

WHEAT LIFE

The official publication of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers

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WHEAT GROWERS**

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President's Perspective

Another harvest, another trip around the sun

By Howard McDonald

Whew! Another year around the sun that we have harvested and seeded! Now it's time to wind down and watch the wheat grow. As my late dad would say, "It's time to round up all the scrap iron and put it in one pile," which meant getting all the farm equipment back to the shop.

This year's harvest was one of the best harvests we have ever had! We had minimal breakdowns, and the breakdowns we did have were nothing major, which was a blessing. Yield wise, the harvest was excellent. Also, our harvest crew knocked it out of the park this year. They were just phenomenal! Good help goes a long way. Speaking of good help, I stepped back from being a part of the harvest crew this year. I took on the role of head parts runner, worked all our ground that is conventionally farmed, and did other odds and ends! I didn't even repair any equipment that broke down in the field. In fact, I didn't even get a phone call to come help. My son, Travis, is the fix-it man now! My wife and Travis both say it's better that I'm not in the harvest field! I can honestly say that stepping into this new position was actually kind of nice, and I welcome it next year!

Harvest brings out so much pride for farming and watching my family participate in all aspects of farming. Family is everything to me, so there is no question in my mind how many people this encompasses when it comes to the family farm. It is not just about Travis and I making the farm operate, it is also about our wives, our kids and our grandkids (mine, not Travis'). They all play a role helping make the family farm successful. Hands down, our wives are our rocks. They understand, praise, motivate, lend a hand, and sometimes remind us that we just can't be farmers 24/7/365! I am thankful for this reminder to slow down and get back to the simpler way of this beautiful life.

As the calendar moves us into the fall months of family and thankfulness, I think about how much Travis has helped move our operation forward. Teri and I are so thankful for him, his love for farming, and his courage to think outside the box! We are also thankful that Travis' twin brother, Taylor, is also involved at different levels of the family farm. Both of the boys talk daily about the operation.

It has been rumored that farmer dads have a difficult time handing over and stepping back. I know this to be true, and I am here to tell you, do yourself and your farmer kid(s) a favor...just get to it and let them farm, make mistakes, continue to learn from you, diversify, and enjoy this new season of farm life together! I have worked many long days, months and years farming, so my kids and their kids will have something to come back to. As much as it is important for our kids to remember how hard we have worked for them to be able to farm one day, it's also very important for the older farming generation to remember that without the future of our kids, we'd be nowhere. It's the farming circle of life! ■



Our beautiful grandkids. My wife, Teri, is holding Mac. I'm holding Paytin, and Dax and Demi are in front.

Cover photo: Chris Herron cutting above the Snake River in Franklin County. Photo by Travis Matthews. More harvest photos beginning on page 22. All photos are Shutterstock images or taken by *Wheat Life* staff unless otherwise noted.

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Non-Voting Membership						
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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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WAWG board resumes meeting after summer break

Following the summer break, the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) resumed monthly board meetings last month, introducing the newest member of the WAWG team and hearing about a state department effort to map solar farm potential in Eastern Washington.

KayDee Gilkey has joined the WAWG team as the association's outreach coordinator, replacing Lori Williams. Read more about Gilkey on page 8.

Dever Haffner-Ratliffe, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Clean Energy Program manager, joined the meeting virtually to update the board on DNR's efforts to map solar farm potential on their leased properties. DNR manages approximately 5.6 million acres in the state, 1 million acres of which is agricultural land. Because DNR is mandated to get the best return from their properties, Haffner-Ratliffe said the department has to consider developer interest in their lands, even if those lands are already being leased. The mapping project is a way to get in front of issues and concerns because "no one is happy" with the current process.

Currently, a developer selects an area that they think has solar farm potential and reaches out to land-owners. This is usually when DNR is made aware of the interest. The developer finances any necessary predevelopment work and then begins the permitting process, which is when concerns and issues generally become known. By this point, the

developer has often made a substantial financial investment. DNR's mapping project is an effort to identify issues and concerns with their properties, including if they are already under lease, before the process begins.

The department is in the process of using feedback to update their map. Haffner-Ratliffe said they've identified 1,300 parcels with solar farm potential and have notified those lessees by postcard. Read more about DNR's mapping effort in the August issue of *Wheat Life* at wheatlife.org/issues/. ►



Photo courtesy of the office of Rep. Kim Schrier

Producer attends farm bill session

Marci Green, past president of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers and a Spokane County producer, joined more than 300 industry stakeholders in late July at a House Agriculture Committee Listening Session on the 2018 Farm Bill. The listening session was in Carnation, Wash., and was hosted by Rep. Kim Schrier (D-Wash.). Also attending was Rep. Stacey Plaskett (D-U.S. Virgin Islands).

The listening session allowed farmers, producers and other ag partners in Washington state to voice their thoughts and concerns. Green talked about the importance of crop insurance; how the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) reference price doesn't cover the cost of wheat production, especially with the current high price of inputs; market promotion funding; and the need to make participation in conservation programs voluntary.

Committee members will take this information back to Washington, D.C., to consider as they draft the 2023 Farm Bill. ■



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Board members also heard from Jon Wyss, Farm Service Agency state executive director, and Ben Thiel, director of the Risk Management Agency's Spokane Regional Office. With the passage of the last farm bill, FSA wanted to remind producers that it implemented a 15% reduction on the approved rental rate on all general Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts and a 10% reduction on all continuous CRP contracts. Second, producers should be aware that the Conservation Division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture will be publishing new data on erodibility scoring soon. Producers were encouraged to contact their local FSA offices if they had questions.

With harvest mostly wrapped up, Wyss said he isn't seeing a lot of commodities triggering Price Loss Coverage payments. It is too soon to know if producers will qualify for Agriculture Risk Coverage payments, which are based on yield.

Glen Squires, CEO of the Washington Grain Commission (WGC), said it's been a busy summer for trade team activity, with both virtual and in-person meetings. This is one of Squires' last WAWG board meetings as he is set to retire at the beginning of November. The board thanked Squires for his three decades of service to the Washington wheat industry. Read more on page 54.

In state legislation, WAWG lobbyist Diana Carlen reported that legislators were gearing up for elections, and the outcome of those elections will determine what issues the Legislature takes up in 2023. Over the interim, agricultural stakeholders have continued to work on several legislative issues, including instituting a seasonal exemption for agricultural overtime and studying the effects riparian buffers could have on producers.

WAWG leaders were preparing to travel to Washington, D.C., to take part in the annual Taste of Washington fly-in with Washington State University, the Washington State Department of Agriculture, and other commodity groups. As part of that trip, wheat growers met with several members of the state's Congressional delegation to discuss WAWG's national legislative priorities, which were reviewed during the board meeting. In a discussion led by WAWG Executive Director Michelle Hennings, staff and board members updated and approved the national priorities, which include:

- Protecting the wheat industry's markets by purchasing U.S. wheat for U.S. food aid programs; supporting full implementation and enforcement of existing trade agreements; and the negotiation of additional trade agreements.
- Preserving food security by supporting future farm bills; maintaining the current structure of the crop

insurance program and current cost-share levels; and supporting prioritizing working lands conservation programs in the conservation title of the farm bill.

- Supporting climate or sustainability legislation that is voluntary, incentive-based and recognizes the unique and varied landscapes and climates of wheat production areas.
- Promoting and protecting transportation infrastructure, especially the lower Snake River dams, and supporting immediate action regarding the Columbia River Treaty.
- Protecting food systems with safe and innovative pesticides by supporting the professional use of pesticides and opposing legislation that would restrict or limit the use of pesticides through bans or by setting residue tolerance levels that are not based on science.

The next WAWG state board meeting is scheduled for Oct. 11. ■

Wheat growers association welcomes new team member

The Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) is proud to announce the hiring of long-time agricultural advocate, **KayDee Gilkey**, as their new outreach coordinator.



Gilkey will be a familiar face to many wheat growers as she's been involved with industry groups for years, most recently as director of industry relations with the Washington State Beef Commission. Before that, she worked with the Washington and Idaho cattlemen groups, Northwest Farm Credit Services and as a farm broadcaster for Ag Info of the West. She graduated as a member of AgForestry, Class 16. She has also served as a two-term mayor of Fairfield, Wash., where she makes her home with her husband, Todd, and son, Eli.

"I'm excited to make this move to the Washington Association of Wheat Growers," Gilkey said. "I've always enjoyed working with wheat growers, as a farm broadcaster or at Northwest Farm Credit Services, and I'm looking forward to seeing a lot of folks I've known in my previous roles."

Gilkey spent her first decade or so in central Washington before moving to Burlington, Wash., when she was in

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junior high. She was active in 4H and FFA and was the national director of the Junior Angus Board. After high school, she attended Washington State University, majoring in ag communications. In her spare time, she is a voracious reader and quilter. She is also an active community and church volunteer.

In her role with WAWG, Gilkey will coordinate the association's grower education efforts, including the annual tri-state convention and the Agricultural Marketing and Management grower seminars, participate in state and federal advocacy activities, and contribute to public education efforts. ■



Tim Cobb, partner/owner of Farmland Company, takes 2022 Washington Wheat Ambassador Cadence Zellmer up in his light sport plane.

Ambassadors take flight

The 2022 Washington Wheat Ambassadors, Tate Nonnemacher and Cadence Zellmer, both from Davenport, Wash., each got to take part in a flight on the Farmland Fox, a series 7 Kitfox light sport plane piloted by Tim Cobb, partner/owner of Farmland Company.

During the flight, which took place in September, taking off and landing on a rural airstrip in Lincoln County, Cobb asked the ambassadors to talk about the work they are doing as wheat ambassadors "to promote agriculture and tell the story of the American grain producer."

Cobb and Kelly Ditto, from DittoFilm Media, regularly use flights on the plane to talk about farming and agriculture as they visit various farms in the region. Their videos are posted to YouTube and can be seen at farmlandcompany.com/farmland-fox.

The Washington Wheat Ambassador program is now accepting applications for 2023. The program is open to high school seniors whose parents are members of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers. Ambassadors

will represent Washington wheat growers at various events and take part in a legislative trip to Olympia. The application deadline is Oct. 15, 2022. Two candidates will be selected to receive a \$5,000 and a \$4,500 scholarship from the Washington Wheat Foundation. The application can be found at wawg.org/washington-wheat-ambassador-program/. ■

USDA to survey PNW farm chemical use, production costs

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will gather information about production practices from producers across the Northwest Region as part of the 2022 Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS).

"ARMS is a vital survey that tracks how Idaho, Oregon and Washington farms use technology to manage production," said NASS Northwest Regional Deputy Director Dennis Koong. "The results of this survey also help policymakers and farm groups understand the factors driving the costs and returns of crop production."

This year, NASS is reaching out to survey wheat and potato producers across the country. NASS will conduct the survey starting in October and recommends that farmers have their fertilizer and pesticide spray records available to speed up the process. A USDA or NASS representative will call producers to set up an interview to assist in the completion of the questionnaire. Producers may also receive an email reminder if they opted for email service.

ARMS is conducted in three phases, from May 2022 through April 2023. The first phase screened participants to make sure they have the commodity of interest and would accurately represent the entire U.S. farm sector. In this current phase, NASS is collecting information on production practices. In the final phase, NASS will survey producers on cost of production, farm income and production expenditures. For more information about ARMS, visit nass.usda.gov/go/arms. For reports and analysis of ARMS data, visit ers.usda.gov/arms. ■

How are we doing?

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



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POLICY MATTERS

Legislators conclude dam breaching currently not feasible

Using information provided by the final Lower Snake River Dams Benefit Replacement Study Report, Gov. Jay Inslee and Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) have concluded that while it is possible to replace most of the services and benefits provided by the dams, the benefits must be replaced or mitigated before breaching, and breaching is not a feasible option in the near-term.

“We must recognize that breaching the dams does, in fact, offer us the best chance at protecting endangered salmon and other iconic species that run through these waters. But the hydropower and economic benefits of the dams are significant and breaching them before we have other systems in place to replace those benefits would be disastrous,” Inslee said in a press release.

The final report was released in August, and links to it and to Inslee and Murray’s recommendations based on the report can be found at lsrdoptions.org.

The Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) released the following statement in response to the release of the final report and the recommendations from Murray and Inslee:

“The lower Snake River dams allow wheat farmers in Washington and across the country to efficiently transport their product in a way that provides significant benefits to both the economy and environment and, most importantly, helps farmers feed people around the world. While we appreciate Sen. Murray and Gov. Inslee’s acknowledgment of the critical role these dams play for agriculture and recognition of the lack of feasibility in breaching the dams in the current environment, Washington wheat growers remain opposed to any actions by federal or state governments that leave dam breaching on the table. Simply put, the benefits provided by barges cannot be replaced by other methods of transportation,” said WAWG Executive Director Michelle Hennings. “We remain committed to working alongside government officials and the broader



Lower Monumental Dam on the lower Snake River.

stakeholder community to achieve science-based solutions that facilitate a healthy salmon population and support the viability of family-owned farms and businesses.”

In their recommendations, the legislators state that the region cannot afford another 50 years of “confrontation, litigation and acrimony over the lower Snake River dams,” but recognize that the ultimate decision to breach the dams lies with Congress. They urge the federal and state governments to move forward with a program to replace the dams’ benefits so that “breaching of the lower Snake River dams is a pathway that can be credibly considered by policymakers in the future.”

Murray and Inslee commit to finding a constructive path forward by:

- Completing and/or authorizing projects that will substantially expand salmon habitat and passage throughout the Columbia River Basin and the Puget Sound.
- Working with Tribes, co-managers and impacted stakeholders to determine a plan to more efficiently and effectively distribute salmon funding.
- Using the governor’s office to request legislation and utilize other authorities of that office to dramatically

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improve the siting process necessary to build clean energy generation and transmission resources.

- Leveraging recent federal infrastructure investments to support energy replacement, infrastructure enhancement, and salmon recovery and habitat restoration.
- Securing additional funds for research into salmon and marine ecosystem health.
- Seeking detailed transportation analysis, focusing primarily on potential highway and road impacts that would result from the elimination of barging on the Snake River.
- Building upon recent increased investment and continuing to push for more funding for the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund and the Environmental Protection Agency's Puget Sound Regional Program.
- Pursuing a 2023 legislative agenda — by Inslee — that includes new, robust salmon recovery investments, legislation and other actions to improve the health of oceans, coastal areas and rivers, including the Snake River. ■

NAWG president testifies in farm bill review hearing

By the National Association of Wheat Growers

Last month, Nicole Berg, president of the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) and a Benton County producer, testified before the House Agriculture Committee's Conservation and Forestry Subcommittee during a review of the 2018 Farm Bill.

Berg highlighted how the farm bill voluntary conservation programs are significant in terms of environmental benefits and assistance to farmers. Technical assistance, planning and engineering, and financial assistance in the form of cost share or incentives provide farmers with the knowledge and economic incentive to be able to make a change in their operation or maintain a conservation practice.

"The costs of farming have increased and continue to do so," she testified. "While commodity prices have decreased recently, input costs have remained high. With farmers facing higher costs in all areas of their operations, the decision to adopt conservation practices can depend on the financial assistance that farm bill programs provide. Wheat growers support continued access to the

voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs of the farm bill. Wheat growers, the environment and society have benefited from the programs through improved water quality and quantity, air quality, soil health, and habitat. These results would not be possible without the financial and technical assistance that the farm bill conservation programs provide."

As Congress continues to have hearings and reflect on programs authorized under the 2018 Farm Bill, the National Association of Wheat Growers looks forward to working with Congress and the industry to help craft a farm bill that benefits wheat farmers and American agriculture. ■

USDA names appointees to the state FSA committee

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) recently announced the appointees who will serve on the Washington state FSA state committee. They are:

- Bernard "Butch" Ogden from Castle Rock (committee chairperson).
- Brett Blankenship from Washtucna.
- Danielle Garbe Reser from Walla Walla.
- Jackie Richter from Omak.
- Jose Ramirez from Royal City.

"The FSA state committee members play an integral role in the continuity of operations, equitable and inclusive program administration, and ensure the overall integrity of services to the nation's agricultural producers," said Marcus Graham, FSA deputy administrator for field operations. "These individuals have proven themselves to be leaders, early adopters and key influencers in the agriculture industry in their respective states — qualities that will serve them well in these key Biden-Harris Administration leadership positions."

Members of the FSA state committee are appointed by Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and are responsible for the oversight of farm programs and county committee operations, resolving program delivery appeals from the agriculture community, maintaining cooperative relations with industry stakeholders, keeping producers informed about FSA programs, and operating in a manner consistent with USDA equal opportunity and civil rights policies.

Each FSA state committee is comprised of three to five members including a designated chairperson. ■



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TRI-STATE GRAIN GROWERS CONVENTION

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Nov. 29-Dec. 1, 2022

Coeur d'Alene Resort, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Early bird registration opens Aug. 15 at wawg.org/convention and ends Nov. 1, 2022

JULIE BORLAUG is continuing the Borlaug legacy of food security and innovation in agriculture. She serves as President of the Borlaug Foundation and Vice President of External Relations for Inari. She is the granddaughter of the late Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and the founder of the World Food Prize.



ROBERT BONNIE (invited) is the Undersecretary for Farm Production and Conservation at USDA. Prior to joining USDA, Bonnie was at Duke University, first as a Rubenstein Fellow and later as an Executive in Residence at the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions working on conservation and environmental issues in rural America.

RAY STARLING has been the Chief of Staff to a U.S. Senator and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, worked at the White House, and been involved in crafting public policy for over 15 years. He grew up on a family farm in North Carolina. Ray combines a humorous style with a deep sincerity for his audience members' self-reflection and personal development.



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

WHEAT WORLD UPDATE will feature a panel of industry experts discussing global issues facing the wheat industry and the opportunities they present for producers. This panel will feature Antonina Broyaka, an Associate Professor from Vinnytsia National Agrarian University, Ukraine; Dr. Randy Fortenbery, Washington State University Extension; and more.



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December 1, 2022
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Please Indicate Which Meals you will be Attending (Important for head count purposes):

___ Agribusiness Breakfast (Wednesday)	___ Oregon Banquet (Wednesday)	___ Opening Breakfast (Thursday)
___ Tri-State Luncheon (Wednesday)	___ Idaho Banquet (Wednesday)	___ Luncheon (Thursday)
	___ Washington Banquet (Wednesday)	___ Dinner & Auction (Thursday)

Please Indicate All that apply:

___ Speaker	___ Committee Chairperson	___ Past Washington Wheat Commissioner
___ Exhibitor	___ Idaho Wheat Commissioner	___ Past Washington Barley Commissioner
___ Sponsor	___ Idaho Barley Commissioner	___ Wheat Foundation
___ Past President	___ Oregon Wheat Commissioner	___ First Time Attendee
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Harvest images from Eastern Washington wheat country



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HARVEST 2022

Every year, as June rolls into July, excitement starts to build across Eastern Washington for thousands of wheat farmers and their families who are stewards of more than 2 million acres of land. Nearly all of Washington's wheat farms are family owned and operated, and they are often passed down from generation to generation with histories that go back more than 100 years. Harvest is a time when far-flung family members come home to help bring in the grain, and it's not unusual to see three generations working side by side.

In a typical year, winter wheat harvest usually begins in July in Benton and Franklin counties and moves north. Spring wheat harvest typically begins three to

four weeks later. This year, however, was a little different. Because of cool, wet weather that stretched into June, harvest was a couple of weeks late, but yields were generally higher than average, and the quality was good. That good news was offset by supply chain issues and high fuel costs. Many farmers reported difficulties in getting replacement parts, such as tires.

For the 2022 harvest, *Wheat Life* staff spent time at four farms in Benton, Grant, Lincoln and Whitman counties, documenting a typical harvest day. The farmers that are featured on the following pages are proud of their heritage and are invested in helping the next generation (and often the one after that) succeed. ■



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Three generations of Smiths come together to help bring in the family's harvest. Tony (left) and his father, Steve, are primarily responsible for the farm for most of the year, but during harvest, Tony's children, Madeline and Lucas (not shown), help out. Tony is the third generation to farm the family's Benton County farm.

Anthony J Smith Farms, Benton County

Tony Smith is the third generation to farm his family's land in Benton County's Horse Heaven Hills. Smith's grandparents, miners from Montana, headed west in the 1930s, intending to settle down in the Pendleton, Ore., area. Instead, the family ended up buying land in Washington and starting a farm that is still going strong today. The Smiths grow dryland wheat, mostly soft white and hard red.

Smith took over from his father, Steve, and the two are primarily responsible for the farm for most of the year. During harvest, however, Smith's son, Lucas, and daughter, Madeline, join in, driving combine. While Smith hopes one of his children will one day take over the farm, he says he doesn't want to pressure them. For now, he just enjoys their help.

"One harvest tradition we have is that my dad has to drive combine to keep his 65-plus year combine-driving streak going," Smith said.

Smith trucks his soft white wheat to Horse Heaven Grain in Roosevelt, Wash., which is right next to the Columbia River.

"The river transportation system is so important to the well-being of our family's farm. We take the grain to the elevator, and they can turn around and load it on barges immediately," Smith said. "Without barging, we'd have to use more trucks and pay more to move our wheat to market. That's going to hit our bottom line pretty hard." ■



The Smith family, which settled in the Horse Heaven Hills in Benton County in the 1930s, still lives on the original homestead (seen in the background). Tony Smith's parents still live there.



(Above) Tony Smith, the third generation to farm his family's land, loads up the semi, while his son, Lucas, keeps the combine moving in the background. (Left) Repairs are a fact of life during harvest, including combine tire blowouts. Here, Fermin Mariscal and Michael Vance from the Tire Factory install new tires on one of the Smiths' combines.



(Above and right) The Smiths grow dryland wheat, mostly soft white and hard red, on their family farm in Benton County. During harvest three generations of the family work together to get the wheat harvested. (Below) Tony Smith unloads the combine while his driver, Lee Davis, looks on.



Os, still farms land that surrounds the



(Above) The Smiths usually truck their soft white wheat to Horse Heaven Grain in Roosevelt, Wash., which is right next to the Columbia River. Having such ready access to barging on the river system helps keep the family's transportation costs low. (Left) A sample is taken from every load that comes into the elevator and will be tested for quality and protein.

Kelley Brothers, Grant County

For five generations, Chuck Erickson's family has been farming north of Hartline, Wash., in Grant County, but they haven't always grown wheat.

"Originally, we were orchardists. At the homestead where I live, there were 18 acres of assorted fruit trees. They had to bucket water to the trees by hand," explained Erickson. "Eventually, my great-great-great-grandmother told them they needed to find something different to do because she was tired of bucketing water up."

Erickson is the fifth generation on his family's farm, established in 1889 as Kelley Bros., which he runs with his father, Gary. They primarily grow wheat, barley and, occasionally, canola. Harvest is a true family affair with Erickson's two children, Grace (13) and Noah (12), and his wife, Timi, all pitching in, along with their long-time truck driver, Mana Victorino.

Erickson's mother, Chris, helps with the bookkeeping and is a crucial part of the decision-making team.

This year, Grace and Noah got their hands dirty, literally, as they learned to blow out and grease the combines each morning. Grace also began learning to drive the combine. Erickson said he farms because it's his heritage, and he hopes his children will continue the tradition.



This year, the sixth generation at Kelley Brothers, Grace and Noah Erickson, learned how to grease and blow out the combines each morning during harvest under the supervision of their father, Chuck, his wife, Timi, and grandfather, Gary. From left are Gary; Grace; long-time employee Mana Victorino holding his daughter, Maddyn, while his wife, Megan Victorino, holds Marlee Jo; Timi; Chuck; and Noah.

"This is what my family's done for pushing 150 years. It's an honor for me to continue that tradition, and I hope I'm instilling that same pride in my kids," he explained.

Another family tradition involves hats.

"We have a harvest tradition that whatever hat you start wearing at the beginning of harvest, you have to wear all the way through," Erickson explained. "On the very last day of harvest, it gets sent through the combine, and then we have to take a picture with the trashed hats. We've done it ever since I can remember, and I don't have a clue how it started." ■



(Above) Noah Erickson's task on this particular day was to get as much dust off the combines as possible, while his sister, Grace, was tackling the greasing (right) as her grandfather, Gary, looked on. Throughout harvest, the siblings alternated these duties, making sure the machines were ready to go each morning.



(Above, left) Timi Erickson and her father-in-law, Gary, pause to discuss the best way to tackle a draw where wheat kept clogging up the header on the combine. (Above, right) On this day, Timi and Gary headed up the harvest crew while Chuck began preparations for fall seeding by spraying weeds. The family trucks their grain to the HighLine Grain Growers elevator in Hartline.



The Erickson family ties to their Grant County farm stretch back more than 100 years. The farm was first settled in 1889 as an orchard, where 18 acres of fruit trees were watered by hand using buckets. Now the main crop is dryland wheat, with some barley and canola being grown.



Father and son team, Tom and Joel Zwainz, are the fourth and fifth generations to grow wheat in Lincoln County on land that was originally settled by their German and Austrian forebearers in the mid-1800s. The 2022 harvest crew consisted of Tyler Sprecher, Curt Acuff, Tom Zwainz, Don Webster and Joel Zwainz.

Double Z Farms, Lincoln County

In Lincoln County, Tom Zwainz and his son, Joel, are the fourth and fifth generations to farm the family's land, some of which dates back to the 1860s. They grow mostly wheat and canola now, but they've grown malt barley, peas and chickpeas in the past.

Joel's path back to the farm wasn't direct, although he always knew he wanted to come back. After graduating from college, he worked as a CPA, spent some time at Northwest Farm Credit Services as an internal auditor and owned a custom spray business.

"I went to college and minored in ag business, knowing I always wanted to come back to the farm at some point, but the farm wasn't quite big enough for me to come back to, so I had to do some other things for a while," he said. That opportunity came about four years ago, when Joel was able to buy and lease some of his own ground. "Being the fifth generation means a lot to me to be able to continue on the family name."

Joel feels that off-farm experience has made him a better farmer and given him a different perspective. Rather than feeling a sense of entitlement, he feels lucky to have the opportunity to eventually take over. Tom echoed that thought.

"I'm glad he didn't come directly back to farm, but went out and got to see what the other side looked like," Tom said.

Joel and his wife, Emily, have a 2-year-old son who the family is hoping will become the sixth generation to carry on farming. ■



(Above) Joel Zwainz (left) and Curt Acuff do maintenance on the combines before the day's work begins, which included some hills (below and right).





(Above) Unloading the combines on the go into a bank-out wagon saves time because the combines don't have to stop harvesting or drive to where the trucks are waiting, usually near edge of the field. The Zwainzes truck their wheat to the HighLine Grain Growers elevator in Reardan (below).



During harvest, it's a common sight to see a procession of combines, semitrucks, bank-out wagons and mobile shop trucks traveling along county roads as farmers move from field to field. It takes coordination and skill to maneuver unwieldy equipment around telephone poles and road signs.





(Above) Art Schultheis (left) is the fifth generation on his family's Whitman County farm and is getting ready to pass the farm on to his son, Kyle. The farm was originally homesteaded in 1874. Schultheis' brother, Steve (below, right), who lives in Oregon, was in town to lend a helping harvest hand, along with Rob Druffel, one of the Schultheis' landlords.

Diamond-S Farms, Whitman County

Diamond-S Farms in Colton, Wash., was homesteaded by Art Schultheis' great-great-grandfather in 1874. After working for and with his parents in the 1980s and 90s, Schultheis and his wife, Sue, took over the farm in 1995, and they are now getting ready to hand the reins over to their own son, Kyle, who joined the family business five years ago with his wife, Stacie.

"We have the sixth and seventh generations living in the farmhouse," Schultheis said. "I think it's neat that I can see the next generation already taking over. I could leave tomorrow, and I know it's in good hands."

Besides wheat, the Schultheis family grows food and malt barley, garbanzos, lentils, canola, Kentucky bluegrass seed and alfalfa. They also raise a few cows. During harvest, Schultheis' two retired older brothers, Steve and Bob, join the team to help out.

"I love what I do. I wouldn't want to do anything else," Schultheis said. ■



On this day, the Schultheis team had joined forces with a neighbor, Rick Jutte, to harvest the wheat in Colton, known as the Sisters Place, because it was once owned by a convent of nuns.



The Palouse is famed for its rolling hills of grain unfolding under expansive blue skies. Whitman County is the top wheat producing county in not just the state, but the nation.



harvest one of Jutte's fields near
uns.



(Above) Steve Schultheis, one of the retired Schultheis brothers who was in town to help during harvest, cranks open the hopper to dump a load of grain at the Uniontown Co-Op. (Left) Rarely does a harvest roll along without any hiccups. A particularly dense patch of weeds caused a chain on one of the headers to come loose. Eventually Art and Kyle Schultheis were able to get the chain back where it belonged.



Harvest at Timm Farms in Harrington, Wash.
Photo by Stacey Rasmussen.

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Congressional Q&A

WHAT THE CANDIDATES THINK ON ISSUES IMPORTANT TO WHEAT GROWERS

In an effort to get to know some of the Congressional candidates running to represent Eastern Washington in the 2022 election, *Wheat Life* asked them to provide written answers to five questions on issues important to wheat growers. Presented on the following pages with no editing (other than obvious grammatical errors) are what the following candidates had to say:

DISTRICT 4

Dan Newhouse (incumbent)

Doug White

DISTRICT 5

Cathy McMorris Rodgers (incumbent)

Natasha Hill

DISTRICT 8

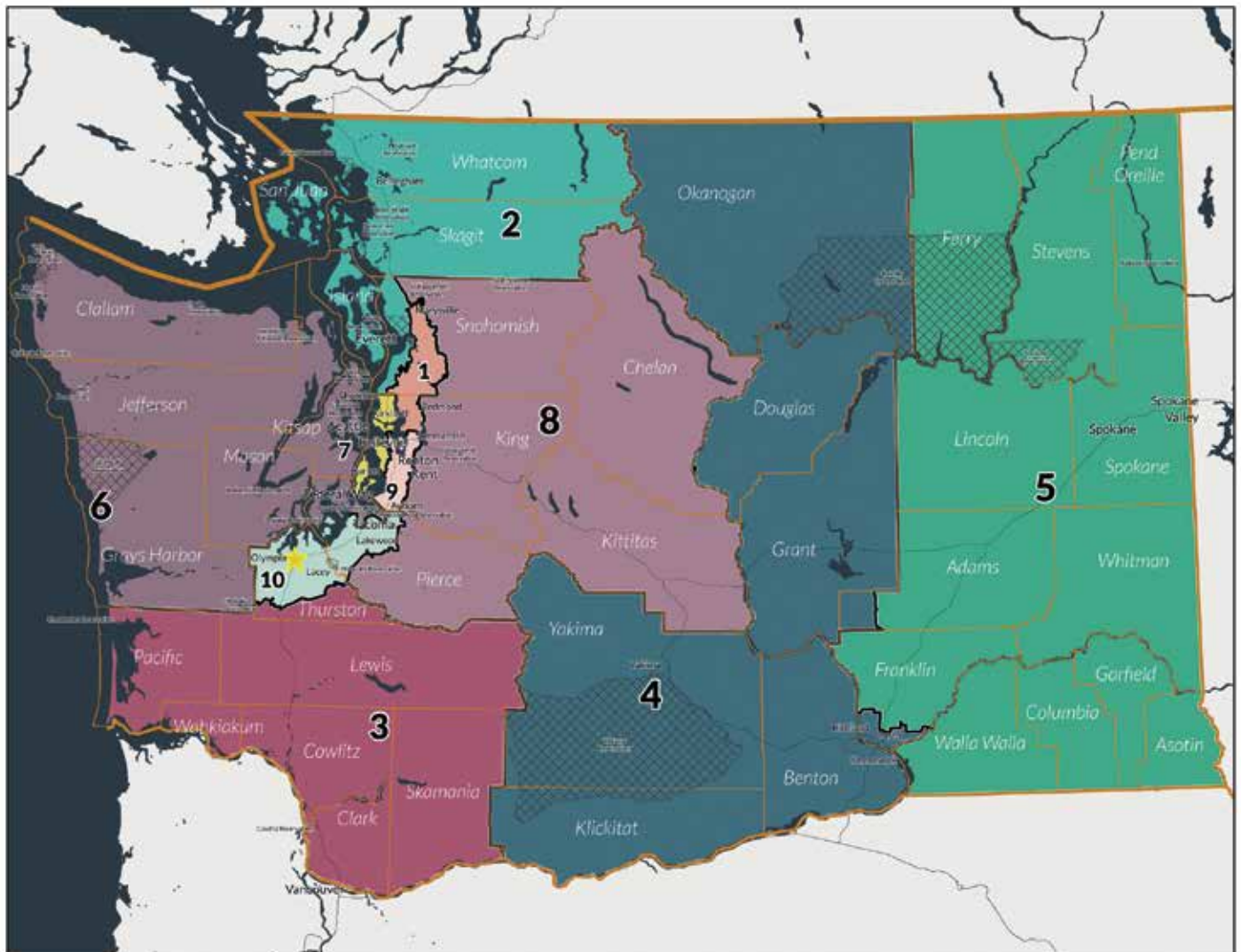
Kim Schrier (incumbent)

Matt Larkin

SENATE

Patty Murray (incumbent)

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implemented by both Republican and Democratic administrations that came to the conclusion that dam-breaching would not benefit our native salmon species. There is no doubt that construction of dams throughout the Pacific Northwest placed significant impacts on fish and our environment, but these species began declining long before the Lower Snake River Dams were even built. In the 1940s, '50s, and '60s, the state of Idaho quite literally poisoned their lakes and waterways systematically to exterminate native salmon populations because they weren't "good fishin'."

It is also important to note that the greater threats to the salmon population include poor ocean conditions, excessive predation, and environmental degradation like sewage dumping. Today, we have done more than just overcome these impacts. We have taken steps to restore and protect our native salmon populations, including continued investments in research and development, as well as new technologies to improve fish passage. Our dams have fish ladders and well over a 90% fish passage rate, and our salmon are showing record levels of recovery. Every day, fish biologists, local conservation partners, tribal neighbors, and federal agencies work hard to protect and revitalize this population. The data shows they have made clear and significant progress. Indeed, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife recently reported that the U.S. v. Oregon Technical Advisory Committee, which forecasts and monitors salmon and steelhead returns to the Columbia River, upgraded the 2022 forecast for sockeye returning to the river to 426,000, which is more than double the preseason forecast. Indeed, up to June 29, the preliminary sockeye count at the Bonneville Dam is 343,953 fish, which is the highest count to date in the last 10 years.

Dams are not the problem, and to compress all these factors into one singular argument — that dam breaching is the only answer — is a disingenuous perspective that should be rejected.

Do you support protecting the crop insurance program from cuts in the next farm bill?

It is important that we have a strong crop insurance program in the Farm Bill. Crop insurance is the cornerstone for risk management for our farmers. It's imperative for our food security and affordability that we have this risk management tool for producers and consumers. I will do all I can to ensure we continue to provide this important risk protection tool.

High input costs are hurting farmers. If elected, what will you do to address them?

As a farmer, I understand firsthand the challenges rural communities and our region's producers are facing. From supply chain disruptions impacting our ability to purchase fertilizers to skyrocketing fuel costs making it more difficult to keep our farms running, our farmers' livelihoods are at risk. And I continue to hear from my constituents and consumers that rising costs are straining their budgets, and food shortages and delays at the grocery store are posing a serious threat. Since June 2021, prices have risen at least 5% every month. And this year, prices have risen at least 7% for five consecutive months. The current state of affairs under this administration is, in a word, dire.

Most farmers would agree that the number one issue they face is the lack of labor. Crops don't harvest themselves, and thanks to the Biden Administration's hypocritical border policies, legal farmworkers are being denied entry even as illegal immigrants are being shuttled across our border. At the same time, perfectly good crops are at risk of rotting in the field while Americans go hungry. This nonsensical policy is a slap in the face to producers across the country who are struggling to find workers — it's clear that we need reform, and we need it now. That's where the Farm Workforce Modernization Act comes in. This legislation would secure a legal, and reliable, workforce for all of agriculture by revitalizing our H-2A program. What's more, a recent study conducted by Texas A&M found that H-2A reforms and an increase of a legal workforce would significantly lower costs of meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, and produce, not to mention lower inflation, lower unemployment, and higher average wages. My legislation successfully passed through the House last year. Now, it's up to the Senate to take up the bill and bring certainty to our farmers and farmworkers. ►

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It's also imperative that we implement policies that boost domestic production of energy. By effectively shutting down our own supply of critical oil and gas, the Biden Administration increased our reliance on foreign countries for our energy needs, increased global emissions, increased inflation, and increased gas prices. If we want to lower costs for Americans — including input costs for our farmers — it is imperative we open up domestic American energy production immediately. Doing so will protect our vital resources, keep food grown in the United States, and keep our grocery store shelves stocked.

If elected, what are your legislative priorities for the next year?

Across the country, American families are suffering the highest inflation in over 40 years and record fuel prices, so my highest priorities are to cut spending to bring down inflation and return the U.S. to a position of energy dominance. We also face unique challenges here in central Washington, such as the continued threat to remove our critical hydroelectric dams on the Snake River, which are being threatened like never before. I am and I will continue to be a staunch advocate for our hydroelectric dams and the many benefits they provide.

The Chinese Communist Party is also working to undermine our food security by purchasing American farmland, and I have been leading the charge in our nation's capital to put a stop to it. My bill would prohibit the purchase of public or private agricultural land in the U.S. by foreign nationals associated with the Government of the People's Republic of China and disqualify any of their currently owned land from participating in U.S. farm programs. I'm working hard to educate my House and Senate colleagues about this national security threat so we can get my bill signed into law and protect the American people from our adversaries. We also must secure our southern border and ensure farmers have a reliable and legal workforce, finish the Columbia Basin Project, invest in more local water storage projects, and cut taxes for the American People.

What do you want wheat growers to know about yourself?

Central Washington is a beautiful place, and I am proud to have called it home for my entire life. I am a third-generation Yakima Valley farmer, served as a state representative in Olympia for eight years, as the Washington State Director of Agriculture for four years, and I have now represented central Washington in Congress for the past eight years. Agriculture is the driver of our economy in central Washington, and I believe it's important we send a representative to Congress who understands our area and way of life. That is why I am the most qualified person running to represent the Fourth District.

My life and professional experiences have given me the knowledge to understand the unique issues of central Washington, because these issues are my issues: I've run a business, provided jobs, navigated through endless red tape, and served as a steward of our lands. I ran for Congress because I believe unelected and unaccountable bureaucrats thousands of miles away, who do not understand the unique agriculture of the Pacific Northwest, shouldn't be able to tell me how to run my farm, and they shouldn't tell you how to run yours, either.

I believe the people of the Fourth District feel the same way I do, and I am asking them for the honor of continuing to advocate on their behalf in the U.S. House of Representatives. ■

For more information on Dan Newhouse, visit his campaign website at dannewhouse.com.



DISTRICT 4 DOUG WHITE

Do you believe the dams and salmon can co-exist?

I do believe the dams and the salmon can coexist and they must. The Snake River Dams are a good example of

failed political action. The value of these dams to central Washington is recognized, but instead of creating a plan to obsolesce the dams by building our energy production capabilities, alternate transportation methods and continuing to improve salmon runs, our representative's only strategy for our future is to do nothing.

These dams are not likely to come down in my lifetime for many reasons, such as legal, technical, ecological and logistic challenges. Therefore, it is our duty to build our infrastructure to ensure that our needs continue to be met regardless of any final outcome. We recently had the White House release their opinion on the dams, which is not their issue. Also, it took a while, but even Inslee and Murray are coming around to this realization that we need to be thoughtful and strengthen this district before we start tearing things down.

Do you support protecting the crop insurance program from cuts in the next farm bill?

No other industry experiences farming's risks of production and pricing. Last year's drought destroyed the balance sheets of many growers. This year's production conditions favored some crops and some regions but left others out. Production is risky. The see-saw of prices this year makes cropping plans uncertain and subject a grower to getting caught short. Forward contracting and futures contracts help, but require financing and commitment of an uncertain yield. Add the effect of a rising dollar that threatens to price export wheat out of the international market and the operation of trade sanctions and you have the recipe of disaster for Washington's wheat growers. Crop insurance in the farm bill is the only tool available to growers and I pledge to protect funding of crop insurance products in the next farm bill.

High input costs are hurting farmers. If elected, what will you do to address them?

I will work with WAWG (the Washington Association

of Wheat Growers) to explore margin protection crop insurance for soft white wheat in Washington. Even good yields and strong prices can get wiped out by exploding fuel, fertilizer, and herbicide costs. There are models for margin protection in the dairy industry and there have been tests of wheat products. The details are important. I look forward to working with producers to work through scenarios and costs.

The underlying cost drivers also need to be addressed. Fossil fuels in this country are transitioning out of what drives our equipment and is feedstock for our chemicals. Agriculture needs to be part of this process and not left behind by technological developments. The transition will be expensive. Agriculture needs access to the best technology and the financing to adopt innovation. Wheat farming needs to be less risky and routinely more profitable to finance internally the transition over the next 30 years. It also needs access to targeted farm bill assistance to finance equipment upgrades and support for cropping experimentation.

If elected, what are your legislative priorities for the next year?

My legislative priorities are to reverse the direction previous politicians have set upon. We have watched a steady deterioration of our infrastructure, income stability and an increase in threats from foreign actors. My goal is to return central Washington to a region of increasing wealth and productivity. Agriculture defines us in central Washington, but to limit our focus to only central Washington is a mistake. We depend on foreign markets, importation of fertilizer, dependency on foreign energy and are limited by crumbling infrastructure. I see no plan or progress to address these critical issues and they will be my focus.

What do you want wheat growers to know about yourself?

I was born and raised in central Washington, a fourth generation farmer. I combine that with international business experience managing large scale projects and a deep knowledge of China and Asia. I need the opportunity to listen and learn to build my understanding of the issues and concerns of wheat and other commodity crops.

Additionally I am aware that investment by foreign countries in the U.S.A. must be closely monitored.

However, China buying 90,000 acres is not as much of an issue as our trade relationship with them and their stranglehold on South East Asia. We cannot afford to be distracted by red herrings when so much is at stake. I understand global markets as well as I do my hometown of Yakima. This is a job and it requires someone with the knowledge and ambition to get it done. ■

For more information on Doug White, visit his campaign website at dougwhite4congress.us.

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DISTRICT 5 CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS

Do you believe the dams and salmon can co-exist?

Any proposal to breach our dams is a non-starter for me. Our dams in Washington state are responsible for generat-

ing 70% of the State's energy, creating thousands of jobs, mitigating dangerous flood risks, and keeping our energy costs at some of the lowest in the country. We know that dams and fish can — and do — co-exist. Just this year, Spring Chinook returns are more than double last year and 31% above the 10-year average.

I will not bend to the will of radical environmentalists whose goal is to tear out dams, no matter the consequences for our region. Just this year, I helped introduce the Federal Columbia River Power System Certainty Act to protect the four Lower Snake River dams while reducing carbon emissions, driving down energy costs, and helping recover endangered salmon. Dams truly support our entire way of life in Eastern Washington, which is why I will always fight to protect them.

Do you support protecting the crop insurance program from cuts in the next farm bill?

Crop insurance is critical to the agriculture community. Our farmers are the greatest anti-poverty program and have done more to provide food security to the world than any government program. Now, more than ever, farmers need certainty. They need to know that the farm safety net is intact. With the next Farm Bill on the horizon, I remain committed to protecting crop insurance, supporting trade and market access programs, and increasing our commitment to agriculture research, like the great work being done at Washington State University. After all, Eastern Washington farmers provide food security to communities across the country and the world!

High input costs are hurting farmers. If elected, what will you do to address them?

In Eastern Washington, owning a farm is so much more than just a business — it's a family affair. The farm brings families together to work the land with pride, earn an honest living, and achieve the American Dream. Surging prices are a serious problem because when it costs more to

feed the cattle, fertilize the crops, and put fuel in the tractor, farmers are given no choice but to raise their prices. This is bad for business, and it's bad for families already struggling to put food on the table.

Record high inflation and supply chain constraints brought on by burdensome mandates from the Biden Administration have greatly increased the cost of these inputs. I believe we need to balance the budget, remove burdensome regulations, unleash American energy to bring down gas prices, and stop out of control government spending to reduce costs for farmers and families in Eastern Washington.

If elected, what are your legislative priorities for the next year?

I am committed to prioritizing real solutions to win the future and restore hope in the American Dream. From rural broadband expansion, to flipping the switch on American energy here at home, I believe in an all-of-the-above strategy. Families across Eastern Washington are feeling the pain of the Biden Administration and one-party-rule. Inflation has hit a 40-year high, and prices have risen across the board — everywhere from the gas pump to the grocery store. It's time for Congress to start working for the people and reverse the damage the Biden Administration's supply chain and inflation crisis has caused, so families can afford to put food on the table. The American people are counting on us.

What do you want wheat growers to know about yourself?

I grew up working on my family's orchard farm in Kettle Falls, and showing animals in 4-H. Those experiences taught me the value of hard work and have shaped where I am today. Agriculture is Eastern Washington's number one industry, and wheat is our number one commodity. My commitment to our agriculture industry and our wheat growers is one of my top priorities in Congress. I will continue to fight for open markets and smart trade agreements, protect crop insurance, defend the Columbia and Snake River dams and everything they mean to our region, and work to reduce the amount of burdensome and unnecessary regulations that hurt our farmers' ability to succeed. ■

For more information on Cathy McMorris Rodgers, visit her campaign website at cathyforcongress.com.



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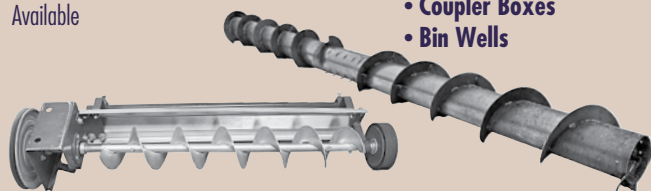


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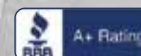


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DISTRICT 5 NATASHA HILL

Do you believe the dams and salmon can co-exist?

I do. We know that existence of the dams has become integral for our farming communities, agricultural industry, out-

door recreationists and for flood protection. We also know the detrimental impact dams have had on other natural resources, specifically the salmon, devastating the ecology of our region and indigenous communities that have historically thrived from these resources. I have had a chance to speak with people, organizations, and experts on both sides of the discussion, and understand there is no simple solution or clear answer on how these resources can best co-exist. However, there are incredible people out here who are putting in the time and work to find the solutions. We should clarify that not all dams should be treated the same and there is not a one size fits all approach. There are some dams not producing hydroelectric power or direct benefits to agriculture that if removed would positively improve fish runs. I don't believe there will ever be perfect harmony, but I do believe we can find a path forward that will best serve these competing interests.

Do you support protecting the crop insurance program from cuts in the next farm bill?

Yes. We have seen an intense shift in our climate over the last decade and the science points to more hot summers and less rainfall. Without this insurance, small, medium and even some large farms may not weather the environmental changes we're seeing today. If our farms don't survive climate change, neither will we long-term. We also can't afford to cut protections for working people who rely on wages and employment from our farmers.

High input costs are hurting farmers. If elected, what will you do to address them?

The reckless trade war the Trump Administration started with China was a devastating blow to our farm

community. When the cost of growing our food rises, the cost of food rises in the stores. Our government must invest in protecting our agricultural markets and small, local farmers through increased tax incentives and grant and recovery programs, and undo policies that favor large corporate farm productions and allow them to monopolize our markets, destroying competition and livelihoods in the process. Washington's farmers are our family, friends, and neighbors, they are not corporate owners and shareholders that have no direct involvement in production, and we must craft legislation that lifts up family farms and prioritizes sustainable practices.

If elected, what are your legislative priorities for the next year?

My priorities for the legislative session are rooted in the conversations I've had throughout the 5th District. We need to strengthen labor and unions, invest in children and families, and protect our voting rights and elections. People and labor are the most valuable resources in our country and economy, hands down. Investments in early childhood development, child care, public schools and higher education, have all shown to have a statistical return that lowers our national debt long-term, and investments in infrastructure, including rural broadband, road, bridges, and housing, not only ensure we can sustain our growing society, but bring good paying skilled labor jobs to our region. Without a working democracy, where every vote is counted and facts are believed over lies, the America we know does not exist. I will work tirelessly to protect our democracy and to ensure equity and accountability in all of our democratic systems.

What do you want wheat growers to know about yourself?

I love wheat. Bread and beer to be specific. And I will show up and listen to your concerns so that, together, we can shape a future that farmers in eastern Washington can thrive in. ■

For more information on Natasha Hill, visit her campaign website at natashaforcongress.com.

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DISTRICT 8 KIM SCHRIER

Do you believe the dams and salmon can co-exist?

Yes, the issue of the Lower Snake River Dams is a nuanced one, and has been debated for decades.

As someone who represents a state and a district that produces an abundance of clean and renewable hydropower, I know the importance resources play in our fight against climate change, maintaining grid reliability, and avoiding blackouts in the region.

I will always support policies that are grounded in the best available science, that honor tribal treaty rights, and reflect the cultural and economic values of our region. I am committed to tackling climate change responsibly, in a way that makes sense for our agricultural community and that preserves access to affordable, reliable energy from renewable sources. That's why I pushed back when the Biden Administration released a report and politicized the issue without including input from all affected stakeholders and without full consideration of the agricultural, economic, and grid impacts.

Do you support protecting the crop insurance program from cuts in the next farm bill?

Yes, crop insurance is critical to Washington farmers and to the stability of our state's economy. Crop insurance is more important than ever to our farmers with the extreme weather we have all experienced over the past few years, and we need to do whatever we can to support them and our food supply chain.

High input costs are hurting farmers. If elected, what will you do to address them?

Fertilizer costs have skyrocketed — that's why I helped

pass a bill to boost domestic fertilizer production to help farmers avoid global price spikes. I am proud to say that I have led the charge in Congress to suspend the federal gas tax and to crack down on price gouging.

If elected, what are your legislative priorities for the next year?

2023 is a big year for Farm Bill reauthorization. I've already started working and was proud to host the House Agriculture Committee Farm Bill Listening Session in Carnation this summer with over 100 agriculture partners and gave them the ability to participate in the farm bill process and advocate for the issues they most care about. These issues were then taken back to Congress to be crafted into legislation that addressed farmers' needs.

What do you want wheat growers to know about yourself?

I am the only member of Congress from the Pacific Northwest on the Agriculture Committee, so that I can be a voice for our farmers in Congress. I have worked hard to ensure that the Yakima Valley has water for fish, farmers, and for the rest of us when we turn on the tap.

Early in the pandemic, when farmers told me they were hurting because of supply chain issues and shipping container shortages hampering their ability to get their goods to market, I pushed to open pop-up ports at both the ports of Seattle and Tacoma that accept dry agricultural or refrigerated containers for temporary storage to combat the nearly 30% decline in agricultural exports caused by unreliable shipping companies. Now I am pushing for the passage of legislation to prevent the shipping companies from price gouging our farmers. ■

For more information on Kim Schrier, visit her campaign website at drkimschrier.com.

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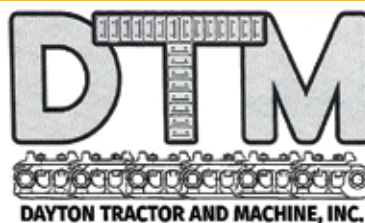
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DISTRICT 8 MATT LARKIN

Do you believe the dams and salmon can co-exist?

Yes! In Washington, our waterways and dams are a key lifeblood of our communities. Wheat growers know better than anybody

that these dams provide much more than just a consistent source of clean energy, they contribute to one of the most highly trafficked and critical river highway systems in the nation.

Like most Washingtonians, I am extraordinarily proud of our river system and, at the same time, dedicated to protecting our salmon runs. With improvements in fish passage technologies, and the proper infrastructure investments from the Federal government, there is no reason to pretend that salmon and dams cannot co-exist. They absolutely can. We must ensure that federal decisions relating to our river system are based on science, not heated political rhetoric.

As your Congressman, protecting the dams so vital to our economy and community will be a key priority for me in Congress.

Do you support protecting the crop insurance program from cuts in the next farm bill?

Wheat growers in Washington grow one of the highest quality crops in the world. But when farmers in our communities face uncertain times, the crop insurance program is a critical tool in providing needed stability. As Congress begins to debate the next farm bill, we must ensure that our federal representation is laser focused on lowering costs and uncertainty for wheat growers and farmers across our region. I will fight reductions in funding for critical tools, like the crop insurance program, and work to provide wheat growers the financial security they need to stay in business.

High input costs are hurting farmers. If elected, what will you do to address them?

High input costs are indeed hurting farmers and wheat growers across our region. Whether it's inflation at record highs, a supply-chain crisis, or growing fertilizer costs, Congress is failing our farmers on multiple fronts.

In Congress, I will fight to fund critical infrastructure projects to lower transportation costs. I will continue to protect the Columbia and Snake River dams. Furthermore, with fertilizer costs continuing to rise, I will oppose unnecessary regulatory burdens on natural gas and petroleum production. Finally, I will focus on ensuring bipartisan transportation and infrastructure projects are not held up by partisan politics.

If elected, what are your legislative priorities for the next year?

As a small business owner, I know first-hand how reckless spending by Congress is causing out-of-control prices to rise ever higher. As a former prosecutor, I understand the consequences of defunding the police and refusing to support law enforcement.

In Congress my primary focus will be on lowering the tax and regulatory burden on Washingtonians and stopping reckless inflationary spending. I will prioritize bipartisan infrastructure that benefits our region's transportation needs and protects our river system and our dams. And with violent crime rising and police forces hurt by the disastrous defund the police movement, I will prioritize funding and supporting our law enforcement heroes.

What do you want wheat growers to know about yourself?

The 8th Congressional District is a unique district that stretches across to both sides of the Cascades. In this district, and especially in Central Washington, agriculture is one of our most vital industries. My commitment to protecting Washington wheat growers will be one of my highest priorities in Congress. I will protect critical tools for wheat growers in the next Farm Bill, protect the Columbia and Snake River dams, and fight for trade and labor policies that benefit our regional economy.

I am a small business owner, and I know first-hand how difficult the government can make life for businesses in our state. Unlike my opponent, who votes with her party, 100% of the time, I will be an independent voice for Washington farmers. You have my firm commitment that I will always prioritize the interests of wheat growers and farmers before the partisan politics of Washington, D.C. ■

For more information on Matt Larkin, visit his campaign website at larkin4congress.com.



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SENATE PATTY MURRAY

Do you believe the dams and salmon can co-exist?

I think salmon and dams are essential to Washington's culture, economy, and infrastructure. While I believe we

need to do more to support our struggling salmon, I think it would be irresponsible to consider breach of the lower Snake River dams or any other dam along the Columbia before we have viable alternatives in place — that includes answers for irrigation and barging. Whether it be saving our salmon or investing in our infrastructure, I will always make sure Tribes and stakeholders — including our wheat growers — are heard and represented.

Do you support protecting the crop insurance program from cuts in the next farm bill?

Yes — it's critical that we ensure farmers have access to strong risk management tools in order to continue feeding the world, especially as a rapidly warming climate threatens food security around the globe.

High input costs are hurting farmers. If elected, what will you do to address them?

I will continue to push for legislation like the Ocean Shipping Reform Act, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and other measures like rail oversight to strengthen our supply chain — particularly through investments in our

roads and ports. Moreover, it's a priority for me to make sure Washington state farmers can access markets around the world and that our world-class institutions are investing in agricultural research that will help farmers improve yields while reducing reliance on fertilizers and pesticides — we also need to make sure farmers have the best tools to fight pests, weeds, and plant diseases.

If elected, what are your legislative priorities for the next year?

I am committed to passing a strong Farm Bill reauthorization that reflects the priorities of our state's farmers. And I will absolutely use my voice on the Appropriations Committee to fight for important research investments that matter to our farmers like the Herbicide Resistance Initiative and Falling Numbers research.

What do you want wheat growers to know about yourself?

First and foremost, I am a voice for Washington state communities in the U.S. Senate. No matter who is in the White House, I always stand up for Washington state values and priorities — and that absolutely includes our farmers and wheat growers. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I'll always make sure that priorities for Washington state farmers are priorities for the federal government. ■

For more information on Patty Murray, visit her campaign website at pattymurray.com.



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Do you believe the dams and salmon can co-exist?

Salmon can flourish without ever touching the Snake River dams. The report Patty Murray published, claiming that

the benefits of those dams can ever be replaced or mitigated, shows how out of touch she is. The irrigation, clean energy and recreation provided by the dams are critical to Washington State. American ingenuity, including continued research and development into things like habitat restoration, can find a way to implement workable, local solutions that allow for the continued benefits of the dams while also protecting the salmon runs.

Do you support protecting the crop insurance program from cuts in the next farm bill?

The crop insurance program is critical to the survival of our family farming operations. Earlier this year, a massive hailstorm rolled through this region and decimated a huge swath of crops across Washington. Without crop insurance programs, a total loss like that could spell financial ruin for Northwest farmers.

As Washington's next senator, I will oppose cuts to crop insurance program benefits while also being open to making sure the administration spends money efficiently operating the program. At a time when global food prices are seeing huge swings and our own economy is dealing with prolonged supply chain disruptions, our growers need the confidence that if disaster strikes, they will be able to recover their losses and have the financial resources to carry on into another farming year.

High input costs are hurting farmers. If elected, what will you do to address them?

Energy costs and food costs are connected. The sky-high energy prices that are crushing American families are wreaking equal havoc on our producers which, in turn, increases the prices on grocery store shelves. While Patty Murray has contributed to our energy crisis, I want to return our country to energy independence by adopting an all-of-the-above approach to energy policies.

This includes expanding American natural gas production and oil refining capacity to achieve energy indepen-

dence and reduce gas prices in the short term. Restarting the Keystone XL pipeline should be the first step to meeting America's crude oil requirements.

We also need to expand clean energy capacity, including reducing regulations for nuclear, wind and solar power to diversify our energy supply in the long term. This is why protecting the Snake River dams is so critical.

If elected, what are your legislative priorities for the next year?

My first priority as Washington's next senator is to address the inflation that is crushing American families and taking a toll on our economy. The first thing we need to do is stop spending money we don't have! In the 30 years since Patty Murray entered the Senate, the national debt has increased from \$4 trillion to \$30.5 trillion. In addition to reducing spending, we need to cut waste. The "use it or lose it" mindset is a terrible way to run anything and contributes to our massive, bloated bureaucracy. We need to trim the fat and streamline so that we are using money responsibly.

Additionally, I want our schools to get back to the basics of reading, writing and math. With new test results showing a huge drop in reading and math scores, it is more apparent than ever that it will take a lot of work to make up the lost ground. I will work to expand school choice so people from all socioeconomic backgrounds have access to a quality education. I will also promote curriculum transparency to empower parents while also working to ban the teaching of divisive ideologies, like Critical Race Theory, from our elementary schools.

Finally, I want to address the crime that is taking over our cities. We need to support our law enforcement agencies by ensuring they have the resources necessary to hire and retain quality officers. We need to hold repeat offenders accountable by prosecuting recidivism. Finally, we need to secure our border as the first step to stopping the fentanyl flowing across and reaching our communities.

What do you want wheat growers to know about yourself?

I am a small-town farm girl who grew up in Pasco, Wash., and learned early the importance of working hard. Whether it was gleaning and cleaning cherries from my grandpa's orchard to sell at the market, or raising and showing hogs and steers at the county fair, it was always

impressed upon me and my siblings to go the extra mile and do our very best. That is what I plan on doing as the next senator from Washington — going to Washington, D.C., working hard and doing my very best to represent all Washingtonians.

We don't need more career politicians, and unlike Patty Murray, I don't plan on staying in the Senate for 30 years. Instead, I have signed a term limit pledge and plan on going, serving and then coming home. Washington needs an effective leader who is willing to work with anyone. During my time advocating for my husband, Scotty, and working for VA Reform I learned the importance of building coalitions and working across the aisle to achieve results, and that is exactly what I will do as your next senator! ■

For more information on Tiffany Smiley, visit her campaign website at smileyforwashington.com.

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WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION

By Mike
Carstensen



Prost! If you've ever attended an Oktoberfest event, you're probably familiar with the German cheer that works for any social drinking occasion. If you're like me, I can't quite choose between bratwurst or schnitzel, but don't forget the sauerkraut. Grandpa Henry likes a good Hefeweizen, while I go for a Dunkel. With that said, I hope you enjoy our Oktoberfest-inspired *Wheat Life* section this month.

With harvest finished and as sowing wraps up, there is always work to be done, as all farmers are aware. So, let's continue and finish the "what the heck" budget update for the Washington Grain Commission (WGC). As a reminder, details on the 2022/23 fiscal budget are posted to the WGC website at <https://bit.ly/wgc-budgetFY23>.

Continuing my report from August, I'm going to talk about education, which is actually comprised of two budget categories: grower services (\$1.84 million), and education (\$598,500). The grower services budget category contains many line items that are educational in nature, just focused for growers as opposed to general public education programs.

The WGC will invest \$1,848,268 in grower services, slightly down from \$1,867,031 last year. This category is where our friends at the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) get leveraged support for farm management training programs like the Agricultural Marketing & Management Organization. This is an area I really need to take advantage of; it seems like the last two years running, I've embarrassingly had chem fallow get away from me. I know this area will help with my problems, and I just need to use these tools to improve.

Additional grower education activities include convention speakers, constituent communication and public relations. Through this category, we are able to support partners like the PNW Wheat Quality Council, the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association (PNWA), the National Barley Growers Association, and Washington State University Extension's education activities. A few things in the grower services worth noting area are:

- The WGC has worked with WAWG to spend a lot of time, effort and dollars for river system infrastructure and public relations work. This includes increased efforts to defend the dams. WGC does this through educational outreach to news media, our elected officials in Washington, D.C., and Olympia, and other coalitions.
- For 2022/23, some increased funds (\$100K) will be

made available through WAWG to address increased needs relative to the farm bill and transportation work to address infrastructure threats.

- WGC is contributing to PNWA's River Values campaign, which is a multimedia educational effort targeted to population centers in the Pacific Northwest and in Washington, D.C.
- RiverFest, hosted by the Port of Pasco, will return to Columbia Park in Kennewick on Saturday, Oct. 8, and the WGC is a contributing sponsor. This event is a family-friendly celebration of the river uses, including the federal hydropower system with a focus on the lower Snake River dams.

For the second category, the WGC has increased funding toward education, investing \$598,500 directly in education programs, up from \$554,500 last year. While representing just under 8% of the budget, the topic of education was probably the most engaging conversation the board had at our annual budget review last May. Are we spending enough or too much for any certain item, and how do we gauge the effectiveness? A few things specifically in education worth noting here are:

- The WGC increased funding for the Wheat Week classroom curriculum, including an increased effort to provide content for high school students. Last school year, in-person and online Wheat Week programs reached a total of 22,413 students. Of that total, 60% of the students were in Western Washington.
- The WGC funds education efforts through the Washington Wheat Foundation (\$125,000). If you are interested in receiving the wheat foundation's monthly newsletter, you can subscribe at <https://bit.ly/wwwnewsletter-signup>.
- The WGC is planning to resume the educational PNW Export Tour and Wheat Quality Workshop this year. All tour spots are filled, but if you are interested in attending, you can contact the WGC office (509-456-2481) to be on the standby list.

When it comes to what the heck the WGC is spending our money on, education is an important part. The WGC is taking steps to address misinformation, increase knowledge of agricultural conservation and sustainability efforts, and helping people to learn "what they don't know," among other efforts. Through grower services, the WGC is trying to help our farmers combat problems and improve their outcomes. Ultimately, it all comes back to the WGC mission to keep the Washington grain producer relevant and profitable. ■

WGC CEO to retire after decades of service

Glen Squires, CEO of the Washington Grain Commission (WGC), will retire on Nov. 1. Squires has served with the WGC for 30 years, the last 10 as CEO.

"Glen has guided the WGC through some big changes to our industry, especially in the last several years, pivoting to keep things running through the pandemic. He has been a relentless advocate for Washington small grains and our state's growers, and we are better off today because of his efforts," Mike Carstensen said. Carstensen is a dryland wheat farmer from Almira, Wash., and the current chairman for the WGC's board of commissioners.

The grain commission is a state organization funded by assessments levied on wheat and barley at the first point of sale. Based in Spokane, the WGC represents seven wheat and barley grower districts across Washington. Casey Chumrau is the incoming CEO. Chumrau comes to the WGC from the Idaho Wheat Commission, where she served as executive director.

"Glen has always been committed to ensuring Washington grain was of the highest quality. I am grateful for his dedication to the industry and wish him well in retirement," said Derek Sandison, director of the Washington State Department of Agriculture.

Squires has been involved with trade, marketing, research, transportation and analysis at the commission for many years.

"Envisioning the transition from large government wheat buyers to more privatized wheat purchasing, my predecessor, Tom Mick, initiated the emphasis on quality here in Washington and throughout the Pacific Northwest. I've worked hand in hand with our commissioners to enhance our ability to effectively meet and exceed the needs of an increasingly sophisticated market to remain competitive," he said.

Squires has a master's degree in agricultural economics from Washington State University (WSU), with an emphasis in international trade, and a bachelor's degree



Glen Squires discusses the benefits of high-quality U.S. wheat and farming practices with a Philippine media representative during her visit to Washington in 2016.



Winners of the Korean Baking School cake decorating contest held in Seoul, Korea, with (from left) CY Kang and Joe Sowers, U.S. Wheat (USW) representatives; Glen Squires, Washington Grain Commission (WGC) CEO; WGC Commissioner Gary Bailey; and USW representative Mark Fowler. The 2018 contest was part of the WGC's celebration of the commission's 60th anniversary with customers around the world.

from Utah State University in business administration-agribusiness with an emphasis in food marketing.

"Glen's collegial, creative approach to our work has been instrumental in placing the WGC as a trusted and reliable partner for U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) and all of the countries and customers that we collectively serve. We have a huge debt of gratitude that goes with Glen," said Vince Peterson, president of USW, which is the export market development organization for the U.S. wheat industry.

"I am sure that this retirement will be only partial, since those who have a desire to serve and continue to grow in their obligations within the beautiful world of wheat will always be in the forefront together with their friends," Andrea Saturno wrote upon learning of Squires' retirement. Saturno was the first technical programming manager for USW in South America and worked with Squires and others to enhance the demand for soft white wheat in that market through the education and promotion of blending soft white wheat into other wheats.

With customers, as in, those who buy wheat from the U.S. and the state of Washington, Squires' philosophy has been to address the issue, whatever it

was, meeting customers on their own turf. According to Squires, his parents taught and lived the values of trust, integrity, relationships, attention to detail and determination to "just keep at it" — all characteristics that he worked to apply in his own life and career representing wheat and barley farmers.

"Over his career, Glen has worked hard to unite the Washington grain industry and create a strong working relationship with the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) that utilizes the strengths of each organization," said Michelle Hennings, executive director of WAWG. "His dedication to growers and his passion for this industry have elevated Washington wheat's profile and put a spotlight on the world-class quality of our crop. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with Glen and have the utmost respect for his accomplish-

ments and dedication to the industry. We wish him well in retirement."

Squires traveled the world over his tenure with commissioners, working with customers to promote small grains. There have been many successes with WGC's many collaborators. One example is the support and implementation of the Solvent Retention Capacity test for millers, which is an alternative method for predicting



Glen Squires (back right) passes out sandwiches to school children during a bread promotion event in Bangkok, Thailand, in 1995.

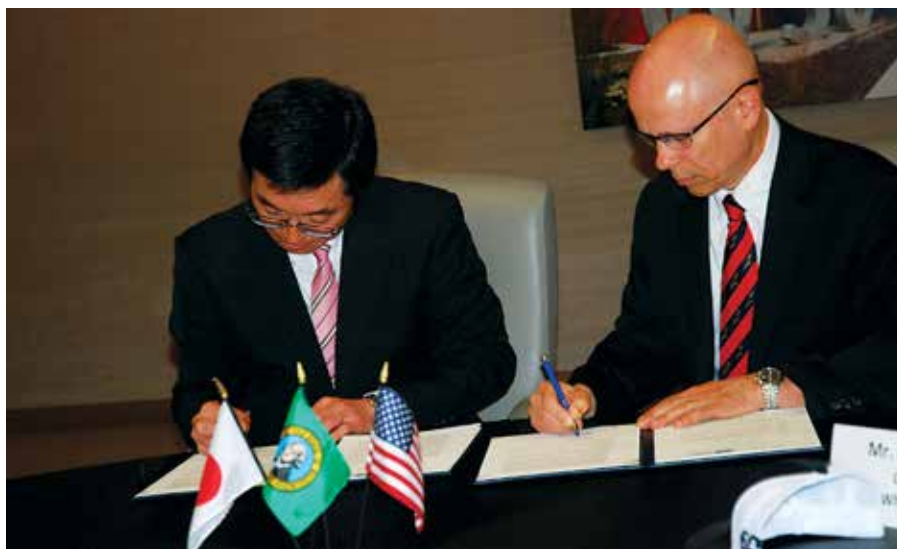
flour functionality in wheat-based food processes, thus enhancing the value and sale of soft white wheat.

With Patricia Dailey, former staff at Idaho Wheat Commission, he authored LOGISTIX, a transportation newsletter for the Northwest grain industry. Squires was also a principal architect of the annual Preferred Wheat Varieties brochure, which is a ranking of Eastern Washington, Oregon and Northern Idaho wheat varieties using six components to evaluate quality. Washington was the first state in the U.S. to rank varieties for quality in 1997, with Oregon and Idaho joining the effort soon after.

Squires developed relationships and important friendships with buyers throughout Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. He met customers in their mills and offices to promote wheat and address issues. He was on the first USW team to enter Hanoi, Vietnam, to promote U.S. wheat. According to Squires, experiences early in his career in Karachi, Pakistan, served to provide him a measure of constant awareness and heightened appreciation for life.

"As CEO of the grain commission, Glen has been an outstanding partner and supporter of research and Extension activities conducted by Washington State University (WSU) faculty and U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) scientists. His leadership continues to advance wheat quality and production — both critically important to our overseas markets and growers here in Washington state," said Rich Koenig, chair for the department of crop and soil sciences at WSU.

"There must be sustained research, with laws and regulations that support the business of food



Yasuo Sasaki (left), executive director of the Japan Flour Millers Association, and Glen Squires sign the letter of intent in 2018 to establish the annual club wheat technical exchange.

production. Food does not come from the grocery store. Ultimately, it is the farmers and ranchers who passionately pursue the art of producing our food. They enable the rest of society to pursue their passions. It is important to support and enhance the ability and capacity of those who produce our food," Squires said.

An additional milestone was a collaboration formalized in 2018 with the Japan Flour Millers Association (JFMA) to establish and strengthen the support system for the development of various varieties of white club wheat. The WGC leads the annual technical exchange based on sample analysis conducted by JFMA. This knowledge exchange provides a critical feedback loop from end-use customer to the USDA-ARS Northwest regional wheat breeding program. The information is used to advance high-quality, high-producing future varieties and breeding lines of club wheat that would satisfy the end-use demands of the industry.

According to Squires, the best success of all was working with producers, overseas customers and legislators and developing and maintaining the outstanding working relationships the WGC enjoys with a wide range of agricultural stakeholders, especially grain handlers, WAWG, the Washington Wheat Foundation and the phenomenal worldwide staff of USW.

Squires grew up on a small farm in north-central Utah. He is a Washington AgForestry Leadership graduate (class 19). Squires serves as president of the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association and is a strong advocate for its work on behalf of producers, ports, shippers and allied industries. He was also active with USW, serving as chairman of the sanitary, phytosanitary committee. Prior to COVID, he was chairman of a weeklong outdoor camp for 2,000 young men as part of his involvement in youth mentoring. Glen and his wife, Charlotte, have five children and 10 grandchildren.

"It has been an honor to work on behalf of the constituents of the WGC. Working with the commissioners and team members of the WGC has been a privilege," Squires said.

"This is a remarkable industry providing food for peoples of the world. I'm excited for Casey to lead the WGC. She is a proven leader with every needed qualification. Our industry will benefit from her great skill and experience." ■

DRINK LOCAL

Craft brewers in Washington put focus on locally grown ingredients

By Lori Maricle

Communications Director, Washington Grain Commission

I don't have to sing it for you. A television commercial opens on a pristine vista of a mountain on a quiet day, and a motorcycle drives across the screen. I'm guessing you may already be doing the sound effects, revving "Rainier Beer" like a kid racing a Hot Wheels along the back of the couch.

Before Budweiser used frogs in its advertising, before Prohibition even, Washington state has been a hotbed of innovation for the American brewing scene. According to an extensive history of the beer industry in Washington compiled by Michael Rizzo in "Washington Beer: A Heady History of Evergreen State Brewing," the state also led the microbeer trend, which came to be known as craft beer, in the 1980s and 90s. As local brands like Rainier, Olympia and Lucky Lager faded, in their place was a wave of Washington innovators. Then began an India pale ale (IPA) craze that is still in its crescendo across taps nationwide, with brands like Fremont, Georgetown, Icicle and No-Li quickly becoming local favorites with expanding popularity.

According to the Washington Beer Commission, there are 426 breweries in Washington, and 130 cities in our state have at least one brewery. Part of what makes Washington such an advantageous place to brew is the extensive and active network of brewers.

"The number of brewers who came out of Thomas Kemper Brewery, Pike Brewing Company or Big Time Brewery, or countless others, shows how the industry has fostered its own growth," writes Rizzo.

The Washington brewing scene, "walks the walk as far as community," says Mike Hunsaker, head brewer at Grains of Wrath Brewing in Camas. Washington is very open and welcoming as far as its brewer support and

education. According to Hunsaker, it's "like nothing I've seen. I wouldn't want to leave it."

Another part of what makes Washington a great place to brew is the state's excellent agronomy and diverse agriculture industry.

"The Pacific Northwest region is incredibly well suited for growing the crops we need to produce world-class beer," Theo Muller, a brewer at Urban Family Brewing in Seattle, said. "We have the highest quality ingredients in the world, right here. We are looking at what are the interesting things we can do to make our stamp on the world."

Building blocks for better beer

Malt, made predominantly from barley that has been germinated and then dried, is the main ingredient in beer, besides water. The other two basic ingredients are yeast and hops. Malt provides the starch and enzymes that make alcohol through fermentation. Hops are added as flavoring to offset the sweetness of the malt.

"I wish more people talked about malt," said Chris Baum, head brewer at Varietal Beer Company in Sunnyside. "Hops get all the love."

It's true that hops take center stage in recipes such as American or imperial IPAs, but the foundation that malt brings and how that framework influences final flavor quality is getting more and more attention from craft brewers and scientists alike.

Article continues on page 60



FUN FACTS

Naming new brews can be a mind-bending process. Some beer names are fun and cheeky, others give tribute to a person, location, or some other topic of significance to the brewer. For example, one of the first brews from **Burke-Gilman Brewing Company** was called 111 Mile IPA, because the brewer could get both malt (from Skagit Valley) and hops (from Yakima) produced within 111 miles of the brewery.

Farmstrong Brewing Company's Farmstoberfest for the 2022 Oktoberfest season is brewed with 100% locally grown Skagit grain from Skagit Valley Malting.

80% of **Iron Horse Brewery's** production is dedicated to its fan favorite Irish Death beer.

Penn Cove Brewing Co.'s Marzen for the 2022 Oktoberfest season is named Oaktoberfest, which is a tribute to the Oak Harbor region on Whidbey Island.

Pike Brewing Company brews a 100% Washington beer every spring.

Three Magnets Brewing Co. brews a selection of non alcoholic beer, including IPAs, a lager, and an Italian pilsner. They also ship direct to 42 states.

Urban Family Brewing Company's Festbier for the 2022 Oktoberfest season is brewed with 100% Washington-grown barley, sourced from a farm south of Spokane Valley —Joseph's Grainery—and malted by LINC Malt.

Volition Brewing's Marzen for the 2022 Oktoberfest season is named I'd Polka That.

It's the water! **Well 80 Brewhouse** uses 100% well water from the Olympia aquifer—downtown Olympia's well #80—and has recreated the original Olympia Beer recipes with the former Oly head brewer.

Wet Coast Brewery's Baronesse Pale Ale is brewed exclusively with Baronesse barley grown by Joseph's Grainery and malted by LINC Malt.

agricultural resources to provide the best quality ingredients. Washington is also home to one of the production facilities for Great Western Malting, a company that has a global footprint and contracts with barley growers across the northwest region and Canada for its Vancouver malthouse. The amount of Washington-grown barley that goes to Great Western for malt can fluctuate year to year depending on what farmers plant, so brewers who source from Great Western in Vancouver, or one of the company's subsidiaries like Country Malt, have been classified as using a "limited amount" or "some" Washington-grown malt in this graphic, depending on the information provided by the brewer.

If you are a brewer who is interested in using more Washington-grown malt or are interested in being included in a future list, please connect with us! wgc@wagrains.org

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The WGC would like to thank all the people of the brewing community who were so generous with their time towards the making of this graphic. Special thank you to the Washington Beer Commission, the Washington Hops Commission, LINC Malt, Skagit Valley Malting, and Great Western Malting.

ICON KEY

- ★ 100% Washington malt
- Over 50% Washington malt
- Some Washington malt
- Limited, one-offs
- 🏠 Malt Houses

A study at Washington State University in 2021, published in the *Journal of Food Science*, showed that malt imparts a range of desirable flavors in beer. While trained tasters can easily distinguish between different malt barley genotypes, the untrained panel of craft beer drinkers in the study could discern differences among the five beers tested. Each beer was brewed with the same Tahoma hops but with a different barley variety. According to one of the Washington State University (WSU) researchers, malt-forward beers have the potential to spur the next evolution in craft brewing.

Washington-grown barley

About 75% of the hops grown in the U.S. are from Washington state. But what about malt? Washington ranks sixth among the states for barley production. The leading barley-producing state is Idaho.

“Sourcing grain locally is a very intentional decision for us. It’s one of the ways we support our local community and bring a sense of place or terroir to our product,” said Erick Adam, head brewer at Penn Cove Brewing Co. in Coupeville.

Terroir is a French term referring to the soil, topography and climate that affects taste and flavor in food crops grown in a specific environment. It is most commonly used in the wine industry but is relevant to any crop that takes on characteristics from the place it is grown.

“There are some factors that we can’t control on terroir for some packaging, but where we can purchase Washington, we do,” said Leslie Shore, head brewer at Pike Brewing Company in Seattle.

According to the U.S. Grains Council, about three quarters of U.S. barley produced is used for malt and food barley, but in Washington, malting barley accounts for only about 10 percent of the state’s production total. The other 90% is used for animal feed.

“We love Baronesse malt and try to sneak it into recipes where we can,” said Bryan Copeland, brewer at Wet Coast Brewing Company in Gig Harbor. “In fact, it just

made an appearance in our Helles Lager.” Baronesse is a European barley variety that has been grown locally for many years due to its yield compared to Copeland, which is the top barley variety grown in Washington.

The top five barley-growing counties in Washington are Whitman, Lincoln, Spokane, Columbia and Garfield. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington harvested 70,000 acres of barley in 2021, and the state is projected to harvest barley off 75,000 acres in 2022. While up from last year, the number of acres

planted to barley since 2011 has been on a downward trend. However, the Washington Grain Commission (WGC) and Robert Brueggeman are hoping to change that.

Part of the WGC mission is advancing quality and competitiveness of small grains. We do this by funding research and by participating in activities that develop and expand markets for Washington-grown wheat and barley. One of the seven WGC-funded endowment positions at

WSU is the Robert A. Nilan Endowed Chair in Barley Research and Education. Since 2019, it has been held by barley scientist Brueggeman. Brueggeman is working to develop new malting barley varieties, tailored to the specific growing environment of the Pacific Northwest.

“In the future, we plan to create specific brands that focus on local ingredients, and those beers will utilize locally grown and malted barley,” said Dru Seed, head brewer at Hops & Seed Brewery in Snohomish.

The WGC is striving to build awareness around the potential for Washington-grown malting barley to contribute to mainstream brewing and the Pacific Northwest (PNW) craft brewing industries. Meanwhile, Brueggeman is developing new malting barley varieties suited for PNW growing regions to produce both high quality and yield. Together, the two organizations are hoping to bring malting barley back to Washington as more craft brewers are focusing their recipes on locally grown and malted ingredients.

You can do your part, too: drink Washington beer! ■



BREEDING THE BEST

WSU barley program sees the future in malting barley

By Robert Brueggeman

Associate Professor and Robert A. Nilan Endowed Chair in Barley Research and Education, Washington State University

The production of malt barley across the U.S. supports a multibillion dollar industry that includes the added value created by the brewing and distilling industries. My goal, as the Robert A. Nilan Endowed Chair in Barley Research and Education and Washington State University's (WSU) barley breeder, is to develop modern malt barley varieties adapted to the dryland growing regions of the state that consistently contain the malting package demanded by commercial adjunct brewers as well as the more creative liquid arts of the craft brewers and distillers. I think the excellent craft brewers and distillers in the state will play a major role in getting products made with Washington-sourced barley to consumers, which will help bring recognition to Washington as a premium malt barley production region.

In the pursuit of developing these high quality, high yielding malt barley varieties, there was an initial focus on enhancing the program's germplasm such that it was enriched for the genetics to increase our probability of identifying barley lines that, when malted, resulted in more than 80% malt extract. This equates to an enzyme package that results in more than 80% of the dry weight of the mature grain becoming beer or distilled spirits, which is the main criteria of a quality malt barley variety. This goal meant that the germplasm in the program needed to be enhanced for malt barley genetics, which was achieved through hundreds of crosses with elite malt barley lines collected from programs around the world.

Research has shown that climate change and the resulting extremes in weather patterns worldwide presents major challenges to ensuring adequate production of quality malting barley to meet the needs of the brewing and distilling industries, domestically and globally. These extremes result in substantial yield losses, typically ranging from 3-17% depending on the severity of conditions, yet can be much more severe when conditions are extreme, such as the drought and heat experienced in the Pacific Northwest (PNW) during the 2021 growing season. These drought and extreme temperatures also have a major effect on malt quality that leads to rejection of the crop by the malting houses. Thus, ensuring a stable supply of quality malting barley requires the



(Above) Robert Brueggeman, Washington State University (WSU) barley breeder, pours malt barley wort for the filtering process in the new WSU Malt Quality Analysis Lab. (Below) Malt barley wort ready for analysis and the prime view of the Malt Quality Analysis Lab.



development of varieties with wide adaptability and a stable malt quality genetic package.

Although the PNW has experienced some climate extremes resulting in production shortfalls and quality issues during some growing seasons, our situation is not as dire as some barley production regions. The PNW is predicted to have increased winter and spring precipitation and hotter, dryer summers, which could be advantageous to producing quality malt barley when adapted varieties are grown. One advantage Eastern Washington has had in the production of high quality barley is the

lack of major diseases that affect quality and yield, such as those seen in the traditional malt barley production region of the upper Midwestern states. Part of this equation is that dryer weather patterns during the midsummer months are not conducive to the development of fungal diseases, which is a major issue when it comes to producing quality malting barley. Varieties adapted to utilize moisture early in the growing season and that mature early to avoid the heat during grain fill can be developed through breeding of both spring and winter malt barley varieties. Climate extremes and disease issues causing global and domestic shortfalls may also increase demand for barley produced in the PNW, creating new opportunities for domestic and international export markets.

Developing quality malt barley varieties that have broad adaptability is not an easy task. Bringing together the optimal genetic package to meet all the quality parameters and maintain the genetics for broad adaptation and excellent agronomics can be a tall order. However, through funding from the Washington Grain Commission, the American Malting Barley Association, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Research Service barley pest initiative, and federal grant funding from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture and National Science Foundation, my program is making excellent progress in meeting these goals.

A major tool to meeting these breeding goals was the

addition of the WSU Malt Quality Lab (WMQL), which was made possible by equipment funding through the Washington Grain Commission. Adding this important instrumentation and program infrastructure allows us to quickly generate the full spectrum of malt quality data on our experimental lines in real time as the grain comes off the field. This capability is instrumental in our selection process and our ability to know which lines to move forward and which lines become new parental materials in our breeding cycle. This resource has had measurable implications for the WSU spring and winter malt barley breeding program as we are now able to generate malt quality data at the early generation and move lines that have adequate malt quality forward into replicated field trials.

This early generation selection, which was not previously possible, optimizes our breeding efforts by not expending resources on lines that are not adequate. The WMQL became fully operational in September 2021, and we generated malt quality data from our 2021 single rep yield trials and were able to select material with adequate malt quality to move forward in our 2022 replicated yield trials, enriching these trials for quality. With our previous process of generating malt quality data utilizing the USDA Cereal Crops Research Lab in Madison, Wis., we did not receive data back in time to make selections for the next planting season. The WMQL saves us a year in making selections as we can separate "the goats from the sheep" during early generation selection, significantly enhancing our ability to identify the

The 2022 Washington State University Barley Field Day.



individual lines that will be “winners” as malt barley varieties.

The major goal of the WSU spring and winter malt barley breeding program is the development of varieties that make the American Malting Barley Association (AMBA) recommended list. It is necessary to have varieties accepted and added to the AMBA recommended list to have varieties contracted with the large malting facilities like Great Western Malting. Although we will continue to develop all malt varieties directed at the craft malting, brewing and distilling industries as this sector is demanding increased malt barley acreage, it is the adjunct malt barley lines that will demand the large commercial acreage that we are targeting in the future. Thus, my program is focusing on crosses and advancement of material enhanced for quality to make AMBA specifications for adjunct and craft all-malt parameters.

To aid the rapid early generation selection process in our breeding cycle, we also equipped the WSU barley breeding and molecular lab with the capability to run DNA markers. The WMQL has greatly enhanced our selection processes utilizing molecular markers as we are now able to generate high quality malt data on experimental lines and genetic populations to map positive genetic loci contributing to malt quality. From these data, we developed DNA markers associated with malt quality traits that initially focused on malt extract, low protein and low beta-glucan, which were the three main malt quality characteristics that were lacking in the pro-

gram to make AMBA recommendation.

The optimization of our genetics and selection processes using high throughput genotyping and phenotyping has had measurable impact on the return on the Washington Grain Commission's funding investment in the WSU barley breeding program. In the two prior years of malt quality analysis of experimental lines coming down the pipeline, we did not identify a single line that met the strict parameters required of a line to enter the AMBA pilot evaluation program. However, in 2021, our malt quality analysis of new experimental lines identified several lines that met or exceeded these quality parameters as compared to the AMBA western state malt quality controls, Copeland and AC Metcalfe. Excitingly, four of these lines yielded significantly higher than the modern AMBA recommended varieties Odyssey and Opera. Thus, the research investments have expedited the development of lines that we will submit for the AMBA pilot evaluation program in 2022.

Thus, our focus on stabilizing malt quality genetics in our breeding material while selecting for yield is producing exciting results. It is my goal to report on the development and release of the first WSU AMBA recommended malting variety soon, which would be the first hurdle in bringing the WSU malt barley breeding program recognition as a world-class malt barley breeding program. I believe Washington state has the potential to become a major producer of malting barley for both domestic use and for the world market. ■



WHEAT WATCH

WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION

Fundamentals matter over the long run



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

There has been a substantial amount of press regarding the influence of futures market speculators on commodity prices and, specifically, their role in influencing wheat prices and volatility. Coverage has spanned the farm press ("Speculators shake up wheat markets," *The Western Producer*, March 24, 2022), to the financial and mainstream press ("Speculators Exit Agricultural Markets, Intensifying Crop Selloff," *The Wall Street Journal*, Aug. 4, 2022). In short, the reports in various media first credited the run-up in commodity (including wheat) prices to speculative market activity and then explained the recent downturn by speculators leaving the market.

Figure 1 shows the total market open interest for the soft red wheat futures contract on a weekly basis from January 2022 through mid-September compared to the total number of long positions held by managed money funds.¹ Note that total market open interest has been steadily declining through the year, even in the face of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and concerns about domestic inflation.

Conversely, the total long positions (meaning the initial transaction was a futures market purchase) held by managed funds increased dramatically following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, dropped significantly after mid-May, and then began to increase again in mid-July. As of mid-September, fund long open interest was about even with long fund positions just prior to the invasion of Ukraine.

A casual look at the market activity of large speculative funds shows a relationship be-

Figure 1: Market open interest vs. managed money long positions
(soft red wheat futures)

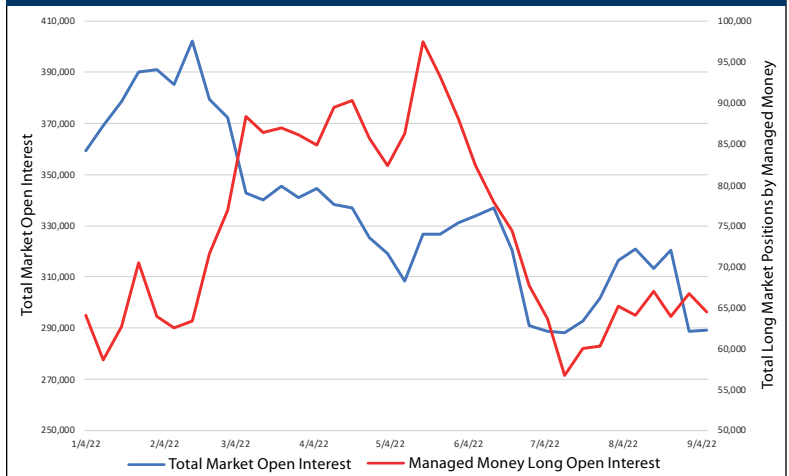


Figure 2: Futures prices vs. managed money long positions



tween their market positions and wheat prices since the start of 2022. Figure 2 shows the nearby soft red wheat futures price compared to the long futures positions of managed money speculators. However, Figure 2 only shows correlation — it does not address whether speculators were buying and selling futures contracts to take advantage of price direction that would have existed even

¹Open interest refers to the total number of futures contracts currently held by market participants. It accounts for contracts held by both buyers and sellers. If a trader buys or sells a futures contract today, open interest goes up by one. If the same trader offsets that contract tomorrow (sells a contract initially bought or buys a contract initially sold), open interest tomorrow goes down by one. Long open interest refers to the number of futures contracts that have been bought and not yet sold.

without them, or whether futures price activity was the direct result of speculative trading. If we believe that futures speculation drives price, then we might also expect futures price changes at times to be inconsistent with known and expected market fundamentals.

A close examination of perceived market fundamentals over the last nine months suggests that, even if there were some short run impacts associated with speculative activity, wheat prices generally reflected changes in underlying market expectations. Between the first week of January and the second week of March, average weekly prices for soft red futures traded in about a \$.30 per bushel trading range — a change of about 4% from the lowest to highest price. At the same time, however, the long positions of managed money speculators increased by about 22% between the low and the high the second week of February. Once Ukraine was invaded (Feb. 24) both futures prices and long positions held by funds exploded — but without the threat of a global supply disruption to red wheat markets it is unlikely either would have happened.

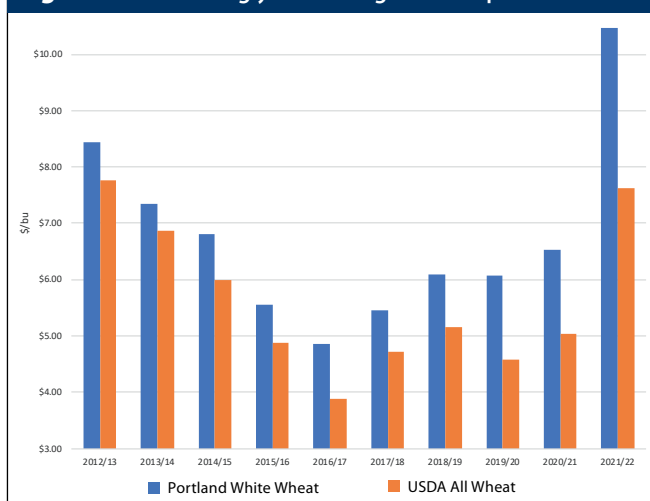
Note from Figure 2 that weekly futures prices peaked at \$12.12 per bushel the first week of March, and then fell to \$10.18 per bushel by the last week of March — a decline of 16% in a month. Long speculative market positions were essentially unchanged over this same time period.

Beginning the second week of May, both prices and long fund positions collapsed, but the funds began adding to their long positions the second week of July, and futures prices did not bottom until the second week of August. Thus, it would appear that changes in managed money positions had little influence on wheat futures prices from July through mid-August. Since mid-August, managed money positions have been quite flat while wheat futures increased almost \$1 per bushel through mid-September. The bottom line is fundamentals matter, and even if speculative market activity has some short-run price effects, managed money is not capable of sustaining prices much above or below fundamental values over any length of time.

Based on the September U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, current fundamentals imply the national average wheat price for the 2022/23 marketing year will be \$9 per bushel, an increase of 18% over the 2021/22 marketing year. This price projection is supported by a smaller total wheat supply estimate compared to last year and an increase in export activity. Together, these result in a year-over-year reduction in marketing year carry-out.

Unfortunately, white wheat producers are not likely to

Figure 3: Marketing year average wheat prices



see a similar price increase this year. White wheat prices were supported early in the 2021/22 marketing year by the poor 2021 harvest and remained quite high, and compared to red wheat prices, stable through most of the 2021/22 marketing year. However, total white wheat supplies this year are expected to exceed last year's by about 25%, and even with a significant increase in projected exports, white wheat ending stocks on May 31, 2023, are expected to exceed 2021/22 ending stocks by about 44%. This, in turn, will likely result in a weaker average basis (basis is the cash white wheat price minus the soft red futures contract price) this year compared to last.

Figure 3 shows the average marketing year price for white wheat in Portland compared to the USDA average all wheat marketing year price. Notice that last year's premium (almost \$2.85 per bushel) far exceeded the premium in any of the previous 10 years. Not counting last year, the Portland price for white wheat the last 10 years averaged about \$.92 per bushel over the USDA national price. In 2019/20 and 2020/21, it was closer to a \$1.49 per bushel premium. If USDA's current \$9 per bushel average price proves accurate and we return to a more normal relationship between Portland and national average prices (which seems reasonable given current market fundamentals), then the average soft white wheat price for this marketing year is likely to be between \$9.92 and \$10.49 per bushel. Last year's average marketing year price in Portland was just under \$10.50 per bushel. Thus, prices much above \$10 per bushel this year likely represent attractive sales opportunities for the 2022 crop. ■

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.

Getting EQIP-ed

PROGRAM LETS FARMERS TEST CONSERVATION PRACTICES BEFORE COMMITTING ENTIRE OPERATION



"It's a brand-new program that has a really, to me, a tremendous number of opportunities and possibilities."

—Roylene Comes at Night, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service

By Trista Crossley
Editor, *Wheat Life*

Producers interested in exploring conservation practices without committing their entire operation have until Oct. 13 to consider a relatively new program offered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The Environmental Quality Incentives Program-Conservation Incentive Contracts (EQIP-CIC) is meant to fill the gap between EQIP and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), said Roylene Comes at Night, state conservationist for Washington state's NRCS office.

EQIP helps producers identify and address a natural resource concern on working lands and partially reimburses producers for the implementation of management practices and activities. CSP, on the other hand, offers annual payments to help producers maintain and improve existing conservation systems, but it requires enrollment of the entire operation, a common complaint from producers, Comes at Night said. In addition, enrollment in CSP can often make a producer ineligible for other programs.

"EQIP-CIC does not require the whole operation. You could try it out on a piece or a part of your operation. If you wanted to focus just on cropland, that's okay. If you want to just focus on just your pasture, your hay land, your rangeland, that's okay. CSP doesn't quite have as much flexibility," she explained. "CIC was developed to allow that flexibility but still pay that annual payment as they (producers) are trying out those different practices."

EQIP-CIC payments will generally be lower than CSP payments but will still require a five-year contract. All EQIP rules, such as payment limitations and producer eligibility, will apply to EQIP-CIC.

"(EQIP-CIC) is really getting you ready or getting you in a situation to see if you want to do CSP, and if you would be comfortable doing it. The hope is that you would graduate from EQIP to EQIP-CIC to CSP and then get a much larger annual payment than the other programs," Comes at Night said.

The FY2022 EQIP-CIC eligible practices include conservation crop rotation; residue and tillage management, reduced till and no-till; cover crops; and nutrient management. EQIP-CIC practices included in the state's top 10 priority practices (as identified by the State Technical Advisory Committee) will be eligible for higher payment amounts.

Comes at Night said one of the issues the state office is hoping EQIP-CIC will be especially well suited for is riparian buffers. In the 2022 Washington State Legislative Session, legislation was introduced that called for mandatory riparian buffers along salmon-bearing streams (the bill failed to make it out of committee). At that time, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) was often pointed to as a way producers would be compensated for land that was put into a riparian buffer zone. However, Comes at Night acknowledged that CREP isn't a good fit for everyone. The state NRCS office is asking for additional EQIP funds for a riparian buffer program that would be run through EQIP-CIC.

"We are really looking at trying to develop a higher payment for the riparian buffers because that is a hot issue in this state," she said. "(Producers) would get that annual payment for management of the riparian buffer, and we are hoping it will pay for that

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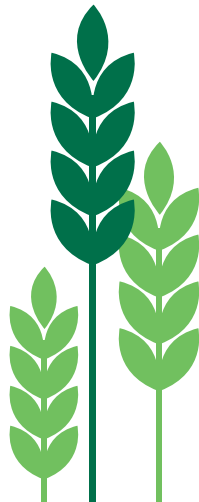
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foregone income they are losing when they put it into a riparian buffer, and maybe they will transition to CREP if it all fits. But I know that program (CREP) doesn't fit everybody."

This is the second year EQIP-CIC will be offered. The state NRCS office is setting aside a minimum of 5% of their allocated EQIP funds for the program. Comes at Night said they've gotten positive feedback about the program so far.


"It's a brand-new program that has a really, to me, a tremendous number of opportunities and possibilities," she said.

The classic Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Conservation Stewardship Program also have application deadline dates of Oct. 13, 2022, for fiscal year 2023. Producers have until Nov. 18, 2022, to make sure they have fulfilled all their Farm Service Agency (FSA) eligibility requirements. Some requirements, such as the Adjusted Gross Income determination, may take several weeks to process. Producers can work on their FSA eligibility at any time during the year, including

making sure their records, such as tax and lease information, are correct.

"The earlier producers can become eligible, the easier they are going to slide into our programs, and we can go ahead and get them ranked and contracted early," Comes at Night said. "We are trying hard to change the schedule so we can get EQIP and EQIP-CIC out of the way because CSP and CRP (the Conservation Reserve Program) are very large workloads. We started to move things up, because that will give us time to start working with producers to make sure eligibility is there, because by the drop-dead date, they are going to have a little tiny window to make sure all their paperwork is at FSA. If it is not, their application will get rolled to the next year."


For more on EQIP, EQIP-CIC and CSP, visit nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/wa/programs/. ■




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FSA program audit uncovers error

By Trista Crossley
Editor, Wheat Life

In early August, some Eastern Washington producers learned they had been mistakenly enrolled in a conservation practice they didn't qualify for, and their contracts were being cancelled. But along with the bad news was some good news — the state Farm Service Agency (FSA) office already had a solution in place.

According to Jon Wyss, executive director of the Washington State FSA, 508 contracts enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program's CP15A (contour grass strips) practice were impacted. Most of the contracts were in Whitman County, with a few in Spokane County. The discrepancy was discovered when state staff did a program audit while assisting the Whitman County FSA office through staff transitions earlier this year. Growers who were signed up for CP15A but shouldn't have been were notified by letter. The state FSA office also held a phone call with about 200 producers to explain the situation.

Producers will receive this year's payment as usual in October. However, their CP15A contracts have been cancelled, and producers were given two options for the future:

- Sign up for the Highly Erodible Lands Initiative (HELI) or the State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement.
- Offer the land in the next Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general sign-up.

Producers could also choose to put the land back into production.

In any case, because it was an administrative mistake, producers did not have to make repayments,

there were no contract penalties for the contracts being cancelled midterm, and producers now have a new 10- or 15-year contract.

"From what we can see, there's little to no downside to the producers because they get to choose their options," Wyss said. "Do they want to farm it? Do they want to put it into HELI? Do they want to put it into CRP in the next general sign-up? We tried to do the best we could for the majority of the group. About 99% of folks are going to see no change. I'll take that as a win."

The state office ran scenarios for all impacted producers and mailed out contracts. All producers needed to do was sign the contract and send it back to FSA.

Wyss said steps have been taken to ensure that this doesn't happen again. The state office has requested that, moving forward, the district directors perform spot checks on the first five CP15A contracts prior to practice approval. ■



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THE BOTTOM LINE

Simple steps can help stop cyber, wire fraud

By John Kragt

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

This is my last Bottom Line column of the year, and I have enjoyed writing them. I hope you have not been too bored reading them! This final article is an unusual topic but one that is often overlooked by most farmers.

When most farmers think about liability and insurance, they think about crop insurance and general liability insurance for their land and equipment, but do they think about cyberfraud and or wire fraud? Recently, my firm has dealt with many situations of very sophisticated fraudulent attacks on our clients. Most people hear of an example on the internet and think this would never happen to them, however, the attacks are becoming better and better. This has left us questioning how to best prevent future attacks and protect our clients moving forward. Below are a couple of real-world examples and ways to protect yourself.



EXAMPLE 1. In a real estate transaction, a buyer receives an email with wire transfer instructions from a title company and/or closing agent of the sale. The buyer has received multiple emails from this source for weeks. When he receives the email with instructions in it, he notices that the bank is not one he would expect the agent to use. Regardless, the buyer takes the wire transfer instructions to the bank, and the money is wired to the account on the instructions. When the title company doesn't receive the funds, only then is it discovered that the buyer's email was hacked, and the funds have been wired to a fraudulent bank account. How did this happen, and what can be done to mitigate the risk?

The first thing to understand is that while email is very convenient, it's also less secure than we can even imagine. When you have a free email account, you do not have a dedicated IT department monitoring your emails, and hackers are able to enter your email without you knowing it. In the example above, the hackers had created new wire transfer instructions and sent them from an email address very similar to the email address that the buyer had been used to dealing with. They had deleted the original email from the buyer's inbox without the buyer's knowledge.

Unfortunately, this example has happened many times to farmers and ranchers in the past. Email, while a great tool for the busy operator, is not a replace-

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ment for face to face or the telephone. This example could have been fixed with a phone call to confirm the wire instructions or a meeting at the office to hand-deliver the instructions.

Review your farm insurance policy with your insurance agent. Most insurance companies can offer an endorsement of cyber liability insurance. In speaking with insurance agents, most farmers decline such a policy as they don't feel it's relevant to their operation. However, I believe an operator should strongly consider such a policy.

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EXAMPLE 2. There are many different examples of quitclaim deed scams, however, they typically fall under the same fact pattern. Parties complete a real estate transaction and want to save money on a lawyer or title company and transfer the property via quitclaim deed. I have seen instances where a piece of property has had a significant lien on it, and the “great deal” the buyer got is now a very bad deal as the lien is attached to that property and is now their burden. I have also seen many elderly people get scam solicitations to sign a deed over to someone for all sorts of reasons. Typically, this scam is successful when a person becomes ashamed or embarrassed and doesn't want to communicate with their family or business partners that they have been scammed.

In both examples above and the hundreds of other scams that are out there and coming in the future, it's best to do the following: First, take your time and review your documents and look for something amiss, even if it came from your long-time lawyer. Remember, while we all love lawyers, it's possible for them to make mistakes as well. Second, it's best to work with your advisors when you can on the phone and or in person. While it may seem antiquated to schedule a meeting to do things, it does remove a level of technological risk. Also, it's just a better way to do business. Finally, take some time to review not only your insurance policies, but anything else that hasn't been addressed in the past, including your cybersecurity. Unfortunately, there are people out in the world that want to make a living by trying to steal your hard-earned assets. Let's all work together to try to stop them from doing that. ■

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 showers brought a double rainbow in Harrington.
Photo by Tammy Booker.



Early this summer, this beautiful crop created a traffic jam off Day Mt. Spokane Road in Mead by people taking pictures. It was a highlight of Peone Prairie. Photo by Seth Flanders.



Fall seeding photo
taken near LaCrosse.
Photo by Tawnja Miller.



More canola than ever bloomed across Eastern Washington this year, like this field near Wilbur.
Photo by Alli Schroeder.



A summer storm rolls through south of Kahlotus.
Photo by Travis Matthews.



Celebrating Robert Plucker's 95th at his farm
in Touchet. Photo by Nick Plucker.

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.

OCTOBER 2022

7-8 OKTOBERFEST. Live entertainment, German food, arts and crafts, beer garden. Town Toyota Center in Wenatchee, Wash. leavenworthoktoberfest.com

8 FRESH HOP ALE FESTIVAL. Over 70 breweries, wineries and cideries, live music and food. SOZO Sports Complex in Yakima, Wash. freshhopalefestival.com

6-7 WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION BOARD MEETING.

Spokane, Wash. Call (509) 456-2481 for more information.

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

19-23 BALLOON STAMPEDE.

Launches begin at 7:15 at Tietan Park

in Walla Walla, Wash. facebook.com/wuballoonstampe/

14-15 OKTOBERFEST. Live entertainment, German food, arts, crafts, beer garden. Town Toyota Center in Wenatchee, Wash. leavenworthoktoberfest.com

21-22 HAUNTED PALOUSE. Haunted houses and a haunted hay ride. Palouse, Wash. visitpalouse.com

28-29 HAUNTED PALOUSE. Haunted houses and a haunted hay ride. Palouse, Wash. visitpalouse.com

NOVEMBER 2022

2-4 WASHINGTON STATE WEED ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE. Trade show, workshops. Wenatchee Convention Center, Wenatchee, Wash. Register at weedconference.org

14-15 WASHINGTON STATE CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING. Northern Quest Casino in Airway Heights, Wash. Register at washingtoncrop.com

25-26 CHRISTMAS AT THE END OF THE ROAD. Old-fashioned cowboy Christmas! Skate with Santa, live music, fireworks and food. winthropwashington.com/events/christmas-festival/

28 WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION BOARD MEETING. Spokane, Wash. Call (509) 456-2481 for more information.

29-DEC. 1 2022 TRI-STATE GRAIN GROWERS CONVENTION. Industry updates, break-out sessions, vendors. Coeur d'Alene Resort, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Early bird registration ends Nov. 1. wawg.org/convention/registration/ ■

Submissions

Email listings to editor@wawg.org. Include date, time and location of event, plus contact info and a short description.



The advertisement features a large image of two grain bins with augers being installed. The augers are yellow and orange, and the bins are silver. Above the bins, the logos for WESTFIELD, WESTEEL, BATCO, NECO, and MFS are displayed. Below the image, the text "MOVE DRY STORE" is written in large, bold, yellow letters. Underneath this, a list of services is provided: "★ Augers ★ Belt Conveyors ★ Dryers ★ Grain Bins ★ Construction". At the bottom, the company name "T&S Sales" is shown next to a logo of a wheat stalk, followed by the phone number "509.535.1177" and the website "NwGrainAugers.com".

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