

WHEAT LIFE

The official publication of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers

MAY | 2022

CRP RATE REDUX

National office reviews state rates;
updates two counties

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

2022 Wheat College preview

An insider's report on

Ukraine's place in the ag world

USW spotlight: Japan

2021 WSU variety testing results

Ambassador plots path to local ag career

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WHEAT GROWERS**

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President's Perspective



Why don't you just...

By Howard McDonald

Myself and the rest of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers leaders have been doing a lot of press lately. One of the questions we get asked over and over is why we don't increase the price we sell our grain for to deal with the rising cost of inputs, such as fuel and fertilizer, or to allow for increased transportation costs if we lose the option of barging our wheat to Portland. In those interviews, we often refer to ourselves to as "price takers." That means we sell our grain for a set price, and there are absolutely no negotiations to get a better one. So when the cost of growing or transporting our crop rises, we have no way to pass those increases along to our customers. We have to absorb those costs and hope that the price we can sell our crop for is enough to cover them. High wheat prices don't automatically mean we are making a profit; that's certainly the case right now.

Another question we get asked a lot is why we don't just plant more wheat to make more money and to help make up projected world shortages? There are many reasons why this just isn't feasible.

Most dryland wheat in Eastern Washington is in a two-year rotation because the soil needs time, after planting and harvesting, to store up as much moisture as possible to support another crop. In some of the higher rainfall zones, such as in the Palouse, or on irrigated ground, farmers can plant a crop every year, but that's the exception rather than the rule. So one answer to that question is anything we plant on our fallow ground likely wouldn't have the moisture it needs to grow.

Another answer to that question is some of our ground just isn't suitable for growing a crop. On my farm, every available, good-producing acre is already under cultivation; the rest of it is enrolled in a U.S. Department of Agriculture conservation program, such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). In most cases, you can't pull ground out of these types of programs and just start farming it because there's usually a multiyear contract in place. The federal government determines when and how you can take it out, and the government's wheels turn very slowly. Sometimes you don't receive the information you need to be able to pull your ground out of a program in time to plant a crop.

Other times, the process a farmer has to go through to get the ground ready for a crop is...complicated. Let's say we get permission to pull out an established stand of CRP grass. You have to follow a process set by the government. The ground has to be mowed in the fall and sprayed in the spring to kill the grasses and keep the weeds down so a crop can be planted. In our area, we have to plant sagebrush in with the native grasses on CRP ground and mowing down sage brush is like mowing down a tree. It takes anywhere from one to two years to get CRP ground ready to plant wheat. There's a financial cost in that process as well, as it's generally the farmer who is paying to get the land ready for planting.

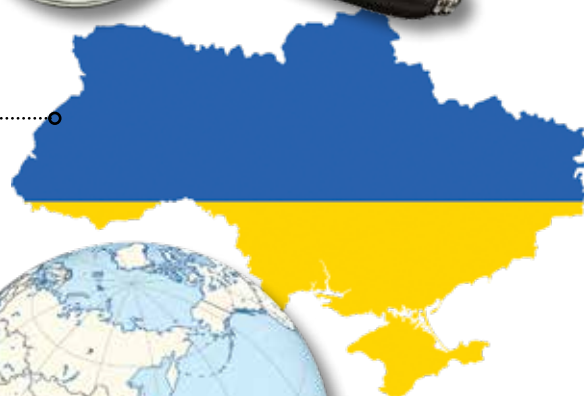
Speaking of financial considerations, planting more wheat means a farmer has to buy more seed, more fertilizer, more fuel. There simply may not be room in his or her budget for these additional expenses.

Farming is always somewhat of a gamble. We plant a crop, make plans for the factors we can control, and hope that everything else falls into place. As Will Rodgers said, "The farmer has to be an optimist or he wouldn't still be a farmer." ■

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

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

WAWG's current top priorities are:

- ✓ Preserving the lower Snake River dams.
- ✓ Fighting mandatory climate/carbon regulations.
- ✓ Lobbying the state Legislature for a seasonal overtime exemption.
- ✓ Maintaining a strong, reliable safety net by preserving crop insurance and making sure farm commodity programs work.
- ✓ Maintaining a safe, sound transportation system that includes rail, river and roads.

If these priorities are important to you, your family and your farm operation, join WAWG today and help us fight.

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



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WAWG leaders take part in TV, print interviews

Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) leaders and staff have been in the news recently, talking about the lower Snake River dams, the rising cost of inputs and the impact of the war in Ukraine on global wheat supplies.

Past President Ryan Poe, a grower from Grant County, was interviewed by a Denver TV station to talk about how high wheat prices are impacting both ends of the supply chain.

"It's definitely a stressful time," Poe said in the piece. "The uncertainty is what's hard, paying more for everything and not sure you are going to get more for your wheat when you sell it."

Poe explained that he is paying twice as much for diesel fuel as he was last year. The TV station also talked to a Denver baker who is paying twice as much for his bakery's fuel—the cost of a bag of flour for him has nearly doubled.

Michelle Hennings, WAWG's executive director, was also asked about high input costs by a reporter from *The Center Square*. Hennings said growers are concerned about the possibility of continuing drought, spiking fuel and fertilizer costs, and delays in getting equipment.

"There are a lot of different worries happening right now," she told the media outlet.

Hennings also spoke with *Agri-Pulse* on the critical role the lower Snake River dams play in barging wheat to export markets. In 2020, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, more than 2.5 million tons of wheat flowed through the dams. The Pacific Northwest Waterways Association estimates that



Michelle Hennings, executive director of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers



Andy Juris, vice president of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers



Ryan Poe, past president of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers, recently spoke to a Denver TV station about how high wheat prices are impacting both ends of the supply chain. Visit wawg.org to read this and the other articles talked about here.

more than \$1.1 billion in rail line, bridge and roadway upgrades would be necessary to offset the loss of the navigation locks, costing farmers \$18.9 to \$38.8 million in net cash income per year.

"Some farms might be able to endure this for so long, but the problem is, you have small family farms out there, and to put this on to them and their bottom line, it could be very detrimental," Hennings told *Agri-Pulse*.

Regional news outlet, the *Capital Press*, contacted Hennings about a recent post on the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) that outlined the council's efforts to study breaching the dams. She told the newspaper that WAWG is engaged with the CEQ, and it's important for farmers to educate decision-makers.

WAWG Past President Marci Green from Spokane County, Vice President Andy Juris from Klickitat County, Hennings and Poe all talked to Spokane's *Spokesman-Review* about the rising cost of inputs and the potential for a global food crisis as the war in Ukraine threatens to cut wheat production there and impact market prices.

"Russia and Ukraine are big wheat growers and wheat exporters, so of course, that does affect the market globally. The price is volatile, and the price is up and down, but it's our inputs that are our bigger concern," Green is quoted as saying in the article.

Juris pointed out that even though the price of wheat is

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up, so are his inputs. He, like many farmers, would like to see the price of wheat stabilize.

“In these really volatile and uncertain times, if we had our druthers, we would rather have stability,” he said.

Links to these articles can be found on the association’s website at wawg.org. ■

Whitman wheat growers meet

Last month, windy spring weather let Whitman County wheat growers take a break from field work to meet and hear industry updates over lunch.

Gary Bailey, a commissioner with the Washington Grain Commission (WGC), told growers that because of last year’s drought, assessments are down. The commission will be deciding whether or not to cut their budget for the coming year or to dip into reserves. Bailey and Ben Barstow, another WGC commissioner, had recently traveled to the Wheat Marketing Center in Portland, Ore., to meet with U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) staff and learn more about the solvent retention capacity (SRC) test that helps bakers and millers evaluate flour performance characteristics in end-use products. Barstow said it’s hard to overstate the importance USW’s local staff plays in helping educate overseas’ buyers on U.S. wheat.

Growers also talked about the markets and how the war in Ukraine is affecting them, the fight over the lower Snake River dams, and the price of inputs.

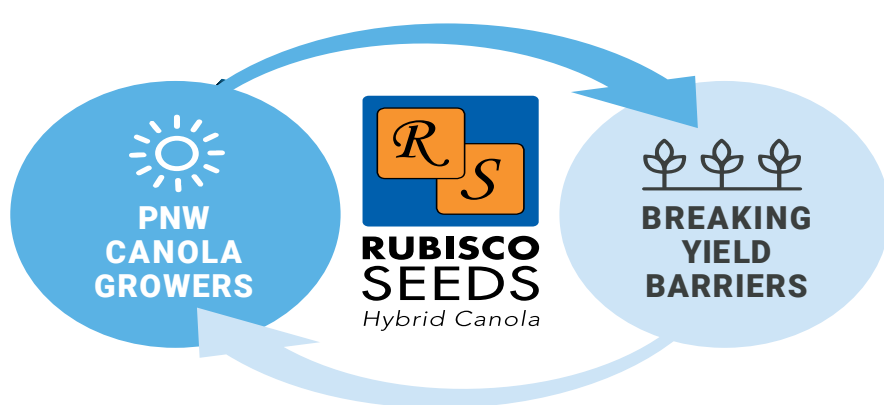
The next meeting of the Whitman County wheat growers will be in June, following the Spillman Agronomy Farm tour in Pullman. ■



Farm fairs are back in business

Last month, the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) participated in the 27th annual Franklin County Farm Bureau Farm Fair in Kennewick, Wash. Approximately 450 area fifth-grade students participated, down from the 1,200 that normally attend. However, the event is expected to rebuild after taking the last two years off due to COVID-19 restrictions. At the WAWG booth, volunteers described what farmers do during each season of the year and then discussed exporting and what happens to wheat after it leaves the farm, including transportation by road, river and rail. Visitors then played a game of “which product does NOT contain wheat.” All teachers were provided bags with Wheat Facts and small giveaways. All students received the “win with the wheat teams” booklet and a pencil. ■





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PNWVT	2018	2019	2020	2021
Control Varieties	lbs/ac (rank)			
Athena	4,084 (10)	4,344 (18)	4,015 (15)	3,698 (12)
Dwarf Essex	3,413 (28)	--	3,698 (23)	3,279 (27)
Ericka	2,865 (30)	3,829 (25)	3,516(25)	3,219 (28)
Rubisco Seeds' Hybrids	Data courtesy of University of Idaho			
Kicker	—	—	4,792 (1)	4,701 (1)
Mercedes	4,933 (1)	5,145 (1)	4,419 (6)	4,359 (3)
Plurax CL	4,708 (2)	4,959 (2)	4,717 (2)	4,465 (2)
Phoenix CL	4,636 (4)	4,900 (4)	4,611 (3)	4,043 (5)
PNWVT Mean	3,956	4,470	4,085	3,726
LSD (p=0.05)	326	287	253	228
C.V. (%)	14.7	12.4	12.3	10.6

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Survey asks how dam removal could impact growers

The future of the lower Snake River dams (LSRD) is at stake. Political leaders have announced a process to remove the LSRD in an attempt to be environmentally conscious. Not only are dams some of the most ecofriendly infrastructure designs, but they also serve critical roles in transportation, agriculture, energy, tourism, recreation and the economy. If the dams were breached, the impact would negatively impact businesses, families, farms and communities, not just in the Pacific Northwest, but across America. In October of 2021, Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) and Washington Gov. Jay Inslee announced a process to study the cost of removing the LSRD. When this process concludes on July 31, 2022, it is likely that efforts will be taken to breach the LSRD. Go to lsrdoptions.org to learn more about the dams and fill out a form outlining how the removal of the dams could impact you. ■

FSA offers loans to youths for educational ag projects

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) makes operating loans of up to \$5,000 to eligible youths, ages 10 to 20, to finance income-producing, agriculture-related projects. The project must be of modest size, educational and initiated, developed and carried out by youths participating in 4-H clubs, Future Farmers of America, tribal youth organizations or similar, agricultural-affiliated groups. It must be planned and operated with the assistance of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience in agriculture-related skills.

To qualify for a loan, the applicant must comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements and conduct a modest, income-producing project in a supervised program of work. These loans can finance many kinds of income-producing agricultural projects. Some examples include:

- Buy, raise and sell livestock.
- Purchase inputs such as seed, fuel and fertilizer to raise and sell a crop.
- Purchase or repair tools or equipment needed to support an eligible project.
- Purchase breeding stock.

To apply, the applicant must submit completed plans and budgets signed by the project advisor and parent

or guardian along with the FSA application for loan assistance.

These loans have a fixed interest rate that is determined at the time of closing; are secured with a promissory note and by liens on the products produced for sale and on chattel property, including crops, livestock, equipment and fixtures purchased with loan funds; and have a repayment schedule that varies depending on the type of project for which the loan is made.

For additional information on the youth loan program or to submit an application, contact your local FSA office. ■

Net farm income expected to decrease by 4.5% in 2022

In February, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Economic Research Service released its 2022 farm sector income forecast. Net farm income, a broad measure of profits, is forecast to decrease by \$5.4 billion (4.5 percent) from 2021 to \$113.7 billion in 2022. Net cash farm income is forecast to increase by \$1.9 billion (1.4 percent) to \$136.1 billion in 2022.

Overall, farm cash receipts are forecast to increase by \$29.3 billion (6.8 percent) to \$461.9 billion in 2022. Total crop receipts are forecast to increase by \$12.0 billion (5.1 percent) from 2021 levels to \$248.6 billion. Soybean, corn, cotton and wheat receipts combined are forecast to increase by \$11.7 billion (8.2 percent) in 2022, accounting for almost all the forecasted growth in crop cash receipts.

Direct government farm payments are forecast at \$11.7 billion in 2022, a \$15.5 billion (57.0 percent) decrease from 2021 forecast levels. Direct government farm payments include federal farm program payments paid directly to farmers and ranchers, but exclude USDA loans and insurance indemnity payments made by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. Much of this decline is because of lower supplemental and ad hoc disaster assistance to farmers and ranchers related to the COVID-19 pandemic compared with 2021.

Total production expenses, including those associated with operator dwellings, are forecast to increase by \$20.1 billion (5.1 percent) in 2022 to \$411.6 billion. Nearly all categories of expenses are forecast to be higher in 2022, with feed and fertilizer-lime-soil conditioner purchases expected to see the largest dollar increases. ■



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POLICY MATTERS

NAWG testifies on trade promotion, food aid programs

From the National Association of Wheat Growers

In early April, National Association of Wheat Growers president and Paterson, Wash., farmer, Nicole Berg, testified in front of the House Agriculture Committee's Livestock and Foreign Agriculture Subcommittee in a hearing to review the 2018 Farm Bill with a focus on the Title III programs: international food aid and agricultural trade promotion.

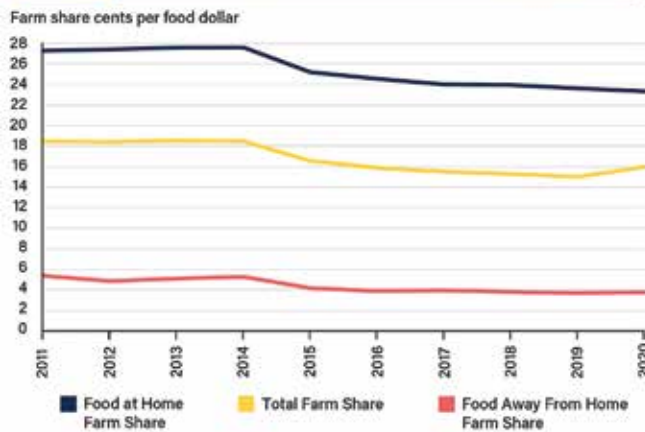
Berg highlighted the vital role international food aid programs have in stabilizing economies and populations impacted by climate change, famine and war. She also discussed the critical role trade promotion programs play in helping U.S. agricultural products remain competitive on world markets and opening access to new markets, which

boosts the agriculture economy and helps keep farmers in business.

The Marketing Assistance Program (MAP) and the Foreign Market Development (FMD) program contribute an average of \$8.2 billion more in ag export revenue per year. However, MAP and FMD funding levels have remained stagnant for more than 15 years. Berg highlighted a study that concluded that by doubling annual MAP and FMD funding, cooperators would increase their investments by 50 percent, creating yearly increases in agricultural exports by \$4.5 billion.

"While there is still uncertainty about how the Russian invasion of Ukraine will impact world markets, we know that the invasion will exacerbate global food insecurity."

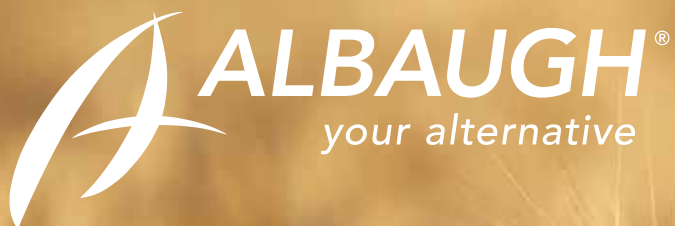
Farm share of U.S. food dollar rose one cent in 2020



Notes: The food dollar estimates provide the average farm share and marketing share of each consumer dollar spent on domestically produced food in a given year. The total farm share of the food dollar is a weighted average of the food at home and food away from home dollars.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service.

On average, U.S. farmers received 16 cents for farm commodity sales from each consumer dollar spent on domestically produced food in 2020, up from a revised 15 cents in 2019. Known as the farm share, the 1-cent rise is the largest increase in nearly a decade. The marketing share, on the other hand, goes to food-supply-chain industries that move domestically produced food from farms to points of purchase, including costs related to packaging, transporting, processing and selling to consumers at grocery stores and eating-out places. In the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, households redirected a substantial amount of their eating-out dollars, or food-away-from-home (FAFH) spending, toward food-at-home (FAH) markets, such as grocery stores. Generally, farmers receive a smaller share from eating-out dollars because a larger portion is spent on preparing and serving meals at restaurants, cafeterias and other food-service establishments. Historically, the farm share for FAH has averaged 24.3 cents, whereas the farm share for FAFH has averaged below 6 cents. Although farmers received a smaller share of retail dollars from food-at-home markets in 2020, they received a greater share of the overall food dollar because consumers made more purchases in FAH markets where farmers receive a higher retail share than from FAFH markets. This gives the unusual result of total farm share rising more than both FAH and FAFH farm shares. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service (ERS) uses input-output analysis to calculate the farm and marketing shares from a typical food dollar, including food purchased at grocery stores and at eating-out establishments.



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rity. Our food aid programs are the best suited for U.S. wheat to help support the humanitarian needs of those involved,” said Berg. “As the subcommittee continues to evaluate the 2018 Farm Bill programs, our food aid programs must receive continued support and the MAP/FMD program dollars are enhanced to support cooperator needs.” ■

Stebbings takes over as PNWA executive director

The Pacific Northwest Waterways Association (PNWA) has hired **Heather Stebbings** as executive director to replace Kristin Meira.

Stebbings has 15 years of advocacy and public policy experience for the Pacific Northwest maritime community, including 13 years directing communications and government relations for PNWA. She joins the association from member Shaver Transportation, where she has served as marine services and government liaison since 2020.



“Heather is a proven, well-rounded leader with deep experience and relationships in our industry, across the Northwest, and in Washington, D.C.,” said Glen Squires, Washington Grain Commission CEO and PNWA board president. “We are pleased to welcome her back to the PNWA team and are enthusiastic about her leadership and the continued success of the association.”

Meira served with PNWA for 20 years, the last 10 as executive director. She joined PNWA member American Cruise Lines as its director of government affairs, Pacific Northwest.

“Kristin has served this association faithfully for many years, growing our membership by 50 percent, expanding our connections, and steadily advocating for our members and communities,” said Squires. “Her impact can be felt across PNWA and the Pacific Northwest. We are grateful for her leadership and wish her all the best, and we look forward to continuing to work with her as the PNWA contact for American Cruise Lines.” ■

Rail letter details ag issues

A letter authored by the National Grain and Feed Association has been sent to the Surface Transportation

How are we doing?

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Board, White House and Congress detailing freight issues agricultural shippers and receivers have been having with several Class I railroads.

The letter is signed by the organization’s Agricultural Transportation Working Group (ATWG).

“The current inability of several Class I carriers to provide reliable rail service to their customers is impacting farmgate commodity prices and elevating food prices for consumers. Neither of these outcomes is beneficial for individual Americans and the U.S. economy,” the letter states. “While several factors contribute to these carriers’ rail service challenges, we consistently hear that significant reductions in train crew numbers and other personnel have severely hamstrung the rail carriers’ ability to maintain their prior levels of service, to overcome the typical day-to-day issues that affect railroad service plans, and to respond to changes in rail freight demand. Moreover, the mismatch between the importance of reliable and cost-effective freight rail transportation to our nation’s economy and the lack of effective competition between the Class I railroads remains of great concern to the ATWG members.”

In the letter, the ATWG urges increased rail competition, implementation of financial incentives for railroads to perform more efficiently, and additional data reporting on the part of the railroads. The group also supports a petition that would permit rail customers to levy financial penalties on railroads for inefficient use of private railcars. ■

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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Without our wheat farmers, the jobs created to run equipment stores, grain elevators, grain transport and flour mills wouldn't exist. These jobs provide people with employees, who in turn, purchase goods and services in the area. All those businesses employ more people, profit, pay taxes for things like schools and roads, and give back to their communities.

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They're not making any new farmland — the human population keeps growing, and development for housing and industry only encroaches on the farmland that we do have. Washington is home to more than 3,700 grain farms alone, and nearly all of them are owned and operated by families. Many of them have been farming the same land for multiple generations, and with our support, they can carry on that tradition.

FOOD PRODUCTION

One bushel of wheat can make 420 three-ounce cinnamon rolls, or it can produce 72 pounds of tortillas or 52 loaves of bread. Now, multiply that by 140 million, and that's roughly how many bushels of wheat are harvested in Washington state each year.

GARLIC BREAD

It's delicious and fights off vampires. Enough said.

VERSATILE FOODS

In the U.S., wheat is primarily milled into flour. This flour then goes into the production of foods like bread, noodles, pasta, muffins, biscuits, cereal bars, cakes, pastries, sweet and savory snack foods, and crackers. Semolina, made from durum wheat, is primarily made into pasta.



Show support for your wheat farmers by purchasing a "20 Reasons to Support Wheat Farmers" t-shirt. All proceeds go to wheat research, development and education. Order from the Washington Wheat Foundation at washington-wheat-foundation.creator-spring.com.

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All in all, wheat is just as versatile as it is nutritious, and the fact that it accounts for 20 percent of calories consumed worldwide is all the proof you need!

365 DAYS OF FARMING

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NO FARMERS, NO FOOD

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Without wheat farmers, Eastern Washington's lifeblood would run dry, and rural communities would disappear. Our wheat farmers are roots that ground and hold this region together. ■

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Washington Wheat Foundation Meetings are scheduled for **June 6 and Oct. 3, 2022**, at the Wheat Foundation Building in Ritzville, Wash.



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Wheat College preview

2022 FEATURED SPEAKER TO DISCUSS 'THE YIELD TRIANGLE'

By Trista Crossley
Editor, *Wheat Life*

One of the Agricultural Marketing and Management's most popular workshops is back on the 2022 calendar as an in-person event. Wheat College will be taking place June 1 in Ritzville, Wash., with presentations by **Peter "Wheat Pete" Johnson**, Corteva Agriscience and Washington State University Extension.

Johnson, this year's featured speaker, will be discussing "The Yield Triangle." Johnson is the resident agronomist with Real Agriculture, where he posts a weekly podcast, "Wheat Pete's Word." He is a regular on "Agronomy Monday" on Real Ag radio, Sirius Satellite Radio 147. He spent 30 years as the Ontario cereal specialist. Johnson operates a small farm near Lucan, Ontario, where he constantly tries out new production ideas.

"There's a couple of different triangles that play in Washington state. One is very simple, but we rarely think of it in the perspective of growing crops, and that's the environment," Johnson explained. "I'm looking at sunshine, at carbon dioxide, at water, because that's the component triangle that yield comes from. If you don't have one of those three things, you aren't going to get yield."

In Eastern Washington, water, of course, is the key variable in that triangle, especially coming off last year's drought. During this interview, Johnson was talking from the side of a wheat field in Ontario, where they were having the opposite kind of water problem — too stinking much water, as Johnson said, describing ducks swimming in ponds where there should be wheat growing instead.

"Washington's got some incredibly dry areas, and some areas that have way better moisture. So what can you do from a management standpoint, or is there anything you can do from a management standpoint to maximize those components," he said.

Another triangle Johnson will present tackles where yield comes from. The three points of that triangle are heads per square foot, kernels per head and kernel weight.

"How do we take those three key components, and how do we figure out how to maximize them?" Johnson asked. "It's really interesting, because it plays all the way from row width to when (or if) I need a fungicide and from seeding rates to fertilizer management. How do I predict



those management factors, because I need to maximize them all if I'm going to get the biggest possible yields."

Johnson is no stranger to Wheat College. He was the featured speaker in 2020, but wasn't able to present his information in person, due to COVID-19 restrictions. He said he's excited to be able to make the trip out to Eastern Washington and to be able to interact with growers outside of Zoom.

"It is very difficult to show enthusiasm and humor, to get pumped looking at your computer screen. I can look at a real live audience and get some reaction. Even if they boo me, at least I know they are listening," he said.

Besides Johnson, personnel from Corteva Agriscience and Washington State University Extension will address rotational topics focusing on nitrogen management and pest control in small grains production. Pesticide credits have been requested. Growers will also hear the latest industry news from wheat organization leaders.

Wheat College is free and includes lunch. Membership in the Washington Association of Wheat Growers is not required. The event will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Ritzville Fairgrounds, 811 East Main Street in Ritzville. Registration is required. Email lori@wawg.org or call (509) 659-0610 to register.

The Agricultural Marketing and Management is a program of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers, and is sponsored by the Washington Grain Commission and many other partners. ■

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Featured speaker:

Peter Johnson aka Wheat Pete

Peter, @WheatPete, is the resident agronomist with Real Agriculture, where he posts a weekly podcast, "Wheat Pete's Word." He is a regular on "Agronomy Monday" on Real Ag radio, Sirius Satellite Radio 147. Peter spent 30 years as the Ontario Cereal Specialist, and loves to talk anything agriculture, especially wheat! Peter operates a small farm near Lucan, Ontario, where he constantly tries out new production ideas, and where the "rubber hits the road!" He is enthusiastic and passionate about agriculture, and loves to be challenged by growers.

Rotational topics presented by:

Corteva Agriscience and Washington State University Ext.

Rotational topics will focus on nitrogen management and pest control in small grains production. Growers will also hear the latest industry happenings and more!

2022 Wheat College is a free event with lunch included. Pesticide Credits requested.



CRP rate redux

National FSA office decides to increase two Washington counties' rental rates

By Trista Crossley
Editor, *Wheat Life*

There's good news for some growers who enrolled in the 2022 Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general sign-up despite the overall lower rates. The national Farm Service Agency (FSA) office has decided to increase the rates in Asotin and Franklin counties after reviewing data compiled by the state FSA office, the FSA county offices, the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) and the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG).

Jon Wyss, FSA state executive director, said the rates are still being finalized, but the Franklin County rate will reflect the county office's proposed rate, while the Asotin County rate will reflect the midpoint between the county office's proposed rate and the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) rate. Once the new rates are published, the county offices will begin contacting producers who signed up.

"People who didn't sign up (for CRP), we can't fix that. It's not going to reopen the sign-up, it's just going to say this is the new rate," Wyss explained. "This shows, the wheels go around, but they don't change on a dime some-

times. This stuff takes some time to process through. This whole process has shown me that the system works. Those partnerships between all of the producers, all of the county staff, all of the county committee, the state committee staff, the state folks and the associations, those producers and stakeholders and partnerships worked through this issue together."

According to Wyss, the main reason most of the rates decreased was because NASS moved from a regional model, where data from several counties was averaged, to a local model that better reflects local rates. NASS will no longer be collecting regional data.

What happened?

Almost as soon as the CRP rates for the 2022 general sign-up were published, growers began questioning them. While a few counties (Yakima, Spokane and Lincoln) saw an increase, rates in almost every other Eastern Washington county went down, sometimes by a lot (see chart). Asotin County saw a \$57 per acre decrease. Grant County rates went down \$38 per acre.

"We began getting calls from growers trying to understand why the rates decreased, sometimes drasti-

Average CRP rental rates for Eastern Washington counties

County	2022 Avg Rental Rate	2021 Avg Rental Rate	2020 Avg Rental Rate	2019 Avg Rental Rate	2018 Avg Rental Rate	5 Year Avg Rental Rate	10 Year Avg Rental Rate	37 Year Avg Rental Rate
ADAMS	\$46	\$50	\$53	\$52	\$52	\$50.44	\$50.91	\$50.04
ASOTIN	\$32*	\$89	\$53	\$52	\$53	\$55.94	\$54.50	\$54.10
BENTON	\$40	\$53	\$53	\$46	\$46	\$47.73	\$46.23	\$44.40
COLUMBIA	\$77	\$89	\$62	\$74	\$73	\$74.95	\$72.81	\$62.40
DOUGLAS	\$44	\$47	\$53	\$49	\$50	\$48.55	\$49.25	\$47.39
FRANKLIN	\$40*	\$53	\$53	\$59	\$59	\$52.79	\$53.99	\$50.06
GARFIELD	\$69	\$74	\$60	\$69	\$69	\$68.35	\$68.29	\$63.45
GRANT	\$40	\$78	\$53	\$64	\$63	\$59.65	\$59.22	\$50.46
Klickitat	\$53	\$53	\$53	\$48	\$48	\$51.18	\$49.92	\$47.01
LINCOLN	\$54	\$52	\$52	\$57	\$57	\$54.59	\$55.65	\$51.08
SPOKANE	\$55	\$53	\$50	\$70	\$70	\$59.47	\$63.84	\$58.18
WALLA WALLA	\$76	\$89	\$63	\$62	\$62	\$70.33	\$65.73	\$55.48
WHITMAN	\$87	\$89	\$83	\$80	\$80	\$83.79	\$80.58	\$70.77
YAKIMA	\$150	\$53	\$53	\$43	\$43	\$68.23	\$55.18	\$46.74

*THE UPDATED 2022 RENTAL RATES FOR ASOTIN AND FRANKLIN COUNTIES WERE STILL BEING FINALIZED AT PRESS TIME. THE RATES SHOWN ARE THE ORIGINAL PUBLISHED RATES. NUMBERS ARE ROUNDED SLIGHTLY



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

Why Support the Washington Wheat PAC?

Washington farmers are losing ground politically! The ability to protect our interests is slowly dwindling. Washington wheat producers need elected officials who know and understand the industry. Without these relationships our ability to remain competitive is at risk. During the legislative session, thousands of bills are introduced; many not favorable to farming. Now is the time for the industry to join together and proactively influence legislation that directly impacts the Washington wheat producer.

Please join our efforts by financially supporting the Washington Wheat PAC. Your contribution will strengthen the network of elected officials who understand the wheat industry's goals and objectives by fighting for what is critical to the livelihood of our members.

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cally,” said Michelle Hennings, executive director of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG). “Growers contacted their county FSA offices, and the process to appeal those rates began. Unfortunately, the national office decided not to accept the rate proposals submitted by the counties.”

At the time, the state FSA office was operating without a state executive director or a fully staffed state committee, but Wyss was adamant that the process went through the proper channels and procedures.

“Whether the state executive director would have been there or the full state committee would have been there, the same procedures would have been followed,” he said. “Producers should be really happy with the local staff. They were very strong advocates on this issue from the county to the county committee to the state, which then went back to national. I’m really proud of the staff for listening to the producers on this. Everything was followed by the book.”

Once the CRP rates are published, they are nonappealable so they don’t influence planting decisions. Wyss was appointed to the state executive director’s position shortly after the rates were published, and he said this

was one of the first things waiting for him on his desk. He attended several WAWG board meetings, and each time, he told producers that while he understood their concerns, the deadline to appeal the rates had passed. But behind the scenes, he and other industry stakeholders kept asking questions. The state FSA committee and their Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program partners came up with alternative county rates that considered local cash rent data and neighboring county estimates. NAWG leaders met with FSA administrators to discuss concerns, including this issue. Finally, FSA leadership looked into it, reviewing the data for all the counties in Washington state.

“In order to better understand and review the rental rates for the counties, FSA headquarters had a conversation with program leads. Based on that review and the analysis they conducted, FSA headquarters have said they are going to fix the Franklin County rate and the Asotin County rate for this year,” Wyss said.

Unfortunately, the Grant County rates will remain the same as the national office determined there was enough local data submitted to support the published rates and no adjustment was needed.



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About those cash rental rates...

For years, WAWG has maintained that the cash rental rates CRP is based on are flawed when it comes to setting a value for Washington wheat acres. Unlike much of the rest of the country, wheat acres in Washington are generally rented under a crop share agreement, rather than a cash rent. NASS surveys generally don't account for crop share agreements.

That may be changing. The national FSA office has created a pilot survey that attempts to gather information about crop share rental agreements and is in the process of gathering feedback on those survey questions. While Wyss is hopeful this effort will help address the issue, he cautions that the process may take some time.

"We have a good plan going forward with looking at the survey sample, and then we will continue to sit at the table with stakeholders to get it right," he said.

WAWG staff and leaders have seen the survey and have provided input on the questions. Hennings said the survey is a big step in the right direction.

"When it comes to crop share and cash rents, we know there is a problem," she said. "We are working closely with NASS and FSA to resolve the issue. At the same time, farmers still need to fill out the current NASS surveys as completely and accurately as possible so we have confidence that the data these programs rely on is accurate."

The rental rates aren't the only issue WAWG would like to see addressed in CRP. As work on the 2023 Farm Bill gears up, WAWG will be focusing on several CRP-related issues, including how the rising cost of inputs are reflected in CRP rental rates, and how environmental benefits are scored for CRP bids. ■



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First-person account

ECONOMICS PROFESSOR BREAKS DOWN UKRAINE'S PLACE IN AGRICULTURAL WORLD



By Antonina Boyaka,
Associate Professor, agricultural
economics

Antonina Boyaka was a Fulbright Scholar at Kansas State University in 2004-05, working with Barry Flinchbaugh and Dan Bernardo. Because she had been to Manhattan, Kan., in the past and was fortunate enough to have a tourist visa at the

time of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, she and her children sought solace there at the onset of the conflict. In the following article, she shares some of her experiences leaving Ukraine, as well as insights about wheat production and exports and the conflict's effects on the global wheat market. This article is reprinted with permission from the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers.

To be Ukrainian today is a huge challenge. It is a pain, but it is also a pride. The war in Ukraine has affected each Ukrainian family and even everybody around the world. I am pleased to share with you my survival story and tell

about Ukraine first hand. I would never have thought that my children and I would become refugees, and I would find a shelter in Manhattan, Kan.

My educational background is in agricultural economics. I made a successful career in university education. My last position before the Russian-Ukrainian war started was dean of faculty of economics and entrepreneurship at the Vinnytsia National Agrarian University. After a few days of Russian invasion and several bombings in Vinnytsia, my husband and I decided that I needed to go with our two children to a safer place, and Manhattan, Kan., became that safe place for us. Like thousands of other refugees, we crossed the border into Poland on foot. Polish people helped us with housing, food and all necessities before we flew to the U.S. My husband stayed in Ukraine to defend our country. It is a tough breakup, but here I have very nice friends who support our family, and who don't let me feel alone.

I had been to Kansas State University (KSU) during the 2004-05 academic year as a visiting professor within the





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Fulbright/Junior Faculty Development Program held by the U.S. Department of State. My mentors were Barry Flinchbaugh and Dan Bernardo. The goal of my scholarship was to learn features of higher education in a sphere of agricultural economics at K-State and to conduct research on agricultural extension development in order to implement the best American practices in Ukraine. One of the important missions was also cultural and scientific exchange. I made a lot of great relationships with KSU representatives, so it was no doubt that I needed to return “home” in Kansas. I appreciate very much all their support and warm welcoming.

Agricultural land in Ukraine

Being here previously and doing research, I have found a lot of similarities between Kansas and my country. Ukraine is roughly three times larger than Kansas. Like Kansas, Ukraine’s economy is based on agriculture. We both have significant crops of wheat, corn and sunflowers.

Ukraine is endowed with the largest areas of agricultural land and the most fertile soils in Europe and the world. Agricultural land accounts for 42.7 million hectares (105.5 million acres), which is 70.8 percent of the total area of the country (60 million ha or 148.3 million acres). Of these, 33 million ha (81.5 million acres) are in tillage, compared with 21.5 million acres of arable land in Kansas, 18 million ha (44.5 million acres) in France, 12 million ha (29.6 million acres) in Germany and 11 million ha (27.2 million acres) in Poland.

Ukraine also owns a third of the world’s black soils stock, a very fertile soil that can produce high yields under good economic conditions. In addition, Ukraine is endowed with a strategic location with access to agricultural markets in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa through Black Sea ports. All these factors — under appropriate use of agricultural potential — were making Ukraine an important player on the agri-food world market and provided possibilities for economic growth and improved living standards for the population.

Land ownership in Ukraine

Before Ukraine was forcibly incorporated into the Soviet Union, it was an independent country with a large

Ukraine is endowed with the largest areas of agricultural land and the most fertile soils in Europe and the world. Agricultural land accounts for 42.7 million hectares (105.5 million acres), which is 70.8 percent of the total area of the country (60 million ha or 148.3 million acres). Of these, 33 million ha (81.5 million acres) are in tillage, compared with 21.5 million acres of arable land in Kansas, 18 million ha (44.5 million acres) in France, 12 million ha (29.6 million acres) in Germany and 11 million ha (27.2 million acres) in Poland.

number of private agricultural producers. During Soviet-imposed collectivization, all lands and farm animals were taken away from them, and a number of state collective farms were established. We remember the horrors of the “Holodomor” very well, when Soviet authorities took all the grain from the Ukrainians in order to destroy the nation by starving people to death.

After Ukraine gained independence from the USSR, land reform was started. The state monopoly on land was abolished by a resolution of the Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada (Supreme Council of Ukraine) in March 1991. Verkhovna Rada transferred property rights and disposal of agricultural land from traditional Soviet collective and state farms to the collective ownership of business entities created on their basis — collective agricultural

enterprises (CAP).

As a result, in January 1993, 99.5 percent of the more than 11,000 CAPs received collective ownership of 27.6 million ha of agricultural land. In the fall of 1994, the privatization of the agricultural land of the CAP among their members began. Each participant of the CAP was given a land share (in conditional cadastral hectares without specifying location), which was confirmed by an appropriate certificate for the right of private ownership of the land share. The portion of land that was granted averaged 3.6 ha, depending on the size of the collective agricultural enterprise and the number of its members. The owners of such plots of land received the right to dispose, physically define the area and own it. As a result, 6.92 million rural residents (about 16 percent of the total population) received certificates on the right of private ownership of land.

The distribution of land shares was constrained by the slow process of restructuring the CAP into new forms of agricultural enterprises. As of March 2000, almost all CAPs changed their status to new forms of agricultural enterprises defined by law (private personal farms, agricultural cooperatives, limited liability companies, private enterprises, etc.). Currently, almost all landowners have turned their certificates for the right of private ownership of a land share into legal acts for land, thus becoming

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ing owners of land plots with a certain location and not just virtual. But in 2002, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted a new Land Code of Ukraine, which introduced a moratorium on the sale/purchase of 38.5 million hectares of agricultural land (66 percent of the entire territory of Ukraine). The goal of the moratorium was to prevent consolidation of large areas of the agricultural land in the hands of oligarchs and transnational companies.

Since 2019, land reform has gained new impulse and has been deployed on an unprecedented scale. Thanks to the Law on the Turnover of Agricultural Land (No. 552-IX of March 31, 2020), a general model of the land market was determined, which was supposed to work from July 1, 2021. Unfortunately, because of the Russian invasion, the land reform was not conducted to the very end. A transparent, fair and efficient market of agricultural land was supposed to create conditions for the release of the agricultural potential of the country and the rural economy, increasing economic growth by 0.5-1.5 percent annually over a five-year period.

Current Russian invasion is a continuation of implementation of the Soviet dominating ambitions. It is a Holocaust of Ukrainian nation — a frightening echo of the Holodomor.

Economy, ag production and exports

In order to better understand the reason (for the Soviet invasion), let's analyze some important economic data that represents the place of Ukraine in the world economy, especially in global grain markets. According to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, in 2021, the country produced 32.72 million metric tons (1.2 billion bushels) of wheat. That is 129.4 percent compared to 2020. The harvested area was 7.1 million ha (17.43 million acres). The total volume of corn production in Ukraine in 2021 was 39.82 million metric tons (1.57 billion bushels). That is 141.9 percent compared to the previous year. These dramatic gains reflect a continuation of a trend over several years in increased yield per hectare, which amounted to 30-40 percent in 2021 compared to the previous year. These increases reflect continuously improved agronomic practices, which the war seems likely to bring to an end.

Ukraine is a top producer and exporter of sunflower seeds. Ukraine had the highest production of sunflower seeds in the world in the 2021/22 crop year. During that time period, Ukraine produced around 17.5 million metric tons of sunflower seeds. Russia was the second producer of sunflower seeds worldwide, with a production volume of 15.5 million metric tons in 2021/22. ►



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According to the results of 2021, grain exports from Ukraine amounted to 51.2 million tons, worth \$12.5 billion, which is almost the same as shipments in 2020 in physical terms, but 31 percent more in cash. The increase in grain export revenues was facilitated by the upward trend in the dynamics of prices for the main grain crops in Ukraine. Thus, the average export supply prices for wheat 12.5 percent at the FOB site at the end of December 2021 compared to the beginning of January 2021 increased by 25 percent, barley by 34 percent and corn by 17 percent. Wheat exports in 2021 amounted to 20.1 million tons (738.5 million bushels), exceeding the figure a year earlier by 11 percent. Turkey has seen the largest increase in Ukrainian grain imports (1.8 million tons, 76 percent by the end of 2020).

The share of Ukrainian wheat exports in global export for the last few years was 12 percent, corn was 16 percent, and it is in 4th place in the world. Russia's share was up to 16 percent in wheat and only 2 percent in corn.

Exports of corn from Ukraine to foreign markets in 2021 compared to 2020 decreased by 12 percent — from 28 million to 24.7 million tons. At the same time, the largest decrease in corn purchases was observed by the Republic of Korea (437.4 thousand tons, a 67 percent decrease by 2020), and an increase by Iran (1.7 million tons, 37 percent by 2020).

As a result of the 2021 season, Ukraine exported 6.1 million tons of vegetable oils, among those 5.75 million tons of sunflower oil. Most of the product was exported to the EU — 32 percent; India — 32.5 percent; and China — 15.3 percent. The share of Ukrainian sunflower oil in the world export for the last two years was 47 percent. In 2021, Ukraine and Russia controlled 77 percent of global oil exports.

Objective of Russian invasion

So, we can safely state the fact that Ukraine is a significant player in global grain markets. Consequently, one of the reasons for the Russian invasion into Ukraine is obvious: Russia wants to appropriate our rich land, to establish control over the export of grain and other trade to Europe and other countries, including through the seizure of seaports, in order to continue to blackmail the world with its monopolistic position, not only in the fuel market, but also in the issue of food security.

The Russian-Ukrainian war will make a significant impact on the global wheat market. But now it is very difficult to predict all the losses without knowing how many people (labor) left Ukraine or suffered, how many infrastructure facilities were wrecked, how many hectares of agricultural land/crops were destroyed or occupied, and if

Ukraine will be able to plant/harvest, etc.

Planting spring crops

Currently, due to the war in Ukraine, farmers cannot start planting on an area of 3.5 million ha of agricultural land, says Mykola Solsky, minister of agrarian policy and food of Ukraine. As of April 1, spring crops planting in Ukraine for the country's 2022 crop is projected to be conducted on 13.44 million ha of controlled territory. As for now, spring crops planted on 603 thousand ha, among them wheat — 81 thousand ha (43.6 percent compared to previous year harvested area), barley — 327 thousand ha (24.5 percent), and sunflower — 33.7 thousand ha (0.5 percent).

According to preliminary estimations, only 4.7 million ha will be planted with spring grains in Ukraine in 2022, which is 39 percent less than in the previous season. The situation is also aggravated by the disruption of resource supply chains, which will affect both the size of the cultivated area and future yields. An important factor is the impossibility of obtaining seed material ordered by farmers earlier, and, in many cases, even paid for. This, most likely, will lead to an additional reduction in corn crops. The corn planting campaign is under risk. Unlike wheat, the corn crop is not yet planted at all, and some key regions are under the heaviest attacks from Russian troops (Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Poltava and other regions).

Harvesting winter crops

The situation is also extremely negative for winter crops. Taking into account the current map of military activity, according to estimates, out of 7.6 million ha of winter wheat, rye and barley sown, only 5.5 million hectares may be available for harvesting. That corresponds to a 28 percent loss of area. The future availability of fuel, fertilizer, machinery and labor will have a significant impact on the planting/harvesting campaigns' continuation. Therefore, estimates will be repeatedly changed in accordance with the development of hostilities in the territory of Ukraine.

Blockade of Ukrainian ports

The blockade of Ukrainian seaports also brings significant losses to the national and world economies. According to the interview of Denis Shmygal, prime minister of Ukraine, almost 90 percent of grain accumulated as of early April in granaries, elevators and warehouses cannot be exported due to the blockade of Ukrainian ports. And the export of existing surpluses would give Ukraine \$7-\$10 billion. During March 2022, it was reported Ukraine exported just 1.1 million tons of corn, 309 thousand tons of wheat, 118 thousand tons of sunflower oil and 40 thousand tons of soybeans. This is four times less than in



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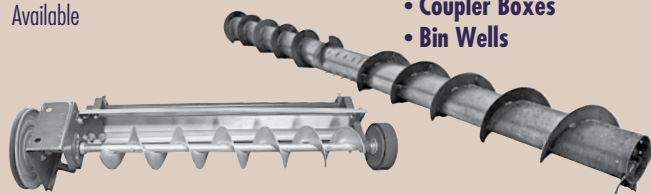


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February 2022. It is unclear whether the vessels loaded in March were able to depart for their destinations because of the blockade of the ports. The Ukrainian and Polish ministers of agriculture recently discussed issues related to the establishment of uninterrupted overland supplies of agri-food products from Ukraine to traditional export-dependent markets and the search for alternative ways to deliver through EU transit corridors.


Long-term impact

The Russian-Ukrainian war will have a long-term impact on the world market and will lead to a repartition of the market share of players, the formation of new supply chains, and changes in the pricing mechanism. To maintain its leading position in the grain market and ensure its own food security, Ukraine needs global support for the supply of fuel, seeds, fertilizers and the creation of safe export-import corridors. But above all, Ukraine needs peace.

At the same time, other countries, such as the U.S., which are powerful producers of grain in particular, should assess their potential for increasing their production and exports in order to protect import-dependent countries from a future food crisis. There are many uncertainties, and I will be constantly monitoring news and reports about several major factors:

- Size of current grain stores.
- Fate and distribution of grain stores.
- Availability of farm labor and crop inputs.
- Planting/harvesting situation.
- Volume of production and effect on grain supply.

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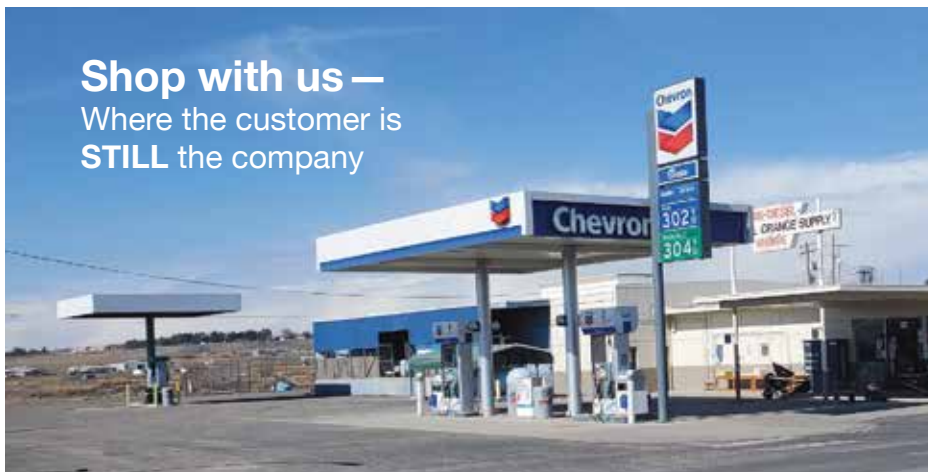


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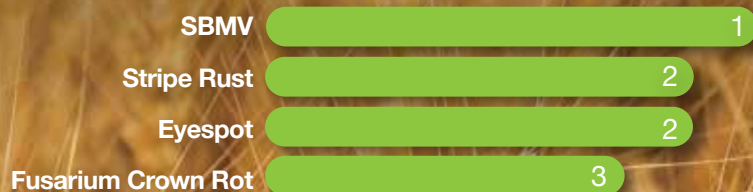
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T&S Sales celebrates 60 years in business

Robert Schuyler, 3rd generation owner, serves Pacific Northwest farmers

By Kevin Gaffney
For *Wheat Life*

When Paul Schuyler and his wife, Hertha, founded T&S Sales in 1960, it was housed in a small office in the old Stockyards building on East Boone Avenue, a block from the current location at 3905 East Boone in Spokane, Wash.

They would be proud to see what their business venture has grown into over the ensuing six decades.

Starting mostly with steel buildings, the company soon changed their focus over to grain bins. Harvey, Paul's son, joined the company full time in 1968 after earning a degree in hotel and restaurant management from Washington State University (WSU). He took over management from his father in 1971.

Harvey decided that since they were selling and installing grain bins, they should sell the augers that go with them. They started out with Westgo/Cheyenne, and when that company went out of business, they switched over to Westfield augers, still one of their main lines. They operated an additional outlet in Othello for 30 years until unforeseen medical issues required the company to close Othello and expand the Spokane operation. Harvey's son, Robert Schuyler, worked at the business as a youth and joined full time after earning a degree in geographic information systems from the University of Washington. He is now sole owner/manager after Harvey passed away last year.

"Originally, I was studying computer science, with dreams of a career like Paul Allen or Bill Gates," said Schuyler. "Then, I switched over to urban planning and design. Finally, I realized I didn't want to



Shown in front of the assembly yard and some of their inventory are (from left) Jorge Paulino; Robert Schuyler, owner; Chris Sutton; Mikel Forney; and Matty Whittaker. Not pictured is construction foreman Sam Woodman.

spend most of my time working in a cubicle. Coming back to Spokane to work in the family business was the answer.

"Of course, when you are fresh out of college, you have all these grand ideas, and I thought I would be able to come in here and just take over," he recalled. "I am so glad I had the opportunity to work with my father for 15 years. He taught me so much about the business and customer service. It was really an amazing thing to be able to work for my mentor who also happened to be my dad."

The grain storage business has evolved over the years, along with the size of the farms and the harvesting equipment. A single combine bulk tank is large enough to fill multiple, outdated, two-ton trucks. Grain carts and semitrucks are the new norm. Older six and eight-inch grain augers are also now obsolete for most applications.

"We sold and built a tremendous number of grain bins in the 1970s and 1980s," Schuyler said. "Virtually all of those were built for 2-ton or tandem-axle trucks. Those bins and augers simply don't work for modern-day harvesting. Many of the smaller bins built in the past are now used for seed or feed storage or for specific, identity-preserved products."

On-farm storage can help farmers avoid lines waiting at the elevator, and it can be useful for segregating or mixing grain for quality purposes.

Farmers are now installing larger bins with 10- or 13-inch augers that move the grain much faster. Some bins are being retrofitted with larger auger systems. A 13-inch auger can unload a semitruck in about half the time it takes a 10-inch unit. ►



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"Farmers can't afford to have combines sitting in the field waiting for a grain cart or truck to come unload. The newest combines can harvest a quarter section of grain in a day, and they need to be running nonstop," Schuyler said.

T&S mostly does business with farmers, but they have completed some larger projects for grain cooperatives. They have built bins up to 50,000 bushels. When they sell the materials for 500,000 bushel bins, they contract those jobs out. They cover Washington, Northern Idaho, Oregon and Montana. Schuyler has expanded their business using the internet.

Along with Scafcro Grain Systems and Sioux Steel Company, T&S Sales carries Westfield augers, Batco belt conveyors and Walinga grain vacuum product lines. Sioux Steel Company recently bought out Scafcro, but will continue to maintain the same product lines for their farm clients.

T&S employs four, full-time employees, plus a bin construction foreman who works as a private contractor. Schuyler has a positive view of the future of the grain industry in the Pacific Northwest (PNW).

"Our region has forward-looking and intelligent farmers. Their choices in crop rotations and in finding premium niche markets for their products are effective. Their promotion and marketing efforts domestically and worldwide are successful. I believe the wheat and other grains we grow here in the PNW rank right up there with anywhere else in the world. The success of our growers backs that up.

"Our farmers are not only innovative, they grow a diverse, high quality selection of crops, and they use effective conservation practices to protect the precious soil resource. The world population continues to grow, and people need good quality food products that we can provide," he explained.

Schuyler is tied to the office more closely now without his father in the business.

"I've hinted to my wife that she could help out here in the office, but she hasn't taken me up on it yet," he said.

Schuyler and his wife, Michelle, have three children. Stella is 3, Lincoln is 7 and Rylan is 19 and in his second year at WSU, following in his grandfather's footsteps as a Cougar. This provided the opportunity to resurrect a special family sports wager between father and son, carrying on an annual bet that Robert used to have with Harvey. Both were avid sports fans, and there was a lot of trash talk about the Apple Cup. They would bet on the outcome every football season.

Rylan has started off 1-0, with the Cougars defeating the Huskies in Seattle this past year after several years of losses. Don't worry, Robert, there is always next year.

For more information about T&S Sales, visit their website at nwgrainaugers.com. ■

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CHAIRMAN

WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION

By Mike
Carstensen



In 1557, Thomas Tusser compiled a collection of writings he called, "A Hundred Good Points of Husbandry." In the April husbandry section, he wrote, "April showers bring May flowers." Makes me wonder if ol' Tusser had to deal with droughts or geopolitical uncertainties. However, I kept thinking about this phrase and others like, "There is a silver lining after each dark cloud," or, "This too shall pass." These phrases encourage us to look forward to the month of May with excitement and enthusiasm, despite the depression that looms from COVID-19, a long winter, as well as the past several months of drought and input uncertainties.

May is usually a very hopeful time of year. With all the uncertainty and geopolitical conflict gripping the world, we are all trying our best to be prepared for who knows what will come. As the days get longer, at least we've got some fieldwork to focus on.

Washington growers feed the world. We can take comfort in the thought that our daily work is being productive, not just for our families and local communities, but also for our customers throughout the world. The Washington Grain Commission (WGC) helps us feed the world. As I often mention, the WGC mission is to enhance the long-term profitability and competitiveness of Washington grain producers, and the WGC is also continuing its daily work in research, education and marketing. This work is accomplished with the help of grower assessment dollars (more coming in July on the WGC 2022/23 budget).

On the marketing front, the WGC works closely with U.S. Wheat Associates (USW), which is the export market development organization for the U.S. wheat industry. USW's number one job is to promote the reliability, quality and value of all six U.S. wheat classes to buyers, millers, bakers, food processors and government officials in more than 100 countries. The mission of the multitudes of individuals who work for USW isn't to sell the most wheat, it is to "develop, maintain and expand interna-

tional markets to enhance wheat's profitability for U.S. wheat producers and its value for their customers." Note that profitability is key.

Washington state's current USW assessment is \$521,700 out of \$7.3 million in total member assessment (WGC 21/22 budget). USW leverages our grower dollars 2.4 to 1, with cost-share funding provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service. The total return to the U.S. economy in some estimates is as high as 20 to 1. Without a doubt, USW is a valuable association for our producers. The willingness and ability of USW to provide technical service, both before and after a sale, to stress sound purchasing decisions for value and application, is very important.

The USW technical marketing staff participated in training activities at the Wheat Marketing Center in Portland on March 21-23. It goes without saying the huge impact this training will have for Washington wheats. This was an excellent opportunity for WGC commissioners and the USW technical team to get together. I've said it before, the U.S. market is the go-to market for a reliable supply of quality wheat. The USW technical team is a valuable link in the value chain from us to our customers. Many years of development from farmers, WGC and USW have resulted in our current position, and all of us need to keep it that way.

When thinking of all the uncertainties (weather, inputs, geopolitical) it's not easy to think about April showers bringing May flowers or a silver lining after each dark cloud or how this too shall pass. However, keep in mind the WGC is working daily to return the silver linings for Washington growers. This month continues the WGC's *Wheat Life* series featuring some additional success stories from our extensive partnership with USW to support technical programming abroad. I hope you are enjoying the series and learning some of the details behind how our checkoff dollars are working to maintain our international markets. ■

REPORTS

WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION

Japan remains a steady buyer

WHEAT CONSUMPTION HAS REMAINED RELATIVELY STABLE DUE TO END-PRODUCT MANUFACTURERS

The Washington Grain Commission (WGC) promotes the small grains industry through the allocation of farmer checkoff dollars in the areas of research, market development and education. When it comes to promoting our wheat in international markets, WGC works directly with U.S. Wheat Associates (USW), which is the export market development organization for the U.S. wheat industry. USW activities in more than 100 countries are made possible through grower contributions from 17 state wheat commissions (including Washington) and cost-share funding provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service. This Wheat Life series features some examples of how your commission checkoff dollars are working hard to promote, grow and maintain demand for the high-quality U.S. wheat the world has come to rely on.

Wheat market overview

Japan has been a steady buyer of U.S. wheat for more than 60 years. The market is quality-conscious and generally mature. Wheat consumption has been relatively steady and stable at around 70 pounds per capita due to the efforts of end-product manufacturers. Although consumption of rice, a traditional staple food, has been decreasing.

The five-year average for Japan's national production of wheat is at 34.7 million bushels per year. To fill the demand deficit, Japan imports around 195 million bushels per year (three-year average). Out of this, 47 percent comes from the U.S. The balance comes from mainly Canada and Australia.

Wheat imports to Japan are controlled by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery (MAFF). MAFF imports wheat from registered traders and sells to flour millers at a fixed price, which is determined every six months based on the weighted average of its purchasing cost plus a markup, which is reinvested in domestic wheat production. Japan tenders three classes of wheat from the U.S.:

- Western White (WW) wheat from the Pacific Northwest, mainly Washington. ►



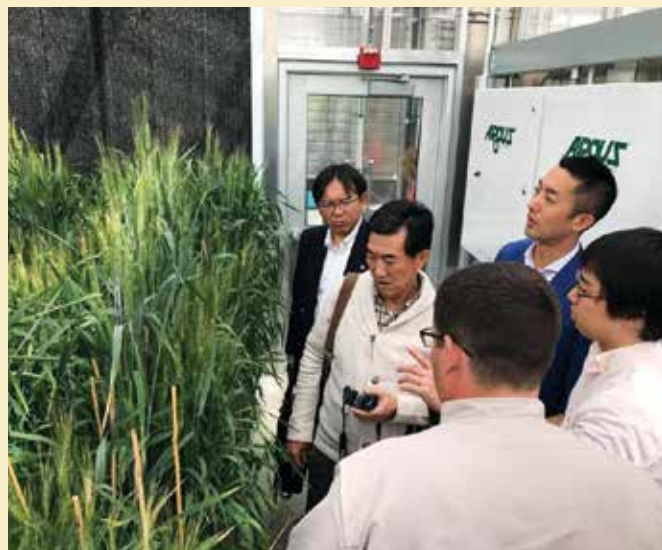
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WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION



In 2017, flour milling executives representing Japan's National Millers Cooperative (Zen Fun Kyo) learned how Washington State University and U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service wheat breeders are developing cultivars with excellent end-use quality on a trade team visit to Pullman, Wash. Trade teams like this, coordinated by U.S. Wheat Associates and the Washington Grain Commission, give Japan's flour millers the information they need to confidently recommend U.S. wheat purchases to officials with Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

JAPAN

Japan is an island nation west of the Pacific Ocean. Its five main islands are Hokkaido, Honshu (the “mainland”), Shikoku, Kyushu and Okinawa. Its closest neighbors include South Korea, China and Russia. As of 2021, Japan is home to approximately 125.2 million people. Its capital is Tokyo. Japan has been a member of the United Nations since 1956.



Official language: Japanese

Head official: Fumio Kishida, prime minister. The prime minister is appointed by the emperor after being selected by the National Diet and must maintain the confidence of the House of Representatives to remain in office.



Government type: Unitary parliamentary constitutional monarchy. What does that mean? This is a democratic form of government where a member of parliament (prime minister) serves as head of government, and a monarch serves as head of state. Japan’s government has a bicameral legislature, called the National Diet, made up



of a 465-member lower House of Representatives (“Shugi-in”) and a 245-member upper House of Councillors (“Sangi-in”). Both houses are elected by the people. The Supreme Court has 15 seats. Japan has 47 administrative prefectures and eight geographic regions.

Japan’s monarchy is known as the Imperial Household, which is led by Their Majesties the Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako.



Main religion/culture: Main religions in Japan include Shintoism, Buddhism and Christianity.



There have been people living on the islands of Japan dating back to 30,000 BC. Japan enjoys one of the world’s highest life expectancies, and senior citizens make up the largest portion of its population. Average age of Japanese is 48 years old, versus 37 years old in the U.S., and 24 years old in the Philippines. Japan’s population in January 2022 was 125.4 million and has been declining since 2011.



Economy overview: The currency of Japan is the Japanese yen (one U.S. dollar is about 120 yen). According to the World Bank, the gross domestic product of Japan in 2020 was \$4.975 trillion (U.S. dollars). This is up from two decades ago, but down from a record high of \$6.27 trillion in 2012. Main industries include automobiles, consumer electronics, computers and other electronics.

According to the Office of the United States Trade Representative, Japan is currently our fourth-largest agricultural export market. U.S. total exports of agricultural products to Japan totaled \$11.8 billion in 2020. Leading domestic export categories include beef and beef products (\$1.9 billion); corn (\$1.8 billion); pork and pork products (\$1.6 billion); soybeans (\$1.1 billion); and wheat (\$635 million).

Read more about Japan at japan.go.jp/ ■

Japanese confectionery, including sponge cake and biscuits, are made from WW almost exclusively.

- Hard red winter wheat is for multipurpose use, including instant noodles.
- Hard red spring wheat is used for bread and always competes with Canadian spring wheat.

The Japanese traditional “Udon” noodle is made from Australian wheat and Japanese domestic wheat.

The number of flour milling companies has decreased from 129 in 1998, down to the current 72 companies. The top four flour milling companies with their affiliates have about 80 percent of total market share. The larger flour

millers are diversifying to food processing, decreasing dependency on the flour business, and aggressively deploying plants internationally for flour milling, pasta processing and premix flour manufacturing in overseas countries.

Market outlook for 2022/23

During the pandemic, the flour milling industry suffered a significant loss of flour demand, primarily from lack of tourism and reduced restaurant business. The increased demand for home-use flour (including instant noodles, premix and pasta) was not enough to offset the

impact of pandemic shutdowns. The Japan Flour Millers Association (JFMA) explains the reduction in overall flour consumption due to COVID-19 is about 4 percent since FY2019. There is some concern that wheat could be replaced by rice, since a significant decrease in rice demand in recent years has caused excess stock, making it cheaper.

The industry believes wheat flour demand will recover soon. However, dampening this enthusiasm are reports of rapid consumer goods inflation, including food, and its raw materials in the new fiscal year, which started April 2022.

Last September, MAFF raised the price of wheat by 19 percent. In March, they again raised prices by 17.3 percent for sales from April through September 2022. Japanese buyers are afraid that unless there are significant decreases in market prices from this point, another MAFF increase will come this September. Japanese consumers are beginning to be vocal amid rapid food inflation, but so far under the MAFF system, demand of wheat flour has been steady.

Hopes are also high that better weather could generate better production in the U.S. in the coming season, providing a better supply and more attractive prices.

On the street: A note from Japan Flour Millers Association

Washington state and Japan are connected by strong ties. Japan imports around 5 million tons of wheat annually from overseas, half of which comes from the United States, of which Washington's wheat accounts for a high share. Through the efforts of both parties over the years, stable business relationships for high-quality wheat have been established. The Japanese dining table is supplied with a wide range of wheat flour items imported from the U.S., including confectionery produced from Western White, bread and Chinese noodles.

On the other hand, from Japan to Washington state, information such as quality evaluation results for various varieties of white club wheat is provided and used for the development of new varieties.

In May 2018, the Washington Grain Commission (WGC) and the Japan Flour Millers Association (JFMA) exchanged documents on the cooperative relationship on the development of white club wheat in order to establish and strengthen this trend. Since then, once a year, researchers from universities have also participated in the evaluation of the quality of new wheat varieties under development and exchanged opinions based on the results. Then, practical results have been obtained, such as the selection of varieties that are appropriate to further develop in the future.

I am confident that continuing these efforts will further strengthen the relationship of trust between Washington state and the Japanese wheat industry. The situation surrounding international grains is largely influenced by the effects of climate change and geopolitical conflicts, but we will strive to further develop a good relationship between the two countries.

—Yasuo Sasaki, Executive Director, Japan Flour Millers Association



Joining members of the Japanese Flour Millers Association (JFMA) and the Washington Grain Commission (WGC) during the JFMA/WGC club wheat technical exchange signing ceremony in May 2018 were Rep. McMorris Rodgers (R-Wash.); Washington State Department of Agriculture Director Derek Sandison; Washington State University President Kirk Shultz and other university officials; and representatives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service and the Washington Association of Wheat Growers. The ceremony coincided with the WGC's 60th anniversary celebration.

Market development success story

Japan is the largest buyer of soft white club wheat. The first indication of Asian market wheat trade dates to 1906 when Japan's Masuda Flour Milling Co. imported flour from Centennial Mills in Spokane, Wash. Pacific Northwest farmers formalized the trade relationship with Japan in 1956. Western Wheat Associates and USW have maintained a marketing office there ever since. Today, USW provides active trade service to procurement officials at MAFF and private millers who produce

literally hundreds of high-quality flour products for this sophisticated market.

The Washington Grain Commission (WGC) and JFMA have been working closely since 2018 to establish and strengthen the support system for the regional club variety development program conducted at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service based in Washington. The WGC leads the annual technical exchange based on sample analysis conducted by JFMA. ■

Buckwheat admixture causes allergen concern

Buckwheat is considered a deadly allergen in Japan, similar to a peanut allergy in the U.S. The Japanese Food Labeling Act requires all sellers to state the buckwheat content on labels of final food products for safety purposes. JFMA members requested that MAFF add a new specification in purchase requirements to restrict buckwheat admixture to a maximum of five kernels per one kilogram (2.2 pounds) per subplot as inspected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service at the export port. Thus, end products in Japan can be exempted from the labeling rule, and JFMA members can assure the

safety of their final products to all consumers.

PNW wheat shippers, grain handlers, state wheat commissions and farmers work together to keep buckwheat out of supply channels and avoid the risk of the potential disruption of U.S. wheat exports to Japan. This process is underway and is accomplished through education regarding wise handling and crop management practices, along with restriction of buckwheat in cover crops. JFMA members, MAFF and the Grain Importers Association have expressed appreciation for the assistance by WGC and all concerned parties in the wheat industry to address this issue. ■

Tough year sorts 2021 ratings

YIELDS, TEST WEIGHTS DOWN LAST YEAR IN WSU VARIETY TESTING PLOTS

By Clark Neely

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No doubt about it, 2021 was a tough year, and many growers in Eastern Washington are facing the possibility of another rough year in 2022 with low soil moisture reserves in many areas and below-average winter and spring precipitation.

Yields and test weights were down nearly everywhere in 2021, and grain protein was up as much as two to three percentage points in spots. Luckily, public and private breeding programs continue to produce resilient varieties that are able to mitigate some of the negative impacts from the difficult growing environments we have recently experienced. Here is a synopsis of winter wheat variety performances for the different precipitation zones and wheat classes based on the Washington State University Extension Cereal Variety Testing Program results.

There were very few brand new named entries in 2021. On the soft white winter (SWW) side, AgriPro's AP Exceed was first tested in 2021 in the high precipitation and irrigated zones. It landed near the trial average in the more-than-20-inch precipitation zone, but was in the top group in the 16-to-20-inch zone. VI Presto CL+ was tested for the first time by the Varsity Idaho program in the high precipitation zones, but was previously tested in the low precipitation zones. It was within one to two bushels of the trial yield average for all but the 16-to-20-inch zone, where it was four bushels under. Similarly, VI



Voodoo CL+ was first tested in the low precipitation zones in 2021 where it landed within one to two bushels of the trial average.

Unlike the SWW trials, there were a number of new hard red winter (HRW) entries in 2021: Battle AX (Montech); Canvas, Whistler and Guardian (Colorado State University entries); AP18AX (AgriPro); and LCS Fusion AX (Limagrain Cereal Seeds). AP18AX and LCS Fusion AX are not being tested again in 2022. All but LCS Fusion AX and AP18AX landed in the top of the trial in both low precipitation zones.

SWW High Precipitation Zones

Piranha CL+ and Sockeye CL+ continue to perform exceptionally well in the high precipitation zones. In fact, they were the only two entries that were in the top group statistically for both the 16-to-20-inch and more-than-20-inch regions in 2021. Both are very similar for test weight and grain protein, landing near the top of the trials for test weight and some of the lowest in grain protein. VI Voodoo CL+ and AP Iliad also did very well in both precipitation zones for both 2021 and the two-year yield averages. Both were at or slightly above the trial for test weight and at or slightly below the trial average for grain protein. Some of the older varieties continued to do well also, despite the hot, dry conditions last year. LCS Artdeco, PNW Hailey and SY Dayton all tied VI Voodoo CL+ and AP Iliad for yield in 2021. LCS Drive did uncharacteristically well in 2021, likely due to its early maturity under the drought and extreme heat conditions.

In contrast, TMC M-Press and LCS Blackjack are varieties that have historically done well in these regions, but struggled to compete in 2021 compared to their long-term averages. Similarly, LCS Shine was closer to average in the more-than-20-inch zone in 2021, but was near the top in 2020. It did exceptionally well in both years in the 16-to-20-inch zone, however, no 2021 average is presented due to missing data at Mayview from deer grazing. On the two-year average, it stands alone as the best yielding variety for that zone.

Cameo is a new U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service winter club, recently named, with a high precipitation-targeted production region. It has a two-to-four-bushel yield advantage over other clubs and better stripe rust resistance and earlier maturity than ARS-Crescent.

SWW Low Precipitation Zones

Piranha CL+ landed in the top of the trial again in the below-16-inch precipitation zones. Likewise, TMC M-Press, Stingray CL+ and SY Command again did very well in both zones. LCS Hulk and TMC M-Idas were above average in the 12-to-16-inch zone, but were near average in the below-12-inch zone, whereas the opposite was true for LCS Shine and Norwest Tandem. Both AP Dynamic and Norwest Duet continued to land two to three bushels above the trial average, as they normally do.

Pritchett was the most consistent, high-yielding club wheat in each zone in 2021, though ARS-Crescent was as good or better than Pritchett on the two-year average. Pritchett, however, maintained much better test weight compared to ARS-Crescent. In 2021, Castella generally did not compete with Pritchett for yield in the low precipitation zones, though Castella was more competitive in the higher rainfall zones. Interestingly, Castella historically has had better test weight than Pritchett and ARS-Crescent on the long-term averages; however, that was not the case in 2021.

SWW Irrigated Zones

Several entries have missing data from Moses Lake in 2021 due to gopher damage. Of those not affected, AP Exceed, LCS Artdeco, LCS Shine, WB1783, SY Dayton, Purl and UI Sparrow all topped the trial for yield in 2021. Most of these grouped at the top on the two-year average as well along with LCS Hulk, LCS Drive, Sockeye CL+ and LCS Blackjack. Grain protein was elevated in 2021, but LCS Artdeco and LCS Shine were among the two lowest.

HRW High Precipitation Zones

Scorpio had an exceptional year all around and especially so in the high precipitation zone where it stood out statistically as the best yielding HRW variety. The next best yielding variety, Keldin, was eight bushels lower, followed closely by LCS Rocket, WB4303 and Battle AX. While LCS Rocket was closer to the trial average for yield in 2021, it statistically ties Scorpio on the two-year average. Canvas had the best test weight in the trial, while WB4623CLP and SY Clearstone CL2 had the best grain protein.

HRW Low Precipitation Zones

There was little separation among the top half of the trial in the 12-to-16-inch and below-16-inch zones in 2021, partly due to lower yields. Keldin, Scorpio, Battle AX, Canvas, Whistler and Guardian were all statistically in the top of the trial in both zones. WB4394 and WB4303 both did well in the -to-16-inch zone, but not as well in the below-12-inch zone; whereas the

Table 1. 2021 WSU Extension Soft White Winter Wheat Variety Trial Summary

Variety	IRRIGATED					
	MOSES LAKE	PASCO	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG YIELD ²	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE GRAIN PROTEIN
Variety	---Yield (Bu/A)---		Lb/Bu	%		
AP Exceed (11PN039#20)	147	156	151	--	60.5	11.9
LCS Artdeco	149	152	151	147	58.8	11.3
LCS Shine	146	156	151	--	60.7	11.5
WB1783	150	140	145	140	60.9	12.4
SY Dayton	146	143	144	146	59.2	12.0
Purl	151	137	144	141	59.1	12.6
UI Sparrow	155	133	144	143	56.9	12.5
YSC-215	149	136	142	--	59.7	12.6
LCS Hulk	147	137	142	143	60.0	12.7
LCS Drive	136	147	141	141	56.6	12.3
TMC M-Press	146	135	140	136	58.8	12.3
Jasper	150	129	139	133	56.5	12.8
Sockeye CL+ (WA8306 CL+)	156	122	139	141	56.5	12.5
WB1529	136	142	139	139	61.3	12.4
Puma	143	134	138	134	59.3	12.8
Nixon	144	132	138	139	58.7	12.3
WB1604	135	140	138	137	60.5	12.2
Piranha CL+ (WA8305 CL+)	138	135	137	135	57.0	12.7
Norwest Duet	138	131	135	134	58.4	12.8
Norwest Tandem	133	136	134	133	58.7	12.0
Stingray CL+	142	122	132	133	57.6	13.1
OR2X2 CL+	132	117	124	118	57.1	13.4
ARS-Selbu	124	122	123	--	58.0	13.4
LCS Blackjack	-- ¹	146	--	148	55.7	12.2
PNW Hailey	-- ¹	134	--	138	60.0	12.6
AP Iliad	-- ¹	146	--	138	59.4	12.9
Resilience CL+	-- ¹	124	--	134	58.5	12.8
UI Magic CL+	-- ¹	136	--	133	60.3	12.8
C.V. %	6	5	6	6	1.9	1.8
LSD (0.05)	18	13	9	8	1.3	0.3
Average	143	137	140	138	58.4	12.5

¹Missing data due to gopher damage.

²Moses Lake 2020 and 2019 data excluded from analysis due to low yields and no Pasco site in 2020.

opposite was true for WB4311. On the two-year average, WB4394, Keldin and LCS Jet were the best in the 12-to-16-inch zone, and Scorpio, Keldin and LCS Jet were all tied for best in the below-12-inch zone. Canvas and Guardian stood out for maintaining phenomenal test weights despite the tough growing conditions, whereas WB4623CLP and SY Clearstone CL2 both had the highest grain protein in the trials. ►

Table 1. 2021 WSU Extension Soft White Winter Wheat Variety Trial Summary

Precipitation Zone=>20"									Precipitation Zone=16-20"								
	COLTON	FAIRFIELD	FARMINGTON	PULLMAN	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE GRAIN PROTEIN		DAYTON	MAYVIEW	ST. JOHN	WALLA WALLA	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG YIELD ²	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE GRAIN PROTEIN
Variety (Club)	-----Yield (Bu/A)-----				Lb/Bu		%		Variety (Club)	-----Yield (Bu/A)-----				Lb/Bu		%	
Piranha CL+ (WA8305 CL+)	70	40	104	83	74	112	58.2	11.1	AP Iliad	58	67	105	84	85	104	58.5	11.5
Sockeye CL+ (WA8306 CL+)	68	42	96	80	72	110	58.1	11.0	VI Voodoo CL+ (UIL 17-6268 CL+)	49	66	96	86	83	107	59.0	11.4
VI Voodoo CL+ (UIL 17-6268 CL+)	70	39	93	83	71	106	57.0	11.9	Jasper	47	66	95	86	82	106	56.1	12.3
AP Iliad	78	37	84	80	70	102	57.1	11.8	Piranha CL+ (WA8305 CL+)	54	58	101	83	82	105	59.4	10.9
LCS Artdeco	75	38	83	79	69	104	56.6	10.9	LCS Artdeco	58	58	98	90	82	106	58.6	10.7
LCS Drive	76	35	84	78	68	99	55.3	11.6	Sockeye CL+ (WA8306 CL+)	49	64	97	85	81	106	59.5	11.3
PNW Hailey	67	39	89	78	68	--	59.0	11.9	PNW Hailey	49	65	94	82	81	--	60.5	11.8
Stingray CL+	68	38	90	73	67	101	56.2	12.5	SY Dayton	51	59	101	79	80	106	59.3	11.6
SY Dayton	74	36	80	76	67	101	57.9	11.6	Norwest Duet	42	58	98	83	80	106	58.6	11.5
AP Dynamic	69	38	83	77	67	98	54.0	11.8	AP Exceed (11PN039#20)	53	63	94	82	80	--	60.6	10.6
LCS Shine	72	38	80	76	66	103	56.3	11.1	Nixon	51	62	96	80	79	103	58.4	11.6
Jasper	68	39	84	74	66	103	53.2	12.3	Puma	44	57	94	87	79	101	59.2	12.0
Norwest Duet	70	43	84	68	66	103	57.2	11.5	Purl	46	58	98	81	79	104	59.1	11.7
Norwest Tandem	69	32	81	81	66	100	56.8	11.6	Stingray CL+	47	62	92	81	79	99	58.0	12.5
Nixon	69	37	87	70	66	100	56.8	11.5	AP Dynamic	51	65	89	81	78	103	56.4	11.9
AP Exceed (11PN039#20)	69	36	79	78	66	--	58.1	11.1	WB1783	52	64	88	82	78	101	60.3	12.2
LCS Blackjack	64	40	81	76	65	103	53.8	11.8	Pritchett	47	61	96	77	78	102	58.3	11.5
WB1783	67	39	84	69	65	97	59.8	12.2	TMC M-Press	51	59	93	80	77	106	58.3	11.5
VI Presto CL+ (UIL 17-6451 CL+)	69	41	77	70	64	--	59.5	11.9	LCS Drive	57	58	92	81	77	94	57.8	11.1
OR2X2 CL+	63	41	83	69	64	97	56.1	12.6	LCS Hulk	53	58	93	78	76	104	59.4	12.0
Pritchett	65	35	79	76	64	98	57.1	12.3	Norwest Tandem	46	60	90	79	76	100	58.9	11.3
Resilience CL+	64	35	81	75	64	96	57.5	12.2	LCS Blackjack	50	47	100	77	75	103	55.4	11.4
Puma	62	34	81	74	63	98	57.5	12.2	OR2X2 CL+	42	54	88	82	74	95	58.4	12.6
LCS Hulk	66	38	75	72	63	100	57.0	12.3	YSC-215	48	50	97	76	74	94	59.4	11.4
Castella	64	35	82	69	63	98	55.2	12.1	ARS-Crescent	36	55	90	77	74	102	57.2	11.8
TMC M-Press	67	35	76	71	62	101	57.3	11.5	VI Presto CL+ (UIL 17-6451 CL+)	55	57	84	78	73	--	60.6	12.2
Purl	68	32	78	69	62	100	57.4	11.8	WB1604	44	52	87	76	72	91	59.2	12.0
ARS-Selbu	58	39	73	69	60	--	56.8	12.5	ARS-Selbu	39	53	84	79	72	--	59.0	12.6
YSC-215	59	29	78	70	59	--	58.3	11.9	Resilience CL+	44	62	78	74	71	95	59.7	12.1
UI Magic CL+	60	28	81	65	59	91	58.2	12.3	UI Magic CL+	53	49	77	79	68	92	59.8	12.1
WB1604	60	32	72	65	57	93	58.6	12.7	Castella	51	-- ¹	100	76	--	101	--	--
ARS-Crescent	59	37	74	58	57	94	53.7	12.5	LCS Shine	51	-- ¹	104	84	--	117	--	--
C.V. %	4	7	4	6	5	6	1.5	3.3	C.V. %	11	9	6	6	7	7	2.0	4.5
LSD (0.05)	5	4	6	7	3	3	0.7	0.3	LSD (0.05)	10	10	12	10	5	4	1.1	0.5
Average	67	37	84	74	65	100	56.9	11.9	Average	48	58	93	81	77	102	58.7	11.7

¹Missing data due to deer grazing at Mayview.

²2-year yield average excludes Dayton 2021 and Mayview 2021.

HRW Irrigated zones

Data from Moses Lake and Pasco irrigated sites in 2021 concluded that WB4394, LCS Rocket, Keldin, WB4303, Canvas and Battle AX were all statistically tied for the best yielding in 2021. Out of these varieties, only LCS Rocket, Keldin and WB4303 have been tested for two or more years, and they also tie for best on the two-year average, along with LCS Jet. Canvas, Battle AX and WB4394 all had excellent test weight while WB4623CLP continued to have the highest protein.

New Ratings

In winter 2020-21 and fall 2021, weather conditions were conducive for generating new data for snow mold and emergence ratings. Based on this new data, Mela CL+ was rated the number one variety for snow mold, followed closely by Devote, Otto and Curiosity CL+, which all tied for number two. For emergence, Devote and Otto came in first, followed by Mela CL+ and Curiosity CL+ for second.

On the hard red winter side, Battle AX, Keldin, LCS

Table 1. 2021 WSU Extension Soft White Winter Wheat Variety Trial Summary

Precipitation Zone=12-16"										
	ALMIRA	ANATONE	CRESTON	LAMONT	REARDAN	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG YIELD ²	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE GRAIN PROTEIN	
Variety (Club)	-----Yield (Bu/A)-----					Lb/Bu		%		
Jasper	42	43	71	114	74	69	85	55.9	11.9	
Piranha CL+ (WA8305 CL+)	37	44	65	107	69	65	83	58.3	11.3	
TMC M-Press	44	38	68	103	64	63	82	58.1	11.5	
Stingray CL+	48	40	61	104	63	63	79	57.0	12.2	
LCS Hulk	44	42	59	96	66	62	79	58.1	11.9	
SY Command	45	39	60	96	63	61	79	56.8	10.9	
AP Dynamic	41	39	56	100	67	61	79	55.9	11.6	
Pritchett	39	39	61	108	58	61	78	58.2	11.7	
Norwest Duet	40	37	60	103	60	60	80	56.7	12.0	
Norwest Tandem	48	40	57	101	54	60	75	57.8	11.3	
VI Frost	42	40	62	102	53	60	75	58.0	12.5	
Devote	45	35	62	97	60	60	76	60.0	11.8	
Puma	37	42	54	105	60	60	77	58.1	11.8	
VI Presto CL+ (UIL 17-6451 CL+)	45	30	62	93	63	59	80	59.5	12.0	
ARS-Crescent	40	41	56	95	61	59	78	56.4	11.6	
Purl	39	38	61	91	60	58	77	59.1	11.5	
LCS Sonic	45	33	63	92	53	57	80	57.1	11.9	
WB1783	35	43	55	87	65	57	75	60.8	12.1	
YSC-215	37	32	55	101	56	56	--	58.7	11.9	
VI Voodoo CL+ (UIL 17-6268 CL+)	30	42	58	89	60	56	--	57.8	11.9	
Resilience CL+	32	35	49	102	52	54	73	58.6	12.4	
Appleby CL+	31	34	51	95	53	53	71	57.9	12.2	
Otto	33	30	54	83	62	52	72	57.8	12.6	
WB1529	34	34	52	89	52	52	68	60.7	12.3	
Mela CL+	36	29	60	77	58	52	71	58.3	12.3	
UI Magic CL+	27	32	50	95	50	51	71	58.6	12.4	
Curiosity CL+	30	28	49	80	47	47	69	58.5	12.4	
TMC M-Idas	51	-- ¹	73	102	61	--	82	--	--	
LCS Shine	41	-- ¹	55	111	63	--	80	--	--	
Castella	36	-- ¹	62	70	59	--	74	--	--	
C.V. %	11	10	7	9	8	10	8	2.2	4.3	
LSD (0.05)	7	7	7	14	8	4	3	1.0	0.4	
Average	39	37	58	98	60	58	76	57.8	11.9	

Precipitation Zone=<12"										
	BICKLETON	CONNELL	HARRINGTON	HORSE HEAVEN	LIND	RITZVILLE	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE GRAIN PROTEIN
Variety (Club)	-----Yield (Bu/A)-----					Lb/Bu		%		
LCS Shine	18	55	57	21	51	48	42	45	58.0	11.0
Norwest Tandem	18	49	52	23	47	55	41	44	58.0	11.7
SY Command	18	50	58	25	43	49	40	45	56.8	11.4
Stingray CL+	17	52	51	23	47	51	40	42	58.4	12.9
Piranha CL+ (WA8305 CL+)	19	48	52	24	45	49	40	46	58.3	11.7
Pritchett	18	43	52	23	48	49	39	43	59.3	12.1
Devote	17	44	48	25	50	49	39	44	59.4	12.2
Jasper	16	45	54	22	48	46	38	44	56.1	12.7
TMC M-Press	18	42	56	23	43	49	38	44	57.6	12.2
VI Presto CL+ (UIL 17-6451 CL+)	18	47	51	24	39	49	38	44	59.8	12.8
Norwest Duet	16	47	51	21	47	43	38	44	57.1	12.3
AP Dynamic	18	44	52	23	45	44	38	43	56.4	12.1
LCS Hulk	18	46	53	25	40	44	37	45	57.6	12.5
Purl	19	45	50	25	39	44	37	42	58.8	12.0
TMC M-Idas	19	46	49	22	41	46	37	41	57.9	11.4
Castella	15	38	57	24	42	42	36	41	57.5	11.9
Otto	14	44	44	22	44	47	36	41	57.8	12.4
WB1529	20	43	49	24	38	39	36	38	59.9	12.7
Appleby CL+	15	46	44	20	41	46	35	40	57.9	13.0
Resilience CL+	16	47	47	21	42	40	35	40	58.9	13.0
VI Frost	17	47	47	17	38	44	35	39	59.1	13.5
VI Voodoo CL+ (UIL 17-6268 CL+)	18	37	45	21	43	46	35	--	57.5	12.5
LCS Sonic	18	40	46	24	38	43	35	43	56.8	12.6
Puma	18	43	49	21	38	40	35	42	57.8	12.8
ARS-Crescent	15	40	53	22	39	40	35	44	56.9	12.1
UI Magic CL+	17	43	47	19	36	45	35	39	58.7	13.3
Mela CL+	16	37	48	26	37	42	34	42	58.4	12.3
Curiosity CL+	12	35	44	27	39	41	33	41	58.1	12.3
YSC-215	16	32	47	21	38	43	33	39	57.6	12.4
WB1783	18	31	43	24	35	40	32	39	60.0	13.1
C.V. %	6	11	7	7	8	10	9	11	1.3	3.8
LSD (0.05)	2	7	5	3	6	7	2	2	0.5	0.3
Average	17	43	50	23	41	45	36	42	57.8	12.4

¹Missing data due to deer grazing at Anatone.²2-year yield average excludes Anatone 2021.

Jet, WB4303, WB4394 and Sequoia were all rated the best on emergence; however, these were still only rated intermediate and were not rated as high as Devote, Otto, Mela CL+ or Curiosity CL+. WB4303 stood out as the best HRW variety for snow mold resistance, tying the number one SWW variety, Mela CL+.

To view additional ratings and full trial results, visit smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/variety-2021-data/. When possible, always use multiple years and locations within a region to better gauge the adaptation and yield stability of a particular variety. Growers and seed dealers are also encouraged to check out the new Washington State

University (WSU) Variety Selection Tool mobile app for easy access to data on the go. WSU will be hosting a full, in-person field day schedule this summer, including the Lind Station Field Day in Lind and the Spillman Farm Field Day in Pullman (see next page). All WSU field days are listed at smallgrains.wsu.edu/wsu-variety-testing-program-2022-pnw-crop-tour-schedule/. ■

Acknowledgements: Funding for the WSU Extension Uniform Cereal Variety Testing Program is provided by the Washington Grain Commission. Variety trials are made possible by the contribution of land and time from farmer cooperators where the trials are located.

Table 2. 2021 WSU Extension Hard Red Winter Wheat Variety Trial Summary

IRRIGATED						
	MOSES LAKE	PASCO	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG YIELD ¹	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE GRAIN PROTEIN
Variety (Hard white)	---Yield (Bu/A)---		Lb/Bu		%	
WB4394	150	153	151	--	62.5	12.7
LCS Rocket	144	157	151	154	58.4	12.4
Keldin	147	153	150	150	62.0	13.1
WB4303	141	157	149	150	60.7	13.0
Canvas	143	152	148	--	63.3	12.9
Battle AX	137	156	146	--	62.7	13.5
LCS Jet	143	145	144	150	60.0	13.2
UI Bronze Jade	133	149	141	--	58.9	12.8
WB4311	126	147	137	134	62.0	13.4
Scorpio	133	141	137	142	58.8	13.2
Kairos	117	151	134	--	61.4	13.2
Millie	134	131	133	--	61.6	13.1
WB4623CLP	127	130	129	130	62.3	14.6
C.V. %	5	4	4	4	1.3	1.4
LSD (0.05)	13	10	7	6	0.9	0.2
Average	135	143	139	144	60.3	13.2

¹Moses Lake 2020 and 2019 data excluded from analysis due to low yields and no Pasco site in 2020.

Precipitation Zone=>16"						
	PULLMAN	WALLA WALLA	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE GRAIN PROTEIN
Variety (Hard white)	---Yield (Bu/A)---		Lb/Bu		%	
Scorpio	72	96	84	111	60.0	12.8
Millie	69	87	78	103	61.5	12.9
Keldin	72	80	76	96	61.5	12.4
LCS Rocket	68	82	75	110	58.3	12.0
WB4303	62	87	74	81	59.7	12.6
Battle AX	70	78	74	--	61.2	12.2
LCS Jet	64	80	72	105	58.5	12.7
Canvas	67	74	71	--	62.2	12.2
AP18 AX	71	68	70	--	61.2	11.8
WB4311	63	76	69	93	61.3	13.0
Kairos	63	75	69	93	60.0	12.8
LCS Fusion AX	64	72	68	--	59.9	11.5
WB4394	62	73	67	97	60.2	12.7
WB4623CLP	62	72	67	89	61.1	13.7
SY Clearstone CL2	63	67	65	86	58.4	13.6
UI Bronze Jade	57	70	64	--	58	11.9
C.V. %	7	8	6	7	1.7	2.8
LSD (0.05)	8	11	7	5	1.1	0.4
Average	68	80	74	98	59.7	12.5

Precipitation Zone=12-16"								
	ALMIRA	ANATONE	LAMONT	REARDAN	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE PROTEIN
Variety (Hard white)	-----Yield (Bu/A)-----					Lb/Bu		%
Keldin	48	46	106	57	64	77	61.8	12.5
WB4394	42	36	110	62	63	78	60.6	12.5
Scorpio	43	41	105	56	62	73	59.9	12.5
WB4303	43	40	110	51	61	64	60.4	12.5
Battle AX	45	40	103	56	61	--	61.9	12.0
Canvas	43	40	104	51	61	--	62.9	12.1
Millie	40	45	99	56	60	--	61.7	12.9
Whistler	46	43	97	56	60	--	61.6	11.4
Guardian	49	35	101	54	60	--	62.5	12.4
LCS Jet	39	36	103	58	59	76	58.2	12.4
AP18 AX	46	39	96	55	59	--	60.4	11.7
UI Bronze Jade	49	33	107	47	58	71	59.3	11.7
WB4311	38	44	101	48	58	69	61.7	12.9
LCS Fusion AX	43	30	101	54	58	--	60.0	11.3
WB4623CLP	38	37	90	47	53	66	61.6	13.5
SY Clearstone CL2	40	40	88	38	51	67	59.6	13.3
C.V. %	9	10	8	6	9	9	1.4	4.4
LSD (0.05)	6	6	13	6	4	3	0.8	0.4
Average	43	38	101	55	59	72	60.0	12.4

Precipitation Zone=<12"								
	BICKLETON	HORSE HEAVEN	LIND	RITZVILLE	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE PROTEIN
Variety (Hard white)	-----Yield (Bu/A)-----					Lb/Bu		%
Scorpio	19	21	49	48	34	43	57.2	12.7
Guardian	20	22	45	49	34	--	60.7	12.7
Canvas	19	22	44	45	33	--	61.2	12.2
Battle AX	19	23	44	46	33	--	59.6	12.1
AP18 AX	20	20	44	47	33	--	59.0	12.1
Keldin	21	23	42	45	33	43	59.7	12.8
Whistler	19	20	40	50	32	--	59.6	12.1
WB4311	22	20	39	47	32	39	60.2	13.2
LCS Jet	16	20	46	46	32	43	57.6	13.2
Millie	18	21	39	45	31	--	60.3	13.3
WB4394	20	20	42	37	30	39	59.5	12.9
SY Clearstone CL2	17	21	34	40	28	37	58.8	14.2
WB4623CLP	17	19	36	37	27	36	58.9	13.9
LCS Fusion AX	19	20	39	31	27	--	56.8	12.3
UI Bronze Jade	16	20	36	30	26	38	57.3	12.8
WB4303	17	19	-- ¹	41	--	37	--	--
C.V. %	7	9	7	9	9	11	1.4	3.3
LSD (0.05)	2	4	6	8	2	2	0.7	0.4
Average	18	20	41	43	30	40	58.3	13.0

¹Seed did not arrive in time for planting.



2022 WSU Variety Testing Program PNW Crop Tour Schedule

The 2022 crop tour season will soon be starting and provides opportunities to view field trials and interact with Washington State University personnel. The list below provides an outline of when each small grain variety tour will be offered in Washington, Oregon and Northern Idaho. The coordinates listed are for trial locations and may not necessarily be where the event begins. Please check with the contact listed prior to the tour to verify the time, location, and agenda or reach out to your local county wheat growers association or other co-sponsor. Location maps for the WSU Cereal Variety Trials are available online at <http://smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety>.

We would like to thank the Washington Grain Commission for funding to support the trials and tours as well as the county wheat growers associations and co-sponsors for programs and meals associated with the field days. And lastly, a big thank you to all of the grower cooperators for their time and resources to host the variety trials. We look forward to seeing you in the field!

– Clark Neely, WSU Cereal Variety Testing

Date	Tour	Location	Time	Contact
1-Jun	Horse Heaven	46.186670, -119.57510	9:30 AM	Clark Neely, 814-571-5628
1-Jun	Connell	46.618903, -118.714427	3:00 PM	Aaron Esser, 509-659-3210
8-Jun	WSU Weed Tour (Pullman)	46.778130, -117.095733	1:00 PM	Drew Lyon, 509-335-2961
8-Jun	Adams County Crop Tour	47.136808, -118.472107	3:00 PM	Aaron Esser, 509-659-3210
14-Jun	Pendleton (OSU/ARS)	48037 Tubbs Ranch Rd, Adams OR 97810	8:00 AM	Debi Sutor, 541-278-4405
15-Jun	Moro (OSU/ARS)	66147 Lone Rock Rd, Moro OR 97039	8:00 AM	Debi Sutor, 541-278-4405
15-Jun	Moses Lake	3132 Rd O NE, Moses Lake, WA 98837	7:30 AM	Andy McGuire, 509-754-2011
15-Jun	Harrington	47.400767, -118.400253	1:30 PM	Aaron Esser, 509-659-3210
16-Jun	Lind Field Day	781 E. Experiment Station Road, Lind, WA 99341	9:00 AM	Aaron Esser, 509-659-3210
17-Jun	Fairfield	47.412094, -117.041731	7:00 AM	Aaron Esser, 509-659-3210
21-Jun	Genesee (U of I)	TBD	TBD	Doug Finkelburg, 208-799-3096
22-Jun	W. Wheat Workers Field Tour	48037 Tubbs Ranch Rd, Adams OR 97810	9:00 AM	Debi Sutor, 541-278-4405
22-Jun	Mayview	46.618062, -117.411032	10:00 AM	Mark Heitstuman, 509-243-2009
22-Jun	Anatone	46.208208, -117.082124	3:30 PM	Mark Heitstuman, 509-243-2009
23-Jun	Reardan	47.657434, -117.960768	9:00 AM	Aaron Esser, 509-659-3210
23-Jun	Almira	47.872277, -118.914958	3:00 PM	Aaron Esser, 509-659-3210
23-Jun	Lewiston (U of I)	TBD	TBD	Doug Finkelburg, 208-799-3096
24-Jun	St. John	47.083964, -117.517102	10:00 AM	Steve Van Vleet, 509-397-6290
24-Jun	Lamont	47.116037, -117.824207	2:00 PM	Steve Van Vleet, 509-397-6290
27-Jun	Eureka**	46.324311, -118.600736	9:00 AM	Clark Neely, 814-571-5628
27-Jun	Walla Walla**	46.115405, -118.220786	1:00 PM	Clark Neely, 814-571-5628
28-Jun	Dayton	46.417577, -118.056688	10:00 AM	Clark Neely, 814-571-5628
28-Jun	Camas Prairie (U of I)	TBD	TBD	Doug Finkelburg, 208-799-3096
29-Jun	Wilke Farm Field Day	47.656322, -118.131796	8:30 AM	Aaron Esser, 509-659-3210
29-Jun	Farmington	47.029137, -117.060259	10:00 AM	Steve Van Vleet, 509-397-6290
30-Jun	Pullman/Spillman Farm	46.688636, -117.116519	2:30 PM	Clark Neely, 814-571-5628
7-Jul	Bickleton	46.026330, -120.273038	1:00 PM	Hannah Brause 509-773-5817

**Cooperative trial/tour with OSU

<http://smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety>

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication or program information or reasonable accommodation need to contact the coordination person listed under Contact above at the telephone number listed at least two weeks prior to the event. Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office.

WHEAT WATCH

WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION

Rice up, wheat down in world trade forecast



T. Randall Fortenbery
Professor and Thomas B. Mick Endowed
Chair School of Economic Sciences,
Washington State University

The war between Russia and Ukraine has not only impacted world trade of wheat, but other agricultural commodities as well. Between their March and April World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) lowered their forecast of total world wheat trade by about 1.5 percent for the current marketing year. This was offset, however, by a 2 percent increase in the estimated world trade of rice for 2021/22. In several cases, the increased rice trade appears to be substituting for wheat trade, and this is largely driven by relative prices. Global wheat prices are up between 60 and 90 percent on a year-over-year basis, while global rice prices are down about 16 percent year-over-year (Figure 1).

In April 2022, rice sourced out of India (the world's largest rice exporter) was trading at a discount to export prices for both wheat and corn out of the major grain exporting countries. Over the last three decades or so, rice prices only exceeded world wheat prices in the 2007-2008 recession, and they have never exceeded corn prices. As a result of the current price differential, there is likely some substitution in human consumption from wheat to rice, especially in lower income countries. In Sub-Saharan Africa, for example, most diets consist of equal amounts of rice and wheat. Lower rice prices compared to wheat will tip this balance, at least in the short run, in favor of more rice consumption.

In addition to increased human use of rice among major grain importers,

it appears that current prices may also be encouraging feeding rice to livestock, a rather rare occurrence. According to USDA estimates, both China and Vietnam are importing significantly more broken rice than usual in support of their livestock sectors. On a year-over-year basis, China's rice imports are expected to be up 19 percent this marketing year, while wheat imports are currently projected to be down 12 percent. USDA's estimates of Chinese rice imports for 2021/22 increased 12 percent

Figure 1: Export prices - FOB

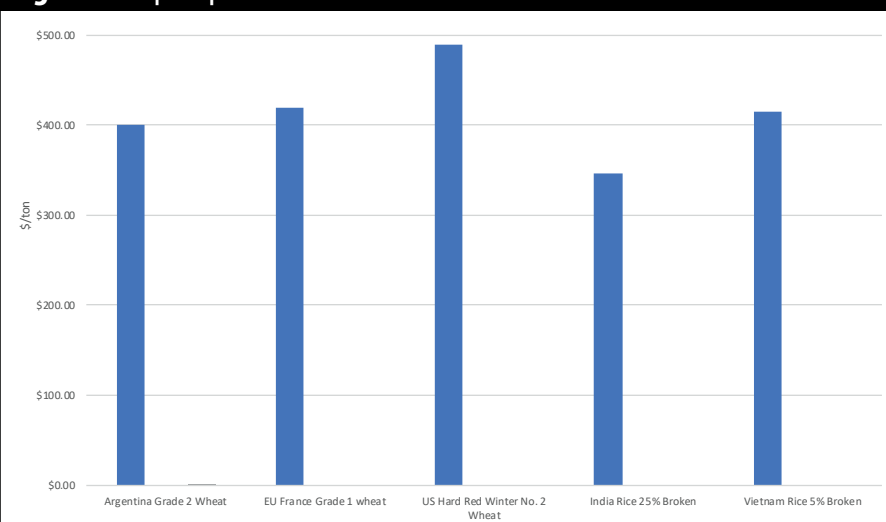
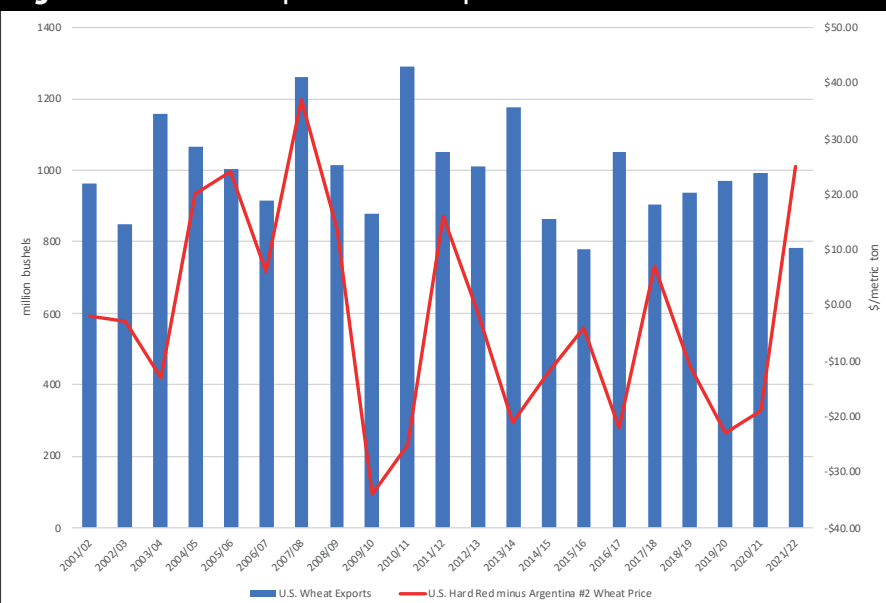


Figure 2: U.S. wheat exports vs. wheat price differential



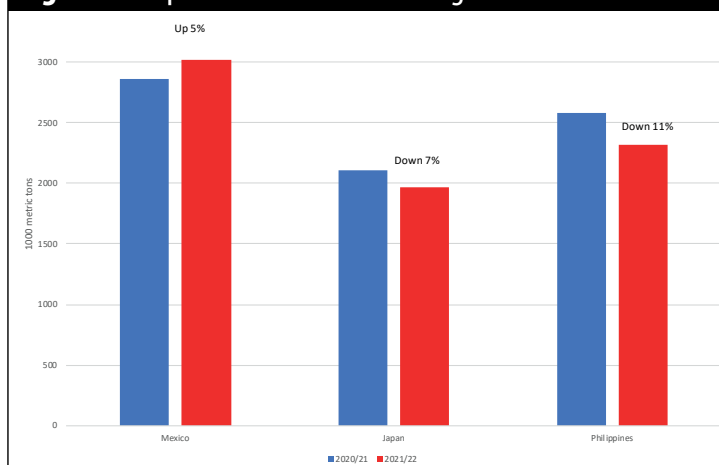
between the March and April WASDEs.

Vietnam is a major rice producer and exporter; thus, they import only a small amount of rice. However, in April, USDA increased the 2021/22 rice import estimate for Vietnam by 25 percent compared to the March estimate. It is expected most of the increase represents broken rice from India that will be used as livestock feed. Total Indian rice exports for 2021/22 were increased 2.4 percent between the March and April WASDEs.

The decline in year-over-year world wheat trade has disproportionately impacted U.S. producers. Total world wheat trade is expected to be down 1.3 percent this year compared to last, but U.S. wheat exports are expected to fall more than 26 percent year-over-year. U.S. white wheat exports are projected to come in 86 percent below last marketing year's level. According to the April WASDE, U.S. total wheat exports will be the lowest since the 2015/16 marketing year and the second lowest for several decades. A major driver of the U.S. market share loss in global wheat trade is the differential between U.S. and other export prices.

As of mid-April, U.S. wheat export prices were higher than those from most other exporters, making U.S. wheat less competitive in the international market. While current world price levels are influenced by the Russia/Ukraine conflict, relative prices (U.S. price vs. other exporters' prices) are influenced by other conditions as well. For example, U.S. wheat production in 2021/22 was down 11 percent compared to 2020/21, but domestic consumption is actually up slightly. The reduction in total U.S. wheat supply combined with stable domestic demand has resulted in higher domestic prices and a reduction in export activity. Contrast this with Argentina (another major wheat exporter). Argentina's wheat production for 2021/22 is expected to exceed the previous year's production by 19 percent and be record large. Further, in a typical year, most of Argentina's wheat exports go to Brazil. However, Brazil is also expected to have a record wheat crop this year and, while usually a net wheat importer, is expected to export almost triple the amount of wheat it exported last year. Thus, both Argentina and Brazil are active exporters out of the Western Hemisphere this year, and their local supply/demand balances has allowed them to be more price competitive in the international market compared to U.S. exports. Figure 2 illustrates this. It shows total U.S. exports of wheat

Figure 3: Imports of U.S. wheat through March 31



relative to the price differential between U.S. hard red winter wheat and Argentinian #2 wheat. Note that most years, the U.S. wheat price is below the Argentinian price. However, in general, as the U.S. price gains on the Argentinian price, U.S. exports decline (the one clear exception is the 2007/08 marketing year).

Argentina and the U.S. do not usually compete for the same global wheat customers, but the current relative prices and abundant supplies in both Argentina and Brazil have allowed the Southern Hemisphere producers to capture much of the market initially left unserved by Ukraine's inability to access the Black Sea and sell wheat in the global market. The primary markets for Argentinian and Brazilian wheat appear to be the Middle East, Africa and parts of Southeast Asia (specifically Indonesia).

In addition to increased export competition from our South American neighbors, U.S. wheat exports are also being challenged by softening demand from our traditional customers — again, a response to current global wheat prices. In the April WASDE, USDA reduced expected wheat imports for both the Philippines and Japan relative to the March estimate. The reductions are the result of decreased wheat-based food demand. Consistent with the revised forecasts, exports from the U.S. to these countries were already running well behind year-ago levels (Figure 3).

In contrast, U.S. wheat exports to Mexico to date are running ahead of a year ago. This is the only major customer who has imported more U.S. wheat this year compared to last. Despite improved sales to Mexico, however, I will not be surprised to see another reduction in USDA's 2021/22 wheat export estimate as we close out the marketing year. ■

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

Ambassador plots path to local ag career



By Tate Nonnemacher
Washington Wheat Ambassador

I am the sixth generation to raise wheat here on Nonnemacher Farms in Davenport. At about 6 years old, I started breeding, raising and selling pigs. During harvest, I got paid for washing combine windows. My father paid me in wheat, and I had to

learn to observe the market to know when to sell it. I also kept some grain and ground it with an old feed grinder, fed it to my pigs, then sold them at a profit. By learning to take what I earned and make the most of it, I turned a small wage into a profit by using my available resources to the best of my abilities. I also had to talk with my customers, negotiating prices and terms. I developed lasting relationships, creating trust and mutual respect from fellow farmers and customers.

I am grateful for my upbringing in the agricultural and wheat industry, as it has helped form my friendships, my work ethic and my understanding of economics. I am also grateful for the wholesome environment in which I was raised, learning that God, family and neighbors are what matters most in this world.

I plan to attend Washington State University to study agronomy. I will pay for college using that same money that I saved all these years from raising pigs, washing combine windows and working harvest. After college I'd like to stay local, either as an agricultural salesman or as a chemical sales representative. This will give me a chance to tour many local farms and visit with farmers, allowing me to continue to increase my knowledge throughout

my entire career. There is no better way to stay relevant and informed than to listen to those who have feet on the ground, doing the work every day. I hope to continue old friendships and develop new connections throughout the agricultural community and give back and help those that have given so much to me.

Going forward, I want to make sure that my generation continues to appreciate the importance of agriculture. They should know how food gets on their table, and how current events affect agricultural economics. My generation will face many unique challenges. The growing demonization of diesel and farm chemicals, increasing input costs and the current, out-of-touch administration will all be barriers to my generation continuing the family farm. This is one reason that I would like to return to work in my local community. I will continue to emphasize the necessity of the farming process and fight for farmers' rights.

In December, I attended the Tri-State Grain Growers Convention and delivered a presentation on the rising costs of inputs in agriculture. I listened to the farmers about their perspective, discussing what they feel the challenges are on their farms. Then I traveled to Olympia with the Washington Association of Wheat Growers to attend meetings with our legislators to lobby for the wheat industry. We discussed problems that the local farmers have talked to me about. The costs of agricultural inputs, such as fuel, fertilizer and spray, are rising dramatically. Half the state is in a drought.

Corporate farms are taking over family farms, which distorts markets and leaves farmers and ranchers vulnerable to abuse and unfair practices. Because farmers rely on both buyers and sellers for their business, concentrated markets squeeze them at both ends.

I was also able to discuss upcoming bills that would affect farmers and ranchers. I discovered that a lot of politicians in Olympia realize the importance of agriculture. They know that agriculture is very important to our way of life here in Washington state, and they are willing to fight to protect it. However, some were oblivious as to how farms actually operate. When discussing the overtime bill, I heard someone say that the bill wasn't targeting the farmers, it was targeting the people that actually work on the farm. What? What do they think farmers do? It really demonstrated that some of the people in charge of deciding how we farm have no clue how it's done.

After our visit to the Capitol, I hope that legislators see that there is a next generation coming up that cares deeply about the heart of agriculture.

Becoming a Washington Wheat Ambassador has created a desire in me to protect the future of agriculture by promoting the family farm and realizing that we all have a voice if we choose to use it. Throughout this experience, I learned that sometimes you need to travel across the state to benefit your community at home. I realized that I am not only capable of influencing change, but I can be persuasive and successful at it. I hope that I can continue to make a difference and positively impact future generations of farmers. ■

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Bruce Nelson, Whitman County Farmer

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THE BOTTOM LINE

Estate planning for farm ground

By John Kragt

Attorney, McGuire, DeWulf, Kragt & Johnson, P.S.

In the February issue of *Wheat Life*, I discussed what kind of entity farm ground should be held in. I have had several people follow up, asking how to transition their farm ground without setting up an entity like an LLC. While I believe an LLC has several advantages, it is also still possible to accomplish a smooth transition through one's estate plan. In Washington, a person's estate plan should consist primarily of a last will and testament, but some people could set up a revocable living trust; both documents can contain all of the following common scenarios.

"I don't want my kids to ever sell the ground!"

Option A. Devalue the ground to disincentivize a future sale. In this scenario, a parent with multiple children can give the ground to their children equally with options to purchase each other's interests at below market value rates. This could be accomplished in one's will by 1) actually picking a price per acre; 2) using county assessed value or 3) having it appraised and setting a discount of 40 percent of the appraised value, for example. The positive outcomes to this include kids not fighting or expressing their anger at each other over the discounted value (as you set the price, and you now are dead). It also allows a sibling to potentially justify buying a sibling out and keeping the ground in the family.

Some negative consequences of these include "the last one wins concept." When the last child buys his or her siblings out at a reduced rate and then sells it all to the neighbor at market value, the siblings may not show up for Thanksgiving and may not visit your gravesite as much as you would have liked.

Option B. Give it to the grandkids. Many people will give only a "life estate" or income interest to their children and then the remaining interest to their grandchildren. The positive outcomes to this is that the kids get a guaranteed income for their lives and the land is protected for at least

one more generation. The negative consequences are that the kids end up with a much smaller benefit than their own kids who maybe never even lived on the property. The grandkids could be pressured by their parents to sell their interest during their parent's lifetime and thus cause unintended strife in their own families.

"What happens if my kids get divorced?"

Divorce in Washington can be complicated, and there is not enough room in this article to discuss all the finer points. It should be noted that in many cases, family farm ground is treated as a separate property asset and is kept in the family line to the best of a court's ability.

Option A. Put the ground in an LLC. An LLC, as mentioned previously, can provide very specific buyout provisions for ex-in-laws. This can be set up in a way that can help mitigate many, but not all, potential issues in a divorce. It is important to make sure you understand what your LLC agreement says, and how potential scenarios would work out.

Option B. Don't give the ground to your children outright. Similar to Option B in the first scenario, this could protect the ground from a divorce but probably not at the following generation.

Option C. Embrace arranged marriages. If you have significant farm ground holdings, I have three young children that are currently not spoken for...

"I don't want the government to get my ground."

Typically this is fear on two opposite sides of the spectrum. One is having an estate tax issue (for 2022, it's \$2,193,000 per person). Or the opposite concern of running out of money and needing long-term care.

As to the first concern of estate taxes, while it is never fun to pay estate taxes, it is important to note that Washington does have an estate tax deduction for farms. There are several requirements that have to be met, but the general requirements are as follows:

- The farm property must pass or be acquired by a qualified heir.

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- The farm property must have been used for farming purposes at the time of the decedent's death.
- The decedent or a member of the family must have used the farm property at the time of the decedent's death.
- The farm property must make up at least 50 percent of the total estate's adjusted gross value.

Obviously, there are several more considerations, and the farm deduction is not something that should just be

assumed in one's estate plan. Finally, long-term care planning is something that should be done with an advisor that deals with Medicaid planning on a regular basis. It is not something that should be done without an attorney who understands it.

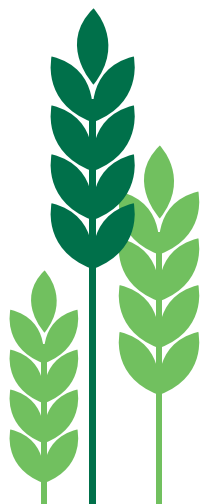
Hopefully this article gives you something to think about when considering how to pass your farm ground to the next generation. Many other factors can and should be considered. The key is to start the process before it is too late. ■

John M. Kragt is an attorney with the law firm of McGuire, DeWulf, Kragt & Johnson, P.S. He and his partners work with farm families and other agricultural businesses for the majority of their needs throughout Eastern Washington. The firm has offices in Davenport, Odessa, Ritzville, Colfax, St. John, Rosalia and Fairfield.

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Spring field work in Spokane County.



(Above) Every year, landlord Dwan Jantz comes to her field near Wilbur when the grain is being harvested. Photo by William Bell. (Left) Early morning seeding in September in Clyde. Photo by Kevin Chabre.



During harvest, Brady Smith hit a wet spot down in Benton County and didn't make it out. Her father, Chad, did. Photo by Chad Smith.



Weston Shawver (4) at Country Cousins farm in Othello. Photo by Maryann Shawver.



Refilling at sunset after a long day seeding winter wheat in Marlin. Photo by Kaedin Schorzman.

HAPPENINGS

As of press time, the events listed here are being planned. However, you should check prior to the event for updates. All dates and times are subject to change.

MAY 2022

1 BLOOMSDAY. Spokane, Wash.
bloomsdayrun.org

3-7 JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW OF SPOKANE. Spokane County Fair and Expo Center. juniorshow.org

7 LIONS CLUB RIB FEED. All-you-can-eat rib feed annual fundraiser. 5-9 p.m. at the fairgrounds. Waitsburg, Wash.
cityofwaitsburg.com/events-calendar

7-8 WINTHROP '49ER DAYS. Parade, rendezvous party, Saturday dinner, Sunday cowboy breakfast. Winthrop, Wash. winthropwashington.com/events/old-west-festival/

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

13-15 MAIFEST. Maipole dancing, music. Leavenworth, Wash. leavenworth.org

14 PLOWING DAY. Teams of horses and mules take part in plowing events, starting at 9 a.m., in Davenport, Wash. Contact Jon Overmyer at (509) 721-1100 for directions.

14 2ND ANNUAL WATERVILLE COMMUNITY-WIDE GARAGE SALE. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Residents selling from their own properties. Maps of sale locations available at the North Cascade Bank on Main Street. Open to the public. historicwatervillewa.org/events

19-22 SELAH COMMUNITY DAYS. Carnival, poker run, pancake breakfast, arts and crafts. Selah, Wash. selahdays.com

20-22 WAITSBURG CELEBRATION DAYS. Parade, live music, classic auto show, carnival. Waitsburg, Wash. cityofwaitsburg.com/events-calendar

27-29 LAST STAND RODEO. Cowboy breakfast, parade, rodeos. Coulee City, Wash. laststandrodeo.com

27-30 TOUCHET RIVER ROUNDUP. Woody's world famous pig roast, Chili feed, camping, kids games. Registration required. Fairgrounds in Waitsburg, Wash. snafubar.com/pigroast/

28 DAYTON DAYS PARADE. Downtown Dayton, Wash. historicdayton.com/local-calendar/dayton-days-parade-rc4n9

28-29 METHOW VALLEY RODEO. Saddle bronc, bulls, barrel racing and junior events. Held at the rodeo grounds, about halfway between Twisp and Winthrop. methowvalleyrodeo.com

JUNE 2022

1 WHEAT COLLEGE. Presented by AMMO, a program of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers, this year's event will feature Peter "Wheat Pete" Johnson on yield triangles. Corteva Agriscience and Washington State University Extension will also present on the latest agronomic research being conducted in the Pacific Northwest. Pesticide credits requested. Wheat Land Community Fairgrounds, Ritzville, Wash. Registration required. Admittance is free. wawg.org/ammo-workshops/ or lori@wawg.org.

1 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP TOUR. Horse Heaven, Wash., at 9:30 a.m. For information call Clark Neely at (814) 571-5682 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/

1 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP TOUR. Connell, Wash., at 3 p.m. For information call Aaron Esser at (509) 659-3210 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/

4 ROSALIA BATTLE DAYS. Community festival that commemorates the 1858 Battle of Pine Creek. Parade, crafts, fun run, pickle ball, kids activities and more. Rosalia, Wash. rosaliabattledays.info

4 REARDAN MULE DAYS. Three on three basketball tournament, poker ride, car show, parade. Reardan, Wash. <http://reardanmuledays.com>

8 WSU WEED TOUR. Pullman, Wash., at 1 p.m. For info call Drew Lyon at (509) 335-2961 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/

8 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP TOUR. Adams County, at 3 p.m. For information call Aaron Esser at (509) 659-3210 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/

9-12 PROSPECTORS' DAYS. Pan for real gold! Three on three basketball tournament, 10k run, logging and mining competitions. Republic, Wash. facebook.com/prospectorsdays/

10-11 DEMOLITION DERBY EXTRAVAGANZA. Combine demolition

derby, parade, barbecue. Lind, Wash. lindcombinederby.com

10-11 JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW. Area youth show off their prized animals at the fairgrounds. Waitsburg, Wash. cityofwaitsburg.com/events-calendar

15 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP TOUR. Moses Lake, Wash., at 7:30 a.m. For information call Andy McGuire at (509) 754-2011 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/

15 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP TOUR. Harrington, Wash., at 1:30 p.m. For information call Aaron Esser at (509) 659-3210 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/

16 LIND FIELD DAY. Event begins at 9 a.m. at the WSU Dryland Research Center in Lind, Wash. For information call Aaron Esser at (509) 659-3210 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/

17 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP TOUR. Fairfield, Wash., at 7 a.m. For information call Aaron Esser at (509) 659-3210 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/

17-19 ALL WHEELS WEEKEND. Car show, golf, fireworks, live music. Dayton, Wash. allwheelsweekend.com/

17-19 WENATCHEE RIVER BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL. Gospel show, workshops, luau/potluck, band scramble. Chelan County Expo Center in Cashmere, Wash. cashmerecoffeehouse.com/wrbfest.htm

18 SNAKE RIVER FAMILY FESTIVAL. Free food, kids' activities, live music. Boyer Park & Marina, Colfax, Wash. facebook.com/snakeriverfamilyfestival/

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

18-19 UNION GAP OLD TOWN DAYS. Washington state's biggest civil war reenactment. Trading post, blacksmith shop, train rides, games and wagon tours. Fullbright Park in Union Gap, Wash. centralwaagmuseum.org/old-town-days-union-gap.asp

22 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP TOUR. Mayview, Wash., at 10 a.m. For information call Mark Heitstuman at (509) 243-2009 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/

22 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP

TOUR. Anatone, Wash., at 3:30 p.m. For information call Mark Heitstuman at (509) 243-2009 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/

23 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP

TOUR. Reardan, Wash., at 9 a.m. For information call Aaron Esser at (509) 659-3210 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/

23 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP

TOUR. Almira, Wash., at 3 p.m. For info call Aaron Esser at (509) 659-3210 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/

24 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP

TOUR. St. John, Wash., at 10 a.m. For info call Steve Van Vleet at (509) 397-6290 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/

24 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP

TOUR. Lamont, Wash., at 2 p.m. For info call Steve Van Vleet at (509) 397-6290 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/

27 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP

TOUR. Eureka, Wash., at 9 a.m. For information call Clark Neely at (814) 571-5628 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/

27 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP

TOUR. Walla Walla, Wash., at 1 p.m. For info call Clark Neely at (814) 571-5628 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/

28 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP

TOUR. Dayton, Wash., at 10 a.m. For info call Clark Neely at (814) 571-5628 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/

29 WILKE FARM FIELD DAY.

Davenport, Wash., at 8:30 a.m. For information call Aaron Esser at (509) 659-3210 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/

29 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP

TOUR. Farmington, Wash., at 10 a.m. For more information, call Steve Van Vleet at (509) 397-6290 or visit smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/

30 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP

TOUR. Spillman Farm in Pullman, Wash., at 2:30 p.m. For information call Clark Neely at (814) 571-5628 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/ ■

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Email listings to editor@wawg.org. Include date, time, location and contact info.

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— Psalm 72:4,16



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