

# WHEAT LIFE

The official publication of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers

**MARCH | 2023**

## ON THE HILL

Wheat industry leaders head to D.C. for national meetings, visits with lawmakers

### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

AMMO recaps: Tax updates, better herbicide applications

Q&A with WGC, CAHNRS leaders

Farmer feedback: Soil health survey results

Pesticide-resistant weed BMPs

Palouse museum highlights history of region, printing

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# WHEAT LIFE

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**WASHINGTON  
ASSOCIATION OF  
WHEAT GROWERS**

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# President's Perspective



## Together, on the road to Abilene

By Andy Juris

Progress. Seems to be a controversial word these days, yet it's what most of us are striving for in one way or another. You hear some people say they're a progressive person; I think that means they sell auto insurance though. Folks debate progress. Is it good? Bad? Does it matter? Reasonable people would probably say both, depending on what it is. Back in my airline days, management decided we needed to capture the vision of progress for our company, so they had us watch an industry production called "The Road to Abilene." It was a grainy feature film made back in the early 1970s when folks tended to sport bell bottoms, large-rimmed glasses, and way too much body hair. It was about a family picking up strangers and learning life lessons on a trip to Abilene, Texas. It was so bad that it was actually amazing, and while the lessons were undoubtedly lost on us, it made a lot of us wonder how kindly progress would look back on how we dressed and appeared in 50 years. So, how far on the road to Abilene have we come?

Ice cream is one area of great progress. I recently watched a youngster devour an opulent creation worthy of being called art. When I was young, ice cream meant shoving half-melted orange sherbet out of a toilet paper roll and then chewing on the plastic pusher until someone gagged on it. Now that I have a granddaughter, I'm amazed at the variety of wipe-type materials available to young mothers. Nearly every body fluid emergency seems to have a tidy package of wipes ready and available to meet the challenge. As a kid, I was faced with my grandmother scraping on my face with a well-used Kleenex that she had pulled out of the sleeve of her sweater.

Some progress seems to make life more complicated, however. The high/low beam switch in my car went from a knob on the floor to a multi-knobbed stick on the steering column that has 42 functions. Now, instead of dimming my lights, I signal a turn, run the wipers and fluid, and attempt to restrain un-Christian language. Cell phones, while amazing tools, have turned meals into zombie-like scrolling sessions where folks must text each other at the dinner table to converse. Speaking of that, I think I'll put this on my Facebook.

With all this progress, one has to wonder if, at some point, the way forward is to look at the past. When I consider what the farmers in my family did to survive and sustain the farm for the next generation, one word comes to mind: persistence. Those who came before faced illness, frontier life, the great depression and everything Mother Nature could throw at them and kept going. Not only that, but they also founded organizations like the Washington Association of Wheat Growers and the Washington Grain Commission, built elevators, schools and communities. The will to keep going when everything told them to stop pushed them to create the world we live in.

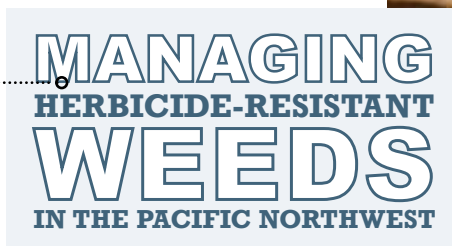
Today we are again faced with challenges. Mother Nature is as angry as ever, the fertilizer bill makes me cry, and the political scenario is extremely concerning. Let's take a page out of the past and use it to mark the way forward. Instead of going back to the farm, staying out of the fight, and hoping the few folks working on our behalf are successful, let's be persistent. Let's take the thousands of wheat farmers in this state and let folks know that we aren't going away quietly. But, we need you all to do it. Not some, all. Persistence. Progress. Our road to Abilene is one we, like our grandparents, must walk together. ■

**Cover photo:** Winter wheat along Highway 27 in Whitman County peaking out to see if spring is here yet. All photos are Shutterstock images or taken by *Wheat Life* staff unless otherwise noted.



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# WAWG MEMBERSHIP FORM

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- ☐ Student \$75
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 ☐ Lifetime \$2,500

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<b>Family \$200</b> (2 family members)	X	X	X			X
<b>Partnership \$500</b> (1-5 family members)	X	X	X	X		X
<b>Convention \$600</b> (2 individuals)	X	X	X		X	X
<b>Lifetime \$2,500</b> (1 individual)	X	X	X	X		X
<b>Non-Voting Membership</b>						
<b>Student \$75</b>	X	X	X			
<b>Industry Associate \$150</b>	X	X	X			

## WAWG's current top priorities are:

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

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

## More member benefits:

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



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## Board hears legislative activity reports at February meeting

With both the 2023 Washington State Legislative Session and the 118th Congressional Session in full swing and grower visits to both coasts, it was no surprise that February's board meeting was full of legislative activity reports.

Since the January board meeting, Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) have spent two days in Olympia meeting with more than 45 legislators and agency leaders and a week in Washington, D.C., where they met with most members of the state's federal delegation, not to mention several U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies. You can read about the Olympia Days visit at [wheatlife.org/olympia-days-2023/](http://wheatlife.org/olympia-days-2023/) and see page 24 for the report on the D.C. visit.

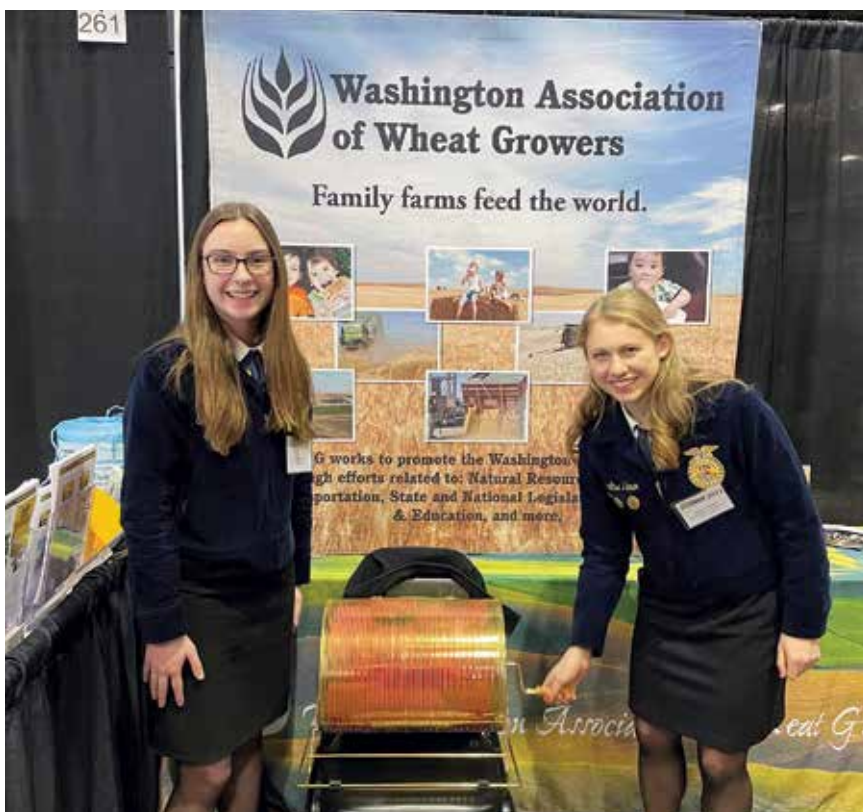
WAWG Lobbyist Diana Carlen called into the meeting to give an update on what's happening at the state legislative level. She said the schedule had been full of committee meetings and "arm wrestling" as the first legislative deadline approached (Feb. 17) when all bills had to be passed out of committee.

Lawmakers were still dealing with two issues that are important to the agricultural industry: the riparian buffer bill and a mechanism for exempting ag users from paying any additional fuel surcharges related to cap and trade legislation.

Carlen said a new, bipartisan version of the riparian bill has been introduced that establishes a voluntary, regionally focused grant program. The legislation has been widely supported in the agricultural industry, and wheat growers testified in a public hearing in favor of the bill (see page 18). Unfortunately, the Governor's Office is not in support of the bill, primarily because it does not establish a statewide minimum buffer size.

The other main issue, exempting ag users from fuel surcharges relating to cap and trade legislation, is still being worked on. Two bills had been recently introduced that would require the state to reimburse exempt fuel users who had paid a surcharge. This is one of WAWG's top priorities, and leaders and staff are working with legislators and other agricultural sectors to find a solution as quickly as possible.

The wheat industry is still supporting a bill that would allow agricultural employers to select 12 weeks where employees could work up to 50 hours before overtime pay is triggered. The bill had a hearing in the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee where wheat growers testified in support of the bill. Unfortunately, Carlen said the bill is not expected to pass out of committee. ▶



**SPOKANE AG SHOW.** A big thank you to the Washington Association of Wheat Growers' (WAWG) members who volunteered in our booth at the Spokane Ag Show last month. We saw a lot of familiar faces and enjoyed promoting WAWG and wheat to all the attendees. Wheat Ambassadors Shaley Tiegs (left) and Angelina Widman (right) drew the winning ticket for the Smart TV we gave away at the show for answering a wheat fact. WAWG member Andrew Pannek, from Spokane, was our winner.



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See Carlen's legislative report on page 18 for more information on what's happening in Olympia.

In the national legislation report, Nicole Berg, president of the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) and a WAWG past president, said advocating for the wheat industry's 2023 Farm Bill priorities is the main focus of the national organization right now. National leaders have been meeting with both House and Senate ag committee members and staff. The wheat industry would like to see an increase in the wheat reference price, but finding the necessary funding is a stumbling block. Berg said she has a feeling that the ag industry will need to protect crop insurance, and Washington wheat growers should consider making more frequent trips to D.C. in the coming year to advocate for the farm bill, especially since there are a lot of freshman legislators on the ag committees.

Farm Fair season is right around the corner, and the Washington Association of Wheat Growers is looking for volunteers who want to tell wheat's story and like talking to fourth and fifth graders. If you are interested, please contact the WAWG office at (509) 659-0610.

Jon Wyss, state executive director of the Farm Service Agency (FSA), also called into the meeting to give an agency update. March 15 is the deadline for the Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage programs election and enrollment. He urged producers to contact their local FSA office immediately if they

already haven't. Wyss also gave an update on staffing at FSA, saying the state office is two employees away from being fully staffed.

Most counties reported little to no snow remaining (except for parts of Douglas and Grant counties). Winter wheat was in good condition overall, although much of it remained small, and some counties were starting to get concerned about moisture. With the warmer weather in early February, growers were starting to get anxious to get out in the fields.

Mary Palmer Sullivan, vice president of the Washington Grain Commission, said they are already scheduling trade team visits for the summer.

The WAWG board passed several motions to fill committee positions. Ryan Poe, Grant County; Marci Green, Spokane County; and Leif Claassen, Asotin County, were all elected to the Executive Committee. Other committee elections were:

- Nicole Berg, Benton County, and Larry Cochran,

Whitman County, were elected to chair the Natural Resources Committee.

- Andy Juris, Klickitat County, to chair the Marketing Committee.
- Howard McDonald, Douglas County, to chair the Membership Committee.
- Marci Green, Spokane County, to chair the Public Information/Public Relations Committee.
- Jim Moyer, Columbia County, to chair the Research Committee.
- Andy Juris, Klickitat County, to chair the State Legislation Committee.
- Ryan Poe, Grant County, to chair the Transportation Committee.
- Marci Green, Spokane County; Nicole Berg, Benton County; and Ben Adams, Douglas County, to chair the National Legislation Committee.
- Sandy Swannack, Whitman County, to be the Washington state representative for the National Barley Growers Association.

The next WAWG board meeting is scheduled for March 14 at 10 a.m. in Ritzville. ■

## Benton County growers hold virtual county meeting

Benton County wheat growers had an opportunity to join a virtual county meeting last month to hear industry updates.

Ric Garza with AgPro Systems talked about some of the products the company offers that are designed to increase yield and quality by improving soil and plant health. Garza can be reached at (509) 537-6103 or by email at garzarn2@gmail.com.

Seth Hulett, a private lands biologist for the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), walked growers through the Private Lands Program, which offers landowners one- to five-year access contracts with different levels of landowner engagement. The program also provides liability protection for landowners, posting signage, patrolling lands, garbage clean up and various habitat restoration projects.

Melissa Pierce, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) resource conservationist, said the department is asking growers to send in pictures of the drills they used to seed Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) fields. Growers with CRP contracts can expect to see NRCS em-



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[ Soil Amendment ]



Columbia County growers listen to Andy Juris, president of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers, as he talks about the association's activities.

## Columbia County growers discuss ag overtime issue

Growers in Columbia County also met last month in Dayton. Michelle Hennings, executive director of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG), and Andy Juris, WAWG president, gave an update on federal and state issues. They also had a discussion regarding county growers' concerns over state lawmakers' continuing reluctance to pass legislation that would give employers flexibility in paying overtime requirements. See page 20 for the latest on the overtime issue.

"WAWG is here to represent the counties, and we

appreciate when a county reaches out to us for updates and to discuss issues those counties are dealing with," Hennings said. "We were able to explain what WAWG had been doing in regards to the overtime issue, and I feel like the conversation we had with county members was both productive and informative for everyone."

County growers also heard from Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service representatives and a representative from Northwest Grain Growers. ■

employees at least two times during the contract, the first will be within two years of seeding and then during the last year of the contract to do a status review. Grower Nicole Berg suggested that instead of coming out during the last year of the contract, come during the sixth or seventh year so growers have time to address any potential issues before the contract is up. Pierce also talked about incoming Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funds that will focus on climate change mitigation practices and carbon storage practices, such as cover crops, reduced till and no-till, etc. See page 34 for more on NRCS's IRA funds.

Shannon Britt and Tiffany South from the Benton County Farm Service Agency office went over upcoming deadlines, including the March 15 deadline for the Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage programs election and enrollment. The Conservation Reserve Program sign-up opened on Feb. 27 and will run through April 7, 2023. South warned growers that they will need to

meet the dates set in their conservation plans, otherwise the office will have to de-obligate their cost-share funds.

Michelle Hennings, executive director of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG), updated meeting attendees on WAWG's latest advocacy efforts, including trips to Olympia and Washington, D.C. ■

## Yield contest accepting entries

The National Wheat Yield Contest (NWYC) is now accepting entries for 2023 for winter, spring, irrigated and dryland wheat. There are a couple of changes to this year's contest rules. There is now only one deadline and one price for entries per growing season. Winter wheat entries are due May 15, 2023, and spring wheat entries are due Aug. 1, 2023.

Each entry will cost \$100. There are many partners with



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entry vouchers that contestants are encouraged to use. On the entry form, contestants will select the voucher they are applying to use for their entry payment. Contestants are encouraged to enter early and plan what management techniques they will adopt to reach their top yield potential. The wheat yield contest encourages contestants to strive for high yield, quality and profit. Each contestant must save an 8 pound sample of their wheat, and the 24 national winners will send their samples in for an analysis of baking and milling characteristics. Additionally, there is a test weight requirement for eligibility to win the national contest. Depending on class, wheat must exceed 57 or 58 pound test weight to compete.

"Growers who are shooting for high yields, select a good variety and provide the crop with proper management for their yield level usually end up with high quality wheat. Our quality testing over the past couple of years has proven this," said Anne Osborne, director of the contest.

The NWYC is only possible because of partnership with these important contributors: WestBred, John Deere, U.S. Wheat Associates, BASF, The McGregor Companies, Croplan, Eastman, AgriMaxx, Ardent Mills, DynaGro, Limagrain Cereal Seeds, PlainsGold, UPL, Ohio Corn and Wheat, Mennel Milling, FarmLogs powered by Bushel, GrainSense, Miller Milling, North Carolina Small Grain Growers, Grain Craft, Grow Pro Genetics, Michigan Wheat, Kansas Wheat, Northern Crops Institute, and the North Dakota Mill and Elevator.

National winners will receive a trip to the 2024 Commodity Classic, which will be in Houston, Texas. They are invited to the winners' reception along with their families, seed suppliers and agronomists. Quality winners will be recognized per class and have the opportunity to earn an extra cash award.

To learn more about the contest and to enter go to [yieldcontest.wheatfoundation.org](http://yieldcontest.wheatfoundation.org). ■

## WAWG thanks members

The Washington Association of Wheat Growers would like to thank each and every member of our organization. You, the members, keep the organization strong. The grassroots WAWG is built on keep the leadership, committees and board members moving forward in a positive way. Without your support and activity, WAWG would not be the efficient and effective organization it is today. Thank you for your time and support.

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LANEFIELD FARMS INC  
LANGENHEDER FAMILY LLC  
LARITZ FARMS INC  
LMZ RANCH  
LNL FARMS  
M & L CARSTENSEN FARMS  
MAINS BROS  
MAUCO INC  
-JON AND JESS HOARD  
-GARY & LYNN MAURER  
MCGOURIN FARMS INC  
MEAD RANCH  
MOREL FARMS INC  
N & L FARMS INC  
NEFF RANCHES LLC  
TOM & VICKY PETTY  
PHILLIPS WINDY HILL LLC  
PLUCKER FARMS ONE LLC  
PLUCKER FARMS TWO LLC  
PM ROSMAN FARMS INC  
QUIRK FARMS INC  
R & L RANCH INC  
R B K JOINT VENTURE  
R J DORMAIER RANCH  
R2 AG INC  
RAYMOND MAYER FARMS INC  
-MITCHEL MAYER  
-RAYMOND MAYER  
REDMAN RANCH INC  
AARON & DANA REPP  
REXEL FARMS INC  
-REX BEAN  
-JEFFREY KRAUSE

RUARK CENTURY FARM INC  
FRED & JULIE SCHARFF  
SCHUMER FARMS LLC  
SENEY LAND & LIVESTOCK  
SIEVERKROPP FARM INC  
DENNIS & JULLIE SIMMELINK  
SITTON FARMS INC  
-DEBRA SITTON  
-ELIZABETH SITTON  
STUBBLEFIELD RANCH INC  
STUBBS FARMS LLC  
SUSS FARMS INC  
TD WALSH FARMS INC  
TODD SCHOLZ FARM  
-LOIS SCHOLZ  
-TODD SCHOLZ  
TOMPKINS BROTHERS  
-BRAD TOMPKINS  
-BRENT TOMPKINS  
MORAN & TOM  
TOMPKINS-LUBBESMEYER  
TREIBER FARMS INC  
DUSTY & ERIN WALSH  
WARREN FARMS INC  
WARREN MORGAN ORCHARDS  
WELLER FARMS  
WILLIAMS FAMILY FARM  
-CINDY ROHDE  
-HARVEY WILLIAMS  
WILLIAMSON & GEIB TRUST  
WISWALL RANCH  
WM R LYONS & SONS  
-MICHAEL LYONS  
-TIM LYONS  
MIKE & CHERYL WOODS

### GROWER

2M FARMS  
3T JV  
4 BELL FARMS LLC  
41 RANCH LLC  
4S RANCH

5 M INC  
5B FARMS INC  
5N FARM LLC  
5TH GEN WHEAT LLC  
7JK RANCH  
7X FARMS  
A & C VALLEY FARMS INC  
ALAN P HIGGINBOTHAM INC  
FRED ALDERSON JR  
GEORGE ALLISON  
AMBER FURROWS INC  
AMBER LAKE FARMS INC  
AMSCO INC  
ANTE UP INC  
ANTHONY J SMITH FARMS LLC  
MARK APPLEFORD  
MIKE ARCHER  
ARCHER FARMS  
MERLE E ARMSTRONG  
ART DRUFFEL FARMS  
ART/LINDA ZELLMER INC  
B & B FARMS  
B & P FARMS INC  
B & T FARMS  
B L & D HENNING LLC  
BAR L RANCH  
BAR STAR INC  
BARKER ENTERPRISES  
LOIS BARRY  
BAUMAN SISTERS  
LOREN BEALE  
BECKER RANCH  
BEE DEE FARMS  
BEECHINOR FARMS  
ADAM BERGLUND  
BERNIE SCHULTHEIS FARMS  
BIG BUCK FARMS INC  
BJK FARMS INC  
BLAIN RANCH  
BILL BLESSINGER  
KURT BLUME  
BO CO INC

BOB'S BOY INC  
BOERSMA FARM INC  
DAVID BOLENEUS  
MERLE BOOKER  
MARK BOOKER  
BOOKER & SON INC  
BOW TIE FARMS INC  
BOWDISH FARMS LLC  
BRAUN FARMS INC  
BRENT BAIR FARMS  
BREWER BROS LLC  
BROCK RANCH  
BROWN & FORD  
BROWNE RANCH  
BRUCE & DIANA CARLSON INC  
CHARLES BUCH  
MICHAEL D BUCKLEY  
BUCKSHOT FARMS INC  
BUOB FARMS INC  
BURKHART FARM  
GARY BYE  
C & L CLOANINGER INC  
CALF CREEK CATTLE INC  
CARGRAIN FARMS INC  
CARICO HILLS INC  
CARLTON FARMS INC (WERE  
FAMILY LAST YEAR)  
-DAVID W CARLTON  
-LUKE MCNEIL  
CARPENTER FARMS  
NORMAN CAVADINI  
CHABRE BROTHERS  
DARYL CHESTERMAN  
CHRISTENSEN FARMS  
CLAASSEN FARMS INC  
CLAUSEN RANCH  
CLERF FARMS INC  
DAVID CLINTON  
J RICHARD CLOANINGER  
COCHRAN FARMS  
COCHRANE SONS FARM  
COCKING FARMS LLC





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COVELLO CELLARS  
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CROSBY FARMS INC  
CROWS NEST AG INC  
CSI  
CT MYERS FARMS INC  
CUNNINGHAM FARM  
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D & D ROBERTS JV  
D & L BAUER FARMS  
D & M FARMS  
D & M LANGE JV  
D & P FARMS  
D&D GILBERT FARMS INC  
D2 RANCH LLC  
DBO FARMS INC  
DEGON FAMILY FARMS JV  
DEIFE FARMS INC  
DEISHL FARMS  
DENNY LAND & LIVESTOCK INC  
DERUWE AG  
DERUWE L&F INC  
DESERT ACRES INC  
DESERT GRAIN FARMS INC  
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DIAMOND-S FARMS INC  
DICK LEDGERWOOD &  
SONS INC  
DIRKS FARMS INC  
DIXON LAND & LIVESTOCK  
DODD FARMS  
DON & NONA REINBOLD  
FAMILY LLC  
DOUBLE A FARMS  
DOUBLE I RANCH LLC  
DOUBLE M RANCH  
DOUBLE P RANCH  
DOUBLE S FARM INC  
DOUBLE U RANCHES  
DOUBLE Z FARMS  
DOUBLETREE RANCHES INC  
-ELLWOOD BROWN  
-NEAL BROWN  
JAMIE DOUGLAS  
DOWLING BROS INC  
DREAM BIG ADVENTURES  
RICHARD DREGER  
DUANE LASHAW FARMS INC  
DUANE WIDMAN FARM  
RANDY DUNCAN  
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DUVALL HAY FARM INC  
E & L FARMS INC  
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INC  
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ELY RANCHES  
ERDMANN FARMS INC  
ESQUIRE FARMS II INC  
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FARMINGTON STATE BANK  
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FARRENS FARMS  
FEUSTEL FARMS INC  
ERNIE FILAN  
FINK AGAIN INC  
WAYNE FITZSIMMONS  
DOUG FITZSIMMONS  
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FLYING S  
BRAD FORGEY  
FRAZIER BLUFF FARMS INC  
FRIEHE FARMS  
FROST VALLEY FARMS  
-JASON SNYDER  
-JERRY L SNYDER  
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DALE GALBREATH

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GFELLER RANCHES INC  
GIESCO INC  
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GMC JV  
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GRAIN ACRES  
GRANHOLM FARMS LLC  
MARK S GRANT  
MICHAEL F GRANT  
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GREEN HOLLOW FARM INC  
GROOM FARMS  
GUNNING FARMS INC  
H JACOBS FARMS INC  
HAMILTON GRAIN  
HANNING CATTLE  
HARDING FARMS  
DENNIS HARDY  
HARLOW LAND CO INC  
KYLE HAWLEY  
HAYES INC  
ROBERT M HEINEMANN  
HELLBERG FARMS LLC  
MARCIA HENKLE  
HENNING FARMS JV  
HERRES LAND CO  
HG ETC LLC  
HI VALLEY FARMS INC  
HIGGINBOTHAM  
HOMESTEADS INC  
HILLCREST FARMS INC  
HOCTOR RANCHES LLC  
HODGES 1905 INC  
HOGUE RANCH  
HOLLENBACK FARMS INC  
CASEY HOLLING  
HOOD FARMS  
WILLIAM HOUGHIN  
HOWARD P SMITH RANCH  
HOWE FARMS INC  
HT REA FARMS  
HUDLOW INC  
HUNT FARMS  
-DEREK HUNT  
-SCOTT A HUNT  
HUNTLEY FAMILY JV  
ISAAC LAND INC  
IVY FARMS INC  
J & J LAND & LIVESTOCK INC  
J & M FARMS LLC  
J & S MOON FARM INC  
J & S MYERS INC  
J & T KOLLER FARMS INC  
J H MILLER & SON INC  
J VOWELS FARMS INC  
J&B SHERWOOD  
J&B ENTERPRISES  
JANSON FARMS INC  
JBS FARMS INC  
JDK FARMS INC  
JE DOUGLAS INC  
JENSEN FARMS INC  
JERRY DORMAER FARMS INC  
JIM BAUER & SONS FARM INC  
JK TEE FARMS INC  
JOE MCCOWN SR TRUST  
JOHN DRUFFEL FARMS INC  
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GREG JONES  
JORDAN FARMS  
KEITH JORGENSEN  
BETTY L JORGENSEN  
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JORGENSEN FARMS JOINT  
VENTURE  
JR FARMS INC  
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JSJ FARM INC  
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JW & K FARMS LLC  
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KD DID INC  
KENNETH C KENO  
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RYAN KILE  
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KLAVEANO BROTHERS JV  
KLEINCO INC  
KLW FARMS  
KNIVETON FARMS INC  
KNODEL & SON FARM INC  
PAULA KRAMER  
KREGGER FAMILY FARMS INC  
L & A FARMS INC  
L & M PEHA JV  
L & P FARMS INC  
L2 INC  
MARK LAMBERT  
LARRY CONOVER FARM  
LASHAW AG INC  
LAWDOG FARMS LLC  
LAZY B FARMS LLC  
LAZY YJ FARMS JV  
LCAT FARMS INC  
LEE EICKMEYER FARMS INC  
LENDON FARMS INC  
TRACY L LESSER  
LESTER WOLF FARMS INC  
LIBERTY RANCH  
GERALD L LIPPS  
LLEWELLYN FARMS INC  
KARLA LOESACK  
LOGEN INC  
LONG HOLLOW FARMS  
LTH FARM CORP  
LUTZENBERGER FARMS  
LYMAN FAMILY FARMS  
JOHN LYONS  
LYONS FARM OPERATIONS INC  
MATT LYONS JR  
M & E FARMS  
M4 FARMS INC  
MALONE FARMS  
MANN FARM  
MARCO RANCHES  
MARCUSEN LAND LLC  
MARLER FARMS INC  
MASTERTON RANCH  
MATT LYONS INC  
MCA FARMS  
MCCARTY RANCHES  
RONALD D MCCLURE  
ZACH MCFARLING  
MCGREEVY BROTHERS  
MCGREGOR LAND &  
LIVESTOCK CO  
PAT MCKEIRNAN  
MCKINNEY FARMS  
DAVID M MCNEILLY  
MCRAE RANCH INC  
MEADOWVIEW JV  
MERCER DRYLAND FARMS  
MERRITT FARMS  
MESERVE FARMS INC  
MGP FARMING LLC  
MHB FARMS  
-JERRY GROSS  
-STEVEN GROSS  
MICHAEL HAND FARMS  
MIDDLETON SIX SONS  
FARMS LLC  
MIELKE INC  
MIKE RESER FARMS INC  
DEAN MILLER  
KEVIN L MOELLER  
JASON MONSON  
MONSON BROTHERS INC  
DEVIN MOON  
MOON FAMILY FARM  
TOM MOORE  
MOORE - 2 FARMS  
MOORE FARMS - PROSSER  
MORASCH FARMS  
MPJ FARMS INC  
MR STOCK & STUBBLE INC  
MURISON FARMS JV  
NANCY A MCKINNON POA  
NAUGHT RANCHES INC  
NEILSEN FARMS  
NELSON FARMS INC  
NELSON STIRUP T FARMS INC  
NIBLER FARMING  
NICK & DALE DRUFFEL  
PARTNERSHIP  
NN BAR FARMS

NOLLMEYER FARMS JV  
NORM DRUFFEL & SONS  
NORRIS RANCHES INC  
NULL FARMS INC  
NW FARMS INC  
OCHLARE FARMS INC  
OSCAR KUEST FARM  
OVERTIME FARMS INC  
PEARSON FARMS  
JOEL PENFOLD  
PENHALLURICK HEIRS GP  
THOMAS M PETERSEN  
JERRY W PETERSON  
PIPER FAMILY TRUST  
POE GRAIN & LIVESTOCK INC  
H THOMAS POOLE  
POWERS RANCHES INC  
PROUDFOOT RANCHES INC  
R & D ENTERPRISE INC  
R & J ZELLMER  
R & K FARMS INC  
R & L LYONS FARMS  
R & M MCHARGEY FARMS INC  
R & R COX FARMS INC  
R & R HALVORSON INC  
R & R INC  
R FARM  
LOUIS F RAAP  
RADACH FARMS INC  
RASCHKO FARMS  
RCM FARMS LLC  
RDF FARMS INC  
BERNADINE REID  
TABITHA REILLY  
RENNEWANZ FARMS LLC  
LORNA RICHMOND  
RIDGELINE AG LLC  
SUSAN RIDDLINGTON  
RING FARM  
RJ-2K LLC  
ROBERT H WEST FARM  
ROBERT OR ANNA REA FARMS  
ROBISON FARMS CO  
ROCK ROSE FARMS INC  
ROCKY TOP RANCH INC  
ROD HUBNER FARMS  
RODGER LEHN FARM  
ROLLING MC  
JUNE M ROLOFF  
RON & JULIE HANSEN LLC  
STEVE ROSBACH  
ROY KINZER FARMS INC  
RUBARB LLC  
S & J SCHWARTZ INC  
SADDLE MT HOMESTEAD  
SAGEBRUSH FLATS FARM  
SANDRA CADIEU TRUST  
SCHLEE FARMS INC  
SCHLOMER FAMILY FARMS  
SCHOONOVER FARMS  
SCHORZMAN FARMS JV  
MICHAEL P SCHRAG  
SCHREINERTUTTLE FARMS INC  
SCHROETLIN BROTHERS  
SCHU FARMS INC  
GREG SCHULTZ  
SCHWAB FARMS INC  
SCOTT RANCHES INC  
SCRUPCO INC  
PHILIP M SEALOCK  
MATTHEW SEIBLY  
TOM SHEER  
SID MAYBERRY INC  
SIDE B INC  
SIEG BROTHERS JV  
CORDE SIEGEL  
SIEVERKROPP GRAIN &  
CATTLE  
SILER FARMS INC  
SILVER CREEK FARMS INC  
ALTHA M SIMMELINK  
JUSTIN P SIMONSON  
SIMONSON FARMS INC  
SITTON FARMS INC  
SITTON'S ACRES INC  
SJ FARMS  
SLR FARMS INC  
JO ELLEN SOLMONSON  
SONRAY FARMS INC  
SPEAR J RANCH  
SPRING CREEK ACRES LLC  
SQUAW CANYON SHOOTERS  
INC

STEVE GFELLER INC  
STEVE KRUPKE FARMS JV  
STEVENS FARMS INC  
STONE FARMS INC  
STONECIPHER RANCHES LLC  
SUKSORF FARMS INC  
SUN RIDGE FARMS INC  
SUNNY A FARMS & SERVICES  
SUNSET FARMS INC  
DAVID L SWANNACK  
SWANNACK FARMS INC  
SWITZLER CANYON RANCH  
T J FARMS INC  
MATTHEW L TALBOTT  
TALBOTT FARMS INC  
STEVE TAYLOR  
TEMPLIN FARM SERVICE INC  
TERRY HARDING INC  
TEXAS DRAW FARMS LLC  
GUY THERRIEN  
THOMAS FARMS  
JOHN THOREN  
BRIAN K TIEGS  
TIM SCHULTZ FARM  
TIMM FARMS INC  
TIMM-RUSH INC  
TIN CITY FARMS  
PAUL L TITCHENAL  
TODD KIMBALL FARMS  
TOM DOWNS FARMS INC  
TOM PERINGER FARM  
BENTOMPKINS  
TR REAPERS INC  
TRIPLE S FARM PARTNERSHIP  
TUCANNO AG PARTNERSHIP  
LLC  
TURNER FARMS  
UNION CREEK NORTH LLC  
URBAT FARMS INC  
V W FARMS LLC  
LEONARD R VAN BUREN  
VAN HOLLEBEKE LIVESTOCK JV  
VAN LEUVEN FARMS LLC  
BOB VENERA  
VINI FARMS  
VLF LLC  
ALAN VOISE  
W & D RANCH INC  
W & L FARMS INC  
W A L RANCH INC  
W W FARMS  
JEFF WAGNER  
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DONALD E WALKER  
WALLA WALLA RIVER  
ESTATES LLC  
JON WALTERS  
WARREN FARMS INC  
WATKINS FARMS INC  
KELLI WEBER  
WEBER FARMS INC  
WEBER RIDGE FARMS INC  
WELLESLEY FARMS INC  
WELLSANDT FARMS INC  
WERNZ FARMING  
WEST HILLS JOINT VENTURE  
WEST WHITMAN FARMS INC  
WESTSIDE FARMS INC  
WHEAT FARMING  
WHITAKER & SONS FARMS INC  
WHITE FARMS  
WHITE FARMS JV  
WHITEHALL FARMS INC  
MIKE WHITMAN  
FRED J WILCOX  
LARRY D WILCOX  
WILEY RANCHES INC  
BRYCE WILKINS  
WILLADA FARMS INC  
WILLIAMSON FARMS INC  
WILLRICH RANCH JV  
WINDY ACRES  
WINDY KNOLLS RANCH LLC  
WINDY PRAIRIE INC  
RAY WOLF  
WOLF CORPORATE FARMS INC  
WOLFE HEREFORDS INC  
WOLLWEBER FARMS INC  
WOODEN ROAD FARMS INC  
WOODY GRADE FARMS LLC  
WP FARMS  
WWW FARMS INC

YZK AG VENTURES LLC  
ZEILER RANCH INC  
ZELL-CROM INC  
MIKE ZIMMER

**INDUSTRY  
SUPPORTER**

ADVANCING ECO  
AGRICULTURE  
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AGWEST FARM CREDIT  
ALMOTA ELEVATOR CO  
B & R AERIAL CROP CARE INC  
BROCK LAW FIRM  
CF INDUSTRIES INC  
COLUMBIA BASIN  
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH  
CENTER  
COLUMBIA GRAIN INC  
CORTEVA AGRISCIENCE  
ED POE AGENCY INSURANCE  
FARM & HOME SUPPLY INC  
FOUR STAR SUPPLY INC  
HIGHLINE GRAIN GROWERS  
INC  
JW & ASSOCIATES PLLC  
KINCAID REAL ESTATE  
KIRKPATRICK UTGARD &  
PERRY PS  
L & G RANCH SUPPLY  
LEFFEL OTIS & WARWICK PS  
-DAVENPORT OFFICE  
-ODESSA OFFICE  
-RITZVILLE OFFICE  
-WILBUR OFFICE  
LEWIS CLARK TERMINAL INC  
LLOYDS INC & BLUE  
MOUNTAIN INSURANCE  
MCDONALD ZARING  
INSURANCE  
MCGREGOR RISK  
MANAGEMENT SERVICES LLC  
MCKAY SEED CO INC  
MID-COLUMBIA INSURANCE  
INC  
NELSON IRRIGATION  
CORPORATION  
NIELSEN INSURANCE  
NORTH PINE AG EQUIPMENT  
INC  
NORTHWEST FARM CREDIT  
INSURANCE SERVICES  
NORTHWEST GRAIN  
GROWERS INC  
NUTRIEN AG SOLUTIONS  
PALOUSE GRAIN GROWERS  
INC  
PASSMORE AVIATION  
PERKINS & ZLATICH CPA'S PS  
PLANT HEALTH  
INTERNATIONAL  
POMEROY GRAIN GROWERS  
INC  
RITZVILLE WAREHOUSE CO  
ROCK STEEL STRUCTURES INC  
SCHMIDT INSURANCE  
SERVICES INC  
STATE BANK NORTHWEST  
-GARFIELD OFFICE  
-ROCKFORD OFFICE  
STOESS MFG INC  
T & S SALES INC  
THE MCGREGOR COMPANY  
-CLARKSTON OFFICE  
-COLFAX OFFICE  
-CRESTON OFFICE  
-DAVENPORT OFFICE  
-DAYTON OFFICE  
-ELLENSBURG OFFICE  
-ELTOPIA OFFICE  
-ENDICOTT OFFICE  
-GARFIELD OFFICE  
-KENNEWICK OFFICE  
-LACROSSE OFFICE  
-LEWISTON OFFICE  
-MCGREGOR SEED  
-OAKESDALE OFFICE  
-PALOUSE OFFICE  
-PASCO OFFICE  
-POMEROY OFFICE  
-PULLMAN OFFICE  
-QUINCY OFFICE  
-RITZVILLE OFFICE

-ROSALIA OFFICE  
-ST JOHN OFFICE  
-UNIONTOWN OFFICE  
-WAITSBURG OFFICE  
-WALLA WALLA OFFICE  
TINA POOLE INS  
TRI-CITIES GRAIN LLC  
TRI-STATE SEED COMPANY LLC  
USDA-RISK MANAGEMENT  
AGENCY  
WAGNER SEED COMPANY  
WASHINGTON STATE CROP  
IMPROVEMENT

**LANDLORD**

2 C RANCH LLC  
3 G CORP  
3B'S PROPERTIES LLC  
A & D LUST FAMILY LLC  
A & P FARMS LLC  
JANET ABRAMS  
L CLIFFORD ADAMS  
AHRENS FARMS INC  
ANDERSON RANCHES  
APPEL VALLEY FARM  
SYLVIA ARBELBIDE  
ARCHER OR RANCH ARCHER  
FARMS  
ARLAND FARMS  
ARMSTRONG FAMILY FARM  
TRUST  
ARTHUR MENKE FAMILY  
TRUST  
RALPH ASHMORE  
ASPEN CAMP RANCH  
KEITH AUSMAN  
ROBERT E AUWIL  
B & L FARMS INC  
GARY L BAKER  
GERALDINE BALDWIN  
BANRAC LLC  
BAR TEN RANCHES LLC  
BARNES FAMILY PROPERTY  
TRUST  
BAUER FAMILY FARM  
PARTNERSHIP  
BAUMAN & SON INC  
JOHN BAUMANN  
BEARD FAMILY FARM LLC  
CLIFFORD D BERGERON  
CATHY BERGERON RAMER  
BERNICE LESSER IIV TRUST  
BERRYMAN  
GRANDCHILDREN'S RANCH  
BEST ACRES  
BLACK DOG FARMS  
BREWER FARM  
JANINE BRODINE  
DALE BROECKEL  
TERESA A BROWN  
GARY F BROWN  
BRUCE HONN FAMILY LLC  
BSJ SHIELDS FARMS LLC  
BUOB FARMS  
BARBARA BURT  
BUSE CONNECTION  
BARRY BUTH  
BYRAM FARMS LLC  
DICK CAMP  
CAP FARMS LLC  
CARCO FARMS INC  
CARLSON FARM LLC  
BARBARA CARMACK  
HENRY P CARSTENSEN JR  
CBO - OE - JCM LLC  
CENTURY 2 INC  
CJW FAMILY FARM LLC  
CLARENCE BECHTOLD FAMILY  
HOLDINGS LLC  
LAURIE CLARK  
CLAUSEN LEGACY FARMS LLC  
CLINE CLYDE RANCH  
CLINE FAMILY FARM  
CLOANINGER FARMS  
COGSWELL FAMILY FARM LLC  
PAUL COLLARD  
COLLARD HEIRS FARM  
AGENCY  
COLUMBIA CO RANCH  
CONOVER RANCHES  
COPELAND FARM LLC  
-DON J FERREL  
-MATTHEW FERREL



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**STRONGER ROOTS FROM THE START[ER].**

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## Winter Canola Hybrids KICKER | MERCEDES | PHOENIX CL | PLURAX CL

**Kicker:** Top yielding conventional hybrid, 2020 to 2022 PNW Winter Canola Trials. Excellent winter hardiness and resilience to pod shattering. Good drought tolerance. Medium maturity.

**Mercedes:** Top yielding conventional hybrid, 2012 to 2020 PNW Winter Canola Trials. Vigorous fall establishment and early season cold tolerance. Responds to lower seeding rates relative to OP canola. Medium maturity.

**\*Phoenix CL:** Two-gene Clearfield hybrid with proven performance in the PNW. Superior cold tolerance. Vigorous fall growth helps overcome insect feeding. Early maturity. Enhanced pod shattering resiliency. High yield potential.

**\*Plurax CL:** Two-gene Clearfield hybrid with early maturity. High cold tolerance. Vigorous fall growth above and below ground. Prostrate fall crown development. Excellent yield and oil content. Strong pod structure.

PNWVT	2019	2020	2021	2022
Control Varieties		lbs/ac (rank)		
Athena	4,344 (18)	4,015 (15)	3,698 (12)	3,025 (14)
Dwarf Essex	--	3,698 (23)	3,279 (27)	2,751 (26)
Erica	3,829 (25)	3,516 (25)	3,219 (28)	2,273 (29)
Rubisco Seeds' Hybrids		Data courtesy of University of Idaho		
<b>Kicker</b>	--	4,792 (1)	4,701 (1)	4,383 (1)
<b>Mercedes</b>	5,145 (1)	4,419 (6)	4,359 (3)	3,756 (5)
<b>Plurax CL</b>	4,959 (2)	4,717 (2)	4,465 (2)	3,411 (8)
<b>Phoenix CL</b>	4,900 (4)	4,611 (3)	4,043 (5)	3,398 (9)
PNWVT Mean	4,470	4,085	3,726	3,158
LSD (p=0.05)	287	253	228	280
C.V. (%)	12.4	12.3	10.6	15.0

**\* Phoenix CL & Plurax CL compatible within Clearfield wheat rotations.** Strong cross tolerance to Imi / SU herbicides. Can be sprayed post emergence with Beyond herbicide.

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

## NEW HYBRIDS IN PRIVATE TRIALS - AKILAH & PICARD: TuYV Resistant

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# POLICY MATTERS

## Riparian buffer bill fails to move out of fiscal committee

By Diana Carlen  
*WAWG Lobbyist*

Two significant legislative deadlines were passed last month. Feb. 17 was the policy committee cutoff deadline. This means all bills needed to pass out of their respective policy committees in their house of origin by that date, or they are considered “dead” for the legislative session. However, no bill is ever officially “dead” until the gavel drops on the last day of the session.

The other cutoff date was Feb. 24, when bills had to make it out of their fiscal committees to remain alive.

The Legislature will now focus on floor action, which entails the entire chamber (either the House of Representatives or the Senate) considering and voting on bills. Once a bill passes out of its original chamber, it moves to the other chamber, and the entire committee process repeats. Bills must be voted out of their original chamber by March 8 at 5 p.m. to remain alive this year.

### Riparian bill fails to move out of fiscal committee

The bipartisan riparian legislation (HB 1720), supported by ag groups and many Tribes, was not brought up for a vote in the House Appropriations Committee by the Feb. 24 deadline, meaning it is dead this year.

The proposal would have created a voluntary, regionally focused grant program implemented by the State Conservation Commission. The bill was opposed by Gov. Inslee because it did not set minimum buffers and for not having state agencies as voting members on the task force.

The Capital Budget Committee chose not to take action on the bill ahead of the fiscal cutoff. Instead, during executive action, Committee Chair Rep. Steve Tharinger (D-Sequim) stated that the bill would not move forward, and the policy would be integrated into the (yet to be released) capital budget through a budget proviso. The budget proviso is likely to provide funding for voluntary riparian grant funding, but it is unclear what the amount of that funding will be.

### Legislation introduced to reimburse farmers for fuel surcharges

The Climate Commitment Act, Washington’s cap-and-trade program, passed in 2021. The law clearly exempts fuels (both diesel and gasoline) used in the production and transport of agricultural products. However, when the law went into effect on Jan. 1, fuel suppliers started assessing a surcharge for their compliance obligation, which is hitting all fuel users, including those that are supposed to be exempt. This is because the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) was supposed to adopt rules to create a mechanism for these fuels to be exempted, but has failed to do so.

Two bills have been introduced to deal with this issue, but neither has been scheduled for a public hearing yet. In the House, Rep. Joe Schmick (R-Colfax) and Rep. Mary Dye (R-Pomeroy) have introduced HB 1780 that would require the state to reimburse members of the agriculture industry and maritime industry who have been assessed the fuel surcharge. Under the legislation,



**OVERTIME LEGISLATION.** Last month, Ryan Poe, a Grant County producer and past president of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers, testified in support of SB 5476, a bill that would allow agricultural employers to select 12 weeks a year to employ workers for up to 50 hours a week before overtime applies, during a hearing in the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee. Poe told the committee that seasonal flexibility is needed to protect family farms and their workers and that most wheat employers offer their employees other benefits, such as housing and transportation, in addition to wages. The new overtime requirement puts these extra benefits in jeopardy as employers may no longer be able to afford them.



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**RIPARIAN BUFFER LEGISLATION.** Last month, Gary Bailey, a wheat grower from Whitman County and a Washington Grain Commission commissioner, testified in support of HB 1720, a bill that establishes a voluntary, regionally focused riparian grant program, during a hearing in the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. Bailey thanked the committee for listening to farmers and other stakeholders on shaping a voluntary program that incentivizes landowners and farmers and said the industry looks forward to working with the state conservation commission, Tribes and other stakeholders to make it a successful and effective program. He stressed the importance of fully funding the new program, along with the Voluntary Stewardship Program.

Ecology would be required to create a remittance program for those whose fuel is exempt from the cap-and-trade program, including fuel used for agricultural purposes and certain maritime and aviation fuels. Qualified recipients would receive reimbursement at least monthly. The bill proposes that the refunds begin as soon as the legislation is enacted.

On the Senate side, Sen. Perry Dozier (R-Waitsburg) and Sen. Mark Schoesler (R-Ritzville) have introduced SB 5728 that takes a similar approach to HB 1780. SB 5728 requires the state to develop a process to ensure that end users of exempt fuels, including agriculture and maritime, will be compensated by the state for any fuel surcharges they paid due to the cap-and-trade program. Compensation must be paid no later than 14 days after the state receives an application for reimbursement.

Ag lobbyists have met with Ecology, the Governor's office and key Democrat legislators to see if a solution could be found. The Governor's office continues to oppose a refund program as they disagree over whether fuel suppliers should be charging the surcharge. They also argue the state has not received any money from the program yet. The first Climate Commitment Act auction was scheduled for Feb. 28. After results from the auction have been announced, we will have a better sense of how much money the state will be collecting.

Discussions continue on a potential path forward on this issue. It is still recommended that farmers maintain all fuel receipts.

### Ag overtime bill fails to make policy cutoff

Unfortunately, SB 5476, a bill sponsored by Sen. Curtis King (R-Yakima) that would have allowed for a level of flexibility under the agriculture overtime requirements, failed to make it out of committee by the Feb. 17 deadline. Under the proposal, an agricultural employer would have been able to select any 12 weeks in a calendar year as special circumstance weeks for labor demand. During the selected weeks, the employer would be permitted to schedule agri-

cultural employees up to 50 hours before the requirement to pay over-time would be triggered. There was a hearing on the bill in the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee, but it was never brought up for a vote. ■

## CRP sign-up for 2023 now open

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that agricultural producers and private landowners can begin applying for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General sign-up now through April 7, 2023.

General CRP helps establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species to control soil erosion, improve water quality, and enhance wildlife habitat on cropland. Additionally, General CRP includes a Climate-Smart Practice Incentive to help increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by helping producers and landowners establish trees and permanent grasses, enhance wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands. Under Continuous CRP, producers and landowners can enroll in CRP throughout the year. Offers are automatically accepted, provided eligibility requirements are met and enrollment levels do not exceed the cap. The Climate-Smart Practice Incentive is also available in the Continuous sign-up.

FSA offers additional enrollment opportunities within Continuous CRP, including the State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Initiative and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. Under this administration, FSA moved SAFE practices back to the Continuous CRP sign-up.

Landowners and producers should contact their local USDA Service Center to learn more or to apply for the program. ■



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## Why we love Washington wheat farmers and the grain they grow

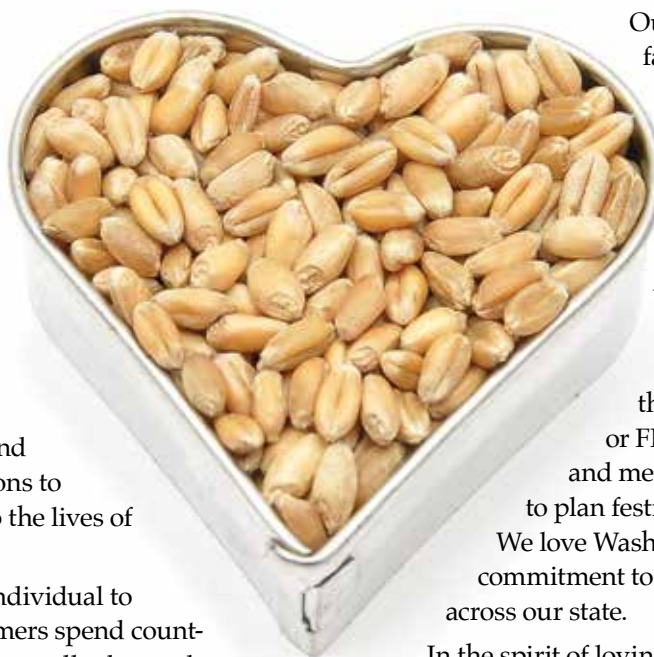
There's a lot to love about Washington wheat farmers. Cookies, cakes, breads, bagels and so many other tasty treats are made with wheat grown on one of 4,067 wheat farms in Washington.

Beyond the delicious pastries, pancakes and pizza doughs that Washington wheat becomes, the farmers behind the baked goods are just as lovable. They dedicate their lives to feeding the world and stewarding the land for generations to come. Their work is invaluable to the lives of wheat lovers everywhere.

It takes a uniquely dedicated individual to choose the farming lifestyle. Farmers spend countless hours doing physically and mentally demanding work to cultivate a wheat crop each year. In 2021, Washington wheat farmers cut 2.33 million acres and harvested more than 87 million bushels of some of the highest-quality wheat in the world. But, that doesn't just happen. It takes 14-hour days behind the wheel of a tractor. It takes missed T-ball games, birthdays and family reunions. It takes late nights thinking about all of the things that have to get done in order for the year to go okay. It can take an immense toll on the body and minds of farmers. Even so, Washington wheat farmers continue to wake up each day to do the job they love.

Washington wheat farms support nearly 9,500 jobs statewide. They generate significant economic spending as well, keeping businesses all over Washington alive and thriving.

*Did you know anthropologists believe the first humans began eating the seeds out of the heads of wheat approximately 20,000 years ago? In Jordan, in 2019, archeologists discovered hearths where wheat had been ground and made into flat bread 14,000 years ago.*






Outside of the economy, wheat farmers make impacts on their local communities in other ways, too. Walk into a high school gymnasium in a wheat farming community and you will surely see the names of many local farming families listed as boosters of the athletics department. Visit the local county fair and you'll find them watching their kids showing livestock in 4-H or FFA. Contact the community club and meet the farmers coming together to plan festivals and events for everyone.

We love Washington wheat farmers for their commitment to growing food and communities across our state.

In the spirit of loving our farmers, take a moment to think about them the next time you bite into a wheat roll or have a spoonful of cereal. In those moments, it doesn't seem that big. But, when you take a step back and look at the whole story of Washington wheat farmers, it becomes clear that they are doing incredible work. They take time away from their families, handle massive amounts of stress, and continue to tackle the challenges of an ever-changing agricultural industry.

Thank a farmer the next time you have the pleasure of seeing one for their time and talents; the world wouldn't be the same without them. ■

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# ON THE HILL

WAWG leaders meet with federal legislators to advocate for wheat industry

Staff and leaders from the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) closed out January by traveling to Washington, D.C., to take part in National Association of Wheat Growers' (NAWG) winter board meetings and to meet with members of Washington's federal delegation and leaders of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies.

"With Congress starting 2023 Farm Bill work in earnest, it was very important that we support NAWG's work and that we communicate our priorities to our members of Congress," Michelle Hennings, WAWG's executive director, said. "We were able to meet with either our lawmakers in person or a member of staff. We had great conversations, and we are ready to work together to keep the Washington wheat industry strong and successful."

Joining the group for part of the trip were Shaley Tiegs and Angelina Widman, the 2023 Washington Wheat Ambassadors.

Wheat growers honored Rep. Kim Schrier (D-Wash.) with the NAWG Outstanding Wheat Advocate Award for her general advocacy of agriculture and her work on the House Agriculture Committee.

"WAWG appreciates working with lawmakers like Rep. Schrier. Across the broad spectrum of issues faced by Washington wheat growers, she has been consistently willing to listen, learn and advocate on our behalf for workable solutions. As a friend of Washington wheat, we were pleased to present her with a NAWG Wheat Advocate Award during our trip to Washington, D.C., and look forward to working with her in the future," Andy Juris, WAWG's president, said.

Growers met with Zach Ducheneaux, Farm Service Agency administrator, where they discussed the Conservation Reserve Program, disaster programs such as the Emergency Relief Program, and the farm bill.



They also met with Astor Boozer, Natural Resources Conservation Service's regional conservationist for the West Region, to talk about conservation programs and the farm bill.

In between Hill visits, WAWG leaders took part in NAWG committee meetings. Juris is vice chair of the Domestic Policy and Trade Committee, while WAWG past president, Howard McDonald, sits on the Environment and Research Committee. Ag Secretary Tom Vilsack spoke at the NAWG board meeting about the farm economy and USDA's future strategy for assisting farmers.

WAWG's top 2023 national priorities include:

- Protecting our markets by purchasing U.S. wheat for U.S. food aid programs, rather than purchasing wheat from competitors; negotiating additional trade agreements to allow for further expansion of wheat


## Did you know ...

- Approximately 90% of Washington wheat is exported primarily to Asian markets such as the Philippines, South Korea, Japan and Indonesia.
- In 2021, Washington produced 43% of all the soft white wheat grown in the U.S.
- 92% of Washington wheat acres are insured. Average coverage level is 81%.
- Since 1980, soil erosion has declined by 63%, and U.S. wheat used 16% less irrigation water and had 35% less energy usage.
- Improved agronomic practices have resulted in higher yields (a 25% increase since 1980) with less inputs.
- 97% of farms in Washington are family owned and operated, accounting for 93% of farm production and 12% of Washington's economy. ■



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exports and the full implementation and enforcement of existing trade agreements to allow fair trade to occur within the export marketplace; continued and increased strong federal funding through the Market Access Program and the Foreign Market Development Program to maintain the progress achieved with Agricultural Trade Program (ATP) funds; and enforcement of sanitary and phytosanitary agreements with trade partners.

- Preserving food security by supporting future farm bills to continue to offer agriculture and nutrition support programs; maintaining the current structure of the crop insurance program and current cost-share levels; reauthorization of the farm bill and making necessary adjustments to the Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage programs so they can function effectively; and prioritizing working lands conservation programs in the conservation title.
- Protecting our environment through sustainable practices by supporting climate or sustainability legislation that is voluntary, incentive-based and recognizes the unique and varied landscapes and climates of wheat production.

- Promoting and protecting our infrastructure by keeping the lower Snake River dams intact as they are vital to Washington and the nation's economy and transportation infrastructure; funding for maintaining the Columbia River System; funding to maintain and improve Washington road, river and rail systems; and supporting action regarding the Columbia River Treaty, which protects the viability of U.S. navigation, hydropower, irrigation and flood control. WAWG opposes any effort to remove or disrupt the dam system.
- Protecting food systems with safe and innovative pesticides by opposing cancelling crop protection product labels or uses unless equivalent replacement products are available; supporting the professional use of pesticides and best management practices for their use; 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.
- Supporting incremental funding increases for USDA that cover mandatory pay costs and the rising costs at Agricultural Research Service research facilities that reduce funding for research and hamper the ability to address stakeholder needs. ■

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(Above) Wheat growers awarded Washington Rep. Kim Schrier (fourth from right) with the National Association of Wheat Growers' Outstanding Wheat Advocate Award for her general advocacy of agriculture and her work on the House Agriculture Committee. (Right) Rep. Marilyn Strickland (D-Wash.) on left.



(Above) U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) secretary, Tom Vilsack, spoke at the National Association of Wheat Growers' board meeting about the farm economy and USDA's future strategy for assisting farmers. (Left) Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-Wash.) sixth from left.



(Above) Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.) in middle. (Left) Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) in front.





Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) in middle.

## Congressional visits

Washington Association of Wheat Growers spent a week in January meeting with members of Washington's federal delegation to discuss wheat priorities, including protecting U.S. wheat markets through trade agreements; purchasing U.S. wheat for food aid; preserving food security through farm bill programs; and promoting and protecting the region's infrastructure by keeping the lower Snake River dams intact. ■



(Left) Rep. Derek Kilmer (D-Wash.) on right. (Above) Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D-Wash.) in middle.



(Left) Rep. Adam Smith (D-Wash.) third from left. (Above) Growers met with Zach Ducheneaux (in middle), Farm Service Agency administrator, where they discussed the Conservation Reserve Program, disaster programs such as the Emergency Relief Program, and the farm bill.

**WHEAT ADVOCACY IN ACTION!**

## 2023 AMMO Recap

# Knowledge is key to effective herbicide use

By Trista Crossley  
Editor, *Wheat Life*

Identification and knowing when a plant is most vulnerable are critical when it comes to chemical weed control in pasture and rangeland according to Jerry Ellis, area sales manager for Envu.

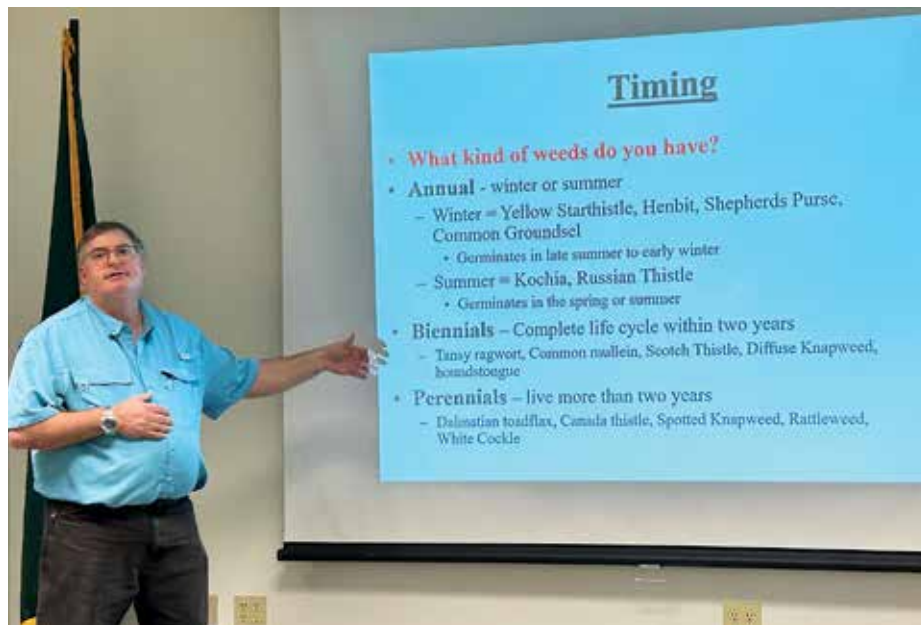
Ellis was presenting at the first Agricultural Marketing and Management Organization's seminar last month. More than two dozen growers gathered in Ritzville to benefit from Ellis' 30 years of experience working with herbicides and pesticides. Growers were eligible to receive two pesticide credits for attending the seminar. Envu was formerly Bayer's environmental science professional business that was sold to a private equity firm.

"When you are going out in the field, the first thing you need to know is what kind of weeds you have out there," Ellis said. PictureThis, an iPhone app, and Flora ID for Androids (both apps require either a purchase or a subscription) are useful in identifying plants, as is the two-volume set of "Weeds of California and Other Western States." Growers can go to the websites, [cdms.net](http://cdms.net) and [agrian.com](http://agrian.com), to find label information.

Active ingredients usually work on weeds in the same family and knowing if the weed is an annual, biennial or perennial determines when to time herbicide applications (fall application is best for perennials). Another useful bit of information is knowing how long weed seeds last in the soil and how many flushes a weed could have.

"Cheatgrass, the seeds only last in the soil three to four years, so if you can put down a product that gets rid of that seed source and lasts four years, that's more advantageous than using one or two other products that you have to spray every two years," he explained.

"I always bring up Russian thistle. It's out there growing right now. A lot of people don't realize it comes up in February. The seeds will last two to three years. It will have five to six flushes a year. Sometimes, in the spring-time, like in May when you spray, you may hit the first or second flush. You will have another two or three flushes,



Jerry Ellis, area sales manager for Envu, talked about best practices when applying herbicides and pesticides at an Agricultural Marketing and Management Organization seminar last month.

and that's what will continue to grow."

Ellis had other tips for growers to help them more effectively use herbicides.

**WATER.** Bigger weeds need at least 20 to 30 gallons of water per acre for post-emergent products. Pre-emergent products need at least 30 gallons, but Ellis recommends 50 gallons. Water pH is another factor to keep in mind. Ellis said in this region, water is generally above a seven pH, and herbicides work best with a pH of no more than five. Hard water will tie up ions in herbicides, so Ellis said it is best to use a water conditioner first, especially with glyphosate, which works best with a hardness of no more than 150 parts per million (ppm). For 2-4,D and Dicamba, 250-300 ppm is the upper limit. "I always tell people that it's almost more important to throw in a water conditioner for hard water than anything," he said.

**SURFACTANTS.** Ellis said if he's using a product on bare ground, he likes to put a soil retention product with it, which also helps with drift. "We've noticed in sandy loam soils, normally, if you put a soil retention product in there, usually you get a month to two months longer out of that product," he said. Many of the region's noxious weeds are either really hairy or waxy, so when using post-emergence products, a product with silicone or methylated seed oil helps the herbicide to get down to the leaf's surface. ►



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**EQUIPMENT.** Side by sides and ATV sprayers generally don't have good enough mixers. Ellis recommends premixing dry products in a five-gallon bucket, using a paint stirrer to get a good suspension.

**TIMING FOR BARE GROUND.** "I tell people to spray bare ground in the fall. A lot of our products need rain to incorporate them, and usually the end of September, October is when we get rain out here. I usually tell people not to spray bare ground products after the end of March," he said, adding that most bare ground products and pre-emergents need a quarter inch of rain to incorporate them. He also suggested that growers include glyphosate if spraying in the spring, because some weeds, like Russian thistle, are already growing at that point. "Most pre-emergents only work as pre-emergents and won't kill cheatgrass or Russian thistle that's already up and growing."

**CALIBRATION.** Because many product rates are ounces to the acre, if not properly calibrated, it's easy to put too much product on and end up with bare ground. Some products will also specify a nozzle size to use.

**SPEED.** Ellis recommended keeping speeds to under 10 miles per hour, but five is better. Growers can get spray paper to see their spray pattern at different speeds. When

using a backpack, he provided a formula (see slide) that growers can use to determine how fast they are walking.

**HERBICIDE RESISTANCE.** Ellis recommends rotating to a different herbicide group every three to four years. The Weed Science Society of America (wssa.net) has a list of herbicide site of action classifications.

**MIXING ORDER OF HERBICIDES.** Most labels will specify how the product should be mixed. Ellis follows the "WALES" method. First he fills the tank 2/3 to 3/4 full, adds a defoamer or compatibility agent then a water conditioner and pH adjusters, then:




- W (wetable powders)
- A (agitate)
- L (liquid or flowable herbicides)
- E (emulsifiable concentrates)
- S (surfactants)

Ellis' general precautions included not spraying on frozen ground, watching out for sloped areas, and watching out for large gravel areas that have no soil. He explained that most herbicides need some type of soil or clay to tie to.

Ellis can be reached at [jerry.ellis@envu.com](mailto:jerry.ellis@envu.com). ■

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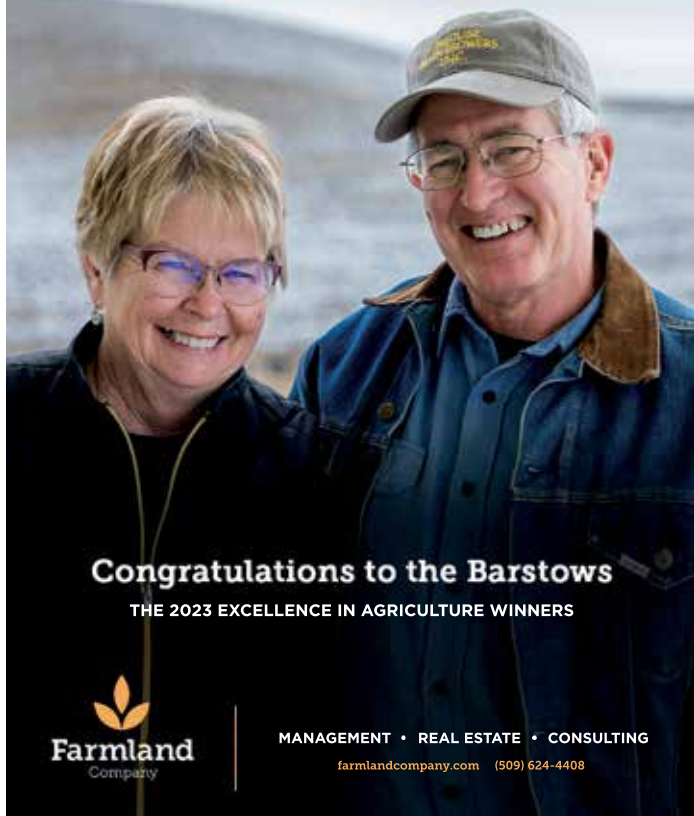
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# Financial assistance available to growers

NRCS-WASHINGTON ALLOCATES MILLIONS IN IRA FUNDING FOR EQIP, CSP, ACEP

By Nate Gallahan

*Washington State Public Affairs Specialist, Natural Resources Conservation Service*

Wheat growers across Washington interested in enhancing their natural resources have a second opportunity this year to apply for financial assistance.

A new application window opened Feb. 24 for producers to apply for Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) assistance through the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (IRA-EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (IRA-CSP). All eligible applications received by March 31 will be ranked and considered for FY23 funding.

The FY23 IRA funding for NRCS-Washington includes an additional \$2.2 million for IRA-EQIP and an additional \$5.4 million for IRA-CSP. Funding for future years is set to dramatically increase, because the total IRA funding for conservation nationwide includes an additional \$8.45 billion for EQIP, \$4.95 billion for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, \$3.25 billion for CSP, and \$1.4 billion for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. The increased funding levels begin this fiscal year and rapidly build over four years.

"Secretary Vilsack recently said this is a 'once-in-a-generation investment,' and it really is," said Keith Griswold, NRCS-Washington assistant state conservationist for programs. "This is a huge opportunity for us to support wheat growers who are uniquely positioned to provide direct climate mitigation benefits through advanced conservation on their farms, while also creating value and economic opportunities for them."

These programs will be especially useful for wheat growers because although the conservation enhancements available through IRA funds are limited, the list contains many they will find applicable to their farming operations. The list includes, but is not limited to, enhancements such as nutrient management, no-till, reduced-till, residue and tillage management, cover crop, and conservation crop rotation.

The biggest differences between IRA funding and traditional farm bill funding is that IRA funding is focused toward improving soil health, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and increasing carbon sequestration. IRA funds are focused in those directions by limiting the total number of enhancements and



More information about the NRCS Washington state of office (top QR code) and a list of practices funded by IRA money for 2023 (bottom QR code) are available below. Simply hold your phone's camera up to the QR code and follow the link.







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practices available. For example, under the farm bill, there are 131 practices available through EQIP, but through IRA, there are only 34.

Other elements of the programs, such as EQIP's payment limitation of \$450,000 and the Adjusted Gross Income cap of \$900,000 remain unchanged. Producers' access to these funds in future years will be seamless and transparent. EQIP and CSP application windows will be announced, producers will apply as they normally do, and NRCS professionals will determine whether those applications will best fit under farm bill or IRA funding. This year is slightly different because the IRA funds were released by national headquarters at a different time than the farm bill funds.

A full list of all the practices and enhancements are available on the NRCS-Washington website at [wa.nrcs.usda.gov/](http://wa.nrcs.usda.gov/). Also, the news releases announcing the programs, which contain much more info, are available via the News Section at the very bottom of the main page of the site.

NRCS will also be presenting program updates to growers on March 9 in Spokane and March 10 in Pasco as part of the Agricultural Marketing and Management Organization's 2023 workshops. For registration and information, see [wawg.org/ammo-workshops/](http://wawg.org/ammo-workshops/). ■

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## 2023 AMMO Recap

# Tips to help farmers capitalize on tax rates

By Trista Crossley  
Editor, *Wheat Life*

Last month, a small group of growers gathered in Walla Walla to get the latest information on taxes as part of the Agricultural Marketing and Management Organization's 2023 schedule. The information was presented by Ryan Janke, a CPA with Leffel, Otis & Warwick, P.S.

"From a tax standpoint, not a lot has changed in the last year," Janke said. "The big takeaway is the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (which was passed in 2017) is set to expire after 2025. Even if our lame duck Congress does nothing, which is probably best-case scenario right now, a lot of that expires in 2025."

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act included significant tax cuts for individuals making less than \$340,000. Janke said his firm has spent a lot of time working with growers and producers to capitalize on that tax break before it goes away.

"Tax planning does not necessarily equal tax avoidance. The only way to move forward in life is to pay some tax. We want to pay our fair share, not a penny more," he explained. "We've had a heck of a lot of opportunity in the last few years and a couple more to capitalize and get our operations where we want to be."

Janke said that although every operation is different, there are lots of opportunities to start accelerating some income in preparation for changing tax rates. The strategy he favors is two-pronged:

- Get the C-Corporation to break even. In general, Janke doesn't like to build up any money in



Ryan Janke, a CPA with Leffel, Otis & Warwick, P.S., talked about tax strategies at one of last month's Agricultural Marketing and Management Organization's sessions.

the C-Corp because it gets double taxed. He would rather see wealth on the personal side, which then loans money back to the C-Corp as operating capital. To reduce C-Corp income, he recommends using it to pay for fringe benefits, such as groceries/meals on the farm premises, medical premiums and expenses, and household furnishings; rent; commodity wages; and cash wages.

- Fill up personal tax brackets while rates are still favorable while reducing self-employment income tax as much as possible.

"Depending on where you are in your operating life cycle, your career, and what your transition plans are, we might need to start thinking really hard about when or how we are going to tax some of this wealth that has been gener-

ated over a 40-year farm career," Janke said. "There's a lot of different tools to do that, but either way you slice it, there's going to be some tax. The only way to not have any tax is to die or give it away. If you have the assets to do that, that's great, but a lot of people need those assets they've built up for retirement."

Janke warned about deferring tax liability too far. He said he's seen people not sell \$14 wheat just to avoid paying taxes. He also suggested watching carryover crop inventories. He recommended farmers position themselves so they aren't "handcuffed" to the bank, explaining that if you are holding grain, you prob-

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ably have an operating loan and are getting hit with high interest rates.

"Hopefully you are having these discussions with your accountants," he said.

The other major topic Janke discussed was how to use an LLC as part of a transition plan. He used a hypothetical example of a family with two sons, one who is running the farm and the other who lives elsewhere and has no interest in farming. The parents want the farm to continue, want to be fair to both sons and need a secure income source for retirement. According to Janke:

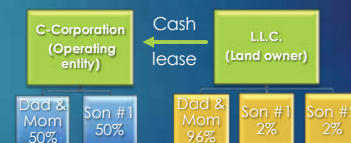
- The parents should build a plan sooner rather than later and communicate their concerns and goals to both sons.
- Start with reorganizing the family business. Janke advised using a C-Corp as the operating entity (parents and the farming son both with a 50% stake). Use an LLC as the landowner (the parents at 96% and each son at 2%).

There are both short-term and long-term advantages (see slides below) to this type of arrangement. In addition, an LLC can control, to some extent, what happens to the farmland in the future through buy/sell agreements. Growers should consult an attorney for more information on setting up these types of business entities.

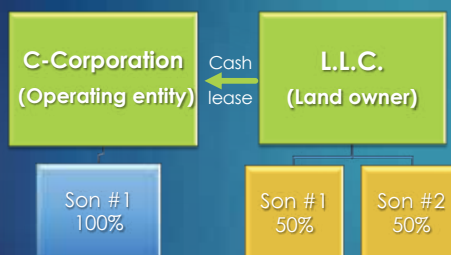
Janke can be reached at [rjanke@low.cpa](mailto:rjanke@low.cpa). ■

## What Have We Accomplished – Short Term?

- ▶ Operating farm is carved off separately
  - ▶ Day-to-day decisions will be made
  - ▶ Son can have autonomous control in the future
  - ▶ Pay commodity wages & fringe benefits for Mom & Dad, on-farm son
- ▶ Farmland is held in the LLC
  - ▶ Protected by various LLC agreements
  - ▶ Fund Mom & Dad's retirement through cash lease
  - ▶ Mom & Dad will still control LLC
  - ▶ Land and retirement are secured, if farm fails
  - ▶ Kids will eventually share in LLC ownership



## The Next Generation



- Son #1 continues the farm legacy
  - Able to make day-to-day farm decisions autonomously
- The LLC is owned equally by 2 sons
  - The operating corporation pays land rent annually to LLC
  - Steady income stream for each son
  - Reduces the pressure to equally apportion estate assets

## Family business finds drive to keep moving forward

### Yunker Bros/Inland Gear

By Trista Crossley  
Editor, *Wheat Life*

Like multigenerational family farms, the “family” part of Yunker Bros is important, and it’s something Shane Yunker hopes will continue.

“We’d definitely like to keep the business in the family if we can. So far so good,” he said.

Yunker Bros, in Spokane, was started in 1991 when Pat Yunker; his wife, Renae; his brothers, Todd and Alan; and Todd’s wife, Elaine, bought out a local mechanic shop where Pat was working and re-named it Yunker Bros. A few years later, they bought a gear shop and expanded into transmissions and differentials. They renamed that business Inland Gear.

Yunker began working for the family business full time in 2001. He primarily takes care of the book-keeping and describes himself as “the HR guy and the IT guy.” The “brothers” part of the business name has continued, as Shane’s brothers, Tyson and Troy, are also involved in the business, along with their cousins, Don and Beau. From the beginning, Yunker Bros’ focus was mostly on repairing and maintaining class 8 trucks.

“Yunker Bros is the engine side (of the business), and when we first started, we were working on servicing trucks, doing rebuilds, putting in frames in trucks,” Yunker explained. “We started scaling back on the engine side because things have changed so much. A lot of the electronics, we were just never tooled up to really do that.”

Yunker said it’s gotten to the point where it is almost too expensive for “the little guy” to service big equipment, like that from Caterpillar



Some of the brothers at Yunker Bros/Inland Gear are (from left) Shane, Tyson and Troy Yunker. Not shown are cousins Don and Beau Yunker. The brothers and cousins are the second generation to run the Spokane business.

or Cummins. These companies, like many others, are pushing to have repairs and maintenance done only at dealers’ shops, especially when the electronics are involved.

Between the two shops, Yunker Bros has about a dozen employees. While they don’t work with a lot of farming equipment, if someone were to bring them a unit out of a tractor, Yunker said they’d gladly work on it. The business is in the process of shifting more of its resources to selling parts over the internet and focusing on Inland Gear.

“It’s not glamorous, but it’s very important. What’s going to break more often? Your drive train stuff vs. engines? Engines don’t break as much as drive trains,” he said.

Besides the ever-increasing complexity of the electronics, another big change the business has seen, especially over the past year, is issues with the supply chain.

“It seems like you’ll be short one thing for a while, then they’ll get that cleaned up, and you are short on something else. It’s definitely been a challenge keeping people farming and trucking while trying to source parts wherever you can,” Yunker said. “That’s probably, recently, one of the biggest changes and challenges. It doesn’t seem to be getting much better.”

Inland Gear is one of the few independent gear shops around, and because of those supply chain issues, they’ve found themselves providing parts to the major equipment companies. “It’s kind of fun that way. You aren’t so worried about going head to head with a big corporation. We can all work with each other. We all fill a different niche,” Yunker said.



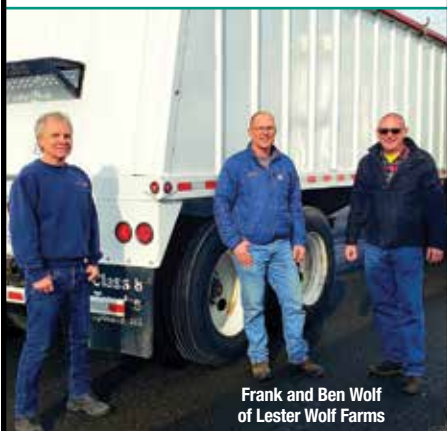
Another change Younker is seeing on the engine side of their business is a shift from semitrucks to smaller Ram trucks and Cummins engines, although they still provide service and parts for the larger vehicles.

"The guys out in central Washington, some of those big family farms, they are a huge part of our business, a big part of our customer base," he said. "We are here to help get farmers going as quickly possible."

Younker Bros and Inland Gear's website is [younkerbros.com](http://younkerbros.com). Shane Younker can be contacted at [younkerbros@comcast.net](mailto:younkerbros@comcast.net) or (509) 534-1112. ■

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By Ben Barstow



Farming has taught me that the only constant thing about our environment, the world we farm in, is **change**. Farming is applied biology, life, and it is always in flux. In harvest of 1980, on one of our dates, Janet brought me to her family's farm where her dad, Don St. John, was cutting wheat. While we were having lunch on the edge of the field, I found the first jointed goatgrass he had ever seen. The introduction of that plant changed the way everyone farmed.

I missed the first Italian rye on this farm. My excuse is that it was disguised, dwarfed by the application of post-emergence wild oat herbicides I was using in legumes. Again, the introduction of Italian rye has and is changing the way I farm.

Not all changes are human caused. In fact, probably most change, certainly the most unstoppable change, comes from nature itself. Anyone remember Scarlet, the great new high-yielding hard red spring wheat? The first year it was available as certified seed, stripe rust mutated, creating a new race of stripe rust that Scarlet had no resistance to. Suddenly, all the wheat breeders were scrambling to eliminate everything that could not stand up to this natural change in the disease environment. A lot of good, high-yielding breeding material was suddenly in the trash.

Keeping up with the constantly changing, always shifting biological world we work with is a complex and difficult job, and, in spite of how important it is to us, it is usually out of sight and out of mind. That is, unless you happen to be on the Washington Grain Commission or an active member of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG). The commission allocates about 25% of its budget to research, and practically all of it relates somehow to the life, the constantly changing biology, of farming.

A few weeks ago, like every February, a few wheat and barley farmers, commissioners and WAWG members attended a review of the research we have spent your assessment money on for the last year. Some of the problems, like "better yield," are age-old and stubborn. Others, like "poor falling numbers," are more recent, while still others, like current "Hessian fly resistance," are preventative.

For those of you who have never been to one of these Research Reviews, it is a great opportunity to learn where your money goes and to understand the depth and breadth of the research being done, and how it relates to what we all try to do every year — optimize our production and long-term profitability in a constantly changing environment. People are spending a good part of their lives working to improve varietal end-use and processing attributes, advance our knowledge in agronomics and production systems, and discover new uses for wheat and barley. This year's review and the reception afterward were great opportunities to ask researchers a few questions and get to know them.

Personally, I would like to see more input from more farmers about research projects and priorities. It is hard to make good decisions about how your research dollars should be spent without your input. Maybe even more important, the learning at these programs goes both directions.

Next February, however, is not your only chance to get a taste of what's going on. Before you know it, the season will change, and it will be time for Washington State University (WSU) field days. I hope you make the time to take one in. Watch the WSU Variety Testing Program website ([smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety](http://smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety)) for the 2023 program schedule. ■



## Ag leadership corner

CONNECTING THE DOTS FOR FUTURE SUCCESS IN WASHINGTON AGRICULTURE

Dr. Wendy Powers began her role as the dean of Washington State University's College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resource Sciences (CAHNRS) in August 2022. Washington Grain Commission (WGC) CEO Casey Chumrau recently sat down with Dr. Powers to talk shop about how best their two organizations can collaborate, share knowledge and advance the goals of Washington's farmers. The kind of conversation that you might have with your farm manager or landlord on a truck ride out to the field or over a cup of coffee, these two agricultural leaders jump right in and don't shy away from big picture ideas, fresh perspectives or chasing deeper questions. Their conversation is edited for length and clarity.

**WENDY:** While we are both new in our positions, I wonder if you see opportunities to collaborate more closely?

**CASEY:** Being new in our positions, we have the advantage of fresh eyes and a responsibility to ask lots of questions. This is an opportunity to evaluate how things have always been done and look for new and innovative ways to meet agriculture's evolving needs. Regular communication and sharing information that we learn traveling around the state will help both of us better serve our stakeholders. We met each other before either one had officially started our new positions, then you were on



Casey Chumrau (left), CEO of the Washington Grain Commission, and Wendy Powers, dean of the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences at Washington State University, are both relative newcomers to their positions. Photo by Bob Hubner, Washington State University.

my first trip with the WGC. I think that personal connection will allow us to have honest and frequent conversations about how to collaborate effectively.

**CASEY:** What is your vision for CAHNRS in the next one to five years?

**WENDY:** To position CAHNRS for continued excellence in research, teaching and Extension, thus contributing to a Washington that is resilient to whatever the future holds, whether it be climate change, economic uncertainty, a global pandemic, or war. CAHNRS must assess how to achieve the desired future state and align our efforts accordingly. This alignment will take time as we identify priorities, shift current work, and establish support for future initiatives.

**CASEY:** What do you see as the biggest barriers or challenges to realizing your goals?

**WENDY:** The biggest challenge is having enough people, equipment and other resources to allow CAHNRS talent to pivot and direct time toward emerging risks.

The research underway now is important for responding to today's challenges. To address future challenges in a fixed resource environment, some current efforts must be reduced to tackle new topics. With fixed resources,



we would have more people to simultaneously work on today's challenges and tomorrow's threats, along with the necessary facilities, and equipment.

**CASEY:** Why are partnerships with industry important to the success of CAHNRS?

**WENDY:** Partnerships are critical to our success. Partners ensure that we stay in touch with stakeholder needs and help CAHNRS talent prioritize efforts and implement science-based solutions. It is a constant feedback loop: challenges are identified, solutions are posed and executed, and necessary refinements are pinpointed before adaptations are researched and implemented.

Partners are with us every step of the way. They include individuals from agencies, commodities and the private sector, as well as end-use stakeholders who provide input and feedback as we work to build the economic, health and environmental resilience of families and communities statewide.

**CASEY:** How can the grain industry be more collaborative and/or proactive?

**WENDY:** The grain industry is one of our strongest partners. Collaboration is not lacking, and we want to maintain that while looking for opportunities to expand. Open, honest communication is key. CAHNRS won't do everything right; we need to know when we miss the mark, and we need to work together to build out the vision for the future state, including where key investments in CAHNRS are needed.

Also important is a willingness to engage in tough conversations about where we might disinvest to accommodate future need. Every grain grower goes through similar processes in their own operations. CAHNRS wants the industry to be proactively at the table as we plan a future that supports it.

**CASEY:** What are the biggest challenges to getting more young people interested in agriculture?

**WENDY:** I suspect there is a widespread perception that agriculture is low-paying, back-breaking field work, but it is more than that. I think there is a lack of awareness about the current state of agriculture and the technical skills needed to support it. An understanding of how someone breaks into agriculture from the outside is also lacking.

As someone who grew up removed from agriculture, I had no idea there were jobs — other than veterinarian — where I could work with animals. I never imagined I would leave my undergraduate program with a plan to pursue a career in agriculture. I was fortunate that my college roommates exposed me to the dairy industry and allied agribusiness opportunities. Without those connec-

tions, I'm not sure how or if I would have made it to my graduate programs.

If we can connect agriculture to other fields of study (sociology, economics, engineering, genetics, natural resources management, etc.) and reframe it as food and health, perhaps more students will be drawn to CAHNRS degree programs.

**WENDY:** How might we work together to increase enrollment in CAHNRS and guarantee a next generation of well-trained students prepared to ensure safe, accessible food and a strong agriculture economy for Washington?

**CASEY:** I agree with your statement that we need to do a better job of showing the diversity of jobs and skills needed within agriculture. You don't have to be a farm kid or directly employed by production agriculture to make a meaningful impact in securing a safe and abundant food supply for the world. You and I both "lucked" our way into fulfilling, successful careers in agriculture, and I'd like to see a more strategic effort to reach young students and get them thinking about all the possibilities within our industry. I know my colleagues and I would be happy to work with CAHNRS in recruiting efforts, storytelling, information dissemination and student engagement.

**CASEY:** How can we ensure that the wheat and barley research being done at WSU truly benefits the Washington grain grower?

**WENDY:** Continued annual discussions about what is needed and continued grower support are imperative to ensuring relevant research. Communication is key so we can plan what is needed, compile the resources needed to accomplish the work, and deliver on research findings that are relevant to Washington grain grower needs.

The WGC's invitation to CAHNRS scientists and leaders to attend regular meetings is much appreciated and provides an avenue to talk about relevant research needs.

**CASEY:** How do you hope to engage with grain growers as dean of CAHNRS?

**WENDY:** In addition to working closely with you, Casey, and attending WGC meetings as much as possible, I plan to spend much of my time out in the state, attending field days and grower events. This will ensure that the lines of communication are open, and that I understand growers' challenges and successes.

I have much to learn about Washington grain production and am eager to do so. I hope growers are comfortable approaching me when we are in person or reaching out by email or phone when we are not. I don't promise an immediate solution, but I can commit to working toward one. ■

# Farmer feedback

Survey reveals benefits, challenges of soil health management in dryland wheat

By Madison Roy  
*Agricultural Economist, Washington State Department of Agriculture*

By Dani Gelardi  
*Senior Soil Scientist, Washington State Department of Agriculture*

In 2022, the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) conducted a survey of Washington wheat growers as part of the Washington State Soil Health Initiative (WaSHI) — a coordinated effort to improve the health of Washington’s soil through research, education, policy support and grant opportunities. We recognize that Washington’s growing regions are diverse and production practices vary greatly. The results of this survey, discussed below, do not reflect the nuances of production and are instead intended to provide broad insight into soil management across Washington. Thank you to all who participated in the survey. This research

helps advance knowledge and communication about Washington wheat production and soil health.

Agricultural producers are the primary stewards of land in Washington state, managing over one-third of Washington’s total land mass. Washington wheat producers have long recognized the value of managing soils in ways that increase crop yield and quality, while minimizing wind and water erosion, improving water-holding capacity, and reducing issues like soil compaction and weed pressure. Various soil health management practices, each with their own benefits and costs, can be used to enhance soil health. Practices include reduced tillage and no-till, cover cropping, the addition of organic matter and lime, and livestock integration.

The public recognizes and values the role of soil management in the mitigation of climate change and in supporting wildlife, recreation and rural livelihoods. Healthy soils provide benefits to farmers and the public.



PHOTO BY LESLIE MICHEL, WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Despite this, however, the uptake of practices which promote soil health is fairly low across the U.S., with only 3% of all farm land under cover crop, and 34.6% farmed using no-till<sup>1</sup>. This is because successful soil health management depends on factors such as location, precipitation and farm size, as well as economic factors, including changes in costs and cash flows. Producers must ask themselves, does this management practice provide greater long-run benefits than short-run costs?

To better understand the benefits and challenges of various management practices in dryland wheat production, WSDA conducted a soil health survey in May 2022. According to survey responses, improving soil health is the number one motivator for cover cropping, reducing tillage and no-till, integrating livestock, and incorporating organic matter or lime. Of producers who practice reduced tillage or no-till, 88% reported improvements to runoff and wind erosion, 71% reported improvements to soil moisture retention, and 45% reported improvements to compaction. Managing for soil health can have practical benefits!

Despite such benefits, only 15% of survey respondents incorporate organic matter, 5% integrate livestock, and 3% cover crop. Unsurprisingly, producers reported that costs and lack of information are the top barriers to implementing soil management practices. Lack of information, including region and climate specific knowledge, can deter producers from integrating practices such as cover cropping and livestock grazing. Producers also indicate that considerations such as costs of fuel, labor and inputs, and availability of cost share or incentive programs are major drivers when considering new management practices. Changing growing conditions also play a role in decision making. Table 1 provides additional insight into the results of the survey.

An important lesson learned from this survey is that cost is a barrier to integration of reduced tillage and no-till, whereas lack of region- and climate-specific knowledge is a barrier to cover cropping. This data helps WSDA communicate with the public and policymakers about the nuances of dryland wheat production so that we can advocate for programs conducive to Washington wheat producers. For example, programs such as the Washington State Conservation Commission's

**Table 1: WSDA Survey Results**

<b>Of the 86% of wheat producers who practice reduced till and no-till...</b>	<b>Of the 23% of wheat producers who cover crop...</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 47% report an increase in yield.</li> <li>• 79% report the #1 barrier to practicing reduced tillage or no-till is the cost of equipment. Most commonly purchased equipment includes:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Higher horsepower tractor (61%)</li> <li>- Additional drills (65%)</li> <li>- Mower (51%)</li> <li>- Self-propelled sprayer (49%)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Producers indicate reductions in:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Labor (71%)</li> <li>- Equipment use (90%)</li> <li>- Equipment maintenance (56%)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Producers report improvements to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Runoff and wind erosion (60%)</li> <li>- Soil moisture retention (60%)</li> <li>- Improvements to compaction (50%)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Depending on seeding rate and species mixture, cover crop seed can range from \$40/acre to more than \$240/acre.</li> <li>• Top barriers to cover cropping:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annual precipitation/soil moisture</li> <li>- Information availability</li> <li>- Expensive to switch</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Sustainable Farms and Fields<sup>2</sup> can provide grants to farmers to aid in expenses associated with switching to no-till. Furthermore, it's clear that more technical assistance is required for widespread adoption of cover crops.

Researchers, communities and policymakers are increasingly interested in the role of soil management in carbon storage, greenhouse gas reduction and enhanced ecosystem function. Healthy soils provide benefits to producers and to the public. Farmer participation in surveys, sampling projects and listening sessions helps advance knowledge about the benefits, challenges and barriers to soil health management, and how WSDA can best serve its stakeholders.

For more information about how WSDA and WaSHI are working to protect soil health and rural livelihoods and to learn more about how to get involved, visit WSDA's WaSHI webpage at [agr.wa.gov/departments/land-and-water/natural-resources/soil-health](http://agr.wa.gov/departments/land-and-water/natural-resources/soil-health). ■

<sup>1</sup>Steven Wallander, David Smith, Maria Bowman, and Roger Claassen. Cover Crop Trends, Programs, and Practices in the United States, EIB 222, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, February 2021

<sup>2</sup>[scc.wa.gov/sff](http://scc.wa.gov/sff)

# MANAGING HERBICIDE-RESISTANT WEEDS IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

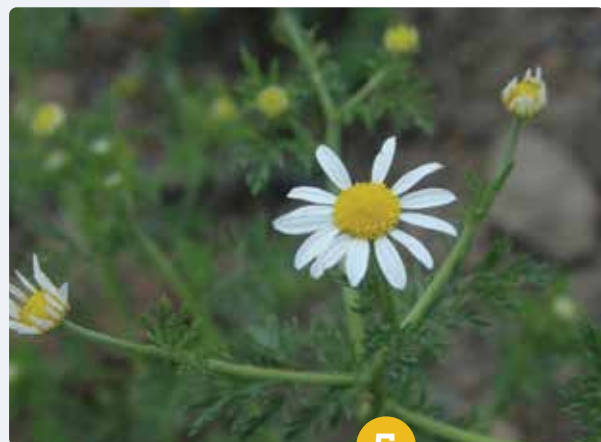
Best Management Practices (BMPs) to manage herbicide-resistant weeds are critical to the long-term sustainability of wheat production in the Pacific Northwest.

Using BMPs is the most effective way to address herbicide-resistant weeds, especially when incorporated into a long-term weed management plan.

## Herbicide-resistant weeds in the Pacific Northwest

- |                            |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Common Lambsquarters     | 5 Mayweed Chamomile |
| 2 Downy Brome (Cheatgrass) | 6 Prickly Lettuce   |
| 3 Italian Ryegrass         | 7 Russian Thistle   |
| 4 Kochia                   | 8 Tumble Mustard    |

*Photo courtesy of WaNWC.*



## START CLEAN

- Plant into weed-free fields and keep them weed-free.
- Plant weed-free crop seed.
- Understand weed biology, particularly timing of seed germination, seed dormancy, and seed longevity.
- Prevent field-to-field and within-field movement by starting equipment usage in weed-free areas and by cleaning equipment after use.
- Control weeds in borders to prevent weed influx into the field.

## STAY CLEAN

- Scout fields routinely, and closely monitor the outcome of herbicide treatments. The sooner problems are detected, the better the chance you can adjust your management strategy.
- ★ **Use multiple herbicide mechanisms of action (MOAs) that are effective on troublesome or herbicide-resistant weeds.**
- Follow the herbicide label - use the correct rate at recommended weed sizes.
- Use crop competitiveness to suppress weeds.
- Diversify weed management practices - prevent weed seed production and reduce weed seeds in the soil seed bank.
- Use mechanical management practices, as needed.
- Manage weed seed during and after harvest to prevent weed-seed bank buildup.
- Know and understand the effects of the weed management inputs you apply on each weed species.







If weeds are present after application, determine the reason! Consider the following:

#### FIELD HISTORY

HAS THE TREATMENT WORKED BEFORE?

#### WEED BIOLOGY

WERE WEEDS PRESENT AT APPLICATION?

#### ENVIRONMENT

WEATHER CONDITIONS FOR HERBICIDE ACTIVITY?

#### APPLICATION PROBLEMS

ARE THERE CLEAR PATTERNS?

#### CROP CULTURAL PRACTICES

IS THE CROP VIGOROUS?

Herbicide Resistance - seek support for suspected herbicide-resistant populations!

## SEEK SUPPORT

Contact your local cooperative extension office for help creating a weed management plan or if your current plan is ineffective, or see EM108: Advances in Dryland Farming in the Inland Pacific Northwest, Chapter 9, for an approach to creating such a plan ([bit.ly/EM108ch9](http://bit.ly/EM108ch9)).

**Stay informed!** Visit the Herbicide Resistance Resources page of the WSU Wheat and Small Grains Website ([bit.ly/wsu-herbres](http://bit.ly/wsu-herbres)) to stay current with developments in herbicide resistance and resistance management in the region.



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

# Management is more of a marathon

Troublesome weed dating from the dinosaurs finds a home in no-till fields



By Marija Savic  
Graduate Student, Washington State  
University Weed Science

I am a graduate student in the Washington State University (WSU) weed science program. I have been working on the management of smooth scouringrush for the past two years with Dr. Drew Lyon and his research associate, Dr. Mark Thorne.

After getting a bachelor's degree in agriculture at the University of Belgrade, Serbia, I was an intern at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln West Central Research Extension and Education Center in North Platte, where I participated in laboratory and field research on troublesome Midwestern weeds. Research has always been my primary interest, and a direction I wanted to take. After a year of interning, I decided to start a graduate program with Dr. Lyon. Before starting at WSU, I had never heard about the scouringrushes, especially not as a troublesome weed in row crops. It did intrigue and surprise me.

Smooth scouringrush (*Equisetum laevigatum*) belongs to the botanical family *Equisetaceae*, which has only one living genus — *Equisetum*, commonly known as horse-tails. *Equisetum* species are true survivors and may be the oldest nonflowering vascular plants existing on Earth. The fact that even dinosaurs ate them as a primary food source speaks for itself. *Equisetum* species date from the Paleozoic (542 to 251 million years ago), and they have survived what many species have not — natural disasters, fires and all sorts of disturbances, including present human activity.

Smooth scouringrush and two other *Equisetum* species — field horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*) and scouringrush (*Equisetum hyemale*) are all native to the North American continent. The name scouringrush comes from how the plant has been used by humans throughout history — the native population traditionally used stems to scrub and clean dishes. These scouring properties come from a high silica content in scouringrush stems, which gives them a rough surface. All *Equisetum* species, including smooth scouringrush, are creeping perennials with a deep underground rhizomatous (underground stems) system. This system is very successful and provides a means for rapid vegetative spread, up to 20 inches per growing season. The root system can reach more than nine feet in depth. As a nonflowering plant, smooth scouringrush does not produce seeds. Rather, it repro-



FIGURE 1. Smooth scouringrush plants. Photo by Dr. Mark Thorne.

duces sexually only via spores, similar to ferns and mosses. However, this type of reproduction is rare in environments such as Eastern Washington — dry, non-humid and with a relatively cold early spring.

Smooth scouringrush is a troublesome weed in no-till systems of the Pacific Northwest. It is believed that repeated deep tillage (plowing) prior to the adoption of no-till practices, contributed to the spread of smooth scouringrush rhizomes. Plowing, however, may have reduced shallow rhizomes from which stems emerged, thus leaving the species under the radar. Once no-till systems were adopted, shallow rhizomes developed and produced aboveground stems with spore-bearing cones on top (Figure 1).

In a March 2021 *Wheat Life* article, Dr. Lyon provided results of earlier research on the management of smooth scouringrush. Over the past several years, we have learned a few more things about this particular plant.

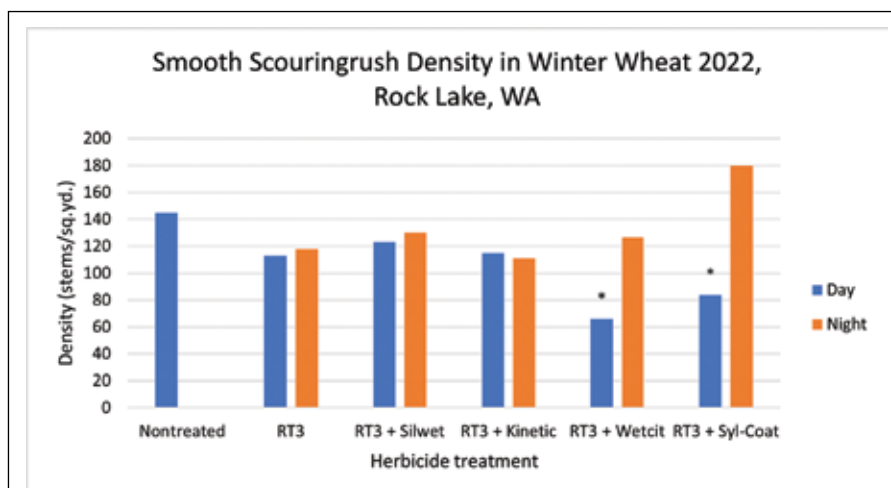
Since the last update, we conducted several studies using higher application rates of glyphosate (96 fl. oz/acre of RT3) in fallow because preliminary observations were promising. One consistent observation from these studies was that high rates of glyphosate can reduce smooth scouringrush infestation in the following year, but only if applied at the right stage/time and with the proper surfactant. My research focus was to test the hypothesis that the addition of an organosilicone surfactant, which



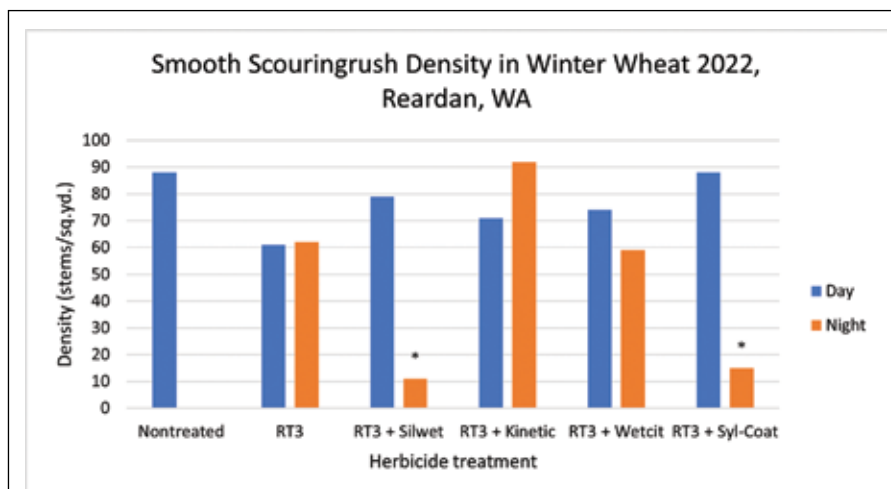
is known to greatly increase droplet spread, to glyphosate facilitates stomatal flooding of the herbicide solution and, therefore, increases herbicide uptake and efficacy.

To test this hypothesis, we established field studies in 2021 at Reardan and Rock Lake. We applied glyphosate alone or tank-mixed with one of four different adjuvants and applied treatments during the day and night. The assumption that stomata are open during the day and closed at night was based on the available literature. Selected adjuvants were Silwet L77, Kinetic, Wetcit, and Syl-Coat. Silwet L77 and Syl-Coat are organo-silicone surfactants. Wetcit is a citrus, alcohol-based surfactant, and Kinetic is a blend of organosilicone and nonionic surfactant. When high rates of glyphosate were applied earlier in the season (June-July at Rock Lake), the addition of Syl-Coat or Wetcit increased herbicide efficacy when applied during the day, while glyphosate alone did not appear different from the nontreated check (Figure 2). However, when Silwet L77 and Syl-Coat were applied later in the year (August at Reardan), herbicide efficacy only increased when these treatments were applied at night (Figure 3). These results call into question our original hypothesis that organosilicone surfactants improve glyphosate activity by facilitating stomatal flooding. However, it is possible that the hot, dry conditions in August 2021 at Reardan resulted in either stomatal closure during the day or rapid drying of the spread-out droplet, resulting in poor control under those conditions.

From one of our 2020 studies, we found that silica content in smooth scouringrush stems increases from spring to late summer. This may affect treatment performance later in the season by decreasing herbicide



**FIGURE 2.** Smooth scouringrush stem density one year following herbicide applications in summer fallow at Rock Lake, WA. The treatments marked with asterisk above are significantly different from the nontreated check and the same treatment applied at night at the 95% probability level.



**FIGURE 3.** Smooth scouringrush stem density one year following herbicide applications in summer fallow at Reardan, WA. The treatments marked with asterisk above are significantly different from the nontreated check and the same treatment applied during the day at the 95% probability level.

uptake and efficacy. Early season applications (early summer) are generally more successful than late summer and fall applications due to plant senescence, increased silica content in stems and potential drought stress. Hot, dry weather in late summer may also contribute to faster droplet evaporation from the plant surface, which may result in nighttime applications being more successful than daytime applications. Drought stress may also cause the stomata opening cycle to shift to nighttime. Generally, daytime applications of glyphosate tank-mixed with an organosilicone or alcohol-based surfactant in early summer, when temperatures tend to be lower and humidity higher, should be preferred for smooth scouringrush control in chemical fallow.

Management of perennial weeds, including smooth scouringrush, is a marathon rather than a sprint. Many characteristics of this plant that has been on Earth for a very long time are still unknown, but we can keep it out of our fields with a long-term management approach, persistence and the application of multiple control strategies. ■

# WHEAT WATCH

WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION

## Multiple variables make forecasting difficult



By Mike Krueger  
*President and  
Founder, The  
Money Farm*

The craziness  
and uncertainty  
in world com-

modity markets has continued into the new year. Many of the factors that affected markets in 2022 are still with us, but other factors seem to pop up on a daily basis.

The Russia/Ukraine war continues unabated as we moved past the one-year anniversary of its start. Hostilities actually accelerated in early February, and many analysts believe there will be another major “push” by Russia before spring arrives and muddy, wet conditions slow ground movements. The “export corridor” agreement is again set to expire, and negotiations are bogged down. Putin says it will be tough to extend the agreement again without the elimination of sanctions against Russia by the West.

In the meantime, Russia continues to sell and ship its huge 2022 wheat crop at cheap levels. Concerns about vessel owners refusing to send their ships into the Black Sea because of extremely high insurance rates haven’t slowed the shipping flow. This, of course, could change at any time. Corn and wheat exports from Ukraine have also been better than expected. Continuing Black Sea shipments of cheap corn and wheat are the primary reasons we have yet to see any significant uptick in U.S. wheat and corn export sales. My belief is that can still happen.

We are starting to see preliminary guesses of what 2023 corn and wheat production might look like in Ukraine. Table 1 compares the previous two years’ production with the potential 2023 estimates. The 2023 estimates are from a group within Ukraine.

**Table 1: Ukraine wheat and corn production (mmt)**

	21-22 USDA	22-23 USDA	23-24 Ukraine Group
Wheat	33	21	17.5
Corn	42	27	21

Note that these initial production estimates are smaller than last year and much smaller than the year before the war. Experts have warned that the second year of the war or after the war has ended is when the most significant infrastructure and production problems will appear.

Now the world geopolitical narrative is clouded by the shooting down of various flying objects over the U.S. and Canada. China appears to be the source of the problem, but that hasn’t been officially confirmed. China also continues to hold a threatening posture towards Taiwan.

Argentina is still in the grip of a major drought that has cut their wheat crop in half. Their soybean crop has fallen from early estimates of 55 million metric tons (mmt) to as low as 30 to 35 mmt. Their corn crop dropped from 52 mmt in the January estimate to 47 mmt in the February World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates report. Estimates within Argentina are now below 40 mmt. Argentina processes most of their soybeans and exports the meal and oil. Soybean meal futures recently traded at the highest level since 2014 because of the reduced availability of meal from Argentina. Argentina will start importing soybeans from Brazil soon.

Southern Brazil has also experienced dry conditions, while central Brazil has been so wet harvest is late, and that means planting of the Safrinha (second crop) corn has also been delayed. Corn and soybean crops in Brazil will not be as big as once touted, but they will still be very big, with soybean production likely setting a new record.

Hard red winter wheat crop conditions across the U.S. southern Plains haven’t improved. It remains dry across most of this region. Stands are poor. It will be interesting to see what grows, and what stands look like when this crop breaks dormancy in mid- to late March. Some crop watchers think yields across the southern Plains could be as low as 50% to 60% of trend line. The market isn’t trading anything close to that bad. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) January winter wheat acreage estimate was much bigger than expected. It seems clear more wheat was planted for insurance purposes, not to be harvested. That outcome remains to be seen. White wheat and soft red winter wheat crop prospects look very good today. U.S. wheat ending sup-



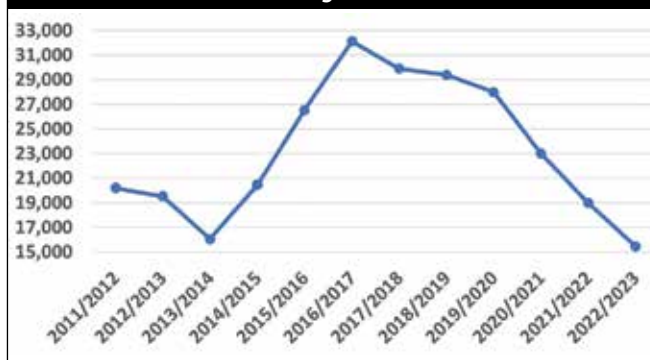
plies have been trending lower for the past six years, as shown in the Chart 1.

So what's next? There are so many variables today that forecasting prices has become difficult. It was never easy. But the possible price ranges looking forward can be extremely wide. The U.S. has been the "residual" export supplier to the world for decades. The value of the dollar has been the primary key to wheat and corn export levels. That is true today — BUT — world supplies are getting smaller. China holds 65% of the world's corn surplus and 50% of the world's wheat surplus. That should be a sobering fact, but it hasn't been yet. U.S. corn and wheat supplies are relatively tight, and domestic basis levels remain high.

The Black Sea export corridor agreement expires mid-March. The market assumes it will again be renewed, but that might be a very big question if the war continues to go badly for Russia. Failure to renew this agreement would obviously be a bullish market input.

The markets will take a brief look at the USDA's 10-year baseline projections at the end of February, but the March 31 USDA planting intentions guesses will be the next very important USDA report. The March 1 quarterly stocks numbers will be released the same day. Harvest results in South America will be known by then, and so will Brazil's Safrinha corn production estimates. That

**Chart 1: U.S. wheat ending stocks (mmt, USDA)**



should mean the focus of the markets will start to shift to new crop production prospects across the northern hemisphere and particularly the U.S. and Canada. The split between corn and soybean acres will draw the first attention. Both crops need more acres in 2023, and that will be hard to achieve. The potential problems with hard red winter wheat yields across the southern Plains will also put more emphasis on spring wheat acres. ■

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



# Pressed into Palouse history

Museum focuses on backstory of region's past, printing industry

By Trista Crossley

Editor, *Wheat Life*

It's not a typo. Palouse, Wash., with a population of a little over 1,000, is home to one of the wonders of the world.

A few of them, actually.

Thomas Edison called the Linotype machine the eighth wonder of the world for the way it revolutionized the printing process. Until 1886, when Ottmar Mergenthaler, a German immigrant with a background in clockmaking, debuted his new invention, printing was done by arranging individual letters, spaces and punctuation marks, carved out of wooden blocks and cast into lead, to form text. The process was very labor intensive and slow. Mergenthaler's machine used a keyboard to form a line of text that could be quickly cast in hot metal, producing a "line of type," or Linotype. This sped up the printing process considerably. Linotype machines quickly caught on in newspapers and magazines and were used as late as the 1970s and 1980s until computers started to take over.

The history of the newspaper and printing industry is front and center at the Roy Chatters Newspaper and Printing Museum in Palouse, which is run by the Whitman County Historical Society (WCHS). The museum pays homage to the machine that fed news to the world by showcasing different models of the Linotype, preserving many of the region's bygone newspapers and celebrating the history of the town and the town's residents.

## The backstory

The museum came together through the efforts of Dr. Roy Chatters beginning in the late 1960s. Chatters, a retired Washington State University professor, had grown up in a family with a background in the printing industry, and as small newspapers throughout Washington began to fold, he tried to save as much of the equipment and archives as he could, explained Greg Partch, one of the charter members of the WCHS. Partch and his wife, Sherry, along with many other WCHS members, has been involved with the printing museum from the beginning.

Much of the old printing equipment was obsolete, not to mention extremely heavy, and was just being hauled to the

dump, along with archives, Partch said.

"Not only the big heavy machinery, but the newspapers all had bound journals. Roy was just beside himself," Partch said. "He had been around to all the little newspapers, not just here, but across the state. One by one, they would go under. He'd go down and rescue as much as he could."

As his rescue pile grew, Chatters was in search of a place to store it all. A local business owner, J.B. West, owned a vacant building on Palouse's main street and donated it to the WCHS with the understanding that it would be used



Whitman County Historical Society member and long-time Palouse resident, Janet Barstow, has been responsible for running the museum and giving tours since it reopened in 2003. She is standing next to one of the museum's Linotype machines.

as a museum. In 1976, the museum, dedicated to J.B. and Olga West, opened.

As the years passed, the museum continued to slowly grow. In 1994, Chatters died, and a 1996 flood threatened to destroy the museum. Fortunately, the archives were moved to higher ground in time, and most of the equipment was raised on blocks, but the water caused extensive damage to the building, and it had to be closed. WCHS members and the community rallied to save the museum. Through grants and volunteer work, the building was renovated and reopened as the Roy M. Chatters Newspaper and Printing Museum in 2003.

"All these little towns, Garfield, Oakesdale, Rosalia, LaCrosse, Tekoa, almost all of them had newspapers, and you are able to at least see the bound papers from









Tony Sittner (above), one of the museum's printing volunteers, demonstrates how type was set before the Linotype machine. Individual cast metal letters, spaces and punctuation marks, called "sorts," were lined up by hand in a "composing stick" to make a line of text. These "matrices" were used to form a newspaper page (right), inked and pressed into paper. The sorts were commonly stored in a case called a California Job Case (below), sorted by case and how frequently the letter was used.



the late 1880s. It's all preserved because of Roy," Partch said. "That's the core of the museum. Then there's the associated printing presses. You see the history of how newspapers evolved from the really early presses they used, the flat plate up to the where the lead came in and replaced wood and then the Linotype."

## Today

Janet Barstow, another WCHS member, has been responsible for running the museum and giving tours since it reopened. Barstow was born and raised in Palouse, and her love for the town and its history is obvious.

"My family settled here in the early 1880s, and I've lived here most of my life," she explained. "It's really fun when someone comes in and says their grandpa used to live here. I ask them the name, and lots of time, the name is familiar, and they are tickled. There's a lot of resources here that I can go to and find information about a relative. It gives me the biggest joy."

The museum is supported by volunteers, donations and the WCHS. Barstow explained that running the museum as a volunteer is "my gift to my town." She is often helped out by other volunteers, including long-time Palouse resident, Don Myott, who has also done a great deal of research on the area, and volunteer printers, like Tony Sittner, who have given demonstrations and tours as well. Barstow said one of her favorite things is to watch people wander by the museum and then double back, a little dubious about a printing museum in tiny Palouse.

"I get them hooked," she said, laughing.

Along with the collection of printing presses and tools, the museum owns a near-complete collection of Whitman County newspapers dating back to the 1880s, which are available for research, with donations requested for this service. The museum is open most Saturdays — although it's a good idea to check — from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., except during October and January. It is also available by appointment for group tours and school trips by contacting Barstow at (509) 330-0353 or emailing her at [barstow@palouse.com](mailto:barstow@palouse.com).

In an age when newspapers are an endangered species, Barstow hopes that visitors leave the museum with an appreciation of the printing industry, especially in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

"The next time they pick up a newspaper, I hope they appreciate how it used to be done, how much work was involved and an appreciation for the technology," she said. ■

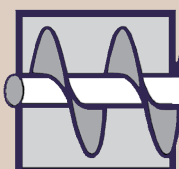





Tony Sittner (right) demonstrates how the Linotype machine worked. An operator sat at a 90-character keyboard and typed a line of text. The machine assembled the letters into a line, which was cast as a single piece of lead (above), called a slug. Once used, the slugs would be melted back down so the lead could be reused. The Linotype machine allowed for much faster typesetting and composition than hand-setting type. The Roy M. Chatters Newspaper and Printing Museum in Palouse, Wash., has several examples of the Linotype machine, as well as other printing presses. The museum also has archives of many of the region's small newspapers that have long since closed.



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# THE BOTTOM LINE

## Power of attorney — when and why

By John Kragt

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

Most people are familiar with the concept of a will and/or a trust. What most people fail to understand is that those documents only come into play when you are dead. What many people fail to have is a durable power of attorney. Many people saw “Rocky 5” (to be clear the author follows the popular belief that “Rocky 5” didn’t actually happen) and learned that Rocky’s brother-in-law, Paulie, signed over Rocky’s power of attorney to his accountant, thus squandering his fortune and putting the public in fear of signing over such powers. However, that is not an accurate portrayal of how most power of attorney documents work. I will describe a few circumstances and times where they are actually very helpful. The thing to take away from this article is that a power of attorney document should not be considered without complete trust in the person taking such a responsibility.

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**Overall estate plan.** Many lawyers, including myself, encourage families to have durable power of attorney (DPOA) documents not only for medical decisions but also for business decisions. A properly drafted DPOA will allow for someone to step in and make decisions for someone when they are unable to do so. The term “durable” means that the document will not be terminated upon the incapacity of the principal.

Many times, these documents could be needed in an emergency situation like a car wreck or an injury on the farm. More often than not, they are used when a person lacks the capacity and/or no longer desires the day-to-day work of their own financial affairs. DPOAs will sometimes give very specific instructions to the person appointed as DPOA to perform certain tasks, and sometimes they can be very standard and boilerplate.

A potential issue occurs when the person appointed lacks the knowledge that they are even appointed, and thus, what the principal wants from them. If you appoint someone as your DPOA and fail to give them directions, you are setting yourself up for failure. One thing to remember is that if mental capacity is not an issue, you can always revoke a DPOA and remove that person. Often, people ask if they can appoint someone for a limited task or a specific thing. That can be very helpful when someone is out of the country or needing to deal with an entity that they are unfamiliar with. In this situation, a DPOA drafted by an attorney many not even be helpful as that entity may require their own form.

**Specific DPOAs.** Many farm operators are familiar with gathering signatures for their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office or crop insurance agent. When someone has 37 landlords, chasing signatures can become quite burdensome. Thus, a specific DPOA could become very helpful to both the landlords and the operators. While these documents are specific to their specific agencies, what a person is actually signing may not be specific.

For example, while the FSA DPOA has specific options to choose from, it also has a box to check for all current and future programs. While that may seem like the easier approach, like all things, there could be ramifications. If you give an operator the ability to sign up for all current and future programs, you are doing just that. If they decide to sign some or a part of the farm up for the Conservation Reserve Program, they can technically do that. This, again, is something people rarely think about when they are signing a DPOA over to someone, because before they even consider doing it, they should have full trust in them.

DPOAs can be a very helpful and convenient tool for the farm and daily life. As with anything, communication is key to making sure both parties are aware of the expectations and that there is a strong level of trust prior to appointing someone their DPOA. ■

---

**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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Close up of a quail in Cheney.  
Photo by Randy Suess.



Harvest on L & M Farms in Douglas County with Lanse Whitehall and Jillian, Blakely (4) and Hunter (2) Loeb sack. Picture by Kevin Whitehall.



(Above) Morning sun in Eureka. Photo by Matt Frohreich. (Left) S.P. Jensen and grandson, River Jensen (7), in Wilbur. Photo by Daleen Jensen.





Cadence Monson (17) in Colfax. Photo by Loops n Latigos Photography, Bailey Lyle.



Nathan Fletcher getting some extra help looking over the tractor from his children, Annabelle (7), Kyleigh (3) and Duane (2), at ND Fletcher Partnership in Dayton. Photo by Christina Fletcher.

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Please include location of picture,  
names of all people appearing in the  
picture and ages of all children.



Payton Barry (15 months) enjoying her first harvest in the wheat field in LaCrosse. Photo by Gladys Martinez.



# 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.*

## MARCH 2023

**3 SAUSAGE FEED.** All meals will be to go. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Menu includes home-made sausage, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll, applesauce and choice of pie. Uniontown Community Center, Uniontown, Wash.

[facebook.com/groups/2523604837767404/](https://facebook.com/groups/2523604837767404/)

**3-5 SPRING ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW.** Professional artists and crafters from across the Northwest will display and sell their fine art, hand crafts and specialty foods. Spokane Fair and Expo Center, Spokane, Wash. [custershows.com](http://custershows.com)

**9 WHAT LIES AHEAD: AN UPDATE FROM NRCS AND FSA.** AMMO workshop presented by state staff from the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hampton Inn-Spokane Airport in Spokane, Wash. Lunch is provided.

No charge for WAWG members; cost for nonmembers is \$25. Preregister in advance by calling (509) 659-0610 or print out and mail registration form at [wawg.org/ammo-workshops/](http://wawg.org/ammo-workshops/).

**10 WHAT LIES AHEAD: AN UPDATE FROM NRCS AND FSA.** AMMO workshop presented by state staff from the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Red Lion Hotel in Pasco, Wash. Lunch is provided. No charge for WAWG members; cost for nonmembers is \$25. Preregister by calling (509) 659-0610 or print out and mail registration form at [wawg.org/ammo-workshops/](http://wawg.org/ammo-workshops/).

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

**17-19 SPRING ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW.** Professional artists and crafters from across the Northwest will display and sell their fine art, hand crafts and specialty foods. HAPO Center, Pasco, Wash. [custershows.com](http://custershows.com)

## APRIL 2023

**1-2 SPRING FARMING DAYS.** Horse, mule and antique tractor farming on 13 acres. Activity starts at 9 a.m. both days. Lunch available to purchase 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day. Eastern Washington Agricultural Museum will be open. Garfield County Fairgrounds east of Pomeroy, Wash. [dnruark@wildblue.net](mailto:dnruark@wildblue.net)

**27-MAY 7 WASHINGTON STATE APPLE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL.** Parade, carnival, golf tournament, apple pie and dessert bake-off, live entertainment, auction. Wenatchee, Wash. [appleblossom.org](http://appleblossom.org)

**29-30 SPRING FLING QUILT SHOW.** Presented by the Odessa Quilt Club. Show features over 250 quilts, Hoffman Challenge Quilts, quilting supply vendors and quilting demonstrations. Other activities around town, include PTO Outdoor Craft Market, and community yard sales. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Odessa High School Gym, 2nd Street and 4th Avenue, Odessa, Wash. Admission is \$5. [odessaquiltclub.com](http://odessaquiltclub.com) ■



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