

WHEAT LIFE

The official publication of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers

OCTOBER | 2021

WELCOME TO HARVEST 2021

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

2021 Tri-State Grain Growers

Convention preview

Forecasting fall seeding weather

Promoting the best grains

In the corner of the field, part II

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President's Perspective



To seed or not to (re)seed

By Ryan Poe

There is something very satisfying about finishing up a field during seeding. On the contrary, there is something very dreadful about rain falling on that just-finished field.

It seems 2021 is the year that just keeps on giving.

We are wrapping up reseeding all our winter wheat acres as I'm writing this column in mid-September. We received about an inch of rain a couple days after we finished the first round of seeding that we were grateful for, but it caused some problems with crusting, kinking, deep-seeded wheat that struggled to emerge and poor stands in our early-seed fields because of dry areas. We were pretty fortunate to get a big rain and not just a tenth of an inch that would have hurt us more and not improved our seeding conditions.

Seeding is tough. You have to make a lot of calls, and then you get plenty of time sitting in a tractor seat to second guess every decision you've made. I worry that I'm seeding too deep or too shallow. I worry that I'm going too fast or that I don't have enough seed to finish the field. I wonder if I can get through the straw on the next field, or if that 40 percent chance of rain on my app is going to happen. These worries might seem trivial, but the decisions you are making now will have an impact on your crop for the coming year.

Reseeding is even tougher, because you know the longer you delay past your optimal seeding date, the bigger impact it can have on your yield potential. You also know the cost associated with doing it all over again, not to mention the hours you have to spend on a tractor redoing all your hard work. However, I'm one of the fortunate ones this year, as I know guys who are unable to plant at all because they don't have enough soil moisture. They might have to dust in seed and hope the rain comes eventually.

For a look at seeding conditions across Eastern Washington, as well as a longer-term weather forecast, see page 38.

This year's drought and our current dry seeding conditions have brought up a lot of questions about crop insurance. In order to be eligible for winter wheat coverage, Washington farmers have to have seed in the ground by the end of October, even if that means just dusting it in. Without adequate soil moisture, some farmers will be planting not knowing if they'll get a good stand or not. I've heard some growers talk about possible changes to planting dates that would help them plan better. I've also heard some thoughts about changes to the prevented planting policy. We are drawing closer to our annual tri-state convention (see page 28) when we'll meet to set the policy resolutions that will guide our organization for the coming year. If you've got a suggestion we can take to the Risk Management Agency, let us know. You can contact one of our officers or call the WAWG office at (509) 659-0610. With all the challenges we've faced this year, I think it's a great opportunity to push for some changes. ■

Cover photo: Harvest 2021 at Westside Farms in Harrington, Wash. Photo By Stacey Timm Rasmussen. To read more about Stacey, see this month's profile on page 46. To see more photos from this year's wheat harvest, go to page 20. All photos are Shutterstock images or taken by *Wheat Life* staff unless otherwise noted.

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| ✓ Fighting mandatory carbon regulations that would raise prices on fuel and fertilizer. | ✓ Protecting existing tax policy. |
| | ✓ Preserving the Snake River dams. |

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September board meeting features agency updates

The first board meeting of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) after the summer break was necessarily virtual and brief, as most board representatives were busy seeding winter wheat. The majority of the agenda was spent getting updates from U.S. Department of Agriculture agencies.

Jeremy Nelson, a district director with the state Farm Service Agency (FSA) office, said the agency had just wrapped up the most recent Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) sign-up. Nationwide, the agency accepted 1.9 million acres out of 2 million offered. In Washington state, 129,186 acres were offered with 115,899 accepted. Only Douglas County is up against its 25 percent enrollment cap. The state office is still waiting for an executive director and the state committee to be appointed. County offices are still in flux, thanks to COVID-19 restrictions.

"We look at the (COVID-19) numbers every morning, and if the case counts exceed certain thresholds, we have to lower staffing in our offices or shut off face-to-face meetings with producers," he explained. "It's a moving target every day. It's a challenge for you as producers, as well as our FSA staff."

One board member asked about restrictions on contour buffer strips being limited to 30 feet. Nelson explained that there was some leeway if a technical service provider recommended a wider buffer strip. However, he pointed out that if a very large buffer is needed, there were other types of practices better

suited to the situation.

"There's a little bit of flexibility, but really, I think when those initially went in, we were painting with a pretty wide brush when we shouldn't have," he told the board.

Another board member brought up a situation where CRP inspections were being done at the last minute, leaving producers with no time to fix noted issues. Nelson explained that the new CRP rules require an inspection be done within the last year or two of a producer's contract, and the state agency is trying to get those inspections done earlier so a compliance decision isn't being made "in the last 10 days of a contract." The Natural Resources Conservation



ROUND THE TABLE. Washington Association of Wheat Growers' (WAWG) leaders and staff took part in a roundtable discussion in August with Reps. Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.) and Glenn "GT" Thompson (R-Pa.) in the Tri-Cities. The group discussed the drought, the importance of the lower Snake River dams, rural development, broadband infrastructure and conservation. Pictured above, from left, are Thompson; Nicole Berg, vice president of the National Association of Wheat Growers and a Benton County farmer; Newhouse; and Michelle Hennings, WAWG's executive director.



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Service (NRCS) is responsible for doing the inspection and reporting back to FSA, and he acknowledged there were some growing pains.

"The earlier we can get those reports, the less egg we will have on our face when we run into a problem if there's a compliance issue," he said. "I think NRCS is doing a good job getting those earlier to us. They are (currently) doing inspections for contracts ending in 2022, so we have time to address it rather than when it's too late."

Roylene Comes at Night, NRCS state conservationist, agreed that the CRP reporting requirement has added a large amount of work to her staff. She reported that her agency is almost finished with obligations for the current fiscal year. She anticipates obligating nearly \$57 million, \$17 million more than last year and almost \$27 million more than the year before.

"I'm proud to report that we are getting funding on the ground to producers as best we can. We will have a record year with the number of funds obligated," she told the board.

NRCS is watching President Biden's infrastructure bill, which includes about \$1 billion more in funding for the agency and will allow the state office to hire additional staff. The state office is also doing more work with large watershed programs, urban conservation and climate-smart farming.

"I think it (climate-smart farming) fits really well into the idea of sustainable farming," she said. "We have been working with conservation districts, the dairy federation and others to see how we can fit that together, and how we can make sure farmers are ready for carbon markets as they start to unfold."

Ben Thiel, director of the Risk Management Agency's (RMA) Spokane Regional Office, talked briefly about some changes in the prevented planting provision, specifically about ground in 2021 that hasn't been insured for a long period of time, such as ground that's been in forage. Starting in 2021, to be eligible for prevented planting coverage, the ground has to have been planted, insured and harvested in at least one of the previous four years. But for 2022 and 2023, the agency is considering that if a producer is unable to meet the insured part of the one-in-four rule, but they have planted and harvested two of the four previous years, that land could be eligible for prevented planting coverage.

Another change to RMA's prevented planting provision applies to cover crops. Producers who plant a cover crop after the prevented planting of their insured crop can terminate that cover crop by haying and grazing at any time and still be eligible to keep their prevented planting payment.

The board also heard from Chris Mertz, Northwest Regional Field Office director for the National Agricultural Statistics Service, and Kari Fagerness from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Oct. 12. ■

Variety testing, protein discussed at county meeting

Two Washington State University (WSU) researchers were special guests at the September meeting of the Whitman County wheat growers.

Clark Neely, Extension agronomist and Cereal Variety Testing Program lead, reviewed the results of this year's variety testing program. He said almost all testing locations were 40 to 60 percent below last year's yield because of the drought. The program will be phasing out testing of hard white wheats due to the lack of a market. The Variety Testing Program has a new mobile app (see page 59) where producers can see testing results.

Arron Carter, WSU winter wheat breeder, talked about protein content vs. protein functionality in end-use products, an especially relevant subject in light of the higher protein in this year's soft white wheat crop.

The next meeting of the Whitman County growers will be Oct. 4, at noon, at Eddie's Restaurant in Colfax. ■

Wheat growers association welcomes new staff member

There's a new face greeting producers at the Washington Association of Wheat Growers' (WAWG) office in Ritzville, Wash. **Katie Teachout** joined the WAWG staff at the end of July as an administrative assistant.

Teachout moved to Ritzville in 2020 from Okanogan County to take a position at the *Ritzville Adams County*

Journal where she covered local sports and news. She has lived in small towns and worked at several small-town newspapers during her career. She doesn't have an agricultural background, but she grew up in Ohio, surrounded by cornfields. Her father ran a photography studio. ►



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"I like being in a small town. It's nice to be in an ag community," she said. "Farmers and their families are such hard workers. So many kids from farming families are so athletic and hard working. I've seen that over the years, covering FFA and fair events."

When she isn't answering WAWG members' questions, Teachout enjoys sewing and cooking, not to mention listening to music, dancing, swimming and fishing. Living in the Okanogan, she also enjoyed snow-shoeing, especially for checking a trap line or fetching a Christmas tree. She has three daughters and just welcomed the family's fourth grandchild.

While her time at the local newspaper introduced her to the wheat industry, Teachout said she's still got much to learn and is looking forward to interacting more with WAWG members.

"I'm happy to be living amongst them and learning more about the wheat industry," she said. "That is something I liked about journalism. Every story you had to learn a little bit about the subject in order to write about it." ■



WAWG officer headlines TV spot

Andy Juris, secretary/treasurer of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers and a farmer from Klickitat County, was featured in KXLY's Tribute 4 Our Farmers television spot in August.

"Across the state of Washington, wheat farmers continue to rise to the challenges of the times. We improve our soil health while sequestering carbon. We rely on a complex, but efficient transportation system that continues to improve every year while producing a high quality product that is consumed throughout the world," he said.

Watch the video at wawg.org/wawg-secretary-treasurer-represents-industry-in-new-tv-spot/. ■

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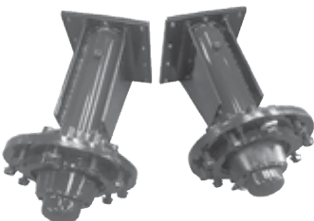
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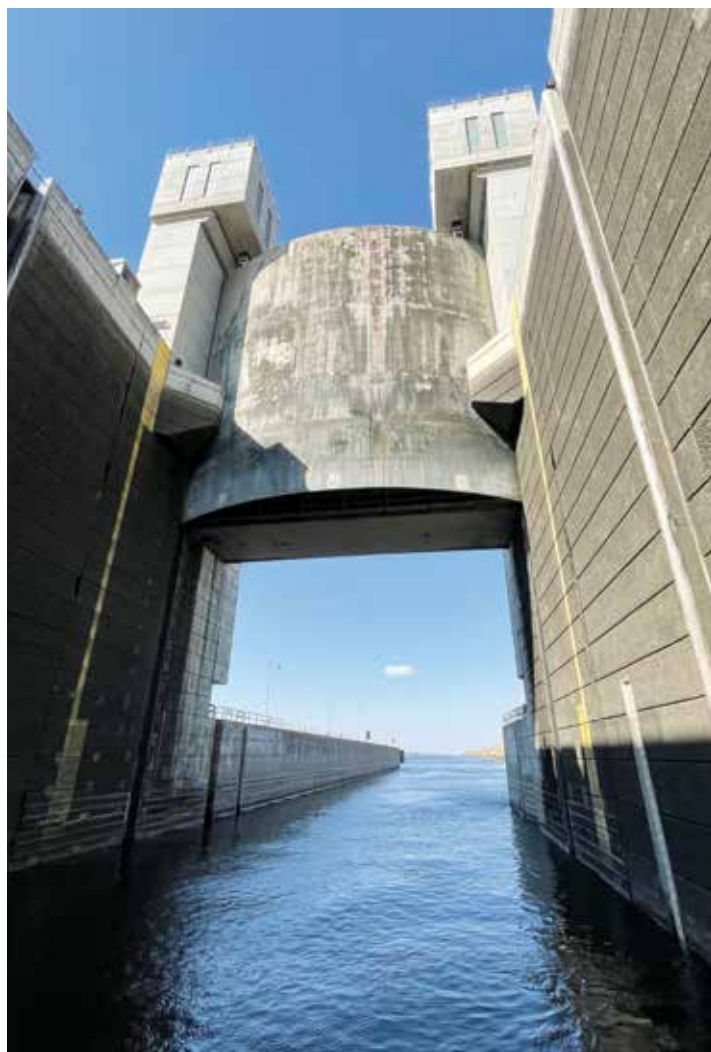
Wheat industry sponsors legislative tour of dam

In late August, the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) partnered with other state and regional agricultural industry stakeholders to sponsor a tour of Ice Harbor Dam for Washington state legislators and staffers.

The tour focused on the importance of the four lower dams on the Snake River and their role in facilitating fish passage, power production and agriculture. More than 50 people who took part in the tour heard from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers personnel, county commissioners, farmers, public utility representatives and river system advocates.

“The networking that occurred by having stakeholders discuss the importance and reliability of the lower Snake River dams while legislators were touring Ice Harbor Dam was very effective,” said Michelle Hennings, executive director of WAWG. “The research information we provided legislators clearly demonstrated that the benefits of the dams to our region outweigh the negativity presented by antidam advocates. We hope to have more of these educational tours in the near future.”

Other sponsors of the tour included the Washington Grain Commission, the Washington State Potato Commission, Northwest Dairy Association, Northwest Grain Growers, Pacific Northwest Waterways Association, Shaver Transportation and Northwest RiverPartners. ■



(Above) Going through the locks at Ice Harbor Dam. (Left) Rep. Alex Ybarra (center) from the 13th District, was one of the state legislators that took part in an industry-sponsored tour of Ice Harbor Dam. The tour also looked at the role the four lower Snake River dams play in the region's efforts to improve fish numbers, produce power and provide irrigation water for agriculture. Shown with Ybarra are Michelle Hennings, executive director of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers, and Mike Carstensen, chairman of the Washington Grain Commission.

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POLICY MATTERS

WAWG submits RMA letter supporting insurance changes

Last month, the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) sent a letter to Richard Flournoy, acting administrator of the Risk Management Agency (RMA), providing feedback on two proposed crop insurance regulation changes.

Specifically, WAWG supported a change that would allow winter wheat and spring wheat to be insured as separate enterprise units. Currently, all types of wheat are grouped together.

WAWG also requested that the Federal Crop Insurance Commission reassess determinations related to replant payments. Currently, if a producer loses their fall-planted wheat before the final planting date, they do not receive a replant payment, despite the loss.

“The federal crop insurance program is a vital risk management tool available to farmers, and these modifications provide additional flexibility and options to protect wheat growers and their operations,” the letter states.

The 2021 crop year has underscored the need for a robust crop insurance program. More than 90 percent of all planted wheat acres in Washington state have an average crop insurance coverage level of 81 percent. ■

Wheat harvest price published, RMA answers questions

Early last month, the Risk Management Agency (RMA) announced a 2021 crop year wheat harvest price of \$9.86 per bushel for winter wheat and \$9.21 for spring wheat. In response to growers’ questions about the harvest price, RMA published answers to a set of frequently asked questions. To see the full list of questions and answers, go to wawg.org/rma-publishes-wheat-harvest-price-faqs/

Soft white wheat (SWW) protein levels are really high this year. Is RMA taking that into consideration, and does the RMA price reflect the value of SWW at 10.5 percent protein instead of SWW value generically?

A single harvest price is issued by RMA, which reflects a normal protein range (10.5 percent). The price does not

reflect wheat with abnormally high or low protein levels.

In the Commodity Exchange Price Provisions—Wheat document, it states prices for the Portland Merchants Exchange (PME) soft white wheat are used to compute the winter type harvest price for crop insurance. Where can I look to see prices that RMA is using?

The prices reported by PME are from USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). The prices used to compute the harvest price for crop insurance come from <https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/viewReport/3148> under the US #1 Soft White Wheat (Bulk) heading.

How is the winter wheat harvest price determined?

The winter wheat harvest price is calculated from daily prices during the month of August. The daily prices are computed by averaging the midpoints of the ranges of cash prices that AMS reports for August and September deliveries. For example, assume AMS reports the following cash price ranges for August 5: August delivery-\$5.50-\$5.60 per bushel; September -\$5.60-\$5.70 per bushel. The midpoints (\$5.55 and \$5.65) are averaged to derive the August 5 daily price of \$5.60 per bushel.

I am an elevator, and I reported bids to AMS. Are my prices reflected in the AMS prices used to establish the harvest price for crop insurance?

Only bids from participating elevators that export soft white wheat to other countries are reported by AMS. Bids from other elevators are not included, and the harvest prices issued by RMA are not designed to reflect local prices at any particular elevator. It is important to use a price for crop insurance that is designed to be reflective of the market as a whole, and not any single local elevator.

Why don’t the bid prices reported by the AMS match the bids at my local elevator?

Only bids from exporting elevators are reported by AMS. The bid prices of export elevators reflect prices the elevators are willing to pay at the time the prices were reported, for soft white wheat delivered by rail or barge to that elevator. Thus, the harvest price issued by RMA is not designed to reflect local prices at any particular elevator.

Many factors impact individual prices of local elevators. Most prominent are the geographic location of an elevator, which determines how far that elevator may have to ship grain to sell to end users or export elevators, and the means it has to do so (truck, rail, barge), as well as

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the growing conditions that impact wheat production and quality that year. Given all the reasons prices can vary between elevators in a given year, it is important to use a price for crop insurance that is designed to be reflective of the market as a whole and not any single local elevator.

Does RMA plan to adjust the prices reported by AMS in early August higher, since these early prices are lower than prices reported later in the month?

In accordance with the crop policy, RMA will use the values reported by AMS and will not adjust them. ■

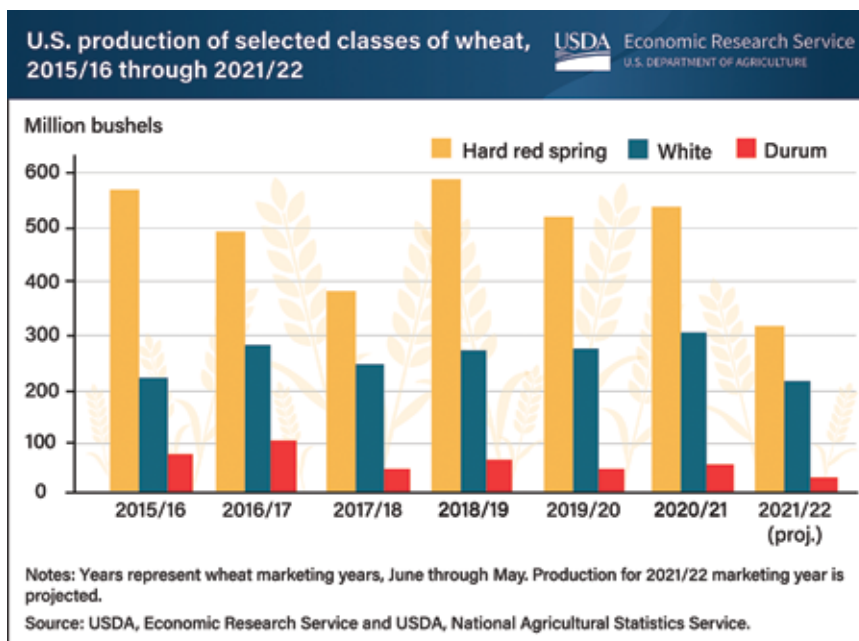
Legislative Action Fund drive

The Washington Association of Wheat Growers' (WAWG) Legislative Action Fund (LAF) helps fund our lobbying efforts. We need your generous contributions to continue to tell wheat's story and advocate on your behalf on issues such as carbon taxes, tax preferences, infrastructure needs and more. If you donate \$20 or more, you'll be put in a drawing for a chance to win some fabulous prizes at our annual meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021. You don't need to be present to win.

We'll have nearly \$1,000 worth of prizes to be awarded, much of them donated by county associations.

If you have already donated \$20 or more to the LAF with your membership renewal form, you will automatically be entered.

LAF donations must be mailed to the WAWG office at 109 E 1st. Ave, Ritzville, Wash., 99169, and received by Nov. 19, 2021. Please include name, address and phone number with all donations. ■



Soft white wheat production down

Widespread drought across the northern and western regions of the U.S. has dampened prospects for projected production and exports in the 2021/22 marketing year of three classes of U.S. wheat: hard red spring, white and durum.

Cultivation of hard red spring wheat, typically the second largest class of U.S. wheat, is concentrated in the northern Plains, where about 99 percent of production is being grown in an area experiencing drought. Harvest of this class is projected to fall 42 percent from the previous year to the lowest level in more than 30 years, while exports are expected to contract to the lowest volume in more than a decade.

U.S. durum production, which is also concentrated in the northern Plains, is projected to fall substantially in the 2021/22 marketing year to the lowest level in 60 years. With the U.S. generally a net importer of durum, larger imports from Canada are expected.

Drought has also affected the Pacific Northwest region, where the majority of U.S. white wheat is produced, resulting in a 29 percent year-to-year decline in production of that class. With white wheat production at the lowest level on record dating back to the 1974/75 marketing year, exports—mainly destined for markets in Asia—are projected down 41 percent from the prior marketing year. ■

Are you 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. ■

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When the original European settlers looked at the countryside east of Spokane, many of them knew farming was possible in the grassy hillsides and desolate scablands. They knew the treeless bunchgrass prairie would support grains. From Benge to Coulee City, the grass enticed newcomers with grit and a few wheat seeds in their pocket.

Early farmers found the volcanic soil in Adams County rich in nutrients, but an arid climate where average rainfall was only nine inches per year made growing most crops difficult, even in moist years, and impossible in dry ones. Wheat, however, can be raised in arid climates and without irrigation.

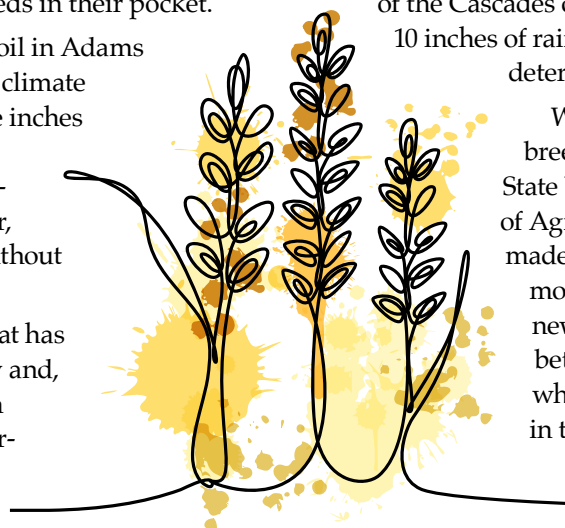
This region is home to a climate that has traditionally been unpredictable, dry and, at times, incredibly harsh. It's known as the Channeled Scablands. This barren desert, with its strange rock formations, deep ravines and towering dry waterfalls, was left behind by a series of devastating floods during the last ice age. The Channeled Scablands extend from the area around Spokane, west to the Columbia River near Vantage and southwest to the Snake River near Pasco.

Volcanic topsoil was left behind in spots along the path of the flood. These spots, among the vast coulee system, became home to some of the most nutrient dense, life-supporting "dirt" in the world. But, it takes more than rich soil to make a haven for dryland, or nonirrigated, farming. It also takes rain. This region sits at the footsteps of the Cascade Mountains, which causes an abrupt division in precipitation in the state.

These mountains create the "rain shadow" effect that traps moisture on the Seattle side of the slopes, while leaving Eastern Washington with large areas of semiarid steppe and a few truly arid deserts. So, how do our farmers grow wheat in this region that technically classifies as a desert? Carefully.

Wheat is a member of the grass family (*Triticum aesti-*

vum), and it originated in the deserts of the Middle East, dating back to Turkey and Iraq. Wheat needs between 12 and 15 inches of rain over a growing season to produce a "good crop," but it can survive on less. This is why many farmers deep in the semiarid desert microclimates east of the Cascades continue to raise wheat on less than 10 inches of rainfall a year. It's a delicate practice of determination and science.



With the continuous research of breeders and scientists at Washington State University and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, improvements have been made over the decades to make wheat more drought tolerant. They've studied new ways for farmers to manage the soil better and increase yields. Semidwarf wheat varieties also helped wheat thrive in the dry country. Semidwarf wheat is a shorter plant with a stronger stalk and takes less time for the plant to grow to the height needed to produce grain. This efficiency made

it possible to grow a better, more efficient crop. New ideas on fertilizer rates, reduced tillage and fallow rotations also make it possible to conserve enough water in the rich soil to make a successful wheat crop in this semiarid desert climate.

For the full story, visit wawheat.org/growing-for-the-future/wheat-in-the-desert ■

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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.

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Harvest 2021



Kaelin Farms, Spokane County.



Harding Farms, Lincoln County.



Poe Farms Inc., Grant County. Photo by Ryan Poe.



(Above) Lasley Heritage (front) and Powers Ranches, Klickitat County. Photo by Mitchell Powers. (Left) Adams County. Photo by Michelle Hennings.



Kiesz Farms Inc., Adams County.



Hennings Farm, Adams County. Photo by Michelle Hennings.



Heathman Hereford Ranch, Grant County.



(Above) Dowling Bros. Inc., Whitman County. (Left) C2S Farms Inc., Asotin County.



Dutch Flat Angus, Garfield County.



(Above) Chad Smith Ranches, Benton County. Photo by Brady Smith. (Below) Knodel & Sons, Adams County. Photo by Kelsey Knodel.



(Above) Adams County. Photo by Michelle Hennings. (Right) Heathman Hereford Ranch, Grant County.





Dingman Farms, Douglas County.



(Above) Heitstuman Farms, Columbia County.
Photo by Brian Heitstuman. (Below) C2S Farms Inc., Asotin County.



Kelley Brothers, Grant County. Photo by Chuck Erickson.



(Above) Gary Bailey LM Farms JV, Whitman County. Photo by Nicole Frazier.
(Left) Cochran Farms, Whitman County.



Knodel & Sons, Adams County. Photo by Kelsey Knodel.



Harding Farms, Lincoln County.



C2S Farms Inc., Asotin County.



(Above) Green View Farms, Spokane County. Photo by Marci Green. (Left) Dutch Flat Angus, Garfield County.





Pierret Inc. Farm, Franklin County. Photo by Martin Pierret.



Kiesz Farms Inc., Adams County.



Kaelin Farms, Spokane County.



Dowling Bros. Inc., Whitman County.



(Above) Harding Farms, Lincoln County. (Right) Lasley Heritage (left) and Powers Ranches, Klickitat County. Photo by Mitchell Powers.





(Above) Dowling Bros. Inc., Whitman County.
(Right) Heathman Hereford Ranch, Grant County.
(Below) Kaelin Farms, Spokane County.



Kiesz Farms Inc., Adams County.





Dingman Farms, Douglas County.



(Above) Benton County. Photo by Nicole Berg.
(Below) Cochran Farms, Whitman County.



Gary Bailey LM Farms JV, Whitman County. Photo by Nicole Frazier.



(Above) Greene Ridge Farms, Asotin County.
Photo by Mark Greene. (Left) Dutch Flat Angus,
Garfield County.



Jack Bobo will speak on disruptions happening in the global food supply chain.



Sara Wyant will zero in on national agriculture issues.



Steve Miller will emcee.

After being canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions last year, the 2021 Tri-State Grain Growers Convention promises to be better than ever.

This year's event is slated for Nov. 30-Dec. 3 at the Davenport Grand Hotel in Spokane, Wash., and is sponsored by the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG), the Oregon Wheat Growers League and the Idaho Grain Producers Association. Besides offering an opportunity to socialize and network, producers will hear state and national policy updates, enjoy top-notch keynote speakers and participate in educational breakout sessions.

"We are excited to be going forward with an in-person convention after more than a year of Zoom meetings," said Michelle Hennings, WAWG executive director. "We've got an outstanding list of speakers lined up that will be both entertaining and informative. We are looking forward to celebrating our industry and defining the policies we'll be working on in the coming year."

While the COVID-19 situation is still fluid, the Idaho, Oregon and Washington wheat organizations are working with the hotel to comply with any requirements that might be in place at the time of the convention. WAWG will provide updates as necessary at wawg.org and in the weekly Greensheet newsletter. Special mailings will be sent out, if necessary. Producers should watch their mailboxes for registration information. In addition, producers can register online at wawg.org/convention/registration/.

Of special interest to WAWG members is the all-committee board meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 1. This is an opportunity for WAWG members to help establish legislative priorities for the coming year, as well as to update WAWG's resolutions. All members are encouraged to attend.

"Our resolutions help direct WAWG's advocacy efforts, so we need to hear from our members as to the direction they'd like us to take," explained Hennings. "We've got some critical issues we'll be addressing this year, including protecting the lower Snake River dams, capital gains taxes and carbon policies. As a member-led organization, we strive to address the issues that are most important to our producers."

Members that can't attend the meeting are welcome to call the WAWG office at (509) 659-0610, and an employee can submit comments on their behalf.

The convention will kick off by zeroing in on national ag issues with veteran farm policy reporter Sara Wyant, president of Agri-Pulse Communications.

Agri-Pulse, the newsletter and website she founded, includes the latest updates on farm policy, commodity and conservation programs, trade, food safety, rural development and environmental and regulatory programs.

Other keynote presenters will include Jack Bobo, who will speak on the disruptions happening in the global food supply chain and explore trends to help companies get ahead of them before they get run over. Hall-of-Fame speaker and former national FFA President Mark Mayfield will focus on the changing face and challenges of agriculture. He'll delve into the need for communication and activism, and why producers have to continue that ag spirit of optimism. See more on Mayfield on page 32. Finally, Eric Snodgrass, principal atmospheric scientist for Nutrien Ag Solutions, will present a weather update and take a look at how high-impact weather events influence global agriculture productivity. See more on Snodgrass on page 38.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has been invited to speak on U.S. Department of Agriculture grower programs.

The annual auction and dinner on Thursday, Dec. 2, will provide a wealth of Christmas shopping opportunities and a chance to support the educational efforts of the three states' industry organizations. Entertainment will be provided by Cara Pascalar (see page 34). If you'd like to donate an item to either the silent or live auction, please contact the Washington Wheat Foundation at (509) 234-5824.

There is an exciting change in store for one of the convention's most popular programs. The 15x40 program offers a free convention registration to 15 Washington state producers under 40 years of age who haven't attended the convention before. For the first time ever, the program will also include lodging costs. A standard room rate will be reimbursed by the Washington Wheat Foundation. Receipt required, and no additional charges will be allowed. This is a first-come, first-served program, and it tends to fill up quickly. Besides a convention registration, if the participant isn't a WAWG member, he or she will get a one-year paid association membership. To register, call the WAWG office at (509) 659-0610.

The annual photo contest is also back with a grand prize of a free registration to the 2022 Tri-State Grain Growers Convention to be held at the Coeur d'Alene Resort in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Nov. 29-Dec. 2, 2022. Winning photos may be used in 2022 marketing materials and will be published in *Wheat Life*, *Oregon Wheat* and *Idaho Grain* magazines. Entries will be displayed throughout the 2021 convention area. Contest is open to convention registrants

only, and photos must have been taken within the last 12 months. Submissions can now be done electronically and should be emailed to lori@wawg.org by noon, Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2021. Please include photographer's name, contact and caption information. For more information, please contact Lori Williams at lori@wawg.org or by phone at (509) 659-0610.

Early bird registration for the Davenport Grand Hotel ends Oct. 29, 2021. The Davenport is located in downtown Spokane, Wash., within walking distance of theaters, art galleries, restaurants and shopping. Guests of the Davenport Grand will have full access to the pools at the company's other properties—The Historic Davenport Hotel and The Davenport Tower. Each has a heated indoor pool and hot tub. Also located at the Historic Davenport Hotel is the Davenport Spa and Salon, a midcity oasis of serenity and well-being. The concierge desk can help arrange transportation (based on availability) to the other properties.

Registration and a complete convention schedule is available on our website at wawg.org/convention/. Here's a closer look at the breakout sessions scheduled for the 2021 convention:

Farm Bill Process and Implementation *Chandler Goule and Jacob Westlin, National Association of Wheat Growers*

As the farm bill debate begins to heat up, NAWG will reflect on how the 2018 Farm Bill implementation has impacted farmers and review the critical issues going into the next reauthorization. The farm bill provides farmers with the certainty and stability they need to continue producing a safe and nutritious food supply. However, once a farm bill is signed into law, the show goes on, and the federal rulemaking process plays a crucial role in implementation.

All About Barley

Experts in the barley industry will take an in-depth look at expanding opportunities for growers in the Pacific Northwest. What are the economic and demographic forces driving demand today? From new opportunities with barley protein concentrate to other barley marketing opportunities and best practices, this session will cover opportunities and advances with barley.

Grain Shipping On Our Rivers *Kristin Meira, Pacific Northwest Waterways Association*

Grain is king when it comes to the commodities that move on the Columbia and Snake rivers. This wide-ranging presentation will feature the latest updates about

infrastructure projects planned for our working rivers, what's really happening on the Snake River and hot topics like the Columbia River Treaty and litigation in the courtroom. Rail and barge shippers alike will find value in this session that affects all Northwest growers.

Wheat Market Outlook

Randy Fortenbery, Washington State University

Dr. Randy Fortenbery's research program focuses on agricultural price performance in local and national markets, as well as the impact of future actions on the stability of cash prices. This session will focus on current market situations for wheat and issues/opportunities for the remainder of the crop year and into 2022.

Embracing What Makes Us UNIQUE. Overlaying Plant Health and Yield Components in the PNW Growing Environment

Cat Salois, The McGregor Co.

2021 was a year of extremes, but should the extremes alter your management plan? In this session, we will take a look at the recent growing season and discuss management decisions and input options moving forward in the unique Pacific Northwest.

Weather the Storm in Agriculture: How to Cultivate a Productive Mindset

Bracken Henderson and Lance Hansen, University of Idaho

Agriculture is a stressful occupation and ranks among the most hazardous industries. Along with the job hazards, farmers and ranchers deal with many other stressors that impact their physical and mental health. We must learn how to manage our stress levels and reduce the effects of unwanted stress. Too much stress can make us more accident-prone, and it can affect our health. We start by learning to identify everyday stressors, recognize how unwanted stress and anxiety affect us personally and take action to manage stress in our own lives and on the farm. Doing these things will make our workplaces safer and improve the quality of our lives.

Financial Planning and the Role of Trust

T. Michael Tallman, Community First Bank/HFG Trust

This session will provide the tools necessary for estate planning and discuss what the role of a trust is in today's environment.

Crop Insurance Panel Discussion

Representatives from the RMA, NCIS and industry

The 2021 crop year underscored the importance of crop insurance, as well as challenges. Join us for this timely and informative discussion on crop insurance, as well as op-

portunities to best position your operation to manage risk.

Cultivating Resilience on the Farm: How to Get Unstuck

Lesley Kelly

Farming throws curveballs at us where we have to weather many storms. We all strive toward a life full of meaning, but when we face the inevitable obstacle, it's how we bounce back that matters. In this presentation, Lesley shares strategies of what resilient people do during hard times and everyday, ordinary strategies that not only helped her overcome a tragedy, but helped her farm bounce back, from being stuck to unstuck.

Exports and Overseas Markets Post-COVID-19

Darren Padgett, U.S. Wheat Associates

U.S. Wheat Associates will discuss how the markets have changed, and how COVID-19 affected how U.S. wheat conducts business, with an emphasis on how to move forward.

Ag and the Proposed Biden Tax Plan

Ryan Janke, Leffel, Otis & Warwick, P.S.

Key highlights of the proposed Biden Administration tax changes and their impact on the ag industry. What is the effect on your operation, and what discussions should begin now in anticipation of the new regulations?

High Prices Cure High Prices. Is it Time to Lock In?

Kevin Duling, KD Investors LLC

In this session, we will go over how to lock in long-term profits using various marketing tools, plus glance at the world market to help make decisions. You won't want to miss this timely and informative discussion.

Regional Research in Support of Developing Carbon Market Opportunities

Chad Kruger, Washington State University

There are many possible soil carbon-based incentive programs or market mechanisms that may emerge in the future that PNW farmers can participate in. However, for our farmers to participate, we need to have some basic information on how our environment, production systems and management practices impact soil carbon. Chad will describe a number of efforts to advance research in the region on the state of agricultural soil carbon.

Agriculture and the Developing Carbon Market Opportunities

Shelby Myers, American Farm Bureau Federation

As agriculture takes on strategies to mitigate climate change, carbon and ecosystem services markets have

emerged as one of the voluntary, market-based incentive options to help with conservation practice adoption. But with so many programs announced and very little information available, it can be difficult to know if this is the right decision for you and your farm. Shelby breaks down the carbon and ecosystem services market landscape as new developments and programs emerge to help you navigate this option.

Looking to the Future: A PNW Variety Testing Panel Discussion

Dr. Kurtis Schroeder and Dr. Juliet Marshall, University of Idaho; Ryan Coombs Graebner, Oregon State University; and Clark Neely, Washington State University

Our land-grant institutions at the University of Idaho, Oregon State University and Washington State University provide growers and the agribusiness industry with comprehensive information on the adaptation and performance of wheat and barley varieties across the vastly different climatic regions of the Pacific Northwest. Join this panel discussion to learn of the research underway, and what lies ahead for the variety testing programs. ■



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Keynote speaker will use humor to talk about stress, mental health

By Trista Crossley

If there's a humorous way to tackle serious matters in agriculture, **Mark Mayfield** is on it.

Mayfield is scheduled to be a keynote presenter at the 2021 Tri-State Grain Growers Convention, Nov. 30-Dec. 3, at the Davenport Grand Hotel in Spokane, Wash. Growers can register for the convention at wawg.org/convention/registration/.

Mayfield is known for his comedy, but the topic he'll be addressing is anything but funny. It's one few farmers like to talk about, but need to.

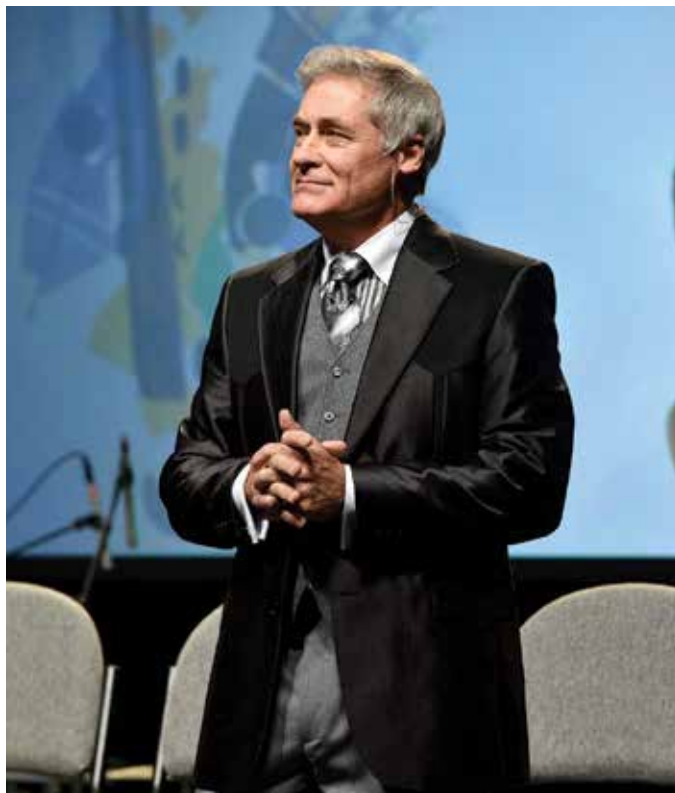
"It's the unrecognized thing that we don't talk about much, the difficulty that exists in agriculture, not just from an economic standpoint, but also from a mental health standpoint," he explained. "It's an issue I became interested in that combined two of my priorities. I've always talked about agricultural challenges, agricultural demands and agricultural changes, and now I'm combining that with stress management and mental health."

Mental health is an important part of making an agricultural operation successful, Mayfield said. His presentation will talk about the significant challenges of agriculture in terms of growers' involvement in government, civic responsibility and increased technology and mirroring it with the mental state that takes its toll on producers in this country.

"It's a subject we've kicked under the rug and kicked down the road for a long time," he added. "It's a very serious, heavy subject, but it'll be presented in a very light-hearted and humorous, yet still respectful, way. It will be fun. I'm too much of an idiot not to share some of my moments in life that make people laugh."

Mayfield has been involved with agriculture his entire life. He was raised on a hog and cattle operation, served as national president of the FFA, taught high school agriculture and lobbied for agriculture in Washington, D.C. He's a familiar face at the Tri-State Grain Growers Convention, having emceed in the past. He said as an emcee, his job is to add a little levity between serious topics rather than addressing those heavy topics himself.

"I could brush on that (heavy) content as an emcee. I could kind of suggest that this is something we need to do, but as a keynoter, I can get more into the subject matter. I can show that I've got more in my quiver than just one arrow," he explained. "I like doing both. In most instances,



I do both, but in this instance, just doing a keynote takes pressure off being emcee. I have more time. In addition to having fun, I can pass along some meat."

Mayfield hopes growers will take away from his presentation the fact they need a financial, spiritual, emotional and technical team, and they need to lean on that team when times are tough. Today's ag producers are much more than just farmers. They are animal scientists, geneticists, chemists, IT specialists, just to name a few, and they have to be more active in promoting agriculture than ever before. As Mayfield said, "there are some scary people out there who have no clue what agriculture is about and would just as soon go back to bucolic little 500-square-foot garden plots" that they think will feed the world.

"I'm excited about coming back," he said. "I know these are extremely challenging times. One thing about agriculture, we are the most resilient group of people on the planet, and we will get through it. I'm not going to tell them anything they don't know, but I'm going to remind them of some stuff they need to be reminded about. Even though I'm not a Washington wheat grower, I'm from Kansas. I've got a good handle on that. These are my folks." ■

WAWG is looking for a few farmers younger than 40 who haven't attended the Tri-State Grain Growers Convention for the

15x40
program.

WAWG will pay for the convention registration of **15** farmers under the age of **40** who have not attended the convention. **NEW in 2021: Lodging is included!*** Available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

*Standard room rate to be reimbursed by the Washington Wheat Foundation. Receipt required. No additional charges allowed.

- If the participant **IS** already a member, this is an opportunity to learn more about WAWG and to hear from experts through the special seminars at convention.
 - If the participant is **NOT** already a member, you will get all of the above, plus a one-year paid membership to WAWG.
-

For more information, please call the WAWG office at 509-659-0610. You may sign up for the program yourself or nominate a fellow grower!



Hitting the right note

Entertainer will bring custom-made musical comedy to 2021 grain convention

By Trista Crossley

The Tri-State Grain Growers Convention offers a chance to learn a few things, meet a few people and enjoy some first-class speakers, all in honor of the region's small grains industry. **Cara Pascalar** knows just the right note to hit to make it all entertaining.

Pascalar is the scheduled entertainment for the 2021 Tri-State Grain Growers Convention dinner and auction on Thursday, Dec. 2. The convention will run Nov. 30-Dec. 3 at the Davenport Grand Hotel in Spokane, Wash. Growers can register for the convention at wawg.org/convention/registration/.

"It's custom-made musical comedy that also honors agriculture and the western lifestyle," Pascalar said, describing her show. "I take well known hits and parody them for the situation. I may even use VIP names or attempt to take the (event) theme, if there is one, and weave it through the show as well."

It goes without saying that Pascalar listens to a lot of music. She says she loves country, but will use all types of music in her show. One of her methods of coming up with new material is to think about the words she wants to use—for example, "grain"—and then think of songs that have rhyming words in them, such as Aretha Franklin's "Chain of Fools."

"I do a lot of writing in my head. I'll usually do a little research about what the industry is going through, and I can usually come up with a decent set of lyrics," she said. "It's fun. I'm thinking about a parody to poke fun at gluten free." She says there are several elements that help make a good parody: you need a hit song; the rhyming needs to be correct and all the syllables need to line up well; there needs to be a juxtaposition of emotion and art, such as singing a ballad about dirt; and you need to know your audience.

Pascalar was raised in Sweet Home, Ore., on an Angus cattle ranch. She was very involved with 4-H and Junior Angus growing up. She comes from a musical family, but



wasn't heavily involved in music through high school.

"I was in choir, but I never really followed that particular passion. Cattle was a bigger passion for me," she said. A chance encounter at the Oregon State University's beef barns (a fellow student heard her singing a Patsy Cline song) ended with her singing in a country western band for a few years. After college, Pascalar became an ag teacher, moving several times before ending up in Montana where her husband managed a ranch. She became active in community theater.

"One thing very special about Montana is how there tends to be a community theater in many small towns," she said. "Montanans appreciate theater."

Her experience with community theater led her and a close friend, also an ag teacher, to start their own, two-women show, *Suds and Suds*. The duo spent seven years touring regionally, then gradually moved more into providing entertainment at industry parties.

"That was great for developing chops but also learning to write for an audience," she said. "I was doing a lot of shows for stockman, cattlemen and Farm Bureau because that's who I was."

Eventually, Pascalar returned to Oregon and started her own entertainment company, *Cara Bout Ag*, that focuses on entertaining ag groups. When she's not performing, she's the ag teacher in Enterprise, Ore.

"I'm thrilled to honor the grit, hard work, determination and blood, sweat and tears that my ranchers and farmers put in every year," she said. "Farming feels more and more thankless every year, not just in the public opinion, but monetarily as well. If long-standing ranchers and farmers aren't cash flowing in the U.S., something is really wrong. My heart goes out to that situation. Not only is it going to affect the food supply, but I think even more poignantly, it takes farmers and ranchers out of communities and society at large. We need those people to keep us grounded."

You can find Pascalar on Facebook at @CaraBoutAg. ■

PHOTO CONTEST

We want to see your photos of scenic farm life! The grand prize will be a free registration to the 2022 Tri-State Grain Growers Convention to be held at the Coeur d'Alene Resort in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Nov. 29-Dec. 2, 2022.

2019 winner, Judy von Borstel
of Grass Valley, Ore.



Winning photos may be used in 2022 marketing materials and may be published in *Wheat Life*, *Oregon Wheat* and *Idaho Grain* magazines. Entries will be displayed throughout the 2021 convention. Contest is open to convention registrants only. Photos must have been taken within the last 12 months.

Submissions should be emailed to lori@wawg.org by noon, Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2021. Please include photographer's name, contact and caption information.

For more information, contact Lori Williams by phone at 509-659-0610 or by email at lori@wawg.org.

2021

TRI-STATE
Grain Growers Convention





Nov. 30-Dec. 3, 2021

**Davenport Grand
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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.



Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack has been invited!



Jack Bobo, keynote

The global food supply chain is undergoing the greatest disruptions in the last hundred years. From COVID-19 to climate change and ever-changing consumer demands, it has never been more difficult, nor more crucial for businesses to understand these changes and how they impact their bottom line. This presentation will explore trends to help companies get ahead of them before they get run over.

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 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., with entertainment by Cara Pascalar. Social hour starts at 5:30 p.m. Donation forms can be found at wawg.org.





November 30 -
December 3, 2021
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***Note: FULL Convention Registration includes Wednesday, Thursday & Friday meetings and all meals.**

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Please Indicate All that apply:

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Forecast for fall

ATMOSPHERIC SCIENTIST SEES CHANCE FOR ABOVE-NORMAL PRECIPITATION THROUGH REST OF YEAR

By Trista Crossley

After one of the driest crop years on record, can Pacific Northwest growers expect an equally dry fall? Eric Snodgrass doesn't think so.

"When we look at the longer-range models and when we look at what's going on out in the Pacific Ocean, there are no strong signals suggesting we will have a drier October/November," he said. "What's helping that along is there is a La Niña redeveloping in the central Pacific. When we look back over the last 70 years, we have a much better chance of having above-normal precipitation through the front half of winter if there is a La Niña evolving. Generally speaking, that will be good for the winter wheat sowing. That will also help the crop germinate and get going before dormancy. There's a pretty positive vibe overall about what this upcoming fall is going to look like."

Snodgrass is the principal atmospheric scientist for Nutrien Ag Solutions. He produces a weekly weather update video for Northwest Farm Credit Services that focuses on the Pacific Northwest. Those videos can be found at northwestfcs.com/en/Resources/weather-insights. He also offers daily weather updates; growers can sign up for those at info.nutrien.com/snodgrass_weather.

In the Pacific Northwest, La Niñas—they usually happen in pairs—typically bring increased snow to the mountains. A La Niña develops when central Pacific Ocean temperatures are cooler than normal. Last winter's La Niña was considered a moderate one. For this winter, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) gives an 80 percent probability that a weak La Niña will develop, meaning it will have less of an influence on the jet stream.

"You can have years where you see cold ocean temperatures, but the atmosphere doesn't behave like it's a La Niña," Snodgrass explained. "I would say this means the likelihood of us having a really cold and really snowy winter, which is what often happens with

La Niña, is minimized a little bit. But there's no indication that we are going to have a major drought. That's important as well."

Growers in Eastern Washington got a little relief from the drought in September. According to the National Weather Service, through Sept. 20, the Spokane area had received .68" of rain. The Pullman area had received .44"; the Ritzville area .18"; Davenport area .45"; Asotin area .31"; Wilbur area .67"; and Prosser .47".

But even with the September rain, seeding conditions around Ritzville stink, according to Aaron Esser, Washington State University Extension director for Adams County.

"Around Ritzville, they are getting some stuff up, but you don't have to go too far west of Ritzville where they aren't going to seed until it rains or they are forced to by crop insurance," he said, adding that while the September rain was welcome, it created crusting problems for some growers who had already seeded.

At the Lind Dryland Research Station southwest of Ritzville, Station Director Bill Schillinger said this was the fourth driest crop year (Sept. 1 through Aug. 31) in the station's 106-year history.

"Seeding conditions are really rough," he said. "We haven't planted anything but winter peas at Lind. Neighbors haven't planted much around us. Mostly what I'm seeing is farmers who haven't seeded at all or those that have tried and quit."

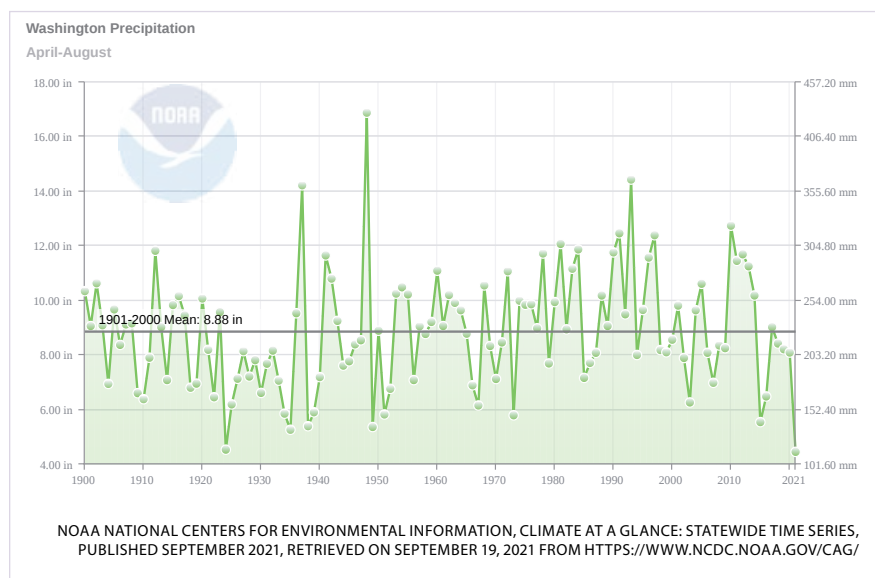
Schillinger said anything that has been planted was planted extremely deep to try to reach moisture, and he expects to see a fair bit of reseeded happening.

Conditions aren't any better in the Palouse and southeast Washington. Stephen Van Vleet, regional Extension specialist based in Colfax, said farmers are anxious to get planting after getting some moisture.

"I don't think that's a very good idea," he said, explaining that the amount of rain (so far) isn't enough to meet up with

"...There is a La Niña redeveloping in the central Pacific. When we look back over the last 70 years, we have a much better chance of having above-normal precipitation through the front half of winter if there is a La Niña evolving. Generally speaking, that will be good for the winter wheat sowing. That will also help the crop germinate and get going before dormancy. There's a pretty positive vibe overall about what this upcoming fall is going to look like."

—Eric Snodgrass



any existing moisture that is 8 to 10 inches below the surface. That dry zone could leave the seed vulnerable to disease.

Wheat farmers are facing a crop insurance planting deadline of Oct. 31. Any wheat planted after that date is ineligible for crop insurance, so if they must, farmers will “dust” the seed in and wait for rain, Schillinger said.

“The late-planted wheat always does worse than early planted. It’s all a matter of when you get the crop established,” he said. “If fall rains start by mid-October and they keep coming, farmers can plant at a shallow depth and go for it. The sooner you get established, the better you are. Any delays in plant stand establishment will reduce grain yield potential.”

Van Vleet has done studies in the Palouse that show a yield loss tendency in wheat planted after Oct. 15. The decision when to plant could come down to weighing a potential yield loss against reseeding costs if the wheat is planted and disease or crusting issues occur.

“Reseeding 5,000 acres is more expensive than losing a few bushels of yield,” he said. “It’s tricky. If they keep getting moisture, they’ll be fine. If not, they won’t.”

But even if Eastern Washington gets the average fall precipitation at the normal time, farmers won’t be out of the woods yet. The hot, dry summer has left the soil bone dry.

“We are way down (in soil moisture). Three to four inches down over average. That’s really tough to make up,” Esser said.

What happened in 2021?

Talk to the old-timers, and you’ll hear them say it hasn’t been this dry since 1977. According to NOAA, March-August of 2021 ranks as the second driest period on record in Washington since 1895. But last spring, very few people, including Snodgrass, thought the available data predicted a drought.

“We were not expecting the events that really took shape in June that lasted into early August to be quite as pronounced as they were,” he said. “That was actually quite anomalous and rare given that ocean temperatures

Snodgrass to revisit weather at convention

Want to hear more long-term weather predictions from **Eric Snodgrass**? The principal atmospheric scientist for Nutrien Ag Solutions will be appearing as a

keynote speaker at the 2021 Tri-State Grain Growers Convention, Nov. 30 to Dec. 3, at the Davenport Grand Hotel in Spokane, Wash.



In his presentation, Snodgrass will discuss long-term weather trends, the La Niña and some of the systemic weather changes growers need to be aware of. He will also take growers on a bit of a global tour, looking at what’s happening in other wheat-growing regions around the world.

To Snodgrass, the weather is a math problem that he gets to solve every day with immediate feedback.

“I predict that it’s going to do this, and tomorrow, I know if it did it or not,” he explained. “The thing that is challenging about what I do is that I live constantly in the future, and predicting the future isn’t easy. Sometimes, people aren’t very forgiving when you can’t predict it accurately, but the reality of accurately predicting the weather with skill, which means you repeatedly have accuracy, beyond about seven to 10 days...it just doesn’t exist. We can’t do that. The nature of the beast is we are attempting to predict something that doesn’t want to be predicted.”

Visit wawg.org/convention/ for more information and to register. ■

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were still cool off the coast, and there was quite a bit of warm water in the north Pacific. But the atmosphere just preferred a massive ridge over the Northwest. It got very hot and very dry, and the fire season started early. It was a rough go of it this summer.”

Snodgrass said the drought conditions were set up by a self-sustaining ridge in the jet stream that parked itself over the Pacific Northwest and created a heat dome. That ridge pushed moisture away from the Pacific Northwest, the northern Plains and the Canadian prairie and into the Midwest. The ridge didn't start breaking down until mid-August.

“I told the Canadians this spring that if we do see a southwestern ridge develop, you tend to get lots of storms that run around the edge of it. But it wasn't a southwestern ridge; it was a northwestern ridge. It pushed everything out of the way, and the net effect was pretty nasty,” he said. Wheat and barley yields throughout the region suffered. Unfortunately, that extreme weather may become less of a freak occurrence and more of a regular event.

In a study published in 2018, researchers looked at 70 years' worth of data and concluded that there is a higher probability that we'll see more of these type of ridges over the Northwest in the future. Snodgrass' own research backs that up. He said there's been approximately 3 degrees F of warming in the Northwest during the warm season since 1950.

“That means that we've kind of shifted the base state a little bit, so it tends to favor more of these kind of extreme events when they do happen,” he explained. “It doesn't mean it won't get cold ever again, and it certainly doesn't mean it will stop raining. It just tends to say we have better chance of having those kind of events occurring. It's something, in any given year, you may not get the full effect of, but when you look over a decade or two or three decades, there's a trend there that we can't ignore. The net effect is these changes need to be understood. They need to be observed, and we need to make sure that we have adaptation practices and mitigation practices in place so it doesn't get to an unsustainable point.” ■



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A 'dam' different view of the Snake River

A few years ago, when I purchased my Ranger Tug, I started dreaming about the places I could visit beyond where roads and airplanes could take me! The breaching of the Snake River dams is in almost every *Wheat Life* issue. As a farm ground owner, I am quite familiar with the Snake and its valuable assets, such as transportation of goods and services and power generation. I'm concerned a few people may get their way and breach these dams, so I offer a different perspective that few people get to experience—a trip by boat on the Snake River.

In 2020 with my sweetie, Gayle (aka deckhand), we load my 150 hp diesel motor tug, Ruby Rose, with 80 gallons of fuel, 30 gallons of water, food, drinks and just about anything else we might need and head to Boyer Park and Marina.

While launching Ruby Rose, I always get a few people admiring the boat. It often takes longer to launch because of it, but I see it as an opportunity to pick other people's brains for tips on the unknown. And this trip is no exception! First tip, Little Goose Bay is the biggest and most protected bay on the entire trip. We shove off and begin our adventure.

Just a couple of miles from the ramp, all boats disappear. The miles roll by at our cruising speed of 12 knots. Thirty miles later, as we pull into Little Goose Bay; we see some of our new friends. Back at Boyer Park and Marina, they promised us a cold beer after dinner, and we gladly accepted the offer as it was a constant 103-104 degrees all day. Fortunately, Little Goose Bay is a deep canyon that offers shade by 7 p.m. After a couple of well wishes, river information and exchanged phone numbers, we motor back to our boat in our dingy for a night's rest.

We sleep in as the cool morning breeze blows through the boat. I realize that we have six miles to get to Little Goose Dam for our 9:30 lock time, and it's 9 a.m. I don't think we can make it in time, and I'm right! The locks are not "on demand" for pleasure craft, but stick to a schedule of 6 a.m., 9 a.m., 12 p.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. upstream and 30 minutes later downstream. So, we wait for three long hours in the blistering heat. We take quick dips, hanging on to the swim ladder so the current doesn't take us on a journey of no return. It's surprising how cold the



By Rod Heimbigner
(shown with his significant other, Gayle Anderson)

river is in the very last days of July, even in the pools.

We pass through the gate and slip down the river, listening to our favorite music and pausing every 45 minutes to cool down with a quick dip. I putter along at six knots, letting the auto pilot take us through the canyons and cliffs, past barging facilities and an occasional farm. A few hours later, we pull into the marina at Lyons Ferry. We love to support local businesses, and we do our part by having lunch and ice cream before we head to an inlet on the other side. This is where

the Palouse River enters the Snake River. It's windy and choppy from all the boats pulling wake boarders, surfers and skiers. We take a long nap and get rocked to sleep in the heat, but when we get up, they're still out there. We look for better place to anchor and see one just east of us. By 8:30 p.m., the boats finally thin out, bringing peace, quiet and dinner. The peacefulness is unmatched while you are on the water during the evening hours. It reminds me of harvest, when the last piece of equipment shuts down, and you can hear your neighbor talk a mile away.

The next day, we decide to quickly make it to the Tri-Cities, watching for places to stay on the trip back. Lake Sacajawea, behind Ice Harbor Dam, is the only pool where we consistently see lots of recreational boaters. The river below Ice Harbor is unlike the rest of the river. It is very shallow with a dredged depth of only 14 feet and a width of 200 feet, just enough for two barges to pass. Once we enter the Columbia, though, we are impressed with the amount of water flowing through. A good current of three knots, an average depth of 30 feet and 3,000 feet across!

We pull into the Port of Kennewick on Clover Island and call friends we met when we launched. We have takeout at their place—its COVID season. We were going to spend a couple of nights at Clover Island, but found it too noisy with people and their big, loud boats. So, the next morning, we head back up the river to Fish Hook Park. At Ice Harbor Dam, we share a lock with a small barge. The captain radios us and asks us to move forward in case anything goes wrong. Wondering what could go wrong, I move as instructed.

The campground at Fish Hook Park is closed while the park is being remodeled. We tie up to the tippy, goose

dropping-covered dock for the night. We thought we had it to ourselves, not even thinking about the wildlife that has taken over. We even have a raccoon stop by the boat for snack while we sleep. At 1 a.m., I carefully shoo him out. I'm sure he left with a gut ache as two pounds of cherries, three avocados, two candy bars, one apple, a few stick of chewing gum and two cinnamon rolls are gone! Note to self—do not leave the cabin door open at night.

The next morning, we head towards Lower Monumental Dam. Since we are the only boat entering the lock, I took the first bollard, which is next to where the water enters the lock for filling. This presents us with the only hair-raising event for the entire trip. These locks were primarily constructed for barges and tugs, not recreational craft. In the locks, you are required to be attached, but not securely tied, to the floating bollards. That way, if the bollard hangs up in its channel, you simply let go of the line. That's important, because if you can't release your boat from the bollard, it will lift your craft out of the water or drag it under. We are talking about 100 feet of lift, and the locks average about 85 by 700 feet, so there is huge amount of water rushing in. Our problem is the inward rushing water. We're going up about four feet every 10 seconds, and the boiling water pushes us away from the wall. We are trying to maintain our position with a stern line and the bow thruster, but the bow keeps getting further away from the wall. I yell to Gayle to release the bollard, but it's noisy, and she can't hear me. She can't hold on, and the line gets stripped through her hands, giving her some minor rope burns. Now we are free floating, crosswise, in a whirling blender and moving rapidly for the other wall. I back the boat towards the wall we've just left. I know I must turn the boat parallel with the lock, but that's not easy. The lock sure seems a lot narrower than 85 feet. My length is about 28 feet. It



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is a crazy combination of forward, reverse and side to side thrusters. Now I know what that barge captain back at Ice Harbor meant by “go wrong.”

Behind this dam, we notice several irrigated farming operations near the water. I thought these farmers were crazy to farm corn in such a remote location, taking water away from the salmon! We always try to anchor somewhere we can get off the boat and go for a walk, so we pull into a bay near these farms.

After dinner, we climb into our dingy and paddle over to a small dock. As we step onto land, we get it! These are wildlife areas created by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers! It’s amazing to see all the effort and money put into areas like this along the river. We hear a big diesel generator purring, pumping water into sprinkler heads; there are nearly 100 circles. Many of the circles have trees planted in them, and where there is some soil, there is field corn. There is abundant wildlife here.

The rest of the trip back is uneventful.

In retrospect, it really surprises me how many barges were on the river, confirming that the rivers in the Pacific Northwest are working rivers. And we need every last bit of hydropower the dams produce. I realize that if the dams were removed, it would be a mecca for jet boats roaring up and down the river or...maybe just kayakers. But that would be very few people indeed, as there is little public access to the river. I have often said that environmentalists want to lock things up so tight that the only ones who have access to the river are the able-bodied enthusiasts. Fortunately, now it is very accessible, whether you have your own boat or take a river cruise in a wheelchair. I highly recommend you get to know your backyard, down the river! ■

Rod Heimbigner grew up on his family's farm in Ritzville. He was a certified crop advisor for The McGregor Company before retiring from LifeFlight Network. Gayle Anderson spent nearly 30 years on a farm near Genesee, Idaho, and is a ag advocate/lifestyle writer through her blog at www.swheatfarmlife.net. She retired from Washington State University and writes for Home and Harvest magazine.



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What's better than one job? Four!

Stacey Timm Rasmussen, Farmer's Daughter Photography

By Kevin Gaffney

When you meet **Stacey Rasmussen**, a few things quickly become clear. She is a true Type-A personality, she likes to keep busy, and she is quite adept at handling many tasks simultaneously. One of her mottoes is "why have one job when you can have four?"

Raised on the family farm west of Harrington, Wash., Rasmussen graduated from Harrington High School in 1999. Not envisioning a career in agriculture, she earned her bachelor's degree in communications from Eastern Washington University (EWU) in 2003. Her first employment following college was as the club program manager for the Inland Northwest Council of Camp Fire USA.

"It was enjoyable work, and it fit my career goal of working in the nonprofit field," said Rasmussen. "It was a good fit for my first employment after college."

During this time, Rasmussen decided to further her education and began taking night classes at Gonzaga University.

While still with Camp Fire USA, Rasmussen went on a blind date, encouraged by a couple of friends. Sparks flew, and within about a year, she was married to Lance Rasmussen. He was employed by Air Electric in Spokane, and they lived in Fairfield for several years.

The opportunity came for a new position for Rasmussen with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. She joined them as the marketing and events manager in the Spokane office in 2007. Farmer's Daughter Photography was launched that same year.

"It wasn't something that I had really planned to do," explained Rasmussen. "I had developed an interest in photography when I went on a tour of France in high school. I had taken some good photos, but it wasn't until later, when my father-in-law gave me a high-quality digital camera, that I really began to become more deeply involved. I started taking pictures of friends and doing some scenic and landscape photography. My client list began to grow, and I realized it was a business opportunity, not just an artistic one. I decided I wanted a unique name for my business, and one day, Farmer's Daughter Photography just came to mind."

The year 2009 was a prodigious one for the Rasmussens. Her father, Don Timm, was losing his full-time hired hand, and there was a critical opening on the family farm. He reached out to Stacey and Lance about the possibility of coming home to the farm.



"We had to give it strong consideration, and after deciding to give it a trial period to see if it would work, we moved to Harrington just in time for harvest," recalled Rasmussen. "I guess we figured if Lance could make it through harvest and seeding season, it was a good fit."

Even though Lance had not grown up on a farm, the experiment was successful, and he quickly fit into the operation.

Rasmussen completed her master's degree in communication and leadership from Gonzaga in 2011.

"Ironically, my thesis was on farm communication amid succession. That wasn't my original plan, but it worked out well," she said. "I guess we haven't tested all the facets of my thesis yet, as dad is still in the process of moving toward retirement. But our move back to the farm was absolutely the right decision."

Shortly after relocating to Harrington, Rasmussen was hired as manager of the Odessa Public Development Authority. Her educational training and skills made her a

natural for that position.

"I loved that work," noted Rasmussen. "I learned a lot about the public sector process, especially grants and public projects. I had the opportunity to work with many folks in the Odessa business and farming community. It was very rewarding."

Rasmussen held that position from 2012 until 2019, when she had to resign to provide full-time home care for a family member.

With all her irons in the fire, Rasmussen doesn't have a problem with a lot of extra free time. Along with being president of Westside Farms, she also is the main parts runner. She will drive harvest truck if needed. She also handles the bookkeeping, writes the checks and pays all the bills. She was a little bit coy when asked who the boss was on the farm.

"I just do what I'm told," Rasmussen said with a sly grin. "Or do I just tell everyone else what to do? I guess it depends on what day it is. I do make a lot of the decisions, but we're all part of the same team."

Rasmussen teaches adult education classes for Spokane Community College.

"It's a part-time position teaching people how to use computers and

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other digital technology. Most of the students are over 50 years of age. In the time of COVID-19, it has been much more challenging, trying to teach folks how to use a computer in a Zoom meeting format, when they barely know how to turn their computers on. It really is rewarding when students have that light-bulb-coming-on experience when you are working with people who have no technology experience."

Farmer's Daughter Photography helps keep her busy, but she has no plans to make it a full-time job. Her website has several categories for different photography assignments. She even has an "Unveiled Beauty" section for more intimate images.

"I take a lot of family portraits, especially in the fall season. I'm happy to book sessions for graduation pictures and other family events. My favorite work is landscapes and scenic photography. I don't do weddings, but I'm happy to refer couples to several other photographers who are very good at shooting weddings.

"I think everyone should feel beautiful or handsome, and I strive to make both women and men feel self-confidence during their photo shoots. It is a growing part of my business. For scenic photo opportunities, I love finding areas that I have not traveled before. There are still a lot of roads in Lincoln County I haven't explored. I am always very careful not to trespass on private property. That is very important to me."

In addition to all of that, Rasmussen serves on the board of the Washington Wheat Foundation and as president of the EWU Alumni Board. She also serves on the Harrington Library Board. Rasmussen has traveled as far away as Texas for photography assignments. She feels fortunate that her husband is not uncomfortable with

her traveling alone for her work when necessary.

The Rasmussens have two children, Smoke and Ember, their two labradors.

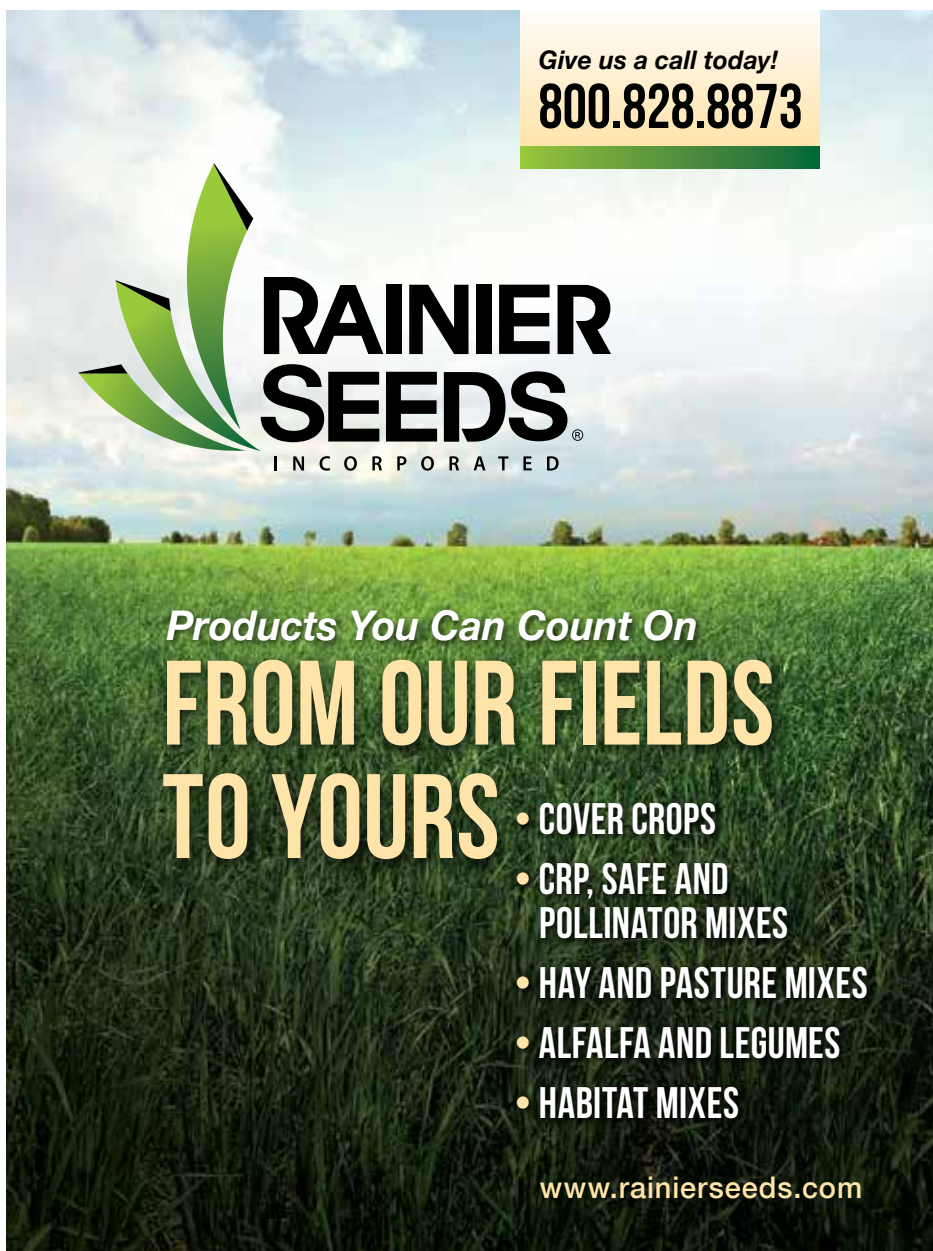
"I'm a dog mom, and our dogs are a big part of my life," she said.

Looking forward, her father plans to ease out of the day-to-day operation of the farm and hand over more of the responsibilities to Lance and Stacey.

"We will eventually move from town onto the farm," said Rasmussen. "Dad is preparing to transition into retirement, but there is no rush. Like everything else, we will do that as a team."

For an example of Rasmussen's work, one need look no further than the cover of this month's magazine.

For more details about Rasmussen's business, visit her website at farmersdaughterphoto.com. ■



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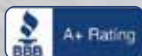
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CHAIRMAN

WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION

By Mike
Carstensen



Grandpa Henry always said don't count the bushels until they're in the bin. If your harvest was anything like mine, you don't have to count too high. In years like this, we all have massive paperwork to swim through for submitting insurance claims. I'm thankful to have the option of crop insurance. It's not hard to imagine the challenges to make ends meet without it.

The heat and drought this year put into stark relief the importance of programs like crop insurance and disaster programs, as well as the importance of the education and marketing work the Washington Grain Commission (WGC) does on behalf of Washington farmers. I wish I could say through research we've perfected the drought gene in our wheats, however, we're not there yet. Serving on the commission and serving as your commission chairman has given me a bird's-eye view of this work.

Recently, I had the opportunity to join a tour that was coordinated by a group of agriculture and waterways organizations, including the Washington State Potato Commission, along with the WGC and the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG). The event brought elected officials from all over our state to the Snake River to see and experience the lock on Ice Harbor Dam near the Tri-Cities.

Roughly 60-65 percent of Washington's wheat is shipped by barge on the Columbia-Snake River System, so the river transportation that the dams make possible is a critical element that carries the food we grow to markets around the world in an economical, efficient and environmentally sensitive manner. The boat ride through the lock allowed us to see this critical component in action and learn more about how the dams and salmon can coexist. It was eye-opening to see.

Most importantly, this tour gave me an opportunity to connect with some of our state's key elected officials who serve on the transportation, energy, rural development and many more of our state's policy committees. These legislators may not serve in your district, but they certainly have influence on our state's policies regarding our local ag programs, as well as transportation on roads and waterways.

These types of educational events are critical to ensuring our representatives understand the importance of having transportation options. For some of the state legislators, it was their first opportunity to see a dam in person, while some were very familiar with them. It was

good to see a high level of interest and engagement from all the tour attendees.

Over the course of my years in farming, leadership opportunities like serving as a commissioner for the WGC have given me the chance to learn and grow professionally, to leverage what I've learned to help make our farming practices more efficient and to advocate for the tools and resources made available from state and federal programs. I've been able to be an ambassador for agriculture, representing my district, state and the Pacific Northwest region.

I can say I'm honored to serve the ag industry through the WGC board of commissioners. The great thing is, there's plenty of opportunities for others to have these experiences, too. I am only one of seven producer representatives on the board, appointed by the director of the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA), from the five wheat and two barley districts that represent each grain-producing region in Washington. There's also two industry representative positions. This year, there are four producer commissioner positions up for reelection: wheat districts 2, 3 and 5 and barley district 6. If you're not sure what district your farm is in, you can check the website map at bit.ly/2UL0P5L. Each position is appointed for a three-year term.

Producers interested in serving on the commission should fill out the nomination letter that was mailed from WSDA at the end of September. For producers in districts 2, 3, 5 and 6, if you did not receive this letter, ask your grain dealer/handler how they are reporting your county of production to the WGC. Nominations are due to WSDA postmarked by Oct. 11.

If there is more than one nominee for the district, advisory ballots are mailed out by the WSDA and are due back by Nov. 25. Even if you do not submit a nomination, if you receive a ballot, please take the time to fill it out. Your district commissioner represents your interests in the grain industry.

I hope you consider stepping up to volunteer in a leadership position at some point in your farming career. Even if it's not with the WGC, there are organizations like WAWG and others with leadership opportunities that need volunteers to give a voice to the wheat industry and a much-needed producer perspective to the policymakers, legislators and agencies that have such an influence on our everyday farming practices. ■

Promoting the best grains

COMMISSION WORKS TO MAINTAIN DEMAND FOR WASHINGTON GRAINS IN GOOD, BAD YEARS

By Glen Squires

CEO, Washington Grain Commission

Our mission, to enhance the long-term profitability and competitiveness of Washington small grains, rests on the three pillars of research, marketing and education. Part of our marketing efforts involve focusing our research and education materials on those at the end of the “grain chain,” the people and companies who use the flour made from the wheat predominantly grown in the Pacific Northwest (PNW). Since roughly 90 percent of Washington’s wheat is exported, we work with U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) to identify, target and then maintain relationships with these importers on behalf of Washington farmers.

The U.S., and especially the PNW, has a reputation for producing the highest-quality grains every year. This consistency, year after year, has become an important factor in maintaining loyal import customers. The world has come to rely on Washington’s wheat.

Why market development matters

With slim beginning stocks and yields down in the PNW, other parts of the world are having bumper crops this year. Companies who have made purchases in prior years may look to other regions to fill their supply needs.

“In the past year, soft white has become the most expensive wheat coming to countries in Southeast Asia. Meanwhile, this region remains under severe COVID-19-related lockdowns that are decimating disposable incomes,” Joseph Sowers said. Sowers is the USW regional vice president for South and Southeast Asia. “Freight prices are also much higher, helping increase landed soft white prices in the region to more than double levels seen a year ago. Consumers can’t pay more for products, and governments are encouraging millers to keep prices stable.”

At the same time, protein content in the soft white harvest is running at 11.3 percent versus the five-year average of 9.8 percent.

“The elevated protein levels will have significant im-

pacts on soft white millers, requiring them to revise purchasing and milling practices to produce flour that meets their customers’ requirements,” Sowers said. He has been a presenter and key logistical coordinator for some of the market development activities the Washington Grain Commission (WGC) has been involved in this year. Market development activities, especially in a challenging year like this one, play a key role in maintaining and increasing understanding of how to leverage soft white in all kinds of products.

“For many end-product manufacturers, especially those making biscuits and cakes, there really aren’t any substitutes for U.S. soft white,” Sowers said.

So, if our goal is to provide the world’s best grains, what happens in a year of unprecedented drought and record-setting heat that makes providing the “best” seem, well, almost impossible?

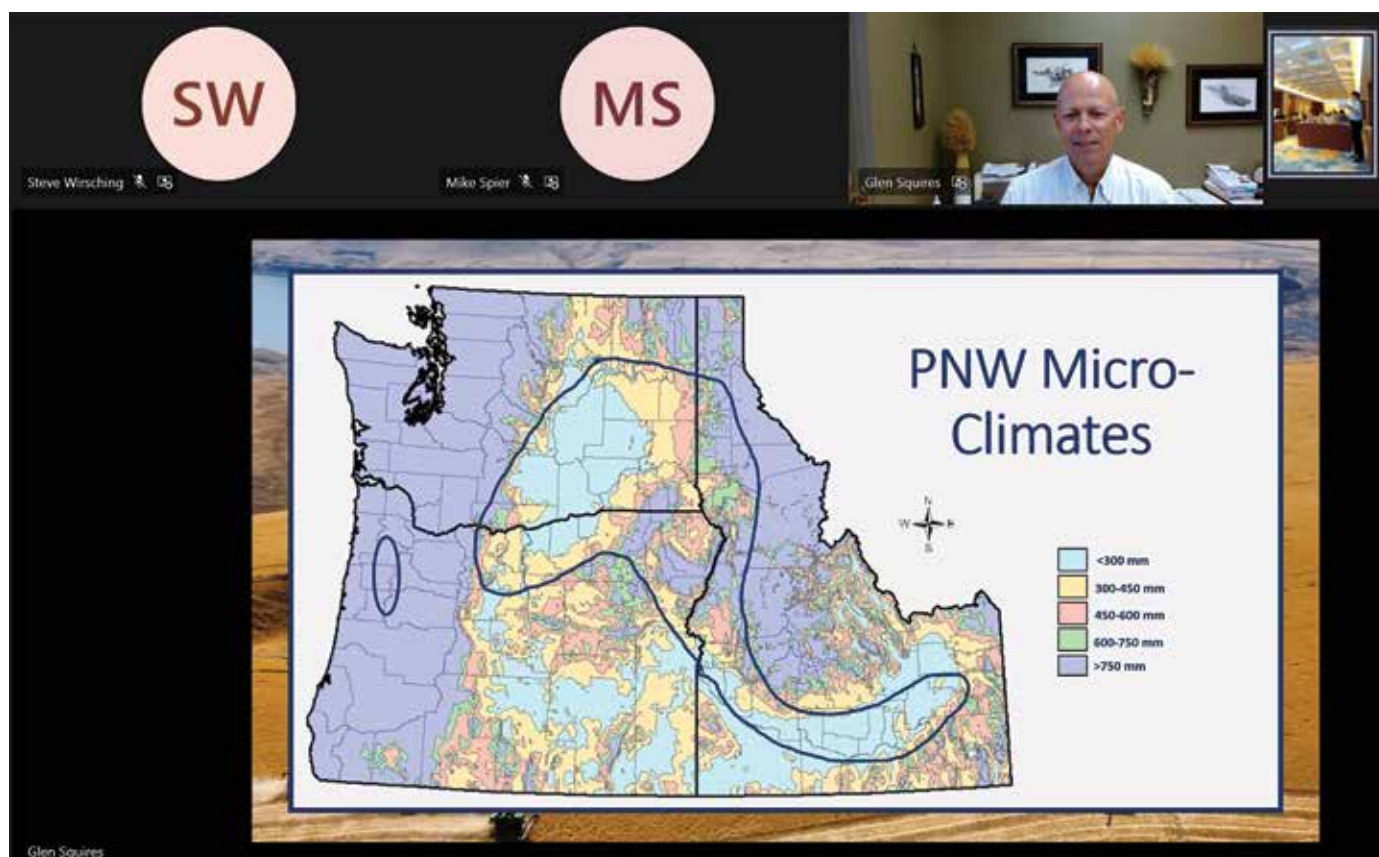
The good news—even in a bad year, PNW grain is still some of the best in the world. Our producers are second-to-none when it comes to incorporating customer feedback to improve crop quality, water conservation, chemical reduction and soil health. And there are tools our milling and baking customers can use to maintain the end-use quality they have come to rely on.

USW is committed to support the industry by responding to the many challenges faced this year through providing the most timely, transparent and comprehensive information possible. It is important that buyers understand why substituting wheat from other countries for high-quality soft white wheat from the PNW may impact the quality of their products.

The WGC has been an active partner in these activities.

Promoting the world’s best grains

With no overseas travelers visiting the PNW, the WGC worked with the Idaho and Oregon wheat commissions to provide current information regarding crop conditions and development—and other aspects of the industry—during USW webinars and events throughout the year. Our main message on these presentations to Japan,



Glen Squires, Washington Grain Commission CEO, provides a Pacific Northwest overview and crop update during the China Contracting for Wheat Value event on July 27.

Taiwan, Korea, China, the Philippines, South Asia and Latin American buyers is that drought and heat impact protein and supply.

In June, for example, the Washington, Idaho and Oregon wheat commissions and USW hosted the Soft White Wheat Quality Summit virtual program for Asia buyers over two days. Last held in 2008, this meeting brought together more than 220 participants, including breeders, end-use quality managers, millers and commercial bakers from several North and South Asia markets to learn from each others' needs and capabilities. We heard an overview of the market and quality requirements for sponge cake from Nisshin Flour Mills. Nisshin is one of the four largest flour milling companies in Japan, and we later hosted a team from the company's North America operations for an in-person crop quality tour across Washington, Idaho and Oregon this August.

The summit provided very good content and video of WSU breeding facilities and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Research Service Western Wheat Quality Lab (WWQL). WSU's Dr. Arron Carter and USDA's Dr. Craig Morris gave good presentations on the complexities of breeding and extensive quality analysis at the WWQL that enhances the breeding

line development. Market representatives from overseas provided discussion on needs for soft white wheat for their respective markets and end products. The unique versatility of soft white wheat in satisfying the needs of a myriad of products became abundantly clear. When it comes to soft white, one comment often heard from end users is, "we like the quality. Don't let it become degraded."

This kind of country-by-country and even buyer-by-buyer feedback is critical to informing the future direction of our WGC-funded research and wheat-breeding programs. USW's Vice President and West Coast Director Steve Wirsching provided an excellent overview of how using Solvent Retention Capacity (SRC) really can be a better way to determine end use beyond protein. Oregon producer and USW Chairman Darren Padgett provided closing remarks, including crop conditions in the PNW from a producer perspective.

This event showcased one of the stars of Washington's wheat lineup (soft white) and helped us maintain connections with millers and bakers from Korea, Taiwan, the Philippines, Japan, China, Indonesia and Thailand. Collectively, this group accounted for 71 percent of our region's soft white exports last year. And accord-

ing to USW, millers in South and Southeast Asia account for nearly half of global soft white wheat sales annually.

In July, the WGC joined the Wheat Marketing Center and USW for the China Contracting for Wheat Value Workshop. Over three days, participants learned about the world and U.S. wheat supply and demand. Wirsching gave a U.S. wheat market overview, including using the USW Crop Quality Report as a guide to wheat quality specifications. Brian Liedl, WGC commissioner and United Grain Corp. director of merchandising, provided an excellent overview with a lot of detail on the market and current situation from an exporter's perspective. I provided a crop update on soft white and conditions leading to higher average protein. Interestingly, nearly every question following my presentation centered on club wheat (China purchased more than 330,000 tons of straight club last year). Bon Lee from the Wheat Marketing Center conveyed an update on samples received to date, including protein average and test weight. He also noted that the range observed appears much wider this year than from past years.

Providing this information to our customers overseas is part of why the U.S. has such an excellent reputation for transparency and consistency when it comes to the high-quality supply of wheat they have come to rely on.

On the domestic side, the WGC worked with the International Association of Operative Millers in July to have renowned cereal chemist Dr. Art Bettge provide information to participants at the Western District meeting in Spokane. He discussed how flour ash has traditionally been used as a



On the screen, Steve Wirsching (left), U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) West Coast vice president; Mike Spier (top right), vice president of USW's overseas operations; and Glen Squires (bottom right), Washington Grain Commission CEO, answer questions during the China Contracting for Wheat Value event on July 27 in Beijing, China. Photo courtesy of Kaiwen Wu, USW Hong Kong office.

measure for bran contamination and milling efficiency. However, this method does not reflect end-use functionality (mixing and baking) in the final flour. He detailed how SRC analysis is a method that is becoming more widely used in commercial mills as a means to blend mill streams into functional flours, yet uses the entirety of mill output.

In September, the WGC paired up again with USW/South Asia to host a webinar for regional millers, including Indonesia, the Philippines and Korea, covering the most updated outlook for 2021 soft white production and quality. WGC's Program Director Joe Bippert provided an excellent overview on the harvest; current, on-the-ground reporting of soft white yields; an outlook for total supply and grain quality; and explained how drought conditions have resulted in higher prices and protein levels. USW technical specialists Roy Chung and Ivan Goh provided solutions available to millers to help them manage the higher protein content in this year's soft white and help them produce flour to meet their customers' expectations.

These last two events are prime examples of our educational efforts so millers and end users know about and implement processes, such as use of SRC and stream analysis, in meeting end-use needs to get the most out of their wheat. Technical assistance provided by USW, the WGC and others ties together long-term profitability and competitiveness for producers and users of our wheat.

Some customers have chosen to adjust tender specifications to account for higher average protein and a smaller crop, and others may follow. On a short supply, this could help enable the industry to better complete orders through the end of this marketing year.

"Thanks to the successful, long-term investment in soft white breeding and marketing, the milling and baking industries across Asia have come to depend on the unique characteristics of soft white," Sowers said. To which I would like to add, thanks to our Washington farmers for their commitment to growing the world's best grains. ■

Maintaining momentum through transition

By Rich Koenig

Interim Dean, Washington State University College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resource Sciences



The year 2021 has been a year of significant transition, and nowhere is that truer than at Washington State University (WSU) and in the College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resource Sciences (CAHNRS).

I have seen firsthand many of these transitions and, in fact, became part of a major college-level transition when I took over as interim dean in June. But transitional periods can also be periods of opportunity, and to that end, I am pleased to lead this college through this exciting time. We are set up for success from our former dean, Andre Wright, and we know we will attract excellent candidates from around the nation in the search for the next dean of CAHNRS.

My interim role is a one-year appointment, and I am not seeking the position on a permanent basis. I have agreed to serve on the hiring committee for the next permanent dean and look forward to working with my fellow committee members to help select a candidate to lead our college as we continue to thrive by fulfilling our land-grant mission.

One major transition outside of leadership is planning for and moving our faculty and staff and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) colleagues out of Johnson Hall. The moving should start in January, with the actual demolition to start in May 2022. Removing this venerable and historic building, a place where my own research history dates back to my days as a WSU graduate student, will make way for a new USDA research building. This project is just the latest example of our fantastic partnership with the federal government and the research collaborations built up over decades. The construction of this building will only further galvanize what has already been a successful and fruitful partnership.

Of course, these partnerships are only as good as the faculty and researchers that support them. And now that we have more of a positive budget outlook, we are again hiring and recruiting top talent, and several searches for key faculty positions are, or will soon, be underway across our college, including key Extension positions at the county level.

While new and open faculty positions are being filled, research continues to improve people's lives. Dozens of projects are currently looking at how to improve grain crops. One large multidisciplinary project involves optimizing human health and nutrition from the ground up. Kevin Murphy, from Crop and Soil Sciences, is working with our School of Food Science and faculty in the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine on several grants to breed crops that have more nutritional value. We revealed one of those grants earlier this year, focused on quinoa, and we're confident another grant will be announced soon involving whole grain-based foods.

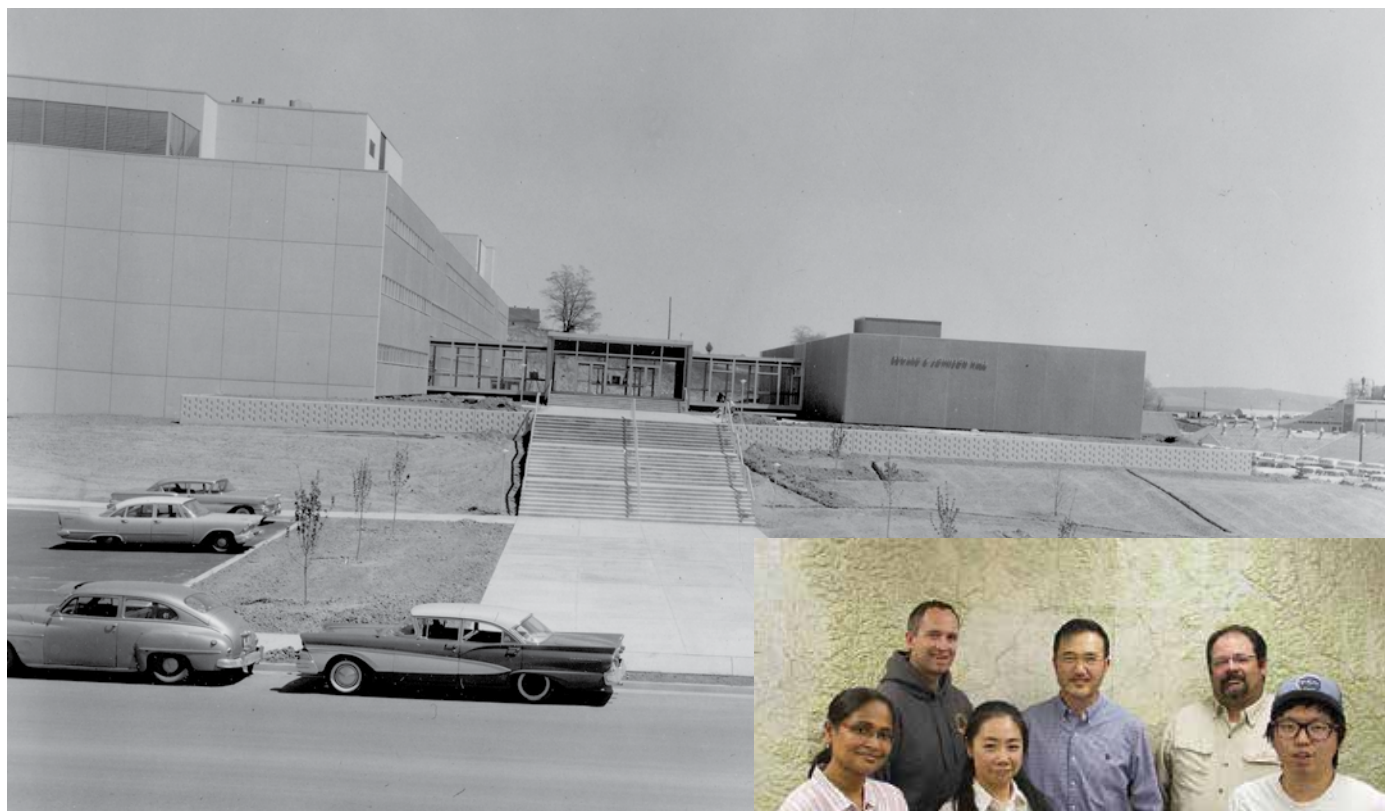
Our endowed scientists also continue to make important discoveries that help the grain industry. One example is a new paper from Arron Carter and Mike Pumphrey, co-recipients of the O.A. Vogel Endowed Chair in Wheat Breeding and Genetics, and colleagues. Their paper looks into machine- and deep-learning models for predicting grain yield and grain protein content in wheat using spectral information.

Another important project involves helping the agriculture industry regarding mental health by expanding assistance for suicide prevention programs. In addition to a large National Institute of Food and Agriculture grant in 2020, our researchers are part of a new Washington State Department of Agriculture grant to provide even more services. We want to do anything we can to help farmers cope with the stresses of farming, and these prevention programs are incredibly valuable.

On campus, we're nearing the end of another large transition. Dozens of WSU scientists have moved into the new Plant Sciences Building on the Pullman campus. The state-of-the-art laboratories in this building are incredible. The science that will come out of this building will benefit the entire state of Washington, from farmers growing crops to consumers enjoying abundant and healthy food to eat.

This work is barely scratching the surface for what we're working on here in CAHNRS. Research and Extension is running full steam after the COVID-19 slowdown in 2020. Our students are back for in-person learning. I know I speak on behalf of all of CAHNRS when I say we have missed having a full and vibrant campus and that we also appreciate the efforts being made to keep people safe, allowing them back in the classrooms. CAHNRS faculty worked incredibly hard during the period of Zoom teaching, but it's great to see our students off-screen again.

As always, it's a great time to be a Cougar! ■



(Above) Since 1961, Johnson Hall has been the center of crop breeding and research at Washington State University. The structure is slated for demolition in 2022 to make way for a new plant bioscience building. (Right) Some of the research that has taken place in Johnson Hall revolves around the use of satellite and drone technology to help with breeding efforts.



USDA-WSU to replace aging hall

END OF AN ERA FOR THE CROP AND SOIL SCIENCES RESEARCH BUILDING, OPENED IN 1961

By Seth Truscott

WSU CAHNRS Communications

For 60 years, state and federal scientists have worked together to fight crop diseases, develop improved crop varieties and train the next generation of plant and soil scientists in Washington State University's (WSU) Johnson Hall.

"Johnson Hall has been the scene of many memories for our faculty, staff, alumni and colleagues in Washington agriculture," said Rich Koenig, interim dean of WSU's College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resource Sciences. "This building served us well for many decades, but increasing maintenance costs and challenges posed by the older design underscore the need for a functional replacement. Our college is very excited to join with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in that effort."

Built during the Eisenhower Administration, this

four-story, 195,000-square-foot building has served ably, supporting advances ranging from the pioneering plant disease research of R. James Cook and the cereal breeding and genetics work of Orville Vogel, Robert Nilan and Bob Allan to big-data-driven discoveries of today.

Over the years, Johnson Hall has housed four USDA research units, as well as WSU faculty and programs in entomology, plant pathology, crop and soil sciences, horticulture, natural resource sciences, biological systems engineering and apparel merchandising and design. It has been the home office for six of the seven endowed chairs created by the Washington Grain Commission.

It still houses more than 300 WSU and USDA scientists, staff and students. Its designers, however, never anticipated the technological demands of the 2020s, and Johnson Hall's service to agriculture is now ending.

Over the next year, scientists with USDA's Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) and WSU will move their



One famous Johnson Hall resident was U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service wheat breeder Orville Vogel. Vogel's research helped introduce the "Green Revolution" in the 1960s, which increased agricultural production around the world and encouraged the adoption of high-yielding cereal varieties and increased use of inputs and newer methods of cultivation.

equipment and research programs out of the aging facility. Plans call for Johnson Hall to come down, and WSU's unique scientific partnership with the USDA to move forward on a cooperatively designed, federally owned facility on Johnson's former site, which will be leased from the university.

"The new USDA building will renew and enhance the partnership between federal and state scientists at WSU," said David M. Weller, USDA-ARS research leader and location coordinator. "It will allow the growth of world-class research that will benefit Northwest agriculture and beyond, for years to come."

Joint planning is currently underway for the new USDA-ARS Plant Bioscience Building, which will provide space, resources and tools for the work that university and ARS scientists perform together. Construction is expected to take three years.

The proposed new building received \$104.9 million in funding from Congress, with design and construction to be led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The State of Washington this year provided \$8 million for demolition of Johnson Hall and is also funding nearly \$5 million for research laboratory renovations inside Clark Hall, allowing programs to relocate until the new building is complete.

USDA-ARS funds more than 650 research projects annually at more than 90 research locations nationwide, many of them on university campuses. At WSU, USDA-ARS scientists work side by side with university faculty to study many aspects of Northwest agriculture, including wheat and legume health, quality and genetics; soil health; sustainable agriculture and cropping systems; plant germplasm introduction and testing; and animal diseases. ■



(Above) R. James Cook (sitting), a former researcher with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service, spent his career in Johnson Hall, establishing one of the best soil health research units in the world. (Left) The Washington state governor, Albert Dean Rosellini (left), was present for the dedication of Johnson Hall in July 1961.

THE FINAL FRONTIER

LAB LOOKS AT ROOT SYSTEMS TO UNDERSTAND STRESS TOLERANCE, IMPROVE WHEAT VARIETIES

By Karen A. Sanguinet
Associate Professor, Washington
State University



The study of root systems in a variety of crop plants has received a tremendous amount of attention recently. Historically, plant breeders have selected for aboveground traits such as plant biomass and yield. However, the selection of shoot traits has resulted in a reduction in root biomass in cultivated wheat varieties relative to wild relatives and landraces.

As a forage organ, roots are essential for water and nutrient uptake. Thus, root function is key to survival during periods of heat and drought. Several studies have shown that deeper rooting wheat varieties lead to cooler canopy temperatures and also to increased yields.

Research in my crop physiology lab supported by the Washington Grain Commission has allowed us to investigate wheat varieties from the Pacific Northwest and compare their root structures both in the field and in the greenhouse. The goal of this work is to understand how root systems grow and respond to their soil environment in order to improve stress resilience.

We found that there is a negative correlation between root diameter and overall root area, which has also been documented in other crops such as rice and corn. This means that the larger the root system, the smaller the root diameter, particularly in the lateral root and higher order root branches. It also means that the larger root system has potentially more access to moisture and mineral nutrients.

We also found a correlation between heading date and root area. These data indicate that wheat cultivars take two strategies to deal with stress such as drought—either escape or avoidance. To escape drought and heat, some varieties flower early and, as such, don't establish very extensive root systems. An example of a wheat variety that flowers early with a reduced root system is the hard red spring wheat variety Hollis (left side of illustration). On the other side, some drought tolerant wheat varieties put more energy and carbon for growth belowground to avoid drought stress and access soil moisture, which comes as a tradeoff and is correlated with later flowering (right side of illustration).

However, storing more carbon belowground is advantageous in subsequent years and provides an energy source for soil microbes. In fact, this is a major reason

Two strategies to cope with drought in annual wheat varieties

Early
flowering

Reduced root
area and
branching



Later
flowering

Increased
root area and
branching



why there is interest in perennial grains to sequester carbon in the soil.

We have also compared perennial and annual wheat roots in the field. The main differences are the decreased root mortality rates and consistent growth of perennial root systems. The challenge is balancing root growth with grain fill and, ultimately, yield, in perennial grains.

Another area that we are investigating is the chemical composition of the cell wall of roots. For example, the breakdown of wheat straw is correlated to the cell wall composition and the amount and type of lignin found in the straw. Similarly, we find that root lignin is important for root growth as well as water movement, breakdown of roots in soil and disease resistance. However, we don't yet know all of the drivers of root lignin content, nor do we understand how it is regulated relative to shoot lignin. For example, do varieties with slower straw breakdown have slower root breakdown? While we don't yet know the answer to that question, we hope to soon find some hints by chemically and comparatively analyzing root and shoot lignin in wheat varieties important to Pacific Northwest farmers.

One of the main challenges to studying root systems is that they vary both within a field and between years, which is known as phenotypic plasticity. The good news is that phenotypic plasticity has an underlying genetic component so that selection and improvements are possible. Despite these challenges, we are looking for clues belowground to continually improve Pacific Northwest wheat root systems in what many researchers have called the final frontier for crop improvement. ■

Have app, will travel

Cereal Variety Selection Tool goes mobile, even without bars

For Washington growers considering future wheat variety options, there's now an app for that. It's the Washington State University (WSU) Variety Testing Program's mobile Cereal Variety Selection Tool, and it's available free at your favorite app store. Like the desktop version of the app, growers can utilize the tool to filter and sort wheat and barley varieties based on a multitude of characteristics that are most important to them and their operation. Yield, test weight, grain protein, plant height and maturity data are all generated from the variety trials themselves, and averages are generated by precipitation zone for all major classes of wheat and barley. Users can also screen varieties by other parameters that include winter survival, disease ratings, Hessian fly resistance, end-use quality, falling number ratings and more.

The biggest difference users will notice in the mobile app is the streamlined format for easy scrolling. Some of the sort options are also improved so that missing values are automatically sorted to the bottom. Another major advantage is the mobile app will automatically update when new data is added to the website, and data will be stored on the mobile device for viewing even without internet connectivity.

"It is very easy to read and to sort on my phone," said one Washington farmer in a WSU survey.

Additionally, this app allows users to select and compare variety yield, test weight and grain protein across multiple precipitation zones, which is not currently possible with the current desktop version. This will be beneficial for seed dealers and distributors along with many growers who farm across multiple rainfall zones. If you like to look at information on paper, you can also export results into an Excel file for later viewing, sharing or printing. You can find the app on the Google Play store or Apple App Store, just search for "WSU Variety Selection."

Once you try it out for yourself, WSU would like your feedback! Please go to surveymonkey.com/r/6LCZZ8P to complete the user survey. ■

Variety Name	Yield 2-YR AVG (Bu/A)	Yield 3-YR AVG (Bu/A)	Test Weight (Lb/Bu)
LWW16-71088	104	--	60.2
Jasper	103	106	59.2
Piranha CL+	103	--	60.5
WA8290	102	104	60.2
Norwest Duet	101	104	59.8
ARS-Crescent	101	104	59.1
M-Press	101	104	60.3
AP Dynamic	101	--	59.3
LCS Shine	100	105	59.9
LCS Sonic	100	104	59.8
Pritchett (Club)	100	103	59
UI Sparrow	100	102	58.7
SY Command	99	102	59.2
ARS-Castella	99	101	60.4

WHEAT WATCH

WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION

Production uncertainties shaking up market



By Mike Krueger

Corn, soybean and wheat markets weakened into the early corn and soybean harvest period. There is still not much clarity around what corn and soybean yields might be. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reduced their yield estimates for both crops slightly in their August WASDE (World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates), but came back and increased the yield estimates again in their September WASDE. The overriding question remains the same—can big yields across the eastern Corn Belt offset poorer yields because of the drought across the northern Plains and far western Corn Belt? Extended forecasts as of mid-September indicated weather will be warm and dry across much of the Corn Belt and northern Plains. That should mean harvest will progress quickly.

In the meantime, the wheat outlook continues to get a little more bullish with every crop report. Stats Canada released their latest crop production estimate in mid-September and lowered every estimate from their August numbers. Here are some of the key crop production estimates from Canada compared to 2020:

Stats Canada production estimates compared to 2020

All Wheat	-38%
Spring Wheat	-41%
Durum.....	-46%
Canola	-35%
Barley	-34%
Field Peas.....	-45%

The drought across western Canada had a far worse impact than expected, even in midsummer. Feed supplies will be extremely tight. Prices for all feed crops are soaring. These small production numbers will limit Canada's exports of wheat and canola. The USDA currently has the U.S. pegged to import 135 million bushels of wheat, mostly from Canada. They reduced this from 145 million bushels in their August report, but it is still too high based on stocks of wheat in Canada.

Russia continues to adjust their wheat export taxes higher almost weekly. Russia's actions with wheat exports through the rest of this marketing year will be important to prices. Nigeria recently purchased a significant amount of U.S. hard red winter wheat. They have been buying Russian wheat in recent years. It will be interesting to see if this is an indication that Russia's wheat exports will be smaller than expected.

Wheat ending supplies among the six major wheat exporting countries will be the smallest since 2007/08 and maybe even smaller than that if some production estimates are lowered, as we expect. Chart 1 shows ending supplies.

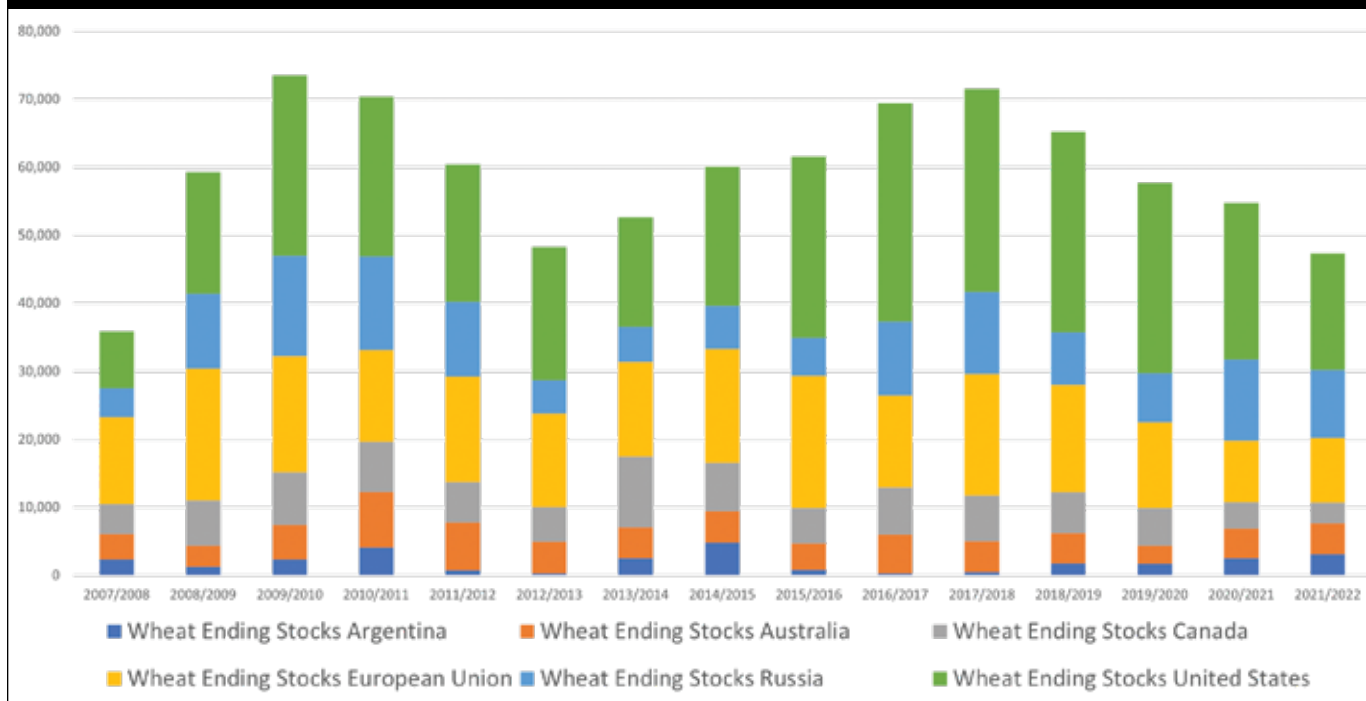
There are also some quality issues with wheat ending supplies in some countries. The EU had a larger crop than last year, but some analysts believe only 30 percent or less is milling quality. There was too much rain during the EU's wheat harvest.

The one star among wheat exporting countries is Australia. Australia is on the way to one of their biggest crops ever, if current conditions remain so good. Australia, however, isn't big enough to offset the problems elsewhere. Their big crop will cushion the blow of the reduction in U.S. white wheat production.

The other obvious issue will be a real shortage of high protein milling wheat. A 40 to 45 percent reduction in hard red spring wheat production both in the U.S. and Canada will continue to make spring wheat trade at a significant premium to other wheat classes except durum. Durum prices have entered their own realm with prices in Canada above \$20 (Canadian) a bushel and prices in the U.S. headed towards \$20 (U.S.) a bushel. There simply isn't much durum available anywhere.

The initial (and minimum) price for winter wheat crop revenue insurance products has now been established. It is \$7.08 per bushel. That compares to \$4.90 for the 2021 winter wheat crop. That should be high enough to encourage more winter wheat acres, but keep in mind, all prices are well above year-ago levels. The initial insurance prices for spring-planted crops are determined during the month of February.

It has been a hot and dry start to the hard red winter wheat planting season across the southern Plains. The hot temperatures (and hot soil temperatures) are of some

Chart 1: Major wheat exporter wheat ending stocks

concern, but it is still very early in the planting season. Weather, as we all know, can change quickly. The latest 30- and 90-day forecasts from the National Weather Service look for above-normal temperatures and below-normal precipitation across the southern Plains.

There's another segment of the markets that most pay little attention to. This segment is the "minor" or "specialty" crops markets. These crops include dry beans (navy, pinto), yellow peas, lentils, flax, sunflowers, food grade soybeans (non-GMO), etc. Prices for these crops have soared with dry beans between \$45-\$50/cwt, flax more than \$20 a bushel and peas and lentils super high. Most of these crops are grown across the northern Plains and western Canada where the drought was centered this year. These crops will be in very short supply. New crop prices for these crops will also be very high, as will the new crop revenue insurance prices. This will create some real competition for acres next spring. Those acres must come from wheat, corn and soybeans (canola in Canada).

The significant point about these "specialty" crop prices is that they have no futures markets, no speculative funds involvement or no technical or chart considerations. They are "pure" markets, and prices have soared because of very tight supplies. Wheat, corn and soybeans are in a similar situation from a stocks perspective. That's why short-term moves in markets with futures don't always reflect the underlying fundamentals.

Aside from waiting and watching to see where corn and soybean yields will finish, the pace of U.S. wheat, corn and soybean export sales will be critical for price direction. We need to see the worldwide supply tightness translate into increased export sales to trigger another round of speculative buying. The major damage to several export elevators in the Louisiana Gulf slowed sales and shipments in September. Many of these elevators are now back online. China, of course, will continue to be the "market-maker" with its pace of corn and soybean purchases. Russia will also be a significant factor in world wheat markets. Will they slow or eventually suspend wheat export sales? No one knows today.

The growing season in Brazil and Argentina will also be critical. Most analysts (including the USDA) are already forecasting record soybean and corn production in these countries, even though planting has barely gotten started. Weather forecasters are watching the development of La Niña conditions. A weak La Niña can mean dryness in Argentina and southern Brazil. A strong La Niña pushes the dryness farther north.

This suggests more market volatility. The world's cushion of wheat, corn and soybean supplies are shrinking. ■

Mike Krueger is president and founder of The Money Farm, a grain advisory service located in Fargo, N.D. A licensed commodity broker, Krueger is a past director of the Minneapolis Grain Exchange and a senior analyst for World Perspectives, a Washington, D.C., agricultural consulting group.

In the Corner of the Field

BY DANIEL MOORE | PART II

Mac's granddaughter, Avery, was excited to move to the country with her family after her dad took over the farm from grandpa. Whenever she could, which was most of the time, she would get off the school bus, put on her cowboy boots or, as Grandpa Mac called them, "clod-hoppers," and ride her red bicycle over to the farm shop to play on the old farm equipment. She loved pretending she was a farmer driving the combine and the truck.

Harper liked it when Avery would sit in the operator's seat and make "VROOM, VROOM" sounds. Sammy enjoyed it when she sat behind his steering wheel, shifting gears, and shouted "TOOT, TOOT" as she imagined taking her load to the grain elevator. She spent many sunny days after school entertaining herself on the old machines who became her friends, too!

But fear gripped Mac when, one day, his son told him he needed that area to store his equipment.

"Dad, you have to get rid of that old equipment so I can park my equipment there," he said.

"But they are my old trusted friends. I can't just get rid of them," Mac replied.

"Dad," said Jack, "I'm really sorry I have to say this. I have enjoyed them too, but it is time for them to go."

Mac knew Jack was right, and he also knew what happened to old, useless equipment. It gets hauled off to the scrap yard to be cut up and melted down for recycling. With no other idea, Mac contacted the junk dealer to have Harper and Sammy

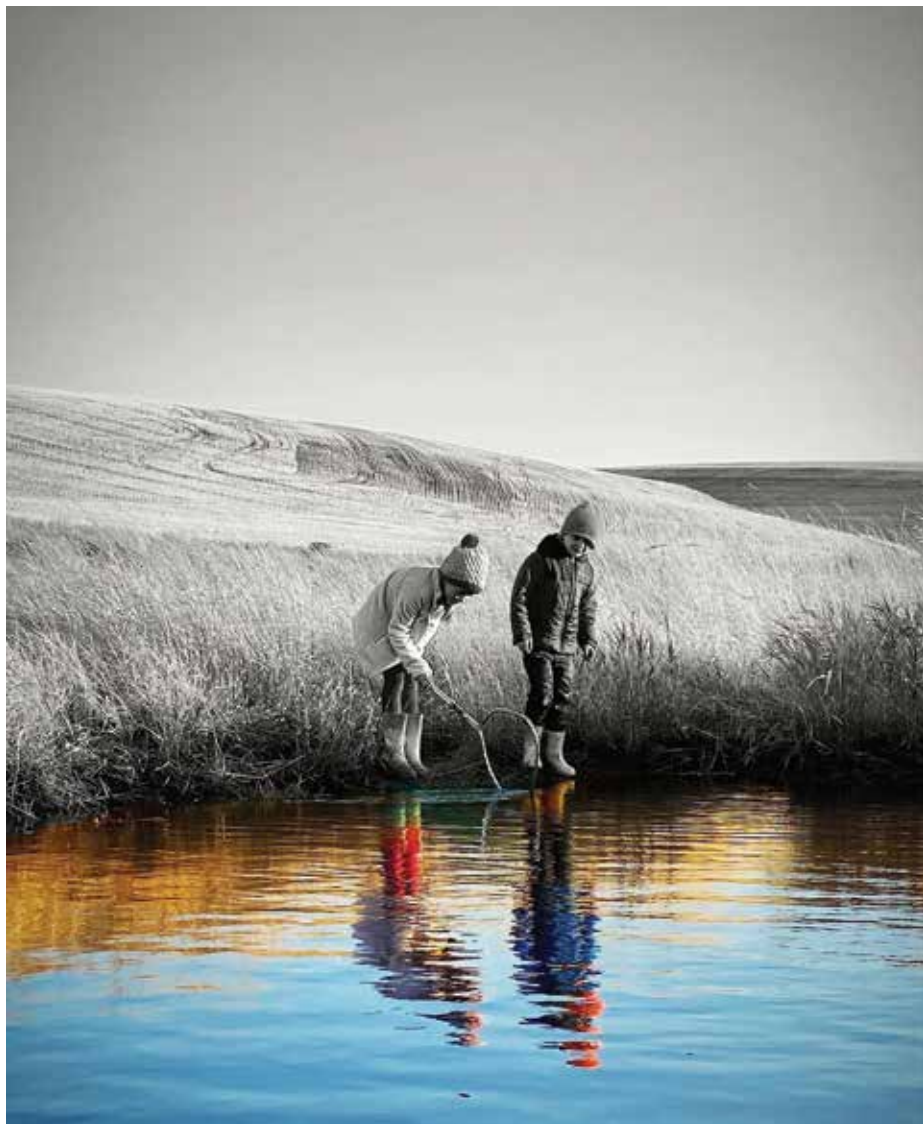


PHOTO BY JENA MOORE

taken away. His heart was broken but he had no other choice.

That day, that terrible day, Avery biked down to the shop to talk to her grandpa and play on Harper and Sammy. When she jumped off her bike in front of the shop, she heard her grandpa crying inside. As she entered the door to ask her grandpa what was wrong, she turned around and noticed the empty spot.

"Where are Harper and Sammy?" she asked.

"The junk dealer has just left with them loaded onto his trailer, headed for the scrap metal yard," Mac replied.

Horried, Avery cried out, "We've got to stop them Grandpa!"

"Honey," he said through the tears, "I know you like playing with your

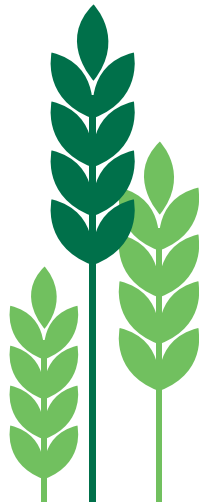
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machine friends, but life goes on, and the old has to make room for the new."

"They are more than toys to me. They have life in them!" she cried out. Mac shook his head because he didn't understand what she meant. "We have got to stop the junk man! There is a nest of red-tailed hawks living in the grain tank of the combine and a family of cats with baby kittens in the cab of the truck!"

Mac blankly stared at her for a second, and then his eyes became wild looking. "Get in the pickup, Avery! We have got to stop that truck before it gets to the highway. Let's go get Harper and Sammy and bring them back home. Their lives are not over!"

The pair of rescuers soon caught up with the truck, which was strangely parked in the middle of the road. It seemed the mommy and daddy red-tailed hawks had been successful in stopping the trucker by flying in front of the windshield and screeching at him! Mac got out and explained to the trucker that the huge birds were just trying to protect their babies. Mac looked up at the hawks circling around and shouted to them, "Thanks for stopping the truck. Your babies are going to be all right!"

Mac asked the driver to turn around and return the equipment to the shop, which he did gladly.

"What are we going to do with them now? They can't stay where they were because Daddy needs that area for his equipment," Avery asked her grandpa.

Mac replied, "Avery, a problem can become a whole new exciting opportunity if it is viewed from another angle or PLACE!" Avery could hear the excitement in her grandpa's voice as he was thinking out loud. "In the corner, with the bushes, by the creek!" he exclaimed.

"Wwwhat?" said Avery. She didn't know about the "problem area" grandpa had dealt with all of his farming career, but she was about to find out.

Mac called his neighbor, Oscar B. Wright, because his

big tractor was powerful enough to drag a combine and a truck—not at the same time, of course! With Oscar's kind help, they set Harper and Sammy in the corner, with the bushes, by the creek for their permanent resting spot. They pushed Harper's long auger out and placed Sammy right underneath it to look just like they did when they were younger—harvesting and hauling wheat.

In the fall, Avery and Mac planted dozens of tulip and daffodil bulbs all around the parked equipment. "Just wait until spring, and we will see how beautiful this corner really is. It'll be beyond imagination," the partners declared.

Sure enough, in the spring when Avery and her grandpa went to visit the corner of the field, with the bushes, by the creek, they thought they had gone to heaven. Red and white tulips were blooming in and around each of Harper's gigantic tires, while yellow daffodils outlined Sammy. Even the wild bluebells, bachelor buttons and purple lupines joined in to add to the beauty of the scene. Harper and Sammy were so happy with their new home and their new life!

The family of red-tailed hawks had come back to set up home in Harper's grain tank, and the cats were having kittens in the cab of the truck again. But now, a family of badgers had dug a hole beneath Harper's left front tire, and some ground squirrels had burrowed their way underneath the right front tire. A sparrow was busy building a nest in the end of the grain auger, and mud swallows had found a place to call home in the engine compartment. An owl family had taken over Sammy's grain box, and a white-tailed deer had given birth to twins underneath it. Nests of field mice were inside the cab of the combine—well protected from the cats! Insects buzzed overhead, spiders spun webs, and snakes slithered about. All sorts of creatures found refuge there. Mac was so elated life had come back to his old farm equipment, just in a different way!



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He made signs for his old friends and placed the signs in front of each one with their new names—Harper the Haven and Sammy the Sanctuary—which they loved! He brought his old, white kitchen chair out of the storage shed and put it right at the corner where he could see and hear everything going on.

When he sat in the chair, many wonderful memories returned to him of his kids gathered around the kitchen table where he would listen, watch and enjoy them. The joy found in the memories of his life came back to him as

he returned daily to sit in his chair at the table nature had set for him. ■

Look for Part III coming in the November issue of Wheat Life. Part I ran in the August/September issue, which can be downloaded at wheatlife.org/pastissues.html. 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, 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.



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Where to find marketing tips for beginners

By Trista Crossley

Nonfarming landlords and beginning farmers who want to learn to market their own wheat have options...it might just take a little leg work.

"The secret is education and understanding what it is you are doing and the ramifications of your decisions," explained Kevin Duling, co-founder and manager of KD Investors, a consulting firm dealing with the marketing of grain. "The very first phone call I'd make would be to the grower who is producing grain on the ground. The next place I would go would be the elevator they haul grain to. Talk to someone in the grain department there. The next choice would be your university Extension office. If you went to the office and said 'hello, I'm new to this. I've got 20,000 bushels a year I need to sell, and I have no idea what I'm doing,' the Extension agent can probably give you some material and steer you in the right direction."

For the wannabe marketing DIYer, a good place to start learning the market is to check local elevator websites. Most elevators will post cash wheat prices and futures prices, along with a short recap. Duling recommends checking those weekly.

"That's not going to talk about fancy tools, but people will see the price move and know what the price is. That's probably as easy as it gets to start with," he said.

For generic marketing information, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange at CME.com publishes a daily summary reviewing that day's market. CME.com also offers educational resources, including free



short lessons in marketing basics with titles like "Understanding Seasonality in Grains," "Understanding Grains Volatility and Supply and Demand" and "Hedging with Grain and Oilseed Futures and Options." While the courses will focus primarily on hard and soft red wheat, soft white wheat owners should be able to glean some useful information.

"It's good to understand (these basics) because all prices offered by a local elevator are a function of if they hedged in futures," explained Randy Fortenbery, an economics professor at Washington State University (WSU). "Understanding the basics helps understand why elevators are offering the prices they are. However, they aren't going to tell the guy in Ritzville why his price looks different than the Portland price."

Many land-grant universities and their Extension departments also offer marketing resources on their websites. Fortenbery publishes information at markets.cahnrs.wsu.edu/Home/Index. Montana State University has information at ampc.montana.edu. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Center for Agricultural Profitability is at <https://cap.unl.edu>, and Kansas State University has resources at agmanager.info/grain-marketing.

Shannon Neibergs, director of the WSU Extension's Western Extension Risk Management Education Center, recommended the book, "Grain Marketing is Simple, It's Just Not Easy," by Ed Usset. Neibergs said while the book may be a little dated, the marketing principles and mechanics are still highly applicable. More resources can be found at the center's website at westrme.wsu.edu

Another marketing information resource is the Agricultural Marketing and Management Organization (AMMO), a program from the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG). The AMMO winter schedule generally features at least one marketing workshop. AMMO workshops are free to

WAWG members; nonmembers pay a small fee. The 2022 schedule will be posted online towards the end of the year at wawg.org/ammo-workshops/.

Each issue of *Wheat Life* includes the Wheat Watch column from the Washington Grain Commission. Written alternately by Fortenbery and Mike Krueger, founder of a grain advisory service called The Money Farm, the column focuses on the factors impacting the current market.

Finally, landlords should consider becoming active in their county grain growers group. County meetings occasionally include marketing reports or presentations from local elevators or marketing groups. ■



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THE BOTTOM LINE

Five items to review in estate planning documents

By William O. Etter
Attorney, Foster Garvey PC

Absent a significant change in life circumstances (e.g., the death, disability or desired disinheritance of a current heir), I advise clients to review their estate planning documents every three to five years. The purpose of the review is not to determine whether changes in state or federal law necessitate revisions to the documents (those items should be monitored by your estate planning attorney), but rather, to ensure that the fiduciaries you have appointed to act upon your death and the bequests you have made to your beneficiaries still accurately reflect your wishes.

Despite such advice, I am dealing more frequently in probate and trust administration matters with difficult issues that could have been resolved in a more efficient and cost-effective manner prior to death if the client had taken a half hour to review their estate-planning documents. In order to ensure that your family is not faced with expensive legal issues after your passing, here's five common items to focus on when reviewing your estate planning documents.

Appointment of fiduciaries

The fiduciary you appoint to act under your will is called the personal representative (in Washington.) The fiduciary you appoint to act under your trust is called the trustee. The fiduciary you appoint to act on your behalf under a durable power of attorney document is called your agent or attorney-in-fact.

For each of these documents, I highly recommend that you appoint at least two successor persons to act, in the event your primary fiduciary is unable to serve. In the event there is no nominated person able or willing to act, your family will likely need to seek court intervention in order to approve the appointment of an alternate fiduciary.

In addition, you should think long and hard about whether the persons you have appointed are still able and willing to act. If you appointed your family friend from 20 years ago to act as successor trustee, but they moved

out of state 10 years ago, you likely will want to change this provision. If you are elderly and have appointed personal representatives under your will that are your same age or older, you should consider younger persons that are less likely to predecease you or be unable to act due to health issues.

Governing law provisions

There is likely an article in your will or trust labeled "administrative provisions" or "miscellaneous provisions." That provision likely has a section named "governing law" that reads something like this: "The provisions of this will shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the state of Washington, regardless of my domicile at the time of my death." In the event there is an issue regarding the administration of your will or trust, the laws of the state identified in the "governing law" provision will apply.

If, when reviewing the "governing law" provision in your estate planning documents, you notice that the state listed is not the state that you currently reside in, circle the provision and contact an estate planning attorney licensed to practice in your current state of residence. Estate planning, probate and trust law varies in each state, and it's important that your documents have been reviewed by an attorney in your current state of residence.

Purchase terms

For estates or trusts that contain real property, it is not uncommon to find provisions that allow a beneficiary to "buy out" the interest in real property of other beneficiaries upon the death of the testator or trustor. Often, these provisions will have detailed language regarding how the purchase price and payment terms are to be calculated if the "buy out" option is elected. Depending on the date of the instrument, the purchase price and the payment terms may be wildly out of date. For example, I recently reviewed a trust instrument that permitted a beneficiary to purchase his siblings' interest in certain real property pursuant to the terms of a promissory note. Unfortunately, the document was drafted in the 1970s, and the interest

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rate on said promissory note was set at 15 percent. While that may have been a reasonable interest rate 50 years ago, it doesn't work in 2021, and the effect of that provision ensured that no beneficiary would exercise the purchase option (likely not the result the trustor intended).

Restrictive trust provisions

Commonly, when an estate planning client has young children, they will provide that their assets will pass to a trust for the benefit of such child upon their passing. Usually, once the child becomes an adult, a revision will be made to the document removing the children's trust and directing that such child's inheritance passes to them outright. With older will and trust documents, I often find that no age limitation has been listed on this "children's trust." In a recent trust administration matter I was involved with, the three beneficiaries who received their inheritance "in trust" were all over the age of 70. I am near certain that the trustors' intent when they executed the document 50 years ago was not to restrict their children's inheritance until they were 80 years old. Any provisions containing testamentary children's trusts or grandchildren's trust should be reviewed closely.

Inadequate fiduciary authority

Clients often have preconceived notions about the difficulty and cost of probate administration. Usually these clients previously resided in a state with onerous probate laws (California and Oregon come to mind most often in the western U.S.) In Washington, the probate law allows for the maker of a will to grant his or her personal representative "nonintervention" powers. These nonintervention powers allow a personal representative to efficiently administer a will in Washington

without the supervision (and increased cost) of a court. In reviewing the personal representative provisions of your will, look for language that references nonintervention powers or language about "independent administration." If these provisions are not currently included in your will, you should strongly consider adding the necessary language in consultation with your estate planning attorney. ■

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



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Riley Dormaier (2 1/2) waits for his turn on the combine during Dormaier Family Farms 2020 harvest near Hartline.
Photo by Robin Dormaier.



Jackson (11 months) and father, Dillon Aeschliman, spring fertilizing at Colfax. It's never too early to start learning the ropes of farming. Photo by Elaina Aeschliman.

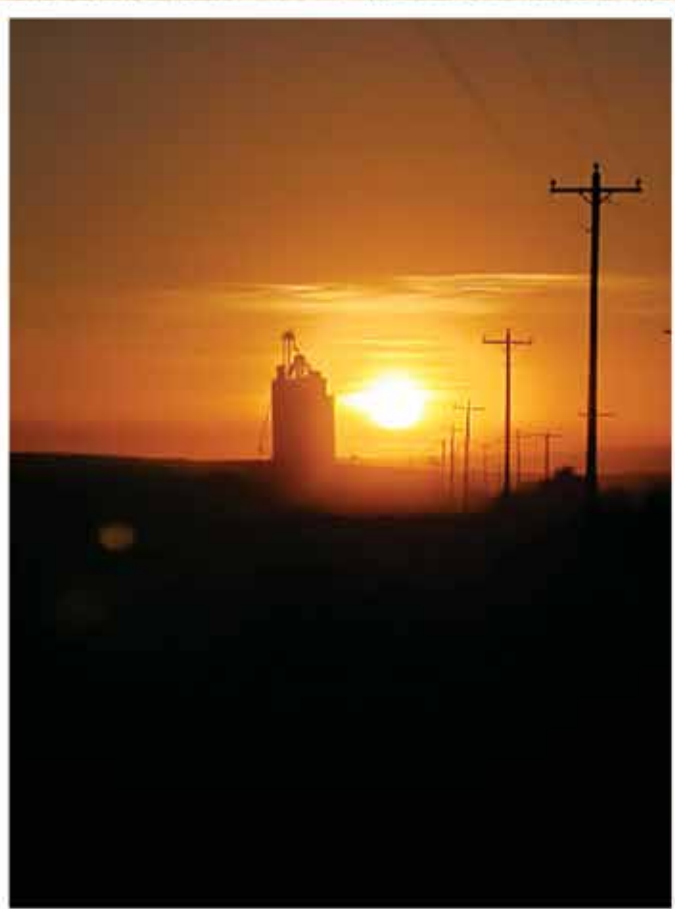
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Windy Acres Farm in Kahlotus. Photo by Pepper Townsend.



Harvest 2020 in the shadow of Steptoe Butte near Oakesdale. Photo by Phil Brown.



Sapolil Elevator, between Walla Walla and Dixie. Photo by Jessica Nelson.



Lance Wagner and his daughter, Allie (3), last summer after a storm outside of Harrington. Photo by Britney Wagner.

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.

OCTOBER 2021

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 local vendors, artists and crafters will take part in a street

fair. Free. leavenworthoktoberfest.com

9-11 LEAVENWORTH OKTOBERFEST

MARKT. One hundred local vendors, artists and crafters will take part in a street fair. Free. leavenworthoktoberfest.com

12 WAWG BOARD MEETING.

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

16-18 LEAVENWORTH OKTOBERFEST

MARKT. One hundred local vendors, artists and crafters will take part in a street fair. Free. leavenworthoktoberfest.com

NOVEMBER 2021

3-5 WASHINGTON STATE WEED

ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE. In-person and virtual options available. Trade show, workshops, breakout sessions, WSDA credits available. In-person will be at Wenatchee Convention Center, Wenatchee, Wash. Register at weedconference.org

26-27 CHRISTMAS AT THE END OF THE ROAD.

An old-fashioned cowboy Christmas! Storytelling, fun run, caroling, pictures with Santa. Winthrop, Wash. winthropwashington.com/events/christmas-festival/

30-DEC. 3 2021 TRI-STATE GRAIN GROWERS CONVENTION.

Industry presentations, breakout sessions, vendors. Davenport Grand Hotel, Spokane, Wash. Registration required. More information at wawg.org/convention/registration/ ■

Submissions

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



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

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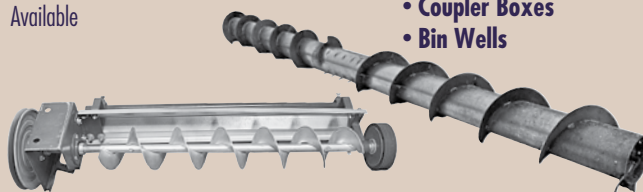


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