

WHEAT LIFE

The official publication of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers

JUNE | 2024

Exploring the possibilities of Marine Highway 84



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

The Port of Columbia is looking for ideas
to fill out artisan grain cluster

Stakeholders intervene in river litigation

A conversation with PNWA's Neil Maunu

Recognizing the contributions of
WSU spring wheat breeder

Where did our markets go?

Ambassador: Legislative work is
anything but routine

Address Service Requested

Washington Association of Wheat Growers
109 East First Avenue, Ritzville, WA 99169

WHEAT LIFE

Volume 67 • Number 06
wheatlife.org

The official publication of



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
Keri Gingrich • keri@wawg.org
(509) 659-0610 • (877) 740-2666
Subscriptions are \$50 per year

WAWG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Michelle Hennings

WAWG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

Anthony Smith • Richland

VICE PRESIDENT

Jeff Malone • Coulee City

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Gil Crosby • Fairfield

PRESIDENT EMERITUS

Andy Juris • Bickleton

APPOINTED MEMBERS

Leif Claassen • Clarkston

Marci Green • Fairfield

Ryan Poe • Hartline

Wheat Life (ISSN 0043-4701) is published by the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG):
109 E. First Avenue • Ritzville, WA 99169-2394

Eleven issues per year with a combined August/September issue. Standard (A) postage paid at Ritzville, Wash., and additional entry offices.

Contents of this publication may not be reprinted without permission.

Advertising in *Wheat Life* does not indicate endorsement of an organization, product or political candidate by WAWG.

President's Perspective



The good ol' days of wheat farming

By Anthony Smith

President, Washington Association of Wheat Growers

Think back to the early days growing up on the farm and helping out. Do you remember all the great times you had? It seemed like stress levels were much lower.

I remember my first solo combine job in 1982-83. I ran a cabless Gleaner-G Harvester. It was itchy and hot, but I was on my own, and I only had to worry about doing my job well. When lunch time came, work stopped, and the harvest crew gathered to eat and visit for a bit. As I got older and more involved with the farm, I realized how many other things there were to worry about. I've also watched as the number of people needed during harvest fell, and the communal lunch has become a solitary meal, eaten on the go.

My father, like most wheat farmers back then, had stresses and challenges that were unique to the 1960s, 70s, and 80s. Fortunately, he and his neighbors had each other to lean on. We still have neighbors, of course, but they are fewer and often farther away, thanks to farm consolidation or children leaving the farm. It also seems like we've become more isolated, thanks to the internet, emails, and texting. We have our own unique farming stresses, such as high input costs, dam removal worries, and burdensome pesticide regulations. Add those to the usual stressors, such as bills, insurance, maintenance, and weather, it becomes a balancing act for sure.

One thing that I've found that helps me deal with stress is making the effort to actually see people and visit in person. I know taking the time to do that can be hard, when you have a field waiting to be sprayed or a machine needing to be repaired. June is the month when Washington State University holds their variety trial plot tours. There's probably one near you (you can find the schedule at smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/). Many counties hold summer meetings in conjunction with a plot tour, so this is a great way to visit with neighbors, learn about the newest varieties from breeders, hear what's happening in the industry, and maybe enjoy a meal.

Representatives from the Washington Association of Wheat Growers and the Washington Grain Commission usually attend county meetings, so this is an opportunity to share your concerns and opinions and let us know what issues your county is dealing with. Benton County's meeting and plot tour will be over by the time you read this, but I'm looking forward to hearing what's going on in my county followed by scouting out my potential next variety at the plot tour.

Harvest is coming fast, which means there'll be even less time to take a breather and slow down for a bit. I don't know about you, but I've got a very long to-do list that just keeps getting longer by the minute. When I do get too stressed, I'm going to remember those early days, and how enjoyable they were — even if they were enjoyable because my father was doing all the stressing. Thanks, dad.

I hope your operations are doing well and that Mother Nature is blessing you with everything you need to grow a great crop. ■

Cover photo: Marine Highway 84, its realized and potential benefits, was the subject of a day-long conference last month in the Tri-Cities. See page 22. All photos are Shutterstock images or taken by *Wheat Life* staff unless otherwise noted.

Inside This Issue



WAWG President's Perspective 2

Dialogue 6

WAWG at Work 8

Policy Matters 16

Washington Wheat Foundation 20

Highway to the future 22

Conference explores the potential of M-84

A germ of an idea 28

Port of Columbia venture looking for ideas

Legal eagles 30

Group focuses on river system litigation

Profiles 34

Scott Steinbacher, WSDA

WGC Chairman's Column 39

Ag leadership corner 40

A conversation with PNWA's Neil Maunu

Demonstrated impact 42

Recognizing wheat breeder's contribution

Return on investment 44

How grower dollars are used in Southeast Asia

Where did our markets go? 46

Market advisor follows the trail

As the tumbleweed turns 47

Russian thistle biology, management

Wheat Watch 50

Wheat ambassador Myers 52

Legislative work anything but routine

The Bottom Line 56

Your Wheat Life 58

Happenings 60

Advertiser Index 62



Contributors

Anthony Smith, president, Washington Association of Wheat Growers

Ben Barstow, chairman, Washington Grain Commission

Lori Maricle, communications director, Washington Grain Commission

Kevin Gaffney, writer, Cheney, Wash.

Mike Krueger, founder, The Money Farm

Drew Lyon, professor and endowed chair, Small Grains Extension and Research, Weed Science

John Spring, former graduate research assistant and agronomist, Central Oregon Seeds, Inc.

Allison Thompson, owner, The Money Farm

Izabella Myers, 2024 Washington Wheat ambassador

Larissa Zeiler, CPA, Leffel, Otis & Warwick, P.S.

WAWG MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please check level of membership

- ☐ Student \$75
 ☐ Family \$200 (up to 2 members)
 ☐ Grower \$125
 ☐ Partnership \$500 (up to 5 partners)
 ☐ Landlord \$125
 ☐ Convention \$600
 ☐ Industry Associate \$150
 ☐ Lifetime \$2,500

Name

Farm or Business

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Fax

Email

County Affiliation (if none, write state)

Circle all that apply:

☐ Producer
 ☐ Landlord
 ☐ Individual
 ☐ Industry Rep.
 ☐ Business Owner
 ☐ Student
 ☐ Other

Return this form with your check to:

WAWG • 109 East First Ave. • Ritzville, WA 99169.

Or call 509-659-0610 and use your credit card to enroll by phone.

Thank you to our current members

We fight every day to ensure that life on the family farm continues to prosper and grow.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

If you are not a member, please consider joining today.

LEVELS OF MEMBERSHIP

| | Greensheet Newsletter | Wheat Life Magazine | National Wheat Grower Newsletter | Annual Harvest Prints | WAWG Convention Free Registration | One Vote per Member |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Producer/Landowners (Voting Membership) | | | | | | |
| 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.

More member benefits:

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



109 East First Ave.
 Ritzville, WA 99169
 509-659-0610
 509-659-4302 (fax)
 wawg.org

Call **509-659-0610** or visit **wawg.org**



AmpliFYR™

WE HAVE THE SCIENCE. YOU HAVE THE SEEDS. LET'S TALK YIELDS.

AmpliFYR™, from EVOIA, is a sustainable seed treatment that increases seedling root and shoot growth, improves seedling vigor, and enhances crop establishment. It brings nature, science and yield potential together in harmonious success. The first and only biochar extract designed and developed specifically for use as a seed treatment, it's fiery innovation you need to learn more about.

AmpliFYR is available in the PNW from Albaugh Seed Treatments. Find out more at **WWW.AMPLIFYR.US** or contact Ed Driskill at Albaugh (208) 874-7960.



EVOIA™

©2023 EVOIA, Inc™. All rights reserved. Albaugh and the Albaugh logo are registered trademarks of Albaugh, LLC. EVOIA and AmpliFYR are trademarks used under license agreement by Albaugh, LLC. Always read and follow label restrictions, precautions and directions for use. AmpliFYR is not registered for sale or use in all states or counties. Please check with your local extension service to ensure registration status.

Dialogue

‘Fishy’ messaging not limited to Snake River dams

Dear Editor,

The issue of fish survival is dominating conversations not just on the lower Snake River. Here in California, we struggle with messaging that environmental advocates have repeated enough to make fact — that greater unimpeded water flows leads to more fish survival. The discussion of predatory habits of invasives has been lost in the rhetoric of less water for farms means more water for fish. We all want fish

species to survive, but challenging the depredation of steelhead and salmon into the mouths of hungry predators is increasingly being ignored. There are consequences for each dictate of an endangered species, most often on the human side of the equation.

I commend Gerald

Baron of Save Family Farming for framing the proper context that all dam removal proposals are failing to be judged by, not just on the lower Snake River system (May 2024 issue of *Wheat Life*, page 18). We are gradually slipping into a paradigm that only contains the favored message of the environmental advocates and not those who depend on the land that produces our domestic food supply.

Norm Groot

Executive Director, Monterey County Farm Bureau

Share your comments with us via email at editor@wawg.org or mail them to 109 East First Avenue, Ritzville, WA 99169-2394. Please keep your submissions less than 300 words.



Ammo feedback

Every year, the Agricultural Marketing and Management Organization (AMMO) offers grower education classes. The 2024 winter schedule concluded with a presentation by noted ag speaker Jolene Brown. Brown talked about respecting the family business by choosing to operate as a business-first family. Feedback included:

"Wonderful workshop. Even though my parents already passed, the information is priceless to start doing something about the family farm. Humor was great."

"It was an amazing presentation."

"Excellent! Best meeting I've ever been to. I've been going to AMMO meetings for 10 years."

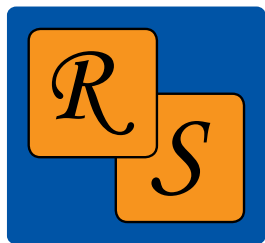
"Amazing presentation and very insightful."

This was very informative and well presented."

"Wonderful, humor and great information — not an easy combination."

"I laughed, I cried, I learned!"

Read more about Brown's presentation at wheatlife.org/business-first-or-family-first-farming/.



RUBISCO SEEDS

Hybrid Canola

Your source for proven
winter canola genetics for
15+ years



A DIVERSITY OF MARKET OPPORTUNITIES:

- Animal Feed
- Edible Oils
- Industrial Applications
- Renewable Diesel
- Sustainable Aviation Fuel



Winter Canola Hybrids

CONVENTIONAL: AKILAH | KICKER | MESSI | MERCEDES | PICARD
CLEARFIELD: CLAVIER CL | COLIN CL | PHOENIX CL | PLURAX CL

- No special equipment needed
- Excellent double crop rotation
- Enhanced carbon capture through winter
- 2x oil content of soybeans
- Winter cash crop
- Improved water quality through nitrate/phosphate retention



When experience counts. A family-owned supplier of premium hybrid canola genetics, offering refined commercial production programs backed by extensive independent research. Strong breeder focus on yield, disease/stress resistance and shatter tolerance.



(270) 903 - 4994
GENERAL INQUIRIES



info@rubiscoseeds.com
EMAIL US



(270) 316 - 4316
CROP PRODUCTION
PROGRAMS



www.rubiscoseeds.com
CONNECT WITH US

Board hears updates on transportation, legislation

At the May board meeting of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG), growers reported crops in decent shape heading into summer, but more rain will be needed if harvest is to be above average.

Many counties are also reporting a bumper crop of cheatgrass.

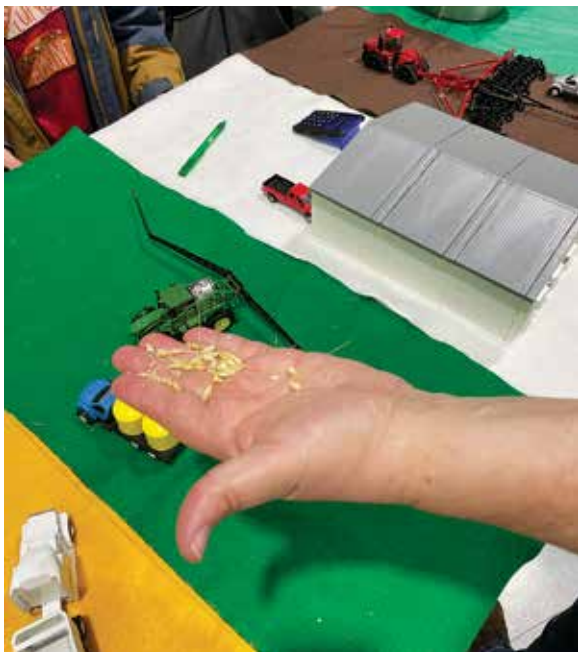
Wheat lobbyists, Diana Carlen and Mark Strueli, made the trip east to attend the meeting. Campaign season started as soon as the 2024 Washington State Legislative Session ended. Carlen said this will be a big election year. For the first time in 12 years, the governor's seat is open. More than two dozen people are running for the position. All seats in the House are up for election as is half of the Senate.

A last-minute initiative has been filed that would stop cities and counties from prohibiting or discouraging the use of natural gas in homes and buildings. Backers of the initiative have to gather more than 324,000 valid signatures by July 5 to get on the ballot. Carlen said the initiative is polling high.

Strueli gave an update on one of WAWG's priorities from the 2024 Legislative Session. The Legislature put aside \$30

million to refund farmers who paid unnecessary cap-and-trade fuel surcharges; the state Department of Licensing will be handling the refunds, which they plan to start distributing by Sept. 1. Strueli told the board that the money is going to go fast — the Farm Bureau estimates that \$150 million is closer to the amount that is needed to fully refund farmers who paid surcharges they weren't supposed to. Growers will need to apply for the refunds online and will self-attest to the amount of exempt fuel they purchased. The program will be based on the amount of fuel used and will be tiered, with amounts ranging from \$600 for less than 1,000 gallons and up to \$4,500 for more than 10,000 gallons.

Another issue WAWG is monitoring is a workgroup on the state's efforts to establish buffers in riparian areas. The workgroup has been active for almost two years, with mixed reviews from WAWG leaders who have taken part in it. Carlen said there isn't very much conservation district involvement and called it a "tough process." The workgroup has a June deadline to publish its recommendations. Carlen said the recommendations are not universally supported within the workgroup, and she is concerned that the public will think they are. ▶



SPOKANE FARM FAIR. In May, WAWG volunteers, including Public Information Chair Marci Green (back left) and Wheat Ambassador Izabella Myers (back right), shared how Washington wheat is grown, transported, and exported with approximately 1,200 fourth and fifth graders at the Spokane Farm Fair.

Let Varsity Idaho wheat put a spell on you

PROVEN VARIETIES, MAGICAL RESULTS



VI Voodoo CL+



Top yield
in OSU high &
int. rain trials



Similar
plant type to
UI Magic CL+



Improved
stripe rust
tolerance



VI Presto CL+



Very heavy
test weight,
a trial topper



Excellent
stripe rust
tolerance



Tall plant
ideal for low
rainfall

THE LATEST IN CLEARFIELD WHEAT GENETICS

VI Encore CL+

When you want more, turn to VI Encore CL+
with superior stripe rust tolerance and excellent
performance in int. to high rainfall zones.



Reserve your seed today



VarsityIdaho.com
bailey.jenks@limagrains.com
509.520.5661

varsity IDAHO
UNIVERSITY of IDAHO • LIMAGRAIN CEREAL SEEDS

Casey Chumrau, CEO of the Washington Grain Commission (WGC), said assessments are the lowest they've been since 2016. June is the end of the fiscal year, and the WGC is planning for a budget of \$7 million. She added that export sales have not been excellent for all classes of wheat this marketing year, with soft white wheat sales down 15%.

The WGC is in the final stages of hiring a market development specialist, which they hope to have done by July.

In national legislation, committee chair Nicole Berg said there's finally some movement on the 2024 Farm Bill, with the House expected to do markup in late May. The House bill includes an increase in the reference price, but finding the funding for an increase is expected to be a major point of contention between the House and Senate. The Senate was still working on their bill with no word on when details will be released. WAWG leaders are heading to Washington, D.C., in June to take part in a farm bill fly-in and the annual Taste of Washington event, which spotlights Washington-grown products and promotes Washington agriculture to members of Congress.

In transportation news, WAWG leaders recently expressed their concerns regarding the narrow scope of the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) transportation study on the impacts of lower Snake River dam removal.

"Reliability impacts on local economies, especially in the context of dramatic changes to our current system, must be included in any study examining costs," WAWG Executive Director Michelle Hennings said. WAWG joined with the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association and the Washington Public Ports Association in a letter to WSDOT outlining these concerns.

WAWG welcomes new staff member

The Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) is happy to welcome **Keri Gingrich** as the association's new administrative assistant.

Gingrich grew up in Ritzville, Wash., on a wheat and cattle farm. She joined the U.S. Air Force where she trained as a Morse code operator. She was stationed at Wheeler Air Force Base in Honolulu, where she "enjoyed the fun and sun of a tropical island, even though my work area was located three stories underground."

Gingrich returned to Ritzville in 1993. She has two sons, Tanner and Jarod, who both live in Ritzville.

"You just can't beat living in a small town near family," Gingrich said. "I spent 18 years trying to leave Ritzville and then six years doing everything I could to get back." While Gingrich's family no longer farms, the extended family of her partner, Scott Steinmetz, still does.

Before joining the WAWG team, Gingrich worked in accounting for Northern Quest Casino and as an administrative assistant for Connell Oil. In her spare time, Gingrich enjoys cooking, gardening, and reading.

"I'm looking forward to working with WAWG members and getting to know growers," she said.

Gingrich can be reached at keri@wawg.org or at the WAWG office at (509) 659-0610.

Along with a new staff member, WAWG is changing its office hours. The Ritzville office will be open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The office will be closed on Fridays. ■



See page 12 for more on the letter.

WAWG leaders have been busy over the past few months advocating for the Columbia-Snake River System. They recently returned from a conference focused on the river system and the ways it is used to move products through the region, as well as opportunities for clean energy initiatives. See page 22 for more on the conference.

Hennings also previewed some of the upcoming transportation advocacy activities WAWG will be involved with this summer. These include participating in panels at several state and regional conferences, a Midwest river infrastructure tour in June, and a lower Snake River dam congressional staffer tour in August.

The board reviewed the proposed 2024-25 budget and was introduced to two new WAWG staff members: Andrea Cox, conservation coordinator, and Keri Gingrich, administrative assistant. Charlie Mead was introduced as the new Columbia County board representative.

The next WAWG state board meeting is scheduled for June 18. ■

WB1545
WB1621
WB1922
WB4640

SEIZE THE SEASON WITH WHEAT THAT'S NORTHWEST STRONG.

To get the most out of your fields in the Northwest, you need wheat that can endure the region's toughest challenges. Varieties like **WB1545** contain excellent yield potential and Yellow (Stripe) Rust tolerance, while **WB1621** and **WB1922** offer strong winter hardiness, disease tolerance and excellent yield potential. **WB4640** provides excellent protein content and milling and baking quality. Trust WestBred® to help you get the most out of every acre.

Now's the Time. Boldly Grow.
Seize the Season.



Whitman growers warned about bridge weight limits

At the May meeting of the Whitman County wheat growers, attendees were reminded that many of the bridges in the county were not built to support newer farm equipment, and farmers may be liable for replacement costs if they disregard weight limits.

Mark Storey and Brian Wilson from the Whitman County Public Works office explained that today's farm equipment is too heavy and too big for many of the county's bridges, and the way the weight is distributed on the wheels may not match the structure of the bridges. Besides just being heavier, newer combines have front wheels that are often wider than bridge reinforcements. This can shorten the lifespan of a bridge or cause it to fail. Shorter spans are more susceptible than longer ones.

Storey advised farmers to plan how they are going to move machinery from farm to farm and field to field and to respect weight limits. In some cases, this could mean taking a different route that avoids structures, removing headers from combines before moving them, or emptying

tanks before moving equipment. The county has approximately 300 bridges to maintain, some of which are still wooden structures, and it is getting more expensive to replace them. Even newer, concrete structures are still susceptible as they were built at the same weight and axle limits.

Leslie Druffel spoke about advocacy efforts regarding the lower Snake River dams. She said more people need to voice their support for the dams.

Crops are planted and up, but cheatgrass is becoming a problem in many growers' fields.

Growers also passed a motion to help fund batteries for drones used in research and breeding programs. The next grower meeting will be in June, likely after the Spillman Farm crop tour, with details to come. ■

WAWG expresses concern over transportation study

The Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) joined with Pacific Northwest Waterways



BLOOMSDAY BOOTH. The Washington wheat industry shared wheat and barley farming knowledge, trivia, and snacks with the public and participants in Spokane's annual Bloomsday race at the Bloomsday trade show. The booth was manned by volunteers, including KayDee Gilkey (right), outreach coordinator for the Washington Association of Wheat Growers.

Get **more** from your wheat acres



LCS Kamiak



Ideal
for int. to high
rain zones



Excellent
stripe rust
tolerance



Very early
maturity



LCS Blackbird



**Broad
adaptation**
with SBWMV allele



Excellent
straw strength



Preferred
for high rain and
irrigated production



LCS Kraken AX



**Broadly
adapted**
CoAXium variety



Very good
winter-hardiness



Excellent
end-use quality



Reserve your seed today

 LimagrainsCerealSeeds.com/PNW  509.520.5661



Limagrain 

Association and the Washington Public Ports Association in a letter to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) regarding the transportation study on how to replace barging capabilities on the lower Snake River. The group contends the study fails to address the requirements laid out in the budget proviso passed by the Washington State Legislature.

The Legislature required the study to investigate 12 specific areas in the analysis of highway, road, and freight rail transportation needs, options, and impacts from shifting the movement of freight and goods that currently move by barge through the lower Snake River dams to highways, other roads, and rail. The requirements include carbon emission impacts of the mode shift, carbon cost estimates, and impacts on environmental justice and disadvantaged/underserved communities.

"... We were told that the study will strictly examine this very important issue through solely a transportation lens and will not consider factors like workforce or economics. We believe such a narrow focus is inconsistent with the requirements set forth by the Legislature," the letter states.

The groups have requested clarification on how the scope of the study will be expanded to cover all of the areas required by the Legislature. ■

Winter wheat production up 19% in Pacific Northwest

From the National Agricultural Statistics Service

Based on May 1, 2024, conditions, production of winter wheat in Washington was forecast at 117 million bushels, up 24% from 2023. Yield was expected to average 65 bushels per acre, up 11 bushels from last year. Harvested acres were forecast at 1.80 million acres, up 50,000 acres from 2023.

In Idaho, production was forecast at 62.1 million bushels, up 11% from 2023. Yield was expected to average 90 bushels per acre, up 1 bushel from last year. Harvested acres were forecast at 690,000 acres, up 60,000 acres from 2023.

In Oregon, production was forecast at 48.6 million bushels, up 20% from 2023. Yield was expected to average 68 bushels per acre, up 12 bushels from last year. Harvested acres were forecast at 715,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from 2023.

Nationally, production was forecast at 1.28 billion bushels, up 2% from 2023. Yield was forecast at 50.7 bushels per acre, up slightly from last year. Harvested acres were forecast at 25.2 million acres, up 515,000 acres from 2023.

U.S. white winter wheat production was forecast at 229 million bushels, up 16% from last year. Of this total, 17.3 million bushels are hard white and 211 million bushels are soft white. U.S. hard red winter, at 705 million bushels, is up 17% from 2023. Soft red winter, at 344 million bushels, is down 23% from 2023. ■

Spring wheat entries accepted through July in yield contest

Spring wheat growers are encouraged to enter the National Wheat Yield Contest at wheatcontest.org, any-time up until Aug. 1. Growers will need to create an account on the new site and then put in their entries. There is a new pilot category for growers in Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

The purpose of the National Wheat Yield Contest is to:

- Educate and communicate to all segments of the wheat industry the importance of yield, quality, and profit.
- Improve the overall productivity, quality, and marketability of U.S. wheat.
- Develop best management practices to achieve high yield, high quality, and higher profit. ■

Are you receiving your ALERT?

With their annual membership, Washington Association of Wheat Growers members can receive industry updates through the weekly digital Greensheet ALERT via email. If you are not receiving this ALERT, either we don't have your current email address, or our ALERT is going into your spam folder. Call our office at (509) 659-0610 to make sure we have your current email address. ■

AGRICULTURE ISN'T JUST A DEPARTMENT TO US.

It's our way of life.

Buy or Sell farmland with
Booker2Bid.com

C.D. "Butch" Booker
Licensed in WA & ID

509.397.4451 - info@booker2bid.com

DRILLED PERFECTION

GREAT PLAINS AIR DRILLS

When each moment in the field matters, you need to get the most out of your seeding solution. That's why we've built our complete line of air drills using the same great technology for seeding accuracy and efficiency as our industry-leading box drills. Whether you need precise seed placement for no-till or min-till farming—or an innovative implement that incorporates tillage while you seed—you'll find the right air drill to cover more acres in less time from Great Plains.



- CTA4000 MIN-TILL SOLUTION



- FCA4500 -
CONVENTIONAL-TILL SOLUTION



- NTA3510 -
NO-TILL SOLUTION



- NTA3007 -
9' 9" NARROW-TRANSPORT



- ADC2352 -
AIR DRILL CART, 2X 175-BU. TANKS

VISIT ONE OF THESE GREAT PLAINS DEALERS OR GET MORE INFORMATION AT: www.GreatPlainsAg.com

FARM & HOME SUPPLY
Pomeroy, WA – 509-843-3395

CENTRAL MACHINERY SALES
Moses Lake, WA – 509-765-1257

MORROW COUNTY GRAIN GROWERS
Lexington, OR – 800-452-7396

WALTER IMPLEMENT, INC.
Odessa, WA – 509-982-2644

FARM EQUIPMENT HEADQUARTERS
Pendleton, OR – 541-276-6222

MORROW COUNTY GRAIN GROWERS
Wasco, OR – 800-824-7185

CENTRAL MACHINERY SALES
Pasco, WA – 509-547-8920

CENTRAL MACHINERY SALES
Sunnyside, WA – 509-837-3833

ST. JOHN HARDWARE & IMPLEMENT
Fairfield, WA – 509-283-2111

©Great Plains Mfg., Inc. 2922-GPM

POLICY MATTERS

WAWG applauds movement of farm bill legislation

When both the House and Senate ag committees released summaries of proposed farm bill legislation in May, the Washington Association of Wheat Growers was pleased and encouraged to see movement on this critical piece of legislation.

“Washington wheat growers are thrilled to see forward progress on the 2024 Farm Bill and hope lawmakers can work together to pass a comprehensive, bipartisan farm bill this year,” said Anthony Smith, president of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers. “We look forward to working with both chambers through the National Association of Wheat Growers to ensure that the wheat industry has a seat at the table and that our concerns and priorities are addressed during markup.”

WAWG’s priorities for the 2024 Farm Bill include maintaining the current structure of the crop insurance program and current cost-share levels. The association also supports making adjustments to the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) programs so they can become an adequate safety net for wheat production, especially the current \$5.50 PLC reference price, which neither covers the cost of production nor takes input costs into account.

“Producers are some of the best stewards of the land, and we encourage farm bill writers to prioritize working lands conservation programs in the conservation title,” said Michelle Hennings, executive director of the Washington

Association of Wheat Growers. “Conservation programs should remain voluntary and incentive-based, and producers should be recognized for their efforts at climate mitigation.”

The Senate Ag Committee’s Rural Prosperity and Food Security Act proposal incorporates summaries of bills that have been introduced as markers of what members want to include in the bill and moves the agriculture sections of the Inflation Reduction Act into the farm bill. The proposal includes no bill text, and the Senate hasn’t released a plan for committee action yet.

The House Ag Committee’s proposal is a title-by-title summary and includes increased support for PLC and ARC, the authority to expand base acres, reallocating Inflation Reduction Act funds to the conservation title, and modernizing the Conservation Reserve Program by incentivizing enrollment of marginal lands and emphasizing state partnerships. The House Ag Committee passed their version of the farm bill out of committee on May 23. ■

Congressman files legislation protecting dams

In early May, Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.) introduced legislation that seeks to protect the lower Snake River dams from breaching. The legislation comes as a response to the final package of actions and commit-



AG ON THE MALL. The wheat supply chain was well represented at this year’s Celebration of Modern Ag on the Mall in Washington, D.C. The National Association of Wheat Growers joined with North American Millers’ Association, U.S. Wheat Associates, and American Bakers Association to educate members of Congress and the public about the impact of the wheat industry. Photo from the National Association of Wheat Growers.

THERE'S NO SECOND CHANCE WITH A SEED TREATMENT.

PROVEN ON OVER A MILLION ACRES IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST.

The best harvests start with a seed treatment – but not just any seed treatment. Albaugh has been delivering specialized solutions to growers in the PNW for more than a decade. From single active ingredients to custom blends, you'll get the right seed treatment for the right acre – and give your bottom line a lift.



GET THE WHOLE STORY AT
ALBAUGHST.COM/PNW



©2024 Albaugh, LLC. All rights reserved. Albaugh and the Albaugh logo are registered trademarks of Albaugh, LLC. Always read and follow label restrictions, precautions and directions for use. Some products may not be registered for sale or use in all states or counties. Please check with your local extension service to ensure registration status.

ments in the Columbia River System Operations (CRSO) mediation that was released earlier this year.

"I have consistently reminded the Biden administration that the authority over the lower Snake River dams remains in the hands of Congress," Newhouse said in a press release. "This package is not only a staunch reinforcement of that fact, but a testament to our commitment to protect these critical pieces of infrastructure."

The legislation contains nine bills that take aim at specific provisions in the CRSO mediation actions and commitments, including:

- The Abandoning Inconsistent and Rash Environmental Solutions (ACRES) Act prohibits the breaching of federally operated dams if such breach would result in the replacement energy resource occupying additional acreage of more than 5%.
- The Breaking Irresponsible Energy and Commercial Habits (BREACH) Act prohibits the breaching of federally operated dams if such a breach would result in an increase in carbon emissions by more than 10%, would



Rep. Dan Newhouse
(R-Wash.)

make the body of water impacted by the breach less navigable for commercial interests, and would result in an increase of at least 10% of the price of products shipped via the body of water.

- The Ratepayer Funding Alternative Act directs the Department of Energy to develop fish and wildlife program funding alternatives to mitigate the cost to Bonneville Power Administration ratepayers and report to Congress within six months of enactment on what alternative funding options are available.
- The Pinniped Predator Deterrence Act requires and authorizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to acquire technology that uses acoustic sound technology to deter pinniped predators above and below the Bonneville Dam.
- The ELECTRIC Act prohibits DOI and the Corps from retiring an energy generation source if that retirement would raise customer electricity rates and decrease regional energy reliability by more than 10%.

Co-sponsors of the legislation include Reps. Russ Fulcher (R-Idaho), Cliff Bentz (R-Ore.), Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.), Matt Rosendale (R-Mont.), and Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-Wash.). ■

BRENT

DESIGNED TO PERFORM
BUILT TO LAST

HARVEST WITH THE POWER OF BRENT

GRAIN HANDLING PRODUCTS

With more than four decades of experience building grain handling products, Brent® has earned a reputation for innovation and quality. From the dual-auger Avalanche® and the single-auger V-Series grain carts to The Grain Train® wagons and more, we push the limits of technology to create products you can depend upon each and every harvest.

1598

V700

557

**SCAN TO
LEARN MORE.**

**VISIT BRENTEQUIP.COM OR SEE YOUR
NEAREST DEALER FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

Unverferth Manufacturing Co., Inc.
P.O. Box 357 • Kalida, OH 45853 • Unverferth.com



You want the best for them - and that means saving for college.

It's never too early or too late to start planning for your future. We can work together to build a savings strategy that fits your family.

Let's discuss your priorities and set up a plan. Contact me today and we can help you get started.



Dean E. Roy AAMS*
Financial Advisor
1024 16th Avenue, Ste C
Lewiston, ID 83501
208-798-4742



Joe Behler AAMS*
Financial Advisor
11707 E Sprague Ave
Ste. 103
Spokane Valley WA 99206
509-927-8033



Brian E. Bailey AAMS*
Financial Advisor
931 6th Street
Clarkston, WA 99403
509-758-8731
866-758-9595



Joy Behen
Financial Advisor
6115 Burden Blvd. Ste A
Pasco, WA 99301
509-542-1626
877-542-1626



Jay Mlazgar AAMS*
Financial Advisor
609 S. Washington
Ste. 203
Moscow, ID 83843
208-882-1234



Ryan Brault CFP*
Financial Advisor
3616 W. Court St. Ste. I
Pasco, WA 99301
509-545-8121
888-545-8126



Terry A. Sliger
Financial Advisor
1329 Aaron Drive
Richland, WA 99352
509-943-2920
888-943-2920



Hank Worden
Financial Advisor
109 S. Second Ave
Walla Walla, WA 99362
509-529-9900
800-964-3558



Greg Bloom
Financial Advisor
Professional Mall I I
1260 SE Bishop Blvd. Ste C
Pullman, WA 99163
509-332-1564



**FAMILY OWNED
AND OPERATED
SINCE 1953**

- **FARM FUEL**
- **PREMIUM LUBRICANTS**
- **CFN FUELING NETWORK**
- **RENEWABLE DIESEL**
- **TANK RENTALS**



(888) 799-2000

www.colemanoil.com

info@colemanoil.com

“A story of agriculture will be told. It would be better if it were told by you.”

— Jerry McReynolds,
past president of the National
Association of Wheat Growers

Growing a bridge to bigger conversations

Recently, the grain industry hosted a booth at the Bloomsday trade show in Spokane, Wash., and hundreds of attendees learned about the importance of wheat and barley farming in our region. Events like these make us realize that while we all know we grow more than grain, most of our consumer friends don't understand what we do or how we do it.

• About 80% of the wheat grown in Eastern Washington is soft white wheat, one of six classes grown in the U.S. It is used for cookies, crackers, pastries and Asian delicacies including sponge cake.¹

Before we can begin to share the fact that wheat and barley farmers support communities, we have to build a bridge. As wheat and barley farmers, we're good at doing the work and not paying attention to what our neighbors and communities think about us. And, in turn, most of our neighbors and community members don't think about us on a regular

basis either. But, when we take a minute to think about what consumers really know and understand about wheat, it is obvious that the only connection we have to them is what they see on store shelves, which is flour (and cookies, cakes, donuts, etc.). Even though only 10% of our wheat crop stays in the U.S., this is our only connection to Washington consumers — the flour and products they consume. Using this as a bridge to bigger conversations is the key.

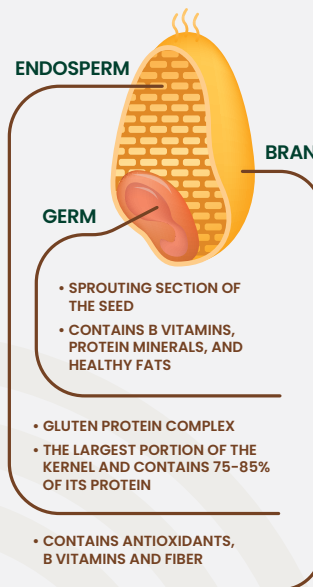
So, what about the flour we grow? We get a lot of questions about gut health, and how our flour in the U.S. is made. We also often get asked what parts of the kernel are used for flour. Admittedly, we are farmers, not millers, so answering these questions can be a challenge. You can learn a lot more about this at wawheat.net/how-wheat-works. But in the meantime, here's a summary.

The milling process separates the three distinct parts of a wheat kernel: bran, the outer covering of the grain; germ, the embryo contained inside the kernel; and endosperm, the part of the kernel that makes white flour.² Here are some basics when you are talking to your nonfarm friends:

- Whole wheat flour is milled using the entire kernel.
- Enriched flour, also known as refined flour, is milled to remove the kernel's endosperm and doesn't include the bran or germ. It does, however, have various nutrients including folic acid, riboflavin, niacin and thiamine added which have shown to be beneficial to human health.¹

• All-purpose flour has iron and four B-vitamins (thiamin, niacin, riboflavin and folic acid) added in amounts equal to or exceeding what is in whole wheat flour. Virtually all white flour sold in the U.S. is enriched (over 95%). There is no change in taste, texture, color, baking quality or caloric value of enriched flour.²

what's in a WHEAT KERNEL



There are many different types of flour, such as cake flour, bread flour, and pastry flour. Different classes of wheat produce different flour quality traits that bakers use for different end products. For example, the flour used to make pasta is different from the flour used to make croissants. Having a basic understanding of how the soft white we grow in Washington impacts the flour used by our bakers can open the door to bigger conversations. ■

¹Washington Grain Commission ²Wheat Foods Council

Remember the Foundation in your charitable giving.
Go to wawheat.org to find out more about supporting your industry.

 @WHEATFOUNDATION  @WAWHEATFOUNDATION  WAWHEATFOUNDATION

Your ad could be here

*getting read by
thousands of Pacific
Northwest farmers and
growers. What are you
waiting for?*

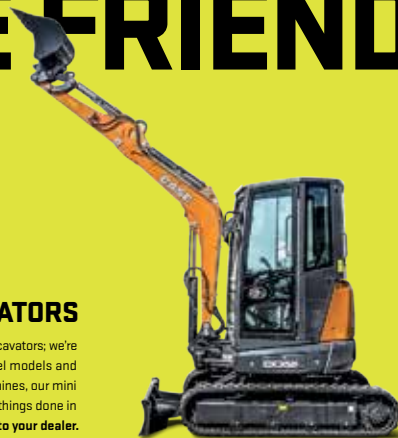
**Call Lance Marshall
at (253) 221-7000**



TOP QUALITY FUELS • 24 HOUR PUMPS FARM HARDWARE IN STOCK • FULL TIRE SERVICES

343 S Columbia, Connell WA 509-234-2631 WWW.CONNELLGRANGE.COM

SAY HELLO TO MY LITTLE FRIEND.



THE NEW CASE MINI EXCAVATORS

We're so all in on helping you make more money with mini excavators; we're going big on expanding our line. We're rolling out new diesel models and new electric models, starting at CONEXPO. Like our big machines, our mini excavators are well-appointed and operator friendly. Get big things done in tight spaces with CASE. **Learn more at CaseCE.com or talk to your dealer.**



NO ONE WILL OUTWORK US.

**THE NEW
CASE
CONSTRUCTION**

MOSES LAKE

1201 E. Yonezawa Blvd.
Moses Lake, WA 98837
Phone: 509-766-9813

PASCO

1802 E. James St.
Pasco, WA 99301
Phone: 509-547-9003

SUNNYSIDE

207 West South Hill Rd.
Sunnyside, WA 98944
Phone: 509-837-3833

SPOKANE

4030 East Trent Ave.
Spokane, WA 99202
Phone: 509-532-9477

©2024 Central Machinery Sales, Inc. All rights reserved. CASE is a trademark registered in the United States and many other countries, owned by or licensed to CNH Industrial N.V., its subsidiaries or affiliates.

CLASS 8 TRUCKS

**521 N. EASTERN RD. • SPOKANE, WA
(509) 534-9088 • class8trucks@aol.com**



After 30 plus years of dedicated hard work, Robert R. Burch III decides to hang up his tool belt as an electrician and takes to the road. Bob gives life to Pops Olde Tyme Trucking. Equipping himself with a reefer van to be pulled behind his 2004 International 9400i. Eager to haul whatever he can get his hands on.

**Chad Ingraham (509) 953-2481
Scott Lund (509) 995-5024
Jeff Miller (509) 599-9926
Marc B. Lange (509) 991-9088**

**NOT JUST TRUCKS,
TRAILERS TOO!**

www.class8trucksales.com

Highway to the future

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS POSSIBILITIES OF THE PNW'S WATERY ROADWAY

By Trista Crossley
Editor, *Wheat Life*

One of the most important highways in the Pacific Northwest isn't paved, but that doesn't stop billions of dollars of goods and services from flowing up and down its length.

Marine Highway 84, or M-84, is comprised of portions of the Columbia, Snake, and Willamette rivers and stretches from Lewiston, Idaho, down to Astoria, Ore. M-84 was the subject of a recent conference in Pasco, Wash., that explored the economic importance of the highway as well as its role to contributing to the region's clean energy future. This is the second year the conference has been held, and it was hosted by the ports of Benton, Clarkston, Columbia, Lewiston, Pasco, Walla Walla, and Whitman County.

"It was great seeing a room full of people exploring opportunities on our M-84 Marine Highway," said Randy Hayden, executive director of the Port of Pasco. "Not only did we get to hear from established river shippers, but also new businesses exploring how they could shift their freight off of our busy highways and onto the river. With the state struggling to find adequate funds for highways, the M-84 is a natural fit to address our growing freight transportation needs."

Michelle Hennings, executive director of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG), and Andy Juris, WAWG past president, attended the conference.

"The conference was a great event that highlighted the importance of the Columbia-Snake River System and many of the projects that have taken advantage of barging to transport cargo safely and efficiently and in an environmentally friendly way," Hennings said. "The possibilities for utilizing this 'green corridor' continue to expand beyond clean energy generation, and the improvements in infra-

M-5

Seattle

WA

Astoria

M-84

Portland

Lewiston

OR

ID

CA

NV

Oakland

The M-84 connects to the M-5 Route in Astoria, Ore., and includes the Columbia, Willamette and Snake Rivers, connecting commercial navigation channels, ports, and harbors. It spans Oregon, Washington, and Idaho from Astoria, Ore., to Lewiston, Idaho, and a 26-mile portion of the Willamette River from Willamette Falls to the confluence with the Columbia River.

Source: U.S. Department of Transportation

OFFICES:

Genesee
208-285-1141

Colfax
509-397-4381

Rosalia
509-523-3511

Fairfield
509-283-2124

- Grain Marketing & Storage
- Pulse & Specialty Crop Processing
- Quality Pulse & Cereal Seeds
- Rail & River Shipping Terminals
- Hedging Futures & Options



"A Family of Farmers"

1-866-986-2008
www.pnw.coop

WESTFIELD **WESTEEL** **BATCO** **NECO** **-SIOUX-** **SCAFCD** **WALINGA**



MOVE ★ DRY ★ STORE

★ Augers ★ Belt Conveyors ★ Dryers ★ Grain Bins ★ Construction

T&S Sales

509.535.1177

NwGrainAugers.com

structure along M-84 will help vitalize local economies by creating jobs, expanding tax bases, and increasing tourism opportunities.”

Far-reaching

The conference’s first session focused on the importance of M-84 to the communities and industries that utilize the highway. Neil Maunu, executive director of the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association, emphasized how efficient the system is in moving goods and how far-reaching it is, bringing not only Pacific Northwest wheat to the coast for export, but Canadian wheat and corn and soybeans from the Midwest. In fact, the system is the third largest grain export gateway in the world, with approximately 60% of U.S. wheat exports transported down M-84. Other top commodities that move on the marine highway include petroleum, automobiles, soda ash, and potash.

Considering the huge amount of agriculture in the region, it’s not surprising to learn that M-84 handles more exports than imports. Much of that cargo either ends up or begins its journey at the ports of Vancouver and Portland. At the Port of Portland, Randy Fischer, a senior research analyst, said that while one out of every four vessels that dock at the port is there for grain, the port also handles other products such as limestone cement, chemicals, petroleum, autos, steel, and logs. The port is exploring

a move to green energy and looking for ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Port of Vancouver is the third oldest port in Washington. It handles a similarly diverse cargo mix and is also looking for ways to lower greenhouse gas emissions and increase sustainability by using renewable diesel when possible, implementing an innovative stormwater management system, and purchasing electric vehicles such as trucks, vans, and even forklifts.

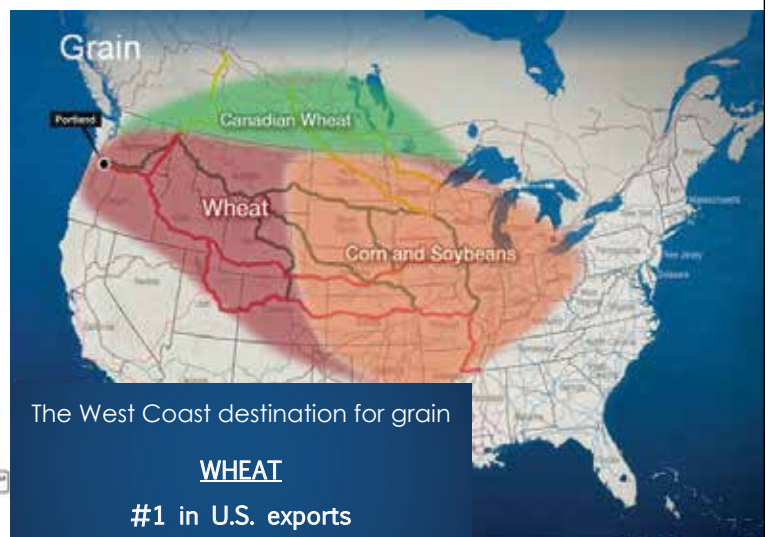
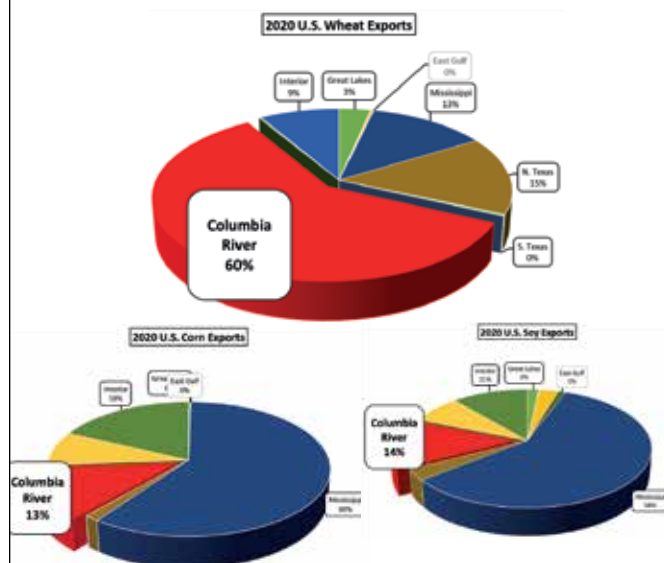
“(The port) is the biggest economic engine that nobody knows is there,” said Lori Kaylor, commercial sales associate at the Port of Vancouver. “We are small but global.”

A people mover

It’s not only cargo that moves on M-84. A growing number of people are taking cruises up and down the system, and ports and cruise ship companies are investing in infrastructure as a result.

Kristin Meira, director of government affairs for American Cruise Lines, said her company currently operates five vessels on M-84. American Cruise Lines is investing in new cruise docks and facilities and piles/fenders at several ports. The company plans to do a stream mitigation project to offset some of that work. They are also exploring ways to link up with local companies and

Third largest grain export gateway in the world



tribal partners. The impact of cruise passengers extends to other parts of the transportation system — Meira said 30% of passenger volume at the Lewiston airport comes from river cruisers.

High, wide, and heavy

At the opposite end of the cargo spectrum from people are items that are unusually high, wide, and/or heavy, such as the components needed for manufacturing, construction, and green power generation and distribution — think wind turbine blades. An economic study estimated that in 2021, 53% of the 161,000 tons that moved into the Pacific Northwest, the upper Midwest, and Canada from the Gulf Coast could have been moved more cost effectively using M-84. The annual economic impact of that tonnage was estimated at 719 direct and indirect jobs, \$30 million of direct business revenue, and almost \$8 million in state and local taxes.

One project that showcased the potential benefits of using M-84 to transport high, wide, heavy loads was a wind farm project in Alberta, Canada. Parts were shipped to deep-water ports in Longview or Vancouver and moved through four states and one Canadian province. Laurie Nelson-Cooley, manager of business development at the Port of Longview, said initial project planning estimated it would take approximately 775 truckloads to move all the components to the project site in Canada. Besides the logistics of moving football field-sized turbine blades along crowded urban free-ways and through twisty mountain roads, they also had to deal with limited rest area opportunities for drivers and obtaining permits from the four states and province. The solution was to use M-84 to barge all the tower sections and blades to Lewiston and then load them onto trucks for the rest of the journey.

Justin Valley, director of business

WHERE GOOD ENOUGH, ISN'T.

Some banks receive 5-Star ratings and think they've arrived. But at Wheatland Bank, we call that "Just getting started." Now, as a member of the Glacier family of regional banks, we're doing even more of what made us an industry leader. Anticipating Eastern Washington's growing needs with more expertise, more technology, more resources... well, more everything. The new, even better, Wheatland Bank. What more do you need? Seriously, we're asking.

With the backing of Glacier Bank, Wheatland now delivers:

- Deeper lending resources
- Access to 228 Glacier family branches and 55,000 Allpoint ATMs
- Exciting new products, services & tools
- All the same friendly faces!

RELATIONSHIPS YOU CAN COUNT ON.

wheatland.bank

 **wheatland**
DIVISION OF
GLACIER BANK **bank**

 Equal Housing Lender | Member FDIC

development for Foss Maritime, said using M-84 allowed them to bypass Department of Transportation restrictions on I-84, reduce the number of truckloads needed, and avoid areas with limited rest opportunities for drivers. Using the river system reduced turnaround time for drivers and eliminated the risks of oversized loads moving through populated areas.

A 'green' corridor

While there is no formal definition of a green shipping corridor, it is generally used to mean a zero-emission maritime route between two ports. There are 22 designated green shipping corridors in the world, but none in the domestic U.S.

Stephanie Bowman, maritime industry sector lead for the Washington State Department of Commerce, said there are multiple ways to achieve a decarbonized corridor beyond just vessels and fuel. Other means could include energy efficiency and operation optimization, cargo handling equipment that uses renewable fuel, the types of cargo moved, etc. Decarbonizing the M-84 could provide new business opportunities and help highlight the importance of the system as a critical shipping corridor.

Two companies that are taking steps towards reducing emissions are Tidewater Barge Lines and Atlas Agro. Tidewater owns and operates five terminals and two pipelines in the Pacific Northwest and is a huge supplier of fuel in the region. They are upgrading their terminals to be able to handle more biofuels. Atlas Agro is building a green nitrogen fertilizer plant in Richland that will use electrolysis to make fertilizer components. Derek Van Arsdale, a project manager for Atlas Agro, said the M-84 corridor was one of the primary drivers that sold Richland as a site. ■

Big time value. Small town service.

At Western Insurance we have been serving families in the Pacific Northwest for over 100 Years. With access to over 75 of the top insurance carriers we can help you customize your coverage needs and offer some of the best premium prices in the marketplace.



Tawnya Myers



Christy Harrison



Mandi Braun

Call us today for a complimentary customized quote.

509-283-7733

FARM & CROP | HOME | AUTO | BUSINESS

Jacquelin
MAYCUMBER

★ ★ Congress (R) ★ ★

ALWAYS PUTTING OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES FIRST

As the only Farmer and Rancher in the race for Congress, Jacquelin is a strong advocate for agriculture and a member of both the Washington State Farm Bureau and the Washington State Cattlemen's Association.

VOTE AND SUPPORT JACQUELIN MAYCUMBER FOR CONGRESS

Primary Election | Aug. 6th

VoteMaycumber.com



Scan the QR code to learn more about Jacquelin and her campaign for Congress.



Paid for by Maycumber for Congress

**HAVE A SAFE &
PROSPEROUS
GROWING
SEASON**



ENGINES FOR SALE REBUILT & USED DIESEL ENGINES

Cat • Cummins • Detroit • IH • Case • John Deere

CUMMINS ISX, long block CALL
CUMMINS N14, Celect Plus, long block Exch \$16,500
CUMMINS BIG CAM, long block Exch \$13,500
NOW OFFERING CUMMINS ISB HIGH
PERFORMANCE OVERHAUL KITS CALL
AERVOE FLEET & ENGINE PAINT IN STOCK!



Yunker
DIESEL & TRUCK

(800) 362-2387 (509) 534-1112
N. 322 Eastern, Spokane, WA 99212
www.yunkerbros.com

MEDIUM & HEAVY DUTY DRIVE TRAIN REBUILD CENTER

Parts • Custom Repair • Sales • Service

- Transmissions
- Differentials
- Exchange Units



INLAND GEAR

(800) 366-5962 (509) 534-7818
6505 E. Valleyway, Spokane, WA 99212

**BOOST YOUR
BOTTOM LINE
EXPAND HERBICIDE
OPTIONS
SLOW HERBICIDE
RESISTANCE**

**WINTER CANOLA
NON GMO
IMI-TOLERANT
ROUNDUP READY
VARIETIES ALSO
AVAILABLE
SUNFLOWERS
TRITICALE
PLOW-DOWN MUSTARD**

START BUILDING YOUR SOIL HEALTH NOW!

Rotations increase yields, break disease cycles & reduce weeds.

**SPECTRUM CROP DEVELOPMENT
RITZVILLE WA**

**Curtis 509-659-1757
Todd 509-641-0436**



A germ of an idea

PORT LOOKING TO CASH IN ON REGION'S CASH CROP THROUGH VALUE-ADDED ENTERPRISES

By Trista Crossley
Editor, *Wheat Life*

The Port of Columbia is looking to build on the success of its Blue Mountain Station by paying tribute to the grains grown in the surrounding countryside.

"I grew up on a big wheat and cattle ranch on the breaks of the Snake River, so this is my town. This is my past, my future. I really care about it. I always wished we could do something with what we grow on the hills," explained Jennie Dickinson, director of the Port of Columbia.

The port is interested in developing an artisan grain business cluster at the Blue Mountain Station, which is located in Dayton, Wash. Dickinson said they've already got a craft malter, Mainstem Malt, interested in renting space, and they are looking for other tenants to take advantage of the infrastructure, equipment, and services that could be provided by the port. The port has completed a feasibility study on the grain business cluster and is asking farmers what kind of services they'd like to see there. Some

of the ideas that have come back include shared equipment for grain cleaning, grain handling and storage, and packaging.

"We decided to do the feasibility study, and as we kept talking, we liked the idea more and more of trying to focus on grain because Mainstem Malt will be using barley that's grown on our hills and in our region," Dickinson said. "Mainstem Malt would be the anchor tenant, and what they are doing would enhance other businesses that might want to locate there."

Another suggestion that comes up repeatedly is having the ability to mill smaller quantities of grain — installing a small mill that could be rented out.

"In order to make a large-scale mill work, it has to run 24 hours a day," Dickinson said. "This would more like where we had a mill that we owned that could be rented out and someone could use their own miller. Or maybe we would have somebody locally that we could contract to mill, but at a very small scale. That comes up a lot, people



wishing they could grind their own grain.”

The 28-acre site that houses Blue Mountain Station has short-line rail access, providing flexibility on what could be shipped in or out. It also has city sewer and water.

Besides a rentable commercial kitchen, the station’s tenants include a coffee roaster, a winery, a honey processor, a sourdough bread company, a vodka liqueur maker, and an apple cider company that makes cider from gleaned apples. While most of the businesses aren’t open to the public, their products are sold at the station’s co-op market, along with other regional products.

The port has applied for a \$5 million grant/loan package from the Community Economic Revitalization Board

to construct the craft malt facility. The project, including the associated grain cluster, is expected to add more than 40 direct and indirect jobs to the community and generate nearly \$10 million in annual revenues.

The port is asking anybody interested in the grain cluster to participate in the survey. Survey responses will help shape the venture. That survey and more information on the grains cluster can be found at the website, bluemountainstation.com/grain-cluster/.

“We (the port) want to be helpful,” Dickinson said. “We want to help people if they have an idea. We want to help them take that idea and turn it into a business or a side business.” ■

FOR RENT

WASHINGTON WHEAT FOUNDATION ANNEX

(IN RITZVILLE, WASH.)

Rental Includes:

- Seats 100
- Full-service kitchen
 - Wi-Fi
- Free coffee and tea
- Pullout wall divider
 - 2 large screens
 - Free parking
- 18 x 22 lobby to gather or serve buffet
- Separate board meeting room (seats 12)

**\$50 (0-4 HOURS) OR
\$100 (4+ HOURS)**

Call the Washington Wheat
Foundation rental line

(509) 659-0610

CHIPMAN & TAYLOR CHEVROLET
- 34TH ANNUAL -

CLASSIC CAR SHOW

AUGUST 17TH, 2024



PULLMAN, WASHINGTON
250 SE BISHOP BOULEVARD

**CHIPMAN
& TAYLOR**



Legal eagles

STAKEHOLDER GROUP FOCUSES ON LITIGATION FILED IN COLUMBIA RIVER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

By Trista Crossley
Editor, *Wheat Life*

If you've followed the controversy over the Columbia-Snake River System, you might have wondered who was representing the people and businesses that are dependent on the waterways for their livelihoods. That would be the Inland Ports and Navigation Group (IPNG).

IPNG is a subgroup of the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association that focuses on the legal aspects of the river system. The group is made up of more than 30 members who pay dues to help cover the cost of attorneys and other advocacy efforts. It is an intervenor defendant in the latest Columbia-Snake River System lawsuit, filed in 2021 after the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, and Bonneville Power Administration released the Columbia River System Operations environmental impact statement (CRSO EIS).

"An intervenor is somebody who steps into a court case saying, 'I'm not the original plaintiff or the original defendant, but the outcome has a direct impact on me,'" explained **Leslie Druffel**, co-chair of IPNG since January 2022. Druffel is also the outreach director for The McGregor Company. "You can insert yourself as an intervenor on either side, and intervenors have the same legal rights as either of the original parties."

An intervenor can be in the courtroom during legal proceedings and is part of any actions. They can question witnesses, provide their own expert witnesses, and, as in the case with the CRSO EIS lawsuit, can be part of mediation. Both sides of the lawsuit have intervenors. On the plaintiff's side are the state of Oregon, the Spokane Tribes of Indians, and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. Intervenors on the defendant's side include IPNG, the Public Power Council, NW RiverPartners, the states of Montana and Idaho, and several tribes.

The members of IPNG aren't attorneys themselves; council is provided by Portland Ore., firm, Schwabe.



Druffel said a core group of IPNG members meet weekly with the attorneys to talk about where any court cases are at, strategies, and next steps.

"IPNG exists because all these businesses have skin in the game in the sense that if the lower Snake River dams are breached, it has a direct effect on their ability to do business. An example is Almotia Elevator. They only ship by barge so, they have a vested interest in stating the case on why navigation needs to remain viable," she said.

Druffel explained that one of the advantages of belonging to IPNG is economic. Rather than individual organizations or businesses hiring their own lawyers to fight this particular issue, they are sharing the cost with others. In the CRSO EIS litigation, IPNG funded studies on the transportation, economic, and social impacts of removing the dams; those studies were submitted during mediation. IPNG worked with a fisheries scientist to compile current research on delayed mortality; those findings were also submitted during mediation. In addition to those deliverables, IPNG also helps support advocacy efforts within the region and in our nation's capital.

"We are going out and looking for information that will help tell the whole story," Druffel said. "The mediation was about finding a basin-wide solution, a Columbia Basin-wide solution. We felt there were some holes in the conversations and the information available, so we took it upon ourselves to find a group who'll be unbiased and look into the information and provide us with a study."

Late last year, the Biden administration announced a settlement in the CRSO EIS litigation that calls for up to a 10-year stay in return for salmon restoration project funding and studies on replacing the critical services the dams on the lower Snake River provide. The stay in litigation doesn't mean IPNG's work is done. The group still meets regularly to consult with lawyers, and the group is taking part in the transportation and irrigation studies mandated by the agreement. Druffel pointed out that the stay only applies to the EIS; lawsuits can still be filed in other areas, such as the Clean Water Act for water quality (temperature, dissolved gas levels, pH, etc).

The other major action IPNG takes is intervening in lawsuits over dredging, especially in the Lewiston-Clarkston area. The dredging happens every four to seven years and is done to maintain the navigation channel and turning basins.

"Often times, a group will file an injunction (on dredg-

FARMLAND/ OPERATING LINES

Local, Dedicated Ag Lenders
offering Flexible Terms

New Customers Welcome!



Adrian Green
Colfax



Jay Hart
Colfax



Hector Lopez
Pasco



Michael Broeckel
Pasco

COLFAX, WA
803 N. Main St.
509-397-4681

DAYTON, WA
257 E. Main St.
509-382-7111

PASCO, WA
5205 N. Rd 68
509-545-6360



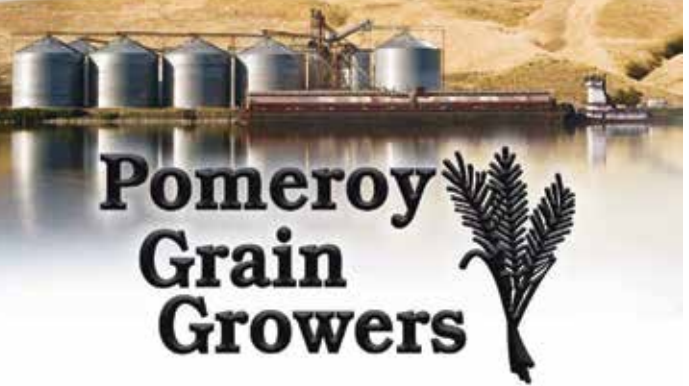
Todd Wood
Dayton

BEW IS A BRANCH OF BEO / MEMBER FDIC



**Bank of Eastern
Washington**

Pomeroy Grain Office 509-843-1694
Pomeroy Agronomy 509-843-1394
Colfax Grain Office - Colfax 800-424-5056



*Offering a complete range of service levels,
from Cash & Carry to Specialized Custom Services*

Seed Sales | Certified Crop Advising | Soil & Tissue Sampling

Grain Sales - Truck & Barge Shipping
Custom Seeding & Cultivating with Variable Rate Technology
Custom Spraying & Stream Jetting with Variable Rate Technology



Serving Area Growers for 90 years
www.pomeroygrain.com

WEED-IT

**THE NEW GENERATION
WEED-IT QUADRO**



Robb Soliday
(509) 988-7018 Ritzville
Jason Emerson
(509) 681-0466 Coulee City
info@agritechamerica.com

**WEED-IT
QUADRO
FEATURES**

SAVE UPTO
90%
CHEMICALS

**40" Sensor
Spacing**
Improved detection
on small plant
increased power
efficiency.

Blue Light
Improved detection
on small plant
increased power
efficiency.

**Full PWM
Application
Control**
Controlled dosage
per weed - speed and
turn compensating.

**50% Less
Weight**
1.5lbs per sensor
places less stress
on your sprayer.

**In-Crop
PWM**
Control Rate &
Droplet size for all
applications.



ing) and create a court case against the Army Corps of Engineers,” Druffel said. “IPNG attorneys are great at reminding the court that the congressionally authorized navigation channel must be maintained at 14 feet deep by 250 feet wide. It is up to the Corps to determine the best method for removing the accumulated material, the quality of that material, and where it can be best used within the river system for improving habitat.”

Co-chairing IPNG has given Druffel a different perspective of the legal system; she joked that it’s a lot like knowing how the sausage is made. She acknowledged that the process can be frustrating and that it sometimes feels like dam supporters are making little headway.

“You get to a point where you have to step back, lift your head up from the day-to-day minutia in order to see if you are making an impact. And, we are! I take my role as IPNG co-chair very seriously and work hard every single day on this issue,” she said. ■



ALWAYS PLANT CERTIFIED SEED

MAKE THE INVESTMENT THAT PAYS YOU DIVIDENDS EVERY HARVEST

CLEANER FIELDS



HIGHER YIELDS



GUARANTEED QUALITY



Find your closest certified seed dealer at www.washingtoncrop.com/dealers

WASHINGTON STATE CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

509-334-0461 www.washingtoncrop.com

Morgan Stanley



Because you support so many we're honored to support you.

It takes more than money to make our world stronger. It takes the efforts of groups like you, Washington's grain growers, who give their time and talents to help the community. The University Group of Morgan Stanley salutes you.



The University Group at Morgan Stanley
Jordan Thayer CFP®

Portfolio Manager

Vice President

Financial Advisor

601 Union St.

Seattle, WA 98101

+1 206 628-4681

Jordan.Thayer@morganstanley.com

<https://advisor.morganstanley.com/jordan.thayer>

WAOIC# 867508

NMLS# 1447645

<https://www.morganstanley.com/articles/serving-clients-country>

CFP Board owns the marks CFP®, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™, and CFP® (with plaque design) in the U.S. ©2022 Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC. Member SIPC. SUP029 CRC 3938645 01/22 CS 258450_1997812 02/22



2006 Peterbilt 379

Cat C15 13 speed, new big core radiator, low miles, very clean **\$72,000**



2005 Case IH STX425

Quad tractor, Cummins QSX15 engine, Roll-up tarp, 2 hopper, spring suspension, new tracks & batteries, low hours, serviced, full of diesel, field ready **\$155,000**



2025 Neville Grain Trailer 40'

\$48,950

Mike's Auto

37502 Mayberry Rd. E.
Davenport WA 99122

(509) 725-1765



CHROME ALLOY WEAR PARTS

R & H Machine manufactures Chrome Alloy wear parts that fit most brands and models of equipment. All our parts are designed to give extremely long life in abrasive soils.

Extremely long wearing

Uses standard hex-head bolt

Cut replacement costs

Save costly downtime



R & H Machine • 115 Roedel Ave • Caldwell, ID

1-800-321-6568

www.rhmachine.com



Proudly
made in the
USA

We make it our business to help reduce your downtime

HORSCH

The Best For Drilling and Tilling:
Designed Specifically For The Palouse Region



Tilling



Seeding



Planting



Sprayers



Carts



Intelligence

3-YEAR WARRANTY



**NORTH PINE AG
EQUIPMENT, INC.**

37+ OF DRILL EXPERIENCE
WITH THE **LARGEST INVENTORY OF**
YEARS HORSCH PARTS IN THE NORTHWEST

THE HORSCH DEALER IN
#1 THE NORTHWEST FOR
THE LAST 28 YEARS!

(509) 994-2133

cschmidt@att.net

2110 E Babb Road, Rosalia WA 99170

Montana native handles multiple duties

Scott Steinbacher, Washington State Department of Agriculture

By Kevin Gaffney
Special to Wheat Life

It was an unusual route taken by **Scott Steinbacher** to becoming eastern regional manager of the Grain Inspection and Warehouse Audit program manager for the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA).

Based in Spokane, Steinbacher joined the WSDA in 2011. His previous employment had been in the high-end hospitality industry. Born and raised in Montana, after graduating from Fort Benton High School, Steinbacher earned a bachelor's degree in business administration at the Billings campus of Montana State University (MSU).

Steinbacher was adamant that although he earned his degree from MSU, he is not a Bobcat.

"Let there be no mistake," said Steinbacher. "I am a Grizzly fan through and through. I proudly wear my Griz attire. Of course, living and working here in Eastern Washington, I will occasionally get some comments from Eastern Washington University (EWU) fans, but I never let that dampen my Grizzly spirit."

After finishing his studies at MSU, Steinbacher followed his high school sweetheart and future wife, Tawni, to Las Vegas, where she was in the process of earning a degree at the University of Las Vegas in hospitality administration. Steinbacher quickly found a position with Wynn Hotels as their call center manager for their housekeeping department.

Following Tawni's graduation, she and Steinbacher wanted to move back to Montana. Unfortunately, good jobs were scarce at that time. Unable to find satisfactory employment back home, they looked to Spokane. Steinbacher's experience with Wynn promptly earned him a position at the historic Davenport Hotel.

"My four years at the Davenport were enjoyable, but the atmosphere in the hospitality industry was just not like the rural, agricultural culture I grew up in," said Steinbacher. "I wanted to work in a forward-thinking, down-to-earth type of position. I appreciate that people in the ag industry are forthright and generally make it clear exactly what they want. We may not always be able to provide precisely what a company or a farmer is looking



for, but they understand we will do our best to serve them."

Steinbacher originally wanted to work for the Farm Service Agency (FSA), but their system requires employees to start at the bottom and often entails several moves to different offices and from state to state before opportunities open up for senior positions. With a growing family, Steinbacher didn't want to move that many times. He applied for a position with the WSDA grain inspection service division and had to complete both written and physical tests before being hired. He joined the Spokane grain inspection office in December 2011 as an inspector-in-training.

Within two years, he had earned all the licenses required for his position, including certification for wheat, lentils, peas, split peas, and beans. Soon after, he moved into a supervisor training position before being promoted to assistant eastern regional manager.

"When then-Eastern Regional Manager Don Potts became ill, I began training with him and filling in for him as his health worsened," Steinbacher said. "Not long after that, I was made the permanent eastern regional manager for the grain inspection and the grain warehouse audit program manager."

The dual positions Steinbacher holds are both part of the WSDA. The grain inspection program has an overall manager based in Olympia who oversees the three Washington grain regions: northwest, southwest, and eastern.

Grain samples from all over the state are inspected, tested, and classified. The harvest season is obviously their busiest time of the year.

The warehouse audit program ensures that all grain warehouses and grain dealers are abiding by their contracts and that all payments are being made in a timely and accurate manner. They also measure and certify that all storage bins and facilities throughout the region have the exact bushel amount of grain that matches the official records. The bonding and financing documents of all the companies are also examined to make sure they are in proper order.

The eastern regional manager oversees offices in

FARM & HOME SUPPLY

888-643-3395 • 509-843-3395

www.fhsupply.com Pomeroy, WA

CLEARANCE SALE!

NEW KIOTI RX7320PS, cab, loader, 82" QA bucket.....CALL

NEW KIOTI-DK6010SE HST, deluxe cab, loader w/QA72" bucket.....CALL

NEW KIOTI-CX2510 HST, 25hp, cab, loader w/ 50" bucket, mid-mount mowerCALL

KIOTI CK3520SEHCB, cab, loader w/ QA66" bucket.....CALL

KIOTI CK3520SE, ROPS, loaderCALL

NEW KIOTI CK2620SE cab tractor w/ loader, 66" QA bucket.....CALL

NEW KIOTI CK2620, ROPS, loader, 60" QA bucket.....CALL

KIOTI KB2485 Backhoe Attachment.....CALL

KIOTI KG4060 Grapple.....CALL

**ASK ABOUT ZERO DOWN,
0% INTEREST FINANCING**



NEW GREAT PLAINS TURBOMAX, 30', rolling spike harrow and rolling basket harrow to firm the soil. TRUE VERTICAL TILLAGE..... Call

Great Plains 2N3010 No-Till Drill 30 ft, excellent shape \$46,500

FLEXICOIL 2340 Air Cart w/8100 drill 30', NOTILL 10" spacing. Two seed tanks: 120bu & 220bu. Electric rate control \$22,500

1993 JD 8870 4WD tractor..... \$42,500

VISIT US AT

www.wheatlife.org

**MORE
INTERACTIVE
AG NEWS**



SEED

Winter & Spring Wheat, Forages, and Grass



SERVICE

Seed Tenders (Rentals or Delivery), Fertilizer & Seed Blending, Custom Seed Treating, and Bulk Totes & Bagging



SOLUTIONS

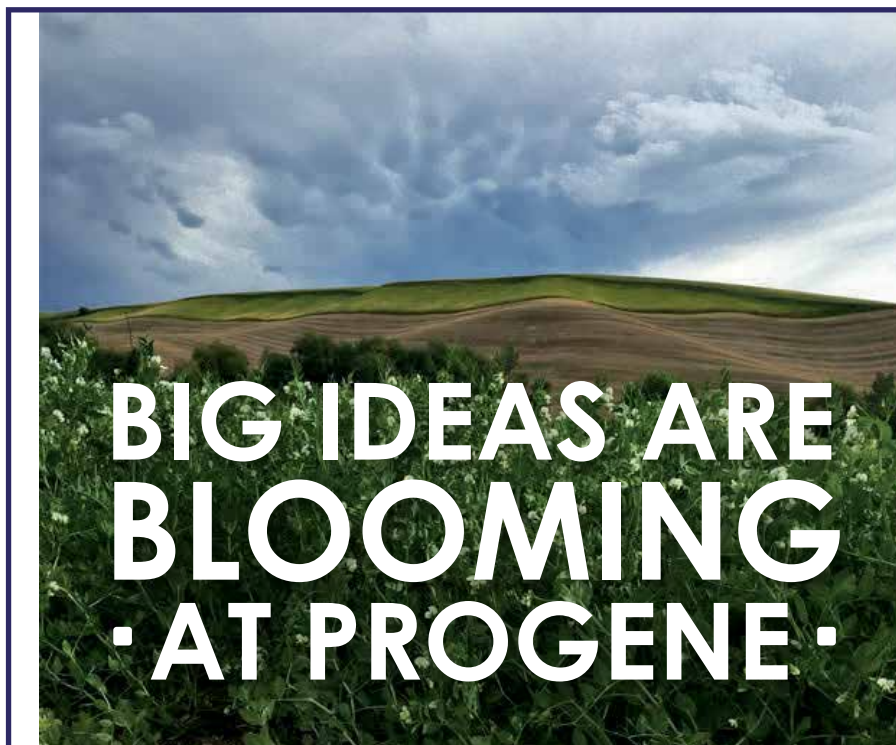
Variety Recommendations, Agronomic Expertise, and Extensive Seed Portfolio



509-234-2500 TriStateSeed.com

Mason Douglass
509-380-4425

John Mancini
509-380-1695



UP AND COMING:

- Launching our social media information center.
- New and frequent posts from our Facebook, LinkedIn, and our website.

CROP INFO:

- New varieties being released (Spring Pea, Winter Pea, Bio Pea).
- Agronomic tips and new plant data.



Visit our new website at:
www.progenellc.com

1785 S. Broadway Ave. Othello, WA 99344 509-448-3977 pat@progenellc.com kurt@progenellc.com

Spokane, Colfax, Pasco, and Quincy. Due to rising costs, especially office rent increases, the Pasco office will be closing this year, with most of that work being transferred to the Colfax location.

"Since harvest is earlier in that wheat-growing region, it should actually work out pretty well on the timing of the harvest season rush," said Steinbacher. "Our staffing at Colfax will be beefed up, including Washington State University (WSU) students filling in part-time positions during the busy season."

Much of the nonharvest-season work involves testing pulse crops that are going out for export. All shipments must be qualified for phytosanitary certificates to be exported to international markets.

Asked about the low falling numbers (LFN) situation in Washington wheat, Steinbacher said intense research is being conducted to provide a reliable, on-site test that could be used during harvest at local warehouses to allow proper storage and identity preservation.

"WSU is reportedly very close to developing rapid, on-site testing for LFN," said Steinbacher. "However, whatever test we eventually come up with, it must be compatible and accepted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture system or we won't be able to use it."

"I believe we also need to do more research and testing to determine how much milling quality is affected by the two distinctive main causes of LFN, whether it is pre-harvest sprouting or late maturity alpha-amylase (LMA). There are some indications that LMA is not as harmful to the grain milling quality, but at this time, there is no differentiation regarding the harsh monetary penalties suffered by growers."

Steinbacher is about to start his third term as the WSDA representative on the Washington Grain Commission (WGC).

"The two most important missions of the WGC, in my

opinion, are the grain research funding we provide and our work with U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) in maintaining and expanding export markets worldwide," he noted. "Most of our research support funds go to WSU. I believe it has been a very successful partnership. In the past few years, we have worked to develop an even closer relationship between wheat breeders and millers. With everyone working together, the researchers can acquire the best possible information on exactly what the millers are looking for to improve our grain varieties."

"We have such a diverse growing community here in Washington state. There are areas growing wheat with as little as 6 to 8 inches of annual moisture, and other areas that may receive up to 30 inches of moisture. As a commission, we try to make decisions that will help all areas of the state whenever possible."

Steinbacher believes some growers don't fully understand how much our export markets are helped by the partnership of the WGC with USW.

"Our relationship is critically important. They have 15 offices located all over the world, helping to market wheat products in over 100 nations worldwide. We host between four and seven international trade teams in our Spokane office every year," he explained. "With the help of the WGC, they are able to connect with our growers and professionals throughout the wheat industry in Washington. Seeing the high quality of our grains from the farmers' fields to where it is loaded onto ships for export provides an understanding and a connection that is invaluable."

"Our close relationships with the Washington Association of Wheat Growers, the National Association of Wheat Growers, and USW really help us to stretch our research and marketing dollars more efficiently. And we welcome input from individual growers, as well."

The WSDA grain inspection office in Spokane Valley is located at 617 N. Fancher Road. They can be reached at (509) 533-2487. ■

CLASS 8 TRUCKS

509-534-9088 class8trucks@aol.com

NOT JUST TRUCKS, TRAILERS TOO!

New & used DEMCO grain trailers in stock. Available for purchase or rental.



PLEASE CALL for additional details on pricing.

521 N. Eastern Spokane WA
www.class8trucksales.com

Your Rural Property Specialist



Farmland, timberland, recreational properties, Lake Roosevelt and homes on acreage!

I work all over Eastern Washington. I am a farm land owner in Lincoln and Whitman counties; I know the markets! To BUY or SELL property, call me!

Contact Greg Schuster, Broker
Rural Property Sales
Coldwell Banker Tomlinson

509-993-2545

realtordad@aol.com



J&M FABRICATION

MOBILE WELDING & SERVICES



Dogbones for CaseIH Combines

1470 and 1670 Models
Built to last - Better than OEM quality

Clean Grain & Return Elevators

12 Gauge Construction 2.5 X Stronger than OEM
For newer model CaseIH Combines

Custom Welding • Industrial Machinery Guards
• Custom Truck Bodies and Flatbeds •
• All Types of Custom Design Work •

CALL JUSTIN MILLER TODAY!
509-235-5711 OR 509-993-2890 (cel)
16716 W. SR 904 Cheney, Wa
www.jandmfabrication.com

your trusted partner in all things Ag

We cover + protect what matters most.



Brooke Rodriguez

Laauli Faamausili

local care
national service

INSURANCE + BENEFITS

Crop Insurance. Farm/Ranch. Agri-Business.
We're an equal opportunity provider and employer.



HIGHSTREET

Insurance & Financial Services



509-735-7506

basinpacifictricity.com



509-584-3284

www.rainierseeds.com

YOUR CRP HEADQUARTERS

*Call us today to discuss any of your grass
seed needs.*





Spring in Lincoln County.

CHAIRMAN

WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION

By Ben Barstow



In the eastern Palouse, this is a great year to see how winter wheat does with cold feet. Though it was warm early and most fields came out of winter very nicely, it seemed to take forever for soil temperatures to come up. I have seen a global warming projection that predicts cooler, wetter springs for the Pacific Northwest, so who knows, at some point, cold soil tolerance may be something to look for in your next wheat variety choice.

Every year we pick a variety to plant and just hope that what we put in the ground will be the best choice for whatever nature throws at us over the next year. Just for a moment, though, let me pretend to be a “totally on top of everything, forward thinking” wheat farmer. Pretend I’m someone capable of solving every management or mechanical issue with lightning speed and a roll of Gorilla Tape, someone who orchestrates complicated logistics that never result in someone using a tractor for personal transportation, and one who always communicates clearly and concisely. By that, I mean someone whose texts are always delivered immediately, even in the cell phone service hell that is the Palouse, and someone who never sends a text like “when you get back *here*, park the truck ...” without considering that the recipient of such a text might not know where “here” was, when said text was sent. Yes, friends, I’m talking total farmer fantasy world, so just pretend with me for a moment.

In wheat farmer fantasy land, we would know what the weather would be at least 10 months in advance, and we would know what challenges must be overcome. If we are looking at the same challenges as the current year, then we could go to a nearby Washington State University (WSU) Extension Cereal Variety Trial field day right now and shop for what looks best, knowing that it will do well again next year.

On the other hand, if you knew next year was going to be a short rainfall year, right now, you could head for a field day at one of the variety testing sites that is normally drier than where you farm and pick a winner for next year. I guess if you are already in a single digit rainfall zone, you could start intensively studying crop insurance and lobbying for drought relief, but since I’m talking about fantasy land anyway, no one would ever have that problem, either.

Back in the real world, plant breeders do this all the time. Not fantasizing about weather prediction, but they

are constantly predicting what factors they should be looking for in developing new varieties: cold soil tolerance, disease resistance, drought tolerance, aluminum tolerance, and the list goes on. Since plant breeders don’t have the consistent and ideal conditions of fantasy land, or any other crystal ball, they leverage scientific methods and data to make their predictions. Some of their tools have very Sci-Fi sounding names, like high-throughput genotyping, germplasm enhancement, and molecular marker and genomics technology. Other tools have more traditional conventions, like tracking historical trends and on-the-ground observations to make predictions about future needs. These on-the-ground observations come from their own field trials and, most importantly, the feedback and observations from Washington growers. The WSU field days are a great opportunity for plant breeders to collect these observations and feedback.

What would you like to see in your next wheat variety? A field day is a great opportunity to chat with a wheat breeder or a knowledgeable agronomist about what you would like your wheat to do better. What varieties perform better in colder, wetter soils or with high temperature seedling drought stress or whatever other factors you think might be holding your crop back? What would your fantasy wheat look like? What would it do? What would its big advantage be? A field day is a great opportunity to throw around ideas about what might be possible.

In addition to breeders and agronomists, there are other organizations you might see at a field day this year wanting to engage with growers. It’s an opportunity to get updates from folks at WSU Extension, U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, or others. Field days allow them to network, be available to answer your questions, and get to know you and your neighbors better. Your opinions might be used to inform their program direction or initiative strategy.

And, even if you don’t talk to any of the staff at the event, it could just be a chance for you to say hi to your neighbor and enjoy the perspective from a different field. Amidst the bustle of fieldwork, a short break in the day-to-day to consider the bigger picture of your farming plan is always time well spent. ■

Ag leadership corner

ORGANIZATION WORKS TO PROTECT, IMPROVE REGION'S WATERWAYS



Neil Maunu
Executive Director, Pacific
Northwest Waterways
Association



Casey Chumrau
CEO, Washington Grain
Commission

Neil Maunu began as executive director of the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association (PNWA) in August 2023. The Washington Grain Commission (WGC) is a member of PNWA, which is a nonprofit, nonpartisan trade association of ports, businesses, public agencies, and individuals who support navigation, energy, trade, and economic development throughout the region.

WGC CEO Casey Chumrau recently sat down with Maunu to talk about how their two organizations can best work together to maintain our region's transportation systems and advance the goals of Washington's farmers. Their conversation is edited for length and clarity.

CASEY: The members of PNWA are quite diverse. Could you tell us a little about the membership and what the advantages are by including a variety of industries and partners?

NEIL: We have over 150 members in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. Our members include public ports, farmers, irrigators, grain elevators, marine terminals, cruise lines, electrical utilities, trade associations, organized labor, steamship operators, river and bar pilots, barge companies, and more.

One of the key benefits of having a diverse membership base is the networks and relationships it creates. It's terrific to see ports and businesses making connections, as well as consultants helping ports with long-standing challenges. We have the right mix of partners involved to facilitate thoughtful discussions, not to mention our most crucial, value-add, which is our relationship with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Pacific Northwest congressional delegation.

CASEY: You are new to your position but have a long history with the Columbia-Snake River System. How do you think the next five years are going to be different than the last five in terms of river issues?

NEIL: I started working in the maritime industry here in the region when I left the Army as an active-duty aviation officer in 2007. We saw some changes to container exports from the river in the mid-2010s that are still evolving.

In 2015, the Port of Portland ceased container operations, started back up in 2020, and recently announced they will continue operating the container terminal but don't currently plan to accommodate barged containers. Pulses, grains, hay, and refrigerated cargo previously moved on the river at a rate of nearly 15,000 containers annually. Now, that volume is zero. Shippers went to rail and truck, and once those modes were in place, it has been tough to get cargo to return to the waterways.

We're also seeing a shift to more renewable products on the river system. Renewable diesel and biodiesel with blending capability have sprung up at several terminals on the Columbia and Snake rivers, and there are plans for several renewable energy projects on the horizon, not to mention the ability to move wind energy components on the river and get them off the highways. I anticipate more of these trends to continue.

CASEY: The litigation on the Snake River dams is on hold for a least five years. What does that mean for PNWA and river users in general?

NEIL: It means we are fully focused on continuing education, outreach, and advocacy for river navigation and our support for the lower Snake River dams. The Inland Ports and Navigation Group (IPNG), a subset of PNWA consisting of inland river users who have partnered to protect the lower Snake River dams through litigation and advocacy, have been involved in this process for nearly 22 years. Instead of just our advocacy in Congress or in the courtroom, we will have to reach out to the public and focus on what we call the third “C” — communication and outreach — a three-legged stool propped up by advocacy, active involvement in litigation, and communicating the benefits of the river system.

After five years, the litigation parties will re-evaluate progress on commitments that are called out in the stay agreement. If either party is not satisfied with the progress of these commitments, the stay may be terminated, and the parties could go back to litigation. The legal forbearance on the stay is very narrow and only applies to Endangered Species Act rulings. We may see further litigation pertaining to issues like Clean Water Act violations brought forth by environmental justice groups and other organizations.

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

NEIL: It’s all about relationships. Since 1934, when we began advocating for a navigation lock on the yet-to-be-built Bonneville Dam, we have been educating Congress and working with our federal partners to ensure our members’ needs are met. Those relationships will be critical as we move forward over the next five years.

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

NEIL: The PNWA staff team (five of us) is a relatively new group. The challenge will be for this new staff to continue building relationships and adding value to our growing membership base.

We are seeing a drastic shift from our previous focus of courtroom litigation and congressional advocacy to a broader approach that includes tracking state and federal studies, ensuring appropriations are in line with our values, implementing a strong communications plan to further educate the public, and conducting targeted public and media outreach. We have amazing support from our members, who are involved in our working groups and committees and active on our executive committee both for PNWA and IPNG — we couldn’t do it without the

amazing support from our officers, board, and members.

CASEY: How do you hope to engage with grain growers?

NEIL: Like I said, it’s all about relationships! PNWA is already fully engaged with several regional grower groups and farmers with whom we have a great relationship. Michelle Hennings, with the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG), and the WGC are actively involved, as are Oregon and Idaho. It’s our goal moving forward to leverage our ag partners to help educate others outside of our region and to tell the story of the importance of this river system. Additionally, many of PNWA’s members are growers and co-ops, and we engage with them often, including them in working groups and committees.

CASEY: What are the biggest challenges to getting more people aware of how the river system impacts agriculture, the economy, or even their own lives?

NEIL: This is a great question. Our mantra for this year is to be “provocative.” We want people to understand how impactful the river system is to our economy and to our nation. The work we must do in our region is to first educate folks on what moves, and how things move, on our river system, and then dial in on the importance of those facts.

CASEY: How can the grain industry be more proactive and help ensure the sustainability of the transportation system?

NEIL: The ag community is passionate about the river system’s value, not just to the farmer but to the community and all stakeholders. Being involved is the number one thing we can all do. As state and federal studies are conducted, stakeholders must reach out to those relevant agencies and be heard. PNWA will continue to work with the grain industry and ag community to find ways to partner publicly, in Congress and across the nation. The more we speak with one voice in support of the sustainability of the Columbia-Snake River System, the more power we have.

CASEY: Any final thoughts?

NEIL: I think the grain industry is fantastic. WGC and WAWG have been amazing partners to PNWA and IPNG for many years, and to me, personally, since I’ve been in this role over the last year. Thank you, Casey, so much for your unwavering support, for standing (or sitting!) next to me in Washington, D.C., when we testified in Congress in support of the economic benefits of river commerce in our region, and for your dedication to the benefits of a robust river transportation system and multimodal network. ■

Demonstrated impact

WGC recognizes work of WSU spring wheat breeder, ROI to Washington growers

The Washington Grain Commission (WGC) is recognizing Washington State University (WSU) spring wheat breeder Mike Pumphrey and celebrating his contributions to the Washington wheat industry.

Pumphrey is a professor for WSU's Crop and Soil Sciences Department and, until this year, co-held the O.A. Vogel Chair of Wheat Breeding and Genetics with WSU winter wheat breeder Arron Carter.

"Mike has elevated the profile of the spring wheat breeding program to the highest possible level," said WGC CEO Casey Chumrau. "The market dominance enjoyed by his varieties speaks to the impact of his work. The WGC is thrilled that endowment money was successfully leveraged to launch Mike's program to a level where he can now fund his work through other means and release the endowment money to areas of greater need. Mike is truly one of the best scientific minds we have in the agricultural industry, and Washington wheat growers are fortunate to benefit from his work."

The O.A. Vogel Chair of Wheat Breeding and Genetics was the first of six research endowments created by the WGC at WSU to establish a perpetual funding mechanism for the advancement of the commission's strategic research goals. The Vogel chair was established in 1990 through a partnership with the state of Washington, WSU, and the WGC.

"Mike has accomplished exactly what the Orville A. Vogel Endowed Chair was established to do," said Wendy Powers, Cashup Davis Family Endowed Dean of the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences. "His leadership, service, and release of impactful wheat varieties have been invaluable to the university's work on behalf of the wheat industry."

"Mike's leadership in this position has been invaluable, and the growers have truly benefited from this. His passion for the wheat industry sets an example for the students that he will continue to inspire," said Mary Palmer Sullivan, WGC vice president.

"I am truly appreciative of the support provided by the O.A. Vogel Endowment and what it has meant to growing the spring wheat breeding program over the past eight years. With our current levels of federal funding, extramural grants, Washington Grain Commission support, and variety royalty revenue reinvestment, I feel like it is great time to redirect these endowment funds to where they can do the most for Washington growers."

— Mike Pumphrey
Washington State University
Spring Wheat Breeder

As a Vogel chair, Pumphrey participated in trade team and technical servicing activities through U.S. Wheat Associates (USW), the export market development organization for the U.S. wheat industry. For example, he joined a wheat quality improvement team in April 2017 that traveled to Bangkok, Thailand, and Taipei, Taiwan, to meet with Asian quality control specialists and reviewed sponge cake quality produced with different soft white wheat varieties, many from Washington.

"Mike, as a lifelong learner, understands that it is important to produce wheat varieties that meet the end-use quality characteristics valued by wheat buyers in the rapidly growing overseas markets in Southeast Asia," said Steve Wirsching, vice president and director of the USW West Coast Office

located in Portland, Ore. Pumphrey came to WSU in July 2009 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Research Service in Manhattan, Kan., to take over the spring wheat breeding program. He informed the WGC in January that he is stepping down from his Vogel chair appointment to better focus on his WSU teaching and research activities.

"I am truly appreciative of the support provided by the O.A. Vogel Endowment and what it has meant to growing the spring wheat breeding program over the past eight years," Pumphrey said. "With our current levels of federal funding, extramural grants, Washington Grain Commission support, and variety royalty revenue reinvestment, I feel like it is great time to redirect these endowment funds to where they can do the most for Washington growers."

WSU varieties made up approximately 93% of the soft white spring wheat acres planted in Washington in 2023. With a dominant market share established for spring wheat varieties from WSU over the past decade due to superior performance, it is clear the funds have been impactful.

"I believe that our use of O.A. Vogel Endowment funds



Washington State University spring wheat breeder Mike Pumphrey (third from right) at the UFM Baking and Cooking School laboratory in Bangkok, Thailand, reviewing sponge cake quality produced with different soft white wheat varieties. Photo courtesy of Steve Wirsching at U.S. Wheat Associates.

to proactively address major production and financial constraints including stripe rust, Hessian fly, aluminum tolerance, falling numbers, herbicide-tolerant wheat lines, and superior wheat quality, have been impactful to date and will continue to pay dividends over the coming decades,” Pumphrey said. “We have the necessary knowledge, tools, and germplasm that would not have existed without this support.”

Spring wheat breeding royalty revenue has recently started to reduce or offset annual funding requests from WSU to the WGC for spring wheat breeding-related projects in the amount of \$125,000 per year beginning in July 2024.

Pumphrey will continue to lead the spring wheat breeding and genetics program, along with his teaching and other research endeavors at WSU in Pullman. He is focused on the development of biotic and abiotic stress tolerant, high-yielding, and high-quality spring wheat varieties for diverse Washington (Pacific Northwest) production environments.

“We look forward to seeing what Mike’s program is able to accomplish in the coming years,” Chumrau said.

Carter, also a Vogel chair, continues to serve in that role and conduct highly valued research and education through his winter wheat breeding program. He is focused on high-yielding, disease resistant varieties with good end-use quality that will maintain profitability and reduce the risk to growers using a combination of

traditional plant breeding methods, molecular marker technology, and biotechnology.

The WSU winter wheat breeding program is on a larger scale than spring wheat breeding, reflecting the scale of winter wheat acreage in Washington state. According to the USDA, 78% of all wheat acres planted in Washington in 2023 were winter wheat. “Advancing Washington wheat remains a WSU priority,” Powers added. “Funds from the Vogel chair have and will continue to support our globally recognized wheat breeding and genetics research.”

The Vogel endowment was established with an initial principle of \$1.5 million. Through investment growth, the Vogel endowment now stands at over \$2.5 million. Its 2022-23 research distributions were \$116,000.

There are five additional research faculty positions that are funded in part by WGC endowments aimed at improving varietal development, end use and processing attributes, agronomics, production systems, economics, and new uses for wheat and barley.

The endowments are managed by WSU with distributions made annually to the research and extension program of the faculty researcher holding the endowment. These endowments are perpetual and require no further contributions from WGC to continue funding work on behalf of the wheat and barley industries and the state’s small grain producers into the future. ■

Return on investment

Training, technical support builds demand for soft white wheat in Southeast Asia

This is the first in a series of articles describing how U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) is investing funds from the Washington Grain Commission assessment to maintain and grow demand for soft white (SW) and other classes of U.S. wheat in overseas markets. The partnership with the Washington Grain Commission, Oregon Wheat Commission, Idaho Wheat Commission, and 14 other state checkoff programs allows USW to apply for export market development funding from several U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service programs.

That partnership has been working since the 1950s, yet ongoing export promotion remains vitally important to Pacific Northwest (PNW) wheat growers. For example, an average of 55% of total annual SW production and carry-in stocks is exported, and the percentage for Washington-grown SW is closer to 80%. From such products as sponge cakes, cookies, and pastries to blending with other wheat classes, SW wheat flour has the versatility to improve the quality of a wide variety of products in the top SW export markets of Southeast and North

Asia, as well as growing opportunity in Latin America.

In this article, the focus is on export promotion strategies and successful activities in Southeast Asian markets including Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, and the Philippines where population and incomes are growing.

Ongoing education

"Helping managers understand quality and how to measure it is a big focus of our training activities," said Joe Sowers, regional vice president, South and Southeast Asia. "Malaysia is a case in point."

While exports to Malaysia have fluctuated in recent years, it remains an important market for U.S. wheat farmers because technical processes used by the country's four flour mills influence other mills across Southeast Asia. The Malaysian market also has good growth potential because customers use imported wheat to produce flour, cookies, noodles, and other products for export. As a result, Malaysian mills welcome continuing technical education for their staff.

With these factors in mind, USW invited a Malaysian



Veteran U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) Bakery Consultant Roy Chung (center) provides direction to Filipino bakers at a 2023 baking workshop in Seoul, South Korea. In a rather mature market for soft white and other U.S. wheat classes like the Philippines, USW has sponsored several workshops introducing trendy Korean products to help bakers grow their business and, in turn, purchase more flour milled from U.S. wheat.

flour miller to his first USW-sponsored “Wheat Analyst Program” in April 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand. That event included 24 participants from 13 regional flour mills to produce local end products and compare the quality of U.S. wheat flour performance to local standards.

During the program, the Malaysian manager learned about U.S. western white (WW) wheat, a blend of SW and up to 20% of Washington-grown club wheat. In August 2023, the mill purchased 10,000 metric tons of U.S. WW as a trial sample that returned an estimated value of \$2.8 million to PNW farmers and the grain chain.

Applying innovative analysis

One of the most effective tools USW uses to help regional millers and wheat food companies better understand the return on investment from SW wheat is Solvent Retention Capacity (SRC) analysis. SRC is a much more accurate way to predict how flour will perform compared to a measurement of protein alone.

“Customers in Southeast Asia are now more conscious about flour character and the value of using SRC as a guide to buy flour for cakes, cookies, and crackers,” said USW’s long-time bakery consultant Roy Chung. “But frequent changes in production and research staff mean we continue to stress the importance of SRC profiling to get a better chance of penetrating deeper into markets like Vietnam.”

USW technical service activities have created pull-through demand from Vietnamese bakers for SW wheat, as well as for bread wheat, like hard red winter, also grown in the PNW. For example, a large snack company operating in Vietnam has very specific performance requirements for all flour purchases. A flour mill in Vietnam asked USW to help it apply its investment in SRC equipment to win a supply contract. Chung trained its employees, and the mill won business from the baking company.

Elastic demand

Creating additional future demand for SW wheat in Vietnam through such technical support is helping rebuild sales after a sharp cut back due to lower production and higher prices in marketing year 2021-22 (June to May). In that drought year, Vietnam cut SW imports by 60%. Yet sales of about 100,000 metric tons (3.67 million bushels) in 2022-23 and as of May 2 in 2023-24, are up

about 38% as prices eased.

While the long-term demand outlook for SW in Southeast Asia remains strong, the region is subject to swings based on cost and competitive supplies. Indonesia is a good example. One of the world’s top wheat importers, Indonesia’s purchases have reached as much as 11 million metric tons. Millers competing on price there do create marketing challenges for higher-cost U.S. wheat. Yet Indonesian millers do value USW’s

technical training and have a preference for SW to serve growing cake and snack flour demand. Commercial sales of SW to Indonesia through most of 2023-24 are 438,000 metric tons, a volume that is up 30% from the same time in 2022-23.

Helping grow customer profits

“We have identified several areas where USW can help wheat food processors expand their

markets by introducing new products and production formulations in which U.S. wheat classes have an advantage,” said Sowers.

This strategy demonstrates that bakers have the power to demand flour products made with imported U.S. wheat and helps increase total wheat consumption. For example, since 2021, USW leveraged its regional technical expertise and Agricultural Trade Promotion funds to expose Philippine bakers to production methods and new products from South Korea.

USW has hosted several webinars featuring demonstrations of trendy Korean confectionary and bread products with USW Seoul Food/Bakery Technologist David Oh that have reached thousands of Philippine commercial bakers who tell USW they can apply the recipes in their business. USW has identified 12 Philippines bakery retailers that added products from the seminars made with U.S. SW and hard red spring (HRS) wheat flour.

USW technical staff serving the Philippines and South Korea also organized and held a comprehensive bakery workshop in Seoul for Filipino bakers. As a result of the workshop, four of the participants created a total of eight new bakery products made with SW and HRS flour that are still on sale.

“We intend to expand this effort to showcase products from the sophisticated North Asian baking industries in the Philippines and other countries in the region,” Sowers said. ■



Where did our wheat markets go?

MARKET ANALYST PERSPECTIVES FROM A CAREER IN GLOBAL MARKETS



Mike Krueger
Founder, The Money Farm

Russia purchased 10 million tons (about 400 million bushels) of corn and wheat from the U.S. in July 1973. The corn and wheat they bought was subsidized by the U.S. government and was purchased on credit. Corn and

wheat futures markets exploded when news of the sales became public. Prices quickly doubled, and history was made. It became known as the Great Grain Robbery.

The next five to six years in the grain industry were incredible. Every company was expanding existing export facilities and building new facilities in anticipation of a new era in world grain export markets. Farm grain prices were at all-time highs. Farmers had the green light to PRODUCE. Export margins were super healthy. Soybeans were a very minor crop in the 1970s and 80s. It was corn, wheat, barley, and oats.

It all came crashing down in January 1980. Russia invaded Afghanistan, and President Carter decided to embargo all grain sales to the Soviet Union. This decision killed the U.S. grain industry for at least 20 years. It also depressed production agriculture. Farmers could not find a price for anything in the days following the embargo announcement. U.S. grain companies had hundreds of millions of bushels of wheat and corn on the books to the Soviet Union that were now worthless.

The U.S. lost a huge and lucrative market with the stroke of a pen. Farmers suddenly couldn't sell their production. Prices collapsed and stayed cheap for a very long time. Exporters had all these new facilities they no longer needed. Margins across all phases of American agriculture disappeared. The U.S. embargo encouraged other countries around the world to increase production to satisfy the Soviet demand.

U.S. farmers were clearly farming for the government in the early to mid-80s. Acreage set-asides were required to participate in farm programs. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) paid farmers to store their production. The 1985 Farm Bill created the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). This program paid farmers to set aside as much as 37 million acres of cropland.

Surpluses of corn and wheat ballooned to enormous levels. The USDA became creative to encourage farmers to redeem their USDA loans and market the stored crops. The first scheme was called Payment in Kind (PIK) and started in 1983. The PIK and roll game allowed farmers

to "buy back" their loaned crops for less than they owed the government and, in many cases, at below market prices. The next scheme, created in 1992, was called the Export Enhancement Program (EEP). It was a subsidy program to export U.S. wheat and corn. Finally, the "Freedom to Farm" farm bill was passed in 1996. It separated farm program payments from crop planting bases and allowed farmers to plant what the markets needed. It was called "decoupling" and has been a success.

In the meantime, the entire structure of U.S. markets changed dramatically from 1980 to the late 1990s. Grain transportation shifted from trucks and single-rail cars to shuttle trains that move 400,000 bushels in dedicated 110-car trains. These trains resulted in super efficiencies and lower freight rates from the interior to export facilities and, eventually, directly into Mexico. Shuttle trains brought tremendous consolidation to the grain industry.

Genetically modified corn and soybeans also quickly took over those markets. Round-up Ready corn and soybeans brought BIG yield gains and reduced required tillage and fertilization. These rapid advancements in seed technology, coupled with longer and wetter growing seasons across the northern Plains, pushed the Corn Belt as far west as Montana and into the southern Canadian prairies, replacing small grains (wheat, oats, barley) in producers' rotations.

Russia went from the world's largest importer of wheat to the world's largest exporter following the collapse of the Soviet Union. Cheap wheat prices and cheaper freight costs switched big markets from U.S. wheat to Russia and other Eastern European countries.

World wheat production and consumption moved hand in hand to much higher levels. U.S. production and exports, however, stagnated and declined. Total world wheat exports in 1980 were just 86 million metric tons. The U.S. accounted for 43% of the world's wheat exports that year. This marketing year total world wheat exports will be about 185 million metric tons. The U.S. will account for 13% of the total. We are living with a finite number of tillable acres in this country. ■

Mike Krueger is founder of The Money Farm, a grain marketing advisory service located in Fargo, N.D., now owned and run by Allison Thompson. Krueger, a former Wheat Watch columnist for 12 years, is semiretired. He still provides commodity groups with market insights and observations. He is a past director of the Minneapolis Grain Exchange and a senior analyst for World Perspectives, a Washington, D.C., agricultural consulting group.

AS THE TUMBLEWEED TURNS

Russian thistle biology and management in the Inland Pacific Northwest

By Drew Lyon

Professor and Endowed Chair, Small Grains Extension and Research, Weed Science

By John Spring

Former Graduate Research Assistant, Agronomist, Central Oregon Seeds, Inc.

Russian thistle is an annual broadleaf weed that is found throughout Eastern Washington and exhibits a notable wide range of different growth forms, or phenotypes (Figure 1). It is most problematic in the lower rainfall region where the winter wheat-fallow rotation is common.

Russian thistle is thought to be native to the mountainous regions of southwest Asia. The first known introduction to North America was near Scotland, S.D., in 1873 or 1874, probably as a contaminant of flax seed imported by Russian immigrants. By 1895, several Canadian provinces and 16 western states were infested, with rapid spread

often attributed to dispersion by wind and rail traffic. By 1910, Russian thistle was widely distributed across an estimated 100 million acres in the arid and semi-arid regions of the American West, including 4.5 million acres in the inland Pacific Northwest (PNW).

Russian thistle does not produce a true embryonic seed with endosperm; instead, it contains a coiled, fully developed seedling. Germination consists simply of uncoiling and can be quite rapid — taking just hours under favorable conditions. Germination can occur with relatively low moisture availability. Rapid germination allows Russian thistle to take advantage of short windows of favorable conditions that a slower-germinating species might be unable to exploit.

Under typical growing conditions, Russian thistle emergence in the inland PNW begins in March and continues into late June, although most of the activity is from April to mid-May. Initial aboveground-growth is slow under typically cool spring conditions, but root growth is



FIGURE 1. Russian thistle common nursery near Pullman, Wash., revealing the phenotypic diversity of Russian thistle plants collected from Eastern Washington and northeastern Oregon. Photo by John Spring, former graduate research assistant.

rapid and extensive, helping to explain Russian thistle's competitive ability.

Flowering begins in midsummer with pollination primarily by wind. Seed production begins in August or September and continues through the first killing frost of the year, with viable seed produced by September or October. Estimates of seed production vary, with healthy plants producing between 40,000 and 100,000 seeds per plant. After plants die in the fall, they often break off at the base of the stem and become tumbleweeds. Plants shed approximately 60% of seed when tumbling and only 20% if remaining stationary. In a study near Lind, Wash., tumbling plants were observed to travel approximately 0.5 to 2 miles before becoming lodged in stubble, fencerows, ditches, or other obstacles, with maximum travel distances slightly over 2.5 miles observed over six weeks in early fall. Seed longevity in the soil is generally only one year.

The largest impact of Russian thistle in crops is direct yield loss resulting from competition for soil moisture. Healthy stands of winter wheat compete effectively with Russian thistle, and severe infestations generally occur only where stands are poor or plants are heavily stressed. In contrast, spring cereals are highly susceptible to infestation and often suffer severe reductions in yield — up to 50% in heavy infestations.

Although yield losses in spring wheat or poor winter wheat stands can be severe, postharvest and fallow-year growth of Russian thistle may have a larger cumulative impact on the overall cropping system than in-crop growth.

Following harvest of the wheat crop, Russian thistle quickly resumes active growth that continues through the first killing frost. If not controlled, this growth can result in substantial biomass accumulation, soil water use, and seed production. Biomass accumulation and soil

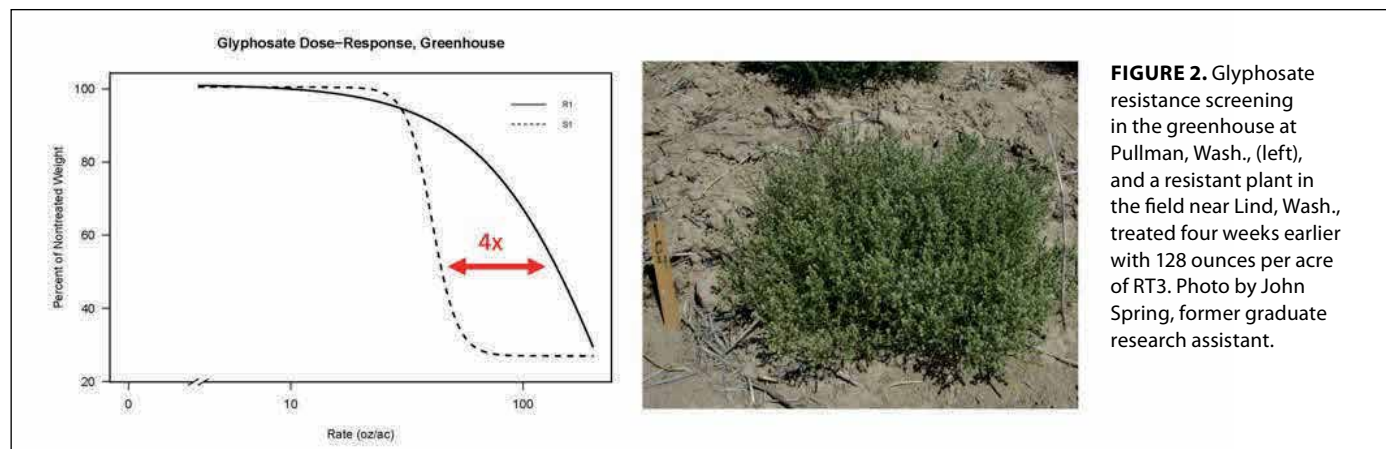
water use by Russian thistle plants during this postharvest period substantially exceeds use during the crop growing season. Individual plants used approximately 18 gallons of soil water while growing in spring wheat and an additional 26 gallons of soil water for postharvest growth.

Management

In crop, the most effective management practice is ensuring a competitive crop. Healthy winter wheat stands provide effective control through competitive suppression. Although spring wheat is much less competitive with Russian thistle, early planting, using a starter fertilizer, and other agronomic practices that promote a vigorous crop stand can improve competitive suppression to some degree. Effective herbicide options are available for in-crop control. See the PNW Weed Management Handbook for options. Remember, herbicides work best when applied to smaller plants, generally less than three to four inches in height.

In 2015, glyphosate-resistant Russian thistle was documented in Washington, Oregon, and eastern Montana. In a greenhouse screening, resistant plants collected in Eastern Washington were four times more resistant to glyphosate than susceptible plants. In a field study conducted at the Lind Dryland Research Station, resistant plants were eight times more resistant than susceptible plants (Figure 2). Growers have often relied on only glyphosate for the control of Russian thistle in fallow. This use pattern has resulted in the evolution of glyphosate resistance in Russian thistle throughout much of the inland PNW.

In 2019 and 2020, we conducted field studies near Lind and Ralston, respectively, to investigate the use of soil-applied residual herbicides to control Russian thistle in summer fallow. This has proved to be an effective strategy for the control of glyphosate-resistant kochia



in the Great Plains. Three different herbicides (Spartan Charge, Fierce, and TriCor) were applied either in late fall, late winter, or as a split application with half the rate applied in late fall and another half rate applied in late winter. The full Spartan Charge rate was 8 fluid ounces per acre, the full rate of Fierce was 4.5 ounces per acre, and the full rate of TriCor was 10.5 ounces per acre.

In 2019, all treatments provided excellent control of Russian thistle at the first rating taken on May 15, except TriCor applied in the late fall (Table 1). Over the next month, Spartan Charge and Fierce applied as a split application and TriCor applied in late winter continued to provide excellent control of Russian thistle. On the final rating of July 9, only the Spartan Charge treatments, regardless of application time, were providing significantly better control than the nontreated check plots.

In 2020, all treatments were providing excellent control of Russian thistle on the initial May 14 rating date, except TriCor DF applied in the late fall (Table 1). Over the remainder of the trial period, all treatments continued to provide excellent control of Russian-thistle except TriCor DF applied in late fall or late winter; however, few seedlings emerged between the June and July sample dates.

The results of these two trials suggest that preemergence herbicides can provide an alternative or supplemental means of controlling Russian thistle in chemical fallow and may become necessary

Table 1. Control of Russian thistle in summer fallow following late fall, late winter, and split applications of soil residual herbicides near Lind and Ralston, Wash., in 2019 and 2020, respectively.

| Treatment | Rate | Timing | 2019 | | 2020 | |
|------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|---|----------|-------|----------|
| | | | May | May-July | May | May-July |
| | oz/A | | Russian thistle plants per square yard* | | | |
| Nontreated check | | | 14.6 c | 15.2 d | 2.7 c | 4.2 c |
| Spartan Charge | 8 | Late fall | 0.0 a | 0.0 a | 0.0 a | 0.0 a |
| Spartan Charge | 8 | Late winter | 0.0 a | 0.0 a | 0.0 a | 0.0 a |
| Spartan Charge | 4 + 4 | Late fall fb late winter | 0.0 a | 0.0 a | 0.0 a | 0.0 a |
| Fierce | 4.5 | Late fall | 0.2 a | 0.9 b | 0.0 a | 0.0 a |
| Fierce | 4.5 | Late winter | 0.4 a | 0.8 b | 0.2 a | 0.2 a |
| Fierce | 2.25 + 2.25 | Late fall fb late winter | 0.0 a | 0.4 ab | 0.1 a | 0.1 a |
| TriCor DF | 10.5 | Late fall | 4.9 b | 5.8 c | 1.2 b | 2.8 b |
| TriCor DF | 10.5 | Late winter | 0.2 a | 0.7 b | 0.0 a | 0.1 a |
| TriCor DF | 5.25 + 5.25 | Late fall fb late winter | 0.4 a | 0.9 b | 0.1 a | 0.4 a |

*Means, based on four replicates, within a column, followed by the same letter are not significantly different at $P = 0.05$ as determined by Fisher's protected LSD test, which means that we are not confident that the difference is the result of treatment rather than experimental error or random variation associated with the experiment.

as glyphosate-resistant Russian thistle becomes more prevalent. While later-emerging flushes may not be controlled by residual herbicides, most of the plants that germinate in April and May should be, and this may simplify fallow management and allow a reduction in the total number of control operations required.

In 2022 and 2023, we looked at an experimental herbicide from BASF for postharvest Russian thistle control. The experimental herbicide (BAS 85101H) performed well both years. If or when it is registered, it will be a good tool to add to the mix of herbicides for postharvest Russian thistle control.

For more information on these and other herbicide trials, check out the annual WSU Weed Control Reports on the WSU Wheat and Small Grains website at <https://bit.ly/3WQRsQh>. You can also find PNW492, Russian Thistle: Management in a Wheat-Fallow Crop Rotation at extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pub/pnw-492-russian-thistle-management-wheat-fallow-crop-rotation. ■

WHEAT WATCH

WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION

Weather shaping up to be a market factor



By Allison Thompson
Owner, The Money Farm

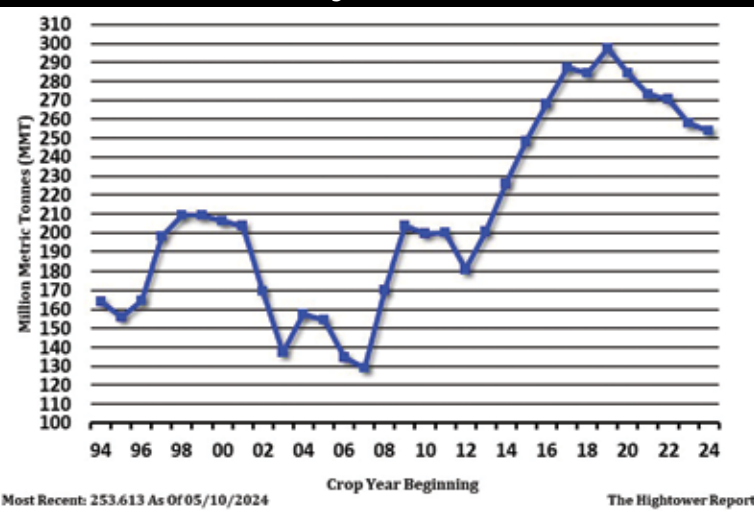
The wild world of wheat. Literally. Anyone growing, trading, or involved in the wheat industry is very aware of this market's volatility.

Thankfully, from a producer standpoint, we have finally experienced a sizable rally on global weather headlines. Weather is often a major market driver this time of the year — much like all three major grains. However, supply and demand projections, particularly for wheat, are supporting even greater weather-related market volatility this year.

Based on the May WASDE (World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates) report, global wheat ending stocks moved to its lowest level in nearly nine years. This isn't new for the market as global wheat ending stocks have been moving lower since their peak in 2019-20 at 297 million metric tons (mmt). Since that time, global supplies have declined over 43 mmt with the latest U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimate projecting 2024-25 world wheat stocks at 253.6 mmt. To many in the trade, the move lower in ending stocks isn't matching the recent action in wheat exchanges as they made new lows in 2024. While that may seem puzzling, it's important to remember that prior to the latest report, the USDA was expecting higher global production (see Chart 1).

Ample production by the world's top wheat exporters is to blame. With sufficient supplies readily available on the global market, the trade hasn't had to worry about supply issues. Remember, the Russia/Ukraine conflict premium has mostly gone to the wayside as the market has largely rerouted supply. Without geopolitical headlines adding market volatility, the global wheat market has gone back to trading fundamentals. To start 2024, there hasn't been any major fundamental hiccups to spark a premium build. With record production in

Chart 1: World wheat ending stocks

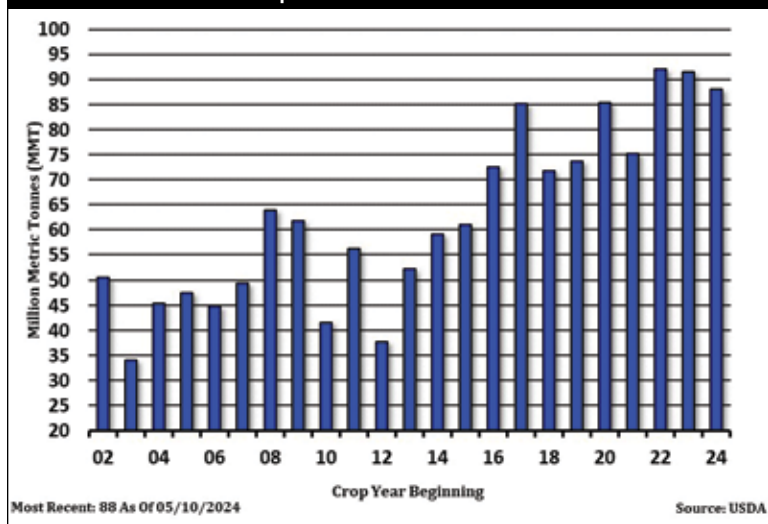


Russia and adequate harvests in the U.S., the European Union, Ukraine, Australia, and Argentina, the global wheat market hasn't had reason to deviate from the lower trend. That, however, appears to be changing with adverse weather potentially impacting wheat production in Russia, Europe, and the U.S.

Russia's production and exports have a major influence on global wheat prices. Rightfully so — it is the world's largest wheat exporter. Historically, over 70% of Russian wheat is winter wheat, with about 30% located in southern Russia. Currently, many global agencies are predicting another year of large Russian wheat production. However, dry weather conditions are posing a significant risk to the crop in key growing regions.

After below-average rainfall in March, key production areas of Russia remained dryer than normal through the month of April. In fact, rainfall in the area has been less than half its normal amount over the past several weeks. With these regions supplying the bulk of Russia's exportable wheat supplies, private analysts have started trimming production estimates.

Interestingly, the USDA joined the trend in their latest report. The USDA reduced Russia's wheat crop to 88 mmt, down from 91.5 mmt this past year. Just remember, Russia has been exporting record quantities of wheat after two consecutive bumper harvests. With that in mind, it certainly raises the question of how much supply will be available on the global market if production continues to fall. As long as the dryer trend continues in key production regions, the market will debate the issue, which could keep wheat prices supported (see Chart 2).

Chart 2: Russia wheat production

Regardless, current conditions are spurring drought concerns for Russia, which many will tell you is long overdue. Historically, Russia experiences a drought every five to seven years. That hasn't been the case recently, as the last time Russia experienced sizable drought was in 2010 and 2012. In 2010, the drought hit in June/July, which cut yields for both winter and spring wheat crops. In 2012, April turned hot and dry, which prevailed through the growing season. As a result, Russia's total wheat production suffered substantially during both years. Russia has been quick to impose export quotas or even bans during times of drought or domestic food inflation. In 2010, after the drought devastated the country's wheat crop, it imposed an outright export ban in early August. The move caused global wheat futures to spike as the ban was extended to the end of June 2011.

It's important to note that in both 2010 and 2012, global wheat production was also stressed due to global weather conditions. While we aren't there yet, there are other areas of the world facing production issues this year.

France and other areas of the European Union are facing the opposite weather pattern. Cold and wet conditions last fall limited winter wheat plantings with acres estimated to be down considerably from the previous year. Unfortunately, conditions haven't improved this spring as more rain and cold temperatures have pushed crop condition ratings to their lowest level in four years. At this point, many private analysts have moved production estimates lower for the region, not only due to yield and quality loss but also abandonment. As a result, many private analysts and other agencies are projecting the EU's wheat crop to be its smallest size since 2020.

As you can tell, the Northern Hemisphere is a major focus for the wheat market this time of year, and North America isn't excluded. Despite stellar conditions to start 2024, there are dry pockets emerging in U.S. hard red winter wheat areas. While

condition ratings are still at their highest level for this time of year since 2020, ratings have deteriorated over the past couple of weeks due to re-emerging drought. Recent rains have missed key areas of the southern Plains, which is fueling ideas of further downgrades, especially in portions of southwestern Kansas as it experienced its third driest April on record. U.S. spring wheat areas, on the other hand, have benefited from recent rains, but dry areas still remain in Canada. Estimates look for increased wheat production in Canada this year, which could actually be triggered by the dry conditions favoring wheat acres. However, without relieving rains, yields will likely hinder a production rebound.

The Southern Hemisphere hasn't grabbed weather headlines yet, but the planting season there will be beginning soon. Remember, Australia and Argentina are also large global producers. With weather analysts predicting the transition from an El Niño weather pattern to a La Niña event in late summer, the entire world of wheat could be impacted. In terms of a global wheat weather market, it may be just beginning.

As with any commodity weather market, the trade's sentiment can change as quickly as the forecast. That leaves wheat futures susceptible to money flow. As of this writing, the Funds (investors that trade commodities) have been actively covering their net short positions across all three wheat exchanges. What will happen when they reach a neutral position? Will the weather market continue to spur production concerns, pushing them to a net long position? Or, is this just another short covering rally ahead of harvest? A valid argument could be made for both scenarios; we will see what happens.

For now, don't be afraid to reward the recent rally. After a brutal start to the year, from a grain marketing standpoint, the rally is a gift. Going forward it will depend on Mother Nature and the Funds to make it the gift that "keeps on giving." ■

Allison Thompson is the owner of The Money Farm, a grain marketing advisory service located in Ada, Minn. She is also still actively involved in her family's grain farm, where her husband and father grow corn, soybeans, and wheat.

Legislative work is anything but routine

By Izabella Myers

2024 Washington Wheat Ambassador

In January, I traveled to Olympia with the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG). I had the opportunity to meet with legislators to discuss the current agricultural issues of 2024. During this trip, I had the opportunity to engage with legislators, see some of the process, and gain a deeper understanding of how all these things work. So many of these current issues can shape society, and it goes very unnoticed by the public.



While we were there, we talked with legislators and listened to the information they had on some of these agriculture issues. Interacting with the legislators provided a unique perspective on the challenges and responsibilities they face in representing their constituents. Through many conversations, I learned about the diverse array of issues they are confronted with daily. These ranged from students com-

ing to bring in issues, your everyday people, and different companies or organizations like us coming to see them. Engaging with legislators showed me how important it can be to effectively communicate on the current policy issues. I more or less learned about the importance and difference it can possibly make if you go and interact with the legislators.

Going into this trip, I did not have a lot of expectations and really did not know what to expect. I had never been to Olympia before and was unsure what I would experience. Something that stood out the most was not realizing how many bills that are constantly being made and passed and voted on. I quickly realized all the things legislators are required to know and read about. They spend their days during these few months of session reading data, letters from people, evidence, and stories and meeting with people firsthand to hear more. Before attending this trip, I had no idea how much information they had to consume and take in on a daily basis. I gained a deeper appreciation for what they do behind closed doors. Through meeting with legislators, I learned a lot about how passionate people can be about some topics, and how communi-





These dollars will be used to support candidates who understand what is critical to our industry and the livelihood of our members

Political advocacy is something many of us think we can never get involved in; the Washington Wheat PAC is out to change that.

The Washington Wheat PAC is a nonpartisan political action committee that is dedicated to supporting ag-friendly candidates.

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

Why Support the Washington Wheat PAC?

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

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

Protect your interests by supporting farm-friendly candidates who can make a difference in Olympia.

DONATION PROMISE

Yes, I would like to join with the Washington Wheat PAC's vision and support their actions with my donation.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Donation amount: _____

When you make a donation to the Washington Wheat PAC, you are investing in the future of agriculture in Washington State.

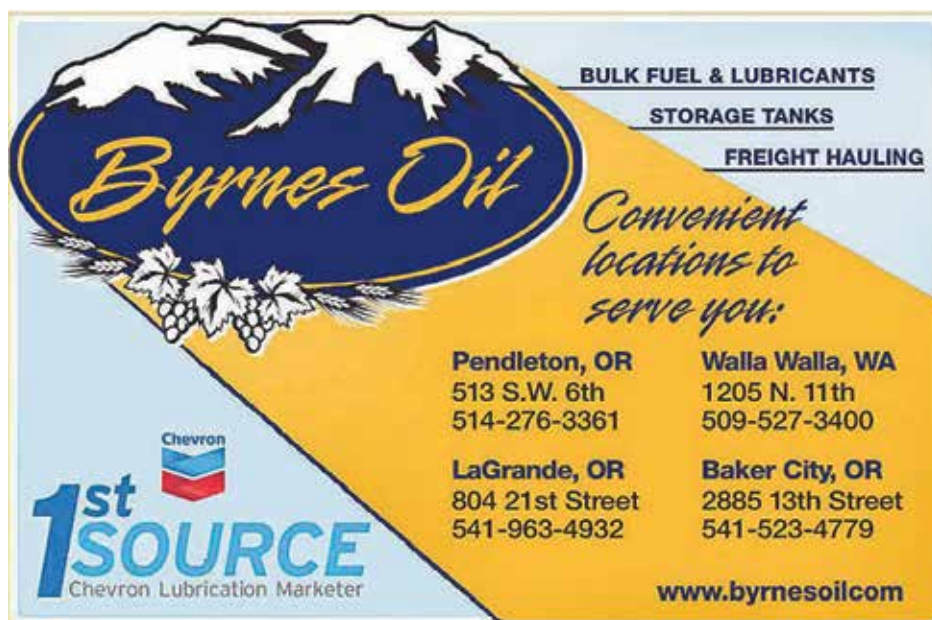
ties connect to try and share their opinion on certain topics they are passionate about.

There were a few moments that really stood out to me on the trip. I enjoyed the first day when we all met for dinner, and all the WAWG attendees met up. During that time, we received agendas and went over who we would be meeting with. We also went over the 2024 session issues, such as carbon policies and how we can ensure Washington state retains its economic competitiveness and does not disadvantage Washington farmers; keeping the lower Snake River dams intact as they are vital to Washington and the nation's economy and transportation infrastructure; access to pesticides is essential to keeping Washington agriculture productive and globally competitive; allowing farm workers to earn money for up to 50 hours per week for 12 weeks of the year before overtime provisions kick in; support of voluntary conservation programs that offer flexibility and fairly compensate farmers for riparian protection; and that food- and farm-related tax incentives are critical to the agricultural industry. Dinner stood out to me because it was a great time to talk with people and learn more about the topics we would be meeting about.

Something else that was very interesting to me was the amount of passion WAWG had for these topics and this trip. I also really enjoyed the opportunity to "network" and talk with people. The second day there, the WAWG had an event where we invited all the legislators we met with to join us for appetizers, dessert, and drinks to talk with them more on a personal level and connect. I think this was a great opportunity to meet more with the legislators and even just the WAWG members to talk with them about

their years at WAWG and their thoughts.

After being in Olympia, I definitely gained a different perspective and enjoyment for this association. This was a great experience that I will remember for quite some time, and I learned quite a bit from it. I am grateful for the opportunity and experience. I learned so much more about each current topic and more about the routine of the short, 60-day session, all while getting to take in the sights of Olympia and the capital buildings. ■



Byrnes Oil

BULK FUEL & LUBRICANTS
STORAGE TANKS
FREIGHT HAULING

Convenient locations to serve you:

| | |
|--|---|
| Pendleton, OR 513 S.W. 6th 514-276-3361 | Walla Walla, WA 1205 N. 11th 509-527-3400 |
| LaGrande, OR 804 21st Street 541-963-4932 | Baker City, OR 2885 13th Street 541-523-4779 |

1st SOURCE
Chevron Lubrication Marketer

www.byrnesoil.com



AMERICAN FARM + RANCH | **Northwest FIRST REALTORS** Lic. in WA, OR & ID

BLUE MOUNTAIN 395 WAITSBURG, WALLA WALLA COUNTY, WASHINGTON
 395.57± Acres - \$633,000

MIRIAM GRANT
 Owner
 Designated Broker
 509-520-5220

- 395 Acres of Beautiful Mountain Land
- A Hunter's Dream with Elk, Deer, Moose, Cougar, Bear & Grouse
- An Abundance of Timber; 4 Tax Parcels
- A Rare Opportunity to Own a Large Piece of the Blue Mountains!

OUR Roots RUN DEEP WALLA WALLA, WA • INFO@NORTHWESTFIRSTREALTORS.COM
 509-524-9055 • NorthwestFirstRealtors.com

Like our Facebook page (@WAWheat) and follow us on Twitter (@WAWheatGrowers) for the latest industry and association news.

BigIRON

HEAVY EQUIPMENT and AG REPAIRS

COMPLETE MOBILE REPAIR SERVICE

-We Also Do Portable Line Boring-
Serving The Greater Eastern Washington Area



Scott & Eddy Carroll

509-770-5560

BigIronRepair@odessaoffice.com



CORRELL'S SCALE SERVICE

INSTALLATIONS • SERVICE • REPAIR • RENTAL • LEASE • SALES



Specializing In Truck Scales!

509-765-7754

800-572-0426

4300 Rd. K NE, Moses Lake

www.correllsscale.com

YOUR ONE-STOP AG SOURCE!

- Sales & Superior Service -



**Tractors • Combines • Tillage • Drills
Sprayers • Precision Ag**

"JTI, Your Agricultural Hub of the Inland Empire."



**JONES TRUCK
& IMPLEMENT**



Evenings:

Dan Hebling 509-336-1346
Rena Olson 509-956-3110
Nic Mayer 509-385-3895
Tyler Elstad 509-540-9009

Colfax, WA
Located on Hwy 26
509-397-4371
1-800-831-0896

Walla Walla, WA
304 N 9th Street
509-525-6620
1-800-525-6620

www.jtii.com
jti@colfax.com

CASE II
AGRICULTURE
RETHINK PRODUCTIVITY

Insurance for Whatever You Grow

Whether you raise cattle or grow nursery stock, row crops, grain, hay or fruit, COUNTRY Financial® has got you covered. Your local financial representative can help balance your need to protect what you have with your desire to build for the future. We offer great coverage for farm vehicles, too. Grow your own way with COUNTRY Financial.

Paul Koethke, LUTCF, Afis

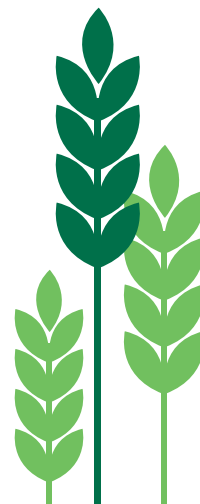
Moses Lake, WA

(800) 689-9259

Wayne Cooley, CMA

Canby, OR

(503) 266-7000



AUTO | HOME | LIFE | BUSINESS | RETIREMENT

Policies issued by COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company®, Bloomington, IL.

1114-511HO

THE BOTTOM LINE

Washington estate taxes: The farm exemption

By Larissa Zeiler

CPA, Leffel, Otis & Warwick, P.S.

According to the most recent census from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, one-third of America's 3.4 million farmers are over the age of 65. This statistic might not come as a surprise when you consider the demographics of your local farming neighborhood or perhaps even the age on your own driver's license. Over the next decade, there will be a large wave of farmer retirements and farm transitions expected, with an entire generation of baby boomers handing over the tractor keys. And while we all hope for a long, healthy retirement, it is never too early to begin thinking about your estate and developing a plan to minimize the impact of estate taxes upon death.

Federal estate taxes

The 2024 federal estate tax exemption is currently at \$13.61 million per person or \$27.22 million per couple (adjusted annually for inflation). With this generous exemption, federal estate taxes have generally not been a concern for most dryland ag producers in the Pacific Northwest. After 2025, the federal exemption is slated to drop to \$5 million per person (\$10 million per couple), adjusted for inflation. The potential impact on farmland owners is certainly more encompassing than present federal estate tax laws. It is possible that the current exemption amount may be extended, depending on the political climate in Washington, D.C., and the outcome of the 2024 election.

State estate taxes

Washington state's estate tax is of far greater concern, and it can have a significant and far-reaching impact on our ag producers in certain situations. The Washington state estate tax exemption is \$2.193 million or \$4.386 million per couple. With land values rising considerably in recent years, it is quite possible to have a taxable estate value greater than the state exemption, which is currently not indexed for inflation. Fortunately, a Washington state ag exemption exists if you meet certain criteria. Three of the most common hurdles are:

- More than 50% of your total estate



value must be farm assets. This includes farmland, farm buildings, irrigation/farm equipment, and other farm assets.

- At least 25% of the overall estate value must be agricultural real property.
- The decedent or decedent's heir must be actively farming for five years out of an eight year-period immediately prior to death.

Assume a retired farmer has \$6 million in farm assets and \$1 million in other assets. His son is actively farming the ground. He qualifies for the ag exemption, allowing the \$6 million in farm assets to be excluded from his estate value for purposes of the state estate tax. The estate value of \$1 million is now below the \$2.193 state exclusion amount, and no state estate tax is owed.

Material participation: caveats

But what if you don't have an heir farming the land? For retired farmers who rent out their ground, this can

Sponsored by the Agricultural Marketing & Management Organization.

For more information and
a schedule of classes visit
wawg.org/ammo-workshops/



sometimes create estate planning challenges. To meet the actively farming criteria for the ag exemption, one must show “material participation” on the farm. Clearly, a cash rental agreement with a third-party tenant would not be considered material participation. Crop share leases are a grey area in terms of meeting material participation requirements. Facts and circumstances are different in every situation. Although there is debate, a qualified attorney may be able to draft a crop share lease to properly defend the requirements.

Other remedies

In the event that the ag exemption is not available, gifting (transferring assets prior to death) is an option to reduce the estate value. Washington state does not have a state gift tax, making gifting a powerful tool in the arsenal when your estate value is over the state exemption amount. A qualified attorney and tax professional can assist with navigating the complexities of gifting and estate planning. While it can seem overwhelming, it is well worth the exercise to map out your estate value now, even if you think you are under the exemption amounts. Farmland values, real estate values, retirement funds, and other investments can add up quickly, particularly in inflationary times. Proactive estate planning with a farm tax professional is vital. They can help you establish the value of your current estate and put a plan into motion to minimize the impact of estate taxes down the road. ■

Larissa Zeiler is a CPA with Leffel, Otis & Warwick, P.S. and works out of the firm’s Odessa, Wash., office. She was raised on an Eastern Washington wheat farm and enjoys advising farm families and ag businesses. For information, visit low.cpa.



ELJAY Oil Co. Inc.
LOCALLY OWNED & FAMILY OPERATED
 FUELING EXCELLENCE SINCE 1959

Fueling The Farmers That Feed America

DELO HEAVY DUTY MOTOR OILS & TRACTOR HYDRAULIC FLUID

BULK FUELS

ELJAY Oil Co. Inc.

CFN PURE PERFORMANCE FUEL CHEVRON

509-926-9595 • ELJAYOIL.COM



AGPRO

The right equipment for the best results

Designing and manufacturing top-quality seed, fertilizer, and chemical equipment for over 30 years.

AGPROINC.COM
 1112 Airway Ave.
 Lewiston, ID 83501
 (208) 746-2212

Your wheat life...



Fall seeding on Hoffmann Farm in Eureka. Photo by Kevin Chabre.



Harvest near Reardan with Magneson Butte in the background. Photo by Marlana Falk.



Harvest in Lamont. Photo by Amy Swannack.



Taco the dog watches over the last garb truck of the 2023 season at Knapp Farms in Palouse. Photo by Michael Knapp.



Farming on the Brock Ranch in the Clyde/Prescott area. Photo by Christy Adams.

Please email pictures to editor@wawg.org. Include location of picture, names of all people appearing in the picture and ages of all children.

HAPPENINGS

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

JUNE 2024

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

3 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP TOUR. Horse Heaven, Wash., at 8 a.m. For information call Clark Neely at (814) 571-5628 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/

3 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP TOUR. Connell, Wash., at 2 p.m. For information call Clark Neely at (814) 571-5628 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/

4 WHEAT COLLEGE. 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds in Davenport, Wash. Lunch is provided. No charge. Register by calling (509) 659-0610 or print out and mail registration form at wawg.org/ammo-workshops/

6 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/

7-8 DEMOLITION DERBY EXTRAVAGANZA. Combine demolition derby, parade, barbecue. Lind, Wash. lindcombinederby.com

7-9 PROSPECTORS' DAYS. Three on three basketball tournament, soap box derby, classic car show, music. Republic, Wash. facebook.com/prospectorsdays

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

10 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/

11 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.

12 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.

12 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP TOUR. Moses Lake, Wash., at 9 a.m. For information call Andy McGuire at (509) 754-2011 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/

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

13 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) 677-3671 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/

14 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP TOUR. Douglas County at 5 p.m. For information call Dale Whaley at (509) 888-6352 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/

14-16 ALL WHEELS WEEKEND. Car show, music, food. Dayton, Wash. historicdayton.com/all-wheels-weekend

14-16 WENATCHEE RIVER BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL. Adults/children workshops, food, vendors, live music. Chelan County Expo Center in Cashmere, Wash. cashmerecoffeehouse.com/wrbfest.htm

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

15 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) 553-1014.

15-16 UNION GAP OLD TOWN DAYS. Washington state's biggest civil war reenactment. Trading post, blacksmith shop, train rides, games and wagon tours. Fullbright Park in Union Gap, Wash. centralwaagmuseum.org/old-town-days-union-gap.asp

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

18 WHEAT ACADEMY ROAD SHOW. Walla Walla/Columbia County Bus Tour, at 9:45 a.m. Rachel Wieme at (509) 524-2685 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/ for more information.

19 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP TOUR. Reardan, Wash., at 9 a.m. For info call

Aaron Esser at (509) 659-3210 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/

20 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP TOUR. Fairfield, Wash., at 7 a.m. For info call Clark Neely at (814) 571-5628 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/

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

21 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP TOUR. Eureka, Wash., at 9 a.m. For information call Rachel Wieme at (509) 524-2685 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/

21 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP TOUR. Walla Walla, Wash., at 1 p.m. For more information call Rachel Wieme at (509) 524-2685 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/

21-23 LACROSSE FARMERS FEST. "Crusin' Down Memory Lane" will feature a Friday night car cruise, hamburger and hot dog feed firefighter fundraiser, silent auction, photo contest, and chalk art. Saturday parade, vendors, prize scramble races, food, entertainment, and family street dance all in the city park. Search LaCrosse Business Group and LaCrosse Farmers fest on Facebook for information or email chelseystartin@gmail.com.

24 SPILLMAN FARM FIELD DAY. Pullman, Wash., at 3 p.m. For information call Clark Neely at (814) 571-5628 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/

25 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP TOUR. St. John, Wash., at 10 a.m. For information call Clark Neely at (814) 571-5628 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/

25 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP TOUR. Farmington, Wash., at 2:30 p.m. For information call Clark Neely at (814) 571-5628 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/

29-30 EASTERN WASHINGTON AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM GAS ENGINE SHOW AND SWAP. Garfield County fairgrounds in Pomeroy, Wash. For more information, contact Jay at ewamuseum2008@gmail.com.

JULY 2024

3 WSU VARIETY TESTING CROP TOUR. Bickleton, Wash., at 1 p.m. For information call Hannah Brause at (509) 773-5817 or smallgrains.wsu.edu/variety/

4 GRAND OLD FOURTH. Pancake breakfast, parade, fireworks, car show, family

bike ride, cardboard regatta. Pasco, Wash. www.pascogo4.com

4 FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION. Entertainment, live music and fireworks. Sunnyside Park in Pullman, Wash. pullmanchamber.com/events/4th-of-july/

12-14 CHENEY RODEO. Dances Friday and Saturday nights after rodeo. Saturday parade. Cheney, Wash. cheneyrodeo.com

19-21 PIONEER DAYS. Parade, live music, BBQ, chalk contest, and vendors. Davenport, Wash. davenportpioneer ■



...Loans & Customer Service!

At State Bank Northwest we have money to lend today. No umbrellas needed. Come dance in the rain with a bank you'll love. Switch to State and experience local bankers who are easy to get ahold of. We offer full service banking on a first name basis. Really! We get to know all our customers by name.



Spokane Valley - 509-789-4335 — **Northpointe** - 509-464-2701

Garfield - 509-635-1361 — **Rockford** - 509.252.6080

Colfax - 509.252.6070 — **Palouse** - 509.252.6090

StateBankNorthwest.com

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY LENDER MEMBER FDIC



**WE MAKE PARTS FOR
MATHEWS
COMPANY
AG PRODUCTS!**

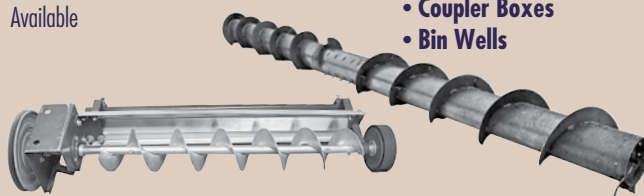


REPLACEMENT HELICAL & SECTIONAL FLIGHTING

Available

BIN SYSTEMS To Order

- Sweeps
- Coupler Boxes
- Bin Wells



REPAIR - REBUILD - HARDFACE
Custom Augers & Reflight Platform Augers

904 N Dyer Road
Spokane, WA 99212

Email: accucon@hotmail.com

Fax: (509) 534-4337 accuconofspokane.com



| | |
|------------------|--|
| Pasco | 509-547-3326 |
| | 888-806-7676 |
| Boise | 208-375-7767 |
| Connell | 509-234-3311 |
| Milton Freewater | 541-938-3864 |
| Moses Lake | 509-770-0769 |
| Oroville | 509-476-3610 |
| Priest River | 208-448-1812 |
| Ritzville | 509-659-1532 |
| Spokane | 509-535-1534 |
| Sunnyside | 509-837-5274 |
| Yakima | 509-453-3920 |
| | connelloil.com |

Advertiser Index

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------|----|---|----|
| Accucon | 61 | Farm & Home Supply..... | 35 | Rubisco Seed | 7 |
| AGPRO | 57 | Farmland Company | 27 | Spectrum Crop Development ... | 27 |
| Albaugh | 5, 17 | Great Plains Equipment | 15 | State Bank NW | 61 |
| Bank of Eastern Washington | 31 | Highstreet Insurance | 37 | T & S Sales | 23 |
| Big Iron Repair | 55 | J & M Fabrication..... | 37 | The McGregor Company | 63 |
| Butch Booker | 14 | Jones Truck & Implement..... | 55 | Tri-State Seed | 35 |
| Byrnes Oil Company..... | 54 | Kincaid Real Estate | 14 | Unverferth..... | 18 |
| Central Machinery Sales | 21 | Limagrain Cereal Seeds..... | 13 | Vantage-PNW..... | 31 |
| Chipman & Taylor | 29 | Maycumber For Congress | 26 | Varsity Idaho..... | 9 |
| Class 8 Trucks | 21, 36 | Mike's Auto | 33 | Washington Genetics..... | 64 |
| CO Energy | 61 | Morgan Stanley | 32 | WestBred | 11 |
| Coldwell Banker Tomlinson | 36 | North Pine Ag Equipment | 33 | Western Insurance | 26 |
| Coleman Oil | 19 | Northwest First Realtors | 54 | Wheatland Bank | 25 |
| Connell Grange Supply..... | 21 | PNW Farmers Cooperative..... | 23 | Washington State Crop Improvement Association..... | 32 |
| Correll's Scale Service | 55 | Pomeroy Grain Growers | 31 | Yunker Brothers..... | 27 |
| Country Financial | 55 | ProGene..... | 35 | | |
| Edward Jones | 19 | R & H Machine | 33 | | |
| Eljay Oil..... | 57 | Rainier Seeds | 37 | | |

Storm™ through weed barriers

Adjuvants containing **Storm™ Technology** deliver **faster and greater uptake** of active ingredient to the target.

Defend every acre with
 **STORM**
TECHNOLOGY

Found in Conform™ and Downrigger™,
exclusively at The McGregor Company



Bred to Dominate the Field



WASHINGTON STATE  UNIVERSITY SMALL GRAINS



P.O. Box 143 • Ritzville, WA 99169 | Office: (509) 659-4020 | www.WashGenetics.com