

WHEAT LIFE

The official publication of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers

MAY | 2023

LOST IN TRANSLATION

Stakeholders' views on dams overlooked during CEQ listening sessions

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Countdown to Wheat College

Update on carbon markets

2022 winter wheat variety trial results

Wheat ambassador takes a deep dive into advocacy

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WHEAT GROWERS**

109 East First Avenue
Ritzville, WA 99169-2394
(509) 659-0610

WAWG MEMBERSHIP

(509) 659-0610 • (877) 740-2666
\$125 per year

EDITOR

Trista Crossley • editor@wawg.org
(435) 260-8888

AD SALES MANAGER

Lance Marshall • lance@wawg.org
(253) 221-7000

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Devin Taylor • Trista Crossley

AD BILLING

Michelle Hennings • michelle@wawg.org
(509) 659-0610 • (877) 740-2666

CIRCULATION

Address changes, extra copies, subscriptions
Katie Teachout • katie@wawg.org
(509) 659-0610 • (877) 740-2666
Subscriptions are \$50 per year

WAWG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Michelle Hennings

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President's Perspective



New, innovative legislative disappointments

By Andy Juris

I was talking to my neighbor about the highs and lows of farming. It got me thinking, what emotion seems to be the most prevalent in agriculture? I'm gonna go with disappointment. I've heard of disappointing weather, politicians, equipment dealerships and don't even get me started on the latest miracle product my agronomist recommends. I think that's why, just like a group of crows is called a "murder of crows," a group of farmers is often called a "gripe."

Now, before all you optimists get on your high horses, I think we need to examine the environment that shapes the mental outlook of your standard disappointed farmer. We exist in a world where almost everything affects us, yet we have almost no control over anything. What little control we do have is along the lines of what socks we're going to wear. As John F. Kennedy pointed out, farmers buy retail, sell wholesale and pay shipping both ways. Yes, disappointment is a frequent visitor to most of us in agriculture.

Lately, it seems that our state legislature has been high on our list for producing new and innovative disappointments, not the least of which is the current battle for agriculture's exemption from cap-and-trade fuel charges. Despite being specifically exempted from these charges in state law, and despite the promises made by many of cap-and-trade's proponents, we find ourselves paying significantly higher fuel costs this year. Now, the reasons for all of this could take far more than the 600 words my editor allots me each month, but suffice it to say, there is an extreme disconnect between how our governor and his Department of Ecology see markets working and reality. This disconnect not only has led to the current problem — no practical mechanism for the petroleum industry to exempt ag — but also to the inaction (bordering on apathy) by Ecology to develop a fix for this mess. A real disappointment.

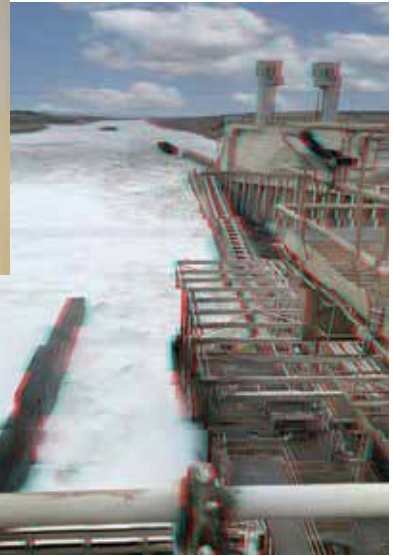
While assembling a gripe of farmers down at the coffee shop (now renamed the local Whinery), it is cathartic to voice one's disappointments. But so often we stop there. Disappointment turns to anger, and anger seldom leads to real solutions. The late-night philosopher, Conan O'Brien, has said that through disappointment we gain clarity. In the last several years, we have gained exactly that. We see that in Olympia, there are many legislators who need education on economics, agronomics and the effects of poor policy. There are still others who are, or can be, our advocates (some in parties we don't expect). We need to shrug off the cloud of our personal politics and build relationships with these allies. And disappointingly, there are those driven by pure ideology who will use whatever means necessary to fulfill their vision of what they want. The last three years have shown us who many of these people are, and we can move ahead with a clearer picture of where they stand.

So, we move on, get involved, come to meetings, provide testimony, take the time to talk to legislators. I've heard some very practical solutions for our fuel problem, but they need your support to move forward. When all of us in Washington wheat speak in one voice, we are heard. We may be disappointed, but not disheartened. We are in this together, so let's work together for a better solution and a more hopeful future for wheat growers in Washington. ■

Cover photo: Dam advocates got the short end of the stick when it came to speaking slots during a federal panel. See page 26. All photos are Shutterstock images or taken by *Wheat Life* staff unless otherwise noted.

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Andy Juris, president, Washington Association of Wheat Growers
Ben Barstow, chairman, Washington Grain Commission
Lori Maricle, communications director, Washington Grain Commission
Diana Carlen, lobbyist, Washington Association of Wheat Growers
Kevin Gaffney, writer, Cheney, Wash.

Seth Truscott, Washington State University
Clark Neely, Extension agronomist and Cereal Variety Testing lead, Washington State University
Mike Krueger, founder, The Money Farm
Shaley Tiegs, Washington Wheat Ambassador
David M. Kohl, president, AgriVisions LLC

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 Industry Associate \$150 Lifetime \$2,500

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Grower or Landlord \$125	X	X	X			X
Family \$200 (2 family members)	X	X	X			X
Partnership \$500 (1-5 family members)	X	X	X	X		X
Convention \$600 (2 individuals)	X	X	X		X	X
Lifetime \$2,500 (1 individual)	X	X	X	X		X
Non-Voting Membership						
Student \$75	X	X	X			
Industry Associate \$150	X	X	X			

WAWG's current top priorities are:

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

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

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



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Advertorial

POTASSIUM AT EVERY GROWTH STAGE MATTERS



By Elizabeth Lemings, Ph.D. and Danica Kluth
Agronomists, Crop Vitality

As warmer temperatures arrive, it is time to top-dress wheat for many. Applying in-season nitrogen takes priority but this means we may overlook other nutrients like potassium and sulfur. For many of us, our soil tests may show sufficient K levels and we often don't consider adding additional K to our fertility programs or at best, may apply a maintenance K application prior to planting to account for this season's crop uptake. However, the potassium levels described in a soil test are not always readily available at each growth stage due to many factors affecting K fixation and availability in the soil profile.

Adding a soluble form of potassium in season is a great way to alleviate these limitations and increase crop health. Ensuring adequate potassium nutrition in your wheat crop can improve lodging resistance as well as disease and drought tolerance. Late season potassium applications have also been shown to increase grain protein. Like many crops, wheat's potassium demand largely increases as the crop nears grain fill. This is when adding soluble potassium to the crop is most beneficial (Figure 1).

Sulfur is also an important nutrient for crop yield and quality. It helps with efficient nitrogen uptake as there is typically a 10:1 (N: S) ratio needed in the plant to help build amino acids responsible for photosynthesis and grain protein formation. Soils with low organic matter and/or have a lighter soil texture will especially want to consider sulfur in their fertility program.

Crop Vitality's product, KTS (0-0-25-17S), is a liquid source of potassium and sulfur in the form of potassium thiosulfate. It blends well with UAN when adding the right amount of water. This makes it an easy add to your top-dress nitrogen blends.

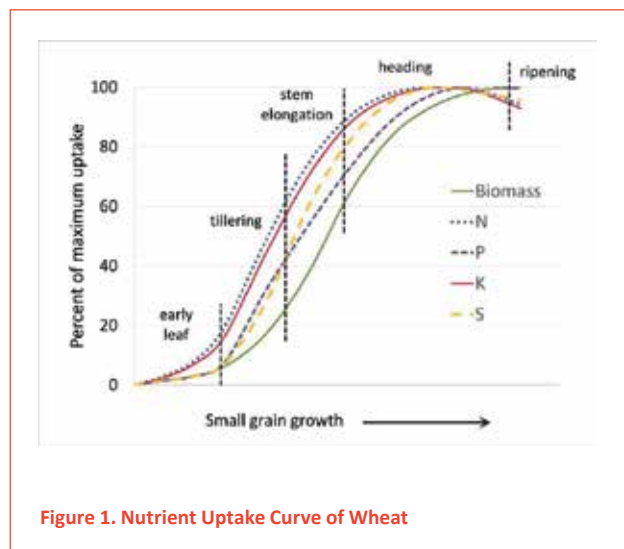


Figure 1. Nutrient Uptake Curve of Wheat

KTS is a highly soluble, high analysis product that works to supplement in-season potassium needs in your wheat fertility program. Additionally, the sulfur in KTS is provided as thiosulfate. The unique thiosulfate chemistry provides your crop with additional benefits. Research has shown that thiosulfates can stabilize surface applied nitrogen and reduce nitrogen losses to the atmosphere due to volatilization. As a liquid fertilizer, KTS can be applied in various application methods including top-dress, foliar feed, and through fertigation.

Figure 1: Malhi, S.S., A.M. Johnston, J.J. Schoenau, Z.H. Wang, and C.L. Vera. 2006. Seasonal biomass accumulation and nutrient uptake of wheat, barley and oat on a Black Chernozem soil in Saskatchewan. Canadian Journal of Plant Science. 86: 1005-1014. DOI: 10.4141/P05-116



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WAWG at WORK

ADVOCATING FOR THE WHEAT FARMERS OF EASTERN WASHINGTON

Capitol Hill trip focuses on importance of river system

As the debate over breaching the lower Snake River dams escalates, especially at the federal level, Michelle Hennings, executive director of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers, traveled to Washington, D.C., to highlight the importance of the river system and the negative impacts that would result if the dams were breached. The goal of her trip was to reach out to lawmakers outside of the Pacific Northwest who might not be as familiar with the issue.

“We are growing increasingly concerned with rhetoric coming out of D.C. concerning the dams, especially when the conversation is misleading and full of misconceptions,” Hennings said. “We felt that we needed to reach out to members of Congress who serve on committees that touch the river system and make sure they had correct, science-based facts.”

Over two days in mid-April, Hennings met with staff from 17 congressional offices, including members who sit on the Agriculture; Transportation and Infrastructure; Appropriations; and Natural Resources committees. She also met with both the House and Senate executive directors of the Western Caucus, a group that focuses on educating policymakers about cultural and policy issues unique to the American West.

Hennings said the argument about breaching the lower Snake River dams has caught the attention of legislators across the country and garnered the interest of House and Senate committees that oversee water issues. Recently, the White House



In D.C., WAWG Executive Director Michelle Hennings met with staffers that included Kiel Weaver (above left) with the House Natural Resources Committee; Shaina Zarkin-Scott (above right) from Washington Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez’s office; and staffers from the House Ag Committee (below, from left) Trevor White, Justin Benavidez, Harlea Hoelscher and John Busovsky.





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

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

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

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

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

PNWVT	2019	2020	2021	2022
Control Varieties		lbs/ac (rank)		
Athena	4,344 (18)	4,015 (15)	3,698 (12)	3,025 (14)
Dwarf Essex	--	3,698 (23)	3,279 (27)	2,751 (26)
Erica	3,829 (25)	3,516 (25)	3,219 (28)	2,273 (29)
Rubisco Seeds' Hybrids		<i>Data courtesy of University of Idaho</i>		
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

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

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

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Council on Environmental Quality held several listening sessions about the dams. Unfortunately, most of the speaking slots were snapped up by antidam activists who repeated popular misconceptions, such as the railroads could absorb all barge activity and that the energy produced by hydropower can easily be replaced by wind and solar. See page 26 for more on the listening sessions.

“I felt like the information I presented was well received, and there was interest from lawmakers about being engaged on this issue,” Hennings said. “There is congressional support for the dams and a recognition that breaching the dams isn’t the answer. There are many other things we can do to help support salmon that don’t involve removing this critical infrastructure.” ■

Paterson grower named to Thompson’s national ag campaign advisory council

Rep. Glen “GT” Thompson (R-Penn.), chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, announced last month that Nicole Berg, a farmer from Paterson, Wash., and past president of the National Association of Wheat Growers, will join his National Agriculture Campaign Advisory Council (NACAC).

The NACAC is a diverse group of ag-centric experts with significant industry insight, commodity expertise and regional representation from across the U.S. committed to supporting Thompson’s “Team GT” congressional campaign.



Nicole Berg, Paterson grower and past-president of the National Association of Wheat Growers

“I am excited to welcome Ms. Nicole Berg to my National Agriculture Campaign Advisory Committee. Nicole Berg is owner of Lenzie Ranch and a former board member of the Washington Association of Conservation Districts. I am proud to have her campaign support!” Thompson said in a press release.

“I am delighted and honored to serve on Chairman Thompson’s National Agriculture Campaign Advisory Council to support him as he leads the Agriculture Committee and the preparation of the new farm bill,” Berg said.

Berg is also a past president of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers. ■



FARM BILL LISTENING SESSIONS.

Michelle Hennings, WAWG’s executive director, attended several farm bill listening sessions last month, one held by Rep. Kim Schrier (D-Wash.), above, in Wenatchee, and one held by Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D-Wash.) in Battle Ground (right). At both sessions, Hennings talked about the need to improve crop insurance so it remains a useful tool for farmers; the Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage reference price; the importance of conservation programs; and how to improve the farm bill’s baseline. Gluesenkamp Perez is a member of the House Agriculture Committee, and Schrier is chair of the New Democratic Coalition’s Farm Bill Task Force.



All wheat acres planted in the Northwest down 1% from 2022

From the National Agricultural Statistics Service

Wheat producers in Washington are estimated to have 2.24 million total acres planted to wheat in 2023, down 4% from last year. Winter wheat planted acres are expected to



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total 1.80 million acres for this year, down 3% from 2022. Spring wheat area planted are estimated at 440,000 acres, down 7% from last year.

Wheat producers in Idaho expect to plant 1.20 million acres of wheat for harvest this year, up 3% from 2022. Winter wheat acres planted are estimated at 770,000 acres, unchanged from last year. Planted acres of Durum wheat in Idaho are estimated at 5,000 for 2023, down 29% from the previous year. Spring wheat planted acres, excluding Durum, are expected to total 420,000 acres, up 11% from last year.

Total acres planted to winter wheat in Oregon are estimated at 750,000 acres for 2023, up 3% from 2022.

Nationally, all planted wheat acres are expected to total 49.9 million acres, up 9% from 2022. Winter wheat acres are estimated at 37.5 million acres, up 13% from 2022. Durum wheat planted acres in the U.S. for 2023 are estimated at 1.78 million acres, up 9% from the previous year. All other spring wheat is estimated at 10.6 million planted acres, down 2% from 2022.

In Washington, acres planted to barley are estimated at 85,000 acres, up 18% from the previous year. Idaho barley acres are estimated at 590,000 acres, up 5% from 2022. Oregon barley growers are expected to seed 40,000 acres, up 11% from last year. Total barley planted acres in the U.S. is estimated at 2.92 million acres for 2023, down 1% from 2022. ■

Join campaign to support MAP/FMD legislation

Join the National Association of Wheat Growers' (NAWG) advocacy campaign to engage with legislators on increasing Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market Development (FMD) programs authorized in the farm bill. MAP's authorized funding has not changed since 2006, and FMD funding has remained the same since 2002, so inflation and sequestration have significantly eroded the ability to compete with other countries who are steadily investing more in their agricultural export promotion efforts.

Please visit NAWG's website at wheatworld.org/campaign/support-trade-programs-in-the-2023-farm-bill/ to send a prefilled email to your members of Congress asking them to support the Expanding Agricultural Exports Act (S. 176) and the Agriculture Export Promotion Act (H.R. 648), which would strengthen MAP and FMD programs authorized in the farm bill. ■



FARM FAIRS. Marci Green (above), chair of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers' (WAWG) Public Information/Public Relations Committee, and KayDee Gilkey (below), WAWG outreach coordinator, shared wheat facts and information with approximately 350 elementary school children at the Benton-Franklin County Farm Fair last month. The team handed out pencils and wheat team coloring books to the students and Wheat Facts to teachers.



Letter urges prioritization of Columbia River Treaty

Last month, federal lawmakers from the Pacific Northwest sent a letter to the Biden Administration asking that modernization of the Columbia River Treaty be a top priority during any discussions with Canada. The letter followed a visit by President Joe Biden to Canada where he and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau committed to "intensify" Columbia River Treaty talks.

"While there has been some progress, the United States and Canada are entering a critical period and need to conclude treaty negotiations to avoid significant and widespread impacts to the region. Without an agreement, both countries will have to prepare for unwelcome volatility and strains on Columbia River Basin operations, including increased flood risks and economic uncertainty in the United States," the letter states. ►

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The treaty, which was ratified in 1964, governs river flows for flood control and power generation by requiring Canada to provide reservoir storage behind three dams. In return, the U.S. delivers a portion of the power generated back to Canada. In 2013, a regional recommendation called for the treaty to be modernized to reflect the current value of power and flood control operations and to support healthy ecosystems.

To date, U.S. and Canadian negotiating teams have held 16 negotiating sessions, beginning in 2018. If the treaty is not modernized, the flood control provisions will expire in September 2024, and the U.S. will enter into “called-upon” flood control operations. In this situation, the U.S. has to request flood control as needed from Canada and must pay for the operating costs and any losses incurred by Canada.

The Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) supports Columbia River Treaty efforts that protect the viability of U.S. navigation, hydropower, irrigation and flood control. WAWG adds its voice to other stakeholders in the Columbia River Basin calling upon the Biden Administration to make resolving the Columbia River Treaty a top priority. ■

How are we doing?

Let us know by emailing your comments and suggestions to editor@wawg.org. Please keep submissions less than 350 words. Submissions may be edited for length. ■

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POLICY MATTERS

Lawmakers pass budgets, end 2023 Legislative Session

By Diana Carlen
WAWG Lobbyist

The Legislature adjourned Sine Die as scheduled on the 105th day of the 2023 Legislative Session on Sunday, April 23. In the final week of the session, the Legislature focused on two items: bill concurrence and finishing negotiations on the state's biennial budgets: operating, capital and transportation. Additionally, the governor has begun signing bills into law.

Budgets pass

On the last day of the session, the Legislature passed a \$69.3 billion, two-year budget. The budget adds roughly \$4.7 billion in new spending and leaves \$3 billion in total reserves. While it does not propose any new general taxes or fees, it does rely on the revenue for the first time from the capital gains tax and cap-and-trade program. Notable highlights include:

- \$2 million for the Department of Commerce to contract with the Western National Laboratories or a similar 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.
- \$500,000 for the Department of Ecology to conduct an analysis of how to continue water use for irrigation during drawdown related to potential lower Snake River dam removal.
- \$8.53 million to the Conservation Commission for implementation of the Voluntary Stewardship Program.
- \$480,000 for the governor to invite federally recognized tribes, local governments, agricultural producers, commercial and recreational fisher organizations, business organizations, salmon recovery organizations, forestry and agricultural organizations, and environmental organizations to participate in a process to develop recommendations on proposed changes in policy and spending priorities to improve riparian habitat
- \$2.26 million for the Department of Ecology to provide technical assistance to landowners and local governments to promote voluntary compliance, implement

best management practices, and support implementation of water quality clean-up plans focused on protection and restoration of riparian management areas for salmon recovery.

- \$3 million to the Conservation Commission to support the outreach, identification and implementation of salmon riparian habitat restoration projects.
- \$2 million for the Conservation Commission to develop and implement an educational communication plan to the general public and landowners regarding the importance of riparian buffers and actions they can take to protect and enhance critical areas.
- Approximately \$2 million for the Department of Fish and Wildlife to continue the assessment of riparian ecosystems.
- \$500,000 for the Department of Ecology to contract with a third-party consultant to gather stakeholder input and make recommendations on the design and implementation of a producer-responsibility program for consumer packaging, including paper, plastic, metal, glass and paper products. The report is due to the Legislature by Dec. 1, 2023. Legislation to establish an EPR program stalled during the legislative session, but will likely be back during the 2024 session.

The 2023-25 capital budget, which funds brick and mortar construction (excluding transportation), appropriates \$8.9 billion for the biennium, utilizing \$4.7 billion general obligation bonds and reserves approximately \$95 million in bond capacity for the 2024 supplemental capital budget. Below are notable highlights:

- \$95 million for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant programs.
- \$25 million for Salmon Recovery Funding Board: Riparian Grant.
- \$3 million for 2023-25 Voluntary Stewardship Project Funding under the State Conservation Commission.
- \$10 million reappropriation and \$25 million appropriation for Riparian Restoration with Landowners.
- \$60.7 million for the Columbia River Water Supply Development Program.
- Reappropriation of \$3 million for the Voluntary Stewardship Program. ▶



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The 2023-2025 transportation budget appropriates a total of nearly \$13.5 billion utilizing Climate Commitment Act funding for the first time. Below are notable highlights:

- \$5 million for Department of Transportation to analyze highway, road and freight rail transportation needs and options to accommodate the movement of freight and goods that currently are transported by barge through the lower Snake River dams. Additionally, \$500,000 to the Joint Transportation Committee to engage an independent review team to work in coordination with the greater analysis.
- \$2 million for the Joint Transportation Committee to oversee design of an infrastructure and incentive strategy to drive the purchase and use of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles in the state and a review of the passenger vehicle tax incentive in current law.

No resolution on ag exempt fuel issue

In early April, Sen. Mark Mullet (D-Issaquah) introduced SB 5766 that would have created a rebate fund

administered by the Washington State Department of Ecology to provide relief to farmers and farm haulers that are paying a carbon fee on fuel that is supposed to be exempt under current law. Unfortunately, farmers would not have been able to apply for a rebate until the beginning of 2024, and the bill did not specify when Ecology had to issue rebates. The rebate amount also would be limited to a certain percentage of the auction price at the time the fuel was purchased and not the actual amount of the surcharge paid. The bill would have also prohibited fuel suppliers and distributors from disclosing the amount of the carbon surcharge on fuel invoices. The legislation received widespread opposition from exempt fuel users, fuel suppliers, Ecology and the Governor’s Office. As a result, the scheduled public hearing on the bill was cancelled.

The agricultural industry appreciates Sen. Mullet’s leadership to try and resolve this issue and will continue to work on a solution that honors the commitment of the Legislature to fully exempt agriculture from paying the carbon surcharge on fuel used for agricultural purposes. ■



IMPROVEMENT FLY-IN. The National Wheat Improvement Committee (NWIC), a nonprofit organization representing public and private wheat researchers, held its annual legislative fly-in in March. Washington Grain Commissioner Mike Carstensen (front row, second from left) participated in the meetings. NWIC representatives were joined by staff from the National Association of Wheat Growers and North American Millers’ Association, who collectively met with nearly 20 offices of Congress and senior leadership at the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Service to discuss the research needs for wheat and barley to key stakeholders. Carstensen reported there was strong support in both the Senate and the House for the U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative and the U.S. Small Grains Genomics Initiative to be funded at the current levels. He also reported support for the Wheat Resiliency Initiative and the National Stripe Rust Initiative. Photo by Jake Westin, National Association of Wheat Growers.

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Letter asks for clarification of USDA's stance on dams

The Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) joined with other Pacific Northwest agricultural stakeholders in sending a letter to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, outlining concerns over increasing rhetoric at the federal level on breaching the lower Snake River dams and highlighting the importance of the entire Columbia-Snake River System to the U.S.

"... We are increasingly concerned that the USG (U.S. government) position is shifting to support a dam breaching action that would completely devastate the Pacific Northwest agricultural community. Dam breaching would eliminate irrigation from the pool behind Ice Harbor Dam and would remove barge access for our farmers, requiring them to turn to either rail or truck to move their product. As you well know, neither form of transportation is as safe, efficient or environmentally friendly as barge navigation," the letter states.

The letter points out that the Columbia-Snake River System moves more than 60% of the nation's wheat, not to mention significant amounts of corn, soybeans, lumber products and crop inputs, with products coming from as far as the Midwest. Eliminating barging would exacerbate existing rail issues, increase shipping costs for farmers and increase carbon emissions.

The dams also help support a safe, abundant food supply through irrigation, especially Ice Harbor Dam, which irrigates enough acres to feed 18 million people with apples, 19 million people with sweet corn, and 6.4 million people with potatoes. Those farms have an indirect value of up to \$2 billion and support more than 10,000 jobs.

"In other words, any actions taken that impact these farms will have a reverberating effect on millions of Americans, not just the local community that produces the food," the stakeholders write.

The letter poses several questions, based on prior U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) public statements, and requests a response from Vilsack:

- How is a reduction in agricultural production from the loss of irrigation water, supply chain disruptions and cost increases consistent with USDA's priority to "work every day to strengthen the American agricultural economy?"
- How is removal of barging as a transportation mode consistent with USDA's stated priority to "transform our nation's food supply to create more options for

producers and consumers and improve the resiliency of our food supply chain?"

- How is a potential reduction in export capability, a likely outcome of breaching the lower Snake River dams, consistent with USDA's stated priority of "creating more, better and new market opportunities?"

"We feel it is important to also recognize that we strongly consider ourselves good stewards of the environment. Our lower Snake River dams have state of the art fish passages, and the Army Corps is continuously looking at how they can improve their efforts to get the salmon returns desired by so many in our region. We support those efforts and many more throughout the basin, but we cannot support the removal of the Snake River dams and this critical trade gateway for the region's and nation's agricultural products."

The letter is signed by the wheat organizations in Oregon, Montana and Washington, as well as the Washington State Potato Commission, agricultural businesses, state farm bureaus and grain shippers. ■

Check welcome on India's wheat, rice subsidy scheme

From the National Association of Wheat Growers and U.S. Wheat Associates

Last month, U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) and the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) praised the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) for submitting a counter-notification to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on India's wheat and rice subsidies.

This counter-notification shows India does not report the true level of support it provides to its farmers. Five other wheat or rice exporter countries joined the U.S. in this filing: Australia, Canada, Paraguay, Thailand and Ukraine.

"We appreciate USTR's continued efforts to highlight India's trade-distorting wheat subsidies and its lack of transparency," said USW President Vince Peterson. "We urge USTR to take all necessary steps to ensure India brings these subsidies into compliance with their WTO commitments."

India's wheat subsidies incentivize overproduction and discourage farmers from growing other crops. This has led to massive public stocks of wheat that the Indian government has, at times, dumped onto international markets, harming farmers in exporting countries and their customers. Under its WTO commitments, India may provide

subsidies equal to no more than 10% of the total value of its crop production. In the years covered in the counter-notification, India's price support appears to far exceed that limit.

"U.S. farmers understand the importance of supporting producers, but India's approach of ignoring trade commitments is the wrong way to do it," said NAWG CEO Chandler Goule. "More transparency is critical to restoring trust in the rules-based trading system, but even more important is for countries to follow through on their commitments." ■

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So, next time you raise your pint glass, remember to say cheers to Washington's craft breweries! Let's keep building doors to breweries and supporting this thriving industry! ■



Did you know...
Washington brewers won 19 medals at the 2022 Great American Beer Festival?

The Great American Beer Festival (GABF) is regarded as the premier beer competition in the United States.
This annual festival celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2022, and (appropriately) 40K people attended the event.

Over 2,100 breweries submitted more than 9,900 beers to the competition. Just 300 medals were awarded.

Washington brewers won 19 of them!

See the complete list of 2022 winners (and sort by state to see medalists from Washington) on the GABF website: [bit.ly/3H3CMDA](https://www.gabf.com/locations/wa/2022/10/17/washington-breweries-medals-2022-gabf)

Source: Frank J. (2022, October 12). Washington brewers rack up medals at 2022 GABF, Avios Seattle. <https://www.avios.com/location/wa/2022/10/17/washington-breweries-medals-2022-gabf>

Washington Beer-telligence



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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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Countdown to Wheat College

CANADIAN AGRONOMIST WILL DIAL INTO THE DETAILS OF GROWING A SUCCESSFUL WHEAT CROP



Ted Labun, owner of TLC Agronomics Inc., will be the featured presenter at the 2023 Wheat College.

What:

The 2023 Wheat College, presented by the Agricultural Marketing and Management Organization

Where:

Palouse Empire Fairgrounds in Colfax, Wash.

When:

June 6, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Wheat College is open to all growers free of charge. Growers do not have to be Washington Association of Wheat Growers members. Lunch provided, but preregistration required at wawg.org/ammo-workshops/ or by calling (509) 659-0610.

By Trista Crossley

Editor, Wheat Life

The details matter when it comes to growing a successful crop, and it's the details that Ted Labun will be focusing on at next month's Wheat College.

Labun is the owner of TLC Agronomics Inc., a consulting company based in Calgary, Alberta, that works with producers to grow successful crops by incorporating best agronomic and management practices. He spent 19 years as a field biologist focusing on pest control in cereals, pulses and canola, followed by 21 years as a technical lead supporting seed treatment technology, in western Canada.

"Wheat is a very unique crop. Most people would say, 'How is it unique? Everyone grows it.' That's the point. Everyone grows it," he said. "Whether you are in China or Brazil or western Europe or any of these countries, they are all growing wheat somewhere. But how they grow their wheat is very different depending on a lot of factors."

The annual Wheat College, part of the Agricultural Marketing and Management Organization's grower workshops, will be held June 6, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Palouse Empire Fairgrounds in Colfax, Wash. Admittance is free of charge, and Wheat College is open to all growers, not just Washington Association of Wheat Growers members. Preregistration is required, and lunch will be provided. Pesticide credits have been applied for.

Labun will be focusing on four things that affect agronomic practices:

- Growing conditions, specifically moisture and temperature.
- Crop rotations.
- Soil and moisture management.
- Pest management.

Like Eastern Washington growers, growers in the Canadian prairies use a variety of practices to grow crops. After looking at the big picture, Labun plans to zero in on several Canadian prairie farms he works with that have higher-than-average yields and share what they do in terms of their agronomic practices.

"I want to make sure I put everything in context. I think that's critical," Labun said. "That's why I think giving an overall view first (is best) and then drilling down to four unique farms with very unique agronomic practices and what they do to be successful in growing a crop of wheat."

Efficiencies and technology are also topics Labun expects to touch on. He said that sometimes, growers can lose sight of basic agronomic factors because technology overshadows them. As farms get bigger, so does the need to be more efficient, which can also impact agronomic practices. Finally, Labun wants growers to understand that they are a farm's most important asset.

"That's the message I want to leave with the farmer, that they are the most important thing on the farm, and if they don't take care of themselves, nothing else matters," he explained. "I feel very humble to be able to come down and talk to (Washington) growers about agronomy."

Wheat College will wrap up with additional rotational topics, presented by:

- Ric Wesselman, Syngenta, will be showing Rhizotrons and providing a deep dive on root health and their contribution to dryland wheat farming.
- Altitude Agri Services will be demonstrating their DJI Agras T30 drones with both spraying liquid and dry product spreading. They will fly short missions on site that demonstrate what the drones do.
- Aaron Esser and Rachel Weime from Washington State University Extension.

To register for the 2023 Wheat College, go online at wawg.org/ammo-workshops/ or call the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) office at (509) 659-0610. RSVP by May 26 to be entered into drawings for items such as a Yeti cooler and gift cards from Cabela's and North 40.

"We are always looking to bring the best and most current information to our growers. This year's Wheat College will feature some new faces to bring new perspectives that I think our growers will appreciate," said KayDee Gilkey, outreach coordinator for WAWG. ■

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2023 Wheat College

Presented by AMMO, a program of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers

AMMO is excited to continue the popular Wheat College as part of our 2023 line-up. This event will offer a mix of indoor and outdoor presentations, providing interactive demonstrations to share information on the latest agronomic research being conducted in the Pacific Northwest. 2023 Wheat College is a free event with lunch included. Pesticide credits requested.

Pre-registration is required and can be made by emailing kgilkey@wawg.org or calling (509) 659-0610. RSVP by May 26 to be entered in multiple prize drawings.

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“Agronomic practices to grow a successful dryland wheat crop”

Many considerations go into best management practices: crop rotations, growing conditions, moisture management (tillage), pest management concerns (weeds, diseases, insects), crop maturity, and soil type – to name a few. There are best management practices that can increase yields or lower expenses that don't always mean spending more money. Ted will be sharing ideas of improving efficiencies, which ultimately can improve a grower's bottom line.



Featured speaker: **Ted Labun**

After graduating from the University of Manitoba, Ted began his career with a crop protection company as a Field Biologist in pest control (weeds/diseases) focusing on cereals, pulses, and canola. After 19 years as a Field Biologist, Ted spent the next 21 years as a technical lead supporting seed treatment technology. Ted has also co-authored and contributed to several scientific papers on soil-borne diseases and insect pests. After 40 years in the field, Ted retired and now has his own private consulting company (TLC Agronomics Inc.) working with producers to incorporate best agronomic and management practices to grow successful field crops.

Additional rotational topics presented by:

Syngenta

Ric Wesselman, Syngenta, will be showing Rhizotrons and providing a deep dive on root health and their contribution to dryland wheat farming.

Altitude Agri Services, LLC

Altitude Agri Services, LLC will be demonstrating their DJI Agras T30 drones with both spraying liquid and dry product spreading. They will fly short missions on site that demonstrate what the drones do.

WSU Cooperative Extension

Aaron Esser and Rachel Weime

An event of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers, sponsored by Washington Grain Commission and AMMO partners.



Advocates' views lost in listening sessions

Defenders of the lower Snake River dams have problems getting speaking spots

By Trista Crossley
Editor, *Wheat Life*

In two, three-hour listening sessions organized by the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) on the lower Snake River dams, antidam activists dominated the conversation despite stakeholders' best efforts.

In the first session, held on March 31, only three of the 50 speakers were in favor of the dams. The second session, held on April 3, was slightly better, as dam supporters claimed 14 speaking slots. There is a third session scheduled for May 25 at 10 a.m. Pacific time. According to the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, which is facilitating the listening sessions, speakers were selected on a first-come, first-serve basis. The listening sessions are intended to allow U.S. government representatives and other stakeholders to hear the public's issues and concerns in the Columbia River Basin.

The listening panel included representatives from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, CEQ, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Department of the Interior.

"It was very disappointing that the conversations were so one-sided," said Michelle Hennings, executive director of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers. "This isn't an either/or situation, and the conversation around the lower Snake River dams needs to reflect that. All of the

solutions opponents of the dams championed, from using rail to replace barging and using wind and solar to replace hydropower, have serious problems that need to be taken into consideration. By not giving river system stakeholders an equal chance to speak, the CEQ is tipping the scales against family farmers and the rural communities that rely on the dams and the benefits they provide."

Besides their main point that only by breaching the dams can salmon and steelhead be saved, a common theme from dam opponents was that most, if not all, of the barge traffic can be absorbed by the railroads. Opponents also believed that the hydropower generated by the dams can be easily replaced by wind and solar. Many of them pointed to Idaho Rep. Mike Simpson's plan, published in 2021, that puts the cost of breaching the dams and replacing their benefits at \$33 billion, as a viable way forward.

Although Hennings wasn't able to get on the speaker list in either of the two sessions, Stacey Satterlee, executive director of the Idaho Grain Producers Alliance, and Amanda Hoey, CEO of the Oregon Wheat Commission, both spoke during the April 3 session.

"We've heard testimony that gives absolutes where absolutes don't work. There are many who believe we can have salmon and dams and are working towards that goal," Satterlee said. She pointed out that the river system moves more than 50% of the nation's wheat and that



barges produce less than 40% of the emissions that trucks do. It would take approximately 150,000 truck trips per year to replace barging. "Agriculture's voice must be included in these deliberations, and there's concerns that the dams' impacts on ag aren't being taken into account."

Hoey's remarks were similar, telling the panel that the dams' value can't be understated to growers.

"We've heard that rail could pick up (barging's capacity), but no real pathway has been identified for that shift to occur," Hoey said. "Rail capacity is also limited."

Paul Katovich, CEO of HighLine Grain Growers, and Kurt Haarmann, senior vice president, grain divisions for Columbia Grain International, both speaking in the second listening session, drew on their companies' extensive history of using the railroads to move grain through the Pacific Northwest to state plainly that the railroads, in their current state, do not have the capacity to make up for barging. Nor is there much room, Haarmann said, given the geological constraints of the region to build out the rail infrastructure that would be needed. Katovich urged the government to use the best available information, including the federal government's own study that favored an alternative that didn't include breaching the dams.

Hennings said wheat industry leaders will continue to monitor the CEQ's activities and will be hoping to snag at least one of the speaking spots at the next listening session. A link for the third, May 25 session, will be posted at prnewswire.com/news-releases/fmcs-announces-columbia-river-basin-listening-sessions-301786082.html.

"It is extremely important that we make our voice heard at these sessions, and I hope, at the final listening session, the CEQ does a better job balancing both sides of the issue," Hennings said. ■



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Update on carbon markets

MOST PROGRAMS STILL TARGET MIDWEST GROWERS; NEW RESEARCH TACKLES MEASUREMENT ISSUES

By Trista Crossley
 Editor, *Wheat Life*

Pacific Northwest (PNW) dryland wheat growers often feel like square pegs trying to fit round holes when it comes to programs designed with Midwest farmers in mind. That's still the case with carbon credit programs. Even as the carbon credit landscape continues to develop, opportunities for Eastern Washington farmers remain limited.

Shannon Neibergs, director of Washington State University's (WSU) Center for Risk Management, says there are several factors for that, including a rapidly evolving market of private sector carbon offset buyers, a common requirement — called additivity — that only new practices are eligible, and the uncertainty around using cover crops in a region with variable rainfall.

"Many PNW farmers that have already adopted no-till or reduced-till production practices are not eligible, thus reducing the market size. Measurement, reporting and verification of the carbon offset generated is a challenge," Neibergs said in an email.

Both buyers and sellers are paying more attention to the potential risks of carbon markets. Neibergs said carbon offset buyers are increasingly requiring soil testing to verify and measure carbon sequestration, transferring more risk to growers. Participants in the space also generally acknowledge that the carbon science is immature relative to what is actually being sequestered over time under different farming practices.

More risks involve what Neibergs calls "carbon market permanence," or the idea that no actions are to be taken to reverse the carbon sequestration. Most of the time, that permanence is defined as at least 100 years. For example, no-till growers who occasionally use deep tillage to manage compaction, excessive stubble or as a weed control measure would be left without that management tool.

Permanence also needs to be considered in a policy light. As Neibergs pointed out, regulated carbon markets that establish cap and trade market conditions by policy,

rather than consumer demand, are always at risk from future policy changes. That could jeopardize capital investments made in hopes of a future investment return.

In the past year, there've been a number of significant, carbon-related actions at the state and federal level that are adding to both fiscal and political uncertainties around carbon markets. In February, Washington state held the first of four cap-and-trade auctions, which generated nearly \$300 million. According to the Climate Commitment Act, the legislation that established the cap-and-trade program, some of those funds are to be used to preserve or establish carbon sequestration in forests and ag soils, but no plan for spending that portion of the funds has been approved. At the federal level, the Inflation Reduction Act included billions for climate-related spending. Much of that spending is being funneled through the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

SELLER BEWARE

Farmers who want to participate in carbon markets need to do some homework. When considering contracts, growers need to verify what is getting deducted from their payments, such as brokerage and verification fees, and any amounts held back or potential liabilities to secure practice permanence.

"Farmers need to determine what carbon offsets they could actually generate. For farmers, I think there might be false expectations that carbon markets will be a new profit center, but if they've already implemented reduced tillage, the amount of their potential offsets generated could be small," Neibergs cautioned.



Shannon Neibergs
 Director, Washington State University's Center for Risk Management

PUTTING A NUMBER ON SOIL CARBON

When it comes to agricultural carbon sequestration, three of the biggest obstacles to measuring how much carbon is being stored in the soil are assessment costs, the variability in field locations, and the lack of good sampling protocols on extremely variable landscapes, like those found in the Pacific Northwest. Haly Neely, an assistant professor specializing in applied soil physics at WSU, is working on the problem. In her work,



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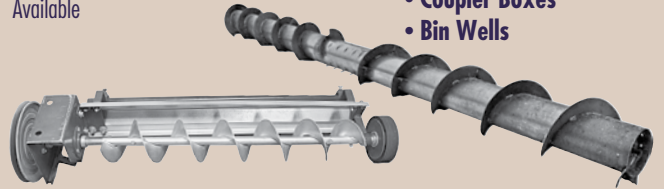


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Neely focuses on soil physical properties, such as how fast water infiltrates soil and soil compaction. She and a team have recently submitted a project proposal to the Washington Grain Commission that might provide some answers.

“One of the things that we look at is soil organic matter. We kind of assume that the more carbon you have in your soil, the healthier it is, the better function it has, better infiltration rates, better nutrient cycling, on and on. But soil carbon changes very, very slowly, over decades, usually, and it is very variable in space. So, the bottom of the hill vs. the top of the hill can have very different organic carbon amounts. It's difficult to assess it at a field scale at a scale that makes sense,” she explained.

The three-year project will use mid-infrared spectroscopy to determine the mineralogy and the amount and structure of organic carbon in the soil. That information will be paired with research on two different types of carbon in the soil that have different turnover rates — particulate organic matter (POM) and mineral-associated organic matter (MAOM). POM turns over every three to five years and includes the soil microbiome, like plant residue and bacteria. Neely said MAOM turns over much slower, measured in decades, but is very influenced by tillage. By measuring how the mid-infrared energy interacts with these two carbon pools, the team hopes to build a prediction model from a single field scan that can tell growers how their management decisions are impacting carbon sequestration.

“This method does a very good job at measuring the total amount of organic carbon, which is fine, but again, because it is so variable, we don't know where to take the samples in the field. Because the total carbon changes very slowly, we don't know if we are doing a good or bad job (with management practices). If we can measure the pools that change faster than the total, we can then get an idea of what's shifting out there faster than measuring the total,” she said.

With the prospect that carbon markets will increasingly require outcome-based programs rather than practice-based programs — think payment on practices vs. payment on amount of carbon stored — growers need a reliable way to assess their carbon sequestration.

“We are going to have to get there. Right now, we don't have a good way to assess an outcome-driven program. Where do you take the sample? Are things changing? Or did you happen to pull samples this year from the bottom of the hill so it looks like you have greater carbon, and next year you pull them from the top of the hill so it looks like you have less carbon?” Neely said. “The variability in space is much greater than the variability in time for organic carbon.” ■



Carbon market options

NUTRIEN AG SOLUTIONS, NORI PROGRAMS OPEN TO WASHINGTON WHEAT GROWERS

By Trista Crossley
Editor, *Wheat Life*

To date, most carbon market programs are based on Midwest data and target Midwest growers and growing conditions, but there are a couple open to Pacific Northwest growers.

(Please note, the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (and Wheat Life) does not promote or recommend any program over another and presents this information to help keep our growers informed. Growers are urged to do their own investigation to see if any of these programs are right for them).

NUTRIEN AG SOLUTIONS

One of the companies offering Pacific Northwest wheat growers an entry into carbon markets is Nutrien Ag Solutions through their Sustainable Nitrogen Outcomes program, which incentivizes growers to reduce their nitrogen application rate.

Dr. Sally Flis, director, Sustainability Program Design and Outcome Management for Nutrien Ag Solution's North American Sustainable Agriculture programs, said because of the way the carbon reporting works for retailers, including fertilizer manufacturers, they have to take into account nitrous oxide emissions from nitrogen fertilizers used as part of the growing process.



"Nitrous oxide emissions from fertilizer use in the field are one of the biggest portions of all greenhouse gas emissions associated with the production of food," she explained. "What this protocol does, is it looks at combining improved nitrogen application, asking growers to reduce nitrogen rate and using a nitrification inhibitor product or a slow control release fertilizer. The minimum rate we are asking growers to reduce by, in order to meet the protocol requirements, is 5%."

Growers will be able to pick a combination of practices that work for them; the more practices they choose, the bigger the payment they could qualify for.

"So, if they just want to make a bigger rate reduction and not use one of those products, they can do that, or if they want to make a bigger rate reduction and use one

of those products, they can do that. It gives the grower a little more freedom in working with their crop consultant to decide what the best approach is for them to get to that emission reduction," Flis said.

Nutrien will work to get the carbon credits verified by a third party and then potentially sell them downstream or to other partners. Currently, growers are paid \$25 per ton of carbon equivalent that is calculated based on the nitrogen management practices implemented in the field. If the company is able to sell the carbon credit for more, the grower will get the additional credit. Growers don't have to be a Nutrien customer to take part in the program, but they do have to have an account with a branch location, because growers will be paid as a credit to an account.

The Sustainable Nitrogen Outcomes program is in its second year. The company started with a pilot program where it looked at different carbon practices, including nitrogen management, cover crops and no-till, to start learning about the process. One of the things they learned was that both the company and growers weren't comfortable with contracts that span multiple years, or even decades — Nutrien's contracts are only a year long.

Growers interested in participating in the Sustainable Nitrogen Outcomes program need to be aware of the reporting requirements — growers will need to report on everything that happens on enrolled fields all year long. As Flis said, the data lift is one of the biggest challenges, and without the data, growers don't get paid. For Nutrien, which is funding the program themselves, the value of the program is in their environmental, social and governance reporting and investor relations, which is heavy on sustainability.

"There's such a nice, whole, end-to-end story for wheat production to tell as we get some of our lower emission nitrogen fertilizer products into the field. From the manufacturing side, they have a lower emission, and then we tie that to better nitrogen management by the growers we are working with. It's a win-win for both our customers and our company," Flis explained.

For more information, growers can visit Nutrien's website at info.nutrienagsolutions.com/sno, or call West Region Senior Manager Carson Britz at (805) 888-1383.

NORI

Nori is a Seattle-based startup that was founded in 2017, with its first batch of carbon credits, called Nori Removal Tonnes or NRTs, sold in 2019. According to their website,

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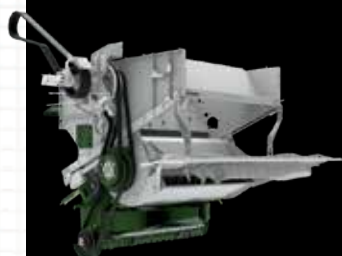
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to date, they've paid \$1.8 million to farmers, mostly in the Midwest and mid-Atlantic region. One critical difference to other carbon market programs is Nori rewards early-ish adopters — growers who have made a qualified practice change in the last 10 years are eligible.

"We are different from other carbon programs in that we look back instead of programs that require you make a change today," said **Jada Dormaier**, a supply account manager for Nori. "If you've made a change in the last 10 years, we can pay four years of vintage credits, from 2019-2022. In a lot of the other programs, you would just get a payment for new practices."



Nori uses a modeling tool based on management practice and soil type to predict how much carbon will be sequestered. Some of their approved practices include a reduction in tillage, adding manure or compost, cover cropping, diversifying crop rotations, and creating a longer growing season.

"So, if a farmer is growing spring wheat, then moved to winter wheat, that would also qualify," Dormaier explained.

Nori's contracts are 10 years, and farmers are paid \$20 per carbon credit (or NRT) as soon as the company sells the credit. Nori is also a blockchain company, so the credits are paid in a cryptocurrency, U.S. dollar coin (USDC), that is tethered to the U.S. dollar. Growers have to have a cryptowallet and can transfer the cryptocurrency into their bank account immediately, once the NRTs are sold.

Like most carbon market programs, data is a big component of Nori's program. Growers will be expected to provide detailed planting and input data from 2000 to present. Nori will run the data through their modeling tool and make a projection out to 2030 on how much carbon is likely to be sequestered. If the grower wants to proceed, the next step is verification, which is a desk audit done by an independent third party. Growers are required to pay for the verification, which can cost from \$3,000 to \$5,000, depending on how complicated the grower's situation is and how much of their land is leased. The contract is reverified every three years, again at the grower's expense, although Dormaier said the reverification process is quicker and cheaper as they only need to verify the past three years.

"The contract is a 10-year commitment to keep the carbon in the ground, basically to keep the same practices," she said. There's no acre limitation, but in order to break even, Dormaier estimated a typical grower needed to enroll about 500 acres.

Dormaier said their ideal Washington wheat farmer would be one with about 1,000 acres that had started no-tilling or adding crop diversity in the last 10 years. She was confident that wheat farmers, especially ones based in the Palouse, could fit into Nori's program.

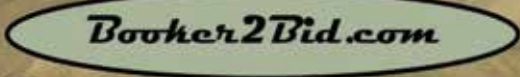
"We don't have to have the same priorities. NORI can be promoting the reversal of climate change, and farmers, because they are doing these practices, they can still benefit from it even if that's not their top goal," she said. "They are getting soil health and different benefits from this, and it can create a different income stream. With costs going up — input costs are crazy — there's a demand for carbon, and they have carbon to sell."

For information, growers can email hello@nori.com or visit Nori's website at nori.com. ■



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Douglas County CRP issue uncovered

SOME 2022 CONTRACTS ERRONEOUSLY APPROVED, BUT STATE FSA OFFICE HAS FIX

By Trista Crossley
 Editor, *Wheat Life*

Producers in Douglas County have been notified about an issue with approximately 150 general Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) 2022 sign-ups. Fortunately, Jon Wyss, Farm Service Agency (FSA) Washington state executive director, was ready with a fix, which he told producers about during a phone call last month.

“We at the office missed some critical documents and doing follow up and making sure that all the documents were in place,” he explained. “It was a complex situation where we couldn’t tell if it was an FSA error or it was a producer error, so we took the side of caution for all producers involved and just basically said we are going to redo sign-up for only the impacted producers and give them until April 21 to make everything work. If we have all that documentation and you bring it all in and we get everything accepted, your October payment will still go out as planned.”

The problem was found during an audit of the county’s files. Wyss said the missing documents led to contracts being erroneously approved without the necessary documentation. Affected growers were sent packets that specified which documents were missing and/or documents that needed signatures. Wyss acknowledged that the fix meant slightly more work on the producer’s side and said the state office is working to make sure this doesn’t happen again. The state FSA office is transitioning to a digital system that will better track producer documents, the staff at both the county and state level are getting more training to make sure proper procedures are followed, and there will be checks added to the process.

“We know we have some repair work to do with you all. Be patient with us



Jon Wyss (center), Washington Farm Service Agency state executive director, has been visiting with various counties in an effort to meet with growers and hear their concerns. Last month, one of his visits was in Colfax to talk with Whitman County growers.

as we go through this with staff and bring them up to speed with training,” Wyss said.

Former SAFE acres may be eligible for CRP

Douglas County producers should also be aware of a potential CRP opportunity. In 2020, due to a change in the way State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) acres were counted against a county’s 25% cap, Douglas County was unable to participate in the general CRP sign-up. To protect expiring acreage, much of which was sage grouse habitat, the state FSA office worked with the state Natural Resources Conservation Service to offer enrollment in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) with the understanding that once a CRP sign-up was available to county growers, they could cancel that EQIP contract without penalty in order to enroll the acreage in CRP.

With growers now eligible for the 2023 CRP sign-up, that option is still available. However, the active EQIP contracts must be either completed or cancelled prior to the approval of the new CRP contract, which will be Oct. 1, 2023. Growers need to contact the local NRCS office to work out those details as soon as they know that their CRP offer has been accepted.

Producers’ EQIP ground will be treated as new ground, not expiring CRP. This means they will have to meet CRP eligibility requirements. Producers should contact the local U.S. Department of Agriculture service center if they have any questions. ■



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CTE teacher/FFA adviser continues family tradition

Samantha Sims, Ellensburg High School

By Kevin Gaffney
Special to Wheat Life

Enthusiasm emanates from **Samantha Sims**. Now in her sixth year of teaching career and technical education at Ellensburg High School (EHS), Sims has already amassed an impressive record of Washington state FFA champions and top-four finishers at the national competition level.

Sims was recently awarded the 2023 National New Teacher of the Year by the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE). The ACTE award recognizes new career and technical education (CTE) teachers who have made significant contributions toward innovative and unique career and technical education programs and shown a professional commitment early in their careers.

The ACTE is a national organization dedicated to providing leadership to help develop an effective educational workforce for CTE educators. This includes instructors in agriculture, business and marketing, technical and computer science, criminal justice, health sciences, sports medicine, and more. It includes high school teachers, administrators, college professors and other professionals.

“I was humbled by this great honor,” said Sims. “I believe it speaks highly of the amazing support our program receives from the Ellensburg community and our EHS school staff. It was an incredible accolade, and I was fortunate that my husband, my father and my favorite professor from the University of Idaho (UofI) were all able to attend.”

Born and raised in Chelan, Wash., Sims was a 2011 Lake Chelan High School graduate. Her father was the FFA teacher at that time. No stranger to competing at FFA competitions, Sims won first place in horse evaluation in Washington state, earning the opportunity to compete at the national FFA competition for the Lake Chelan High School FFA program. Right after graduation, she was elected Washington state FFA president.

“That meant a year devoted to the FFA groups all over the state,” explained Sims. “I also visited several other states and Washington, D.C., that year.”

Sims served as a delegate to the national FFA convention and was involved in policy decisions and other issues. After completing that year of work, Sims attended Walla Walla Community College (WWCC), finishing up her associate’s degree in animal science in 2013.

Sims did not originally envision a career as an FFA teacher. Following her time at WWCC, she worked for a



year for Chelan Fresh Apples in quality control.

“Working in the industry provided me with a different perspective to view my career from,” said Sims.

That same year, when her father was unable to take his FFA team to the county fair, he asked her to fill in as their chaperone and guide the students.

“I can remember the exact spot where I was standing with my clipboard, guiding a new crop of FFA students from my hometown that day. It hit me like a ton of bricks; this is what I want to do with my life.”

Sims enrolled at UofI to continue her education. She graduated with a degree in agriculture education and was hired at EHS before she had completed her course work at UofI. Due to a nearly unquenchable thirst for more learning, Sims earned her master’s from Western Governor’s University in curriculum and instruction while teaching.

Sims thrives on a busy, varied schedule. She begins each day with a research writing class she calls ag capstone. It is a senior-level class where the students earn English credit as well as five credits of college technical writing.

“I teach natural resources and ecology. I also teach welding 1 and welding 2, which include fabrication projects using all types of processes: oxygen/acetylene, arc, MIG, TIG, and plasma welding,” explained Sims. “We have a large plasma table where they can use computer-aided

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drafting to draw out and design whatever projects they want. One of my students is currently building a new bumper for his pickup truck.”

Sims also teaches agricultural biology, a sophomore-level lab science class. She incorporates animal and plant science learning in the class.

“Quite a few of my students are avid hunters or they raise their own livestock, and we use those animals to teach about muscles, tendons and how animals move. They learn about anatomy and physiology of beef, pork and wild game. Even if most of them are not going to become butchers or meat inspectors, they take away very valuable knowledge as a consumer. We have a meat grinder, a band saw and a full set of knives for them to get hands-on experience processing meat.”

Sims is very well-informed on the science of meat inspecting, butchering and marketing. She and her husband, Clyde, raise miniature beef on acreage at their home between Ellensburg and Cle Elum. Their daughters, Murphie and Ryette, and their son, Cleo, help out with chores on the ranch.

“We like to call them mini-cows,” said Sims. “They require smaller acreage to raise, and they have great feed conversion. Mostly, they are shorter than standard cattle. This makes them easier on fences, and I must admit, I really like the cute factor.”

Sims noted that the smaller cows can produce an eight-inch ribeye steak with nice marbling, and they can also be great for milking.

Teaching CTE in her classes and to her FFA members is a dedication Sims takes very seriously. She firmly believes that no matter what type of employment her students choose, the knowledge and skills they gain from participation in the CTE classes will serve them well.

“FFA is a three-circle model: 1. Classroom lab instruction, 2. Integration of FFA and leadership opportunities, 3. Supervised agricultural experiences,” said Sims. “Many people don’t clearly understand what we do. We don’t just teach FFA. We teach agricultural education. Many different competitions are infused into the classroom curriculum to train and educate our students. We try to match our students with competitions that fit their interests and skill sets.

“We currently have over 160 students in our FFA group here at EHS. We have individuals or teams now competing in livestock evaluation, horse evaluation, veterinary science, meat science and technology, employment skills, parliamentary procedure, creative speaking, extemporaneous public speaking, prepared public speaking, agricultural issues, marketing planning, and more.”

When Sims and her staff FFA teaching colleague, Steve Russell, feel they need more precise or detailed information for the students, they will bring in guest educators from industry or universities to help instruct the students.

When teams compete at the state level, the top team in each category qualifies for the national competitions. In 2021, Sims had teams in marketing plans and horse evaluation that each won state, and both went on to finish in 4th place nationally in their competitions. EHS followed that up with another state title and a top-20 national FFA finish in horse evaluation in 2022.

“Those teams worked tirelessly throughout their high school years, and it really paid off with amazing accomplishments for them,” said Sims. “They will have a special place in my heart forever. My students are the favorite part of my work. They are my clientele, and I’m here to serve them.”

In her six years of teaching, Sims has had numerous teams place in the top eight at the state FFA competitions. She was chosen for the Teachers Turn The Key Award by the National Association of Agriculture Educators organization in 2020. In 2022, she was honored as the Washington Association of Agriculture Educators New Teacher of the Year.

“Once again, I want to mention that without the incredible support of the community, the EHS school staff and my students, I could not have accomplished any of these achievements,” she said. ■

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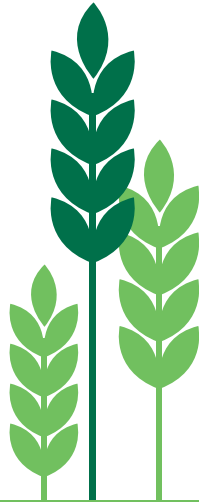
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Spring sunrise over the Palouse from atop Steptoe Butte.
Photo by Lori Maricle, Washington Grain Commission.

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WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION

By Ben Barstow



I knew spring had officially arrived the morning I stepped out my front door and planted my foot squarely and firmly on the first dead gopher of the year, a generous gift from the cat who owns us. I go through this every spring, having forgotten over the winter to give the doormat a good look before that first step out the door. Somehow, I always get out of the habit and have to be re-educated, reminded, to check and see what new treasure has been reverently displayed at our door by the great hunter that occasionally, when he's in the mood, graces us with his presence.

At our annual budget meeting this month, the Washington Grain Commission (WGC) will be deciding how your assessment dollars will be spent over the next year. This year, we have had a great opportunity to re-educate ourselves and take a good look at a statewide survey that asked growers what they thought about their commodity commissions. This survey was conducted independently by the Washington State Auditor's Office (SAO), who randomly selected over 2,000 wheat and barley growers to survey. If you were one of the 284 who took the time to participate, thank you. Though it seems like a fairly low rate of return, it is the best information we have to work with. It's another example of that old axiom, "the world is run by those who show up," or in this case, "who filled out the surveys."

I thought it was good news to see that 93% of growers who evaluated the WGC's performance said the commission is either "somewhat meeting expectations" (45%) or "fully meeting expectations" (48%) — 1% said "exceeding expecta-

tions"), which ranks the WGC higher than the average performance rating of all 21 agricultural commodity commissions.

While the WGC also scored higher than the average commission in communicating board priorities and spending, the survey also said that grain producers would like more information about those two items. We communicate our activities to you here in *Wheat Life*, through the Washington Association of Wheat Growers' (WAWG) Greensheet Alerts and weekly email updates, and also on social media.

We also learned that only 36% of our respondents knew who represents their district on the WGC. To help address this, we reintroduced our commissioners and their districts in last month's *Wheat Life*. If you missed it, you can check it out in the online issue at wheatlife.org/issues/ or on the WGC website at wagrains.org/wgc-commissioners, and, if you have other suggestions on how we can better communicate, please contact us! Through the survey, we also got feedback on what you ranked as the highest priorities on our research and market development investments. I'll be highlighting these insights here over the next couple of months. The full SAO agricultural commodity commission performance audit report can be found at <https://bit.ly/3z7pIJQ>, and summary of online material can be found at <https://bit.ly/3z8A1NX>.

It seems like there are always a few in every group, but I was curious about the small percentage who responded that the WGC wasn't beneficial to their farming operation. There seems to be some misperceptions by these few about what the commission is, and what it does. If you have never been involved in one of the grain industry groups and never looked beyond the photography in this magazine, one could think we don't accomplish much. I'm tempted to say the same thing about the cat; I don't know how bad the mice would be around the farmstead without him, and I have no idea what he does with his time.

I have elected not worry about the cat's business, but being a farmer, I want to know as much as possible about this industry. That's why I got involved with WAWG and the WGC. I've learned your grain commission definitely has a positive impact, and I'm getting a pretty good idea of what it takes to keep a steady stream of ships lined up to buy our grain. I encourage you to also be curious about the industry and the WGC. Our May board meeting is open to the public, and I encourage all wheat and barley growers to come to Spokane and participate on May 24-25 or reach out to wgc@wagrains.org for the video-conference information. I hope to see you there.

- Greensheet Alert. WAWG members can update their email address by contacting Katie at katie@wawg.org.
- WAWG's weekly news update (email) — subscribe online at wawg.org. ■

WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION

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A dynamic duo settles in

OREGON TRANSPLANT TAPPED TO LEAD THE LIND DRYLAND RESEARCH STATION

By Seth Truscott

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



Surendra Singh (above) has been hired as the dryland cropping systems agronomist and the next director at Washington State University's (WSU) Lind Dryland Research Station. He is joined at WSU by his spouse, Shikha Singh, a research assistant professor and soil scientist, who will be taking part in a new, long-term soil health research project at WSU's Wilke Research and Extension Farm near Davenport, Wash.



Crop and soil scientist Surendra Singh will lead research into better agriculture for the Inland Northwest's arid country as the new dryland cropping systems agronomist and next director at Washington State University's (WSU) Lind Dryland Research Station.

Starting in early April 2023, Surendra Singh replaced longtime agronomist and director Bill Schillinger, who retired in early 2022 after 29 years at the Lind Station.

New ideas for arid farmland

Averaging less than 12 inches of rain per year, Lind is one of the driest places to farm in Washington and, indeed, anywhere. Established in 1915, 1,300-acre Lind Station serves the state's low and intermediate rainfall zones, with wheat breeding, weed and disease control, rotation options, agronomic management, and soil fertility among top priorities.

As director and agronomist, Surendra Singh will continue and expand research into practices that store water, enrich soil and reduce erosion in one of the largest and most challenging areas to grow crops in the world. The role links him with Lind staff, university students and scientists, and growers and stakeholders throughout the region. The annual Lind Field Day, held in June, is one of the university's largest, grower-attended field events, allowing crop producers and consultants to inspect research plots and discuss projects with scientists firsthand.

Work at Lind and in long-term soil health is crucial, Surendra said, because it directly addresses current and future needs for regional farming.

"Dryland wheat production in Washington is not only important from an economic standpoint, but also for global food security," he said. "As rainfall patterns change, costs of fertilizers and other inputs rise, and weed and pest pressures increase, research at Lind and WSU keeps us ahead and ready."

Originally from India, Surendra earned his doctorate in soil sciences from the University of Tennessee. Since 2020, he has led or collaborated in research projects on cropping systems, soil health, farm profitability, and weed management for dryland farming systems at Oregon State University's Columbia Basin Agricultural Research Center in Pendleton, Ore.

"An agronomist is a 'jack-of-all trades' who must be able to evaluate the impact of changing rotations on crops, soil, pests, economics and other aspects of agriculture," said Rich Koenig, chair of WSU's Department of Crop and Soil Sciences. "Surendra is well-versed in design and implementation of complex rotation experiments and brings a wide understanding of how to measure impacts of changes on

the entire system. His breadth of experiences in research and different crops really stood out.”

Long-term research

Surendra’s spouse, Shikha Singh, also joins WSU as a research assistant professor and soil scientist, taking part in a new long-term soil health research in Eastern Washington.

Also starting in April, Shikha will help lead a new, long-term soil health project with researchers at WSU’s Wilke Research and Extension Farm near Davenport, Wash. She will assist lead scientists, Aaron Esser and Haly Neely, in assessing past and future changes in crop rotations on yields, soil health, weeds and overall economics.

Shikha holds a doctorate from the University of Tennessee and was most recently a post-doctoral scholar at Oregon State University’s Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center, where her research focused on carbon and soil health in irrigated systems.

“My vision is that we continue to farm for many more generations to come and feed the world,” said Shikha, who plans to use her training and research experiences in soil carbon and health to support regional growers and complement her colleagues’ strengths.

“Shikha is an accomplished soil scientist and will add to our growing core strength in soil health,” Koenig said. “She is already connecting with other recent hires in crop and soil sciences and will make broad contributions across dryland and, potentially, irrigated systems as well.” ■

New varieties mean better options for growers

2022 winter wheat variety trial results

By Clark Neely

Extension Agronomist and Cereal Variety Testing Lead, Washington State University

Anyone growing winter wheat these days in Eastern Washington knows there is a plethora of varieties to choose from. What makes things even more challenging is the increasing rate at which many of these varieties are turning over. The past two years, 2022 and 2023, have been no exception with what has been another flurry of new winter wheat variety releases and more waiting in the wings. Hopefully, the data generated by the Washington State University (WSU) Variety Testing Program can help you make sense of a crowded field of contestants and provide you with the best and latest comparisons possible. Here is a rundown of the latest and greatest in winter wheat varieties.

Soft white winter wheat

In 2022, there were five new soft white winter wheat varieties named, which included Geneshifter (GS) Bounty (GS3); WSU varieties Inspire (WA8307) and Jameson (WA8290); Limagrain (LCS) Jefe (LWW17-8185); and The McGregor Company (TMC) M-Pire (TMC2021SWW). Another two new prereleased varieties were also added by WestBred, WB1621 and WB1720.

GS Bounty is a variety with one year of data in the WSU trials. It shows very good yield potential in the high rainfall regions over 16 inches of precipitation based on 2022 data. Yields were above average under irrigation and close to average below 16 inches. Test weight is acceptable, generally coming in just under the trial average. GS Bounty is one of the better emerging lines with a rating just under Mela CL+ and Otto, but slightly better than LCS Hulk. It is rated intermediate for cold tolerance, mostly tolerant to aluminum, excellent for straw strength, but is moderately susceptible to stripe rust.

The WSU variety, Inspire, performed best in the over-20-inch precipitation



Clark Neely provides updates on variety trials and answers questions during the field day at the Washington State University Spillman Agronomy Farm near Pullman.

zone with yields comparable to Norwest Duet and LCS Shine. Inspire has produced good test weight with excellent winter survival, good straw strength, excellent stripe rust resistance, and desirable end-use quality. It is a medium-tall variety with medium maturity. It also has resistance to eyespot foot rot and is highly tolerant of cephalosporium stripe.

Jameson was tested in the below-12-inch and 12-to-16-inch zones from 2018-2021, where it landed near the trial average for yield with average to slightly below average test weight. It is targeted for the Highway 2 region and is a 5+10 glutenin variety with most desirable end-use quality and good falling numbers. It is one of the best varieties for emergence, comparable to Otto and Devote, and has similar cold tolerance as LCS Shine and TMC M-Press. It also has resistance to eyespot foot rot, moderately good snow mold resistance, and, importantly, has strong resistance to stripe rust.

LCS Jefe appears to be a broadly adapted variety, landing in the top third of the trial in all precipitation zones and excelling the most in the intermediate precipitation zones on the two-year averages. Test weight is good, while straw strength, winter survival, tolerance to aluminum, and resistance to stripe rust are all rated excellent. While LCS Jefe typically emerges fine in deep furrow plantings under good moisture conditions, it struggles under less-than-ideal planting conditions, with a similar emergence rating as LCS Shine. Compared to the average variety, LCS Jefe tends to be more prone to falling number issues and has a similar rating as Pritchett.

Oregon State University officially named Nimbus (OR2130755) in 2022. It has one year in the trials over 16 inches and two years below 16 inches. In every case, it landed within one bushel of the trial average. Test weight and protein also were close to average in every case. Nimbus has a good overall agronomic package, with good winter survival, aluminum tolerance, straw strength, stripe rust resistance, and end-use quality. Emergence is rated intermediate.

TMC M-Pire was first tested by WSU in 2022. In its first year, TMC M-Pire landed in the top yielding group in the 16-to-20-inch precipitation zone, but was closer to the trial average below 16 inches, and below average in the over-20-inch zone. TMC M-Pire has excellent test weight, stripe rust resistance, and straw strength. It is rated intermediate for aluminum tolerance and cold tolerance. It also has a short stature and is early-medium for time to heading.

LCS Kamiak (LWW17-5877) was only recently named in the spring of 2023 and has been tested since 2021 in all precipitation zones. Based on the two-year yield average, LCS Kamiak appears to be best suited for regions receiving over 16 inches of precipitation, where it lands near the top of the trial. Both test weight and yield trend lower and protein trends well above average with lower precipitation, though protein was generally acceptable at locations over 16 inches of precipitation. Winter

Table 1. 2022 WSU Extension Soft White

IRRIGATED						
	MATTAWA	MOSES LAKE	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG YIELD ²	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE GRAIN PROTEIN
Variety	---Yield (Bu/A)---			Lb/Bu	%	
LCS Blackjack	166	153	160	--	59.6	12.4
LCS Shine	153	149	159	152	59.2	11.8
AP Exceed	136	157	157	151	60.7	11.7
LCS Jefe (LWW17-8185)	152	139	153	145	59.8	11.5
LCS Hulk	152	147	151	144	60.9	12.7
LCS Artdeco	150	155	150	148	57.9	11.3
GS Bounty (GS3)	138	158	146	--	58.5	12.7
SY Dayton	127	139	144	141	59.9	12.0
AP Iliad	140	142	142	--	59.6	12.7
LCS Kamiak (LWW17-5877)	129	146	135	140	58.9	12.2
Norwest Tandem	132	140	134	132	57.7	11.9
TMC M-Pire (TMC2021SWW)	154	118	134	--	58.4	12.4
Inspire (WA8307)	119	153	133	136	59.2	13.0
ARS-Selbu 2.0	124	147	132	125	59.4	12.9
YSC-215	132	137	127	132	59.3	12.5
TMC M-Press	135	130	127	131	58.8	12.3
Purl	108	126	119	129	60.5	12.6
Sockeye CL+	103	121	115	124	59.1	12.1
YSC-93	117	118	112	126	58.9	11.5
C.V. %	9	5	9	6	1.7	4.0
LSD (0.05)	22	14	14	7	1.2	0.6
Average	135	141	138	137	59.3	12.2

¹Missing data due to deer grazing

²2-Year yield average excludes Dayton 2021 and Walla Walla 2022.

Bold figures in columns for yield averages and test weight indicate the variety is statistically in the highest grouping for yield or test weight.

survival, straw strength, and stripe rust resistance are all rated excellent. LCS Kamiak has medium-short height with medium-early heading.

WA8334 is a WSU variety that will be named in spring 2023. This variety is targeted for the lower rainfall regions of Washington. Like Jameson, it contains the 5+10 glutenin profile that produces a

Winter Wheat Variety Trial Summary (table continued on next page)

Precipitation Zone=>20"								
	COLTON	FAIRFIELD	FARMINGTON	PULLMAN	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE GRAIN PROTEIN
Variety (Club)	-----Yield (Bu/A)-----				Lb/Bu	%		
LCS Blackjack	149	100	149	139	136	101	60.0	11.5
Inspire (WA8307)	144	126	145	137	136	101	60.9	11.7
Piranha CL+	148	122	138	127	135	102	60.3	11.0
GS Bounty (GS3)	154	115	139	126	134	--	59.9	10.8
Norwest Duet	136	125	137	136	134	99	61.2	10.8
LCS Shine	128	126	135	138	133	99	61.1	11.1
Stingray CL+	145	120	141	122	133	99	60.3	11.3
Sockeye CL+	155	116	143	116	133	100	59.9	10.9
AP Exceed	151	106	139	133	132	97	61.4	11.0
LCS Kamiak (LWW17-5877)	140	108	145	130	132	102	60.5	11.3
YSC-215	158	119	142	108	131	94	60.5	10.6
YSC-93	150	114	134	120	131	98	60.8	10.8
LCS Jefe (LWW17-8185)	137	123	136	116	130	97	60.8	10.2
UIL15-028024	136	119	136	130	130	--	62.5	11.0
VI Voodoo CL+	140	111	134	117	129	99	60.0	10.9
WB1621	138	104	140	127	128	--	62.9	11.2
Resilience CL+	136	110	135	128	128	94	61.0	11.3
SY Dayton	127	113	135	128	127	97	60.6	11.2
SY Assure	138	107	135	126	127	--	60.8	11.6
LCS Hulk	134	108	138	136	127	93	61.7	11.3
Nimbus (OR2130755)	130	115	137	131	127	--	61.0	11.3
Cameo (ARSX09492-6C)	135	125	133	112	127	96	60.2	11.7
AP Dynamic	135	98	136	128	126	96	60.5	11.1
ARSX09500-17CBW	137	112	135	114	126	93	61.6	11.3
ARS-Selbu 2.0	144	102	136	128	126	91	61.5	11.3
Pritchett	141	131	123	114	125	93	59.5	11.0
Purl	137	108	131	119	125	92	61.0	11.2
Norwest Tandem	126	127	135	114	125	96	60.1	10.9
AP Iliad	129	108	130	123	124	96	60.6	11.7
UIL17-7706 CL+	125	115	134	119	122	--	61.1	11.3
TMC M-Press	137	101	127	122	121	91	60.9	11.0
UI Magic CL+	129	104	131	100	121	90	60.7	11.1
WB1720	132	104	128	122	120	--	62.1	11.7
TMC M-Pire (TMC2021SWW)	135	100	124	111	118	--	61.6	11.0
ARS-Crescent	141	117	129	100	118	87	60.9	10.9
Appleby CL+	127	105	127	116	118	--	61.7	11.3
WB1529	106	107	116	115	113	--	62.6	11.5
VI Presto CL+	118	92	116	119	111	87	61.8	11.7
Castella	129	127	111	90	110	86	62.1	11.9
C.V. %	4	7	5	8	7	6	1.2	4.6
LSD (0.05)	11	16	15	20	7	4	0.6	0.4
Average	137	113	134	121	126	95	61.0	11.2

stronger dough. On the two-year average, WA8334 was competitive with the other best yielding varieties in the 12-to-16-inch zone, while it landed near the trial average for the less-than-12-inch zone. Its ranking does improve, though, if looking primarily at deep furrow sites and excluding no-till sites such as Bickleton and Horse Heaven for the below-12-inch zone. Test weight and stripe rust

Precipitation Zone=16-20"								
	DAYTON	MAYVIEW	ST. JOHN	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG YIELD ²	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE GRAIN PROTEIN	
Variety (Club)	-----Yield (Bu/A)-----				Lb/Bu	%		
GS Bounty (GS3)	107	141	121	126	--	59.9	10.0	
LCS Jefe (LWW17-8185)	107	136	121	125	109	60.6	9.2	
LCS Shine	100	135	142	125	116	59.8	10.0	
LCS Blackjack	105	134	134	125	113	58.7	10.1	
YSC-93	107	138	109	121	104	60.0	9.4	
Norwest Tandem	109	133	110	120	107	60.5	10.0	
AP Exceed	111	121	127	119	108	61.2	9.8	
TMC M-Press	112	130	118	119	105	60.5	9.9	
LCS Kamiak (LWW17-5877)	111	124	120	119	110	61.0	10.5	
Purl	100	125	129	118	109	60.7	10.3	
Norwest Duet	98	133	119	118	103	60.0	10.1	
TMC M-Pire (TMC2021SWW)	116	127	114	118	--	61.3	10.2	
VI Voodoo CL+	108	122	123	117	109	60.0	10.3	
AP Dynamic	109	120	126	117	103	59.9	10.3	
WB1529	112	123	111	117	--	62.3	10.3	
SY Assure	115	118	114	116	--	61.5	10.4	
Sockeye CL+	111	139	105	116	111	59.3	9.9	
SY Dayton	110	115	125	116	108	60.4	10.0	
Resilience CL+	100	127	124	115	105	60.8	10.7	
ARSX09500-17CBW	105	124	117	115	107	61.5	10.1	
Nimbus (OR2130755)	100	119	117	115	--	60.6	10.6	
Cameo (ARSX09492-6C)	97	123	120	115	104	59.6	10.5	
LCS Hulk	97	123	131	115	106	60.7	10.9	
Piranha CL+	98	129	114	113	108	59.9	9.9	
Stingray CL+	97	128	123	113	105	59.9	10.7	
ARS-Selbu 2.0	102	118	122	113	102	61.5	10.8	
UI Magic CL+	96	124	96	112	101	61.0	10.4	
UIL17-7706 CL+	96	120	124	112	--	60.9	10.4	
UIL15-028024	93	122	120	112	--	61.6	9.5	
WB1621	110	116	116	111	--	62.8	10.0	
WB1720	97	128	119	109	--	61.3	11.1	
AP Iliad	110	110	108	109	101	60.5	10.5	
YSC-215	103	128	86	106	95	59.2	9.5	
VI Presto CL+	92	112	127	106	98	61.6	10.7	
Pritchett	92	118	101	106	97	58.2	10.1	
Inspire (WA8307)	97	100	126	105	98	59.3	10.6	
Appleby CL+	96	107	119	104	--	60.6	10.6	
ARS-Crescent	85	115	106	101	93	59.7	9.7	
Castella ¹	--	--	91	--	--	60.9	10.5	
C.V. %	7	4	6	8	9	1.5	6.9	
LSD (0.05)	13	8	13	9	6	0.8	0.7	
Average	103	124	117	115	105	60.5	10.2	

resistance are very good with this variety, however, cold tolerance and snow mold are not as strong and is likely best adapted south of Highway 2. Emergence ratings are similar to what we see with LCS Sonic and ARS Crescent.

Other newly added varieties in 2022 included two WestBred varieties, WB1621 and WB1720, in the two

WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION

Table 1. 2022 WSU Extension Soft White Winter Wheat Variety Trial Summary

Precipitation Zone=12-16"											Precipitation Zone=<12"								
	ALMIRA	ANATONE	CRESTON	EUREKA	LAMONT	REARDAN	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE GRAIN PROTEIN		CONNELL	HARRINGTON	HORSE HEAVEN	LIND	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE GRAIN PROTEIN
Variety (Club)	-----Yield (Bu/A)-----						Lb/Bu	%			Variety (Club)	-----Yield (Bu/A)-----				Lb/Bu	%		
TMC M-Press	115	80	89	127	115	97	108	86	61.3	8.6	Sockeye CL+	65	77	62	52	63	--	62.1	9.4
Piranha CL+	111	78	81	122	110	105	108	84	61.4	8.2	LCS Jefe (LWW17-8185)	63	73	61	54	62	45	62.7	9.0
Sockeye CL+	106	78	92	123	109	118	104	--	61.2	8.6	LCS Shine	56	64	64	49	61	48	61.4	9.1
Devote	106	73	73	113	108	106	102	80	63.2	8.9	<i>Pritchett</i>	60	64	61	48	60	46	61.8	9.4
Norwest Duet	120	72	88	123	113	115	101	83	61.7	9.1	Piranha CL+	64	70	59	51	60	47	62.6	9.5
AP Iliad	102	66	59	119	111	69	100	--	62.1	9.4	Curiosity CL+	55	63	58	47	58	43	62.9	9.7
AP Dynamic	105	63	73	111	118	97	100	81	61.6	9.5	TMC M-Press	59	68	60	50	58	45	62.6	9.5
LCS Kamiak (LWW17-5877)	113	75	72	116	124	82	99	80	61.9	10.8	Norwest Tandem	57	54	64	49	58	47	62.5	10.0
LCS Jefe (LWW17-8185)	124	78	81	121	122	95	98	85	62.9	9.0	Devote	57	63	57	48	58	44	63.7	10.0
LCS Shine	107	85	60	121	132	103	98	83	60.7	9.2	LCS Sonic	57	60	58	50	57	44	61.4	9.8
UIL 17-7706 CL+	99	73	60	105	110	93	97	77	62.1	9.9	<i>Castella</i>	59	67	58	51	57	45	63.1	9.4
<i>Castella</i>	112	74	91	121	111	106	97	80	63.2	8.9	Norwest Duet	58	62	57	47	57	45	61.9	9.8
GS Bounty (GS3)	102	74	75	114	124	110	97	--	61.7	9.2	WA8334	59	68	54	46	57	44	63.1	9.4
Norwest Tandem	103	80	77	105	116	115	97	85	62.1	9.1	TMC M-Pire (TMC2021SWW)	60	62	65	45	57	--	63.5	10.1
<i>Pritchett</i>	105	78	74	123	121	120	96	81	60.7	9.3	GS Bounty (GS3)	59	65	61	47	57	--	62.0	10.1
WA8334	116	74	85	118	115	95	96	84	63.1	9.2	AP Exceed	60	63	57	44	55	--	63.6	9.5
UIL 15-028024	102	69	68	104	119	95	96	--	63.6	8.3	YSC-215	55	65	59	45	55	42	62.8	9.8
YSC-93	103	76	74	111	111	97	95	79	62.2	9.0	YSC-93	55	62	58	48	55	43	62.7	10.1
YSC-215	106	80	55	90	102	91	95	72	62.5	8.1	AP Dynamic	56	64	60	44	55	43	61.3	10.1
AP Exceed	108	75	87	132	112	95	95	--	62.9	9.1	LCS Kamiak (LWW17-5877)	54	67	57	44	55	43	63.0	11.0
TMC M-Pire (TMC2021SWW)	102	71	84	115	117	86	95	--	63.1	10.0	Otto	56	63	52	44	54	42	62.4	10.1
Curiosity CL+	101	72	66	104	97	104	92	71	62.0	9.4	Mela CL+	53	64	50	42	54	43	62.7	9.8
LCS Sonic	107	68	80	116	117	107	92	82	61.4	9.1	Nimbus (OR2130755)	54	59	54	45	54	43	61.8	10.0
Stingray CL+	95	68	73	105	110	105	92	81	61.5	10.4	Stingray CL+	55	64	51	45	54	44	62.1	10.8
<i>ARS-Crescent</i>	96	80	56	106	118	104	91	77	61.0	9.7	<i>ARS-Crescent</i>	53	64	50	47	54	42	61.6	9.8
Nimbus (OR2130755)	96	72	66	111	114	92	89	77	62.4	10.5	LCS Hulk	52	60	56	47	54	43	62.7	10.3
WB1529	98	70	78	104	113	78	86	73	63.8	9.4	WB1529	50	60	58	47	53	43	64.0	10.5
UI Magic CL+	88	70	66	89	102	73	85	70	62.6	9.5	VI Frost	52	59	54	41	52	41	62.4	10.8
VI Voodoo CL+	86	65	64	103	119	71	84	71	62.2	9.8	UIL15-028024	55	57	50	47	52	--	63.4	9.9
Otto	90	75	61	107	102	103	83	74	61.4	9.1	Appleby CL+	52	51	53	42	52	41	62.9	10.7
VI Frost	96	68	63	110	110	83	82	76	62.9	10.3	UIL17-7706 CL+	56	53	51	40	51	--	62.8	10.6
LCS Blackjack	101	70	71	119	116	96	80	--	60.1	10.3	VI Presto CL+	50	59	46	43	50	40	63.6	10.9
LCS Hulk	89	78	66	112	117	103	79	79	62.0	9.7	C.V. %	6	5	8	5	9	10	0.8	5.0
VI Presto CL+	83	67	60	101	109	87	74	75	62.8	10.8	LSD (0.05)	7	6	8	5	4	2	0.4	0.4
Mela CL+	83	76	60	90	95	99	72	69	62.5	10.3	Average	56	63	57	47	56	44	62.6	10.0
Appleby CL+	80	63	54	106	101	77	67	68	62.0	11.7									
C.V. %	9	8	12	5	7	8	9	9	0.9	5.9									
LSD (0.05)	18	11	19	10	16	15	5	4	0.3	0.4									
Average	101	73	71	111	113	96	92	78	62.1	9.5									

higher rainfall zones. WB1621 was the clear winner compared to WB1720 or WB1529 in the over-20-inch zone, though WB1529 beat out both WB1621 and WB1720 in the 16-to-20 inch zone. WB1621 and WB1720 received resistant and moderately resistant marks, respectively, for stripe rust in 2022 and mostly tolerant ratings for aluminum tolerance. Look for these varieties, plus WB1922, in all trial locations in 2023.

Cameo (ARSX09492-6C) is a U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service (ARS) winter club wheat that was technically released in 2021, but is worth mentioning once again. Last year, 2022, turned out to be an excellent year to showcase one of Cameo's biggest advantages over other winter club wheats in higher rainfall regions of Eastern Washington, which is straw strength. Lodging notes were taken at three variety trials in 2022, and in every case, Cameo came in 50 percent-

age units lower lodging compared to Castella. Other positive traits for Cameo include a mostly tolerant rating for aluminum tolerance, good winter survival, and resistance to Hessian fly and stripe rust. Test weight is comparable to ARS Crescent, though grain protein runs higher than ARS Crescent, similar to Castella. Falling number values are a significant improvement over Pritchett and comparable to Castella with most desirable end-use quality. Cameo receives good marks for straw breaker foot rot and is intermediate for cephalosporium stripe tolerance

Both UIL15-028024 and UIL17-7706 CL+ are pending Plant Variety Protection (PVP) approval for release in 2023 as well.

Hard red winter wheat

The only newly added varieties in 2022 in the hard red winter wheat trials were WB4510CLP, a replacement for WB4623CLP, and LCS Helix AX, which replaced LCS Fusion AX. WB4510CLP was on par with the trial average in the less-than-12-inch precipitation zone, but was last or next to last in all other zones for yield. It typically has the best test weight in the trial with average grain protein. Currently, it is the only Clearfield variety in the trial. LCS Helix AX was below average for yield in every precipitation zone tested, with below-average emergence and lodging ratings. Stripe rust resistance is rated at moderately susceptible and end-use quality is acceptable. Compared to the only other CoAXium variety in the trial, Battle AX, they were statistically no different for yield above 12 inches, but Battle AX outyielded LCS Helix AX by six bushels below 12 inches.

In spring 2023, Limagrain announced LCS Blackbird (LWH18-0122) and LCS Missile (LWH19-0192). Of the two, LCS Missile had a stronger performance in locations



Variety Testing Program plots near Harrington, Wash.

over 12 inches, landing in the top group on the two-year average. Both did well under irrigation, but LCS Blackbird took the number one spot in 2022 in the irrigated trials overall. In most cases, LCS Missile has a 0.5-1.0 pound better test weight over LCS Blackbird, while LCS Blackbird has a 0.7-1.0 percentage unit better grain protein. Both are resistant to stripe rust, but received poor marks for emergence. LCS Missile also received better scores for winter survival and aluminum tolerance.

Lastly, WSU will be naming WA8310 in 2023. WA8310 has really excelled in the 12-to-16-inch precipitation zone, tying Scorpio and LCS Jet for best yield on the two-year average. It produced about 1 pound per bushel better test weight than either Scorpio or LCS Jet as well. While WA8310 produced acceptable protein in the below-12-inch zone, growers are encouraged to push nitrogen to this variety as it consistently came in around 0.7 percentage units lower than Scorpio and LCS Jet in the 12-to-16-inch zone. Emergence ratings have been low, and winter survival is intermediate. Stripe rust and aluminum tolerance ratings are listed as moderately resistant and moderately tolerant, respectively, while preliminary end-use quality ratings are very good.

New ratings

In 2022, the WSU Variety Testing Program generated some new ratings that are now available on its website and through the variety selection tool. These include updated emergence, winter survival, falling number, end-use quality, and stripe rust ratings and brand new ratings for lodging and aluminum tolerance. Winter conditions did not conspire to produce any useful snow mold ratings this past year, but new ratings are expected for spring of 2023.

To view additional ratings and the full results from these trials, please visit smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/variety-2022-data/. When possible, always use multiple years and locations within a region to better gauge the adaptation and yield stability of a particular variety. Growers and seed dealers are also encouraged to check out the new WSU Variety Selection Tool mobile app for easy access to data on the go. And lastly, all WSU field days, along with Oregon State University and University of Idaho field days, are listed on the WSU Small Grains Extension Website at smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/. ■

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

Table 2. 2022 WSU Extension Hard Red Winter Wheat Variety Trial Summary

IRRIGATED							
	MATTAWA	MOSES LAKE	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE GRAIN PROTEIN	
Variety	---Yield (Bu/A)---		Lb/Bu		%		
LCS Blackbird (LWH18-0122)	178	141	160	148	59.7	13.3	
LCS Rocket	168	145	158	153	57.2	12.5	
LCS Jet	165	153	158	148	60.5	12.7	
Kairos	155	146	152	140	60.3	13.0	
WB4303	140	160	150	147	60.8	13.1	
LCS Missile (LWH19-0192)	161	130	150	142	59.8	13.0	
WB4394	134	155	145	145	62.3	12.2	
Canvas	145	135	142	141	62.9	13.0	
Keldin	123	153	135	140	61.6	12.8	
WB4510CLP	122	144	134	--	62.8	12.8	
Battle AX	127	129	127	133	60.8	13.7	
C.V. %	10	7	9	6	1.2	2.7	
LSD (0.05)	30	20	15	6	0.8	0.4	
Average	139	139	139	138	60.3	13.0	

Precipitation Zone=>16"							
	DAYTON	PULLMAN	WALLA WALLA	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE GRAIN PROTEIN
Variety	-----Yield (Bu/A)-----				Lb/Bu		%
Kairos	111	130	121	132	92	61.7	12.2
Scorpio	119	133	132	131	93	60.9	11.2
LCS Rocket	108	140	126	130	97	59.3	11.7
LCS Jet	103	136	128	128	94	61.1	11.8
Keldin	104	139	105	127	89	62.3	11.5
LCS Missile (LWH19-0192)	110	134	120	125	94	61.0	11.6
WB4303	110	121	129	119	92	60.0	11.9
LCS Blackbird (LWH18-0122)	107	134	126	114	92	60.1	12.2
WB4311	105	116	98	113	84	62.4	12.3
Battle AX	104	117	107	112	88	62.8	12.4
Canvas	97	111	109	111	83	63.1	11.6
LCS Helix AX	94	113	119	109	--	63.0	11.6
WB4394	99	142	116	102	87	59.7	12.5
WB4510CLP	96	126	104	97	--	63.1	11.7
C.V. %	5	5	10	9	8	1.7	6.9
LSD (0.05)	10	15	22	10	5	1.0	0.8
Average	99	129	116	115	88	61.0	11.9

Precipitation Zone=12-16"									
	ALMIRA	ANATONE	EUREKA	LAMONT	REARDAN	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE PROTEIN
Variety	-----Yield (Bu/A)-----					Lb/Bu		%	
Scorpio	119	93	118	129	90	108	87	62.0	10.4
LCS Jet	105	100	107	123	91	105	85	62.4	10.8
LCS Missile (LWH19-0192)	106	92	111	126	90	104	87	62.7	10.2
LCS Rocket	110	95	108	120	83	104	--	61.1	10.3
WA8310	104	92	109	110	99	102	86	63.4	9.6
WB4394	100	81	110	116	98	101	83	64.6	10.3
WB4303	99	89	104	118	93	100	81	62.4	10.7
Keldin	98	87	111	103	93	99	83	64.4	10.6
Whistler	109	93	108	95	94	97	80	64.0	10.1
Canvas	97	85	109	104	90	96	79	64.7	10.8
LCS Blackbird (LWH18-0122)	97	85	110	120	67	95	79	62.0	11.2
WB4311	95	78	96	111	87	93	77	64.5	11.2
LCS Helix AX	101	78	103	86	92	92	--	64.5	10.8
WB4510CLP	102	77	115	92	71	91	--	65.3	10.6
Battle AX	115	86	97	91	84	91	78	63.4	11.1
C.V. %	8	7	5	6	8	8	7	0.7	6.0
LSD (0.05)	18	14	9	15	14	5	3	0.3	0.5
Average	101	86	106	106	87	97	80	63.3	10.6

Precipitation Zone=<12"								
	BICKLETON	CONNELL	HORSE HEAVEN	LIND	AVERAGE YIELD	2-YR AVG YIELD	AVERAGE TEST WEIGHT	AVERAGE PROTEIN
Variety	-----Yield (Bu/A)-----				Lb/Bu		%	
Scorpio	41	58	79	48	56	50	62.1	10.8
Whistler	31	53	65	46	49	45	64.1	10.5
Battle AX	31	48	60	48	49	44	63.5	10.4
LCS Jet	31	49	62	45	48	45	60.5	10.6
WB4303	34	50	56	47	47	43	63.0	10.7
Guardian	30	48	62	43	46	42	64.5	10.9
WB4510CLP	33	46	59	43	45	--	65.0	11.1
WB4394	30	52	51	42	44	43	63.5	10.7
Keldin	32	47	53	44	44	43	63.8	11.2
LCS Blackbird (LWH18-0122)	30	47	55	42	43	46	61.3	11.0
LCS Missile (LWH19-0192)	26	47	56	44	43	45	61.6	10.3
WA8310	29	55	54	41	43	42	63.0	10.8
LCS Helix AX	30	40	52	43	43	--	64.1	11.2
WB4311	30	51	47	39	42	43	63.5	11.5
Sequoia	28	46	53	38	42	--	62.4	10.4
C.V. %	13	8	8	7	11	11	0.8	4.5
LSD (0.05)	8	9	8	7	4	3	0.4	0.4
Average	32	50	57	43	46	43	62.8	10.8



2023 WSU Variety Testing Program PNW Crop Tour Schedule

The 2023 crop tour season will soon be starting and provides opportunities to view field trials and interact with Washington State University personnel. The list below provides an outline of when each small grain variety tour will be offered in Washington, Oregon and Northern Idaho. Please check with the contact listed prior to the tour to verify the time, location, and agenda or reach out to your local county wheat growers association or other co-sponsor. Location maps for the WSU Cereal Variety Trials are available online at <http://smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety>.

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

– Clark Neely, WSU Cereal Variety Testing

Date	Tour	Starting Location	Time	Contact
1-Jun	Horse Heaven	46.209856, -119.580939	10:00 AM	Clark Neely, 814-571-5628
1-Jun	Connell	46.620627, -118.720953	5:00 PM	Aaron Esser, 509-659-3210
2-Jun	Adams County Crop Tour	47.161512, -118.426341	3:00 PM	Aaron Esser, 509-659-3210
13-Jun	Moses Lake	3132 Rd O NE, Moses Lake, WA 98837	8:00 AM	Andy McGuire, 509-754-2011
14-Jun	Harrington	47.408640, -118.400026	10:30 AM	Aaron Esser, 509-659-3210
13-Jun	Pendleton (OSU/ARS)	48037 Tubbs Ranch Rd, Adams OR 97810	8:00 AM	Debbie Sutor, 541-278-4405
14-Jun	WSU Weed Tour (Pullman)	46.778166, -117.095522	1:00 PM	Drew Lyon, 509-335-2961
14-Jun	Moro (OSU/ARS)	66147 Lone Rock Rd, Moro OR 97039	8:00 AM	Debbie Sutor, 541-278-4405
15-Jun	Lind Field Day	781 E. Experiment Station Road, Lind, WA	8:30 AM	Samantha Crow, 509-677-3671
16-Jun	Douglas County	47.612161, -119.990626	4:00 PM	Dale Whaley, 509-888-6352
16-Jun	Douglas Co. Canola Stop (PNWCA)	Tentative	TBD	Karen Sowers, 808-283-7013
20-Jun	Fairfield	130 W Emma St, Rockford, WA 99030	7:00 AM	Clark Neely, 509-659-3210
21-Jun	Reardan	47.700557, -117.927040	9:00 AM	Aaron Esser, 509-659-3210
21-Jun	Almira	39355 Sorensen Rd. N, Almira, WA 99103	3:00 PM	Aaron Esser, 509-659-3210
21-Jun	Lewiston (U of I)	TBD	TBD	Doug Finkelnburg, 208-799-3096
22-Jun	Mayview	46.597160, -117.404442	10:00 AM	Mark Heitstuman, 509-243-2009
22-Jun	Pomeroy Canola Stop (PNWCA)	Tentative	TBD	Karen Sowers, 808-283-7013
22-Jun	Dayton Canola Stop (PNWCA)	Tentative	TBD	Karen Sowers, 808-283-7013
22-Jun	WSU Potato Field Day	Othello Research Station, 1471 W. Cox Rd	9:00 AM	Mark Pavek, 509-335-6861
23-Jun	Eureka (WSU/OSU)	46.2971514, -118.6331472	9:00 AM	Clark Neely, 814-571-5628
23-Jun	Walla Walla Canola Stop (PNWCA)	TBD	9:00 AM	Karen Sowers, 808-283-7013
23-Jun	Walla Walla (WSU/OSU)	46.088483, -118.221440	1:00 PM	Clark Neely, 814-571-5628
26-Jun	Dayton	46.331880, -117.961550	10:00 AM	Clark Neely, 814-571-5628
26-Jun	W. Wheat Workers Field Tour	Bozeman, MT	TBD	Jason Cook, 406-994-5060
27-Jun	St. John	47.070973, -117.532891	10:00 AM	Clark Neely, 509-397-6290
27-Jun	Genesee (U of I)	Kambitsch Farm, 2937 Hwy 95, Genesee, ID	9:00 AM	Doug Finkelnburg, 208-799-3096
28-Jun	Farmington	47.036094, -117.045534	10:00 AM	Clark Neely, 509-397-6290
28-Jun	Pullman	46.695415, -117.128936	2:30 PM	Clark Neely, 814-571-5628
28-Jun	Pullman Canola Stop (PNWCA)	TBD	6:00 PM	Karen Sowers, 808-283-7013
29-Jun	Wilke Farm Field Day	47.656425, -118.131783	8:30 AM	Aaron Esser, 509-659-3210
29-Jun	Camas Prairie (U of I)	American Legion Hall, 420 Maple St., Nezperce	7:00 AM	Audra Cochran, 208-937-2311
29-Jun	Bickleton	46.024942, -120.283326	1:00 PM	Hannah Brause 509-773-5817
30-Jun	Bonnors Ferry (U of I)	5285 Farm to Market Road, Bonnors Ferry, ID	10:00 AM	Amy Robertson, 208-267-3235

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

WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION

WHEAT WATCH

WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION

Wheat prices will depend on size of crop



By Mike Krueger
Founder, The Money Farm

Winter is gone, and the spring planting season is officially underway, albeit a bit later than normal. The deep snow cover across the northern U.S. Plains has disappeared. Longer term weather outlooks suggest May will be warm and dry. That should allow the pace of planting to quickly accelerate.

The world can also finally say goodbye to the third consecutive La Niña and start watching the development of an El Niño pattern. La Niña has been largely responsible for two to three years of drought from southern Brazil through Argentina and two to three years of BIG crop production across Australia. El Niño should mean these patterns reverse themselves in the months ahead. How this transition affects crop production will be important.

The uncertainties created by the Russia/Ukraine war are also still a market force. The primary two questions surrounding this conflict are:

- Will Russia allow the export corridor agreement to continue beyond May?
- How badly will the ongoing war affect Ukraine's crop production?

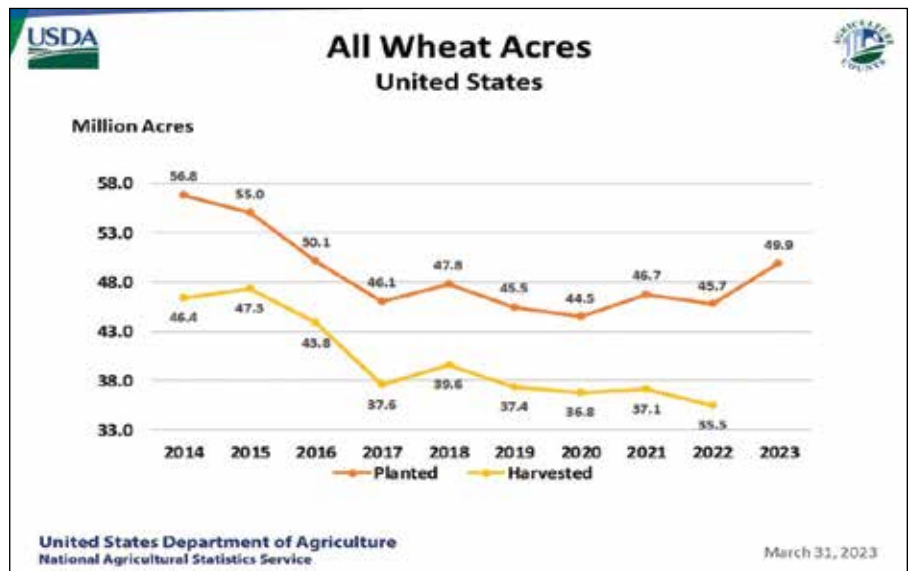
There are no answers to these questions today other than most observers in Ukraine expect significant declines in corn and wheat

production. There are shortages of everything, including no credit and no labor force, to name a few.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released their quarterly stocks and planting intentions estimates the last day of March. The quarterly stocks numbers contained two bullish numbers. March 1 soybean stocks were about 80 million bushels below expectations. The logical assumption is that the USDA would have to reduce their estimate of 2022-23 soybean ending stocks by a similar amount. That would have taken soybean ending stocks from 210 million bushels (a very tight number) to 130 million or so. That would be an impossibly tight number. The USDA, however, made NO changes to the soybean ending stocks number in their April 11 World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report. They ignored the quarterly stocks number completely. The second surprise in the quarterly stocks report was that hard red winter wheat stocks as of March 1 were the smallest since 2008. This is doubly important, because the hard red winter wheat crop is still suffering a major drought. The 2023 hard red winter wheat production will be well below current expectations.

There weren't any major surprises in the planting intentions estimates. The market was looking for more corn acres and steady soybean acres. The numbers showed a million acres more corn than the trade guess and a million fewer soybean acres than the trade guess. Fewer soybean acres, coupled with the smaller March 1 stocks numbers, will make the soybean market interesting through the summer.

Winter wheat acres were up 1 million from January's estimate. That is interesting and might all be based on planting for insurance because of the southern Plains drought. Spring wheat acres were up just slightly from last year.



The May USDA WASDE will be the first to include early looks at the potential 2023-24 marketing year supply and demand estimates for U.S. wheat, corn and soybeans. They will, or at least should, use the March 31 planting intentions numbers for the acreage side of the supply side. My guess, based on their history, is that they will use trend-line corn and soybean yield numbers. Recall, that's what they used back in February at the outlook conference. That would mean record corn and soybean yields against 4 million more corn acres and 1 million fewer soybean acres. That would add more than 700 million bushels of corn to the supply side. That is a bearish number. The soybean situation would not be bearish because of smaller planted acres. Of course, it will also be their first "official" guess of demand and ending supplies.

It will be very interesting to see how they handle the winter wheat production estimate because of the drought across the southern Plains hard red winter wheat region. There was no rain in the forecast as of mid-April. The April 10 crop progress report put 61% of Kansas wheat in the poor to very poor categories. Forty-six percent of Oklahoma, 47% of Texas, and 41% of Nebraska were also rated poor to very poor. The trade has ignored the poor crop conditions, believing rain can still make a big difference and that the increase in planted acres will offset smaller yields. There is a strong possibility that wheat abandonment could set a record this year.

We will also start seeing supply/demand estimates from several private analytical groups in the weeks ahead. Typically, these private estimates tend to mirror the USDA. Most will use trend-line yields. The differences will be in the demand expectations. People are

spooked at U.S. corn and soybean export prospects in the coming marketing year based primarily on the big crops in Brazil. Most don't believe the production disaster in Argentina will make much difference. That seems hard to imagine as internal estimates within Argentina continue to get significantly smaller. Argentina will have to import a significant quantity of soybeans from Brazil to feed their enormous crushing industry. Argentina is the world's largest exporter of soybean meal. This situation should also mean soymeal exports from the U.S. will be bigger than the current year.

The direction of wheat prices will depend on the final size of the U.S. wheat crop. Ending supplies will remain relatively tight. Canada's wheat ending stocks will be the smallest in decades. That will affect their exports with anything less than a very good crop. The level of wheat exports from the Black Sea will be an important question. There is a belief in some circles that Russia will eventually target Ukrainian agriculture. That could mean the loss of significant export capacity and, perhaps, production as well. Parts of western Europe and Russia are also dry.

The markets should remain treacherous. Good Northern Hemisphere crop production is critical to maintaining any sort of price stability. ■

A licensed commodity broker, **Mike Krueger** is a past senior analyst for World Perspectives, a Washington, D.C., agricultural consulting group, and served as a director of the Minneapolis Grain Exchange. He founded two grain marketing consulting companies, Agri-Mark and The Money Farm. He continues to write about agricultural markets for industry-related publications. He resides in Fargo, N.D.



A deep dive into advocacy

Experience gives ambassador an opportunity to see the work WAWG does for wheat growers



By Shaley Tiegs
Washington Wheat Ambassador

Earlier this year, I was given the opportunity to join the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) in lobbying for our farmers at both the state and federal level. During both trips, I was able to meet with legislators, create meaningful connections with many new people, and experience how our government works in person. Working with WAWG to explain the importance of our Washington-grown wheat was an eye-opening experience I won't forget.

As I packed for Olympia at the end of January, I was completely unsure of what to expect. Sure, I'd been told the schedule, but I had never been to Olympia before, and this trip would be a completely new experience for me. Looking back on it now, there was no reason to be nervous, and this trip was an amazing learning process and a deep dive into what WAWG is all about. Some goals for this trip were to pass out cinnamon rolls, meet with legislators, and inform others about Washington wheat and the impact it has on every one of us.

Serving cinnamon rolls at the Capitol was certainly no small task. Each roll had to be separated and placed on its own tray to hand out. All morning long, we passed out the cinnamon rolls and explained what WAWG was all about. While some just wanted a free treat, there were many curious people eager to learn more about growing wheat across the state. This served as a great way to explain what WAWG is, how wheat is grown, and to inform them on how their food gets to the table.

The 2023 Legislative Session is going to be a big one for agriculture. A few of the bills we discussed with lawmakers could have a monumental effect on agriculture across the state.

A seasonal exemption to overtime pay, voluntary riparian buffers, and a wrongfully implemented cap and trade surcharge to fuel bought by farmers are just a few of the main topics I was given the opportunity to discuss while in Olympia with WAWG. Each of these topics would profoundly affect Washington agriculture, and not necessarily for the better.

As I prepared for our first meeting with Rep. Leonard Christian, I was unsure of what exactly to expect. That quickly changed as he welcomed us in and was eager to listen to what we had to say. That first meeting was a very positive experience that left me with ideas of how I could contribute to the conversation and relate back to how the proposed laws would affect my own family's farm.

Throughout the rest of the trip, I was able to use my own experiences to explain the direct effects of these laws in a personable way that showed how they truly affected the Washington farmer. By using my personal experiences, I was able to convey our message to state legislators in a clear and concise manner.

Our trip to Olympia definitely felt like a successful one. Those we spoke to were receptive and eager to hear what WAWG had to say. During that trip, I learned more about being an effective communicator and taking action. Only about a week after I returned home, I hopped on a plane to Washington, D.C., to do it all over again, this time at the national level.

If you had told me a year ago that I was presented the opportunity to visit the nation's capital to speak on the



importance of agriculture, I would've never believed you. Walking through the Capitol buildings in person was such a surreal experience and so much different than just seeing the buildings in the news or online. This trip was truly a unique experience, and I am so glad to have had the opportunity to go.

A few of the main points we discussed while in D.C. with WAWG were about improvements to the farm bill, trade and transportation. While there, I was able to meet with Rep. Rick Larson, Rep. Dan Newhouse, Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, and Sen. Maria Cantwell. Each of these meetings led to great discussions on our topics and how they'd possibly be addressed.

As I look back on those very busy weeks, these experiences are ones I'll value throughout my life. I learned lots about the importance of advocating and educating others and also gained much more insight on how WAWG takes

action to serve our farmers. I hope to take the information and skills learned along these trips with me through college and my career to give my all in what I do and make an impact on those around me. ■

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THE BOTTOM LINE

Juggling the economic triple play

By Dr. David M. Kohl
President, AgriVisions, LLC

In baseball, a successful triple play only occurs when the convergence of events is navigated using precision execution. Moving to farm and ranch management, global macroeconomic, geopolitical, fiscal and monetary policies are resulting in the economic triple play. Strategic operations in an agribusiness requires one to simultaneously manage prices, costs and interest rates in a fast-paced, chaotic landscape with a high degree of precision and objective execution. Let's dig deeper into the realities and actions required to be effective in juggling strategies and actions for a positive bottom line.

Revenue

The first stop is prices and the revenue side of the profit equation. Extreme volatility will be a reality as we approach the quarter-century mark. Many of the strategies developed during the post-commodity super-cycle era, now over one decade ago, are still very applicable. With deglobalization and uncertainty in trade policy, a high priority will be to fine-tune one's risk management program. With one in five dollars of net farm income generated from trade with other nations, assess their economic health and the value of their currencies compared to the dollar. Global economics must be factored into your decision-making. Geopolitical agendas with a "flip the switch" mentality by leaders can quickly change economic fortunes. This can easily cause emotional, rather than objective, decision-making. Cost of production via enterprise and down to the field level are critical elements of managing the triple play with a positive outcome.

Costs

Moving to the second part of the triple play, costs may be more challenging. Expect inflation of farm input costs to be sticky and much more prolonged than other expenses in the general economy. With nearly 80 percent of farm expenses directly or indirectly related to oil and energy, an input and output marketing plan is critical. Of course, about 60 percent of commer-

cial fertilizer is produced in countries with authoritarian regimes, which places more pressure on inflated costs. Coupled with the always present issues of potential supply chain challenges, your strategic action plan needs to have plans A, B, C and D alternatives. Cost of production and break-even points can move very quickly. A good set of spreadsheets with a wide range of assumptions can provide the metrics to maintain business between the profit and loss guardrails. Crop and other insurance options can be a major player of whether one adds or subtracts earned net worth or retained earnings from the farm balance sheet.

If this is overwhelming, consider outside expertise such as an agronomist, a nutritionist, lender or a consultant to assist in mapping out options. Being independent in the past may have got us here, but in the future, being interdependent and the power of collaboration will get us there.

Interest rates

In less than 12 months, the Federal Reserve has raised interest rates 475 basis points or 4.75%. Higher interest rates come after a decade of relatively flat and, in some cases, declining interest rates. The third part of the triple play will require farmers to examine their debt structure. In the agriculture industry, much of the long-term debt on real estate has been fixed rates on three-, five-, or seven-year interest rate resets, meaning the interest rates will be renegotiated on those anniversary dates. A critical element in the interest rate part of the triple play will be operating loans for inputs, which are often on variable interest rates.

Mitigating interest rate risk requires one to follow the Federal Reserve's federal funds rate, which drives the prime interest rate. The prime interest rate is approximately 3% over the federal funds rate. Your individual farm business loan rates will be adjusted from these interest rates based on risk and other loan characteristics.

Applying this to your business applications, shock test your enterprise budgets and cash flow with the possibility of a 3, 4 and 5% increase in

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interest rates on your variable rate operating loans. Then, ascertain your break-even levels with these assumptions as you map out your marketing, risk management and profit plans. A profitability scenario allows one to generate positive earned net worth. If a negative margin was to occur, one must examine your fallback position on your balance sheet, which could be working capital. Current assets minus current liabilities yields working capital, also referred to by a new term: current equity. Maintain 25% of expenses as working capital with the possibility of a drop

in prices, inflated costs and higher interest rates in the economic landscape ahead. Working capital is a financial buffer if the elements of the triple play go in a negative direction.

Management intensity through planning, strategizing, executing and monitoring will be the call to order over the next few years. Following the basics with objective decision-making can place the odds in your favor when juggling the economic triple play in the economic environment bestowed upon the agriculture industry. ■

Dr. David Kohl is an academic hall-of-famer in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va. Dr. Kohl is a sought-after educator of lenders, producers and stakeholders with his keen insight into the agriculture industry gained through extensive travel, research and involvement in ag businesses.

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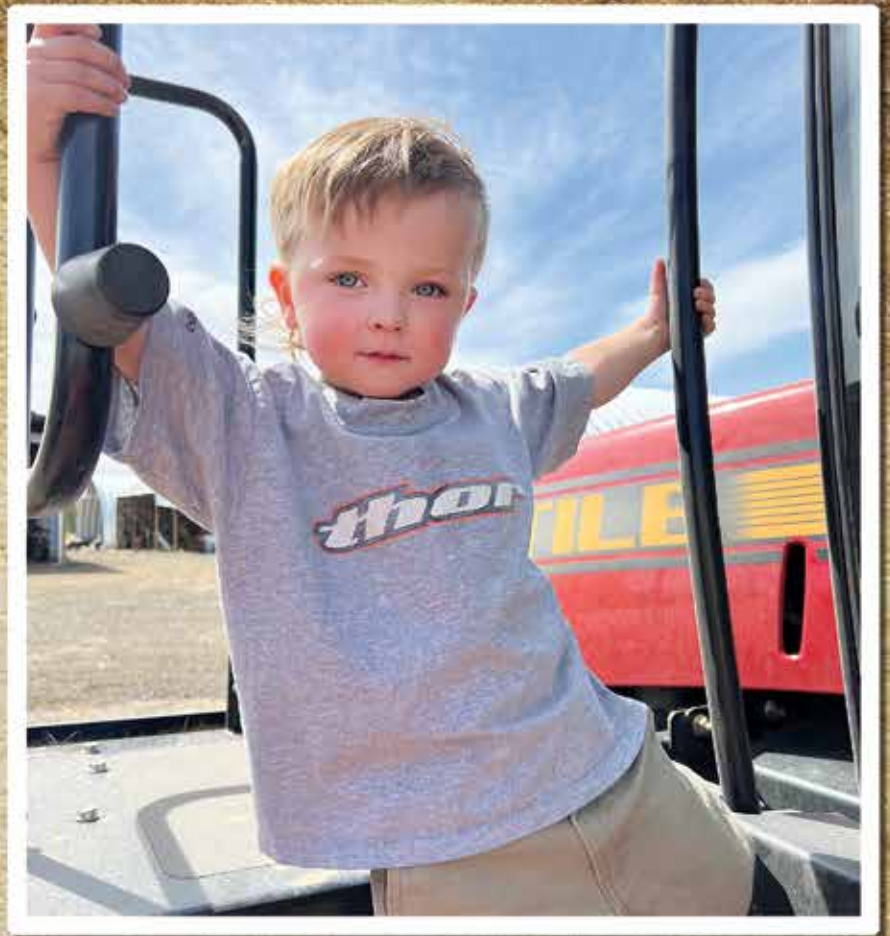
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For Kahlen White (3), any day is a good day when you visit the farm and can play on the tractors at White Farms. Photo by Amy White.



Sunset just north of Steptoe near the middle of 2022's garbanzo bean harvest. Photo by Jeff Hall.



Roderick "Roddy" Krug during a July sunset at Honn Farm in Endicott. Photo by Kori Howell.



(Above) In Lamont, Amund Melville (combine driver) and Jacob Swannack (truck driver) get crafty with unloading. Thank goodness for a 40' header and skilled drivers! Photo by Michelle Ringwood. (Right) Jordan Wagner and his son, Jace (6), during harvest outside Harrington. Photo by Linda Wagner.



HAPPENINGS

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

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. Parade, cowboy songs/poetry, dancing, Saturday dinner, cowboy breakfast. Winthrop, Wash. winthropwashington.com/events/old-west-festival/

18-21 SELAH COMMUNITY DAYS. Carnival, car show, entertainment, vendors. Selah, Wash. selahdays.com

19-21 WAITSBURG CELEBRATION DAYS. Classic car show, cornhole tournament, street dance, vendors, parade, soap box derby, music. Waitsburg, Wash. waitsburgcd.com

20 WATERVILLE COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE. Event runs from 9 a.m. to approximately 3 p.m. Maps and a list of addresses will be available for pick up on W. Locust Street. The event is sponsored by Waterville Main Street Association. For more information, call or text Cathy Clark at (509) 731-3138 or visit historicwatervillewa.org/

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

JUNE 2023

1 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP TOUR. Horse Heaven, Wash., at 10 a.m. For information call Clark Neely at (814) 571-5682 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/

1 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP TOUR. Connell, Wash., at 5 p.m. For information call Aaron Esser at (509) 659-3210 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/

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

3 ROSALIA BATTLE DAYS. Community festival, parade, car show, vendors market, pin-up contest, fun run, kids activities, family games and more. Rosalia, Wash. rosaliabattledays.info

3 REARDAN MULE DAYS. Three on three basketball tournament, craft fair, poker ride, car show, parade. Reardan, Wash. reardanmuledays.com

6 WHEAT COLLEGE. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Palouse Empire Fairgrounds in Colfax, Wash. Lunch is provided. No charge. Register by calling (509) 659-0610 or print out and mail registration form at wawg.org/ammo-workshops/

9 DEMOLITION DERBY EXTRAVAGANZA. Combine demolition derby, parade, barbecue. Lind, Wash. lindcombinederby.com

9-11 PROSPECTORS' DAYS. Three on three basketball tournament, 10k run, classic car show, music. Republic, Wash. facebook.com/prospectorsdays.

10 SNAKE RIVER FAMILY FESTIVAL. Celebrate the lifeblood of the Palouse and enjoy a free lunch and ice cream, music, favorite exhibitors, and kids' activities. Boyer Park & Marina, Colfax, Wash., 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. portwhitman.com/snake-river-family-festival.

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

13 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP TOUR. Moses Lake, Wash., at 8 a.m. For information call Andy McGuire at (509) 754-2011 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/.

13 PENDLETON STATION FIELD DAY. Event begins at 8 a.m. at Pendleton Station on Tubbs Ranch Road outside Pendleton, Ore. For information call Debbie Sutor at (541) 278-4405.

14 MORO FIELD DAY. Event begins at 8 a.m. at Sherman Station on Lone Rock Road outside Moro, Ore. For information call Debbie Sutor at (541) 278-4405.

14 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP TOUR. Harrington, Wash., at 10:30 a.m. For information call Aaron Esser at (509) 659-3210 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/.

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

15 LIND FIELD DAY. Event begins at 8:30 a.m. at the WSU Dryland Research Center in Lind, Wash. For information call Samantha Crow at (509) 677-32103671 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/.

16 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP TOUR. Douglas County at 4 p.m. For information call Dale Whaley at (509) 888-6352 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/.

16 PNWCA CANOLA VARIETY TESTING CROP TOUR. Douglas County, location and time TBD. For more information, contact Karen Sowers at (808) 283-7013 or pnwcanola.org.

16-18 ALL WHEELS WEEKEND. Car show, music, food. Dayton, Wash. historicdayton.com/all-wheels-weekend.

16-18 WENATCHEE RIVER BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL. Adults/children workshops, food, vendors, live music. Chelan County Expo Center in Cashmere, Wash. cashmerecoffeehouse.com/wrbfest.htm.

17 SLIPPERY GULCH DAYS. Chamber breakfast, fun run, tractor show, parade, music, vendors, fireworks. Tekoa, Wash. slipperygulch.com.

17 SPRINT BOAT RACING. Enjoy 5 grass terraces, two beer gardens and a great atmosphere to watch fantastic racing in St. John, Wash. Fun for the entire family! Bring the lawn chairs, sunscreen and

blankets. 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. or until racing is finished. webbsslough.com or (509) 648-8900.

17-18 UNION GAP OLD TOWN DAYS.

Civil war reenactment. Trading post, blacksmith shop, train rides, games and wagon tours. Fullbright Park in Union Gap, Wash. centralwaagmuseum.org/old-town-days-union-gap.asp.

20 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP

TOUR. Fairfield, Wash., at 7 a.m. For information call Clark Neely at (814) 571-5682 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/.

21 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP

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

21 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP

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

21 UOFI VARIETY TESTING CROP

TOUR. Lewiston, Idaho., location and time TBD. For information call Doug Finkelnburg at (208) 799-3096.

22 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP

TOUR. Mayview, Wash., at 10 a.m. For info call Mark Heitstuman at (509) 243-2009 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/

22 PNWCA CANOLA VARIETY

TESTING CROP TOUR. Pomeroy, location and time TBD. For more information, contact Karen Sowers at (808) 283-7013 or pnwcanola.org.

22 PNWCA CANOLA VARIETY

TESTING CROP TOUR. Dayton, location and time TBD. For more information, contact Karen Sowers at (808) 283-7013 or pnwcanola.org.

23 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP

TOUR. Eureka, Wash., at 9 a.m. For information call Clark Neely at (814) 571-5682 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/.

23 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP

TOUR. Walla Walla, Wash., at 1 p.m. For info call Clark Neely at (814) 571-5682 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/.

23 PNWCA CANOLA VARIETY TESTING

CROP TOUR. Walla Walla, location and time TBD. Contact Karen Sowers at (808) 283-7013 or pnwcanola.org.

26 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP

TOUR. Dayton, Wash., at 10 a.m. For information call Clark Neely at (814) 571-5682 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/.

27 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP

TOUR. St. John, Wash., at 10 a.m. For information call Clark Neely at (814) 571-5682 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/.

27 UOFI VARIETY TESTING CROP

TOUR. Genesee, Idaho., at 9 a.m. For information call Doug Finkelnburg at (208) 799-3096.

28 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP

TOUR. Farmington, Wash., at 10 a.m. For info call Clark Neely at (814) 571-5682 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/.

28 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP

TOUR. Pullman, Wash., at 2:30 p.m. For info call Clark Neely at (814) 571-5682 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/.

28 PNWCA CANOLA VARIETY

TESTING CROP TOUR. Pullman, location and time TBD. For more information, contact Karen Sowers at (808) 283-7013 or pnwcanola.org.

29 WILKE FARM FIELD DAY.

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

29 UOFI VARIETY TESTING CROP

TOUR. Camas Prairie, Idaho., at 9 a.m. For information call Audra Cochran at (208) 937-2311.

29 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP

TOUR. Bickleton, Wash., at 1 p.m. For info call Hannah Brause at (509) 773-5817 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/.

30 UOFI VARIETY TESTING CROP

TOUR. Bonners Ferry, Idaho., at 10 a.m. For information call Amy Robertson at (208) 267-3235. ■

Submissions

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

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