

WHEAT LIFE

The official publication of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers

APRIL | 2023



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AMMO recaps:
Marketing (times two), USDA updates
2023 quality rankings
Control of stripe rust in wheat, barley
Learning the ropes: A report from one of
Washington's wheat ambassadors

WHEAT LIFE

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President's Perspective



The insanity of March Madness

By Andy Juris

Well, it's that time of year again. Even though you're reading this in April, it's March as I'm writing it. Everyone is getting excited, talk of how things are going to play out fills the coffee shop, brackets are filled out, bets made, statistics studied. March Madness, the time of year we all look forward to with dread or anticipation. For me, both. So, who's feeling good about their brackets this year?

Personally, I have "unusually cold spring" winning over "early drought" in our area, then "fertilizer plugging" losing to "expensive flat tire." After that, it gets hard to anticipate. But if a dark horse like "perfect May/June rain" wins over "late frost at flowering," my bracket is totally shot.

The pressure of making good bets during March Madness gets farmers, as they say, pretty twitchy. Who's going to be the first to get started? How many of you have had the devastating news that some insolent jerk in your area has had the gall to get started a week before you were planning on running? "What?!! Are they crazy!" you exclaim. "The weeds aren't even up yet." You secretly hope they get stuck. "Darn them! Every year they do this, and they spent a month in Mexico!!"

A couple of years ago, while attempting to predict the team lineup of who's going to start, I accidentally discovered that a good amount of fun can be made of this stressful time. While attempting to warm the oil up in my sprayer for maintenance, I took it for an early March tour of the neighborhood. The resulting panic led to more than one neighbor stopping by in agitation, only to sigh in relief at the sprayer now torn apart in the shop. So, throw caution to the wind, folks, and take the sprayer to town for coffee tomorrow. Then, you can bet on how many stuck sprayers you'll pass on the way home.

March is the moody teenager of the calendar year. One minute the sun is shining, and the smell of spring is in the air, and the next, the full wrath of a sudden snow squall is hammering away in all its adolescent fury. I suppose it can be tempting to be swept up in the young emotions of the season, the possibilities of a future good crop, the first yellow bells growing in the scab ground ... but then the cows get out, you lose a boot in a muck hole during a downpour, and NOAA suddenly forgets to remind you it's going to be 23 degrees tonight and you leave the sprayer out.

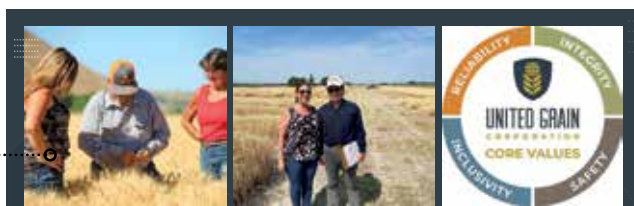
The last time I was tempted to have pleasant thoughts about early spring, I ended up helping a cheery, ham-sandwich-eating fellow from Goldendale pump out my septic tank. Dang this month! The Ides of March is the 74th day of the Roman calendar (March 15) made famous by the assassination of Julius Caesar in 44BC. While the passage of time has erased many of the details surrounding this, I read recently that Caesar was rumored to have started seeding two weeks before anyone else was remotely ready. This, coupled with a winter spent in insulting indulgence on the Mediterranean Coast, was just too much for his neighbor, Brutus.

So, as we all enter the start of our year of work and the spring madness takes hold, I wish you all the very best. May your equipment work well, your crops be good, and may the cows stay where they're supposed to. May we all make it safely to the other side of this season together. Whelp, time to go drive the sprayer up for coffee. ■

Cover photo: Meet the organizations that support and advocate for the Washington wheat industry on pages 20 and 40. All photos are Shutterstock images or taken by *Wheat Life* staff unless otherwise noted.

Inside This Issue

WAWG President's Perspective	2
Membership Form	4
WAWG at Work	6
Policy Matters	14
Washington Wheat Foundation	18
Working for Washington Three groups support small grains industry	20
Froom: China, conflict, capital AMMO marketing recap	24
Thompson: Headlines push volatility AMMO marketing recap	28
FSA, NRCS updates AMMO recap	32
WGC Chairman's Column	37
2023 quality rankings Testing helps keep varieties in top form	38
Meet your WGC commissioners Ten representatives oversee assessments	40
Researcher returns to Pullman Alison Thompson to focus on falling numbers	43
Remembering Mark Fowler USW employee was highly respected	44
Control of stripe rust Farming practices, varieties are key	45
Wheat Watch	48
Learning the ropes Wheat ambassador reflects on service	50
Your Wheat Life	54
Happenings	56
Advertiser Index	58



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

WAWG's current top priorities are:

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

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

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WAWG leaders take part in national meetings

Leaders and staff of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) spent a week in Orlando last month, attending the National Association of Wheat Growers' (NAWG) annual meeting where they discussed national wheat priorities, participated in committee meetings and helped set policy for the national organization for the coming year.

The annual wheat meeting takes place concurrently with Commodity Classic, the annual agricultural convention and trade show in the U.S. that focuses primarily on the corn, wheat, soybean and equipment manufacturer industries.

"The NAWG annual meeting in Orlando was a success. We discussed and voted on resolutions for the upcoming year, many of them focused on the farm bill," said Michelle Hennings, WAWG's executive director. "We also met with the Senate and House ag committee chairs to discuss what farmers need in a farm bill, what the outlook is for its potential passage, and the challenges we may face in trying to get the legislation passed. These face-to-face meetings are crucial and beneficial to the process. We want to make sure wheat is at the forefront of these conversations, and attending meetings with representatives of the corn and soybean industries gives value working together as 'agriculture.'"

Leaders from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) spoke to the group throughout the week, including USDA Undersecretary Robert Bonnie, the Risk Management Agency's Marcia Bunker, the



Washington Association of Wheat Growers President Andy Juris (middle) is on the National Association of Wheat Growers' Domestic Trade and Policy Committee. The group was listening to Marcia Bunker (third from right), Risk Management Agency administrator, and Zach Ducheneaux (second from right), Farm Service Agency administrator.

Howard McDonald (second from right), Washington Association of Wheat Growers past president, sits on the National Association of Wheat Growers' Environment and Research Committee.



Marci Green (second from left), a Washington Association of Wheat Growers past president, sits on the National Association of Wheat Growers' Budget Committee.

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Farm Service Agency's Zach Ducheneaux, and Natural Resources Conservation Services chief, Terry Cosby. ■

WAWG meeting scheduled

The next Washington Association of Wheat Growers' board meeting is scheduled for May 9, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Wheat Foundation building in Ritzville. Call the WAWG office at (509) 659-0610 for more information. ■

How are we doing?

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



Growers auction off concert tickets at county meeting

Whether it was the allure of Shania Twain tickets or a chance to hear from Washington State University (WSU) researchers, almost 30 Whitman County growers attended last month's county grower meeting in Colfax.

WSU spring wheat breeder Mike Pumphrey and winter wheat breeder Arron Carter updated growers on their latest research. Pumphrey said they've recently approved several spring wheat varieties for release, including a hard red wheat and a Hessian fly-resistant club. Carter talked about a new release, Inspire, for the higher rainfall areas that has been a top yielder in variety trials and has good stripe rust resistance and cold tolerance.

Both researchers thanked growers for their support, and asked them what traits they'd like to see included in future variety releases. Cold tolerance, increased yields and threshability, and Hessian fly resistance were some of growers' suggestions.

Jonelle Olson, the new Farm Service Agency (FSA) county executive director, also attended the meeting. With numerous sign-ups happening, including ARC/PLC, CRP and ERP 2, she encouraged growers to contact the county office sooner rather than later. Mary Palmer Sullivan, vice president of the Washington Grain Commission (WGC), talked about her visit to Washington, D.C., for national barley meetings and the recent research review. With the price of wheat up, so is the WGC's assessments, so Palmer Sullivan said research project funding looks good. She told growers that the commission is looking for new research project ideas to fund.

Michelle Hennings, executive director for the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG), gave a legislative review. The ag industry is still trying to find



Franklin County growers meet, earn pesticide credit

More than 20 Franklin County growers attended a county meeting last month, enjoyed pizza, and earned a pesticide credit, thanks to a McGregor Company field expert who briefed growers on pesticide use and grassy weed identification in wheat. Growers discussed U.S. Department of Agriculture programs, such as the Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage programs; emergency assistance for livestock; the Conservation Reserve Program; variety releases; research review; transportation; and legislative issues, such as riparian buffers and overtime. The next meeting of the Franklin County growers is scheduled for April 13. Organizers have invited Washington State University researchers to present updates. ■



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

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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)
Ericka	3,829 (25)	3,516 (25)	3,219 (28)	2,273 (29)
Rubisco Seeds' Hybrids		Data courtesy of University of Idaho		
Kicker	--	4,792 (1)	4,701 (1)	4,383 (1)
Mercedes	5,145 (1)	4,419 (6)	4,359 (3)	3,756 (5)
Plurax CL	4,959 (2)	4,717 (2)	4,465 (2)	3,411 (8)
Phoenix CL	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

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a way to implement their farm-use exemption for any fuel surcharge related to cap and trade. One of the ideas being discussed is a refund, but Hennings said they would have to get money in the budget for that. Riparian buffers and ag overtime are the other big state legislative issues WAWG is working on. At the national level, the farm bill, crop insurance and the dams are dominating discussions.

In county business, growers approved a motion to help fund a drone purchase for the WSU variety trials program. Shania Twain concert tickets were auctioned off with Kevin Paulson as the high bidder. ■

Growers appointed to FSA state committee

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) has announced appointees who will serve on the Washington FSA state committee.

Members of the FSA state committee are appointed by Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and are responsible for the oversight of farm programs and county committee operations, resolving program delivery appeals from

In remembrance of William "Bill" Lee Schwerin, 78

William Lee "Bill" Schwerin passed away on Feb. 28, 2023, following four years of brain cancer. He was 78 years old.

Bill was born Nov. 1, 1944, to Robert and Frances Schwerin in Walla Walla, Wash.

A 1963 graduate of Walla Walla High School, he served as student body president. Following the family tradition, he attended Washington State University, graduating in 1967 with a degree in agricultural science. Bill came home to the family farm and raised wheat and peas with his father and grandfather. He married his high school sweetheart, Lynda Barritt, in 1966. They had two children: son, Stan Schwerin of Walla Walla, and daughter, Abigail of Platinum, Alaska.

Always looking ahead for something new and better, Bill pioneered other crops, raising some of the first canola, garbanzo beans and dryland potato seed in the Walla Walla Valley. In the 1980s, Bill and his father developed a manufacturing process to improve the efficiency of a critical part of a combine: the concave. This process led to the creation of a manufacturing business that built and distributed Schwerin Concaves nationwide. Bill was very involved with the Washington State Wheat Growers Association, serving as president in 1989 and convening the first Tri-State wheat growers' convention, bringing together agricultural leaders from Oregon, Idaho and Washington to pool their strengths and influence in support of wheat growing in the Pacific Northwest. Bill was instrumental in the creation of and funding for the O.A. Vogel Endowed Chair in Wheat



Breeding and Genetics at Washington State University, ensuring that the best scientists could do their work to make Washington wheat truly the world's best.

After retiring from farming, Bill turned his considerable energy and vision to winemaking. He started Sapolil Cellars as a tiny space within his wife's furniture store. The tasting room soon took over all the space in the store, added a kitchen, and became one of Walla Walla's first live music venues, a fun and friendly spot on Main Street where Bill remembered everyone's names and occasionally danced on the top of the piano. Bill was also a leader in changing regulations to allow wineries to be open on Sundays and pushed hard for outdoor seating, both of which have boosted Walla Walla's appeal and economy.

Bill was an avid skier, pilot, bicyclist, motorcyclist and white-water kayaker. He loved people and was known as the life of the party. He loved children, especially his own, and was always their champion.

Those who knew and loved him will remember his colorful character and adventurous spirit.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Larry Schwerin; and sister-in-law, Carol Schwerin. He is survived by his wife, Lynda; son, Stan (wife Kim Witherspoon); daughter, Abigail; brother, Don (wife Anne-Marie); cousins, Kyle and Sharon; and many dear nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on March 16, 2023.

Memorial contributions may be made to Walla Walla Community Hospice or a charity of choice through the Herring Groseclose Funeral Home in Walla Walla. In addition, friends and family are invited to sign the online guestbook at herringgroseclose.com. ■

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the agriculture community, maintaining cooperative relations with industry stakeholders, keeping producers informed about FSA programs, and operating in a manner consistent with USDA equal opportunity and civil rights policies. Each FSA state committee is comprised of three to five members, including a designated chairperson. The individuals appointed to serve for Washington are:

- Committee Chair Bernard “Butch” Ogden of Castle Rock.
- Brett Blankenship of Washtucna.
- Sam Ledgerwood of Clarkston.
- Jackie Richter of Omak.
- Jose Ramirez of Royal City.

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



GROWER ADVOCACY URGED. National Association of Wheat Growers Past President Nicole Berg took the stage at Commodity Classic last month with representatives from soybeans, corn, equipment manufacturers and sorghum to talk about crop insurance and how the farm bill needs to improve agriculture’s safety net. Berg urged growers to visit their members of Congress and explain how critical the farm bill is and how it affects their operation.

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POLICY MATTERS

Revenue forecast indicates slowing economy

By Diana Carlen
WAWG Lobbyist

The Washington State Legislature is in its final weeks of the regular 2023 Legislative Session, which is scheduled to end on April 23. Before then, legislators have several key deadlines to meet. They must have passed policy bills out of the opposite chamber by March 29 and fiscal bills by April 4. Policy bills must pass off the floor by April 12, and then the focus is on bills necessary to implement the budget.

The Economic and Revenue Forecast Council released its new revenue forecast in mid-March, which showed a slowing economy. State revenues increased by \$194 million for the current 2021-23 budget cycle, but decreased by \$483 million for the upcoming 2023-25 budget cycle. It also decreased by \$541 million for 2025-27. Following the revenue forecast, the Senate released their proposed capital and operating budgets. The House was scheduled to release their proposals the last week of March.

Senate capital budget released

The Senate released their proposed capital budget with a total spending of nearly \$7.9 billion. The budget includes significant investments in behavioral health, affordable housing, education and natural resources.

Some proposed spending items of interest include:

- \$95 million for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant programs.
- \$15 million 2023-25 Voluntary Stewardship Program project funding.
- \$60.7 million for the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Project.
- Reappropriation of \$3 million for the Voluntary Stewardship Program.
- \$1 million for the Skagit County Voluntary Stewardship Program.

The Senate capital budget proposal was heard, voted out of committee, and passed the Senate over the course of a week.

Senate operating budget released

That same week, the Senate unveiled their \$69.2 billion biennial operating budget proposal. The proposal adds

about \$5.1 billion in new spending, while leaving \$3.8 billion in reserves. Many of the budget priorities highlighted in the operating budget mirror those of the Senate capital budget. The proposal also includes over \$679 million in Climate Commitment Act (CCA) dollars.

Some proposed spending items of interest include:

- \$40 million for salmon riparian restoration grants.
- \$3 million of the CCA account to support the outreach, identification and implementation of salmon riparian habitat restoration projects.
- \$2 million of the CCA account to develop and implement an educational communication plan regarding the importance of riparian buffers and actions they can take to protect and enhance critical areas.
- \$8.48 million to the Conservation Commission for implementation of the Voluntary Stewardship Program.
- \$2 million for the Department of Commerce to contract with an independent research organization to conduct an analysis of new electricity generation, transmission, ancillary services, efficiency, and storage needed to offset what is currently provided by the lower Snake River dams, as well as identifying any impacts to grid reliability, consumer pricing and carbon pollution that would result from dam removal.
- \$500,000 for the Department of Ecology (Ecology) to conduct an analysis of how to continue water use for irrigation during draw-down related to potential lower Snake River dam removal.
- \$95 million to Commerce to implement programs and incentives that promote the purchase of or conversion to alternative fuel vehicles.
- \$56.3 million to Commerce to develop a decarbonization incentive grant program to transition to zero-emissions medium and heavy-duty vehicles.

The Senate operating budget was heard in committee and was scheduled for executive action the last week of March, with floor action anticipated shortly thereafter.

Court upholds capital gains tax

In a 7-2 ruling, the Washington State Supreme Court reversed a lower court decision and upheld the state's capital gains tax as constitutional. The capital gains tax passed in

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2021 and applies a 7% tax on the sale of financial assets. The tax applies only to profits over \$250,000 and does not apply to real estate or retirement accounts. Some agricultural land is exempt from the tax.

The tax became effective on Jan. 1, 2022. First payments are due on or before April 18 of this year. It was projected to bring in \$415 million in 2023, the first year the state would see money from the tax.

L&I files update to outdoor heat rules

In March, the Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) filed a proposed update to Washington's permanent heat rules. The proposal follows a number of stakeholder meetings L&I held on potential draft rules this fall. Some of the changes put forward in the proposed rule include:

- Lowering the trigger temperature to 80 degrees (52 degrees if wearing nonbreathable clothing).
- Providing adequate access to shade.
- Providing that the already required water is cool enough to safely drink.
- High-heat procedures requiring close observation of employees and mandatory cool-down rest periods of 10 minutes every two hours at 90°F, and 15 minutes every hour at 100°F.

L&I plans to hold five, in-person hearings throughout the state, as well as one virtual hearing. Written comments on the rule proposal can also be submitted through May 11, 2023.

Exempt fuel issue still not resolved

There is still no resolution on the issue of farmers paying the carbon surcharge on fuel that they were supposed to be exempt from paying. While large users have started purchasing exempted fuel from one distributor that has a clear "line of sight" from the refinery to the end consumer, those transactions are providing relief only to a very small group of large fuel users. There seems to be no urgency to address this issue legislatively, and time is ticking. Farmers are still encouraged to keep all fuel receipts in case a process to get a refund for the carbon fee is established in the future.

Initial auction results released

On March 7, initial results were released from the first cap-and-invest auction, and the state brought in more money than previously forecasted.

All 6,185,222 allowances offered for sale by Ecology sold. Each allowance represents one metric ton of greenhouse gas emissions. The settlement



REP. CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS (R-Wash.) held a farm bill listening session at the Washington Wheat Foundation Building in Ritzville last month. With approximately a dozen citizens attending the session, the topics ranged from the farm bill to the Columbia Basin Project to broadband connectivity for Eastern Washington. WAWG Executive Director Michelle Hennings shared the association's farm bill priorities of maintaining a strong crop insurance program, use of Inflation Reduction Act funding, and increasing market development funding.



REP. DAN NEWHOUSE (R-Wash.) held a roundtable last month in Benton City to hear growers' concerns around the farm bill. He told attendees that some lawmakers looking at how to reduce federal spending are looking at the farm bill as a way to do that, but that he would stand up for the things that are important to Eastern Washington growers. Some of the priorities that growers raised included keeping crop insurance strong and expanding crop insurance opportunities for other crops; research funding; conservation funding and rates; protecting crop protection products; and increasing trade opportunities.

price was \$48.50 per allowance, up from the floor price of \$22.20. The *Seattle Times* reported that the auction generated an estimated \$300 million. If allowances stay at the current price, the auctions will bring in almost three times as much money this year than what Ecology previously predicted. ■

NAWG elects new slate of officers

In early March, Oregon grower Brent Cheyne was elected president of the National Association of Wheat Growers. Along with Cheyne, the board of directors also elected a new slate of officers. Keffy Felty from Oklahoma was elected vice president, Pat Clements from Kentucky was elected treasurer, Jamie Kress from Idaho was elected as the new secretary, and Nicole Berg from Washington state transitioned to the role of past president. ■

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What else can wheat straw be used for?

Harvest time is one of the most important seasons of the year for wheat farmers everywhere. The precious grain that fills their bulk tanks isn't the only valuable part of the wheat plant. The stalks left behind the combine have a variety of uses as well. Those wheat stalks are commonly called straw, and wheat straw is more than just bedding for animals. Wheat straw can be roughage added to a feed ration; a reliable heat source; turned into a durable bioplastic; used to construct energy-efficient, fire-proof homes; and serve as protective mulch in your garden.

It's common practice in some parts of the world to burn off the straw postharvest. Wheat straw contains substantial amounts of macronutrients like nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and sulfur. When that straw is removed completely through burning, farmers lose essential nutrients that could be beneficial to the soil and subject their fields to the risk of additional erosion.

Wheat straw can be swathed and baled just like hay. Once baled, it can be processed and used for any number of purposes.

Wheat straw as cattle feed

Wheat straw is made up of 40% cellulose, 40% hemicellulose and 15% lignin. Cellulose is the stuff that ruminants can digest and break down into usable sugars for energy. Lignin is the stuff that holds it all together. Straw sits between hay and wood on the lignin scale, making it less palatable than expensive alfalfa hay but still usable. Plain straw can be fed to cattle as a filler in the winter to help keep animals warm as their guts work to digest the woody substance. Some cattle producers take it a step further and put the straw through a process called ammonization before feeding it. Ammonization is the process in which straw is exposed to anhydrous ammonia to increase its nutritional value and digestibility.

Wheat straw as a heat source

Straw has between 6,000 and 7,600 BTU per pound. One straw bale can burn for hours due to the lack of oxygen on the inside of the bale. Straw can be mechanically processed into small logs to make fires. Whole bales can also be burned in bale burners or straw boilers. These burners aren't the most efficient method of heating, so they typi-

cally wouldn't be used to warm a home or large buildings. They are, however, excellent for drying grain bins, heating barns and other small structures. Wheat straw can be a renewable alternative to burning petroleum fuels.

Wheat straw as bioplastic




There are several companies exploring the versatility and strength of wheat straw to produce plastic-free containers and dishware. Coffee mugs, dinner plates, silverware and water bottles are all available in wheat straw plastics. They perform the same way plastic items would, being microwave, freezer and dishwasher safe. To create these bioplastic products, the wheat straw is broken down using a common bacteria found in the soil. The bacteria consume the lignin which holds the straw together, leaving behind a moldable substance.

Wheat straw as a building material

Straw and grass bales have been used to create structures for thousands of years. Straw bale homes are particularly popular in dry regions, as it is imperative the bales stay dry. A stack of wet bales is a fire waiting to happen, as bales can spontaneously combust over time. When kept dry and properly sealed in stucco or plaster, straw bale homes are nearly impervious to fire. Not only are straw bale homes safe, but they are also incredibly efficient. Straw bales have an R-value of 35 which is more than most insulations on the market.

Wheat straw as mulch

Mulching your garden is an effective way to protect your soil bed and suppress weeds. Straw is lightweight, clean and easy to work with and has a long list of benefits to your garden. Moisture retention, maintaining soil temperature, protection from harsh elements, and serving as a natural compost are just a few. Straw is often one of the more affordable mulch options as well. ■

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Washington Wheat Foundation Meetings are scheduled for **June 5, Sept. 18, and Oct. 16, 2023**, at the Wheat Foundation Building in Ritzville, Wash.



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Working for Washington wheat

WHO ARE THE ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING, ADVOCATING FOR THE SMALL GRAINS INDUSTRY?

By Trista Crossley
Editor, *Wheat Life*

Washington wheat growers are represented by three organizations working together on behalf of the wheat and small grains industry in the Evergreen state. Although it might be confusing, each organization — the Washington Association of Wheat Growers, the Washington Grain Commission and the Washington Wheat Foundation — fulfills a specific role that works in tandem with the others.

Association

The Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) was formed in 1954 by growers to repre-



sent, protect and advance the social, economic and educational interests of wheat farmers, their

families and the rural communities of Washington state. WAWG is a grassroots, membership-based organization that focuses on advocacy at both the state and national levels. WAWG represents wheat growers in 13 Eastern Washington counties: Adams, Asotin, Benton, Columbia, Douglas, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Spokane, Walla Walla, Whitman and Yakima/Klickitat counties.



The 2022-23 leadership for the Washington Association of Wheat Growers are (from left) Michelle Hennings, executive director; Howard McDonald of Douglas County, past president; Andy Juris of Klickitat County, president; Anthony Smith of Benton County, vice president; and Jeff Malone of Douglas County, secretary/treasurer.

WAWG is led by an officer team (president, vice president, secretary/treasurer and past-president) and a state board of directors (one representative from each county), all of which are voluntary positions. The officers serve for one year before rotating to the next position. Grower-leaders are supported by paid office staff, including an executive director, an outreach coordinator, an administrative assistant and the staff at *Wheat Life*.

Many of the 13 counties represented by WAWG also have local groups that meet to discuss county issues. Those issues are taken by that county's board representative to the monthly WAWG board meeting to be discussed.

"Our organization is guided by the issues and concerns brought up by members at the county level," Michelle Hennings, WAWG executive director, explained. "We are truly a volunteer, grass-roots advocacy organization that relies on the input and participation of our growers to be successful. We work hard to be a nonpartisan source of information for policymakers and the public on issues that impact the Washington wheat industry."

Much of WAWG's time and efforts are spent on the legislative side of the in-

dustry, monitoring state and national legislation, testifying and talking to policymakers, and advocating for the needs of growers in areas such as transportation, infrastructure and natural resources. At the state level, WAWG works with a lobbyist, and at the national level, with the National Association of Wheat Growers.

Besides advocacy, WAWG also focuses on grower education by holding workshops and seminars for members throughout the year. WAWG works with U.S. Department of Agriculture agencies to relay grower concerns on crop insurance, safety net programs and the farm bill.

WAWG is supported by membership dues, *Wheat Life* advertising and the Washington Grain Commission. The office is in Ritzville, Wash., and can be reached at (509) 659-0610. More information about WAWG can be found at wawg.org.

"The three wheat organizations meet regularly to discuss industry issues and to make sure we are presenting a unified front," Hennings said. "When we walk into a legislator's office to discuss any issue, it doesn't matter which organization we are from. All that legislator sees is 'wheat.'"

Commission

One of the first things growers did after organizing WAWG was form the Washington Grain Commission (WGC) in 1958 through state legislation. The goal of the commission is to enhance the long-term profitability and competitiveness of Washington small grains and small



Washington Grain Commissioners with CEO Casey Chumrau. From left, front row are Brit Ausman, Kevin Klein, Ben Barstow, Gary Bailey, Casey Chumrau, Brain Cochrane and Brian Liedl. From left, back row are Scott Steinbacher, Mike Carstensen, Ty Jessup and Mike Miller

grain producers by responsible allocation of assessment funds in research, marketing and education. Originally called the Washington Wheat Commission, the name was changed in 2009 when the Washington Barley Commission was folded in.

The WGC focuses its efforts primarily on funding research, including several endowed chairs at Washington State University, market development, and education through an assessment of three-quarters of one percent of the net receipts at the first point of sale for wheat and 1 percent of the net receipts at the first point of sale for barley.

The commission is made up of seven elected farmers representing five wheat districts and two barley districts, plus two industry representatives and a representative of the Washington State Department of Agriculture. See page 40 for more information on current commissioners. The WGC is supported by a paid staff that includes a CEO, vice president, director of communication, program director, and administrative staff.

If WAWG is known for its advocacy work, the WGC is known for its efforts to strengthen and expand market opportunities for the Washington small grains industry through hosting trade teams to the Pacific Northwest and participating in crop quality seminars around the globe with its national partner, U.S. Wheat



Associates. The commission is also heavily invested in funding variety research and research and testing on milling and baking functionality.

“Washington state is fortunate to have three strong organizations representing the interests of wheat and barley farmers,” said Casey Chumrau, WGC CEO. “These collective efforts build toward a vibrant, forward-thinking industry that is strategically positioned for the future and will allow each of our organizations to maximize the long-term sustainability and competitiveness of our small grains producers.”

The WGC office is located in Spokane, Wash., and can be reached at (509) 456-2481. More information can be found at wagrain.org. See page 40 for photos and bios of current WGC commissioners.

Foundation

The final pillar supporting Washington wheat growers is the Washington Wheat Foundation (WWF). Founded in the 1990s, the WWF is a nonprofit 501C3 that works to increase public awareness of farming’s responsible approach to the production of a safe food supply through environmentally sound farming practices.

The foundation is led by a 13-member board of trustees made up of farmers and industry sup-



Washington Wheat Foundation officers include (from left) Grant Miller, president, from Lind; Amy Reimer, treasurer, from Ritzville; and Stacey Rasmussen, secretary, from Harrington. Not shown is John Bartels, vice president, from Spokane. Kate Malone, Coulee City, is the administrator, and Jim Leffle, Ritzville, is the financial advisor. The other trustees are Gail Schoesler Gering, Liberty Lake; Walt Neff, Pasco; Jim Kent, Walla Walla; Rusty McGuire, Harrington; Ryan Janke, Davenport; Mike Schrag, Ritzville; Emily Gordon, Ritzville; Randy Suess, Cheney; and Hallie Jo Jamison, Pullman.

porters. It is funded through endowments, grants, fund-raising events and the WGC.

The WWF funds scholarships, education efforts and some advocacy activities. It contributes to programs such as FFA, Ag in the Classroom, AgForestry and the Northwest Natural Resources Institute. The foundation also funds some research, stepping in where the WGC can’t or doesn’t have the money for. How the funds are allocated is determined by the board.



“I call it the three-legged stool. All three organizations have differing goals and charges that they need to do between the commission, WAWG and the foundation,” explained Grant Miller, WWF president.

The foundation owns part of the building where WAWG is housed. For growers who want to leave a legacy, an endowment to the foundation is one option to consider.

“If you want to give back to the industry, the Washington Wheat Foundation is a great vehicle to do that in,” Miller said.

More information about the foundation can be found at wawheat.org or at (509) 659-1987. ■

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2023 AMMO Recap

China, conflict, capital all impacting markets

By Trista Crossley

Editor, *Wheat Life*

The back end of the 2023 Agricultural Marketing and Management Organization's winter schedule was heavy on marketing seminars, a perennial favorite topic of growers. **Rob Froom**, senior central hedge desk manager at United Grain Corporation, kicked it off in Colfax, Wash., where he told producers there are a lot of balls in the air with no one, clear, day-to-day driver of commodity prices. There are four "C"s, though, that are currently driving the market:

- **China.** During COVID-19, Chinese leaders locked everything down so people weren't consuming as much. The country has opened up, recently, which is bullish because they are importing more and citizens are traveling again.
- **Conflict.** Primarily the Ukraine/Russia war, but Froom is also concerned about a potential conflict between Taiwan and China. He explained that a Taiwan/China conflict would be very negative for the U.S., because China is a major importer of corn and soybeans. "If China and Taiwan butt heads and we start sanctioning Chinese companies and they say they are not going to buy U.S. commodities, that would impact wheat prices," he explained.
- **Capital.** Online trading, Froom said, has opened the door for algorithmic traders who don't care about fundamentals. The withdrawal of stimulus money and inflation are also factors.



- **Capacity.** On the West Coast, there's too much export capacity and not enough business. Farm capacity is also an issue, with Froom questioning how much grain is in home storage.

World GDP growth has slowed, and the U.S. is fighting inflation thanks to supply and labor issues. Froom expects interest rates to remain high for the rest of the year as the Feds try to slow inflation.

"Not only the U.S., everybody has struggled with this," he said. He suggested that growers keep an eye on crude oil prices as they tend to correlate with corn and wheat prices. Although it's not a one-to-one basis, when the price of crude goes down, generally, so do corn and wheat prices.

While China is a big driver of the wheat market, Froom called Russia the "800-pound gorilla" in the room as it's the world benchmark of wheat prices.

"If their prices are going lower, so is the rest of the world," he said. "As long as grain is flowing out of the Black Sea, I'm telling producers they need to reward rallies."

In 2022, Russia grew a "monster" crop, the largest wheat crop in their history at 102 million metric tons (mmt). They've got an estimated 100 mmt in storage. He is watching weather in the region as it's been dry for the past 30 days.

"So even if they have a super severe drought this spring/summer and they have a small production, they have enough carryover stocks to keep weighing on the wheat market. As this drought gets worse, yes, that's going to open the door for some short covering rallies in wheat futures," he said.

Looking to the Southern Hemisphere, Australia has also just finished harvesting a monster crop, the biggest on record, but extremely wet weather meant about 6 mmt went to feed, which is impacting the U.S. corn market as the feed

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The Driver of Commodity Prices

China: bullish reopening or bearish

Conflict:

- worst over in the Black Sea?
- Taiwan – China conflict?
 - China is a massive importer of US commodities
 - China is watching Russia's mistakes, and how US reacts

Capital:

- Withdrawal of monetary stimulus.
- Spec flows in & out of Ag sector, inflation

Capacity:

- Elevation capacity issues – Russia, US, Australia, Brazil.
- Farm Storage issues

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wheat is cheaper than corn right now. Australia is also maxed out on capacity at its export terminals. Argentina had a small crop due to drought, which is also affecting corn and soybeans.

The U.S. market share is trending lower, while other countries' market share has been increasing. Declining stocks and a high U.S. dollar are pushing exports down. Froom said the U.S. Department of Agriculture's export target is the lowest it's been since 1972, which tells him the market is range bound. Looking specifically at soft white wheat, stocks to usage is tight, at 15.7%, which will be supportive of U.S. soft white wheat prices.

Going forward, he recommended that growers:

- Focus on what's in front of them and recognize the environment they are in (is the market focused on bullish enthusiasm or bearish data?).
- Recognize the price range we are in and participate when rallies come.
- Pay attention to the seasonal.

In order for wheat to trend bullish, the market needs corn leadership, production problems somewhere around the world, and logistic problems or war.

"Add it all up, that tells me, the market is range bound. When it does get to the top end, we really want to be setting a floor out there, rewarding the rallies when they come and being realistic about marketing grain," Froom said. "When the landscape changes, we will reassess, because this is a dynamic environment. This is why we scale up, diversify and want to 'build a price, not pick one.'"

See page 28 for Allison Thompson's take on the current market. Thompson is a commodity broker/market analyst and owner of The Money Farm. ■

2023 AMMO Recap

Headlines keep market volatility churning

By Trista Crossley

Editor, *Wheat Life*

On one of the snowiest days so far this year, 34 growers made the trek to Spokane to hear **Allison Thompson**, market analyst and owner of The Money Farm, talk about the markets as part of the Agricultural Market and Management Organization's 2023 winter schedule.

Thompson highlighted the market's volatility, telling growers, "There are definitely many moving headlines, not only here in the U.S., but also globally, so make sure you are keeping those in mind when you are doing your grain marketing this next year."

There are four main factors playing a role in the market's volatility:

- **The economy.** Although inflation has come down recently, it is still relatively high. Thompson pointed out that there have been eight interest rate increases since March 2022 with talk of several more through June of this year. The high U.S. dollar is also lowering demand for U.S. grain.
- **Energy markets.** According to Thompson, the forecast through the first half of 2023 is oil supply will meet demand, but if China's economy comes back, it could cause a deficit. In addition, the Biden Administration has said it will release more oil from the U.S. strategic reserves, which will take the reserves to a 40-year low. Russia has said it will lower crude oil production to help oil prices within the country, but OPEC hasn't given any indication about making production changes going forward.
- **Geopolitical headlines.** Thompson said the wheat market has been susceptible to any headlines on the Russia/Ukraine war, especially in regards to the export agreement, which was set to expire March 18. "Even with the Russia/Ukraine deal likely going forward, it's just such a major part of what's influenced our markets for so long this year that when we start seeing those headlines dissipate, markets are likely just going to fall on that news alone, regardless of what the fundamentals do," she explained. The other big geopolitical headline is supply and demand issues from China, which is just starting to open up from COVID-19 and dealing with its own potential inflation issues. During COVID-19, the country went through much of its grain reserves, which will need to be restocked. Thompson said they'll either come to the U.S. or to South America to purchase grain.



- **Weather.** The world's focus has shifted to the Southern Hemisphere as they wrap up their harvest. Argentina has been very dry, hitting an eight-year low on production this year. Their main export partner is Brazil, so much of their crop tends to stay in South America. Australia, the world's third largest wheat exporter, had another year of record production, but extremely wet weather means a large part of their crop will likely become feed wheat. One of Australia's biggest issues is shipping capacity at their ports and terminals; there's some talk that they could run out of capacity as the crop comes in.

The overall outlook is that there is record high global wheat production, but that's coupled with demand that has been trending higher since 2020, something Thompson didn't think was going to change. In addition, the U.S. is looking at a 15-year low for wheat ending stocks, which is keeping U.S. prices high. Argentina and Canada are in the same boat due to their production issues.

"There's a lot of talk out there that high prices cure demand. I don't believe that. We've never seen demand go down, and I don't think it's going to," she said. "My fear is the market is maybe getting used to that (high prices). Everywhere in the world can grow wheat, so it isn't so reliant on us, and I think the world is starting to realize that as well. For quality wheat, I think the U.S. is on top of that on the global marketplace, but as of right now, the world just wants cheap wheat, and we are not it." ►

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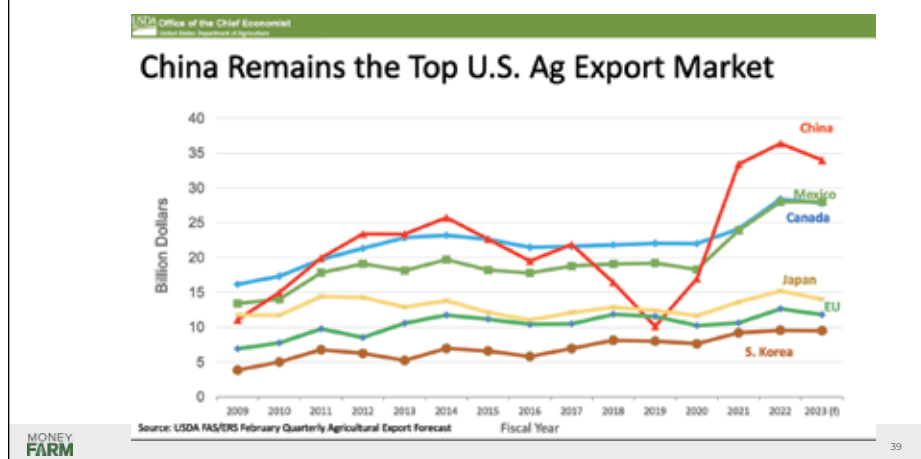
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Looking forward, Thompson's recommendations include keeping an eye on corn. If the market is able to hold support on corn futures, she thinks wheat has a chance to hold onto support as well. She said the Chicago market is the "ugliest" of all wheat markets, as it had been hitting new lows recently at the end of February, and "wherever Chicago goes, Minneapolis and Kansas City wheat are likely to follow." She was hopeful, though, that the market was near the bottom and would start heading up.

"When we get a good 20 cent rally — and it will come — that's when you reward the market, and that's when you make that sale," she advised.

Looking specifically at soft white wheat, she said basis has gotten a little better, but futures had fallen. She told growers to have orders on

2023 Geopolitics



both sides of the market to try to reduce risk. She also advised growers to lock in input costs, if they could, and start looking at 2024 input needs.

"We've had a lot of change in the markets in the last couple of days. When we are getting down days, it's even more important to be talking about the market. It's obviously very volatile," she said.

See page 24 for Rob Froom's take on the current market. Froom is a senior central hedge desk manager at United Grain Corporation. ■



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2023 AMMO Recap

CRP rates, IRA funds focus of grower seminar

By Trista Crossley
Editor, *Wheat Life*

The final Agricultural Marketing and Management Organization's seminar for the 2023 winter schedule focused on the latest updates from the Washington state offices of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The seminar was held in Spokane and then repeated the next day in Pasco.

In Spokane, Jon Wyss, the FSA state executive director, introduced the spreadsheet to end all spreadsheets, at least for growers looking to estimate Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) payments. The spreadsheet, which Wyss has been working on for the past year, takes into account information from various sources, including the Risk Management Agency (RMA), conservation districts and farm credit services. It uses RMA's five-year T-yield average, inflation averages and crop share information. The result is a Washington state average rental rate recommendation solidly supported by U.S. Department of Agriculture data. The national office will send out the official average rental rates that will be used after reviewing the suggested averages from Washington.

"The beauty of this is I can give this to you now, and all you have to do is change the T-yield rate for 2023, and it will recalculate. You'll know what we are going to submit for the estimated average for the following year's CRP. You'll be able to do your estimated business planning

without waiting for us," Wyss told growers. "We've eliminated the guessing game for you. Hopefully this brings you some business continuity."

Wyss also pointed out that when the rental rate proposed by the national office exceeds the recommended rental rate generated by the spreadsheet, the Washington state office will defer to the higher rate.

Producers will need to subscribe to updates at fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Washington/index (at the bottom) to get a copy of the spreadsheet when it is released. The spreadsheet will also be released to commodity associations who can forward it to their members.

Wyss also reviewed Phase 2 of the Emergency Relief Program (ERP), which is accepting applications now through June 2, 2023. ERP is a revenue-based program for producers who suffered crop losses in 2020 and 2021 due to qualifying disasters such as drought, derecho, flooding, winter storm or wildfire. Phase 2 is open to producers who didn't have crop insurance or didn't qualify under Phase 1. If one crop suffered from a loss due to a qualifying event, revenue from all eligible crops are considered. Producers will self-certify that they experienced a decrease in allowable gross revenue and are subject to certification spot checks. Wyss cautioned producers that if they participate in the program, they will be required to buy crop insurance for the next two years, either noninsured crop disaster assistance (NAP) or insurance equal to the value



Jon Wyss (above, left), Farm Service Agency (FSA) state executive director, and David Rose, western area conservationist for the Washington State Natural Resources Conservation Service, closed out the Agricultural Marketing and Management Organization's 2023 winter schedule by updating growers on their respective agencies during a seminar in Spokane, Wash. The seminar was repeated the next day in Pasco, Wash., with Bruce Clatterbuck, FSA's Franklin County executive director, presenting instead of Wyss.



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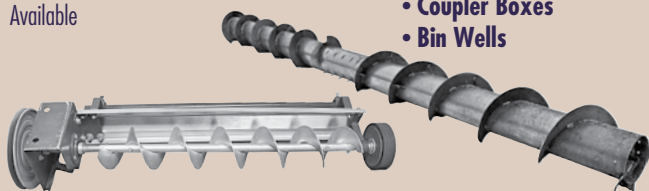


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Wrapping up his presentation, Wyss took a few minutes to ask growers what the Washington state FSA office could be doing better? Growers were concerned about staff in county offices, as well as the need to fill out the same forms repeatedly. Wyss acknowledged those frustrations and told growers he was working on them. He gave growers his direct line (509-323-3003) and told them not to hesitate to contact him.

"If you are working and you need something, I am working, because my job is to take care of you," he said.

Both sessions were closed out by David Rose, western area conservationist for the Washington state NRCS, who covered NRCS's plans for the influx of Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding that is coming the agency's way starting in fiscal year 2023. Rose was filling in for Roylene Comes At Night, NRCS state conservationist. Much of the funding will be invested into the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). These funds are separate from farm bill

funds and will generally be more limited in the practices available and the resource concerns addressed.

Rose also covered Washington-NRCS's new voluntary Riparian Buffer Program, which will pay producers based on the type of riparian buffer installed and the width of the buffer, as well as an option to compensate producers for the crop income lost due to the buffer. He urged producers to contact their local field office to get program specifics and to start the process early, as conservation planning is needed for any application before it can be considered for funding.

To find more information on the Riparian Buffer Program, scan the QR code above with a smart phone camera or go to nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-02/230201WA-FY23-Riparian-Buffer-Program.pdf. ■


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WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION

By Ben Barstow



A major part of the Washington Grain Commission (WGC) annual budget is marketing. Since nearly 90% of our state's wheat is exported, we focus on selling our wheat in international markets. We do this through our support of, and close working relationship with, U.S. Wheat Associates (USW).

We work with USW because it allows us to leverage U.S. Department of Agriculture funding from the Foreign Market Development Program (FMD) and the Market Access Program (MAP). According to USW, the contributions of USW member commissions, combined with those from all the MAP and FMD cooperating organizations, represent more than 70% of total export market development program funding in recent years.

You may be asking why WGC puts so much of its marketing effort into a national organization (USW), and why aren't we promoting "Washington" wheat? The answer is that companies and organizations that order wheat literally by the boatload don't specify source by elevator, county or even state level. If they're in the market for soft white wheat, then the contracts are sourced regionally, from the Pacific Northwest (PNW). This is good, because if Almira has a tough year for quality, Pendleton may be able to make up for it, so that year-over-year, our international customers can still rely on a consistent, high-quality product.

I've seen first hand how our investment in USW pays off. The first time I toured the Portland Wheat Marketing Center (2005) we were talking about how all our customers were using a machine called an alveograph to evaluate flour quality and that wheat from our Australian competitors tended to look good on the alveograph.

By 2021, our customers had mostly changed to, or at least added, another quality measure, Solvent Retention Capacity (SRC), to evaluate flour. They changed because the USW staff taught them that for a lot of their products, the products in which PNW soft white wheat really shines, SRC is a better predictor of end-product quality than the old alveograph. Long before my time on the WGC, the commission learned that the Philippine USW office needed equipment to help demonstrate the advantages of using SRC and donated

the needed equipment. Now, eight of the 15 or so mills in the Philippines have their own SRC machines, and SRC measurements clearly demonstrate the benefits of using soft white wheat for their products. The Philippine millers now buy most of their wheat from us.

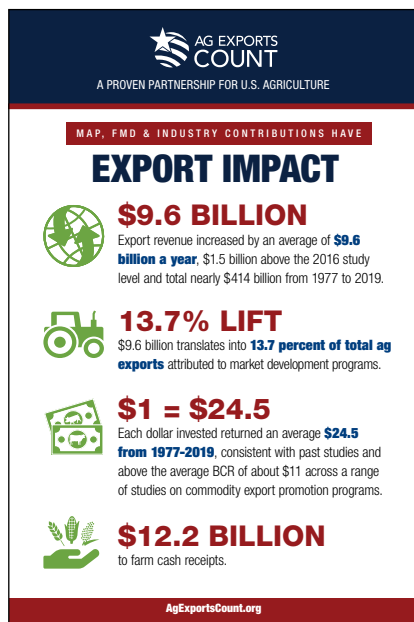
If you want to see your assessment dollars in action, watch for the 2024 season of the Washington Grown TV series, and you'll be able to see U.S. soft white wheat in the Vietnam market. Our wheat is there because of long-term market development activities coordinated by USW staff working on our behalf with the millers and bakers.

We grow wheat, but most of us have never seen it commercially milled into flour or baked, and we have a hard time understanding just how important wheat quality is to our markets. To our customers, the people around the world who turn our wheat into flour and bake it into cakes, cookies, crackers, pancakes, noodles and other things, quality often comes down to a very simple, fundamental fact: the cookie must fit the package.

The quality of the wheat determines how much the cookie raises and spreads out when it is baked. If it spreads too much, it won't fit in the wrapper. If it doesn't spread enough, it will be too small and will rattle around in the packaging and break, and no one in the world wants their cookies crumbled.

The cookie has to fit the package, and if it doesn't, the baker has to adjust the formulation, all the while keeping the package weight within tolerances and not changing the labeled ingredients. Their job is hard enough without that, and consumers worldwide do not want labels with a lot of multisyllable words that had to be added because the cookies would not fit the package without additives to make up for poor quality flour.

So, yes, the Preferred Wheat Varieties brochure in this *Wheat Life* edition is actually about marketing. Give it a look so we can all do our best to make the cookies and crackers fit the package, the cakes go in their boxes, the noodles have the right color and texture, and the pancakes fit the McDonalds trays. We may not always be able, as individuals, to see quality giving us a better price, but only livestock eats the wheat if the cookies don't fit the package. ■



2023 quality rankings published

TESTING FOR SIX COMPONENTS KEEPS PACIFIC NORTHWEST VARIETIES IN TOP FORM

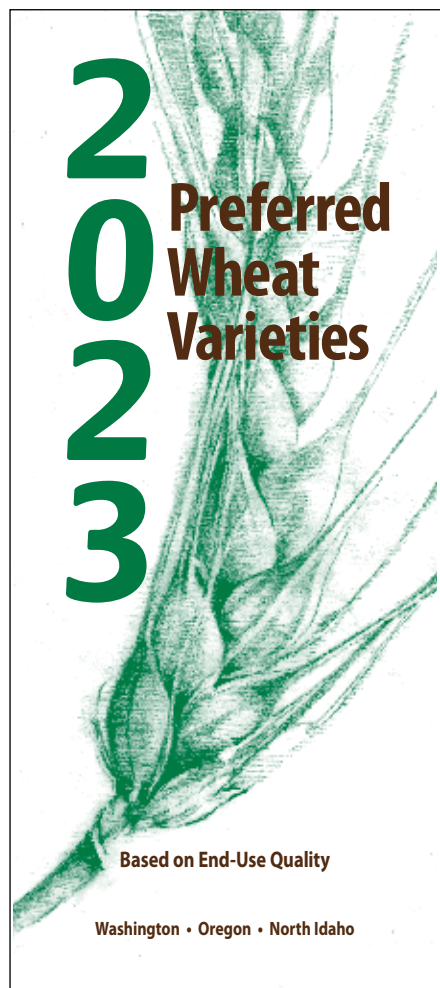
The Washington Grain Commission is pleased to provide the 2023 wheat quality rankings for the Pacific Northwest.

The Preferred Wheat Varieties publication ranks Eastern Washington, Oregon and Northern Idaho wheat varieties using six components to evaluate quality. Washington was the first state in the U.S. to rank varieties for quality, with Oregon and Idaho joining the effort soon after.

The new entries for soft white winter wheat are Nimbus, Jameson and AP Exceed, all rated Most Desirable, and LCS Jefe and Inspire, both rated Desirable. There were two hard red winter entries, Guardian, Most Desirable, and LCS Helix AX, Acceptable. There was one new spring club entry, Roger, rated Most Desirable. It was a better crop year in 2022 than 2021, which allowed more locations to be tested as they met market class standards. With nearly all the new entries at the Desirable and Most Desirable levels, we continue to hold steady with the high quality in the Pacific Northwest that our customers expect and appreciate.

These rankings are based on the results of the G&E quality testing conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Western Wheat Quality Laboratory, the Washington State University Wheat Quality Program, the University of Idaho Wheat Quality Laboratory, and the Oregon State University Cereal Quality Laboratory, including relevant breeding nurseries.

The quality scores presented here reflect a minimum of three years' data in the G&E Study, using a reference variety for each class. Therefore, varieties may be in



commercial production before they are included in the list. The list is reviewed annually and includes the top varieties currently in production.

End-use quality determinations were based on results from grain, milling and product quality tests. The Most Desirable ranking characterizes varieties that have high test weights, appropriate protein content (kernel properties) and excellent milling and end-use properties. Desirable ranked varieties range from good to very good kernel, milling, and end-use qualities. Acceptable varieties have qualities ranging from acceptable to good and may contain potential minor flaws but are acceptable in international trade.

Of the components used in evaluating quality, 10% of the score is assigned to a variety's test weight and protein, while milling attributes receive 30% of the focus. The largest consideration is end-use functionality (baking performance), where 60% of a variety's score is assigned. The scores are reviewed yearly, as new data becomes available, and are subject to

change. Varieties not listed have not been tested or have less than three years of data. For complete results, please visit the website at wwql.wsu.edu.

All classes have shown improvements in quality since the G&E study first began gathering data in 1997. The Preferred Wheat Varieties list is provided courtesy of the three Pacific Northwest wheat commissions: the Washington Grain Commission, the Oregon Wheat Commission, and the Idaho Wheat Commission. ■

Alica Kiszonas, U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service Research biologist, contributed to this article.

2023 Quality Rankings

Varieties are listed by statistical quality rankings by class. When making a decision between varieties with similar agronomic characteristics and grain yield potential, choose the variety with the higher quality ranking. This will help to increase the overall quality and desirability of Pacific Northwest (PNW) wheat.

Most Desirable (MD) — These varieties generally have high test weights, appropriate protein content (kernel properties), and excellent milling and end-use properties.

Desirable (D) — The kernel, milling, and end-use qualities of these varieties range from good to very good. The quality attributes of these varieties are desirable in international trade.

Acceptable (A) — The kernel, milling, and end-use qualities of these varieties range from acceptable to good. Individual varieties may possess minor flaws. The quality attributes of these varieties are acceptable in international trade.

Least Desirable (LD) — These varieties have displayed low quality characteristics for this class of wheat. The intrinsic quality of PNW wheat will be improved if these varieties are not planted.

SOFT WHITE WINTER

VI Frost	LCS/UI	MD
YSC-215	YSC	MD
Sockeye CL+	WSU	MD
Bobtail	OSU	MD
Jasper	WSU	MD
LCS Shine	LCS	MD
YSC-201	YSC	MD
Nixon	OSU	MD
Nimbus	OSU	MD
Jameson	WSU	MD
AP Exceed	AP/SY	MD
Puma	WSU	MD
LCS Jefe	LCS	D
Piranha CL+	WSU	D
VI Bulldog	LCS/UI	D
OR2X2 CLP	OSU	D
LCS Shark	LCS	D
VI Presto CL+	LCS/UI	D
Devote	WSU	D
UI Magic CL+	UI	D

SY Ovation	AP/SY	D
LCS Drive	LCS	D
Appleby CL+	OSU	D
Norwest Duet	OSU/LCS	D
UI Sparrow	UI	D
Eltan	WSU	D
Stingray CL+	WSU	D
LCS Blackjack	LCS	D
VI Voodoo CL+	LCS/UI	D
SY Assure	AP/SY	D
TMC M-Press	TMC	D
Otto	WSU	D
Resilience CL+	WSU	D
Inspire	WSU	D
Stephens	OSU	D
LCS Hulk	LCS	A
SY Dayton	AP/SY	A
AP Dynamic	AP/SY	A
AP Iliad	AP/SY	A
LCS Artdeco	LCS	A
WB1532	WB	A
WB1604	WB	A
Madsen	ARS	A
Curiosity CL+	WSU	A
Norwest Tandem	OSU/LCS	A
Purl	WSU	A
Rosalyn	OSU	A
Mela CL+	WSU	A
Xerpha	WSU	LD
WB1529	WB	LD
WB1376CLP	WB	LD
WB1783	WB	LD

SOFT WHITE SPRING

Tekoa	WSU	MD
Diva	WSU	MD
WB6341	WB	MD
Louise	WSU	MD
UI Cookie	UI	MD
Alturas	UI	MD
AP Mondovi CL2	AP/SY	MD
Ryan	WSU	MD
Seahawk	WSU	MD
WB6121	WB	D

HARD RED WINTER

Guardian	PG	MD
Scorpio	WSU	MD
Sequoia	WSU	D
WB4311	WB	D
SY Touchstone	AP/SY	D
Keldin	WB	D

LCS Jet	LCS	A
WB4303	WB	A
WB4623CLP	WB	A
LCS Evina	LCS	A
LCS Rocket	LCS	A
WB4394	WB	A
LCS Helix AX	LCS	A

HARD RED SPRING

Guardian	PG	MD
Scorpio	WSU	MD
Sequoia	WSU	D
WB4311	WB	D
SY Touchstone	AP/SY	D
Keldin	WB	D
LCS Jet	LCS	A
WB4303	WB	A
WB4623CLP	WB	A
LCS Evina	LCS	A
LCS Rocket	LCS	A
WB4394	WB	A
LCS Helix AX	LCS	A

HARD WHITE WINTER

UI Silver	UI	MD
Millie	OSU	MD
Irv	OSU	MD
Earl	WSU	A

HARD WHITE SPRING

UI Platinum	UI	MD
WB-Hartline	WB	D
Dayn	WSU	D

WINTER CLUB

ARS Cameo	ARS	MD
Castella	ARS	MD
ARS Crescent	ARS	MD
Cara	ARS	MD
ARS Pritchett	ARS	D
Bruehl	WSU	D

SPRING CLUB

Roger	WSU	MD
Melba	WSU	MD
JD	WSU	MD
Hedge CL+	WSU	MD

AP/SY .AgriPro/Syngenta
ARS .Agricultural Research Service
LCS .Limagrain Cereal Seeds
OSU .Oregon State University

PG .PlainsGold
TMC .The McGregor Company
UI .University of Idaho
WB .WestBred/Bayer Crop Sciences

WSU .Washington State University
YS .Yield Star Cereals

* Hard white wheats are scored for export quality requirements such as bread quality and potential noodle quality.

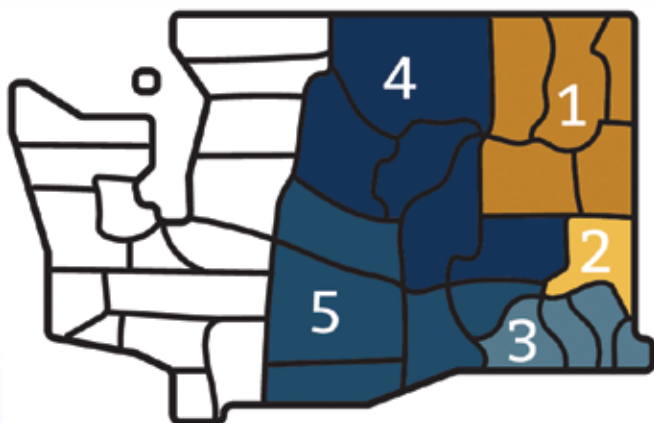
** Analysis parameters for dough mixing strength have been modified to better reflect suitability in commercial bakeries. Quality designations of the strongest and weakest mixing lines have changed because of this.

Meet your WGC commissioners

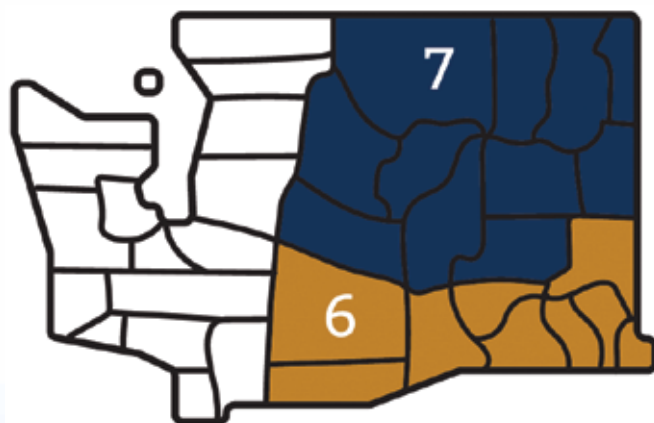
The Washington Grain Commission (WGC) was created in 1958 by the Washington State Department of Agriculture with the support of Eastern Washington farmers. Barley came under the organization in 2009.

Our mission is to enhance the long-term profitability and competitiveness of Washington small grains and small grain producers through research, marketing and education. The current commission board is made up of seven farmer members, two industry representatives and a representative of the state's Department of Agriculture.

Washington Wheat Districts



Washington Barley Districts



Wheat District 1: Mike Carstensen

*Ferry, Lincoln, Pend Oreille,
Spokane and Stevens counties*

Mike Carstensen is the wheat representative for five counties that make up the northeast corner of the state. Mike also serves on the U.S. Wheat Associates board of directors and the National Wheat Improvement Committee. He received a bachelor's degree in business management and accounting from Whitworth University and an MBA with an emphasis in economics from the University of Phoenix. He worked for what is now AgWest Farm Credit before returning to the family farm full time in 1985. Mike and his wife, Lorie, farm with their son, Justin. Their dryland farm receives about 12 inches of precipitation annually and is in a three-year rotation raising soft white wheat, club wheat and feed grains, using a high-level mulch till and direct seed. Mike serves on the boards of HighLine Grain Growers, Inc., a cooperative grain handler; Tri-Cities Grain, a barge loading river terminal; and the Lincoln County Conservation District. He and Lorie have three sons.



Wheat District 2: Gary Bailey

Whitman County

Gary Bailey is the wheat representative for Whitman County, the nation's leading wheat-producing county. Gary also serves on the U.S. Wheat Associates board of directors. He received a bachelor's degree in business and agriculture from the University of Idaho. He worked for what is now AgWest Farm Credit before returning to the farm in 1989. Gary grew up in the town of St. John and joined the family farm, LM Farms JV, as his father transitioned into retirement. He raises winter wheat, spring wheat and barley with his brother, Mark, and niece, Erin. He serves on Washington State University's Land Legacy Committee and the board of directors for St. John TelCo. He and his wife, Linda, have three sons and 11 grandchildren.



Wheat District 3: Brit Ausman

*Asotin, Columbia, Garfield
and Walla Walla counties*

Brit Ausman is the wheat representative for four counties that make up the southeast corner of the state. He received a bachelor's degree in agribusiness from the University of Idaho. Brit is a fifth-generation farmer who grows fall and spring wheat and spring barley in Asotin County. He also operates a trucking company that exclusively hauls grain. Brit serves on the board of directors for the Wheat Marketing Center and is a school board member for the Asotin-Anatone School District. Brit and his wife, Deborah, have two children.



Wheat District 5: Brian Cochran

*Benton, Franklin, Kittitas,
Klickitat and Yakima counties*

Brian Cochran is the wheat representative for five counties that make up the south-central region of the state. He received a bachelor's degree from the U.S. Air Force Academy and a master's degree from the University of Southern California. He flew for 23 years with the U.S. Air Force before returning to his family's fourth-generation farm in 2007 to farm with his brother. Their summer fallow farm is in one of the driest regions of the state, with average annual precipitation between 8 and 10 inches. Brian serves as a trustee to the Franklin County Mosquito Board, as well as a supervisor on the Franklin County Conservation District. He has two brothers.



Wheat District 4: Mike Miller

*Adams, Chelan, Douglas,
Grant and Okanogan counties*

Mike Miller is the wheat representative for the north-central region of the state. Mike grew up in Eastern Washington and is a fourth-generation dryland and irrigated farmer near the town of Ritzville, an area that receives around 9 to 10 inches of annual rainfall. He and his wife, Marci, own and manage a small marketing firm, Washington Genetics, which supports growers and the agribusiness industry of the Pacific Northwest. Mike serves on many different state, national and international committees and advisory boards. He is a past-chairman of U.S. Wheat Associates. Mike and Marci have three children.



Barley District 6: Ben Barstow

*Asotin, Benton, Columbia,
Franklin, Garfield, Klickitat,
Walla Walla, Whitman and
Yakima counties*

Ben Barstow is one of two barley representatives and currently serves as WGC chairman. He received a bachelor's degree in plant protection from the University of Idaho and a master's degree in entomology from Purdue University. He worked in cooperative Extension at the University of Arizona and then the University of Idaho before starting his farming career in 1993. Ben and his wife, Janet, grow soft white club wheat annually, along with rotations of barley, dry peas and garbanzo beans. He serves on the board for Palouse Grain Growers and as a commissioner for the Palouse Rural Fire District #4. Ben and Janet have two children and five grandchildren.



For more information on the Washington Association of Wheat Growers and the Washington Wheat Foundation, the other two organizations that help support the Washington wheat industry, see page 20.

Barley District 7: Kevin Klein

*Adams, Chelan, Douglas,
Ferry, Grant, Kittitas, Lincoln,
Okanogan, Pend Oreille,
Spokane and Stevens counties*

Kevin Klein is the second barley representative and currently serves as WGC vice chairman. He received a bachelor's degree in construction management and a minor in business from John Brown University. Kevin grows spring crops, mostly wheat, barley and canola, using direct-seeding with around 13 inches of annual rainfall. He also manages a three-year rotation using conventional minimal tillage with less than 12 inches of annual rainfall. Kevin and his wife, Karen, have three children.



Industry Representative: Ty Jessup

Ty Jessup is one of two grain industry representatives and currently serves as WGC treasurer. Ty was raised and educated in the agricultural community. He received his bachelor's degree in agribusiness from Washington State University. He has held various positions within the petroleum, agronomy and small grains industries and has worked with all modes of transportation, which includes truck, rail and barge. Ty is currently the merchandising manager for HighLine Grain Growers, Inc., based in Waterville. He and his wife, Tanya, have two children.



Industry Representative: Brian Liedl

Brian Liedl is the second grain industry representative for the WGC. He received a bachelor's degree from St. John's University in Minnesota and started his career at the Minneapolis Grain Exchange as a licensed broker and wheat market analyst. Brian joined United Grain Corporation, a bulk grain export company located in Vancouver, Wash., in 2011, where he served as a merchant and then ran both of UGC's hard red winter and soft white wheat programs. Brian became the director of merchandising for UGC in 2020. Brian and his wife, Kristin, have one daughter.



Washington State Department of Agriculture Representative: Scott Steinbacher

Scott Steinbacher is the appointed Washington State Dept. of Agriculture representative on the WGC. Scott is originally from Fort Benton, Mont. He received a bachelor's degree in business administration from Montana State University-Billings and holds Federal Grain Inspection Service licenses to inspect several commodities. Scott has been with WSDA since 2011. He is currently the program manager for the Warehouse Audit Program and the eastern regional manager for the Grain Inspection Program. Scott and his wife, Tawni, have three children. ■



Alison Thompson returns

NEW HIRE AT USDA-ARS IN PULLMAN JOINS THE EFFORT TO CONFRONT LOW FALLING NUMBERS

If you were to ask **Alison Thompson**, she would say Pullman is the perfect place to study wheat and barley.

"It's a great location, not only because of the university and ongoing collaboration with USDA, but because of the stakeholder engagement and continued support by the Washington Grain Commission," Thompson said.



Since 2015, Thompson has been working as a plant geneticist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) at its Plant Physiology and Genetics Unit in Maricopa, Ariz. Her research has focused on developing and validating field-based, high-throughput phenotyping methods and data processing pipelines for the cotton prebreeding program. But her scientific work has not always focused on cotton.

The USDA-ARS objective is to deliver scientific solutions to American farmers, producers, industry and communities to address national and global agricultural challenges. ARS laboratories across five regions of the country provide the fundamental and field research to support this aim.

The Wheat Health, Genetics and Quality Research Unit, based in Pullman, is part of the Pacific West Area of the USDA-ARS. Thompson was recently hired to this team as a research biologist to work on the low falling numbers problem in wheat, as well as characterize adaptation responses of wheat and barley to changing environmental conditions.

"Alison's research experience and expertise are a tremendous asset to the research unit's work on falling numbers in wheat, and we are very happy that she decided to return to Pullman," said David Weller, research plant pathologist and USDA-ARS unit leader in Pullman.

"Wheat has always been a part of my life, and I wanted to work with it again in a way that would benefit my family and community," Thompson said. What attracted her to the job in Pullman? Several things, she says. "The crop, the location, and the team."

Thompson was born and raised in Pendleton, Ore., where her family grows wheat. She received a bachelor's degree in biology from Seattle Pacific University, and her Ph.D. in crop science from Washington State University (WSU). Her graduate work focused on identifying and developing wheat germplasm with resistance to root lesion nematodes and other soil-borne pathogens common to the Pacific Northwest. Following her Ph.D., she served as a postdoctoral research assistant in the crop and soils department at WSU, where she studied the biochemical mechanisms of resistance in wheat against soil-borne pathogens. From there she landed at USDA in Arizona studying cotton.

"I'm hoping I can take what I learned during my time in Arizona and apply it to provide solutions for low falling numbers and other problems associated with changing environmental conditions, to our stakeholders," Thompson said. "I already knew about the excellent team that is in place here. I am excited to be able to work with them again and bring something new to the team."

She also hopes to develop an integrated program with stakeholders, breeders and other researchers that identifies potential problems early on, "so we have solutions ready to go.

"Overall, I hope to be part of a team that enables our growers to produce excellent quality grain for export on the global market and fosters strong relationships within our community," she said.

Thompson anticipates engaging and collaborating with Washington's wheat and barley growers through grower-attended meetings, tours and workshops organized by WSU and the Washington Grain Commission. For example, she plans on participating in field days and grower tours held during the early summer months this year.

"In the future, I hope to be invited to growers' fields to learn about their operations and future needs and maybe even conduct some experiments on their farms. I would encourage growers to email me and introduce themselves or would be happy to meet them at a field experiment location to talk," Thompson said. She can be reached at alison.thompson@usda.gov. ■

A tribute to Mark Fowler

SUDDEN PASSING OF USW VICE PRESIDENT SENDS SHOCKWAVE THROUGH INDUSTRY

The Washington Grain Commission (WGC) adds its sincere condolences to those of U.S. Wheat Associates (USW), Kansas Wheat and the entire U.S. wheat industry in response to the news of the sudden passing of Mark Fowler at his home in Manhattan, Kan., on Feb. 20, 2023. Mark was 52 years old.

“Mark’s passing is a great personal and professional loss for our organization and the wheat farmers we serve,” said USW President Vince Peterson. “Mark embraced his work and our mission with enthusiasm; as a result, our technical experts are better equipped and motivated partners for our many customers across the world. Our most sincere sympathy goes out to Mark’s family and to the wheat community he loved.”

Mark joined USW in 2017 and was its vice president of global technical services.

“His impact on the milling industry will certainly live on. However, I will remember him for his quick smile, genuine interest in others, our shared love of finding the best new restaurant, and mostly the love for his family. Mark was immensely proud of his wife and two daughters, who he spoke of often and clearly counted as his biggest accomplishment. Mark was a wonderful person who will be fondly remembered by so many friends,” said WGC CEO Casey Chumrau.

Mark Fowler grew up on his family’s farm near Emporia, Kan. He earned a bachelor’s degree in milling science and management from Kansas State University (KSU) and later returned to complete a master’s degree in agricultural economics.



Mark Fowler (in back) with colleagues Ady Redondo, USW Manila; David Oh, USW Seoul; Roy Chung, USW Singapore; Marcelo Mitre, USW Mexico City; Joe Bippert, USW Manila; and Wei-Lin Chou, USW Taipei, during a Washington Grain Commission reception at the Wheat Marketing Center in Portland, Ore., in 2022.

His career began as a flour miller, first for Cargill Inc. and then Seaboard Corp. In those roles, Mark ran flour mills, worked on projects in several developing countries, including Ecuador, Guyana and Haiti, and worked as a technical director of the Africa Division within Seaboard’s Overseas Group in Durban, South Africa. Later, he spent 12 years back at KSU as a milling specialist and associate director at the IGP Institute in the university’s grain science and industry department.

“This news is so sad and prayers to Mark’s family. Mark was so caring of how I learned at the milling course in Kansas. He was so passionate about how we growers of wheat must understand our importance in the milling and baking of wheat and feeding our world. He understood our lifestyle and importance to the wheat industry — a special and great person. Rest in peace, my friend!” said Brian Cochrane, a WGC commissioner.

As a highly respected flour milling expert, Mark also served as a technical milling consultant for USW, as well as the Northern Crops Institute, allowing him to become well acquainted with many USW staff and overseas customers.

Before joining USW, originally as vice president of overseas operations, Mark was the president and CEO of Farmer Direct Foods Inc., a farmer-owned, flour milling company in New Cambria, Kan.

“Throughout my career, I have experienced the global impact of the milling industry from several perspectives,” Mark said when he joined USW. “I am excited to engage with friends and colleagues in the industry to advance the U.S. wheat export market development mission.”

Mark is survived by his wife, Courtney; their daughters, Piper and Paige; his mother, Ruth Fowler; and his sisters, Rhonda (Scott) Gordon and Amy Fowler. Complete obituary and memorial information are available at robertsblue.com/obituary/mark-fowler. ■

Biographical information reprinted from the Feb. 22, 2023, USW Wheat Letter Blog.

Control of stripe rusts of wheat, barley

By Xianming Chen

*Research Plant Pathologist, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Research Service*

Stripe rust is one of the most destructive diseases of wheat, and barley stripe rust is also destructive in the Pacific Northwest (PNW). These two diseases are caused by different forms of the same fungal species. The degree of stripe rust damage is determined by the disease pressure, the levels of susceptibility or resistance to the disease in planted varieties, and the weather conditions. The diseases can be controlled through appropriate farming practices, planting resistant varieties, and using fungicides as needed.

Considering farming practices in stripe rust management, the general recommendation is using the best practices for the highest possible yield; avoid planting winter crops too early and planting spring crops too late; avoid excessive fertilizer; and avoid excessive irrigation.

Planting resistant varieties is the most effective, economic and environment-friendly approach to controlling stripe rust. Our research program has worked together with all public and private breeding programs to develop wheat and barley varieties resistant to stripe rust. Each year, we evaluate thousands of breeding lines for response to stripe rust. The nurseries from individual breeding programs are evaluated at Pullman in Eastern Washington, Mount Vernon in Western Washington, and recently, at Central Ferry under irrigation.

The field stripe rust data is used by individual breeding programs to eliminate susceptible materials and select materials for moving forward into the variety trial nurseries for further testing on diseases, yield, quality and other traits, or further improvement through crossing and selection. We collaborate with the Washington State University (WSU) Variety Testing Program for evaluating materials in the winter and spring variety trials of wheat and barley. The variety trial nurseries contain commercial varieties currently grown in the PNW and most advanced breeding lines from public and private breeding programs. We evaluated these nurseries in more field locations, including Lind and Walla Walla, in addition to the above-mentioned places. Based on the field data, each entry receives R (resistant), MR (moderately resistant), MS (moderately susceptible), or S (susceptible) category rating and a numeric rating in a 1 (most resistant) to 9 (most susceptible) scale. The numeric ratings for currently growing varieties are used in the seed buying guides as “stripe rust rating” for growers to select varieties.

In addition to the multiple-location field testing, we also test the variety trial nurseries under controlled greenhouse conditions using predominant races of the stripe rust pathogen in the seedling stage at the low-temperature profile (40-68 F) and in the adult-plant stage at the high-temperature profile (50-86 F). The data of the greenhouse testing allow us to determine if a variety or breeding line has one of two types of resistance or both: all-stage resistance, which is race-specific, and high-temperature adult-plant (HTAP) resistance, which is nonrace specific. Greenhouse testing data also allow us to determine the level of HTAP resistance. For breeding lines in the nurseries, the stripe rust category and numeric ratings, as well as the detailed stripe rust data in terms of infection type and severity in the field and greenhouse tests, are used to make decisions for releasing new varieties.

As an example, Table 1 (on page 46) shows the stripe rust summary for the wheat varieties and breeding lines in the 2022 WSU winter and spring wheat variety trial nurseries. In general, varieties receiving stripe rust ratings 1 or 2 do not need fungicide application under any levels of stripe rust epidemics, while those with ratings of 3 or more may or may not need fungicide application depending upon disease pressure. For releasing new varieties, the lower the stripe rust rating, the better, but the lines with ratings 5 to 6 should be carefully considered, whereas 7 to 9 should be avoided completely.

Varieties with stripe rust ratings 3 or higher have differences in yield loss under different levels of epidemics. To determine potential yield losses from stripe rust and increases of individual varieties, every year we conduct experiments with 23 winter and 23 spring wheat varieties selected based on their planting acreage in previous years, plus a susceptible check, in each nursery. The varieties were randomly arranged in a split-plot design with sprayed and nonsprayed plots side by side with four replications. Each crop nursery consists of 192 plots. Each plot was observed for stripe rust severity four to five times, starting just before the fungicide application at early jointing to soft dough stage. Grain test weight and yield were measured at harvest. Average values of relative Area Under the Disease Progress Curve (rAUD-PC), which was calculated from the multiple-time stripe rust severity data; test weight; and yield were compared between the sprayed and nonsprayed plots for each variety. The yield difference was used to determine the yield loss from stripe rust and yield increase by fungicide application and used to rate fungicide response (FR, not

Table 1. Stripe rust responses of wheat varieties/breeding lines of the WSU Winter and Spring Variety Trials in 2022

Variety or breeding line	Stripe rust response ^a		
	Category	Rating	HTAP resistance
Hard Red Winter			
Battle AX	S	9	Low
Canvas	S	8	Low
GHR10	MS	7	Low
Guardian	S	8	Low
Irv	MS	6	Moderate
Kairos	R	1	Low
Keldin	MS	6	Moderate
LCS Evina	R	1	High
LCS Helix AX	MS	6	Low
LCS Jet	MS	7	Low
LCS Rocket	R	1	High
LWH18-0122	R	3	Low
LWH19-0192	R	3	Low
LWH19-1103	MR	4	Moderate
LWH19-5663	R	2	Moderate
LWH19-5691	MR	5	Low
Millie	MR	4	Moderate
OR2160065H	R	3	High
OR2170052H	R	1	High
OR2170199R	R	1	Low
OR2190064R	MR	4	Low
PN13001002-04	MR	4	Low
Scorpio	MR	5	Low
Sequoia	MR	5	Low
Snowmass 2.0	S	9	Low
WA8309	R	1	High
WA8310	MR	4	Low
WA8318 CL+	R	1	Low
WA8338	R	1	Unknown
WA8340	R	1	High
WA8367	R	1	High
WA8368	MR	5	Low
WA8369	R	1	Moderate
WB4303	S	9	Low
WB4311	R	2	Moderate
WB4394	MR	3	Low
WB4510CLP	R	1	High
Whistler	S	9	Low
YSC-1001	MS	6	Low
YSC-1002	R	3	Moderate
Soft White Winter			
09PN118-02 CL2	MS	6	High
AP Dynamic	R	1	High
AP Exceed	R	2	High
AP Iliad	R	1	High
Appleby CL+	R	1	Moderate
ARS-Selbu 2.0	R	1	High
Bobtail	R	1	High
Brawl CL Plus	S	9	Low
Curiosity CL+	MS	7	Low
Devote	MS	6	Moderate
GS2	MS	6	Low
GS3	MS	6	Low
LCS Artdeco	MR	5	Moderate
LCS Blackjack	R	1	High
LCS Hulk	R	1	High
LCS Shine	R	1	High
LCS Sonic	R	2	High
LWW17-5877	R	1	High
LWW17-8185	R	1	High
LWW19-1576	R	1	Unknown
LWW19-2232	R	1	High
LWW19-5862	R	1	High
LWW19-6219	R	1	High
LWW19-6591	R	1	High
Mela CL+	MS	7	Low
M-press	R	1	Moderate
Nixon	R	1	High
Hard Red Spring			
Norwest Duet	R	1	High
Norwest Tandem	R	1	High
OR2130755	R	1	High
OR2160243	R	1	High
OR2160264	R	1	High
OR2170559	R	1	Low
OR2180149	R	2	Low
OR2180377	R	1	High
OR2190025 CL+	R	1	High
OR2190027 CL+	R	1	High
OR2x2	R	1	High
OR5180071	R	1	Moderate
Otto	MR	5	Moderate
Piranha CL+	R	3	Moderate
Pritchett	R	3	Moderate
Purl	R	1	Moderate
Resilience CL+	R	1	High
Rosalyn	R	2	High
Sockeye CL+	R	1	High
Stephens	MR	5	Low
Stingray CL+	R	1	High
SY Assure	R	1	High
SY Dayton	R	2	High
TMC2021SWW	R	2	Moderate
UI Magic CL+	S	8	Low
UIL 14-085001A	R	1	High
UIL 15-028024	R	1	Moderate
UIL 15-423062A	R	1	High
UIL 16-478001	R	1	Unknown
UIL 17-7706 (CL+)	R	1	Moderate
UIL16-072025	R	1	High
VI Frost	R	1	High
VI Presto CL+	R	1	Moderate
VI Voodoo CL+	MR	5	Moderate
WA8307	R	1	High
WA8334	R	1	Unknown
WA8335	R	1	High
WA8336	R	1	Unknown
WA8345 AX	MR	5	Low
WA8346 AX	MS	6	Low
WA8347 AX	MS	7	Low
WA8348 AX	MR	5	Low
WA8349 AX	MS	6	Low
WA8362	R	1	High
WA8363	MR	5	Low
WA8364	MR	3	Low
WA8365	R	2	Moderate
WA8366	R	1	High
WA8370	MR	4	High
WA8371	R	1	High
WB1529	R	1	High
WB1621	MR	4	Moderate
WB1720	R	2	Moderate
YSC-215	S	9	Low
YSC-217	R,S	1,9	Low
YSC-93	MR	5	Low
PS279 (S. winter check)	S	9	No
Winter Club			
Cameo	R	2	High
Castella	R	1	Moderate
ARS Crescent	MR	4	Low
ARS12097-12C	MR	4	Low
ARS13659-4C	R	1	High
ARS141114-64C	R	1	Low
ARS14DH1014-C	MR	4	Low
ARSX09500-17CBW	R	1	Moderate
Hard Red Spring			
Alum	R	3	Moderate
AP Renegade	R	1	Unknown
Hard White Spring			
AP Venom	R	1	Moderate
Buck Pronto	S	9	Moderate
Chet	R	3	Moderate
CP3055	R	2	Low
CP3099A	R	2	Moderate
CP3530	S	9	Low
CPX39120	R	1	Low
Glee	R	2	High
Hale	R	1	Unknown
Jefferson	S	9	Moderate
Jefferson HF	S	9	Moderate
Kelse	MS	7	Low
Net CL+	MS	6	Moderate
SY Gunsight	R	2	High
WA 8342	R	1	Unknown
WA 8355	R	1	Unknown
WA 8356	S	8	Moderate
WA 8357	R	2	High
WA 8358 CL+	R	1	Unknown
WA 8359	R	1	Unknown
WA 8375	R	1	Low
WA 8387 CL+	MR	4	Moderate
WA 8388 CL+	MR	4	Moderate
WA 8389 CL+	R	1	High
WB9303	R	1	Unknown
WB9623	R	1	Low
WB9662	R	1	Unknown
WB9668	R	1	Moderate
Soft White Spring			
AP Coachman	S	8	Moderate
AP Mondovi CL2	MS	6	High
IDO14045	R	2	High
IDO1702S	R	2	High
IDO1902S	MS	6	Low
Louise	MR	4	High
Ryan	MR	4	High
Seahawk	R	1	High
Tekoa	R	1	Moderate
TMC 2021	R	1	High
UI Cookie	S	8	High
WA 8321	R	1	Moderate
WA 8327	R	1	Moderate
WA 8351	R	2	Moderate
WA 8354 CL+	R	1	Unknown
WA 8377	MR	4	High
WA 8378	R	3	Moderate
WA 8379 CL+	R	1	Unknown
WA 8380 CL+	R	1	Unknown
WA 8381 CL+	R	1	Low
WA 8382	R	1	Unknown
WA 8383	R	2	Low
WA 8384	R	1	High
WA 8385	R	1	High
WB6121	R	1	High
WB6211CLP	R	2	High
YSC-603	MR	4	Moderate
YSC-605	R	1	Unknown
Spring Club			
Hedge CL+	R	1	Moderate
JD	R	1	Moderate
Melba	R	2	High
Roger	MR	4	Moderate
AvS			
S			
9			
No			

^aFor the category of stripe rust response, R = resistant, MR = moderately resistant, MS = moderately susceptible, and S = susceptible. For the stripe rust rating, 1 = most resistant and 9 = most susceptible. HTAP resistance determined based on the greenhouse tests, "Unknown" is denoted for the variety/line that was resistant to all tested races of the stripe rust pathogen, and as such HTAP resistance cannot be determined

included in Table 1 but available at <https://bit.ly/WSUstriperustreport>. Varieties with FR 0 do not need fungicide application, and those with FR 2 or higher need fungicide application, while those with FR 1 may or may not need fungicide application depending upon potential profits. As examples, the summary data of the 2022 winter and spring wheat nurseries are available at <https://bit.ly/WSUstriperustreport>.

Under the severe stripe rust created by artificial inoculation with stripe rust pathogen spores, winter wheat WB4303 and UI Magic were rated FR 8 and 6 respectively. Nine varieties with yield losses of approximately 34% to 10% were rated FR 5 to 2, which need fungicide application. Nine varieties that received a FR 1 rating may or may not need fungicide application. Varieties Bruehl, Northwest Duet and M-Press with insignificant yield differences of only 0.3 to 3.7 bushels per acre, rated FR 0, should not need fungicide application. The 18 varieties rated FR 5 to 1 can be found on our stripe rust website at <https://bit.ly/WSUstriperustreport>.

In the spring wheat yield loss nursery, 15 varieties received FR 0; six varieties received FR 1; and only two varieties (WB-1036CL+ and WB6341) were rated FR 2 or 3. The 21 varieties rated FR 0 or 1 can be found in the website mentioned above. The relative yield loss values are useful to determine the potential yield losses of the commercially grown varieties as our stripe rust predictions are made for susceptible varieties.

If susceptible varieties or varieties without an adequate level of resistance are grown, a fungicide can be used to prevent or reduce yield losses. Different fungicides can be selected based on their effectiveness and cost. Every year, we evaluate new fungicides and com-

Table 2. Average grain yields of fungicide treatments and increases compared to no fungicide check

Treatment		Winter wheat (PS279) ^a		Spring wheat (AvS) ^a	
		Average	Increase	Average	Increase
Fungicide and rate (fl oz/A)	Timing (Feekes) ^b	(bu/A)	(%)	(bu/A)	(%)
No fungicide	-	11.8	0.0	40.5	0.0
Tilt 4.0	5	21.8	85.7	62.1	53.5
Trivapro 13.7	5	24.9	112.1	68.5	69.2
Quilt Xcel 14.0	5	25.3	115.3	76.7	89.6
Manzate Max 51.2	8 (W) or 10 (S)	26.5	125.1	61.5	51.9
ADM.03509.F.3.B 11.0	8 (W) or 10 (S)	40.3	243.0	85.9	112.2
Proline 4.0	8 (W) or 10 (S)	42.9	265.1	79.2	95.7
ADM.03509.F.3.D 11.0	8 (W) or 10 (S)	43.8	273.0	85.6	111.5
ADM.03509.F.3.B 16.5	8 (W) or 10 (S)	45.2	284.7	79.7	97.0
Quilt Xcel 14.0	8 (W) or 10 (S)	49.7	322.8	86.9	114.8
ADM.03509.F.3.D 22.0	8 (W) or 10 (S)	49.8	323.8	87.2	115.5
Priaxor 6.0	8 (W) or 10 (S)	49.8	324.0	69.1	70.8
Tilt 4.0 fb Quilt Xcel 14.0	5 fb 8 (W) or 10 (S)	50.3	327.9	80.9	99.9
ADM.03506.F.1.C 49.0	8 (W) or 10 (S)	52.1	343.6	82.4	103.7
Tilt 4.0	8 (W) or 10 (S)	52.4	345.7	69.7	72.3
ADM.03509.F.3.B 22.0	8 (W) or 10 (S)	52.6	347.4	64.7	59.9
ADM.03506.F.1.C 24.5	8 (W) or 10 (S)	53.5	355.3	84.1	107.9
Miravis Ace 7.0 fb Trivapro 13.7	5 fb 8 (W) or 10 (S)	57.3	387.2	73.8	82.5
Trivapro 7.0 fb Trivapro 13.7	5 fb 8 (W) or 10 (S)	60.2	412.6	83.6	106.7
Prosaro 8.2	8 (W) or 10 (S)	66.9	469.6	81.8	102.3
LSD (P ≤ 0.05)^c		5.2		9.2	

^aThe winter field was inoculated with wheat stripe rust spores on March 21 (Feekes 2), April 3 (Feekes 3), and April 29 (Feekes 4), and the spring field was inoculated on May 26 (Feekes 3).

^bThe application at Feekes 5 (early jointing) was done on May 10 for winter wheat and on June 15 on spring wheat, and at Feekes 8 (late jointing) on June 1 for winter wheat and at Feekes 10 on July 1 for spring wheat. The LSD (Least Significant Difference) value was used to determine significant differences between average yields of any two treatments in the experiment.

mercially used fungicides for their efficacy in control of stripe rust. Such data are used by chemical companies to register new fungicides and by growers to select fungicides for application in their fields.

Table 2 shows the grain yields of various fungicide treatments in comparison with no-fungicide checks on both winter and spring wheat. Prosaro applied at 8.2 fl oz/acre at growth stage Feekes 8 and Trivapro applied at 7.0 fl oz/acre and again at 13.7 fl oz/acre at Feekes 8 increased yields by more than 400% in the winter wheat experiment. In the spring wheat experiment, Quilt Xcel (14.0 fl oz/acre) and new fungicides ADM.03509.F.3.B (11.0 fl oz/acre) and ADM.03509.F.3.D (either 11.0 or 22.0 fl oz/acre), applied at Feekes 10 produced over 110% more grain than the nontreated check. Based on our previous tests, fungicides effectively controlling stripe rust on wheat are also effective in controlling stripe rust on barley.

For the 2023 crop season, our current prediction based on the weather data from November 2022 to February 2023 is 37% on highly susceptible varieties, an increase from the January prediction of 21%, but still in the same range of a moderate epidemic level. Potential yield losses of commercially grown varieties are predicted as 0 to 27% based on the relative yield loss value. According to the current forecast, fields grown with winter wheat varieties with stripe rust ratings 6 to 9 in the seed buying guide or with relative yield loss of 16% (striperust.wsu.edu/disease-management/yield-loss-data/) may need fungicide application and varieties with ratings 0 to 5 may not need fungicide application. We will conduct rust surveys and provide updates and recommendations throughout the crop season. For timing fungicide application, please check fields. If active rust pustules are observed, apply fungicide before rust incidence reaches 5%. ■

WHEAT WATCH

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Forecast points to higher marketing year prices



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

The 2022-23 U.S. wheat marketing year will be coming to a close on May 31. Based on the current U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) forecast, average wheat prices for the 2022-23 marketing year will be \$9 per bushel, the highest average price on record (Figure 1). The Washington average marketing year price will also be the highest recorded, but the year-over-year increase for Washington producers is smaller than the national marketing year price increase. In fact, for the first time in a decade, the 2022-23 average marketing year price in Washington will be less than the national price.

Note from Figure 1 that over the last couple of decades, relatively high wheat prices were followed by significant price declines the following marketing year. In 2008-09, for example, the national average wheat price was \$6.78 per bushel. The following marketing year it came in at \$4.87 per bushel, a decline of 28%. Similarly, following the 2012-13 marketing year price rally, national average prices fell 12% in 2013-14.

Figure 2 shows total wheat acres planted in Washington and the U.S. over the last 20 years, with USDA's forecast for 2023. Note that wheat acres increased significantly in 2013 following the relatively high wheat prices in the 2012-13 marketing year. This, in turn, was followed by lower wheat prices in the 2013-14 marketing year.

According to USDA's February 2023 estimate, wheat acres for the coming harvest are also expected to increase

Figure 1: Marketing year average wheat prices

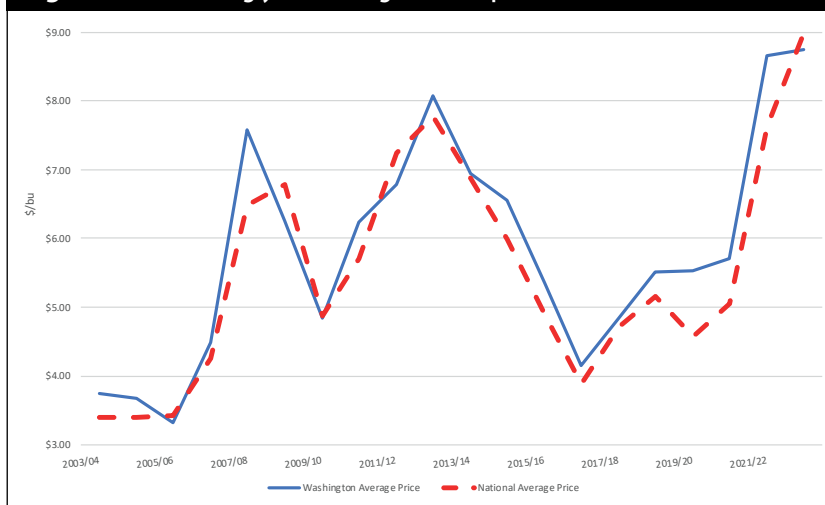
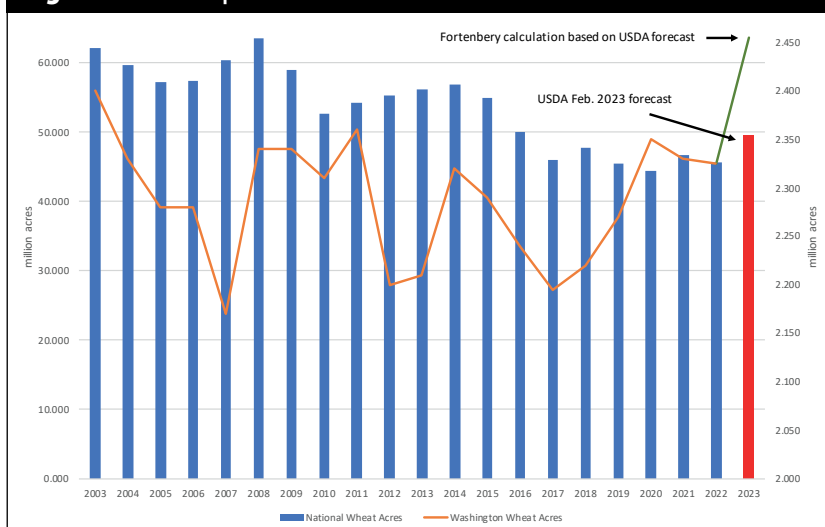


Figure 2: Wheat planted acres



significantly compared to 2022 planted acres. The current estimate is for a total of 49.5 million acres of planted wheat this year, an increase of 8% year-over-year, and the largest planted wheat acres since 2016.

USDA has not yet estimated total wheat acres by state for 2023, but over the last six years, Washington acres have averaged about 5% of total U.S. acres. If that ratio holds this year, Washington will plant about 2.46 million wheat acres in 2023, the most since 2001 and an increase of about 6% over 2022 wheat acres.¹

In addition to an increase in total wheat acres for 2023, USDA is forecasting 2023 wheat yields to average 49.2 bushels per acre. This is essentially the 30-year trend yield and represents an increase of 6%

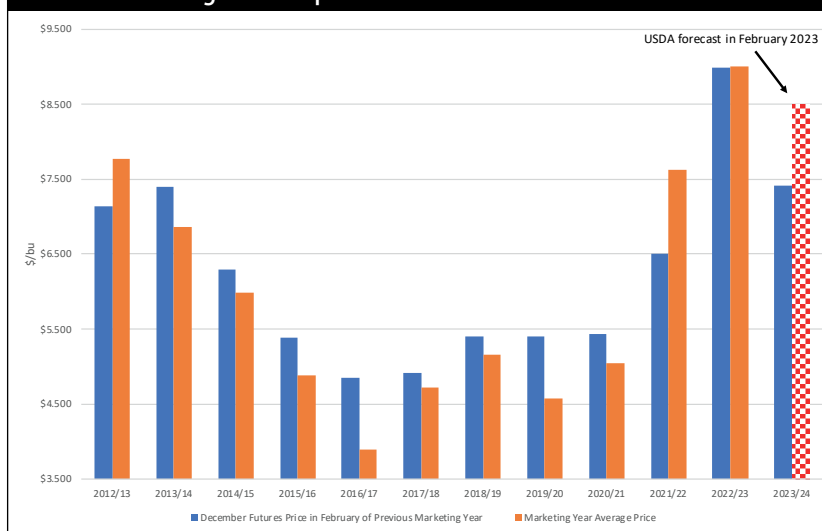
over 2022 wheat yields. However, because the wheat carryout on May 31, 2023, is expected to be down compared to the previous marketing year, total U.S. wheat supply for 2023-24 is projected to increase by only 4%.

Total U.S. wheat demand is also expected to increase in 2023-24. Feed demand is currently projected to increase about 25%, and exports are also projected to increase. U.S. wheat exports for 2023-24 are forecast at 825 million bushels, the highest in three years. However, the increase in total supply is expected to exceed the increase in demand, and 2023-24 wheat ending stocks are expected to increase about 7% compared to the current projection for 2022-23 ending stocks.

As one might expect, USDA's forecast increase in U.S. wheat acres and ending stocks are associated with a lower price forecast for the 2023-24 marketing year. Based on their current balance sheet estimates for the 2023-24 marketing year, USDA estimates that the average marketing year wheat price for 2023-24 will be \$8.50 per bushel. While 6% lower than the 2022-23 marketing year price, it will still be the second highest average price on record if realized.

In past years, there has been a 94% correlation between the December soft red wheat futures price observed in February (December is halfway through the wheat marketing year) and the final marketing year average price reported by USDA.² This suggests the market has been pretty good at providing insight into the next marketing year's average price as early as February the previous year. From 2012-13 through 2020-21, the marketing year average price averaged \$0.37 below the monthly average December futures price observed in February of the previous marketing year. The largest price difference was in the 2021-22 marketing year

Figure 3: Soft red December futures prices vs. marketing year average wheat price



when the average marketing year price actually exceeded the December futures observed the previous February by \$1.13 per bushel. However, in the last 10 years, the marketing year average price has exceeded the February quote for December futures only a couple of times, thus 2021-22 is a bit of an anomaly.

USDA's current quote of \$8.50 per bushel for the 2023-24 marketing year is \$1.09 per bushel higher than the February 2023 average price for the 2023 December soft red futures contract (December futures averaged \$7.41 per bushel in February and had fallen to \$7.26 per bushel by late March 2023). As a result, 2021-22 notwithstanding, current market prices suggest USDA may be overly optimistic concerning the 2023-24 marketing year wheat price.

Over the last 20 years, the average marketing year wheat price in Washington has exceeded the national average price by almost 6% (although in four of the last 20 years, Washington prices were actually below the U.S. average price). If this relationship holds in 2023-24, and USDA is accurate on projecting the U.S. marketing year price for next year, then Washington wheat prices would average about \$9 per bushel next marketing year. This is above current prices for Washington wheat and higher than the 2022-23 average marketing year price. For this average price to be realized, one needs to assume that USDA has not overestimated the national price average price for next marketing year, and the premium Washington producers usually enjoy holds in 2023-24. ■

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

¹Even if USDA's estimate for U.S. wheat acres in 2023 proves accurate, this figure probably overstates actual Washington wheat acres for 2023. Year-over-year changes in Washington wheat acres tend to be more stable than changes in national acres. Thus, when national acres fall from one year to the next, the percentage of total acres represented by Washington tends to increase. Conversely, when national acres rise, the percentage represented by Washington tends to decrease. As a result, Washington may account for less than 5% of national acres in 2023.

²In other words, historically, there has been a close relationship between the average December futures price observed in February and the final marketing year wheat price for the following marketing year.

Learning the ropes

Wheat ambassador finds policy work for Washington wheat industry an adventure



By Angelina Widman
Washington Wheat Ambassador

Sometimes, when you sign up for something, you're not sure what you are getting into. I thought I might be a good fit for the role of a wheat ambassador for the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) due to my FFA experiences in public speaking, but I had no idea the opportunities that the leadership of WAWG had in store for me! Soon after being selected as an ambassador with my friend, Shaley Tieg, I presented a speech at the Tri-State Grain Growers Convention in November on Washington's Climate Commitment Act. In January, Shaley and I traveled to Olympia with WAWG, and a few days later, to Washington, D.C., and soon after that to the Spokane Ag Show. You really have to stay on your toes to keep up with them, but I was honored to watch and learn what WAWG does as an organization and for wheat growers, not only in the state, but nationwide with the National Association of Wheat Growers. It has been an eye-opening process to a kid who has had very little experience in politics. Learning how lobbying works is a whole lot different in person than learning out of a textbook in the classroom!

Starting at the end of January, with help from KayDee Gilkey, our ambassador coordinator, Shaley and I traveled to Olympia where we lobbied for two days on Capitol Hill. There, we met with many of our state and county representatives. We also were given the "sweet" opportunity to pass out cinnamon rolls to those in the Capitol Building, which gave us the chance to share a few facts about the wheat industry and talk to people one on one.

We spent our time with our state lawmakers informing them of upcoming and concerning bills that had

passed or were being considered, such as the new Climate Commitment Act. Originally, this law exempted certain agricultural fuel uses, however, there is no mechanism in place for farmers to receive these exemptions. We also discussed a voluntary riparian buffer bill that was based off of last year's Lorraine Loomis Act and would incentivize landowners to plant trees and take land out of production. The removal of the Columbia and Snake river dams was yet again another hot topic to address, and through all of these issues, I learned how to lay out and present an agenda of important policies.

Beyond Washington state's policies, there was a federal level of policies to address in Washington, D.C., such as the upcoming farm bill with crop insurance as the main highlight, issues with trade policy and foreign land acquisition, transportation along the BNSF rail lines, and Columbia and Snake river dams. Shaley and I were able to sprinkle in several wheat facts during those meetings. After a full day of lobbying on Pennsylvania Avenue, we were treated to a dinner where we ate and spoke with staff members from the congressional offices and with members from the Washington and national wheat organizations. I enjoyed meeting so many of the people I saw earlier in the day who I did not have a chance to visit and get to know until then.

While on our trip in D.C., Shaley and I were given a day to tour the city and as many national sites as possible. We did day and night tours of the monuments, such as the National Archives, American and Natural History museums, the Ford Theater, and the Washington, Korean War, and Lincoln monuments all before flopping on our beds to get a few hours of sleep before we flew home early the next morning. I felt like a true tourist that day!

Throughout the trips we took, I was amazed watching people like Michelle Hennings, Andy Juris, Diana Carlen and Mary Palmer Sullivan, among many others, work so



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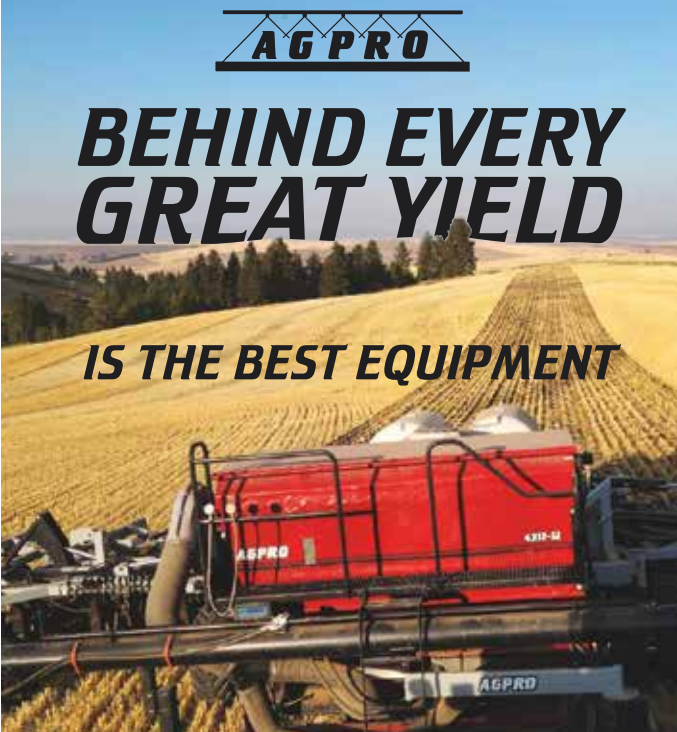
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efficiently and effectively with policymakers on all parts of the political spectrum. They certainly know how to do it! In addition, not only did I get to watch and listen to Mary speak with important politicians for the wheat and barley industry in Olympia and D.C., I watched her give a speech to the FFA at the Spokane Ag Show a few days later! Like Mary often says, there are no strangers in the agriculture world — you can always find a connection. I felt that everywhere I went with WAWG and even afterwards at my grandma's local church auction in Eltopia, Wash., where I could relate and talk to several of the farmers who knew all about WAWG.

Reflecting on all the activities WAWG has given me the opportunity to experience, I am impressed by how much work goes on behind the scenes. To run an effective organiza-

tion and lobbying group like WAWG takes more work than I originally thought, and it is awesome how many people give their time to make it all happen.

When I applied as a WAWG ambassador, I originally thought of it as only a scholarship. While that is part of it, the adventures they have invited me on are experiences few my age have had, and I will always remember them. And this year is just getting started — I can't wait to see what is next! ■



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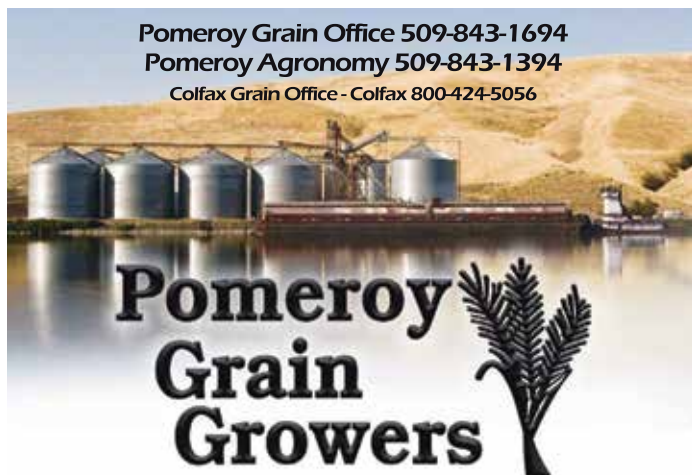


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Chris (left) and Dusty Eckhart on the first day of fall seeding on Wild Rose Prairie in Deer Park.
Photo by Sally Eckhart.

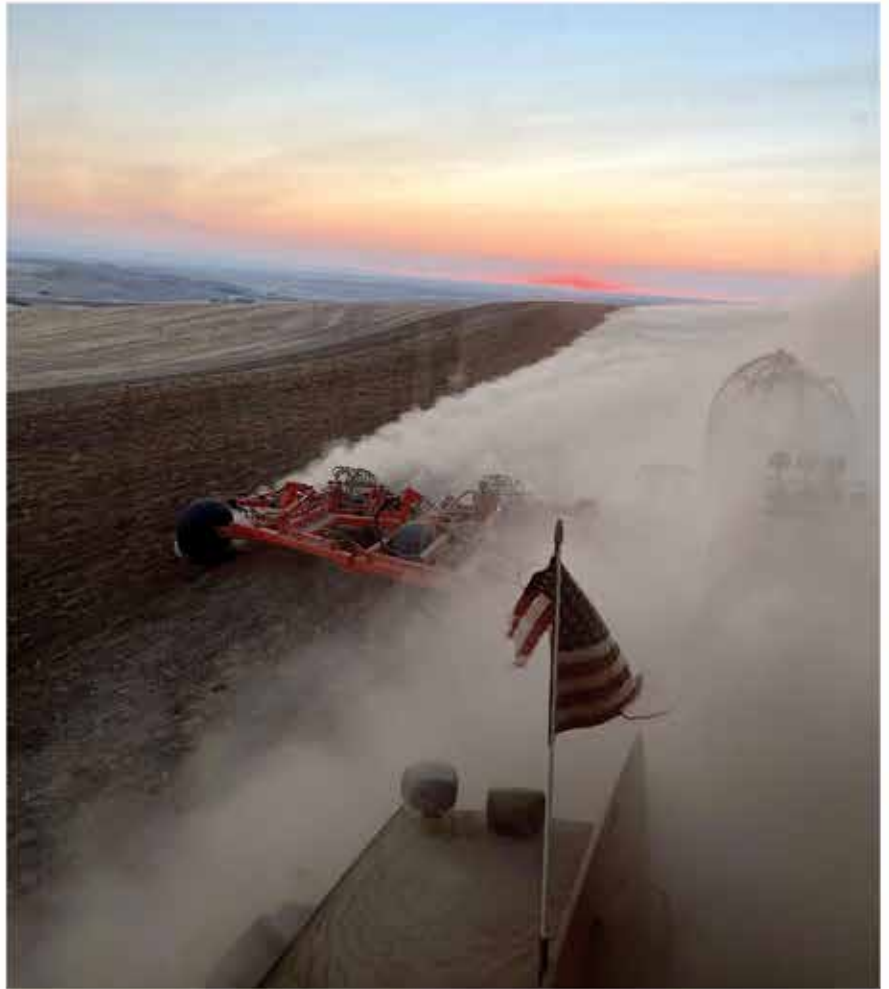


A throwback to last fall when the Wagner's 1956 International pickup was used as temporary pumpkin storage outside Harrington. Soji, a 2-year-old mini blue heeler, kept watch over the gourds. Photo by Britney Wagner.

Your wheat life...



Cole Hames (9) sleeping in the buddy seat during harvest near Rosalia. Grandpa Lee Hames says Cole isn't much of a co-pilot! Photo by Lee Hames.



(Above) Fertilizing last fall near Waitsburg. Photo by John McCaw. (Left) Savannah Hoeft (1) taking her first combine ride with dad, Logan, at Hoeft Farms in Walla Walla. Photo by Christal Hoeft.



**Send us photos
of your wheat life!**

Email photos to
editor@wawg.org. Please
include location, names
and ages of children.

HAPPENINGS

All dates and times are subject to change.
Please verify event before heading out.

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. dnuark@wildblue.net

8 EASTER EGG HUNT. Kids should bring their own baskets and enjoy an Easter egg hunt beginning at 10 a.m. at Holzer Park in Uniontown, Wash. If inclement weather occurs, hunt will be held at the Uniontown Community Building. uniontownwa.org/events/

15-16 OLD-TIME PLOWING DAYS. At the Palouse Empire Fairgrounds on Highway 26 west of Colfax, Wash. Plowing begins at about 10 a.m. Contact Eric Reiber (509) 595-0830 or Mike Schwartz (509) 595-2682.

20-23 COMMUNITY FAIR AND STOCKSHOW. Come support 4-H and FFA participants at the fairgrounds. St. John, Wash. stjohnwa.com

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

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 wide 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

29-30 OLD TIME MULE & HORSE PLOWING. Activity begins by 10 a.m. Located about 2.5 miles east of Davenport, Wash., at 42501 Four Corners Rd. E. Contact Jon Overmyer (509) 721-1100 for more information.

MAY 2023

3-6 JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW OF SPOKANE. Spokane County Fair and Expo Center. juniorshow.org

6-7 RENAISSANCE FAIR. Music, entertainment, food, arts and crafts and maypole dances. East City Park, Moscow, Idaho. moscowrenfair.org

7 BLOOMSDAY. Spokane, Wash. bloomsdayrun.org

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

12-14 WINTHROP '49ER DAYS. Grand

parade, cowboy songs and poetry, dancing, Saturday dinner, Sunday cowboy breakfast, vendors. Winthrop, Wash. winthropwashington.com/events/old-west-festival/

18-21 SELAH COMMUNITY DAYS.

Carnival, car show, entertainment, vendors. Selah, Wash. selahdays.com

25-28 MOSES LAKE SPRING FESTIVAL.

Three on three basketball tournament, car show, parade, carnival, entertainment. McCosh park in Moses Lake, Wash. springfestivalinmoseslake.com

26-28 LAST STAND RODEO. Cowboy breakfast, fun run, parade, entertainment. Coulee City, Wash. laststandrodeo.com

27-28 METHOW VALLEY RODEO.

Saddle bronc, bareback, bulls, barrel racing, team roping and junior events. Held at the rodeo grounds, about halfway between Twisp and Winthrop beginning at 1 p.m. methowvalleyrodeo.com ■

Submissions

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

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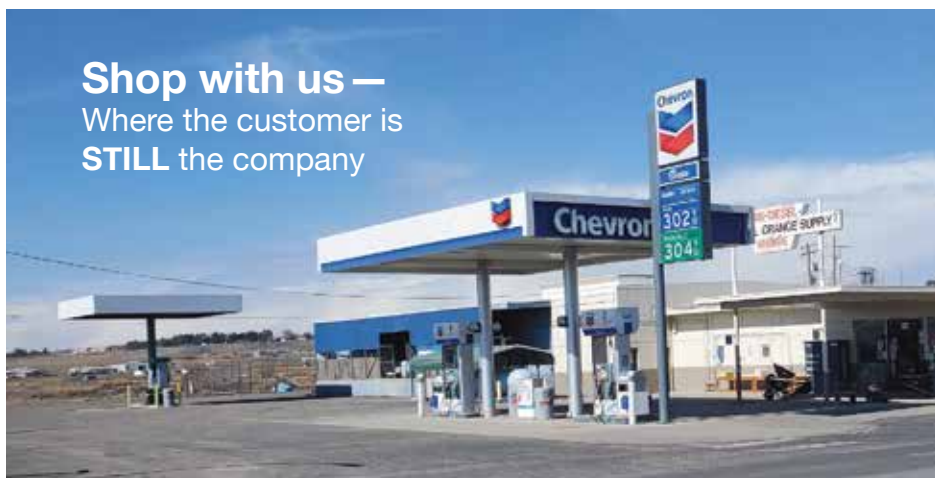
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Advertiser Index

Accucon	33	Connell Grange Supply	56	PNW Farmers Cooperative.....	30
AGPRO	51	Correll's Scale Service	25	Pomeroy Grain Growers	53
AgraSyst	7, 33	Country Financial	57	R & H Machine	53
AgWest Farm Credit	17	Custom Seed Conditioning	52	Rainier Seeds	58
Albaugh	5	Edward Jones	13	Rubisco Seeds	9
Altitude Agri Services	56	Eljay Oil Company.....	25	Spray Center Electronics.....	23
Bank of Eastern Washington.....	35	Farm & Home Supply.....	13	Spectrum Crop Development ...	23
Barber Engineering	13	Great Plains Equipment	15	State Bank NW	53
Basin Pacific Insurance	51	Helena Agri-Enterprises	59	T & S Sales	12
Big Iron Repair	35	HighLine Grain Growers	51	Tankmax.....	19
Blue Mountain Agri-Support.....	57	Jones Truck & Implement.....	25	The McGregor Company	11, 36
Butch Booker	53	Kincaid Real Estate	53	Tri-State Seed	31
Byrnes Oil Co	52	McKay Seed Company.....	57	Vantage-PNW.....	29
Class 8 Trucks	17, 51	Mike's Auto	52	Walker Furniture	60
CO Energy	33	North Pine Ag.....	34	Wilbur-Ellis.....	26
Coldwell Banker Tomlinson.....	25	Northwest First Realtors.....	31	Yunker Brothers.....	57
Coleman Oil	31	Odessa Trading Company	29		

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