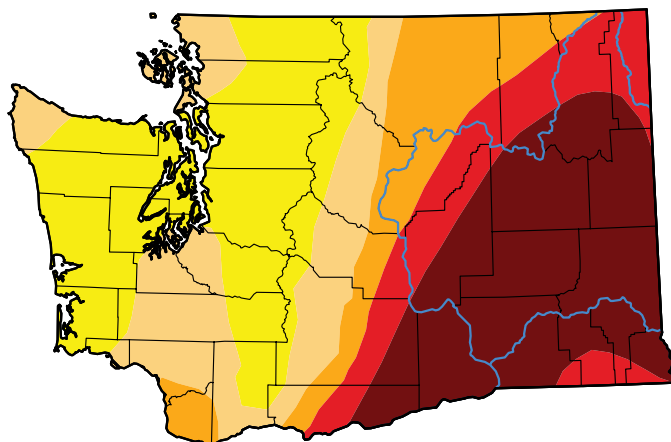
"Because of the drought conditions we are in, we have a livestock forage program that is available and being implemented through most of Eastern Washington," he said. "Then, we also have, under the emergency conservation program, if producers' livestock wells go dry, we can help with deepening those or drilling new wells. We are doing that in a couple of counties on the east side."

The application deadline for an emergency loan is Feb. 22, 2022. The deadline for the livestock program is Jan. 30, 2022, but Martin advised growers to apply sooner, rather than later, so FSA can start processing the paperwork.

"Unfortunately for crop producers, crop insurance, which most of them have already purchased, is their best remedy in these types of situations," he said.

Martin said FSA has been hearing that some producers are looking at an 80 percent loss on winter wheat and up to 100 percent on some spring crops.

"Hay and grazing land, the pastures are completely



As of July 22, the U.S. Drought Monitor rated approximately 27 percent of Washington as being in exceptional drought. The U.S. Drought Monitor is jointly produced by the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the United States Department of Agriculture and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Map courtesy of NDMC.

decimated and dry right now. We aren't hearing good things," he said. "We are, of course, worried about fire and the potential for fire. We know it's more of a 'when' than an 'if.'"

Producers with questions are encouraged to contact their local USDA service center and work with staff on what options are available to them. Producers can sign up for the Washington state FSA office's electronic newsletter at fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Washington/index. The state office also sends out electronic bulletins several times a month to help keep producers informed.

Producers can find more information on emergency farm loans at fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/emergency-farm-loans/index. Other natural disaster programs offered by FSA include:

- The Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) provides payments to eligible producers of livestock to help compensate for losses due to adverse weather or other conditions, such as wildfires.
- The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) provides compensation for grazing losses for covered livestock on land that is native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or certain crops planted specifically for grazing. The grazing losses must be

**BOOST YOUR
BOTTOM LINE**

**EXPAND HERBICIDE
OPTIONS**

**SLOW HERBICIDE
RESISTANCE**

**WINTER CANOLA
NON GMO
IMI-TOLERANT**

**ROUNDUP READY
VARIETIES ALSO
AVAILABLE**

**SUNFLOWERS
TRITICALE
PLOW-DOWN MUSTARD**

START BUILDING YOUR SOIL HEALTH NOW!

Rotations increase yields, break disease cycles & reduce weeds.

**SPECTRUM CROP DEVELOPMENT
RITZVILLE WA**

**Curtis 509-659-1757
Todd 509-641-0436**



WESTFIELD

WESTEEL

BATCO

NECO

MFS

MOVE ★ DRY ★ STORE

★ Augers ★ Belt Conveyors ★ Dryers ★ Grain Bins ★ Construction

T&S Sales

509.535.1177

NwGrainAugers.com

due to a qualifying drought condition or fire on federally managed land during the normal grazing period for the county.

- The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides benefits to livestock owners and some contract growers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality that are the direct result of an eligible adverse weather event.
- The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) provides funding to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters, including fences lost to fire, and for carrying out emergency water conservation measures during periods of severe drought.
- CRP Emergency Haying and Grazing. Emergency haying and grazing of CRP acres may be authorized to provide relief to livestock producers in areas affected by a severe drought or similar natural disaster. Contact your local FSA office to begin the process prior to turning cows out. ■

Washington governor requests additional federal assistance

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee has sent a letter to President Biden asking for additional federal assistance for the Evergreen State's producers. The letter says, in part:

"Unfortunately, in addition to the ongoing drought and low soil moisture problems, an extreme heat wave hit the state at the end of June. High temperature records were set across the state, topping out at 117 degrees in Eastern Washington and 110 degrees in Western Washington. Many of the producers who suffered heat-related impacts were either located in counties not covered by the drought declarations, experienced losses not covered by FSA drought assistance programs, or both.

"Reports across the state gathered to date indicate that Washington's beef cattle, dairy products, forage crops, grain crops, shellfish, berry crops, tree fruit and, potentially, other crops experienced extreme heat impacts to product quality and yield. These extreme heat impacts are likely to be severe, so I believe additional federal assistance will be needed beyond what can be offered through USDA's drought relief programs."

As the drought deepens over the region, the Washington Association of Wheat Growers has been advocating at both the state and federal level for resources to help wheat growers maintain their family farms despite what has the potential to be significant crop and/or quality losses. ■

RMA authorizes emergency procedures to help producers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is authorizing emergency procedures to help agricultural producers impacted by extreme drought conditions. USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) is working with crop insurance companies to streamline and accelerate the adjustment of losses and issuance of indemnity payments to crop insurance policyholders in impacted areas. These new crop insurance flexibilities are part of USDA's broader response to help producers impacted by drought in the West, northern Great Plains, Caribbean and other areas.

Emergency procedures allow insurance companies to accept delayed notices of loss in certain situations, streamline paperwork and reduce the number of required representative samples when damage is consistent. These flexibilities will reduce burdens on both insurance companies and producers to help mitigate drought effects.

Producers should contact their crop insurance agent as soon as they notice damage. The insurance company must have an opportunity to inspect the crop before the producer puts their crop acres to another use. If the company cannot make an accurate appraisal, or the producer disagrees with the appraisal at the time the acreage is to be destroyed or no longer cared for, the insurance company and producer can determine representative sample areas to be left intact and maintained for future appraisal purposes. Once an insured crop has been appraised and released or representative strips have been authorized for later appraisal, the producer may cut the crop for silage, destroy it or take any other action on the land including planting a cover crop.

Additional information on these emergency procedures is available at rma.usda.gov/en/News-Room/Frequently-Asked-Questions/Crop-Insurance-and-Drought-Damaged-Crops. ■

PNW legislators lead letter urging treaty prioritization

Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-Wash.), Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.) and Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) have led a bipartisan, bicameral letter to President Biden urging his administration to prioritize the renegotiation of the Columbia River Treaty and to provide regular, substantive updates to Congress on the status of its modernization.

The Columbia River Treaty was negotiated in 1964.

Over the past 50 years, population growth, changing weather patterns, clean energy and carbon reduction state-based requirements and coal plant retirements have changed the region's utility sector and broader economy. The flood control provisions of the treaty are set to expire in 2024, and legislators feel it is critical to find out what resources the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers might need to alter its operations should the flood control agreement significantly change in the coming years.

In the letter, the lawmakers re-emphasized the urgency of prompt negotiation of a modernized treaty and urged the Biden Administration to provide regular, substantive updates to Congress on the status of negotiations.

The letter also addressed power benefits that are currently paid to Canada.

"The 2013 Regional Recommendation made clear that power benefits to Canada, known as the Canadian Entitlement, must be rebalanced to reflect an equitable sharing of the treaty's benefits. The U.S. government and others have studied the issue and concluded that the U.S. is vastly overpaying Canada for the benefits it receives, now more than \$150 million per year. This cost is passed on to our constituent rate-payers," the letter states.

The letter was signed by Sens. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.), as well as Reps. Russ Fulcher (R-Idaho); Mike Simpson (R-Idaho); Matthew Rosendale (R-Mont.); Suzanne Bonamici (D-Ore.); Cliff Bentz (R-Ore.); Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.); Kurt Schrader (D-Ore.); Suzan DelBene (D-Wash.); Rick Larsen (D-Wash.); Jamie Herrera Beutler (R-Wash.); Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.); Derek Kilmer (D-Wash.); Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash.); Kim Schrier (D-Wash.); Adam Smith (D-Wash.); and Marilyn Strickland (D-Wash.). ■



INSURANCE AGENCY



Our business is safeguarding yours.

Knowledge is the best form of insurance. That's why our local livestock and crop insurance agents specialize in the commodities you produce.

- Yield, Revenue & Production Protection
- Livestock & Dairy Coverage
- Hail, Wind & Fire Policies
- Rainfall Protection

Contact your local insurance agent today.

800.743.2125 | northwestfcs.com/cropinsurance

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Here to Help You Grow®

Meet the 2021 Wheat Foundation scholarship recipients

One of the building blocks of the Washington Wheat Foundation's mission is education of the wheat industry. Scholarships help fuel that education and outreach.

The Michael and Linda Schrag Agricultural Education Scholarship is for college juniors and seniors who have declared agricultural education as their major and maintained a minimum 3.0 GPA during their college years. **Ellie Gering**, a Lind-Ritzville High School graduate, is the recipient of this year's \$1,000 Schrag Scholarship. "I love that you have created a scholarship for students specifically pursuing a career in agriculture education. It is a passion that we share! I have always heard so many compliments about Mr. Schrag as an ag teacher. You definitely set our FFA chapter up for success a very long time ago. I also fondly remember Mrs. Schrag teaching us PE and some art in grade school." After graduation, Ellie plans to teach in Eastern Washington. While attending Washington State University (WSU), she has been active in the WSU Agriculture Education Club, Delta Gamma sorority and several intramural sports teams.



The \$1,500 Washington Wheat Foundation Barbara Pyne-Herron Memorial Scholarships are for college juniors and seniors. Preference for this scholarship is for promising students with a rural and/or agricultural background

Wheat ambassador deadline nears

For those high school seniors interested in applying for the Washington Wheat Ambassador program, what better time to film your amateur introduction video than during the upcoming harvest and/or summer work? The video does not need to be professionally edited, but you should take the opportunity to showcase your background and interests. It can be as simple as standing in a wheat field and introducing yourself using a smartphone. Application deadline is Oct. 15. ■

pursuing a career in agricultural communications, agribusiness economics and management or agribusiness and technology systems and to students with a family member in the farming industry. This year's Wheat Foundation Scholarship winners are Daisy Arias and Bethany Safe.

Daisy Arias is double majoring in agriculture, specifically in fruit and vegetable management and field crop management at WSU and was able to renew this scholarship for the second year. She plans to work at Stemilt Growers in Wenatchee, Wash., as a summer intern. She said she is "working with the research and development team, which is a great opportunity to get more field and lab experience and also to apply knowledge that I have learned from my years here at WSU. This scholarship is going to help me attend WSU for my last year because it's going to cover part of my tuition. I am very grateful for this award, and I'm going to take advantage of this opportunity you have given me to further my education."



Upon completion of her agricultural technology and production management degree at Washington State University, **Bethany Safe** plans to find a job as a farm manager. "Technology has always interested me, so finding practical applications in the world of agriculture for things we are learning in class has been very helpful! After I graduate next year, I may decide to get my masters in precision agriculture," Bethany said. "Thank you again for your generosity and incredible support. Coming from a large family, I was told that if I wanted to go to college, I would have to find a way to pay for it myself. Thank you so much for assisting me in my educational endeavors. It has truly been a blessing, one that I hope I can pass on to other people someday."



Congratulations, Ellie, Daisy and Bethany! ■

Washington Wheat Foundation Meeting
Sept. 13, 2021, at the Wheat Foundation Building in Ritzville, Wash.

2021/22 Washington Wheat Ambassador applications are due **Oct. 15, 2021**. Download application at wawg.org/washington-wheat-ambassador-program/

Washington Wheat Foundation Meeting
Nov. 15, 2021, at the Wheat Foundation Building in Ritzville, Wash.

WASHINGTON WHEAT AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

There's more to
farming
than sitting on a tractor.



We help build leaders.

High school seniors apply today.

www.wawg.org/washington-wheat-ambassador-program

509-659-0610

Deadline: October 15, 2021

This is a program of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers
Contributions made in part by the Washington Wheat Foundation

Drought fears coming true

LACK OF MOISTURE LIKELY LEAVES FARMERS WITH QUALITY, YIELD ISSUES IN 2021 WHEAT CROP

By Trista Crossley

As of mid-July, the forecast for a fast, early wheat harvest was holding true throughout Eastern Washington. Unfortunately, so was the expectation that yields would be down this year, thanks to a late spring frost, followed by drought and an extreme (and lingering) heatwave.

“Eastern Washington wheat farmers have been hit hard this year,” said Michelle Hennings, executive director of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers. “Although we went into winter with good moisture for winter wheat, the lack of spring rains has really hurt spring wheat. There are growers who are facing significant crop losses and will be relying on crop insurance to get them through to next year.”

The July 18 crop progress report from the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) rated 88 percent of the state’s spring wheat crop as poor to very poor. The winter wheat fares a little better, with 50 percent listed as poor to very poor. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has

designated 14 counties, mostly in Eastern Washington, as primary natural disaster areas, opening the door to federal resources. The NASS report also showed that 30 percent of winter wheat has been harvested, compared to the five-year average of 9 percent.

Down south in Benton and Franklin counties, harvest was in full swing, but, as opposed to the rest of the region, it was mostly happening on schedule. Mark Weber, manager of Tri-Cities Grain in Pasco, Wash., speculated that that was because of the timing of June’s heat wave—it hit towards the end of the month at a time when the grain was already well on its way to being ready to harvest.

“Everybody was expecting an early harvest with all the heat, but what happened was we didn’t have moisture like normal, but we didn’t have heat earlier in May or June. That just kind of kept things on pace. High temperatures in May or (early) June usually dictate when we start,” he explained.

Tri-Cities Grain’s footprint includes a significant amount



With one of the driest springs on record, dryland spring wheat, like this field in Spokane County, is struggling in Eastern Washington.

of irrigated wheat, so those yields haven't been impacted by the drought as much as dryland wheat. Weber said he's heard dryland yields are down a quarter to a third. He hasn't seen many quality issues so far, and test weights have been okay.

"Protein has been a struggle," he said. "Our protein in white wheat is slightly higher than normal. With red wheats, we are struggling to get higher protein, but it's still early in the season."

Irrigated crops may have fared better than dryland ones with the lack of moisture, but that didn't protect them from June's extreme heat. Brad Isaak, a grower from Coulee City, Wash., has approximately 9,000 acres of irrigated farmland. He said that the crops that were in bloom during the heat wave didn't set seed. ▶

More crop insurance options to consider

By Ben Thiel

Director, Risk Management Agency's Spokane Regional Office

It's a shame to spend a long time (all winter) looking forward to something, and then when it arrives, you already wish it was over. That's this summer. The drought this spring already looked unprecedented, and that was before the high-pressure dome phenomenon set in and caused record high temperatures.

The lack of moisture and high temperatures could result in one of the worst years ever for crop growing conditions, although that might be subjective to your specific location or the crops you produce. The question I would pose is what if this year isn't the worst we will see for extreme weather risk? Would you be able to financially withstand consecutive losses like this year with the same level of crop insurance?

Most producers who use crop insurance have probably settled into a familiar pattern of the same form of insurance from year to year. Maybe it's time for a change. Your crop insurance agent can discuss what options are available to improve your risk management in future years, whether it's finding some cost savings or additional coverage. Additional coverage can be as simple as increasing your coverage level or adding additional insurance policies like Whole Farm Revenue Protection, Supplemental Coverage Option or Enhanced Coverage Option. More information about all of these can be found at rma.usda.gov/Topics/National-Fact-Sheets. ■

BRENT

BRENTEQUIP.COM

AVALANCHE

GRAIN HANDLING PRODUCTS



Bigger. Faster. Better.

Built to handle the largest farming operations, the **Brent® Avalanche® 96-Series** dual-auger grain carts are our most powerful yet, and feature our trademark pivoting unloading auger and a directional downspout to discharge grain straight down during the unloading process. The result is a bigger, faster grain cart designed to handle your harvest with maximum efficiency.

Visit **BrentEquip.com** or see your nearest dealer for more information.

UNVERFERTH MANUFACTURING CO., INC. | P.O. Box 357 • Kalida, OH 45853 • unverferth.com

You're never alone
when you have the power of

WE




Successful seasons take teamwork, and choosing the right people for your team makes all the difference. That's why everything we do starts with partnership. Our team works hand-in-hand with you so we can deliver the right mix of innovative products and expert insights tailored to your exact conditions. Because at Wilbur-Ellis, teamwork isn't just something we talk about. It's the foundation for how we do business—and you'll find it right in our initials: W.E.

Find out what The Power of We™ can do for you at WilburEllisAgribusiness.com.



Get germination without hesitation.

STEPUP® SP promotes faster, more uniform emergence and increased disease tolerance.

 Sowing the seeds of a successful season is a lot easier when you start with STEPUP® SP. This unique formulation interacts with seeds to supplement the proteins and amino acids produced during germination, which stimulates uniform emergence and increases tolerance to disease.

It's a simple way to get faster, stronger growth now, so you can enjoy next level results at harvest time. Add STEPUP® SP to your seed treatment plan and you'll never plant without it again.

WilburEllisAgribusiness.com

THE POWER OF WE  **WILBUR-ELLIS**
AGRIBUSINESS

For information only. Not a label. Prior to use, always read and follow product label directions. WILBUR-ELLIS logo is a registered trademark and The Power of We is a trademark of Wilbur-Ellis Company LLC.

"Our green peas are down probably 50 to 75 percent. Some of that was moisture related, but a lot of it was just extreme heat. Our spring canola bloomed for probably two-thirds of its normal time," he said. "Our big loss will come from bloom kill during the heat rather than true drought."

Isaak figures his bluegrass yield will be average to good as the crop was finished before the heat, and they had enough of a moisture bank in the soil to get it through the drought. He's hoping for an average wheat yield in his irrigated acres and expecting a below-average yield from his dryland wheat.

In Lincoln and Adams counties, harvest was just getting started. Andy Wellsandt, accounting controller for Ritzville Warehouse in Ritzville, Wash., said harvest was 10 days to two weeks early in most places. He was anticipating a quicker-than-usual harvest.

"Everybody started out with a good stand, but our expectations are for a down yield, a down production, obviously caused by lack of rain this spring, frost, then high heat," he said. "It's too bad. We had a beautiful stand for most of our footprint. It was a disappointing spring."

Wellsandt said it was too early to comment on quality, but thought protein issues could be a factor this year. In general, drought tends to increase protein in soft white wheat, making it less suitable for cakes, crackers and noodles, although some of that can be compensated for by blending higher and lower protein wheats.

At Palouse Grain Growers in Palouse, Wash., Manager Rick Wekenman is also anticipating an early harvest. He expects to start receiving loads on July 19; normally, they'll start to see loads coming in around the first of August. He also thinks it will be a fast harvest with lower yields.

"There's just a general feeling from the guys coming in that this year is going to be ugly. They are thinking maybe half the crop of what they are used to," he said. "There are some bright spots out there, but where they might be accustomed to getting 80 to 90 bushels an acre, they are thinking 50 to 60 bushels an acre. We may be pleasantly surprised when things actually start to come in, but if anybody harvests an average crop this year, they'll be pleasantly surprised."

Even if a grower has a better-than-expected yield, Wekenman says there's likely to be discounts "every step of the way" this year. Besides protein issues, he expects to see low test weights. The only saving grace, he added, was that soft white wheat prices are good this year, around \$8.50 Portland price at the time of this interview.

"I just hope growers don't get two of these (dry years) in a row," he said. "Last year was an excellent year. Regionwide, we had record-setting crops and record bushels per acre. We had a record year for intake, and a record year needing to ship stuff to the river to create space in our elevators. Not this year. We'll have to ship some, but last year, we shipped more than 1 million bushels during harvest, and this year, if we ship half that, I'll be surprised." ■

"Everybody started out with a good stand, but our expectations are for a down yield, a down production, obviously caused by lack of rain this spring, frost, then high heat. It's too bad. We had a beautiful stand for most of our footprint. It was a disappointing spring."

*— Andy Wellsandt
Ritzville Warehouse*

The benefits of barging

RIVER TRANSPORTATION CRITICAL TO PNW GRAIN COMPANY'S FARMERS, CUSTOMERS

Columbia Grain International, based in Portland, is a leading supplier worldwide of bulk grain, pulses, edible beans and oilseeds, both conventional and organic. Their supply chain stretches across the northern tier of the U.S., from North Dakota to Washington. They operate nine grain elevators in Eastern Washington, as well as barge loading facilities on the lower Snake River. To say they have a stake in the fight over breaching the lower Snake River dams is a bit of an understatement.

Last month, *Wheat Life* talked to **Jeff Van Pevenage**, president and CEO of Columbia Grain, on the importance of barging to his company and to farmers as far away as North Dakota.



HOW IMPORTANT IS BARGING TO COLUMBIA GRAIN?

Barging to Columbia Grain is twofold. All of our origination of soft white wheat, specifically to our own facilities, is based off of Snake River barge facilities. We operate a facility at the Port of Wilma, in Clarkston. We operate a facility at the Port of Central Ferry, and then we utilize a facility at Lower Monumental Dam. So, in terms of what we originate and buy from farmers, we barge nearly all of that grain down the river out of the Palouse, Camas Prairie and out of Adams County. We are also a partner in a joint venture of export facilities in the Portland-Kalama area where we have a terminal at Terminal 5 in Portland. And we are highly dependent upon barge unload in order to really operate that facility efficiently.

Given that, it's a big deal to us. Sixty-five percent of the grain that is barged down the entire Columbia-Snake River System comes from the lower Snake River. That's a large percentage.

DO YOU UTILIZE BARGING BOTH UP AND DOWN THE RIVER?

Primarily downriver, but there are companies that utilize barging for bringing fertilizers and nutrients upriver, as well as fuels.

HOW DOES COLUMBIA GRAIN CURRENTLY USE THE RAILROADS TO MOVE PRODUCT?

We utilize rail on our unloads coming from Montana,

North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota and Iowa. That's part of it. We like to utilize our rail unload for that movement of grain and utilize our barge unload capacity for the soft white wheat that comes out of the Pacific Northwest.

In February of this year, Rep. Mike Simpson (R-Idaho) introduced a plan to remove the lower Snake River dams. A \$33.5 billion fund, the Columbia Basin Fund, would be established to help mitigate the impacts removing the dams would have on the region. The money would be used, in part, to replace the energy produced by the dams, pay for salmon habitat and restoration, help agriculture adjust to the lack of barging capabilities on the Snake River

and make necessary improvements to the region's transportation infrastructure.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT REP. SIMPSON'S PLAN TO REMOVE THE LOWER SNAKE RIVER DAMS?

I think it is a little bit of a grandstand plan to make a few people happy, primarily the environmentalists. If people took the time to go and tour the dams, tour the fish ladders, talk with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and really study the numbers of fish that are coming up today vs. the number of fish that were coming up in 1938 when Bonneville Dam was built, they would find that the numbers are very similar.

Typically, when you see downturns in the numbers of fish coming up, it's not because of the dams, it's because something is happening in the ocean. For instance, we kind of peaked fish runs in about 2016, and they've been going down since. But they go down at Bonneville, too. They don't just go down on the lower Snake River, they are down on the Columbia River, meaning the fish aren't returning to the Columbia, so the problem is somewhere out in the ocean. And that's climatic changes, in my opinion, that are probably causing issues out in the ocean.

DO YOU THINK THE PRICE TAG REP. SIMPSON HAS PUT ON REMOVING THE DAMS (\$33.5 BILLION) IS AN ADEQUATE NUMBER?

I think it is outlandish to spend that kind of money. We

WEED-IT

THE NEW GENERATION WEED-IT QUADRO



Robb Soliday

(509) 988-7018 • Ritzville

Jason Emerson

(509) 681-0466 • Coulee City

info@agritechamerica.com

WEED-IT QUADRO FEATURES

SAVE UPTO
90%
CHEMICALS



40" Sensor Spacing

Improved detection
on small plant
increased power
efficiency.



Blue Light

Improved detection
on small plant
increased power
efficiency.



Full PWM Application Control

Controlled dosage
per weed - speed and
turn compensating.



50% Less Weight

1.5lbs per sensor
places less stress
on your sprayer.



In-Crop PWM

Control Rate &
Droplet size for all
applications.



**AGRITECH
AMERICA**

ODESSA TRADING CO.

YOUR BOURGAULT DRILL DEALER

UNITS IN STOCK!

RELIABLE, DURABLE

BOURGAULT

AND BUILT TO LAST

3320



The 3320 Paralink Hoe Drill comes in 3 configurations. One just right for your farm.

3720



The 3720 Disk Drill has 7.5", 10" or 12" spacings available with 30 ft. to 70 ft. widths.

5810



The 5810 Air Hoe Drill-A Floating Hitch Drill with a range of packer options.

Bourgault Drills have many options, including automatic lift controls and packing pressure, precise seed depth adjustment and nutrient placement.

Match Bourgault Drills with a 6000 Series Air Seeder Cart for maximum efficiency various models available, with up to 4 product carry configurations.

www.odessatrading.com

Don Strebeck 509-988-0433

Jason Thomas 509-988-0342

Sam Whitman 509-660-3210

Odessa WA **509-982-2661**

Coulee City WA **509-632-5413**

Ritzville WA **509-659-0269**



Columbia Grain's facility at Central Ferry on the Snake River. Photo courtesy of Columbia Grain International.

have much bigger problems in the U.S. If you look at the way they've manipulated the dams in order for the fish to be safer and to travel easier, that's working. I don't think you need to spend even a billion dollars to continue increasing the numbers of fish by adapting to what we have in place today. (Rep. Simpson) wants to spend \$34 billion to get rid of that, and there's no guarantee that that will help the fish. But you will lose power generation, which with 115 degrees here the other day and air conditioning, it sure seems nice to have as much power as we could have.

Proponents of removing the dams often point to wind power as one of the replacements for the hydropower the dams provide. Van Pevenage recently took part in an industry tour of Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River, and on his drive home through the Walla Walla area, which has a large number of windmills, he noticed very few of them were turning. Unlike the windmills, which need wind to generate power, the dams can produce power under any conditions, 24 hours a day.

I'm a big proponent of, if this bill is even going to be considered in the Appropriations Committees, Appropriation Committee members need to come out and really study the issue. It was really enlightening to me to listen to the Corps of Engineers. We've sat here for the last year and a half under COVID saying "listen to the science." Well, come listen to the science, and it will tell you whether you should spend \$34 billion for this or not.

COULD YOU BYPASS THE SNAKE RIVER ALTOGETHER AND LOAD GRAIN IN THE TRI-CITIES?

You are talking about taking 13 facilities on the lower Snake River and the volume of grain they run through there and converting it somewhere down on the Columbia River. While there are a couple of facilities down there that could be utilized, you are talking about a lot more trucking. Trucking is the most carbon-creating form of transportation in the Pacific Northwest, and I thought everybody was talking about zero carbon emissions. So you take the most efficient form of transportation in terms of pollution, which is barging, and convert it into the worst, which is trucking, in order to save the salmon. I'm not sure which one is better for the environment.

Not only that, but there's the ability to find the trucks. One of the biggest problems we have in our industry today is the labor to run our facilities, as well as people to drive trucks and enough trucks to do it. That's really difficult, and I don't think that's getting better. And your costs would increase, as well, to the farmer.

HOW DOES BARGING COMPARE TO RAILS?

The timeliness of barging is typically faster and a more reliable service than what we would get from rail. Rail has improved tremendously over the years through the shuttle system, but a lot of transition of this grain from

AgriPro Brand Soft White Winter Wheat

AP Iliad

Reach Epic Yields

AgriPro® brand wheat variety AP Iliad is the latest release for Oregon from the nation's largest private wheat breeding program:

- Medium heading date and early finish
- Excellent yield potential and broad adaptation

AP Iliad Disease and Pest Tolerance

SBMV Resistant

Stripe Rust  1

Eyespot  2

Fusarium Crown Rot  4

Comparison Chart Value 9..... 1
Poor Excellent

To learn more and book seed, contact your local AgriPro Associate. A list of AgriPro Associates is available at AgriProWheat.com.

AgriPro®

syngenta®

©2021 Syngenta. All photos are either the property of Syngenta or are used with permission. Some or all of the varieties may be protected under one or more of the following: Plant Variety Protection, United States Plant Patents and/or Utility Patents and may not be propagated or reproduced without authorization. AgriPro®, the Alliance Frame, the Purpose Icon and the Syngenta logo are trademarks of a Syngenta Group Company. 7-21

509-534-9088 class8trucks@aol.com
CLASS 8 TRUCKS
NOT JUST TRUCKS, TRAILERS TOO!

New & used DEMCO grain trailers in stock. Available for purchase or rental.



PLEASE CALL for additional details on pricing.

521 N. Eastern Spokane WA

www.class8trucksales.com

Insurance for Whatever You Grow

Whether you raise cattle or grow nursery stock, row crops, grain, hay or fruit, COUNTRY Financial® has got you covered. Your local financial representative can help balance your need to protect what you have with your desire to build for the future. We offer great coverage for farm vehicles, too. Grow your own way with COUNTRY Financial.

Paul Koethke LUTCF

Moses Lake

(800) 689.9259



AUTO | HOME | LIFE | BUSINESS | RETIREMENT

Policies issued by COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company®, Bloomington, IL.

1114-511HO

barge to rail would probably have to be in smaller units. For instance, there's no room to put in shuttle trains along the rail line that goes up the Snake River right now. We do have rail service in Clarkston, and we ship a lot of our peas and lentils via rail to Seattle, but there's no room to put 110-car trains there, so you'd have to ship grain in 25-car trains, and those get the worst service there is from the railroad. We can call and say "give us a barge in the next day or two," and we can have it back down here in Portland in five days. With rail, you aren't going to be able to just call up and say "can I get a train?" It could take two to three weeks just to get that train to your facility.

In our terminal at Terminal 5 (in Portland), we can't expand our rail capacity. We are unloading as much there as we can. We don't have any more land there to add more tracks. We are pretty dependent on barging at that terminal. And it's not us, but the industry. I'm sitting here in my office right now, staring at the Temco facility downtown on the Willamette River that is primarily all barge, and there's no room for additional rail unload there.

One of the benefits of growing grain in the Pacific Northwest is the shipping options farmers have. The competition between river, rail and roads helps keep shipping costs down. Remove that competition, and costs are almost guaranteed to increase.

Under Simpson's plan, approximately \$4.5 billion would be used to study and mitigate the transportation effects of removing the dams, including the shift from barging to rails and roads. One of the options the congressman has floated is the creation of an account, using part of that money, to subsidize farmers and businesses who will end up paying additional shipping costs.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE SPACE TO BUILD OUT THE RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE, THE MONEY DOESN'T DO ANY GOOD.

Not at all. And how long is Rep. Simpson trying to cover the additional shipping costs?

We export soybeans and corn heavily in October, November and December, and rail is a traded commodity. So when we are loading rail in Minnesota and North Dakota with these soybeans to ship to China, there's a huge demand during that time period. The cost of rail, which is traded on the open market, sometimes will trade as high as 70 or 80 cents per bushel above the tariff cost. That would apply to trains that would be loading out in Washington as well. If you are going to put grain on the shuttle system, you are going to have to pay those kinds of prices to get your freight to load. So we can either not load white wheat onto trains in October, November and



IN STOCK! SEE US TODAY! 5 Locations to Serve You!



www.stjohnhardware.com

Moscow, ID
(208) 882-7501

Fairfield, WA
(509) 283-2111

St. John Hardware & Implement Co. Inc

(509) 244-4902
904 S Hayford Rd
Airway Heights, WA 99001

NezPerce, ID
(208) 937-2422

Fairfield, WA
(509) 648-3373

All rights reserved. Case IH is a trademark registered in the United States and many other countries, owned by or licensed to CNH Industrial N.V., its subsidiaries or affiliates. www.caseih.com

December, because the cost is more than double the actual barge freight today, or that cost has to be paid from somewhere. It will come from the farmer.

Using a representative number of bushels of wheat, Van Pevenage did some quick math. Across the 13 facilities on the lower Snake River that barge grain, let's say they average 12 million bushels a year, totaling 156 million bushels. If 30 percent of that is moved during the fall, that means 46 million bushels would need to be loaded on the rails, right at the time when the demand for rail is highest. At an extra 60 cents per bushel for freight, that's an extra shipping cost of \$28 million that farmers would have to pay. As Van Pevenage pointed out, one can never predict where rail will be traded at, but he has seen it trade there "many, many times."

I DON'T THINK THAT'S A HIT A WHEAT FARMER COULD ABSORB.

I don't think so either. So Simpson's bill has to pay for all that, and how long is it going to pay for all that, and how are you going to push that subsidy out to people? It seems pretty confusing to me.


More information on Columbia Grain International can be found at columbiagrains.com. ■



Shop with us —
Where the customer is **STILL** the company

TOP QUALITY FUELS • 24 HOUR PUMPS FARM HARDWARE IN STOCK • FULL TIRE SERVICES

343 S Columbia, Connell WA 509-234-2631 WWW.CONNELLGRANGE.COM



RAINIER SEEDS
INCORPORATED

Give us a call today!
800.828.8873

Products You Can Count On
FROM OUR FIELDS TO YOURS

- COVER CROPS
- CRP, SAFE AND POLLINATOR MIXES
- HAY AND PASTURE MIXES
- ALFALFA AND LEGUMES
- HABITAT MIXES

www.rainierseeds.com

FARM & HOME SUPPLY
888-643-3395 • 509-843-3395
www.fhsupply.com Pomeroy, WA

2013 CASE IH Patriot 4430 sprayer, 100' booms w/20" spacing, Aim Command \$149,999

2001 CASE IH 2388 Combine Hilco Leveler, 3,398 Sep. Hrs/Case IH 1010 Header 30 ft/Cart. \$78,500

2000 CASE IH 2388, Hilco Leveler, 4,492 sep. hrs/ Case IH 1010 30' header/cart..... \$68,500/OBO

2020 Schulte 5026 Rotary Cutter, 26' \$52,500

1989 John Deere 8760 wheel tractor, 6 newer tires..... **ON SALE** \$25,000 OBO

THE TANKER Field Service Tender 990 gal. fuel tank, 100 gal. DEF Tank \$26,675

NEW Great Plains Turbo Max, 30 ft..... \$75,500

NEW KIOTI PX1153 Tractor, Power Shuttle, cab & self-leveling loader, 110-hp \$73,500

IH 1470 combine with CIH header/cart \$7,500

CASE IH
AGRICULTURE

UNDEREXTENDED?

EASTERN WASHINGTON PRODUCERS CONCERNED ABOUT VACANCIES IN WSU EXTENSION



Vicki McCracken

Associate Dean and Director,
Washington State University
Extension



Jim Moyer

Research Committee Chair,
Washington Association of Wheat
Growers



Mike Carstensen

Chairman, Washington Grain
Commission

By Trista Crossley

For more than 100 years, Washington State University (WSU) Extension has played a pivotal role in dryland wheat farming in Eastern Washington, but growers are concerned that the service's commitment to the area's predominant cropping system is faltering.

"I think there's a great deal of concern about the Extension coverage given the productivity of the region. This is the high yielding, high-end wheat producing area, and Whitman County is the highest, most productive wheat producing county in the nation," said Jim Moyer, Washington Association of Wheat Growers' (WAWG) Research Committee chairman and a grower from Columbia County. "The concern is WSU needs to figure out what they are going to do to support this area. Following the recession of 2009, there has been a very troubling increase in vacant Extension positions with some questions of relevancy. This pretty quickly translates into a lack of support at different levels."

Vicki McCracken, associate dean and director of Extension, acknowledged a decline in full time Extension employees. Between 1990 and 2021, there was a 40 percent reduction in the number of Extension academic individuals who conduct research and work with local communities, due mainly to budget cuts. The number of vacant positions, however, is harder for her to quantify.

"I wish I could give you a good number (of current vacancies)," she said. "The reason I can't, is, because of budget reductions, the positions disappear. I can talk about having a vacancy, but the position has been lost. A lot of these, once the position disappears, the position is no longer on the books, and it isn't considered vacant by the university because the position no longer exists."

Currently, in Washington state, there are 39 county Extension offices, an Extension office on the Colville Reservation and four research and Extension centers.

Extension has its roots in agricultural clubs and societies that sprang up in the early 1800s. In 1914, the Smith Lever Act formalized Extension, establishing the U.S. Department of Agriculture's partnership with land-grant universities to apply research and provide education, especially on rural agricultural issues. In Washington state, Extension faculty serves in academic units doing applied research and outreach, but it also includes faculty and staff who are based out in the community, providing direct links between the industry, community and WSU. Extension is also involved in many local 4-H and master gardener programs.

"I know we have some vacant positions, and there's real interest in filling those and other positions that have been vacated and real interest on my part in terms of being able to fill those positions," McCracken said. "Those are individuals physically located out where grain production occurs, where grain marketing occurs. They live there. They are in the communities, but they are also part of WSU. Having people out in the communities, where small grains are actually produced, is really critical in terms of the flow of information from the university to the communities but also advising back from the community to the researchers. A lot of times, our faculty members who are out in communities are the ones that help the researchers do the right kind of research."

Mike Carstensen, chairman of the Washington Grain Commission (WGC), said the WGC supports the Extension service and urged WSU to fill open vacancies as soon as

We've been

BUILDING THE BEST SINCE '76

THE NEW BD7600 BOX DRILL

Introducing the new BD7600 Series Box Drills – with legendary durability and performance.

- NEW feeder cups allow large seed, small seeds, and fertilizer to be metered through the main seed box
- NEW box design and structure demonstrate superior durability and flexibility
- Disc blades are offset with alternating leading edges
- Optional hydraulic drive reduces maintenance and simplifies operation

Great Plains
"Harvest Starts Here."



VERTICAL TILLAGE TOOLS



CONVENTIONAL TILLAGE TOOLS



HYBRID TILLAGE TOOLS



5'-10' COMPACT DRILLS



HEAVY-DUTY NO-TILL DRILLS



FULL LINE OF PLANTERS



FINISHING TOOLS



COVER CROP TOOLS

VISIT ONE OF THESE GREAT PLAINS DEALERS OR GET MORE INFORMATION AT: www.GreatPlainsAg.com

FARM & HOME SUPPLY
Pomeroy, WA – 509-843-3395

CENTRAL MACHINERY SALES
Moses Lake, WA – 509-765-1257

MORROW COUNTY GRAIN GROWERS
Lexington, OR – 800-452-7396

WALTER IMPLEMENT, INC.
Odessa, WA – 509-982-2644

FARM EQUIPMENT HEADQUARTERS
Pendleton, OR – 541-276-6222

MORROW COUNTY GRAIN GROWERS
Wasco, OR – 800-824-7185

CENTRAL MACHINERY SALES
Pasco, WA – 509-547-8920

CENTRAL MACHINERY SALES
Sunnyside, WA – 509-837-3833

ST. JOHN HARDWARE & IMPLEMENT
Fairfield, WA – 509-283-2111

©Great Plains Mfg., Inc. 2237-GPM

possible. The WGC has established several endowments funding Extension positions and financially supports many Extension research projects. He said he's heard complaints from growers that Extension is too slow in filling open positions and that some employees don't have the background or skills to deal with an industry that is becoming more reliant on precision agriculture and technology.

"There is a need for Extension. The vast numbers of growers want it, and they want WSU to fill those positions with trained professionals," he said. "COVID has presented some unique challenges for everyone, and I hope it's not being used as an excuse for slow movement. Another problem is the money issue. WSU is looking to cut budgets anywhere they can. I just hope they don't trim the budget too much to where programs farmers depend on from our land-grant universities are nonexistent."

McCracken said Extension positions have three primary sources of funding: state appropriated money from WSU, federal dollars through the Smith Lever Act and competitive grants and from the counties where Extension faculty are based.

"By putting in some money, counties can make sure they get someone who the county or multiple counties need. That's one of the things we've been struggling with, is to have people funded across counties and have counties trust that they'll get their fair share," she explained. "Unfortunately, we've been hit by smaller state and county budgets, flat federal budgets and increasing competitive grant funds that are tied to specific work that might not be small grains related."

Moyer pointed out that because the university leverages state taxpayer dollars to help bring in federal dollars from capacity programs and competitive grants, when positions aren't filled, it's not just the state funds that are lost, but also matching federal and county funds.

Moyer and other wheat growers in Columbia, Garfield

BigIRON

**HEAVY
EQUIPMENT
and
AG REPAIRS**

COMPLETE MOBILE REPAIR SERVICE

-We Also Do Portable Line Boring-
Serving The Greater Eastern Washington Area

Scott & Eddy Carroll

509-770-5560

BigIronRepair@odessaoffice.com






PERFORMANCE AND SAVINGS



REPLACEMENT TRACKS
FOR QUADTRAC TRACTORS

The replacement track designed by Soucy accomplishes the most work in the field because it's the most durable and efficient track on the market.

30" AND 36" IN STOCK
AT PASCO LOCATION!

Ask for Joe at 509-380-7459 or Todd at 509-547-9003

1802 E. James St. Pasco

1201 E. Yonezawa Blvd. Moses Lake

207 W. Southhill Rd. Sunnyside

509-547-9003

509-765-1257

509-837-3833





©2019 CNH Industrial America LLC. All rights reserved. Case IH is a trademark registered in the United States and many other countries, owned by or licensed to CNH Industrial N.A., its subsidiaries or affiliates.

CLASS 8 TRUCKS

521 N. EASTERN RD. • SPOKANE, WA
(509) 534-9088 • class8trucks@aol.com



Kelley Brothers Farms, a centennial farm founded in 1889, north of Coulee-Hartline

A new state called Washington. A new barn raised, and an orchard of apples just starting to produce. The Kelley brothers were busy!

Time passed, and one of the brothers' granddaughters, Christine, married that boy down the road, Gary Erickson. Now, Christine and Gary's son, Chuck, is taking the reins into the future. Pictured here are Noah, Grace and sweetheart Timi, come to town to pick up their new work truck.

Wheat and barley have replaced the orchard.

A few original trees are still standing in the pasture where the kids raise their 4-H projects. What would the old brothers think of these new machines and times?

If you're thinking of a truck or a trailer, that's easy...call and visit with us!

Marc B. Lange (509) 991-9088
Scott Lund (509) 995-5024
Jeff Miller (509) 599-9926

**NOT JUST TRUCKS,
TRAILERS TOO!**

www.class8trucksales.com

ProGene variety of winter peas



WINTER GREEN AND YELLOW PEAS

Winter peas can be a great addition to most every dryland rotation in Eastern Washington, BUT they do take unique management compared to spring peas.

COMPANIES HANDLING WINTER YELLOW AND GREEN PEAS VARIETIES:

Anderson NW	Columbia Grain	HighLine Grain Growers	PNW Farmers Coop
Blue Mountain Seed	George F. Brocke & Sons	Inland Empire Milling	Spokane Seed Co.

Many management tips have been learned over the past two years and we are still learning more alongside our customers and their growers.

TOPICS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE WINTER PEA MANAGEMENT GUIDES:

- Differences between winter and spring peas
- Field selection
- Plant back times for herbicides used on the previous crop – shorter time interval
- Pesticides – timing - differences
- Winter survival management tips
- Yield comparisons - spring and winter peas
- New ideas to test.
- Information that will help make a production plan for winter peas on your farm.

HighLine Grain Growers has an excellent guide for the **Dry and Intermediate Zone** available now. **Intermediate and Wet Zone**, a Winter Pea Management Guide will be available in mid-July from all companies. WSU Extension bulletin to be available soon.

Winter Peas are not a Silver Bullet BUT they are a Very Good Option as we learn their management SO

ASK FOR YOUR WINTER PEA MANAGEMENT GUIDE SOON

PROGENE | PLANT RESEARCH

PROGENELLC.COM
509-448-3977 kurt@progenellc.com

Real Estate Auction
565+/- Acres

THURSDAY
SEPT 2

Rosalia
WASHINGTON

2 Miles east of town

Western
REAL ESTATE AUCTIONS, LLC

Merle Booker, Broker 509-492-1998
Tiffani Deal, Broker 509-366-2195

WREAONLINE.COM

and Walla Walla counties have been working with WSU and county commissioners to fill open positions in those areas, as there is currently no Extension support in southeastern Washington for dryland agriculture. In May, WAWG sent a letter to WSU administrators expressing support for the county Extension offices. McCracken said filling a position in that area is a top priority for Extension and WSU.

"It is on the hiring plan. We are waiting to hear from the University," she said.

Getting the funding to fill positions is only part of the challenge faced by McCracken. As Moyer pointed out, farming today looks nothing like it did 10 years ago, and farmers need Extension personnel who can advise growers in highly technical matters, such as precision agriculture, carbon credits, etc.

"Certainly, there's been a lot of changes in recent times that are calling for a whole new set of skills," he said. "These challenges emphasize the importance of having that WSU Extension presence available to the growers. There was a fairly long period of time when things were relatively static. There might have been a tendency to take things for granted on both sides, and when attrition started taking its toll, combined with economic conditions, it was almost the perfect storm."

McCracken understood farmers' concern about Extension personnel having relevant skill sets, saying she doesn't think they've done a very good job helping the younger generation see the value in taking an Extension position. She said they are working with their academic departments to get students to see Extension as a career track. They are also working to engage undergraduates more with local communities.

"We are trying to get (more) newly

trained individuals, because newly trained individuals are more likely to have the interest in and knowledge of emerging technologies," she said. "The other thing is, Extension positions don't pay so well. We get a good faculty member, a good county Extension person, then industry offers them a higher salary."

One of the biggest benefits that Extension provides is an unbiased source of information and expertise for producers.

"Historically, it's been to growers' advantage to have someone there who not only has their own innovative programs in areas not serviced by any in industry, but also in things like the variety testing program. WSU's variety testing program is the unbiased source of information for how varieties perform in the various regions of Washington," Moyer said. "We need the same kind of thing for weed control, soil health and with these new, more complex things that are on the horizon. There needs to be someone who can advise the growers in these highly technical areas." ■

2021 FALL SEED

SOFT WHITE WINTER VARIETIES:

Curiosity CL+	Devote*	LCS Shine
Mela CL+	NW Duet	NW Tandem
Otto	Piranha CL+*	Puma
Resilience CL+	Stingray CL+	UI Magic CL+

*Limited

HARD RED WINTER VARIETIES:

LCS Jet	Rebelde	SY Clearstone CL+
---------	---------	-------------------

CLUB WHEAT VARIETIES:

ARS Castella	Bruehl	Pritchett
--------------	--------	-----------

FALL PLANTED DNS VARIETIES:

AP Venom	Expresso	WB9668
----------	----------	--------

TRITICALE VARIETIES:

TriCal Thor	TriCal Gunner
-------------	---------------

OTHER CROPS:
 Alfalfa, Cover Crops, Custom Blends, CRP, Fall Peas, Forages, Pasture/ Hay Mixes, Winter Barley

1000 N. Columbia Ave.
Connell, WA 99326
509-234-2500

MESZ Fertilizer
Blending

Custom Seed
Treatments

Delivery
Options

www.TriStateSeed.com

Mason Douglass
 509-380-4425

Kevin Starring
 509-650-7226

John Mancini
 509-380-1695

CORRELL'S SCALE SERVICE

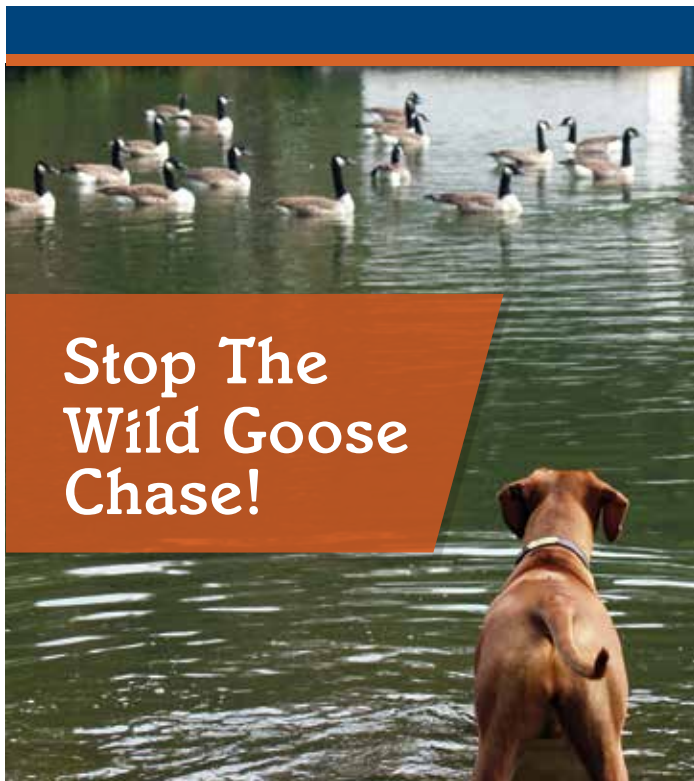
INSTALLATIONS • SERVICE • REPAIR • RENTAL • LEASE • SALES



Specializing In Truck Scales!

509-765-7754
800-572-0426

4300 Rd. K NE, Moses Lake
www.correllsscale.com



Stop The
Wild Goose
Chase!

The Agri-Business at State Bank Northwest is designed to do just that. We've got the local, agricultural specialist you've been looking for. Give our Ag Loan Team a call (509-635-1361) and see what our commitment to the Ag industry can do for you. **State Bank Northwest, planted and grown in Garfield, WA.**



Garfield Branch, 301 W. California St. 509-635-1361

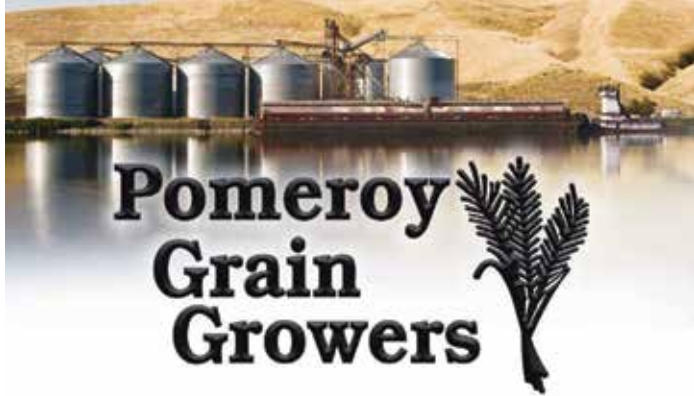
www.statebanknorthwest.com

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY LENDER MEMBER FDIC

Pomeroy Grain Office 509-843-1694

Pomeroy Agronomy 509-843-1394

Colfax Grain Office - Colfax 800-424-5056



Offering a complete range of service levels,
from Cash & Carry to Specialized Custom Services

Seed Sales | Certified Crop Advising | Soil & Tissue Sampling

Grain Sales - Truck & Barge Shipping

Custom Seeding & Cultivating with Variable Rate Technology

Custom Spraying & Stream Jetting with Variable Rate Technology



Serving Area Growers for 90 years

www.pomeroygrain.com



you worked
hard for it

We protect against fire + hail.
You name it, we cover it.

- Fire
- Hail
- Hay Fire
- Pasture Fire
- Field Grain Fire



local care
national service
INSURANCE + BENEFITS

We're an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Kennewick, WA

888-786-7730

basinpacificcities.com

New L&I team dedicated to ag

Move comes in response to complaints by industry, labor groups

By Trista Crossley

In an effort to better serve the state's agricultural industry, the Washington Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) is launching the Agriculture Compliance Unit, a team focused on improving the safety and health of farmworkers.

The team will consist of 13 full-time employees for the compliance unit, and three employees dedicated to education and outreach. According to **Steven Yunker**, the statewide compliance manager for agriculture, new hires will likely be based in central Washington where the bulk of the agricultural work for L&I is. He hopes to have the team fully in place by the beginning of next year's growing season. Other L&I inspectors may start an inspection in the agricultural industry, but they will likely pass those inspections to the agricultural team.

"We are the Washington state equivalent of OSHA (U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration) inspectors. We visit worksites and address accidents, complaints and referrals," Yunker said. "We do scheduled inspections, and we also show up unannounced and do safety and health compliance inspections."

The state legislature allocated the funds to L&I in response to complaints by industry and labor groups that some inspectors lacked specific agricultural industry knowledge. Yunker said that over the past few years, there's been an emphasis on inspecting temporary worker housing, something that the inspectors based in central Washington have experience in. At times, the demand required L&I to bring in inspectors from other areas of the state who weren't as familiar with agricultural rules. He said most of L&I's inspectors historically have been more generalists.

"They do inspections in all sorts of industries, which works pretty well, but it keeps most people from being an expert in any of them," he explained. "The idea is to have a team that is entirely dedicated to agriculture. We will know more about the industries that we are inspecting, and we'll also have more expertise in the applicable rules."

All new inspectors will receive new hire training, which takes approximately three months and consists of



a mix of classroom and field learning, supplemented by on-the-job training. There can also be specialized training involved.

"For example, we have to have specific training to do a grain elevator inspection. There are unique hazards that, unless you've been around them, you have no idea about," Yunker said.

It typically takes from six months to a year to get somebody up and running on their own, but Yunker hopes to get some transferees so the team can "make an impact right away."

The complaints ag inspectors respond to run the gamut from lack of or improper personal worker protection equipment to field sanitation issues to machine safety complaints. They also respond to pesticide spray issues. L&I investigates workplace incidents that result in injury or death.

The wheat industry isn't as labor intensive as some other agriculture sectors, such as tree fruit or food processing, but that doesn't necessarily make it safer, Yunker said. While the raw number of incidents are low, they do exist.

"The more people you have involved in something, the more likely they are to get attention (from L&I)," he said. "If there's a combine going through a field with a truck next to it and the only people there are one guy in the combine cab and one guy in the truck cab...we are extremely unlikely to have a reason to interfere with that process. If a combine ends up on top of someone and injures an employee...in those cases, we will show up and see what we can figure out."

Yunker said L&I is all about prevention, that they want to be proactive and identify hazards before an incident happens.

"We really are about prevention, even when working reactively," he said. "We try to identify cause. We try to identify what went wrong. If there were any safety violations, we are going to cite those. Our main purpose is making sure it won't happen again."

For more information about L&I's agriculture safety standards, visit <https://lni.wa.gov/safety-health/safety-topics/industry/agriculture>. ■



Serving ALL Your Fuel Needs



...Plus Quality
Lubricants

Pasco	509-457-3326	Oroville	509-476-3610
	509-806-7676	Priest River	208-448-1812
Boise	509-375-7767	Ritzville	509-659-1532
Connell	509-234-3311	Spokane	509-535-1534
Milton Freewater	541-938-3864	Sunnyside	509-837-5274
Moses Lake	509-770-0769	Yakima	509-453-3920



Online ordering available at www.conneloil.com

**Serving All Your Seed Cleaning Needs
Plus Grade Improvement For Specialty
Crops – On-Farm Service Since 1967!**



**WHEAT • BARLEY • OATS
SPECIALTY CROPS**

Plan Ahead – Call NOW Reserve Your Cleaning Date

syngenta **Trebuset™**
Teraxxa® wireworm treatment when available

Other Brands of Seed Treatment Also Available

Custom Seed Conditioning

Frank Hager & Son Elk, WA

509-292-2506 Cell: 509-998-5590

Tankmax Inc.
TANK SALES • PARTS • SERVICE

TAKE IT TO THE MAX

The ONLY Muncie Master
Distributor in the Inland NW!



PTO and Hydraulics at very competitive prices.

FULL SERVICE DRIVELINE SHOP



- Trucks - Heavy to Light
- Agriculture & Industrial
- Automotive Parts & Components
- Custom Applications



SPOKANE N 216 Dyer Rd **509-534-8000**



PASCO 1206 E Lytle St **509-545-4600**

www.TankmaxNW.com

VISIT US ONLINE TODAY!

KENT 253-872-2274

PORTLAND 503-221-0335

Organization helps keep PNW navigation interests flowing

Kristin Meira, Pacific Northwest Waterways Association

By Kevin Gaffney

Many people travel through their careers with quite a few bumps, curves and unexpected stops along the road. Some folks just seem to cruise along, landing at one good position after another, despite the difficulties.

Kristin Meira fits into the latter category. Along with some good fortune, however, her skills, dedication and hard work had much to do with her successes over the years. Currently the executive director of the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association (PNWA), Meira's resume includes serving on the staffs of two U.S. senators in Washington, D.C.

Born and raised in southern New Jersey about halfway between Philadelphia and Atlantic City, Meira actually grew up in a rural area that produced crops including peaches, apples, blueberries and corn. She was in 4-H for years and had many FFA friends through high school. She graduated from Williamstown High School in 1989. Meira worked at various jobs to earn money during high school and college; much of that involved working with horses. She began riding at an early age and trained horses and taught riding lessons as a teenager. After a hiatus during her early work life, Meira took up riding again in her mid-30s. She recently purchased a new project horse that she is jumping in the hunter category of equestrian show events. Living near Portland with her husband, Erik, and son, Alex, she keeps her horse boarded at nearby Aurora, Ore.

Meira chose to stay in her home state of New Jersey for college, earning a dual bachelor's degree in political science/history and English from Rutgers University in 1994. Her favorable employment opportunities began with an internship her senior year. Offered by the exclusive Eagleton Institute of Politics, her position was working in the office of Gov. Jim Florio of New Jersey. Following her graduation, she was hired to continue working in the governor's office.

"Soon after that, I had my first lesson in how unpredictable the work life of a political staffer can be," recalled Meira. "That same year in November, Gov. Florio was defeated in the election, and I was looking for a new job by January."



Meira quickly found a job working for an assemblyman in the lower house of the New Jersey State Legislature. Then she decided to bite the bullet and move to Washington, D.C., to look for work in the nation's capital. Surprisingly, her first position in D.C. was in the office of Sen. Bill Bradley.

Before his political career, Bradley had become quite famous for his collegiate basketball career at Princeton and for a 10-year stint with the New York Knicks. He was also a Rhodes Scholar.

"It was so exciting to have the opportunity to work with Sen. Bradley," Meira said. "He was a very thought-

ful legislator, and someone who looked at public policy issues from all different perspectives. He was constantly seeking out the opinions of his constituents and strived to implement government policies to efficiently serve their interests."

Meira admired Bradley's ability to bring people together in a time when there was much more bipartisan cooperation than is apparent now. But Bradley decided not to run for a fourth term, so Meira was again looking for a new job.

Good fortune provided a lead in a most unexpected way. Meira took a bus trip to Georgia with others to volunteer with Habitat For Humanity, rebuilding a black church that had been destroyed by an arsonist in Millen, Ga. While there, she met a fellow volunteer at the site who mentioned that there was an opening on the staff of Sen. Patty Murray of Washington state. She joined that team in early 1997. Helping with the Murray re-election campaign in 1998, Meira had her first taste of the Pacific Northwest region, and she loved it.

In 2000, Meira and her husband decided to leave the nation's capital for Portland. She was working in the tech industry during the boom time in the early 2000s. When the dot com bubble burst, the firm she was working for went bankrupt, disrupting her career. One day, while having coffee with a friend, Meira was tipped off that PNWA had a staff opening. The rest, as they say, is history. She joined the PNWA team in 2002 and took over the executive director position in the fall of 2011.

PNWA was founded in 1934 as the Inland Empire Waterways Association to provide water for crop production, to electrify the rural northwest and provide a low-cost navigation channel to export products to world markets. In the 1970s, the organization merged into what is now PNWA.

"We serve multiple states helping ensure products can get to market," explained Meira. "We represent a very diverse group of stakeholders that includes tugboat and steamship companies, growers, public utilities, union labor, ship pilots and large and small ports all over the Pacific Northwest. There have been many times when I have felt lucky in my career path. I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunities I have enjoyed over the years, including my 19 years with PNWA."

PNWA has four employees and a 40-member board of directors. Part of Meira's job is to bring all those various concerns and opinions together to find areas of agreement and cooperation. PNWA advocates for federal policies that support the needs of the navigation stakeholders of the Columbia-Snake River System. They advocate for public policies that support the Pacific Northwest on transportation, energy, trade and environmental issues. One recent development near the top of the list of concerns is the proposal of Rep. Mike Simpson (R-Idaho) to breach the lower Snake River dams, ostensibly to help increase salmon runs.

"We respectfully disagree with Rep. Simpson's views on how all the different variables that affect salmon should be handled," said Meira. "We join with Rep. Simpson in wanting to find solutions for Idaho fisheries. Given the outstanding fish passage rates achieved at these projects, we don't believe that the Snake River dams are a major reason for declining salmon runs."

"We have studied the issue in great detail, and we believe that ocean conditions have more to do with the salmon run problems than the dams. Ocean temperatures, toxics, nutrient and food sources and predators are all very important to the health of the salmon populations. Breaching would eliminate a lot of clean power generation and would greatly increase carbon in the Pacific Northwest. It would mean moving about 38,000 more rail cars or nearly 150,000 more semi-trucks on our highways each year to make up for the lost barge traffic. We hope to use the resources of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to learn more about all these variables affecting the ocean and salmon runs to help to find workable solutions."

Meira noted that studies have shown that virtually all salmon runs on the U.S. and Canadian west coasts have been struggling, including those on rivers without any dams. This would indicate that the problem is much larger than the lower Snake River dams. She believes it is an issue that encompasses an entire

VARIABLE INTENSITY TILLAGE

FOR

TILLAGE ON
YOUR TERMS

INTRODUCING THE
TERRA-MAX®



0% FINANCING*

See your local dealer for details.

*Available for qualified purchases through Great Plains Acceptance Corporation; subject to credit approval.



CURRENTLY IN STOCK. SEE US TODAY!

5 Locations to Serve You!

St. John Hardware & Implement Co. Inc (509) 244-4902 904 S Hayford Rd Airway Heights, WA 99001	Moscow, ID (208) 882-7501 Fairfield, WA (509) 283-2111	NezPerce, ID (208) 937-2422 St John, WA (509) 648-3373
--	---	---



www.stjohnhardware.com





© Great Plains Mfg. Inc. 1440 GPM

region, both inland and oceanic, from Alaska all through Canada, Washington, Oregon and California.

"Another factor is how problematic trying to replace dependable, cost-effective hydropower with intermittent solar and wind power sources would be," said Meira. "We believe the salmon issue is much more complicated than just the dams on the Snake River."

Meira believes the most challenging public policy conversations of PNWA are also the most rewarding. That is, bringing together all the various stakeholders in the member organizations and companies to provide a unified voice in the state capitals and in Washington, D.C. Education and information are an important part of those efforts.

"We hope to get port and dam tours up and running again soon. I wish we could get more legislators and environmental groups to come see, in person, our world-class fish passage facilities," Meira said. "While using social media is helpful and educational, it would be great to take

it a step further. We need legislators and other groups to come out and visit the river systems and our farming communities to see how and why the ag industry is dependent upon the efficiency of our waterway systems."

To learn more about PNWA, visit pnwa.net. ■

McKay Seed Company, Inc. SYNERGY



McKay Seed Company is proud to continue our partnership with Albaugh so that we can bring our customers the best possible seed treatment. Designed by scientists in order to protect against your specific regional threats, our SYNERGY custom seed treatments give our customers the tools they need to succeed.

HARD RED WINTER WHEAT

LCS Jet • Keldin • Kairos

BEYOND RESISTANT SOFT WHITE WINTER WHEAT

Curiosity CL+ • Mela CL+ • Resilience CL+ • UI Magic CL+
Stingray CL+ • Piranha CL+ • Sockeye CL+

SOFT WHITE WINTER WHEAT

Rosalyn • Norwest Duet • Norwest Tandem • Otto • SY Raptor • Puma
SY Dayton • WB456 • WB1604 • VI Frost • LCS Hulk • LCS Shine

CLUB WINTER WHEAT

Pritchett • Castella • Crescent

Rosalia, WA Almira, WA Moses Lake, WA
(Wilhelm) 509-639-2293 509-766-9894
509-523-3471 509-998-6694 509-258-4599

Driven by
ALBAUGH, LLC
SEED TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY



**ORGANIC SOIL
AMENDERS, INC.**
- EST. 2008 -



RETAIN MORE MOISTURE & REDUCE SALTS
by amending with gypsum

START CORRECTING THAT LOW PH
with high-calcium lime

CROPLAND IN SUMMER FALLOW?
We can spread your amendments now to avoid the fall rush.

**TOP QUALITY AT
AFFORDABLE RATES.**

509-935-7154
www.soilamenders.com

**NON-ORGANIC AND
ORGANIC OPTIONS.**



SAY YES TO JESS!
WHERE A HANDSHAKE
Still **MEANS SOMETHING**

509.334.6000

JessAuto.com



Blaine Bickelhaupt, Owner/Broker has over 25 years of proven land acquisitions. Whether you are looking to buy or sell Farm, Ranch or Recreational properties in Washington or Idaho, or if you are just wanting to know the current value of your property, give Blaine a call.

Blaine Bickelhaupt

Licensed in Washington and Idaho
Accredited Land Consultant
blaine@bluemountainrealtors.com
509.520.5280



• 1st Annual •
PALOUSE ANTIQUE TRACTOR PLOWING BEE
DUGGERFARMS@GMAIL.COM
9 AM **OCTOBER 2, 2021**
3 MILES SOUTH OF PALOUSE, WA AT THE INTERSECTION OF MADER ROAD & HWY 27

YOUR ONE-STOP AG SOURCE!

- Sales & Superior Service -



**Tractors • Combines • Tillage • Drills
Sprayers • Precision Ag**

"JTI, Your Agricultural Hub of the Inland Empire."



**JONES TRUCK
& IMPLEMENT**



Evenings:

Terry Largent 509-336-1344
Dan Hebling 509-336-1346
Rena Olson 509-956-3110
Nic Mayer 509-385-3895
Tyler Elstad 509-540-9009

Colfax, WA
Located on Hwy 26
509-397-4371
1-800-831-0896

Walla Walla, WA
304 N 9th Street
509-525-6620
1-800-525-6620

www.jtii.com
jti@colfax.com



**CHEVRON DELO HEAVY DUTY
MOTOR OILS & TRACTOR
HYDRAULIC FLUID**

BULK FUELS



509-926-9595 • ELJAYOIL.COM

Dry Weather and Big Weeds



PHOTO BY DALTON FARRISH

Get the Best out of your Applications with

GlyLoad™ and Drift-fiant™

GlyLoad™ is built specially to activate Glyphosate, Paraquat, and Glufosinate. It's the perfect product when you need a faster burndown and great performance.

Drift-fiant™—Get your herbicides on target with the best drift reduction aid and deposition adjuvant out there.

Looking for More Information?

Contact Chase Boman at AgraSyst: (801) 791.7186



To learn more about Drift-fiant™, GlyLoad™ or other great AgraSyst Products, visit our website at: www.agrasyst.com

CHAIRMAN

WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION

By Mike
Carstensen



For 20 years, through sunny days and blizzards, my wife, Lorie, would drive the 20 miles from our farm north of Almira into Coulee Dam for her job at the National Park Service. During years when a bushel of sand at Home Depot went for more than a bushel of wheat on the market, the income she generated and the health insurance she provided for our family were a farm-saver.

Although Lorie is retired now, many spouses on farms continue to make substantial contributions to family businesses that allow people like me to continue to play with tractors in the dirt. Not all work off farm, but for sure, all of them work.

Many are busy providing the foundation for the next generation of farmers—that is our children. How fortunate I am to work with one of my sons, a hard worker who has not just absorbed my lessons, but Lorie's as well. The same goes for my other two sons.

Besides off-farm work, I know some spouses handle the tractor and the books and others that run the marketing. Of course, nearly all of them have, at some point, driven a farm truck.

In Lorie's mother's era, there were more neighbors, extended families living nearby and even hired hands and their families. Schools and grocery stores were also closer. Needless to say, as farms have gotten bigger, opportunities for socializing have gotten smaller. It's not an easy life.

And don't get me started about harvest. When I was a kid, it was almost a holiday in farm country, with lots of hard work and hot meals. Progress is great. I'm glad we don't farm like my grandpa Henry, but there is something that's lost, too.

Nowadays, during harvest, I go out in the combine in the morning with a lunch box packed by Lorie and a gallon of water. If everything goes well, I don't stop, except for bathroom breaks, until it's too dark to see. And what once took three weeks to finish with a third of the acreage is now over in 10 days.

When considering what part of research, marketing and education—the three categories of the Washington Grain Commission (WGC) mission to which commissioners are authorized to allocate funds—have to do

with the farm spouses of Washington, it may not seem apparent to an outsider. But riddle me this: Would any of the WGC commissioners with spouses be able to do the work we do without their presence in our lives? They are, as the saying goes, the unsung heroes of agriculture.

I don't know about the other commissioners, but in addition to keeping the home fires burning, Lorie also helps me see another version of the world. It's not that she wears rose-colored glasses, but certainly, the tint of her spectacles is not the same as mine, and that's a good thing. Who wants a sounding board that is simply an echo? And even when she doesn't change my opinion about a particular issue, she always makes me think more deeply about why I hold the ones I hold.

As I write this in July, I think of the harvests that Lorie and I have celebrated together. I think of the hard times when we scrimped and the good times when we were able to afford the extras we had put on hold. I think of our healthy sons and their families and all the watching and worrying that has gone into acknowledging their lives as adults. I think of our neighbors and their families. I think of those who came before, who have allowed us to enjoy "life on the farm." It's an agrarian existence so few people understand anymore, let alone want. I think of the infrastructure that has made this life possible, the companies, organizations and agencies working together to feed the world.

But most of all, I think of Lorie as the young woman who agreed to be my wife and, metaphorically anyway, toil in the fields alongside me to help build our lives together and unselfishly allow me to serve the industry that means so much to both of us.

Although the Washington Association of Wheat Growers has had three women presidents, in 62 years, the WGC has never had a woman commissioner, let alone a chairwoman. I'm sure that day is coming, just as I'm sure that when it does, the industry will be better for it. As the opportunity arises, I hope that we can all encourage those women who may be interested to step forward into leadership positions.

Harvest will be in full swing by the time this is published. Be safe, count your blessings, and if you've got an unsung hero of agriculture in your life, let them know they are appreciated. ■

WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

The Washington Grain Commission was created in 1958 by the Washington State Department of Agriculture with the support of Eastern Washington farmers. Barley came under the auspices of the organization in 2009. Our mission is to enhance the long-term profitability and competitiveness of Washington small grains and small grain producers through research, marketing and education. The current commission board is made up of seven farmer members, two industry representatives and a representative of the state's Department of Agriculture.



A LETTER TO OUR CONSTITUENTS

During the 2020/21 fiscal year, the Washington Grain Commission (WGC) has faced challenges unseen throughout its 62-year history. But then, the pandemic has tested all of America. I'm pleased to report that the WGC has not only passed the test, but passed in a fashion that actually strengthens our organizational vision of "providing the world's best grains."

We have used the word "pivot" a lot during the past year and explored new avenues to continue the work the onset of the pandemic prevented. As a result, we learned some new skills that will continue to deliver value for farmers and landlords into the future.

A wise man once said that luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity. We've taken advantage of some of that luck over the past year. Prior to the fiscal year, we began expanding our video offerings to include drone work. At the time, we had no idea a pandemic was awaiting us, but this preparation has come in handy during the past year. With trade teams shut down, there have been numerous trips to farms and facilities around the state to film the business of wheat farming. These films and video clips have assisted with crop updates and have been shown to customers around the world to great acclaim.

We were also lucky by installing a state-of-the-art video system in the WGC boardroom prior to the pandemic. This has not only allowed us to continue meetings during the state's social distancing requirements, but we have also scheduled webinars with overseas cooperators and attended national events, as well as gatherings closer to home, all without stepping on a plane.

STAFF

Glen Squires
CEO

Mary Palmer Sullivan
Vice President

Joseph Bippert
Program Director

Lori Maricle
Director of Communications

Sheila McCrea
Finance & Administrative
Specialist

Parker Dawson
Systems & Data Processing
Specialist

Shari McCarthy
Receptionist/Account Specialist

COMMISSIONERS

Mike Carstensen • District 1

Gary Bailey • District 2

Brit Ausman • District 3

Mike Miller • District 4

Brian Cochran • District 5

Ben Barstow • District 6

Kevin Klein • District 7

Ty Jessup • Industry Representative

Brian Liedl • Industry Representative

Scott Steinbacher • WSDA

We were also lucky that U.S. Wheat Associates (USW), one of our most important partners, received more than \$8 million in trade mitigation funds during the Trump Administration. Because of travel restrictions, a portion of this money was repurposed to enhance USW's abilities to engage with customers virtually.

Throughout the pandemic, agriculture continued to meet food security needs both domestically and abroad. The past year has shown the ability of the agricultural food production infrastructure to withstand shocks to the system. It is indeed remarkable that, despite various parts of society shutting down, farmers have continued to produce abundant, quality grain while scientists have maintained their research efforts searching for answers to ongoing challenges. Meanwhile, tugs have continued to push barges, and locomotives have continued to pull hopper cars, while inland elevators and export facilities, not to mention grain inspectors, have proceeded to do their jobs—despite many restrictions—with nary a hiccup.

A foundation laid well before the pandemic is also evident in the caliber and dedication of WGC commissioners who serve farmers and landlords across Eastern Washington, joined by a committed team of staff. Across the U.S., the wheat industry has been tested, but during the rare "opportunity" the pandemic has presented, we have, indeed, proven our preparation and the "luck" that goes with it.

—Glen Squires, CEO

DOLLARS, CENTS MEET COMMONSENSE

Not every Eastern Washington farmer uses the Columbia-Snake River System to move wheat to export locations, but every farmer benefits from the 360-mile marine corridor as a result of competitive transportation prices. Competing rail and barge alternatives keep rates lower. Proof of this is evident by looking at captive shippers in Montana and North Dakota. An extra \$.05/bushel in transportation costs would subtract more than \$8 million from farm families' profits across the region. A \$.25/bushel increase would cost family farmers more than \$40 million.

Ensuring the river system remains open to barge traffic from Lewiston to Portland has many benefits beyond transportation—clean renewable hydroelectric energy that can be used to stabilize intermittent solar and wind power, irrigation to grow high value crops, flood control to protect Vancouver and Portland, and recreation for communities along the river. All of these are valid reasons for maintaining the dams and locks, but as an organization funded by farmers and landlords, the WGC is committed to their financial well-being. And that well-being depends on maintaining transportation capacity and alternatives.

During the past pandemic-marred year, the WGC has not wavered from its responsibility. Defense of the dams has occurred on many fronts, from submitting comments on the environmental impact statement released in 2020 to briefing legislators and working with other agricultural organizations. Over the last year, there has also been attendance at dozens of virtual meetings to ensure the wheat industry's message is never lost, not to mention ongoing letter writing related to issues of importance like support for dredging in the Lower Granite Pool. WGC CEO Glen Squires was in the thick of the battle in 2020, serving as vice chairman of the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association, a collaboration of ports, businesses and public agencies dedicated to maintaining river navigation. The WGC is also one of the founding members and major funders of River-Fest, an educational effort directed at informing the public about the benefits of a multiuse river system. In 2020, a successful event was held virtually and viewed by hundreds of thousands of citizens, including a large audience on the west side of the state.

SHARING IS CARING

WGC's leaders understand the wheat industry shares the Columbia-Snake River System with an array of businesses, communities, tribes and pleasure seekers, but especially with the four species of salmon that return to its life-giving waters. Wheat organizations support the 2020 release of the latest environmental impact statement that recommended the four lower Snake River dams remain in place, while encouraging additional measures to increase salmon numbers. But it is discouraging to witness the relentless abuse heaped on the four lower Snake River dams by proponents of dam breaching, especially since the salmon population decline started well before any dams were built. Overfishing by commercial interests at the turn of the 20th century decimated fish stocks, and the state of Idaho poisoned salmon runs to create nonsalmon fisheries. Changing ocean conditions, where the fish spend the vast majority of their lives, is another crucial factor for the decline, not to mention prolific predators and chemical run-off, specifically from car tires, that has been shown to kill salmon.

Organizations that point to dams as the answer to salmon recovery appear more interested in increasing their memberships than in restoring salmon. The WGC is working every day to spread the message that salmon and dams can coexist.



THE PERPETUAL FUNDING MECHANISM

The first law of thermodynamics rules out the creation of a perpetual motion machine, but when it comes to a perpetual funding mechanism, the six endowments created at Washington State University by the Washington Grain Commission are the next best thing. The endowments were created beginning in 1990 when the **ORVILLE A. VOGEL ENDOWED CHAIR IN WHEAT BREEDINGS AND GENETICS** was established in a partnership between the state of Washington, WSU and what was then the Washington Wheat Commission. The original principal of \$1 million was invested and managed by WSU with distributions made annually to the holder(s) of the endowment. Partially funded by an annual revenue gift from the Bohrsen Farm, the value now stands at \$2.82 million. WSU winter and spring wheat breeders Arron Carter and Mike Pumphrey currently hold the Vogel endowment which brought \$104,000 total into their programs in 2020. They use the money to fund graduate students and to buy and upgrade breeding technology.

The **ROBERT A. NILAN ENDOWED CHAIR IN BARLEY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION** was originally established in 1990 and revised in 2013. Barley breeder Bob Bruggeman holds the \$1.41 million endowment which generated \$52,000 to barley research efforts in 2020.

The **R. JAMES COOK ENDOWED CHAIR IN WHEAT RESEARCH**, established in 1997, is now held by weed scientist Ian Burke. Worth \$1.92 million, the endowment funneled \$72,000 into Burke's program in 2020.

The **THOMAS B. MICK ENDOWED CHAIR IN SMALL GRAIN ECONOMICS**, established in 2009, is held by agricultural economist Randy Fortenbery. Worth \$2.63 million, it generated \$100,000 to support Fortenbery's programs in 2020.

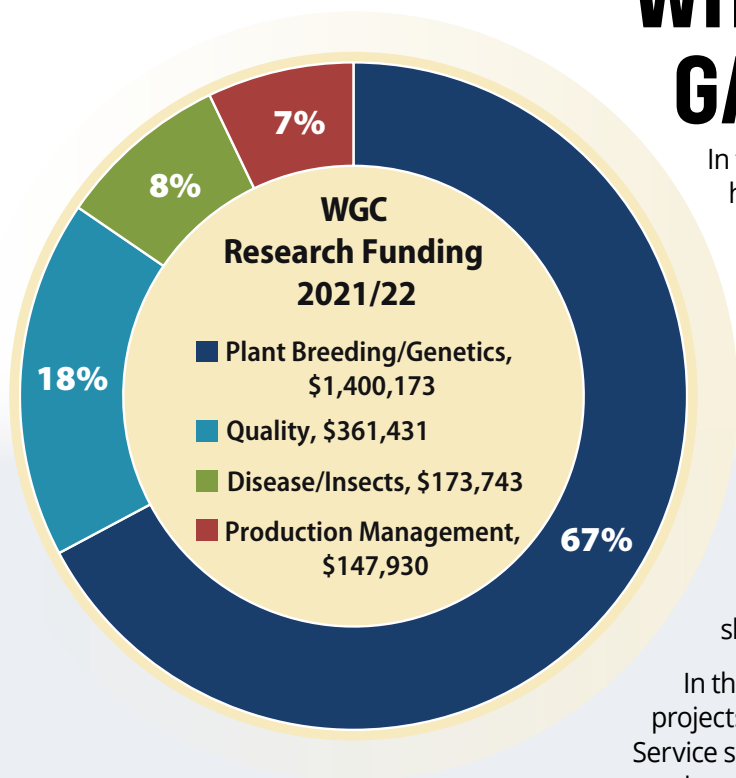
The **WASHINGTON WHEAT DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP**, established in 2010, rotates among scientists depending upon pressing research needs of the moment. It is currently held by Zhiwu Zhang, an expert in statistical genomics. Its \$1.84 million value generated \$70,000 in 2020 to help train graduate students and develop new software for plant breeders.

The **ENDOWED CHAIR IN SMALL GRAINS EXTENSION**, which is held by Drew Lyon with an emphasis in weed science, was established in 2011. The \$1.81 million endowment generated \$68,000 to Lyon's outreach programs in 2020.

The endowments require no further contributions from WGC to continue funding work on behalf of the wheat industry into the future. As long as there is a WSU and a wheat industry, research will continue on behalf of the state's wheat farmers.



WHY 'SKIN IN THE GAME' MATTERS



In the Pacific Northwest, one winter wheat seed drilled into the soil has the potential to generate a plant with 10 heads at harvest, each with upwards of 50 seeds per head or more than 500 seeds per plant. If you think of Washington Grain Commission funding as that single planted seed, then the multiple heads and innumerable kernels that result is the leverage accomplished by researchers through that funding.

Today's wheat technology and equipment is often much more expensive than any single funding source can support. That is why wheat researchers are in a continual effort to use WGC funds to leverage more funding from other sources, like the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Outside funders like it when they know researchers have their industry's backing and share a portion of the risk.

In this way, the WGC's 2021/22 funding of \$1,947,909 for research projects at Washington State University and the Agricultural Research Service serve as the single seed that can tiller multiple heads and yields so much more than might have been expected otherwise.

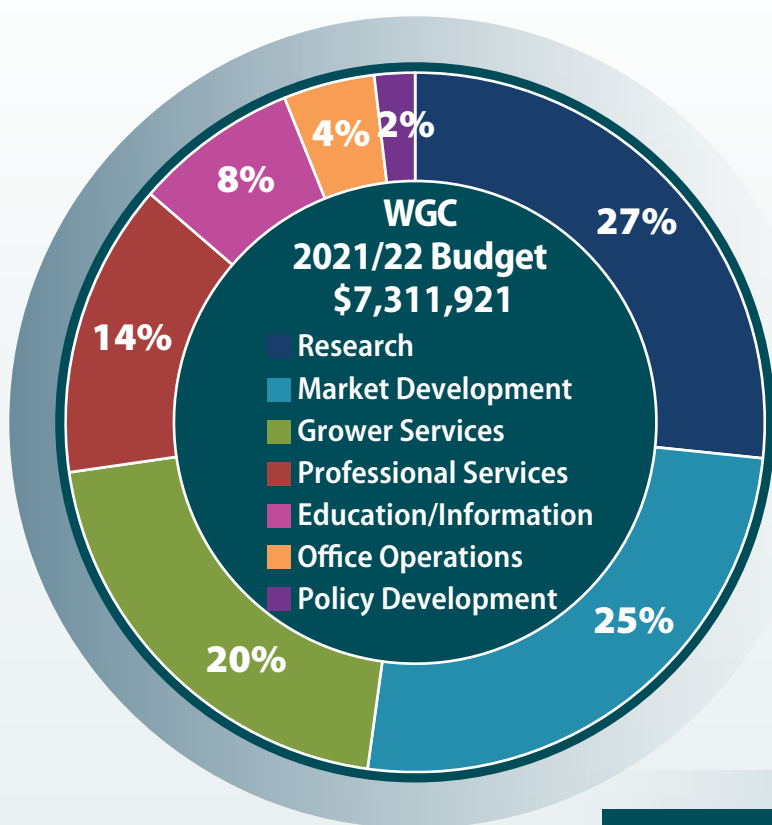
V IS FOR VICTORY!

Travel restrictions caused by the COVID-19 virus during 2020 required the Washington Grain Commission to think outside the box to accomplish its goals. The two Vs, video and virtual, saved the day and taught the organization new tricks in the process.

Working on our own and in concert with our national partner, U.S. Wheat Associates (USW), the WGC attended meetings, participated in webinars and conducted business through its virtual meeting network, LifeSize. We joined other organizations on Zoom, Microsoft Teams and Google Hangout. While virtual will never replace face-to-face contact, the technology served as a lifesaver to stay in touch during a topsy-turvy year.

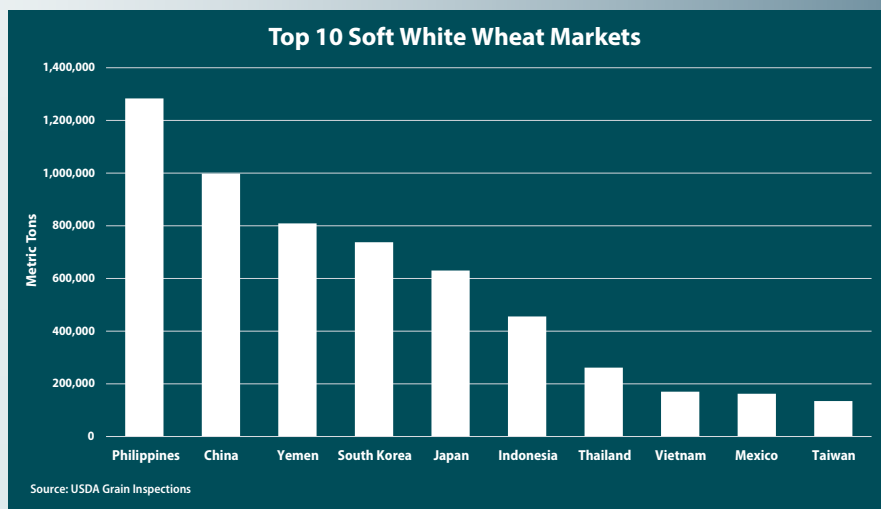
Video also became an essential part of WGC outreach including networking with USW and other videographers around the U.S. to help expand our offerings. If you haven't already, take a look at some of the videos on our WGC website, wagrains.org. Click on "News" at the top of the page and navigate to "U.S. Wheat Stories From the Wheat Farm" for a birds-eye view of farming in Eastern Washington and the nation. Hats off to the WGC team creating increased communication offerings for buyers, end users and the public.



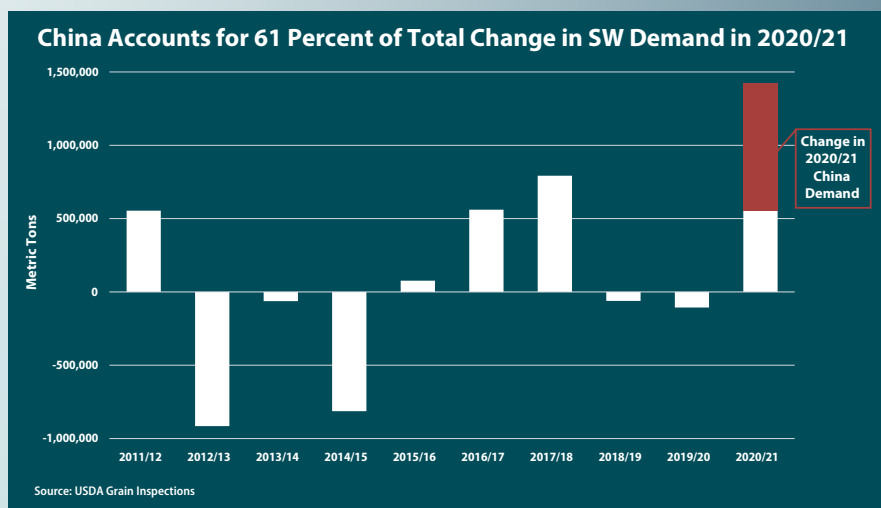


An assessment levied on wheat harvested in Eastern Washington at the rate of three-quarters of one percent of the net receipts at the first point of sale, supports the work of the Washington Grain Commission. An annual assessment on barley is levied at the rate of 1 percent of the net receipts at the first point of sale. Money collected from assessments is used to fund research, market development and education.

Marketing year 2020/21 saw the highest number of exports since 1993. The landscape has changed significantly since that year where Pakistan dominated the list for soft white wheat market destinations. The Philippines now holds the top spot, a position it has maintained for the seven of the last 10 years.



The Phase I Agreement between the United States and China created significant opportunities for soft white wheat exports. According to USDA grain inspection reports, China increased their imports of soft white wheat by 866,974 metric tons in marketing year 2020/21, which accounted for more than 60 percent of the total increase in exports for Washington's flagship wheat class.



Roger that!

Pending club wheat variety offers Hessian fly resistance, hat tip to valued advisor

By Michael Pumphrey

O.A. Vogel Endowed Chair of Spring Wheat Breeding and Genetics, Washington State University

There are quite a few wheat growers in Washington state that are not afraid to voice their desires, concerns and opinions. Be it equipment, cultivation, weed control, crop rotation, fertility, soil health, fungicides, timing of operations, marketing, regulations or many other factors, the real art is in putting together a well-tuned system. Wheat varieties are a part of that bigger picture and interact with many of the other parts of the system.

As a wheat breeder who makes variety selection and release decisions, I rely on input from the wheat industry to make sure our variety development priorities are properly aligned. Grower, industry and public investment from the Washington Grain Commission (WGC), the U.S. Department of Agriculture, state and other funding is the lifeline that supports our efforts.

Similar to challenges that wheat growers face, the Washington State University (WSU) Spring Wheat Breeding program approaches statewide spring wheat improvement like trying to fill a barrel that is riddled with round holes, by using some square pegs and some hand-crafted solutions. Some focus and strategy are needed when breeding a rotation crop in a state



The 2020 Walla Walla soft white spring wheat variety trial was heavily infested to the point that all Hessian fly susceptible varieties yielded less than approximately 30 bushels per acre, while Hessian fly resistant varieties, like WA 8325 (left), yielded approximately 75 bushels per acre or more.



In Moses Lake irrigated spring wheat variety trial plots in 2021, many varieties experienced severe lodging, as can be seen above. WA 8325 (right of center) has very good straw strength with minimal lodging, which is much better than existing spring club wheat variety JD

with dramatic variation in environmental conditions, including soil, water, temperature, disease, cropping systems and at least four commercial market classes/subtypes of spring wheat. We try to fill the biggest gaps to make the barrel full.

Roger Koller from Mayview, northeast of Pomeroy, was an active advisor for the WSU wheat breeding programs. Roger passed away in December 2020 after a gritty battle with pancreatic cancer. The Kollers have hosted WSU variety trials and specific research projects for decades. As a multigenerational Coug family, they have high expectations for WSU in/on the field.

About 10 years ago, Roger very directly told me what was wrong with WSU spring wheat varieties, and what a new variety needed to be to help their operation. As a soft white common/club wheat grower, his thoughts were fixed on the need for a spring club variety with high (enough) yield, high test weight, Hessian fly resistance, stripe rust resistance and good threshing characteristics. He reminded me of this for the next several years as he endured existing challenges and also navigated club wheat market opportunities and saw some unusual seasons on their farm with severe stripe rust, low falling numbers, Hessian fly, lower test weights and low soil pH concerns.

For the Kollers and many other wheat growers statewide over the past 10 years, the focus of our small spring club wheat breeding effort has been to establish diverse, yet elite, germplasm with Hessian fly resistance; Hessian fly susceptibility was the most fatal flaw in available varieties. So, essentially all club wheat breeding materials that we have made were designed to bring in Hessian fly resistance. Substantial research in my program has focused on developing DNA tests to track Hessian fly resistance. Our focus on Hessian fly testing increased through collaboration with University of Idaho scientists, Drs. Arash Rashed and his predecessor, Nilsa Bosque-Perez, funded by the WGC. The toolbox has finally come together.

In 2020, we included an experimental spring club wheat variety with Hessian fly resistance in the WSU Variety Testing Program trials, identified as "WA 8325." WA 8325 performed head-to-head for yield with the best of soft white spring wheat varieties in each precipitation zone with greater than 12 inches of annual moisture, with test weight equal to the best and

2020 WSU Variety Testing Program data

Variety	Precipitation Zone			Average				
	>20" Yield bu/ac	16-20" Yield bu/ac	12-16" Yield bu/ac	Yield bu/ac	TW lb/bu	Prot %	Heading DOY	Height inches
WA 8325	76	77	73	76	62.0	10.0	170	31
Melba	78	64	73	72	58.3	10.2	176	30
Louise	68	71	74	71	59.6	10.0	174	34
JD	69	65	68	68	61.3	10.8	174	34
C.V.	8	9	9	9	1.9	5.5	1	6
LSD	5	5	5	5	0.9	0.4	1	1

WA 8325 performance in WSU breeding trials 2016-2020

Variety	Pullman Yield bu/ac	Lind Yield bu/ac	Dayton Yield bu/ac	Moses Lake Yield bu/ac	Average			
	Yield bu/ac	Yield bu/ac	Yield bu/ac	Yield bu/ac	TW lb/bu	Protein %	Heading DOY	Height inches
WA 8325	90	39	61	136	63.6	10.1	159	33
Melba	93	47	61	132	62.2	10.3	162	33
Seahawk	86	39	-	130	62.3	11.8	160	34
Louise	87	42	54	115	61.5	11.4	161	37
JD	80	39	56	108	62.8	11.5	162	35
C.V.	6	7	7	8	1.1	4.8	1	4
LSD	4	2	2	6	0.4	0.3	1	1

low protein. Notably, in the 16-to-20-inch precipitation trial locations, WA 8325 bested JD and Melba club variety yields by at least 12 bushels per acre across locations. These locations are where we often see the greatest Hessian fly impact. This variety will expand the area of reliable spring club wheat production due to Hessian fly resistance and may be grown in all areas of the state.

WA 8325 maturity is on the early side and with very good adult plant stripe rust resistance. WA 8325 hit the marks that Roger Koller established and is higher yielding than existing club varieties in most trials to date, is earlier and has excellent club quality. To honor Roger's input and support of WSU wheat breeding and variety testing, I believe it is very fitting and have received clearance to name WA 8325 "Roger" pending WSU release approval this fall.

Varieties like this reflect the unique partnership and investment of Washington wheat growers in WSU wheat breeding programs. There is not currently another source of spring club wheat varieties; the market is cyclical, and the spring wheat growing area is diverse, variable and requires local expertise. I am thrilled to be able to work in this industry to fill specific gaps and holes to make the barrel a little fuller. ■

Commissioner elections

Have you sold grain that was grown in one of the following districts: Wheat Districts 2, 3 and 5 or Barley District 6? If so, nomination letters for upcoming commissioner elections will be mailed out at the end of September. Will you get your letter? Ask your grain dealer/handler how they are reporting your county of production to the Washington Grain Commission. Not sure which district your county of production is in? Check the map at bit.ly/2UL0P5I. Email us at wgc@wagrain.org or call the Grain Commission office at (509) 456-2481 with any questions. ■

WHEAT WATCH

WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION

Prices reacting to fundamentals, feed grains



By T. Randall Fortenbery
Thomas B. Mick
Endowed Chair in
Grain Economics,
Washington State
University

U.S. wheat markets have exhibited significant price volatility through most of the 2021 calendar year, but price volatility really picked up around the time of spring planting. Wheat prices are not just reacting to wheat market fundamentals, but also to markets for feed grains—specifically corn. Figure 1 shows the relationship between nearby futures (the futures contracts closest to expiration) for corn, and both soft and hard red winter wheat over the last couple of wheat marketing years (June through May each year). A year ago, corn futures were trading at a \$1.10 per bushel discount to hard red winter wheat, and a \$1.85 per bushel discount to soft red winter wheat. By the end of June 2021, however, corn futures were at a premium to both wheat classes, and hard and soft red winter wheat were trading at par with each other.

In their July World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) forecast an increase in U.S. corn production this year compared to last and raised their June estimate for the 2021/22 corn crop by about 1 percent. The report was released on July 9, 2021, and explains the significant drop in corn futures prices in July and the resulting impact on wheat prices. Wheat prices declined even though

Figure 1: Nearby futures prices



U.S. wheat production prospects deteriorated between June and July. USDA lowered their forecast for all U.S. wheat production by about 8 percent between the June and July WASDE.

The current WASDE corn yield estimate is not based on actual field surveys of 2021 corn—those are not reflected until the August WASDE. Yields in the June and July WASDE reports primarily use trend yields from previous years with some “adjustment” for current weather conditions.

According to the Crop Progress Reports issued by USDA July 11, 2021, market participants are not as optimistic concerning this year’s U.S. corn crop as they were in July last year. There were reductions in the percent of the crop rated in both the good and excellent categories relative to last year and a 17 percent increase in the share of the crop rated fair. As a result, we may see a decrease in the projected corn crop yield in the August WASDE (in July USDA was forecasting a 4 percent increase in corn yields this year compared to last), and if that happens, it may provide some price support.

Uncertainty concerning the U.S. corn crop will likely continue to contribute to wheat price volatility well after the winter wheat crop has been harvested and production is known. Any concerns about the U.S. corn crop could impact U.S. wheat prices through the fall harvest season.

The current influence of the corn market on wheat prices seems clear based on wheat price declines through July. Between May 7 and June 30, for example, the July soft red winter wheat futures price deteriorated by 90 cents per bushel, and the July hard red winter price by 87 cents. This happened even as the balance sheet for U.S. wheat was looking increasingly bullish.

Between May and June, USDA cut the U.S. wheat carryout projection for the

2021/22 crop by 4 million bushels, increased total demand for U.S. wheat by 10 million bushels and lowered the beginning stocks (the wheat we had left over on May 31 going into the current marketing year) by 20 million bushels. In the July WASDE, the picture was even more bullish with an additional 5 million-bushel decrease in U.S. wheat ending stocks.

In addition, the USDA Crop Progress Reports showed declining optimism about the quality of the wheat crop as we moved from early May through June for winter wheat and from late May through mid-July for spring wheat. The disappointment in both winter and spring wheat potential coincided with falling wheat prices through June and early July.

Washington spring wheat prospects appear worse than for any other of the six reporting states. From Figure 2, note that about 55 percent of the total U.S. spring wheat crop ranked in either the poor or very poor category. For Washington, however, those two categories combined accounted for 83 percent of the spring wheat crop. While not as drastic, the Washington winter wheat crop is also lagging relative to the national crop progress number. In the June 27 report (the last one that ranks winter wheat conditions before harvest), the total U.S. winter wheat crop revealed 21 percent to be in the poor or very poor categories, while 36 percent of Washington's winter wheat showed up in the poor and very poor categories.

The poorer outlook for Washington wheat yields compared to the rest of the country is reflected in current basis levels. Basis is the difference between the local cash price and the futures price for the contract closest to delivery. For soft white wheat in the Pacific Northwest, we generally price off the Chicago futures price for soft red wheat. The lower the local production prospects relative to the national crop, all else being equal, the stronger basis tends to be. In other words, the smaller the percentage a local crop contributes to national production, the higher the local cash price relative to the national price (as reflected in the futures market).

Figure 3 shows the Portland basis for soft white wheat (this is calculated as the Portland

Figure 2: USDA crop progress report for spring wheat

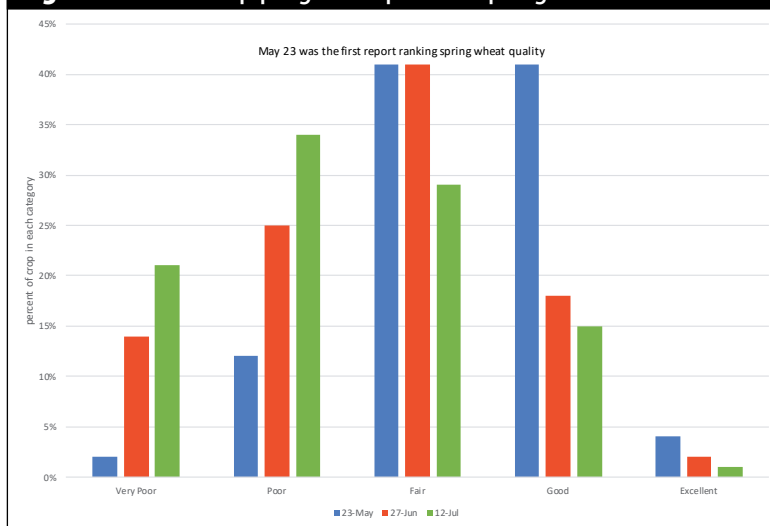


Figure 3: Portland soft white wheat basis



cash price minus the Chicago futures price). Note that the Portland price is trading at a significant premium to futures for the 2021/22 crop year compared to previous years. This is a positive event for current pricing, but does suggest that any returns to storage through the fall and winter months will have to come from improvement in the futures prices in Chicago. The white wheat cash price is already very high relative to futures; thus, it is more likely the basis will weaken—cash prices fall relative to futures—than strengthen going forward. This is generally a risky storage environment. Further, as we discussed above, a rally in wheat futures will be at least somewhat dependent on whether corn futures can reverse their July trend and trade higher going into the fall harvest. ■

Randy Fortenbery holds the Thomas B. Mick Endowed Chair in Grain Economics at Washington State University. He received his Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign.

In the Corner of the Field

BY DANIEL MOORE | PART I

In the corner of the field, with the bushes by the creek, there sat a white kitchen chair. Country looking, some would say, and out of place, all would say. What would a chair be doing at the edge of a wheat field where there were no kitchens in sight? A chair of this nature would normally be set around a table, so whoever sat in it could eat, talk and listen. But here, there was no stove or sink, just acres and acres of farmland. However strange it may seem, the chair was put there, in the best possible spot, by an old, retired farmer named Mac, so the chair could fulfill its good purpose once again.

Many, many years earlier, this corner of the field happened to be a source of irritation for a much younger Mac, when he was just getting started farming, not because it

couldn't produce any good crops, because it could. But since this corner was shaped like a megaphone, surrounded by a creek on three sides, none of his equipment could get into that tight spot. He could have backed up the cultivator and worked it up, but he was in much too much of a hurry to waste time on an odd-shaped piece of ground. He decided to leave it alone so he could make a proper turn with his tractor and implement. It just always bothered him to not make use of the land.

Mac, being a beginning farmer with no other assets to his credit but grit and determination, had to purchase a new combine for his wheat crop. It was the biggest machine that had ever been made to harvest wheat. The combine had enormous front tires (taller than Mac by a foot, it





WE ARE IN THE BUSINESS OF BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS AND CREATING VALUE BY WORKING TOGETHER TO EXCEED THE EXPECTATIONS OF OUR CUSTOMERS, PUTTING INTEGRITY AND A STRONG WORK ETHIC AT THE CENTER OF EVERYTHING WE DO.

- FRAN AMEND, OWNER



SALES



SERVICE



PARTS



Chipman & Taylor
Where Everybody Gets A Great Deal!

CHEVROLET

From grain
silos to barns,
we've got a
roofing solution
you can trust!
Roof coatings,
metal roofs,
TPO, PVC,
EPDM. Whatever
your roofing
needs, we've
got you covered!

fluidroofing.net
509-244-1001



Fluid
ROOFING



**YOUR
ONE STOP
COMMERCIAL
ROOFING
SOLUTION**



A+ Rating

seemed), a huge grain storage tank and a gigantically long header that cut the stalks and delivered the wheat into the machine. Now, Mac had a funny habit of calling his equipment names, and, since they would spend a lot of time together, he thought they might as well be friends. So, he named his new machine Harper the Harvester, and that made her very happy.

When Mac and Harper started cutting the wheat crop that summer, Mac realized the little old truck he'd bought from the previous farmer wasn't big enough to handle the large loads of wheat from Harper. So, he traded the old truck for a huge new truck with ten tires that could carry not just one but three dumps from Harper! This way, Mac could get more acres done of his wheat crop in a day. He named his new truck Sammy the Semi, and that made the big truck feel special.

Mac could harvest so much wheat in a day that he quickly finished his own crop and then hired out to cut fields for his neighbors. Many farmers were glad to employ the most efficient crew in the area because that would save them a lot of time and money. This may have helped pay the bills on Mac's farm, but it took a lot of time away from his family, too.

"Daddy, will you go with me swimming at the pool in town today?" asked his son, Jack, during breakfast.

"Huh," was Mac's only reply as he hurriedly walked out the door with his lunch box in hand.

The bright orange top of the sun was just coming up over the eastern hill as Mac jumped inside his pickup. But he heard something inside of him say, "Look at the house." When he turned his head back, he could see the big eyes of his little boy staring back at him through the kitchen door window. A decision was made.

Mac opened the kitchen door and said to Jack, "I remembered I need your help today. Do you think you can get ready and come harvest with me? Ma can bring your lunch later." The brown-haired little boy didn't even answer, but was already running off to get his clothes and boots on.

That day, Mac couldn't figure it out, but it seemed as though the harvest crew ran better than ever! Harper and Sammy showed off all day because Jack was out in the field. Harper cut a little faster and made fancier turns on the corners, and Sammy blew big puffs of black smoke out of his exhaust, just to make it look like he was working really hard! Jack loved sitting on the "buddy seat" next to his dad and being part of the operation. By the time they got home, the sun was going down, and all you could see was the orange top of it over the western hill of the farm. The guys washed up for the delicious evening feast that

mom had prepared and put on the table.

"Ma, I declare those machines were working better than ever today. I think it was because Jack was with me, and they wanted to do their best for the little boss!" Mac winked at his son, then gave out a hardy laugh as he kissed baby Evie on the head and sat down on his chair.

Now, Harper the Harvester was a special machine, built to cut the steep hills where Mac farmed. Mac was always a bit tense on the dangerous hill-sides. He would often say to Harper, "Easy does it, girl," not really thinking she could hear him, but it made him feel better when he said something calming. However, Harper was proud there wasn't a hill around she couldn't conquer—even the steepest ones! While she harvested along the hillside, Mac would sit level in the operator's cab, steering her on the mark while the header tilted and cut the stalks. Sammy the Semi would wait at the bottom of the hill for his loads. He watched in amazement as Harper, while cutting the wheat, crawled like a caterpillar along the side of the hills, which he thought looked more like small mountains.

To speed up the whole process, Mac came up with the "load on the go" method of dumping the grain from the combine into Sammy's grain box while they were both moving. This way, Mac could keep cutting and not waste time by stopping to unload. Oscar B. Wright, Mac's neighbor, was the first to watch the new process.

"It'll never work. You can't be that accurate unloading the wheat. You'll spill grain everywhere!" Oscar declared. But it was Oscar who was the first to take off his hat and scratch his bald head as he watched the operation. He declared, "Well, I'll be doggone. They are making it work!" Other farmers came from all over to watch Mac, Harper and Sammy "eat up" the acres! These three were very proud of their accomplishment.

When Sammy's grain box became full of wheat, he would head to the local grain elevator and dump his load into a pit. From there, the wheat was moved by an auger to the very top of the grain bin, where it would be stored until it was sold to a mill that turned wheat into flour to be used for making delicious pies and pastries.

One year in particular, the wheat was especially good. The winter had been mild, the rains were plentiful, and the temperature was just right to make for a bumper crop. Harper could cut it, but Mac was worried Sammy couldn't handle all the grain as fast as Harper could go.

"I can't have you overdoing it and break down on me. You're too good of a truck," he stated.

What was Mac going to do? He didn't have enough

BARBER
ENGINEERING COMPANY

DRY FERTILIZER EQUIPMENT

- Nurse Boxes
- Belt Loaders
- Truck Spreaders
- Hydraulic Drill Fills
- C-200 Cleaners/Treaters
- Brush Augers

509-535-3051
1404 N. Regal Spokane, WA
barberengineering.com

We'll See You At The PNDSA Expo!
Sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Assn.
Colfax, WA June 14-16!

AGPRO
Marketing & Manufacturing Inc.
Proudly Serving Our Customers Since 1987

1112 AIRWAY, AVE.
LEWISTON, ID 83501
(208) 746-2212
FAX: (208) 746-9913
WEB: agproinc.com

Toll Free Order Line: (800) 492-2212



Byrnes Oil

BULK FUEL & LUBRICANTS
STORAGE TANKS
FREIGHT HAULING

Convenient locations to serve you:

Pendleton, OR 513 S.W. 6th 514-276-3361	Walla Walla, WA 1205 N. 11th 509-527-3400
LaGrande, OR 804 21st Street 541-963-4932	Baker City, OR 2885 13th Street 541-523-4779

1st SOURCE
Chevron Lubrication Marketer

www.byrnesoil.com

RH MACHINE **CHROME ALLOY WEAR PARTS**

** See all our parts online at www.rhmachine.com **

R & H manufactures wear resistant parts for planting, fertilizing, cultivating, ripping, and harvesting. Our Chrome Alloy replacement parts will wear smooth, save downtime, use less fuel and last longer --resulting in a lower cost per acre.



*If abrasive wear is your problem ~ ~ ~
R & H Machine has your answer!*

R & H MACHINE 115 ROEDEL AVE. CALDWELL, ID 83605 1-800-321-6568

Setting the Standard for Wear!

FOR RENT

WASHINGTON WHEAT FOUNDATION ANNEX
(IN RITZVILLE, WASH.)

Rental Includes:

- Under normal COVID-19 restrictions, can seat 30
- Full-service kitchen
- Wi-Fi
- Free coffee and tea
- Pullout wall divider
- 2 large screens
- Free parking
- 18 x 22 lobby to gather or serve buffet
- Separate board meeting room

**\$50 (0-4 HOURS) OR
\$100 (4+ HOURS)**

Contact Chauna Carlson
at the Washington Wheat
Foundation rental line

(509) 659-1987

money to buy another truck. Besides, the other farmers had already bought all the trucks at the used lot in town. Mac decided he'd have to get by with just one truck and sit and wait in the loaded combine until Sammy got back from the elevator.

"Great crop out there, but we don't have enough truck to handle it all. Cutting the crop is going to be frustrating this year," he said to his wife. But little did Mac know Sammy had already taken care of the situation.

When the first day of harvest arrived, Mac was busy driving Harper when he thought he heard a toot. He looked up to the top of the ridge and saw Sammy and his friends, Tammy the Truck and Heather the Hauler, who had both come over to help.

"Well, I'll be a monkey's uncle!" Mac wondered out loud. Harper gave an extra puff of black smoke out of her exhaust pipe, making Mac wonder if Harper was having engine trouble. But Sammy saw and understood the message. The trucks lined up, waiting for their turn to get loads from Harper. Proudly, the friends helped Mac, Harper and Sammy, the best harvest crew around, finish harvest. Mac's reputation as a master harvester was made that summer.

Years went by, and every winter, Mac would carefully repair, rebuild and repaint Harper in his shop, making her look and run like brand new. Sammy got his share of tender loving care, too! But with time came progress. Bigger and faster machines arrived, making Harper look small and out of date. Even trucks in the field were being replaced by tractors pulling large grain wagons that could load on the go, even on hillsides. Mac lost custom harvesting jobs to other outfits that could cut the crop even faster. Harper, Sammy and Mac were all getting replaced.

Mac was sad, but he knew because he had taken such good care of Harper and Sammy, they would finish



PHOTO BY JENA MOORE

farming together. He had spent so many hours with his two machines that they had become the best of friends. Memories of break downs and bad crops were more than offset by memories of harvest glories and good crops.

The time came when Mac was too old to continue the hard task of farming. He offered the family farm to Jack, who was working in town at the time. Harper and Sammy were too old and worn out to be of any use to Jack, who was going to buy new equipment to start his farming career. Mac parked Harper and Sammy next to the shop where they sadly sat unused. ■

Look for Parts II and III, coming in the October and November issues of Wheat Life.

Daniel Moore is a fourth generation family farmer in the Dusty, Wash., area. The particulars of this story came from a lifetime of his experiences around the farming community, but the inspiration to bring all the parts together in story form came from seeing an old kitchen chair by a creek on an early spring day. The website for Moore's books is authordanielmoore.com.

We service what we sell, since 1987

GLENER HESSTON Ag Leader NORAC RAVEN



LEWISTON, ID
620 Thain Road
208-746-6447

MOSCOW, ID
2275 Nursery
208-883-3007

www.bluemountainagri.com

Are you ready to sell your land?

We've brokered more than 12,215 acres in land transactions since 2018.



Kincaid Real Estate
deep ROOTS · strong CONNECTIONS · powerful RESULTS

CO. "Butch" Booker, Owner
Curt McNeilly, Realtor
Anna Schumacher, Realtor

Boomer2Bid.com

509.397.4438
kincaidre@coflax.com
www.kincaidrealestate.com



**WE MAKE PARTS FOR
MATHEWS
COMPANY
AG PRODUCTS!**

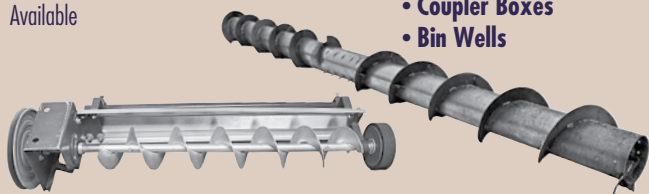


REPLACEMENT HELICAL & SECTIONAL FLIGHTING

Available

BIN SYSTEMS To Order

- Sweeps
- Coupler Boxes
- Bin Wells



REPAIR - REBUILD - HARDFACE
Custom Augers & Reflight Platform Augers

904 N Dyer Road Email: accucon@hotmail.com
Spokane, WA 99212 Fax: (509) 534-4337 accuconofspokane.com

ENGINES FOR SALE REBUILT & USED DIESEL ENGINES

Cat • Cummins • Detroit • IH • Case • John Deere

CUMMINS ISX, long block..... CALL
CUMMINS N14, Celect Plus, long block..... Exch \$9,000
CUMMINS BIG CAM, long block..... Exch \$8,000
NOW OFFERING CUMMINS ISB HIGH
PERFORMANCE OVERHAUL KITS\$3500
AERVOE FLEET & ENGINE PAINT IN STOCK!



Yunker
DIESEL & TRUCK

(800) 362-2387 (509) 534-1112
N. 322 Eastern, Spokane, WA 99212
www.yunkerbros.com

MEDIUM & HEAVY DUTY DRIVE TRAIN REBUILD CENTER

Parts • Custom Repair • Sales • Service

- Transmissions
- Differentials
- Exchange Units



(800) 366-5962 (509) 534-7818
6505 E. Valleyway, Spokane, WA 99212



SEED MIXES: POLLINATION - FORAGE - EROSION CONTROL - ORCHARD - TURF



CALL NOW 509-297-4500 OR 509-531-1702

Email: wri@westernreclamation.com

WAREHOUSES IN ODESSA & ELTOPIA

Keeping the family homestead safe

By Trista Crossley

With a direct family connection stretching back more than 130 years, it's easy to understand why Lowell McNeilly is protective of his family's farm and cattle ranch.

The land, located west of Edwall, Wash., was homesteaded in 1883 by Lowell's great-grandfather, Hugh Samuel McNeilly Sr., and his wife, Alice. While previous generations grew wheat and raised cattle, these days, the land is mostly laid to alfalfa and grass, with beardless barley rotated in to help control weeds between alfalfa sowings. In 1977, McNeilly's father, realizing that the farm couldn't support himself and his sons' growing families, chose to sell the cattle and lease the land out.

"He was already working a second job to support the farm. He had a chance to go out as an electrical contractor and own his own company," McNeilly explained. Since then, ownership of the land has passed to McNeilly, who, although growing up as a farming kid, has chosen to continue to lease out the land rather than return to farming himself. He revisits his farming roots by occasionally driving truck during harvest for local wheat growers.

McNeilly and his tenant, Dirk Jacobsen, work under a one-third, two-thirds crop share agreement. Jacobsen uses the alfalfa to help feed his own cattle herd. McNeilly described their relationship as more friends, rather than a landlord-tenant business arrangement.

"Dirk came to me one day, after he'd been farming for a couple of years, and said, 'my dad said when your dad farmed, this was one of



Flooding in 1959 on the McNeilly family farm near Edwall, Wash. Photo courtesy of Lowell McNeilly.

prettiest farms in the county. With your help I'd like to put it back the way it was," McNeilly recalled, adding that sometimes it can take a while to find a tenant that fits. "He's just a great tenant."

Another reason the relationship seems to work, according to McNeilly, is that neither he nor his tenant is afraid to voice their concerns to each other.

"That way, you can be on the same page. If one of us has an issue, we just say, 'can you meet me down at the place? I want you to look at stuff or go over stuff,'" he said. "If he's irritated, he'll call me up, and we get it taken care of, and it's done. I like it that way."

One of the biggest problems McNeilly has had to deal with as a landlord is tenants who insisted on doing fieldwork in the fall in a floodplain (the land has



(Left) Bob McNeilly, Lowell's father, was the last McNeilly to actively farm the land. (Right) These days, the farm is leased to Dirk Jacobsen, who grows mostly alfalfa and grass. Photos courtesy of Lowell McNeilly.

three streams that run through it). He said he is always dealing with runoff, washouts and beavers.

"If you own a stream and a farm, it's around-the-calendar maintenance," he said. "All field work has to be done in the spring. Guys get busy with cattle at the same time when they need to be in there. It can be a sticky situation."

McNeilly says it can be beneficial for landlords to set parameters on how they want their land treated and taken care of and to be upfront with their tenant(s) on those expectations. Landlords also need to be prepared to hold their tenants accountable if they fall short of expectations.

Bucking conventional wisdom, McNeilly prefers to do business without a written rental agreement, believing his word is good enough. The key, he said, was to find a tenant with a good background, that treats people the way they want to be treated and appreciates the land they are renting.

"(The written leases) we had were always written up by the tenant and always favored the tenant," he explained. "Where I come from, and the way my dad was, if one's word was no good, then what was put on paper was not much better. My dad always said if tenants need a written lease, they are the ones that need it. Dirk likes the situation the way it is."

It doesn't seem likely that McNeilly will be the last generation to hold the land dear. His daughter, who spent a lot of time on the farm with her grandparents, is interested in continuing the family's ownership. She recently moved back into McNeilly's childhood home on the farm.

"That means everything," he said. "She was extremely close to her grandparents, so she really gets it." ■



Hugh Samuel McNeilly, Sr. and his wife, Alice, homesteaded the family's land in 1883. Photo courtesy of Lowell McNeilly.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Insurance option provides shallow loss coverage

By Curtis Evanenko
McGregor Risk Management Services

Greetings everyone. I trust this finds you well. As of this writing, and if the forecast holds, we'll all be well acclimated to the heat and very tired of it, as well. Frankly, I'm already there and have been for a spell...

This month's topic is a new product that the Risk Management Agency (RMA) introduced late last winter after our wheat sales closing date of Sept. 30 called the Enhanced Coverage Option (ECO). RMA has recently released county actuarials for the 2022 wheat crop, and as expected, ECO is now available in our region.

ECO is a new option that was developed to help provide area-based (think county) shallow loss coverage for a portion of the deductible of the underlying policy and protects against widespread loss of revenue or yield. ECO offers coverage of 90 or 95 percent trigger levels (trigger being the percentage of expected

revenue or yield when a loss becomes payable).

ECO follows the coverage of the underlying policy and is a purchased endorsement to the Revenue Protection (RP), Revenue Protection with the Harvest Price Exclusion (RPHPE) or Yield Protection (YP) for our region. If the underlying policy is RP, then revenue is the trigger for ECO. Correspondingly, if YP is the underlying policy, then yield is the trigger for ECO.

The underlying RP or YP policy provides protection based upon historic revenue or yield information of the insured producer. ECO pays a loss on an area basis, and an indemnity is triggered when there is a decrease in the county's revenue or yield for the crop year. If the county revenue or yield set forth by RMA is reduced beyond the trigger level previously selected by the producer, the producer will receive an ECO payment for the crop year.

ECO coverage is based upon the liability of underlying policy and has two coverage options. ECO coverage begins at 86 percent and can go up to either 90 percent or 95 percent; thereby ECO can pay up to 4 percent at the 90 percent trigger level, or 9 percent at the 95 percent trigger level, in the event of widespread loss.

RMA will post in the county actuarials the expected price, revenue and yield for the crop prior to the sales closing date.

An ECO loss payment can be made without a loss on the underlying policy. Correspondingly, an underlying policy loss payment can be made without an ECO loss payment. For example, assume an insurable, isolated event occurs on a producer's acreage (hail storm, freeze, fire, etc.). The impact significantly reduced production on that one producer's acreage, however, the impact across the county was insignificant.

Higher coverage levels will trigger more frequent losses; naturally, insured premiums will reflect that. The premiums for ECO are directly related to the Projected Harvest Price Volatility Factor determined and set by RMA during the Aug. 15 through Sept. 15 price discovery period. Not coincidentally, the higher the wheat price volatility factor, the higher the premium costs for both the underlying policy and ECO policies. Remember, the harvest price discovery

Percent of expected grower revenue	Individual loss coverage (from underlying policy)	Area-based loss coverage (from SCO)	Area-based loss coverage (from ECO)
100%			
95%			ECO coverage range (86% to 95%)
90%			
86%		SCO coverage range (80% to 86%)	
80%			
75%	Underlying policy coverage (0% to 80%)		
70%			
65%			
60%			
55%			
50%			
45%			
40%			
35%			
30%			
25%			
20%			
15%			
10%			
5%			
0%			

**Sponsored by the
Agricultural Marketing
& Management
Organization.**

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



period is the August-September time frame preceding the summer the crop is to be harvested.

ECO premiums are subsidized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Producer premiums are reduced 51 percent for yield policies and 44 percent for revenue policies. Exact premiums are dependent upon the county, coverage level, coverage type selected (revenue versus yield) and the wheat market volatility factor as indicated previously.

For those who've desired to have higher coverage levels

made available, this is it! ECO endorsement must be elected by the sales closing date of the underlying policy. For wheat in the Pacific Northwest, this date is Sept. 30. Like the underlying multiperil policy, this endorsement is continuous until cancelled.

Remember, this is not individual coverage per se like your current, underlying policy, and coverage is not split out into units. Rather ECO coverage is based upon underlying policy liability, but is a county coverage plan and only triggers if RMA determines the revenue or yield for the area falls below the previous values for the county the ground is located in. Please feel free to contact me or your current crop insurance agent regarding any further questions you may have regarding ECO to see if this product is a fit for you and your operation.

I hope the remaining summer days for you and yours are grand! ■

Curtis Evanenko has more than 25 years of crop insurance experience serving the Pacific Northwest from both the wholesale and retail sides of the business. He currently serves as a risk management advisor with McGregor Risk Management Services. He can be reached at (509) 540-2632 or by email at cevanenko@mcgregorrisk.com.



**HIGHLINE
GRAIN GROWERS
INC.**

**YOUR ONE-STOP SOURCE FOR
2021 FALL SEED
WITH 7 CONVENIENT LOCATIONS**

SOFT WHITE WINTER VARIETIES
 Eltan LCS Blackjack LCS Hulk LCS Shine LCS Sonic
 Norwest Duet Otto Puma VI Frost Curiosity CL+
 Mela CL+ Piranha CL+ Resilience CL+ VI Presto CL+

CLUB VARIETIES
 ARS-Castella ARS-Crescent Bruehl Pritchett

HARD RED WINTER VARIETIES
 Keldin LCS Evina LCS Jet WB4311

ALTERNATIVE CROPS AVAILABLE
 Triticale Fall planted peas Winter barley Canola Forages

CUSTOMIZED SEED TREATMENTS AVAILABLE

CALL US TO DISCUSS YOUR SEED NEEDS
Geoff Schulz 509-796-2575 or
Ryan Higginbotham 509-796-4141

Almira 509-639-2431	Davenport 509-725-7081	Farmer 509-745-8551
Harrington 509-253-4604	Odessa 509-982-2691	
Reardan 509-796-2575	Wilbur 509-647-5510	





**WE
LOVE
YOUR
DIRT.**

MANAGEMENT
INSURANCE
REAL ESTATE
APPRAISAL

Hatley/Cobb is now Farmland Company

www.FarmlandCompany.com



Downtown Harrington showing the 1902 Electric Hotel (under renovation), the old post office and other buildings made from brick manufactured in Harrington. Photo by Michael Rush.



Wheat harvest at Kinzer Farms near Uniontown.
Photo by Jason Nollmeyer.

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



Harvest 2020 at Carlton Farms in Dayton.
Photo by Jack Willis.

Your wheat life...



(Above) Addilyn (10) and Colton Chabre (5) enjoying snow on their farm in Prescott. Photo by Kevin Chabre. (Right) Sidney Wolf (9) at Four Aces in Pomeroy survives an epic wipeout while sledding in the stubble (she was just fine and all giggles). Photo by Jessica Wolf.



Harvest 2020 at Deardorff Farms in Colville. Photo by Jayson Deardorff.

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.

AUGUST 2021

6-7 MOXEE HOP FESTIVAL. Parade, beer garden, live entertainment, food. Moxee, Wash. evcea.org

6-8 KING SALMON DERBY. Up to \$20,000 in cash and prizes available. Registration required. Brewster, Wash. brewstersalmonderby.com

11-14 YAKIMA VALLEY FAIR AND RODEO. ProWest rodeo, youth livestock show. County Fair Park in Grandview, Wash. yvfair-rodeo.org

12-15 OMAK STAMPEDE. Parade, suicide race, carnival, art, rodeo, vendors. Omak, Wash. omakstampepe.org

17-21 GRANT COUNTY FAIR. Ag exhibits, livestock competitions, carnival, arts and crafts, entertainment, food. Moses Lake, Wash. 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

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

24-28 BENTON FRANKLIN FAIR AND RODEO. Demolition derby, parade, live entertainment, including country star Trace Adkins. Kennewick, Wash. bentonfranklinfair.com

26-28 LINCOLN COUNTY FAIR AND RODEO. Entertainment, livestock, exhib-

its, food and games. Davenport, Wash. lincolncountywafair.com

26-29 NCW FAIR. Entertainment, carnival and livestock show. Waterville, Wash. 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, sunscreen and blankets. 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. or until racing is done. webbsslough.com or (509)648-8900.

SEPTEMBER 2021

1-6 PIG OUT IN THE PARK. Music and food. Riverfront Park in Spokane, Wash. spokanepigout.com

2-5 WHEAT LAND COMMUNITIES' FAIR. Rodeo, exhibits, entertainment. Ritzville Rodeo Grounds. fair.goritzville.com/fair.php

3-6 ELLENSBURG RODEO. Carnival, midway, hoedown, pancake breakfast, parade. Ellensburg, Wash. 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/

11-18 PENDLETON ROUNDUP. Rodeo, parade, cowboy breakfast. Pendleton, Ore. pendletonroundup.com

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

15-18 OTHELLO FAIR. Adams County Fairgrounds in Othello, Wash. othellofair.org

16-19 DEUTSCHESFEST. German music, food and crafts, kid zone, parade. Biergarten, fun run. Odessa, Wash. 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/

24-26 SE SPOKANE COUNTY FAIR.

Exhibits, carnival, pancake breakfast, parade, 3-on-3 basketball tournament, pie eating contest, entertainment. Rockford, Wash. se Spokane County Fair

24-26 VALLEYFEST. Duathlon, family bike ride, car show, pancake breakfast, entertainment. Mirabeau Point Park in Spokane Valley, Wash. valleyfest.org

24-26 GREAT PROSSER BALLOON RALLY. Prosser, Wash. facebook.com/GreatProsserBalloonRally

OCTOBER 2021

1-3 APPLE DAYS. Celebrate the apple harvest. Cashmere Museum and Pioneer Village in Cashmere, Wash. cashmeremuseum.org

2 PALOUSE ANTIQUE TRACTOR PLOWING BEE. Begins at 9 a.m., 3 miles south of Palouse, Wash., at the intersection of Mader Road and Hwy 27. duggerfarms@gmail.com

2 FRESH HOP ALE FESTIVAL. SOZO Sports Complex, Yakima, Wash. freshhopalefestival.com

2-4 LEAVENWORTH OKTOBERFEST MARKT. One hundred unique local vendors, artists and crafters will take part in a street fair. Free admission. leavenworthoktoberfest.com

9-11 LEAVENWORTH OKTOBERFEST MARKT. One hundred unique local vendors, artists and crafters will take part in a street fair. Free admission. leavenworthoktoberfest.com

16-18 LEAVENWORTH OKTOBERFEST MARKT. One hundred unique local vendors, artists and crafters will take part in a street fair. Free admission. leavenworthoktoberfest.com ■

Submissions

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

Like our Facebook page (@WAWheat) and follow us on Twitter (@WAWheatGrowers) for the latest industry and association news.



BRUSHY CREEK EQUIPMENT SERVICE & REPAIR

SMALL ENGINE • AERIAL & LIFT • FORKLIFT

Talk to
Brian
today!

360-581-1886
BEPARRIS@GMAIL.COM

20 MONTGOMERY ST. • POMEROY, WA

Over our last 25+ years in business, Class 8 Trucks has found these local providers to be the "best-of-the-best" serving our community:

ALIGNMENTS	Gene's Alignments	534-0335	TRUCK PARTS	Freightliner	535-3626
TRUCK REPAIR	Calligan Transport Services	893-3875		Peterbilt	535-4241
	CAT	532-3998		IH	928-6300
	Kenworth	534-2643		LKQ (Used)	536-8499
	Volvo/Mack	927-2525		High Mountain HP	321-5428
	Terry's Truck Center	534-0609		NW Radiator	590-4953
ELECTRICAL	Romaine Electric	536-8116		T & R Truck Parts	939-1877
DOTS	John D's	993-0216	TRAILER PARTS	House of Hose	535-3638
GEARS	Yunker's/Inland Gear	534-7818		NW Trailer	535-3337
GLASS	Flat/Safety/Cabs/Tractors	928-7436		Leland	535-0291
	Jacobs Auto Glass(Trucks)	990-7134		Western	789-1829
LICENSES	Rosalia	523-2229	RENTAL TRUCKS	Penske	535-3611
				Kenworth	939-9553

== CLASS 8 TRUCKS 509-534-9088 521 N. Eastern Spokane WA ==
(All numbers are in the 509 area code)



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

Why Support the Washington Wheat PAC?

Washington farmers are losing ground politically! The ability to protect our interests is slowly dwindling. Washington wheat producers need elected officials who know and understand the industry. Without these relationships our ability to remain competitive is at risk. Now is the time for the industry to join together and proactively influence legislation that directly impacts the Washington wheat producer.

Please join our efforts by financially supporting the Washington Wheat PAC. Your contribution will strengthen

the network of elected officials who understand the wheat industry's goals and objectives by fighting for what is critical to the livelihood of our members.

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

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

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

DONATION PROMISE

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Donation amount: _____

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

Please send form along with payment to PO Box 184, Ritzville, WA 99169. Checks should be made out to the Washington Wheat PAC.

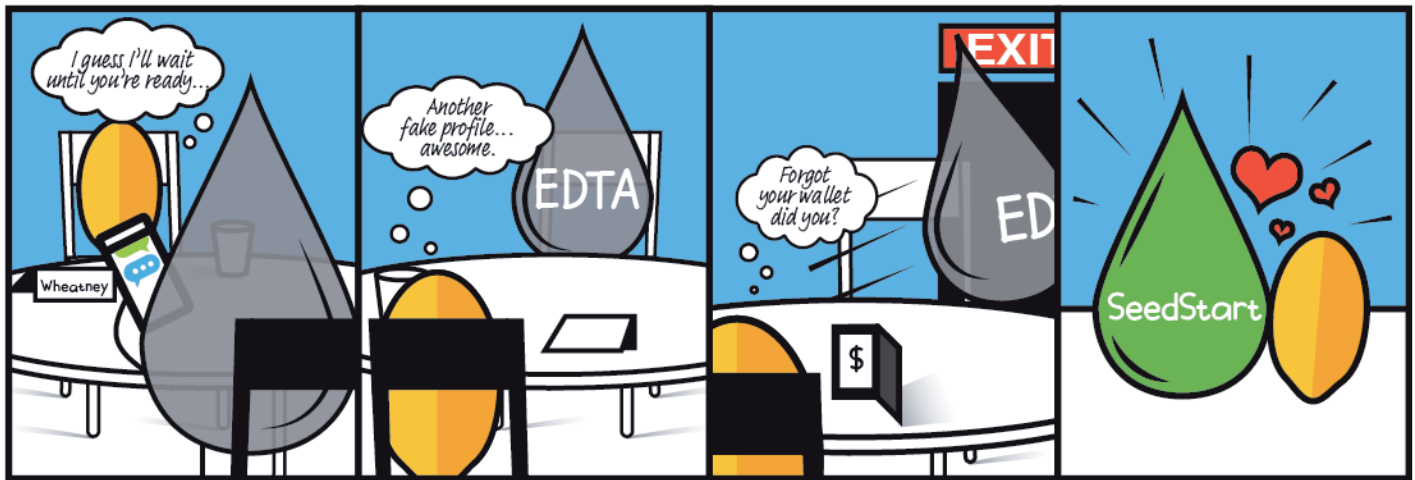
Advertiser Index

Accucon	65	Country Financial	33	Pomeroy Grain Growers	41
AGPRO	63	Custom Seed Conditioning	43	ProGene	39
AgraSyst	11, 48	Edward Jones	13	R & H Machine	63
AgriPro	33	Eljay Oil	47	Rainier Seeds	35
Albaugh	7	Farm & Home Supply	35	Spectrum Crop	21
Barber Engineering	63	Farmland Company	69	St. John Hardware	34, 45
Basin Pacific Insurance	41	Fluid Roofing	61	State Bank NW	41
Big Iron Repair	38	Great Plains Equipment	37	T & S Sales	21
Blue Mountain Agri-Support	64	HighLine Grain Growers	69	Tankmax Inc	43
Blue Mountain Farm & Ranch	47	Jess Auto	46	The McGregor Company	75, 76
Brushy Creek Equipment	73	Jones Truck & Implement	47	Tri-State Seed	40
Butch Booker	64	Kincaid Real Estate	64	Unverferth	27
Byrnes Oil Co	63	Manley Crop Insurance	41	Vantage-PNW	31
Central Machinery Sales	38	McKay Seed	46	Washington State Crop Improvement Association	5
Chipman & Taylor	61	Northwest Farm Credit Services	23	Western Real Estate Auctions	39
Class 8 Trucks	33, 39, 73	Northwest First Realtors	17	Western Reclamation	65
CO Energy	43	Odessa Trading Company	31	Wilbur-Ellis	28
CoAXium	15	Organic Soil Amenders Inc	46	Yunker Brothers	65
Coldwell Banker Tomlinson	12	Palouse Antique Tractor Plowing Bee	47		
Connell Grange Supply	35	Perkins & Zlatich PS	13		
Correll's Scale Service	41	PNW Farmers Cooperative	17		
Corteva Agriscience	9				



It's love at first *site*. with **SEEDSTART** **ZINC**

Seed Dating 101



*Accessible immediately
at germination*

*Proven 4 bu/ac
yield gain*

*Loaded with 5x more zinc
than EDTA*

Love at first site.

☒ **ACCESSIBLE.** ☒ **PROVEN.** ☒ **LOADED.**

Don't let love be denied.

Only SeedStart™ with unique MicroFuze™ Technology checks all the boxes.
Seed-applied zinc nutrition at the *site* of emergence is true love.

micro**Fuze**
TECHNOLOGY



WWW.MCGREGOR.COM

TOP 6 VARIETY.

THAT'S M-PRESS(IVE)!

M-Press is a top 6 soft white winter wheat variety planted on nearly 100,000 WA acres in 2020! Dominant in intermediate rainfall with flexibility to yield across all rainfall zones and a remarkable defense package.

Don't Stress. **M-Press.**



WWW.MCGREGOR.COM

 @THEMCGREGORCO

 @MCGREGORCO