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OREGON WHEAT

An Official Publication of the Oregon Wheat Industry

IN THIS ISSUE

- 4 Shaking Things Up: New SRC Equipment
- 14 Foundation Awards Scholarships
- 18 Celebrating Wheat Day at the Capitol



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IN THIS ISSUE

- 3 My Two Cents Worth
- 4 'Shaking Things Up' for Oregon Wheat
- 5 Oregon State Senate Appoints Lisa Charpiloz Hanson as Permanent Director of ODA
- 6 Farm Bill, Policy and Rivers a Focus On the Hill
- 8 OWC Chair Column
- 9 Wheat Variety Selection to Improve Field Productivity for Future Crops
- 10 League Welcomes New Communications Director
- 11 Judge Finalizes River System Agreement
- 12 NAWG President Reflects on a Year of Service; New Officers Elected
- 13 2024 Quality Rankings
- 14 Oregon Wheat Foundation Honors Seniors' Achievements
- 15 Farm Trucking Guide Updated
- 16 Back to the Future
- 18 League Celebrates Wheat Day at the Capitol
- 20 Passed with Resolve: National Meeting Sets Policy Priorities
- 21 Bender and Lindsay Announced as New County Presidents
- 22 Navigating Financial Compliance: Reporting Requirements for Entities in 2024
- 22 League County Meetings Offer Industry Insights

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Wade Bingaman

President

MY TWO CENTS WORTH



As I am writing this, I am gazing out the window at gray skies and some snow, yet I know that spring is right around the corner, whether I am ready for it or not. During the summer, I look forward to the slower (and cooler) days of fall and winter for more time to enjoy family and friends. Not many of us keep track of our hours of work through the busy season, and for good reason. We know the job needs to get done and we do it; but on those days, I remind myself that it all evens out in the end, as the winter months offer a respite from the long days of seemingly endless tasks. For me, as the colder months yield to spring, I get an anxious feeling that it is all about to start over again. Time spent planning in the offseason prepares us to take on the challenge though. No matter what the previous year brought, we look forward to the future and know that the preparation will carry us through another year. After the crop that many of us harvested in 2023, I can only say that better days are ahead. I am usually optimistic; otherwise, I must admit to myself that I chose the wrong occupation.

As we were planning for the year on our farms, the Oregon Wheat Growers League was busy laying the foundation for the future as well. In January, I was joined by Past President Collin Crocker, Vice President Erin Heideman, CEO Amanda Hoey, Program Director Jason Flowers and NAWG President Brent Cheyne for the NAWG annual meeting in Washington DC. The meeting was also the joint winter meeting for U.S. Wheat Associates, so we had Oregon Wheat Commissioners Dana Tuckness and Tyler Hansell with our group. Our week for the League was packed with visits to nearly every Oregon Congressional office. Since Congress was not in session, we met with staff including Representative Salinas, Representative Bonamici, Representative Bentz, Representative Hoyle, and Representative Chavez-DeRemer. On the Senate side, we were able to meet with both Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley in-person. As we visited staff from the offices of Congress in Washington DC, two things were striking to me. One is that it looks like this country is run by young twenty-somethings, and two, those twenty-somethings are very bright. Our Oregon Congressional and Senate offices are well informed on the issues facing agriculture and were interested in hearing our concerns.

For the Hill visits, we carried a message of the importance of reauthorization of the Farm Bill, giving



League team visits the Capitol Building for a meeting with Senator Markley.

Oregon farmers more certainty in the supports that have been essential to continuing operations on our family farms. Crop insurance was given a high priority for our advocacy on the Farm Bill, as it provides a needed risk management tool for so many wheat farmers, especially after a drought year like we just experienced. Increasing the statutory reference price for wheat and reflecting on the increased cost of production was also discussed. We talked about increased investment in USDA Foreign Market Development and Market Access Programs to expand our trade relationships in emerging markets, since 90% of Oregon wheat production is going into increasingly competitive global markets. We also spent time discussing the importance of the Columbia and Snake River System. Agriculture has not been adequately represented in meetings regarding the future of the dams and given the importance of them to Oregon wheat farmers, our voices must be heard.

Our annual Wheat Day at the Oregon State Capitol was held again on February 14th, celebrating Oregon's Birthday. We couldn't have cake in the rotunda, as the Capitol building is still under construction, but we met with many Legislators and handed out cookies to all the offices. This year is a short session, so the agenda is much smaller and there aren't as many bills related to agriculture being introduced as we have seen in recent

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years. Solar energy siting on federal land, elk damage mitigation, and following the science as it relates to legislation and crops grown in Oregon were major talking points. A big thank you to Nicole Mann at Dalton Advocacy for her work and planning in Salem to make the day a success.

After visiting Washington D.C. and Salem, I keep coming back to the idea that the divide in the political beliefs of our country seem to be getting larger, but I think we need to take a minute to reflect on the positives during what is sure to become a brutal election season. I have heard it said that the United States isn't what it used to be, and that the prosperity citizens were once able to achieve isn't possible anymore. I

don't believe that for a second. There is a reason that issues at our borders dominate the news cycle; people are willing to risk everything to come here and live as lucky as we do. Ukrainian farmers risk their lives entering fields just to grow their crops, something that is unimaginable to those of us making our living on the land. Remember then, as we enter the long, hard days of summer, that we are lucky to be here living as we do in rural America.



'Shaking Things Up' for Oregon Wheat

Andrew Ross and Mike Moran

In March of 2023, U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) held its annual core competency training in Santiago Chile for its technical staff from around the world. Also attending this meeting were Dr. Jayne Bock, Technical Director of the Wheat Marketing Center (WMC) and Darren Padget, Oregon Wheat Commissioner. During the week, attendees discussed methods for testing and analysis of wheat and flour quality, participated in bake testing led by master baker Didier Rosada, and evaluated the crop quality survey process for ways to best measure and deliver data to buyers of U.S. wheat.

During a break, Dr. Bock was discussing the Solvent Retention Capacity (SRC) testing method with USW's Roy Chung. Mr. Chung has been one of the leading advocates for the SRC method and has been instrumental in its widespread adoption for use in mills and bakeries across Southeast Asia. Breeding programs are also aware of the usefulness of SRC tests for predicting the quality potential of flours. SRCs help screen soft wheat lines with undesirably high absorptions and provide a fingerprint of overall quality. More recently SRC has been assessed for potential in evaluating hard wheats. Combining SRC data with other wheat quality and milling data can provide a multifaceted view of the processing potential of breeding lines, enabling better selections.

Mr. Chung and Dr. Bock discussed the benefits of a central piece of equipment he designed for use in the SRC method. Commissioner Padget asked Dr. Bock if this was something WMC could use, and she agreed that Mr. Chung's SRC test tube shaker would be of great use for WMC in improving its ability to efficiently deliver consistent SRC results. Dr. Bock stated, "The movement from hand shaking to automated shaking significantly improves sample throughput and improves the consistency of the results."

Commission Funding Amount:

\$5,546

Grant summary:

Purchase of an SRC Shaker to improve consistency of results in test data used in predicting flour quality.

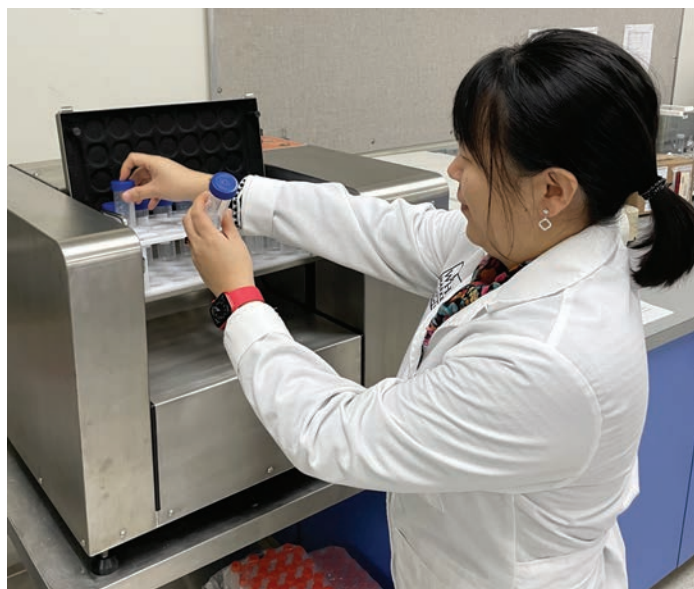
This conversation moved the acquisition of a new SRC shaker into the WMC's budget proposal to the Oregon Wheat Commission for its April meeting. WMC Executive Director Mike Moran provided the Commission an overview of the new equipment and its advantages, with a request to the Commission to help fund the new equipment. The Commission understood the value this represented for the industry and WMC, as it would allow for improved efficiency and a more consistent process. Also attending the meeting was Dr. Andrew Ross, Professor of Cereal Science at Oregon State University's College of Agricultural Sciences.

The OSU lab has been using SRC testing ever since they became confident in its capabilities. Like WMC, OSU has always looked for ways to make SRC testing easier on operators, faster, and both more accurate and more precise. Like WMC, OSU had tested various mechanical methods for shaking the SRC tubes. All those methods had shortcomings, and so both labs continued to rely on the handshaking method for consistency and accuracy. So, when Dr. Ross heard Mr. Moran describe the equipment from Asia that looked like a promising means to mechanize the shaking, he saw an opportunity to collaborate. At the time Dr. Ross was in the process of completing another collaborative project for WMC


and USW on sponge cake quality prediction. Dr. Ross recalls, “There was an installment of \$10K of the total funding still to be paid. When I saw WMC present the shaker’s potential to the Commission I was impressed and jumped. I talked to Mike Moran and suggested that the outstanding \$10K would neatly cover the cost of the new SRC shaker and so it was: WMC bought two, one for them, one for us.”

With the support of the Oregon Wheat Commission, Mr. Moran reached out to the Washington and Idaho Wheat Commissions to secure their support as well. As the equipment is manufactured in Thailand, modifications needed to be made to ensure compliance with U.S. electrical standards. The order was placed, and the equipment arrived in Portland in time for Christmas. Dr. Ross and his team picked up their new equipment from WMC and said, “We have just returned from Portland with the new shaker and my crew is unpacking it as I type. We anticipate that the new shaker will enable us to better serve the wheat breeding program by being able to process more samples in the same timeframe.”

“We will continue to explore and adopt new technology to help us better serve the wheat growing community and provide greater value to buyers of Oregon and U.S. grown wheat. Collaborations with our university partners like this are



Limam Liu, Wheat Marketing Center Operations Manager demonstrates use of the new SRC Shaker.

made possible by the support we get from the Oregon Wheat Commission, and all the growers,” stated Mr. Moran. 

Oregon State Senate Appoints Lisa Charpilloz Hanson as Permanent Director of ODA


Mia Pedersen, Communications Director

In February, the Oregon Senate officially approved Lisa Charpilloz Hanson as the Director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). Governor Kotek initially appointed Charpilloz Hanson to lead ODA in October 2023. Since December 1, 2023, she has been fulfilling the role of interim director. Prior to this appointment, she held the position of Executive Director for the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. “As ODA Director, I look forward to building partnerships and supporting collaborative solutions to benefit Oregon’s agriculture, the environment, the economy, and local communities. Agriculture and public service are my passions, and I am so excited to be back at ODA.” said Charpilloz Hanson.



Charpilloz Hanson was raised on a small farm in Monitor, Oregon. Her upbringing involved active involvement in 4-H activities, raising and exhibiting purebred livestock, and contributing on the family farm. After graduating from Silverton

High School, Charpilloz Hanson pursued studies in Agriculture and Economics at Oregon State University, culminating in her graduation in 1989. She brings a background in ag and a strong knowledge of ODA to the role. Before her appointment to OWEB, she worked with ODA, initially managing the agency’s commodities commission oversight program before being promoted to the position of Deputy Director.

Oregon Wheat welcomes her in this leadership role and looks forward to working with her in supporting Oregon’s agriculture industry. “With Lisa at the helm, I have no doubt that the Oregon Department of Agriculture will thrive,” said Dana Tuckness, Chair of the Oregon Wheat Commission. Oregon Wheat Growers League President Wade Bingaman noted that her extensive experience and deep-rooted commitment to the agricultural sector are assets. “Her proven track record of leadership and her efforts to engage with the wheat industry needs are particularly important,” said Wade Bingaman, President of the Oregon Wheat Growers League. “We are confident that her vision and dedication will benefit the entire agricultural community of Oregon.” 

Farm Bill, Policy and Rivers a Focus On the Hill

The Oregon Wheat Growers League took to Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. in January to advocate for wheat industry priorities in Farm Bill, discuss agency policies and to emphasize the importance of the Columbia-Snake River System. The League's Executive team, along with NAWG President Brent Cheyne and League staff, made its voice heard on vital agricultural issues. Advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill centered around the pressing need for a Farm Bill that prioritizes key elements such as crop insurance protection, bolstering the farm safety net, and supporting trade. The League's leadership team met with nearly every office of the Oregon delegation to discuss the importance of these priorities for wheat growers across the state.

Before visiting the Hill, the team participated in a briefing with Senate Ag Committee Chairwoman Stabenow and Ranking Member Boozman, which offered valuable perspectives on the bill's progress and future trajectory. Prefacing the discussion on the Farm Bill being the "Art of the Doable," Senator Stabenow outlined focus areas and her intent to ensure that changes are supporting farmers directly. Her primary message: the importance of passing a new Farm Bill timely and overcoming the challenges with ongoing stopgap funding. Despite a one-year extension authorized for the Farm Bill, she outlined the reality of the baseline scoring for program costs and the challenge, if it is not in process by May, to see an upward revision in that baseline cost. Senator Boozman reflected on the generational impacts from Farm Bill policies and the escalation of input costs and declining commodity prices since it was last passed. He noted the challenges of having a significant number of new members in Congress without experience in the Farm Bill: a bill that is complicated and has heavy implications for everyone in the U.S.



NAWG CEO Chandler Goule facilitates a Farm Bill panel with Senator Stabenow and Senator Boozman.

With a coordinated message on the importance of seeing a Farm Bill move forward with meaningful changes to support producers, wheat industry leaders took to the Hill. In addition to seeking to move a Farm Bill across the finish line, specific asks included support for two marker bills. The first was the Agriculture Export Promotion Act of 2023 and its companion bill the Expanding Agricultural Exports Act of 2023, which seek



Meeting with Senator Wyden, Chair of Finance Committee and co-sponsor on S.176: Expanding Agricultural Exports Act of 2023.



League representatives headed into a meeting at Representative Bonamici's office: a co-sponsor on HR. 648: the Agriculture Export Promotion Act.




Visiting the office of Representative Chavez DeRemer, a co-sponsor on HR 4293: the American Farmers Feed the World Act.

to increase the funding for trade promotion programs that have a proven track record on their return on investment for increasing markets for wheat producers. The second ask was to invite the Oregon delegation to co-sponsor the American Farmers Feed the World Act of 2023, bi-partisan legislation which would restore the original intent of the Food for Peace program.

While advocating for the Farm Bill, the League also ensured that members of Congress were fully briefed on the critical role played by the dams within the Columbia-Snake River System. These discussions underscored the significance of maintaining and supporting infrastructure vital to agricultural operations and regional economies. The team also discussed outcomes from federal research funds, thanking the delegation for the support and discussing the need for ongoing investments to the Pendleton station. The team also took the opportunity to highlight concerns with EPA's proposed herbicide strategy.

Beyond the Capitol buildings, the team also traversed the halls of USDA, notably sitting down with FSA Administrator Zach Duchenaus and his staff. While the League reviewed a couple specific policy changes requested, the overall discussion focused on the increase in FSA-administered programs and the need for resources from Congress for adequate staffing.

The week in Washington D.C. also featured collaborative efforts with U.S. Wheat Associates and the National Association of Wheat Growers during their winter meetings. Plenary sessions provided platforms for discussions with key figures, including USDA Undersecretary for Trade and Foreign Agriculture Alexis Taylor and USTR Ambassador Doug McKalip. The sessions shed light on crucial aspects of national trade relations and technology's potential benefits for wheat growers.

"These advocacy trips allow us to help educate elected officials on key issues that have an impact on individual livelihoods, but also an industry that is vital to our national economy," said Oregon Wheat CEO Amanda Hoey. 



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Dana Tuckness

OWC Chair

OREGON WHEAT COMMISSION


The older I get and the longer I farm, I realize I don't know as much as I thought I did. It takes a lot of faith to plant a seed in the Fall or early Spring and expect to harvest a crop, not knowing what the future has in store. No matter how well I prepare for the coming year, I know there are going to be a few curves thrown at me along the way. I, as well as most of you, have experienced unexpected severe market fluctuations due to weather conditions or some sort of political action somewhere in the world. Drought, flood, freeze, wind, hail, or..... The weather-related damage to our own farms can come at any time and from all directions. I once had a lightning bolt strike in the middle of an onion field, leaving a hole over a foot deep and frying over a half-acre of little onions. Thirty-five years ago, Kathy and I were farming in the narrow Willow Creek Valley near Brogan. Like clockwork, three out of four years, we were hit with a devastating hailstorm in June. The storms would come off of Cottonwood Mountain, cross over our farm and then move back out over the range land. The third time it happened, the insurance adjuster couldn't make it and told me I had enough experience to adjust the losses and send him the numbers. About that same time, a neighbor approached me and asked "have you ever thought of moving? Your last hailstorm encroached on some of MY crops."

There are many things that are out of our control, but there are things we can do to minimize some of the problems we face. Your Oregon Wheat Commission is doing just that. We recently met in Corvallis to review research proposals and advise on the best avenues to invest grower dollars. Oregon State University (OSU) has several excellent researchers working in the wheat department. With grower funds being limited, and the Commission being very frugal on where to invest, it can be challenging and not every proposal will be funded. This year in particular, funding looks to be tight due to a lower statewide yield in the 2023 crop year. As in years past, the largest share of your nickel assessment will go to the wheat breeding program. With a new wheat breeder, Dr. Margaret Krause, in place, we are hopeful to see new OSU varieties from her program.

Other projects we looked at include several different projects on weed control, which include some new high-tech equipment; fertilizer and irrigation management; stripe rust and other wheat disease issues; wheat and barley variety testing; and continued work on pests including the Cereal Leaf Beetle. We were also able to tour Dr. Andrew Ross's baking lab, which was recently renovated and upgraded. A year ago, when we visited, the lab was in the middle of renovation. What a huge difference seeing it completed. Dr. Ross was very excited to show us around and thanked us for the money the Commission invested in this project. Dr. Ross and crew have done an outstanding job for Oregon growers, finding new end use products for our wheat, and working with the other researchers at OSU.

In other Commission news, the cereal grains pathology endowment has been finalized and approved by the Commission after matching funds from OSU became available. Dr. Chris Mundt, after many very productive years, has retired from this department and the Commission is involved in the search for his replacement. Major repairs are needed at the Columbia Basin Ag Research Center greenhouses, Pendleton station. The Commission voted to reallocate some funds from another purpose to help with those repairs. We also got a very thorough update on the Snake River Dam issue from the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association.

Although the markets look very discouraging at the time of this writing, our crop conditions statewide look very favorable. With the surge of moisture and warm weather, the winter wheat is off to a good start. I'm sure there will be many variables, both good and bad for each and every one of us this year. The researchers at OSU are working to ease some of the burdens and are available to answer any questions you may have. It helps them to know the issues you are facing.

"You trust the moon to move the mighty ocean, you trust the sun to shine upon the land, you take the little that you know, and you do the best you can, you see the rest with the quiet faith of man" (from the song "Quiet Faith of Man" by Jerry Jeff Walker) 

Wheat Variety Selection to Improve Field Productivity for Future Crops

Ryan Graebner, Assistant Professor

Every few years, public and private plant breeders release a new generation of wheat varieties for the Pacific Northwest. These improved varieties sport improved yields (and ideally end-use quality and disease resistance), which ensures that regional farmers are able to stay competitive in the global marketplace. Recent work conducted by the OSU Cereal Extension Program suggests that in addition to a variety's performance at the end of the season, variety selection also may be able to improve the performance of the following crop planted in a given field.

Current literature supports effects of this nature. Varieties have been shown to differ in their water uptake, the amount of residue they leave on the soil and their effect on the soil microbiome. In the most direct evidence of a variety's ability to affect the productivity of future crops, several winter wheat varieties (including 'Bobtail') have the ability to suppress the take-all pathogen in the soil, which boosts the yield of the following wheat crop when this disease is present.

What We Did

In fall 2019, we planted several winter wheat varieties at the Columbia Basin Agricultural Research Center near Pendleton, OR. These plots were harvested, and in fall 2021, we planted 'Norwest Tandem' over the footprint of each plot (Figure 1). In summer 2022, each plot was harvested and weighed with our Zurn plot combine.



Figure 1. 'Norwest Tandem' growing near Pendleton in 2022. Each plot of 'Norwest Tandem' followed a different variety grown in 2020.

Commission Funding FY 2023/2024:

\$167,800

Project summary:

Management of variety trials at locations throughout Oregon, Eastern Washington, and Northern California, capturing a range of environmental conditions and cropping systems in the wheat production areas of Oregon. The trials provide growers with performance data on commonly grown and newly released winter and spring wheat and barley varieties.

What We Found & What It Means

After analyzing yield data from the 2022 growing season, we found that plots following 'Pritchett' (a club wheat variety) yielded approximately 11 bushels more than plots following 'Bobtail' (Figure 2). This suggests that effects of wheat varieties on the following crop may be a valuable trait to screen for when evaluating new varieties.

That being said, we still have a lot to learn about the stability of this effect in different years, locations, and cropping systems. While it is possible that planting 'Pritchett' could improve the yield of following wheat, barley, pea, and canola crops in most years and locations, it also possible that this effect was a result of specific environmental conditions in the 2020-2022 crop years in Pendleton, and that these results could not be repeated in other situations. Overall, while we should be cautious about the specific effects found here (i.e. 'Pritchett' improving the yield of the following wheat crop), we feel our results shine light on a promising pathway to improving farm productivity.

While these results are promising, we still don't know what physiological differences between 'Pritchett' and 'Bobtail' led to an 11 bushel difference in the following crop's yield. Grain protein of 'Norwest Tandem' was not affected by the variety grown in 2020, indicating that different levels of nitrogen availability during the second crop were not the driver for this difference in yield.

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Next Steps

Starting in the 2024 growing season, we will plant spring wheat over the footprint of two of our 2023 variety trials. By skipping the fallow period, we will reduce the time it takes to measure this effect from two years after harvesting the initial crop to one year after harvesting the initial crop. After several seasons, we will evaluate this data to gauge the magnitude of benefits possible for the following crop as well and how consistent this effect is from year to year. From here, we will try to select a subset of varieties that consistently increase or decrease the following crop's yield. These varieties will be used to work towards understanding the primary drivers of this effect, paying close attention to how varieties affect crop residue cover, soil moisture, and the soil microbiome. We will also work to understand if these effects are limited to the following crop, or if they persist for multiple cropping cycles. 🌱

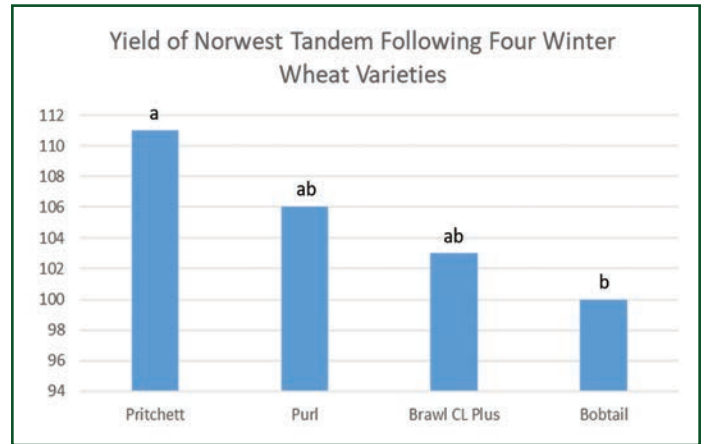


Figure 2. Yield of 'Norwest Tandem' (in bu/acre) in 2022 when planted into residue of four winter wheat varieties that had been grown in the 2020 crop year.

League Welcomes New Communications Director

In January, the Oregon Wheat Growers League welcomed its newest member, Mia Pedersen, who joins us as the Communications Director. Born and raised in the small rural town of Junction City, Oregon, Mia's roots in agriculture run deep. She grew up tending to hay, cattle, and horses, and was extremely active in her local FFA chapter. This instilled in her a profound appreciation for the land and its bounty. Her upbringing cultivated not only a love for farming but also a keen understanding of the challenges and triumphs that come with it.

"I'm excited to bring on Mia to our talented team at the League," state Amanda Hoey, CEO. "Her skills, energy and background in agriculture will be a great contribution to Oregon Wheat. From day one we immersed Mia directly into conversations concerning the river system and brought her to county meetings – both activities she embraced wholeheartedly."

Before embarking on this new chapter with Oregon Wheat, Mia served as the Communications Director for the Oregon Farm Bureau, where she honed her skills in strategic communication and advocacy. Her tenure there was marked by a commitment to amplifying the voices of farmers and ranchers, advocating for their interests, and fostering greater understanding between agricultural communities and the wider public. "I am thrilled to embark on this exciting journey with the League. My background in both agriculture and communications equips me with confidence that I can make a meaningful impact in this role, contributing to the growth



and success of the organization. I'm excited to work with our members and advocate on behalf of our farmers and ranchers, which is extremely meaningful to me."

Mia's dedication to agriculture extends beyond her professional endeavors. As an active member of various agricultural organizations, including Lane County Farm Bureau, Oregon Women for Agriculture, Young Farmers and Ranchers, and Lane Families for Farms and Forests, she has been a steadfast advocate for the industry. 🌱

Judge Finalizes River System Agreement


The multi-decade long litigation process involving the Columbia-Snake River system reached another milestone on February 8, 2024, when the U.S. District Court of Oregon accepted an agreement that involves a series of commitments for the Columbia and Snake River systems. These include several commitments regarding funding totaling \$1 billion, and a set of proposed operational and spill changes that could impact safe navigation. District Judge Michael Simon provided approval to the agreement, effectively suspending the lawsuit until December 13, 2028. There is an option for a further five-year extension, as well.

Prior to the agreement being approved, agricultural advocates testified before the House Energy and Commerce Committee on January 30th regarding the proposed agreement and the process. Panelists from Pacific Northwest Waterways Association, Washington Grain Commission, and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association stressed the importance of preserving the locks and dams on the Columbia Snake River System. Washington Grain Commission CEO Casey Chumrau highlighted the importance of the entire system, including the Lower Snake River Dams, as they play a crucial role in the livelihoods of grain growers.

Leading up to the hearing, the Oregon Wheat Growers League submitted a letter highlighting concerns and expressing the League’s support for maintaining and enhancing the locks and dams system in the Columbia Snake River System. “We seek to engage in efforts that can arrive at

a durable solution that protects the integrity of the dams and the health of salmon, allowing us to simultaneously support a thriving river and thriving communities,” the League wrote.

The League joined with many other ag organizations in highlighting the cost concerns, the environmental impact, detrimental market implications, and safety concerns if dam breaching was considered. NW River Partners responded by reiterating the challenges of ratepayer organizations and river users being excluded from negotiations producing the settlement. They highlighted that the “exclusion of stakeholders means that millions of people in vulnerable communities across the region will now bear the brunt of the increased energy costs and uncertainty created by this agreement.”

The discussion of preserving the four dams on the lower Snake River and the operations of the entire Columbia River system is a matter of significant concern for wheat producers. We remain committed to providing information on the impact to producers and our markets on the critical nature of retaining strong operations for river navigation. 

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NAWG President Reflects on a Year of Service; New Officers Elected

Following a year of service as the National Association of Wheat Growers President, Brent Cheyne of Klamath Falls, Oregon marked the end of his term at the NAWG annual conference in Houston, Texas in February 2024. Cheyne noted the close relationships he had built with wheat farmers across the nation while serving NAWG and the difference they had made collectively to influence federal policy. The consistency and dedication of Cheyne’s service was clear, in remarks from industry leaders present in the room.


“We appreciate the time and commitment Brent Cheyne dedicated during his time as NAWG President. Brent delivered excellent testimonies before both the Senate and House Agriculture Subcommittees this past Spring, highlighting the importance of the farm safety net,” said NAWG CEO Chandler Goule. “He continued to be a champion for NAWG’s Farm Bill priorities during our July, September, and January meetings on Capitol Hill. We look forward to continuing the work Brent led during his presidency as we look to Congress to pass a 2024 Farm Bill.”

“It has been very gratifying,” Brent stated in reflecting on his year of service. “We are getting the wheat growers voice listened to. And we are getting the legislative pieces that are near and dear to our industry put into place so that we may continue to raise a crop of wheat that is the cleanest, safest, wholesome, healthiest product on the face of the earth. As an industry, I think we can take a lot of pride in that.” Noting the strong team with the new officers, Brent stated: “As we go on, NAWG is going to be in very good hands.”



Brent Cheyne celebrates his term of service at the President’s reception.

Taking the leadership role for NAWG President is fourth-generation farmer, Keef Felty from the Altus area of Oklahoma. He farms cotton, sesame, and pastureland, along with his wheat crops. During the annual meeting, the board elected its full slate of new officers with Keef Felty of Oklahoma as President, Pat Clements of Kentucky as Vice President, Jamie Kress from Idaho as Treasurer, and Nathan Keane of Montana as Secretary. Brent Cheyne transitions into the Past President position on the officer team.

The Oregon Wheat Growers League expresses our appreciation for the true dedication of Brent Cheyne throughout his term as President of NAWG and through his years on the officer team. 



Cheyne passes on the role of President to Keef Felty from Oklahoma.



NAWG Officers. L to R: Nathan Keane, Jamie Kress, Pat Clements, Keef Felty, Brent Cheyne.

2024 Quality Rankings

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

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

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

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

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

Hard Red Spring

Jefferson	UI	MD
Hale	WSU	MD
SY605 CL	AP/SY	MD
Net CL+	WSU	MD
SY Selway	AP/SY	MD
Glee	WSU	MD
SY Coho	AP/SY	MD
Alum	WSU	MD
SY Gunsight	AP/SY	MD
Chet	WSU	MD
AP Renegade	AP/SY	D
WB9303	WB	D
Kelse	WSU	D
WB9668	WB	D
WB9662	WB	LD

Hard White Spring

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

Hard Red Winter

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

Hard White Winter

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

Spring Club

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

Winter Club

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

Soft White Spring

Tekoa	WSU	MD
Diva	WSU	MD
WB6341	WB	MD
Butch CL+	WSU	MD
Louise	WSU	MD
UI Cookie	UI	MD
Alturas	UI	MD
AP Mondovi CL2	AP/SY	MD
Ryan	WSU	MD
Seahawk	WSU	MD
WB6121	WB	D
TMC Lochaven	TMC	D
WB6211CLP	WB	A

Soft White Winter

VI Frost	LCS/UI	MD
YSC-215	YSC	MD
Sockeye CL+	WSU	MD
Bobtail	OSU	MD
UI Vixen	UI	MD
LCS Shine	LCS	MD
YSC-201	YSC	MD
Nixon	OSU	MD
Nova AX	WSU	MD
Nimbus	OSU	MD
WB1621	WB	MD
AP Exceed	AP/SY	MD
Jameson	WSU	MD
Piranha CL+	WSU	D
LCS Jefe	LCS	D
VI Encore CL+	LCS/UI	D
VI Bulldog	LCS/UI	D
OR2X2 CLP	OSU	D
VI Presto CL+	LCS/UI	D
Devote	WSU	D
UI Magic CL+	UI	D
SY Ovation	AP/SY	D
LCS Drive	LCS	D
Norwest Duet	OSU/LCS	D
Appleby CL+	OSU	D
TMC M-Pire	TMC	D
WB1922	WB	D
Stingray CL+	WSU	D
LCS Blackjack	LCS	D
Rollie	WSU	D
VI Voodoo CL+	LCS/UI	D
SY Assure	AP/SY	D
TMC M-Press	TMC	D
Inspire	WSU	D
YSC-93	YSC	D
Stephens	OSU	D
LCS Hulk	LCS	A
SY Dayton	AP/SY	A
AP Dynamic	AP/SY	A
AP Iliad	AP/SY	A
LCS Artdeco	LCS	A
Curiosity CL+	WSU	A
Norwest Tandem	OSU/LCS	A
Rosalyn	OSU	A
LCS Kamiak	LCS	A

Abbreviations

- AP/SY:** AgriPro/Syngenta
- ARS:** Agricultural Research Service
- LCS:** Limagrain Cereal Seeds
- OSU:** Oregon State University
- PG:** PlainsGold
- TMC:** The McGregor Company
- UI:** University of Idaho
- WB:** WestBred/Bayer Crop Sciences
- WSU:** Washington State University
- YSC:** Yield Star Cereals
- Montech:** Montech Seed Group

* Hard white wheats are scored for export quality requirements such as bread quality and potential noodle quality. ** Analysis parameters for dough mixing strength have been modified to better reflect suitability in commercial bakeries. Quality designations of the strongest and weakest mixing lines have changed because of this.

Oregon Wheat Foundation Honors Seniors' Achievements

Tayloranne Bray, the Rushlight Agency

The Oregon Wheat Foundation is honored to announce twelve scholarship award winners for 2024. Each of the winners will receive a \$2,000 scholarship to support studies at their selected university, community college or vocational/trade school. The Foundation, acknowledging the substantial number of applications received this year, takes pride in awarding the maximum scholarships to these deserving graduating seniors.

“This year’s group of applicants was not only impressive in their accomplishments, but also for their passion for our industry,” said Oregon Wheat Foundation Chair, Tom Winn. “It is a privilege to support these students in their future pursuits.”

We congratulate the following scholarship recipients for 2024:

Addison Perkins is a student at Weston McEwen High School and plans to study agricultural economics at the University of Idaho. She is the daughter of Randy and Dana Perkins. Addison has participated in FFA and student government, and currently serves as Senior Class President. She works on the family farm and volunteers with the Happy Canyon Night Show. Addison believes in the importance of furthering her education and looks forward to learning more about agricultural trade and marketing.

Alison Spratling attends Pendleton High School and is the daughter of Tim and Kathy Spratling. She plans to attend Oregon State University to study crop and soil science. Alison participated in basketball, soccer, track and golf throughout high school. She was also involved with FFA, National Honor Society and the Ecology Club. During the summers she worked at her family’s wheat farm. After college, Alison would like to become a soil scientist to work with farmers.

Brooke Glaser attends Central Linn High School and is the daughter of Brian and Kristie Glaser. She plans to study agricultural entrepreneurship at Eastern Oregon University. Brooke is an active member of the National Honor Society, FFA, student government, AWANAS, and plays volleyball and basketball. She volunteers with various community organizations and works summers on Calla Farms.

Cameron Proudfoot attends Heppner High School and is the son of Jason and Tara Proudfoot. After graduation, Cameron plans to study mechanical engineering at the University of Idaho. Cameron has participated in multiple extracurriculars including Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), FFA, National Honor Society, student government, football, basketball, and baseball. He volunteers at the local elementary school as a mentor and works at Proudfoot Ranches. After

college, Cameron hopes to work within the agriculture industry as an engineer.

Courtney Coelsch is a senior at Sherman County High School and the daughter of Bryce and Kristie Coelsch. After graduation, she plans to attend Blue Mountain Community College to study ag business. Courtney played volleyball, basketball, tennis and track throughout high school while actively participating in FFA and serving as chapter president in 2023. After college, Courtney wants to pursue a career in farming, eventually taking over the family farm.

Grace Claughton attends Arlington High School and plans to become an electrician. She is the daughter of Joe and Jodi Claughton. Grace is a high school athlete, having played basketball, volleyball, track, and tennis. She is active in 4H, serves as a class representative, and does community service cleaning up the rodeo grounds. She has been accepted into the Treasure Valley Community College electrical apprenticeship program and hopes to open her own electrical company after becoming a licensed master electrician.

Jake Bingaman attends Imbler High School and is the son of Wade and Angi Bingaman. After graduation he plans to study business administration at Oregon State University. Jake has participated in 4-H, FFA, National Honor Society, and student leadership. He is a varsity basketball player and track athlete and works on the family farm.

Kailee Macy is a senior at Culver High School and plans to study agricultural communications at Oklahoma State. She is the daughter of Michael and Milne Macy. Kailee is a varsity basketball and cross-country athlete, and a member of FFA, National Honor Society, and student government. She has volunteered with a variety of community organizations and works on the family farm and for a local bed and breakfast.


Kale Bingaman attends Imbler High School and is the son of Greg and Chandra Bingaman. He plans to study agriculture business, or crop and soil sciences. Kale is an active member of the FFA, FBLA, National Honor Society, 4-H, student government, and the Oregon Community 101 Foundation. In addition to his extracurricular activities, Kale enjoys volunteering in the community and working on the family farm. After completing a college degree, Kale plans to return to the family farm.

Luke McGourty attends Vale High School and is the son of Michael and Amy McGourty. Luke plans to study agricultural sciences at Oregon State University. Luke has participated in FFA, FCA, Science Club, and National Honor Society, as well as playing basketball, tennis, and golf. He has

volunteered with many community organizations and works on the family. Upon completing his degree at OSU, Luke plans to return to the family farm.

Morgan Cutsforth is a student at Heppner High School and plans to study animal sciences at Eastern Oregon University. She is the daughter of Stanley and Pamela Cutsforth. Morgan has played volleyball, basketball, and softball throughout high school. She actively participates in FFA, FBLA, student government, and National Honor Society. After graduating from college, Morgan hopes to start a career as a vet tech.

Ryann Rosselle is a student at Hood River Valley High School and plans to study forestry, agriculture, and natural resource management at the University of Montana. She is the daughter of Kyle and Lindsay Rosselle. Ryann played varsity volleyball, basketball, and lacrosse all four years of high school. During the summer, she volunteers at sports camps for younger kids and works at the family ranch. After graduating from college, she hopes to begin a career in natural resources.

Students were evaluated based on academic record, leadership, community service and their submitted essays. 



Cameron Proudfoot



Courtney Coelsch



Grace Cloughton



Jake Bingaman



Kailee Macy



Kale Bingaman



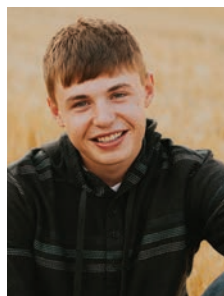
Addison Perkins



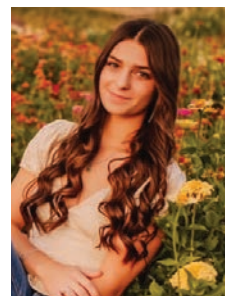
Alison Spratling



Brooke Glaser



Luke McGourty



Morgan Cutsforth



Ryann Rosselle

Farm Trucking Guide Updated


Jason Flowers, Program Director

Navigating trucking laws and regulations can be a lot! Luckily, there is the Guide to Farm Trucking in Oregon to help. Over the winter, the League worked with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to update the guide. It is designed to be a one-stop-shop for the basic rules and regulations affecting farm trucks in the state.

League staff met with ODOT to go through the document to surface any content that may have been outdated. The department staff then worked with their specialists to ensure the most up-to-date information was included. We want to thank the Oregon Department of Transportation staff for their help through this process.

While farm trucking is still regulated in the state, it comes with several exemptions from laws that affect other

commercial vehicles. The guide covers licensing, fuel taxes, vehicle safety inspections/regulations, driver requirements and exemptions for covered farm vehicles. It is handy for producers to have quick access to these requirements and exemptions, whether in the office or out in the field. The guide is available online on the League website and in hard copy form at the League office.

With the importance of trucking to wheat producers to get supplies to the farm and crops to market, the League will continue working to keep this resource relevant moving into the future so farmers have one less thing to worry about while carrying out their essential work feeding the world. 

Back to the Future

Amanda Hoey, Oregon Wheat CEO



“It works! It works! I finally invent something that works!” It is a pleasant realization to a) find something that works, and b) have an opportunity to return to what works. The new Cereal Grains Pathology endowment agreement may not look as shiny or be as fast as the DeLorean from Back to the Future, but it is a timeless classic in the same fashion.

This spring, the Oregon Wheat Commission finalized the Cereal Grains Pathology Scholar Endowment with the Oregon State University Foundation. It is a way to advance and secure essential research positions at the University that are necessary for wheat production to be successful long term. The fund makes it more attractive to retain current faculty and becomes an extremely beneficial tool when seeking to recruit.

The pathway for the endowment originated in preparation for budget discussions over a year ago, formalizing when the Oregon Wheat Commission passed a budget which included \$250,000 set aside to help seed the new fund. There were multiple options under consideration, with a recognition of a need for additional future endowed positions. While the Commission was facing a better budget year to support research based on the 2022 crop revenue, it was not unlimited, so difficult choices had to be made on the allocation for the endowed resources. Ultimately, as the Commission looked towards the upcoming retirement of Dr. Chris Mundt from the plant pathology department and recognizing the advances he had made, along with the direct support provided to growers and in his field trials, the Commission determined to allocate its funds towards plant pathology.

To be successful, though, matching funds are necessary as the Commission cannot resource the endowment alone. We began pursuing that match in partnership with Oregon State University to secure the first segment of those funds through the University. Facing deadlines with the structure of fiscal years and budgets, I was impressed with the level of commitment from the OSU College of Ag Sciences. In February 2024, Dean Staci Simonich stepped up in a big way for the wheat industry. She provided a guarantee on the match from the College. She also went one step up, ensuring that their full \$50,000 match would be provided as soon as the fund is established, rather than over the 5-year period outlined in the original University discussions. She noted *“As Dean, this type of faculty support fund, driven by stakeholder need, is the*




The endowment is forward thinking to maximize allocation of funds in the ‘up’ years to alleviate the down, providing steady funding and thereby better ensuring we can hold those positions in place.

exact type of fund I want to promote and prioritize in the college.” Further discussion ensured that matching funds would enhance the base level of the endowment, allowing it to continue to grow over time.

The OSU College of Ag Sciences match was the trigger to initiate the Commission allocation and we are officially underway. The Cereal Grains Pathology Scholar Endowment has a couple of features that are important: it is location agnostic within Oregon so allows us to support an individual out in the field, it is focused on application of research to support growers and it is built for flexibility in the long term with the cereal grains title. As we face several perennial issues, compounded by new challenges, the fund helps secure our pathway to address those issues, not only in the near term but decades ahead. Importantly, it retains the focus with on-the-ground research and responsiveness.

The endowment is forward thinking to maximize allocation of funds in the ‘up’ years to alleviate the down, providing steady funding and thereby better ensuring we can hold those positions in place. With the base funding supplied by the Oregon Wheat Commission, and matched by OSU, we need to expand and pursue additional industry contributions to support the full position endowment. Through the OSU Foundation, there are easy giving opportunities which can then be specified as going direct to this endowment.

Before we know it, the future is here. What that future looks like is up to us to help shape. I appreciate the foresight of the Commission in providing the base funding. I appreciate the dedication of pathologists, including Dr. Mundt (retiring) and Dr. Hagerty, which led to the reason for the funding. Finally, I appreciate the meaningful support from OSU College of Ag Sciences Dean Staci Simonich and the guidance from Alexis Eichler and Amy Crumley with OSU Foundation to best support the industry. Each have been instrumental in the success of creating the Endowment. Now, as we have the fund established, we are also looking for others to join us in supporting the endowment and research. 

OSU COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
and OREGON WHEAT COMMISSION

SUPPORT SCIENCE

Oregon Wheat Cereal Grain Pathology Faculty Scholar

Help support critical wheat research and grower outreach by contributing to this new faculty fund at Oregon State University, created by the Oregon Wheat Commission. This fund will support industry through applied research to help control plant pathogens like fungi, viruses, and nematodes that affect dryland wheat production.

Visit fororegonstate.org to make a donation today.



Contact Amy Crumley, OSU Foundation at amy.crumley@osufoundation.org to learn more.



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League Celebrates Wheat Day at the Capitol

Mia Pedersen, Communications Director

On February 14th, amidst the buzz of Oregon’s birthday celebrations, members of the Oregon Wheat Growers League were granted a special opportunity: a visit to the Oregon Capitol, where they engaged with legislators, discussed agricultural priorities, and celebrated the significance of wheat in Oregon’s farming landscape.

Representative Shelly Boshart-Davis, recognizing the importance of the occasion, extended courtesies on the House floor, acknowledging Wheat Day and its dedicated producers. “Oregon wheat is more than just a crop, it’s a testament to the hard work of our farmers and their commitment to excellence. Each kernel represents a story of dedication, innovation, and stewardship of the land,” said Boshart-Davis. Members of our Executive Committee were honored to participate in this proceeding from atop the balcony of the House Floor and be recognized for contributing to Oregon’s thriving agricultural sector.

Due to the Capitol being under construction this year,

Wheat Day did not include the traditional birthday cake celebration, which is a ritual that takes place with Oregon’s coinciding birthday. Instead, the League’s Executive team distributed custom Oregon Wheat cookies to both Representatives and Senators. We look forward to returning to the tradition in the 2025 long session.

The 2024 legislative year is classified as a ‘short session’, spanning just 35 days. Commencing on February 5th and concluding by the constitutional sine die on March 10th, the Wheat Day



Custom Oregon Wheat cookies were distributed to 90 Senators and Representatives in Salem.



27th ANNUAL GOLF SCRAMBLE

May 1, 2024

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 **OREGON WHEAT FOUNDATION**

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Representatives of the League had the pleasure of visiting with Representative Bobby Levy.

event was strategically positioned. This visit aligned with a pivotal moment, occurring shortly after the deadline for the first chamber work session postings and just prior to the first chamber work session deadline. It provided an opportunity for the League to offer input on crucial bills. With over 250 bills introduced during this abbreviated session, a more concentrated approach was feasible. The League’s lobby team actively participated in advocating for wheat producers needs across approximately 30 bills which had the potential to significantly impact wheat producers. While most often we are in a defensive position coming into session, this year was one of the better for wheat from the outset, with no product bans proposed or direct hits to producers. However, it still included a number of complex issues, including impacts from changes in land use considerations.

With Dalton Advocacy providing our representation in Salem on a daily basis, the added producer voice in the Capitol elevated the priority bills for the League. The League Executive Team had an opportunity to meet with several Legislators throughout the day, including the leadership from the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources. These meetings provided a platform for the League to



Representatives of the League enjoyed a view atop the balcony while receiving courtesies on the House Floor.

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engage directly with policymakers, sharing insights into the challenges and opportunities confronting wheat growers statewide. The visit underscored the League’s commitment to advocating for the interests of wheat growers and amplifying the voice of agriculture in Oregon. By actively participating in the legislative process, the League reaffirmed its dedication to shaping policies that sustain the industry’s growth and resilience. 



First stop of the day was meeting with Representative Ken Helm.

Passed with Resolve: National Meeting Sets Policy Priorities

Held in conjunction with Commodity Classic in Houston, Texas, the 2024 National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) annual meeting again hit the highlights for federal farm policy. Reaffirming key policy stances, Oregon voting delegates included League Past President Collin Crocker and CEO Amanda Hoey. Both participated in committee and board meetings, carrying the Oregon Wheat Growers League directives forward into the national policy conversations.

Affirming and revising expiring resolutions, as well as considering new policy resolutions proposed by states, was the primary order of business as NAWG kicked off the week convening committees. Among the new resolutions passed and revised are those seeking to address the burdensome requirements of the new Corporate Transparency Act, supporting disaster program development that is equitable and timely, and addressing funding for mechanisms to review foreign investments.

In addition, the committee members heard from guest speakers, including an engaging discussion with Paul Rohde from the Waterways Council. He spoke to aging waterways infrastructure and the increased investment needed to assure the U.S. can maintain a strategic advantage in the movement of wheat. The Council continues to advocate for resources to maintain and expand that infrastructure, and to protect assets currently in place. Among those: the locks and dams along the Columbia and Snake Rivers.

The heads of three major United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies serving wheat producers also joined for the meeting. Farm Services Agency Administrator Zach Ducheneaux, Natural Resource Conservation Service Chief Terry Cosby, and Risk Management Agency



Domestic Trade and Policy Committee members deliberate on new resolutions.

Administrator Marcia Bungler each discussed their programs and responded to NAWG policies. Talking about Farm Bill programs designed to support producers, FSA Administrator Ducheneaux asked: “Are they an expenditure or an investment?” Describing the essential nature of the programs, he responded saying “They are an investment, with returns in the long-run.”

The USDA agency panel was followed the next day by the full board meeting, which included a discussion with USDA Undersecretary Robert Bonnie. Reiterating many of the concerns laid out by NAWG, he noted the critical role




L to R: Zach Ducheneaux, Terry Crosby and Marcia Bungler.



The Oregon delegation was joined by special guests from the League leadership. L to R: Nichelle and Rodney Cheyne, Collin Crocker and Ben Maney.

crop insurance plays as a risk management tool, the need for adequate staffing for federal farm agencies to adequately serve producers, and the myriad of issues facing agriculture.

The week concluded with a small panel featuring staff from the House and Senate Ag committees to discuss the status of the Farm Bill. Lining out the priorities for both the

majority and minority members, the panel highlighted the work happening to negotiate the next five-year Farm Bill. Beginning with resource identification, the prioritization of funds to have a meaningful impact on farm production and rural quality of life was apparent across the panel. Most critical: getting certainty and good policy for the funds invested. 

Bender, Lindsay and Macnab Announced as New County Presidents

Mia Pedersen, Communications Director

At the annual meeting of the Morrow County members of the Oregon Wheat Growers League, the members elected Jake Lindsay as the new Morrow County President. Lindsay was born and raised on a family farm outside of Heppner. He studied at Oregon State University where he received a Bachelors degree in Agriculture Business Management before returning to the family farm in 2021.

“Four other generations of wheat farmers come before me, and I’m honored to follow in their footsteps and continue the family legacy here at Turner Ranch.” Lindsay goes on to say “I’m excited for the opportunity to serve as the Morrow County President. As a young farmer each day is a learning experience and I expect this new role to be another great opportunity to grow as an individual and understand more about the wheat industry. I’m excited to get involved beyond just being a wheat farmer.”



Jake Lindsay seen here with OWGL CEO Amanda Hoey & Vice President Erin Hansell Heideman.

Lindsay will be taking over the County role from Executive Vice President Erin Hansell-Heideman. “It’s encouraging for me to see the next generation step up to take a part of our organization. Our legacy and farming heritage depends on it. I’m very proud of Jake for being

willing to take on this role” said Hansell-Heideman.

In addition, Central Oregon found a new regional County President in Kyle Bender. He is joined by his brother, Jordan Bender, who takes on the Vice-President role. “I am very excited for this opportunity, and am fortunate to have my brother Jordan by my side,” said Kyle.

Both Kyle and Jordan Bender were born and raised in Culver. Kyle most recently acted as the station manager for the Sherman Research Station in Moro, before coming back to farming full-time.

Sherman County also elected a new County President in Josh Macnab. Macnab replaces Thad Eakin, who has assumed the role of Secretary/Treasurer on the League officer team. “Having known Josh over the years, I have no doubt that he will excel in his new role as Sherman County President and I look forward to the years ahead” said Eakin. Macnab farms alongside his parents and wife, Ashley. Upon graduating from Oregon State University in 2005, Macnab spent seven years in construction before returning to the farm. “I wanted to be a part of the Oregon Wheat Growers League because I wanted to be more involved with issues that affect farming and voice our stories to those that make the decisions that affect farming across our state” says Macnab. 



Jordan Bender seen here on the left, and Kyle Bender on the right.



Josh Macnab, middle, takes on the Sherman County League President role.

Navigating Financial Compliance: Reporting Requirements for Entities in 2024

Mia Pedersen, Communications Director

Are you prepared for the new reporting requirements in 2024? This year businesses across the nation are gearing up to comply with regulations set forth by the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FINCen). The regulations require additional filing for compliance with the Corporate Transparency Act.

What prompted this enactment? The Corporate Transparency Act was implemented to address the use of anonymous shell companies by individuals engaged in criminal activities within the United States. Here's what you need to know to stay ahead of the curve.

Effective January 1, 2024, entities operating in the United States are mandated to report online to FINCen any entity that necessitates filing with their respective state. This includes a wide range of entities such as corporations, Limited Liability Companies, Limited Partnerships, and more. It's essential to mark your calendars; for entities existing before January 1, 2024, the filing deadline looms on December 31, 2024. Meanwhile, newly formed entities in 2024 must ensure their filings are completed within 30 days. Manual submissions are not accepted as the process mandates the use of the FINCen website (fincen.gov/boi) for seamless reporting.

Many farm entities are now required to comply. While there are exemptions for entities with at least 20 employees that reported at least \$5 million on the last tax return and have a physical presence in the U.S., that is a limited set of exemptions. Bottom line: if you have a corporation, LLC, or other business entity that must file with the state, then you are likely required to register.

So, what exactly do these filings entail? Prepare to provide essential details including the legal name, current address, state, and taxpayer identification number of the company. It's crucial to list all beneficial owners or controllers of the company, such as managers or officers, or those possessing at least 25% ownership. Each beneficial owner's information must be meticulously documented, encompassing their name, date of birth, address, unique identification number from an acceptable document (driver's license or passport), and the issuing state or jurisdiction.

Here's the bottom line: non-compliance isn't an option. The penalty for avoiding these responsibilities can soar up to \$500 per day and even entail jail time. It's a stark reminder that these obligations should be treated with the utmost seriousness. 📌

League County Meetings Offer Industry Insights

Mia Pedersen, Communications Director

The 2024 Oregon Wheat Growers League annual county meetings were a resounding success, offering a platform for growers to exchange insights, updates, and strategies crucial for the region's wheat industry. Spanning the course of a few months, these meetings delved into legislative updates, agency insights, industry research progress, market trends, and enriching discussions led by guest speakers from diverse sectors. League County Presidents have thus far coordinated their county meetings for Umatilla, Sherman, Wasco, Union, Baker, Morrow, and Wallowa counties, as well as the North and South Willamette Valley.

Central to the gatherings were the dynamic exchanges on legislative updates spearheaded by the League, fostering a deeper understanding of the policy landscape shaping the wheat industry. Agency updates provided vital information on regulatory shifts and support mechanisms, empowering growers with the knowledge necessary to navigate evolving

regulatory environments effectively. Another highlight of the meetings was the comprehensive updates on industry research, reflecting the commitment to innovation and sustainability within Oregon's wheat farming community. These insights not only underscored ongoing efforts to enhance productivity and resilience but also highlighted the collaborative spirit driving advancements in wheat cultivation practices.

The County meetings also included the election of representatives to the League Board of Directors. Morrow County welcomed Jake Lindsay as its new President, while Sherman County elected Josh Macnab.

The League wishes to extend its gratitude to all attendees for their active participation and contributions. With a shared vision for a thriving wheat industry, the League remains steadfast in its mission to support the growth and prosperity of Oregon's wheat farming community. 📌

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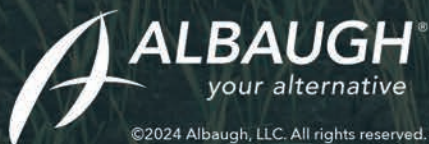
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