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OREGON WHEAT

An Official Publication of the Oregon Wheat Industry

IN THIS ISSUE

- | | |
|----|--------------------------------|
| 6 | Foundation Awards Scholarships |
| 12 | 2023 Preferred Wheat Varieties |
| 20 | Growers Take to Salem |



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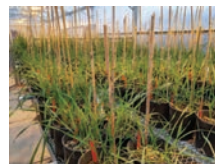
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IN THIS ISSUE

- 3** My Two Cents Worth
- 4** Oregon Wheat Growers Take to Capitol Hill
- 5** How to Testify at the Oregon State Legislature
- 6** Oregon Wheat Foundation Honors Seniors' Achievements
- 8** Built to Last
- 10** The 2023 Legislative Session Has Begun
- 12** 2023 Preferred Wheat Varieties
- 14** OWC Chair Column
- 15** Using Our New Summary Reports & Why I Like Best Linear Unbiased Estimators (BLUES)
- 17** USDA-ARS Pendleton Gets New Research Leader
- 19** Oregon Representatives Secure Positions on House Committee on Agriculture
- 20** Another Successful Wheat Day at the Capitol
- 22** Recipe: Pepperoni Blossoms



ON THE COVER:

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Planting Seeds in the Farm Bill

Collin Crocker

President

MY TWO CENTS WORTH



Spring is in the air! The weather is changing, which means preparation for spring crop planting. Despite all the work on the farm, I am still making space for key activities with the League.

Reflecting back on the winter months, it was a productive and busy time. In February, I joined Past President Ben Maney, Vice President Wade Bingaman, CEO Amanda Hoey, Program Director Jason Flowers and NAWG Vice President Brent Cheyne for the annual Mission to Washington DC. The meeting was also the joint winter meeting for the National Association of Wheat Growers and U.S. Wheat Associates, so we had Oregon Wheat Commissioners Tyler Hansell, Darren Padget and Dana Tuckness with our group. The League team had a packed visit to the Capitol that included meetings with Senator Merkley, Representative Bentz, Representative Chavez DeRemer, Representative Salinas, and the offices of Senator Wyden and Representative Bonamici. Meeting with our Members of Congress allowed us to discuss Farm Bill policies and trade issues that impact Oregon Wheat. Being able to sit down with our newly-elected representatives allowed additional time for education about our industry. In addition, we meet with agencies while back in DC, and this year had a special focus on USDA NRCS given the increase in funding to their programs.

For the Hill visits, we each had an assignment for areas to cover. Two of the top priorities in Farm Bill were preservation of crop insurance and support for market development. Ben Maney took lead on the crop insurance and Title I commodity programs.

As Farm Bill programs have expanded, particularly with the Nutrition Title needs, the outlay for farm programs like crop insurance have decreased as a percentage of the budget. However, their need and importance has only grown. For the 2022 crop year, roughly 89 percent of all planted wheat acres were insured. As a comparison, in 1990, only 38 percent of the state's wheat acres were insured. Ben did a great job highlighting crop insurance as a key risk mitigation tool and discussing opportunities for enhancements to crop insurance that would reduce premiums or

improve coverage. It is essential that we do not limit the effectiveness and accessibility of crop insurance as it is the primary tool that helps avert cropping disasters. We certainly saw this in 2021 as many wheat producers in the state were heavily impacted by drought. It remains our highest priority to protect as a tool for our growers. Recently, we have seen reports calling for cuts to crop insurance or adding additional requirements for participation. We strongly oppose those.

Vice President Wade Bingaman took the lead on discussing our export markets, the investments other countries have made and the need to ensure funding for our programs to increase our competitiveness. The meetings were timely as the week we were in DC, the Expanding Agricultural Exports Act (S. 176) and Agriculture Export Promotion Act (H.R. 648) were introduced. The bipartisan legislation would double program funding and strengthen the effectiveness of the Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market Development program (FMD). MAP's authorized funding has not changed since 2006 and FMD funding has remained the same since 2002, so inflation and sequestration have significantly eroded the ability to compete with other countries. Our national association has a grassroots campaign underway to support these legislative efforts. I strongly encourage our members to participate in the campaign.

In addition to those topics, we had a chance to share our Farm Bill priorities for increases in the reference price for wheat and continued investment in research. We also talked about the need to preserve our navigation capacities for the movement of wheat along the Columbia Snake river system. I appreciate Representative Bentz providing a tour of the Capitol on our last day.

As the League has continued to 'spring' into action, Wade returned to DC at the end of the month for a leadership training and met with additional offices we were unable to schedule, including newly-elected Representative Hoyle. I also had an opportunity to participate in a small roundtable with Representative

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Blumenauer. The League was invited to join a handful of other commodity leaders to discuss our priorities for the Farm Bill. We will continue to participate in these activities as we look towards the passage of the Farm Bill reauthorization.

With that, I am back to my spring work to keep the operation running. I appreciate my family for all of their

support when I am travelling with the League. We have a great team working for us!



Oregon Wheat Growers Take to Capitol Hill

Tayloranne Gillespie, Wayfinder Communications

Each winter, wheat growers from across the country gather in Washington, D.C. to advocate for the industry and meet with members of Congress to make their priorities known. This joint U.S. Wheat and National Association of Wheat Growers winter meeting is an important opportunity to have meaningful conversations about legislation and policy changes that will make the industry stronger and healthier in the years ahead. This year's meeting was no different as the Oregon team spent the week discussing the League's priorities and hearing from industry leaders.

At the top of the list this year was the need for timely reauthorization of the Farm Bill. The Farm Bill was last passed in 2018 and is scheduled to be reauthorized every 5 years. While a bi-partisan bill, the sheer size is challenging. The Congressional Budget Office, which is responsible for calculating the baseline estimates for the cost of the current farm bill for the next 10 years, released its most recent projection in February. Based on the 10-year outlay projection, a 2023 farm bill would include a \$1.5 trillion pricetag, which would make it the most expensive in history. Of the total package, 82% is related to the nutrition title, which has grown with inflation. The remainder for farm programs reflects 7% for Crop Insurance, 4% for Commodity Programs and 7% for all other categories, including conservation and trade.

Given the farm bill size, requests for improvements were targeted and the need to maintain programs that form an important safety net for Oregon Wheat farmers was the core message in each meeting. Protecting crop insurance to help mitigate risk was the primary discussion. The League shared information to help legislators understand the need to enhance the effectiveness and accessibility of crop insurance as it is the primary tool that helps avert disasters. The cost to purchase crop insurance has increased in recent years and as margins continue to shrink, it is becoming increasingly challenging to purchase high enough levels of crop insurance.



League representatives at the nation's Capitol.



Wheat Producers meet with Representative Bentz.



DC Travel team L to R: Jason Flowers, Wade Bingaman, Collin Crocker, Brent Cheyne, Ben Maney and Amanda Hoey.




League meets with Senator Merkley in the Capitol building.

The team also discussed the need to increase the Reference Price for wheat as it does not cover the cost of production, nor does it take input costs into account.

In addition to safety net programs, the League also discussed the need to expand funding for market development and invest more in agricultural export promotion efforts. While in DC, bipartisan and bicameral legislation was posted that would double MAP and FMD funding. MAP's authorized funding as not changed since 2006 and FMD funding has remained the same since 2002. It was opportune timing to have export promotion funding bills released during the visit. "It allowed us to walk into offices, talk about the importance of export programs to Oregon Wheat and request support for these programs which give us the ability to compete globally. They really make a difference for us," said Wade Bingaman, League Vice President.

In addition to the visits to the Hill, the League also participated in the NAWG winter board meetings. Members had the opportunity to hear from U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack on his priorities within USDA. Several agriculture policy experts were invited to speak during the conference, including staff from both the Senate and House Ag Committees and senior USDA officials.


Oregon Wheat had a successful trip to D.C., and is grateful for all the work being done by Oregon's congressional delegation to lay the foundation for a strong 2023 Farm Bill that invests in the wheat industry, and creates more opportunities for wheat growers across the country.

"These meetings with our delegation in Washington D.C. are vital to ensuring the concerns and voice of our Oregon growers are adequately heard and understood," said Collin Crocker, League President. 

How to Testify at the Oregon State Legislature

Legislative committees have returned to holding in-person hearings, but with the new environment, the process for providing verbal testimony has changed. For written testimony, the preference is to submit written testimony prior to the start of the meeting, but testimony may be submitted up to 48 hours after the start time of the committee meeting at which the public hearing is held. For verbal testimony, both virtual and in-person testimony options are available. If you are interested to testify (either in-person or remote), you now have to sign up online at least 30 minutes prior to the start of



the committee hearing. You can still stream live committee hearings and floor sessions through the Oregon Legislature website (oregonlegislature.gov). 

Oregon Wheat Foundation Honors Seniors' Achievements

The Oregon Wheat Foundation is pleased to announce twelve scholarship awards to Oregon high school seniors. Each of these students will receive a \$1,500 scholarship to support studies at their selected university, community college or vocational/trade school. Each year, up to twelve students are selected to receive a scholarship award. Given the robust number of applications received this year, the Foundation is proud to award the maximum scholarships to 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 2023:

Dru Boyle graduates from Madras High School and plans to study ag systems management at Oregon State University. He is the son of Ryan and Heidi Boyle. Dru is active with FFA, Young Life and 4-H, where he served as club president for two years. He plays football, basketball and baseball and has held leadership roles in each as team captain, camp leader for football and basketball, as well as assistant coach for summer baseball. He also mentors 8th grade students as they make their transition into high school. After receiving his degree, Dru plans to return to the family farm and carry it into the fourth generation.



ASB. She has achieved her FFA Greenhand Degree and FFA

RyLee Demianew graduates from Pendleton High School and is currently an Oregon FFA State officer candidate for the 2023-2024 Oregon FFA state officer team and plans to study agriculture education at Oregon State University. She is the daughter of Emma Lee and Chris Demianew. RyLee is a member and president of the National Honor Society, member and Pendleton FFA chapter president, and has held several positions with the

Chapter Degree and is the recipient of the Pendleton High School Citizenship Cup. RyLee is also an active volunteer with multiple organizations. By combining her passion for agriculture with her life-long desire to be a teacher, she hopes to help shape the next generation of agriculturist.

Grady Dunlea graduates from Lost River High School in Merrill and plans to pursue a major in exercise physiology, with a minor in Spanish at Baylor University. He is the son of Dennis and Jana Dunlea of Dunlea Farm & Ranch. Grady is a member of the National Society of High School Scholars, serves as class president, and placed as a state qualifier for the Future Business Leaders of America. He plays football and basketball, leading as team captain for both, and has been an active volunteer in his community. He has already received dual credit hours through Klamath Community College, Oregon Institute of Technology, and Baylor University. His goal is to become a physician's assistant and return to Klamath County to support the community's medical needs.



Blake Harper graduates from Helix High School and plans to attend Walla Walla Community College with an interest in welding. He is the son of Scott and Julie Harper. Blake is active in basketball as a team captain, treasurer of the Letter H Club and is a class officer. He plays football, is a member of the Hermiston Highschool Trap Shooting League and competed in the Future Business Leaders of

America. Blake has been involved in community service activities, including as an outdoor school counselor, as well as a youth basketball referee. His work experience includes a variety of jobs at Newton Farms and Raymond Ranches. He also owned and operated his own lawn mowing business. He hopes to pursue a trade certificate of associates degree in applied science.

Jack Lieuallen graduates from Pendleton High School and plans to attend a four-year university and study business management. He is the son of Jon and Lynn Lieuallen. Jack is a wrestler and plays baseball. He served as ASB vice president and volunteers in a variety of ways at school and

through his community. As well as working during wheat harvest at Duff Ranches, he has also worked as an umpire for Babe Ruth and Little League games, and a referee for youth and middle school wrestling. Following completion of his degree, Jack's ultimate goal is to start his own business.



and Ange Melville. Maclane is a member of the National Honor Society, Mentor Match Entrepreneurship Club, FFA, and the Enterprise Christian Church Youth Group. He has received multiple academic honors and FFA awards. Along with playing basketball and baseball, he also volunteers with Enterprise Christian Church and Hurricane Creek Grange. Maclane has worked at his family farm in a variety of roles, including renting and operating 41 acres of farm ground. He plans to use his degree and certifications to expand the family farm.

Kole Martin graduates from Sherman County High School and plans to pursue a degree in agriculture science at the University of Idaho. He is the son of Bill and Jill Martin. Kole is a member of Future Farmers of America and the National

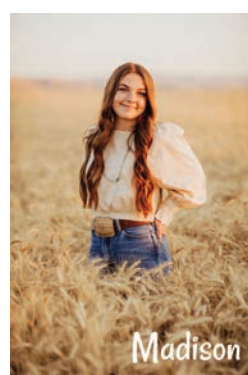


Honor Society, where he served as president this year. He plays football, basketball, baseball and was named to All League teams in each. He also runs track, volunteers with Sherman County Champs Camp, Sherman County Summer league tournament and Rufus Cleanup Day, and works at his family farm. Kole plans to receive a degree in either crop science or agricultural GPS systems and then return to his family's farm.

Natalie Martin graduates from Sherman County High School and plans to study animal science at Montana State University. She is the daughter of Douglas and Sandra Martin. Natalie has served in leadership roles in student government and the National Honor Society and has competed with Future Farmers of America. She has led as team captain for both volleyball and basketball, as well as being awarded First Team All-League in both sports. Natalie's volunteer work supports kids in her community, where she has worked at a variety of events and has been a camp counselor at the Tupper Guard Station. Her goal is to combine her passions for agriculture and livestock and continue that legacy.



Natalie Namdar graduates from Mountainside High School in Beaverton and plans to study business administration at Boise State University. She is the daughter of Stacy and David Namdar. Natalie is a member of the Student Council Executive Board, is the ASB Director of Entertainment in the Leadership 2 Program and was class delegate of the Outreach Committee. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Link Crew and Kiwanis Empowering Youth Club. Natalie played volleyball and participates in track and field. She has worked wheat harvest as a field truck driver the past two years and is excited to continue again this year. She hopes to become a real estate agent where she can support keeping farmland for farming.



Madison Orem graduates from Ione High School and plans to attend the University of Idaho and study animal science. She is the daughter of Eric and Brandi Orem. Madison served in leadership roles for student government, including roles as ASB officer and class president, as well as Ione FFA chapter officer and district officer for Blue Mountain FFA. She plays volleyball, basketball and softball, and is a member of the Ione Youth Auxilliary and National

Honor Society. She is a Morrow County 4H Ambassador and co-editor of the school yearbook. She also works on her family farm, has interned with Morrow County Grain Growers and volunteers in a variety of community programs. After receiving her degree, she would like to stay in the Pacific Northwest and serve in the agricultural industry in veterinary science.

Collin Rovey graduates from Cove High School and plans to study agricultural technology and production management at Washington State University. He is the son of Byron and Stephanie Rovey. Collin is a founding member



Maclane Melville graduates from Enterprise High School and plans to attend Treasure Valley Community College and obtain an associates degree in ag business, as well as certifications in welding and electrical systems. He is the son of Kurt

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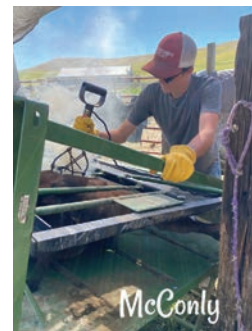
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and president of the robotics club and plays golf. He is an officer for the Cove High School chapter of the FBLA and FFA, as well as a member of the Oregon 4-H Cove Livestock Club. As a licensed FFA drone pilot, Collin's community service activities focus on filming school activities, as well as running live stream cameras for the American Dairy Goat Association Annual National Show. With a specific interest in aeronautics and precision agriculture, he hopes to work in the growing field of ag technology.



McConly Underhill-Wilkinson graduates from The Dalles High School and plans to major in economics with

a minor in pre-law at Kansas State University. He is the son of Jean Underhill. McConly competes in ski racing for The Dalles High School. He has spent years working on his family's farm in a number of capacities, from feeding cattle in the winter to running combines during harvest season. His goal is to become an attorney and support family farms in their ability to continue to raise wheat.



Students were evaluated based on academic record, leadership, community service and submitted essays. "I am continually impressed by the caliber of students who have a heart for the agricultural industry and a desire to help shape its future," stated Amanda Hoey, Oregon Wheat CEO. "I am excited to see what the future holds for these students and the industry as a whole." 🌾

Built to Last

Amanda Hoey, Oregon Wheat CEO



I have a yellow wheelbarrow built to last. It is homemade, heavy as can be and oh-so-reliable. It has mixed concrete, hauled fall leaves and moved compost for the garden. Its versatility in function is one of its greatest strengths. Its weakest: the sheer weight of all that metal, which makes each trip (even empty) a workout. It is solidly constructed and likely older than me.

Recently, I opted for a second wheelbarrow: a lighter version that does not create a test of strength every time I load it to the top. It was about time to take advantage of advancements in equipment, even if it is the low-tech version! However, there is no replacing my wheelbarrow with its faded-yellow paint and 'in the eye of the beholder' aesthetic. It retains its primary role at the house in doing the hard work.

Now, this transition may seem like a bit of a stretch--- and perhaps it is, but hang in there with me. The Preferred Varieties Brochure printed in this issue is like my wheelbarrow. Solid, reliable and critical. It has stood the test of time.

Each year, the Pacific Northwest wheat commissions for Oregon, Washington and Idaho invest in this resource for growers to assist with determinations around varietal

selection. Following an assessment of the agronomic characteristics as to how particular varieties are expected to yield and perform in your environment, the brochure is intended to serve as a guide to assist with making that next call. For comparably performing varieties, it is intended to help answer the next main question: what has the highest quality characteristic. The brochure also provides a minimum assurance that varieties are hitting at least the 'acceptable' marker for selection, with a strong preference to move to desirable or most desirable when possible.

Wheat quality is a foremost consideration in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest as it is a key selling point. The partnership in the PNW that then funds the brochure, and the work leading to its development, recognizes the importance of continuing to keep an eye on plantings and variety choices/options.

Within the publication, varieties are ranked statistically by quality groupings within each wheat class. These rankings are based on end-use quality from grain, milling and product quality testing. It is published following the winter meeting of the PNW Wheat Quality Council.


As part of its role to promote continuous quality improvement, the Council evaluates the quality of advanced-generation wheat breeding experimental lines and cultivars. It provides a forum for communication and collaboration among

Pacific Northwest wheat interests (wheat breeders, cereal chemists, producers, marketers, inspectors, processors, and users of wheat) on the merits of individual breeding lines.

As part of the evaluation, international cooperators participate in the meeting of the Council. This year, as I listened to presenters from South Korea and Japan, a couple of key words continued to be expressed as a value: 'balance' and 'consistency.' The rigorous testing and multi-year review helps us to ensure both of those elements are present for proposed new varieties.

I encourage you to review the Preferred Varieties Brochure as it is tried and true. It is a tool we reference frequently with trade teams in talking about growers' options for plantings. Our emphasis on quality and providing this tool continually year-after-year as a resource is unique to our region. Similar to my wheelbarrow, though, we are also continually looking at how to enhance our resources. Making it accessible online is certainly an easy manner to achieve that enhancement. As well, we are looking at improving that connection.

With an increase in the estimated Oregon winter wheat seeded acres estimate, we should have a number of varieties out in the field. While weather will dictate the performance, USDA had us pegged at 790,000 acres planted for winter wheat in 2023. This would be up eight percent from the 2022 crop (730,000 acres) and up ten percent from 2021 (720,000 acres). That is a lot of acres for quality wheat variety options.

I hope you find the Preferred Varieties Brochure to be a useful guide at some point within the upcoming year. For my part, both the brochure and my wheelbarrow will both be well used this month. The yellow wheelbarrow and the new model are both ready to help with spring garden planting. I wish you a healthy and happy spring season! 



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The 2023 Legislative Session Has Begun

Nicole Mann, Dalton Advocacy, Inc.

Oregon's 2022 election was historic. For the first time ever, we had the highest voter turnout rate in the nation. The driver of that turnout was undoubtedly the three-way Governor's race between Tina Kotek, Christine Drazan and Betsy Johnson, which was also the most expensive governor's race in history, totaling \$68.9 million spent between the three candidates. The election also resulted in a new Commissioner for the Bureau of Labor and Industries, and a new Legislator in more than 30 districts across the state.

The outcome of the election has brought many new faces to the State Capitol, which is open this session for the first time since the pandemic in 2020. Alongside new legislators in the Capitol are fresh ideas and many new bill concepts that emerge in congruence with an eagerness to serve.

The 2023 Legislative Session officially kicked off on January 17th and will run through the end of June. The Dalton Advocacy team spent the first several weeks educating new legislators on the critical role wheat producers play in our state and reviewing over 2,400 pieces of legislation.

While many issues will continue to evolve and emerge throughout the duration of the 6-month legislative session, below is a recap of some of the key issues we will be following this session:

2023 – 2025 Budget: As with each odd numbered “long” session, the legislature must constitutionally balance the state's budget before adjournment. That is proving to be difficult this biennium as the legislature is bracing for a harsh reality – current service levels are anticipated to outpace


revenue by \$560 million in the upcoming biennium. Notably, that figure does not include the numerous asks for additional funding for public and higher education, housing, economic growth incentives, and the variety of other requests before the Legislature. Our focus is to ensure the programs and services from Oregon State University research and extension and the Department of Agriculture which Oregon Wheat Growers League members rely on remain fully funded.

Taxes: We were encouraged that the Governor's Recommended Budget did not include any new taxes to fill the budget gap and legislative leadership has followed her lead to not introduce any large tax bills. Instead, we have seen efforts by Republicans in both the House and Senate to reduce the tax burden on small businesses and rural Oregonians. Fifteen bills have been introduced to make changes to the Estate Tax—including one by Senator Hansell that would address estate tax treatment of natural resource property by creating a \$15M exemption. This exemption would help many family wheat farm operations who struggle to keep a farm together following the death of a family member. Additionally, bills have been introduced to make positive changes to the Corporate Activity Tax, including a proposed agricultural exemption and an increase to the threshold from \$1M to \$5M.

Land Use and Housing: It is no secret that Governor Kotek's top priority is housing and homelessness. On her first day in office, she declared a homelessness state of emergency, signed multiple executive orders, and told legislative leaders she wants lawmakers to advance a housing policy and spending package to boost the state's housing supply to tackle homelessness in the first 60 days. As a result, the legislature is looking for land to build more housing. We are taking proactive steps to protect farmland.

Pesticides: For the first time in years, we did not see attacks to our producer toolbox. No bills have been introduced targeting product bans on critical crop inputs.

Labor: Labor unions have been successful in recent legislative sessions at advancing their political agenda. They have a few legislative priorities this session that would impact League members, including the “Keeping Oregon Workers Safe Act” and the “Right to Refuse Dangerous Work Act.”

As always, the League lobby team is continuing to work hard to track bills, legislation, and agency changes that would adversely impact growers throughout the state to determine what course of action is needed to mitigate legislation. As the session continues to advance, we will ensure that the voice of wheat producers throughout Oregon is adequately represented in the Capitol. 



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FEED.

FINISH.

Feed the **NEED.**

 **RALLY**™ YOUR CROP.



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2023 Quality Rankings

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

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

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

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

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

These rankings are based on the results of the *Genotype and Environment Study (G&E)* quality testing conducted by the USDA Western Wheat Quality Laboratory, the Washington State University Wheat Quality Program, the University of Idaho Wheat Quality Laboratory, and the Oregon State University Cereal Quality Laboratory, including relevant breeding nurseries.

End-use quality determinations were based on results from grain, milling and product quality tests.

The quality scores presented here reflect a minimum of three years' data in the *G&E Study*, using a reference variety for each class. The scores are reviewed yearly as new data becomes available, and are subject to change. Varieties not listed have not been tested or have less than three years of data. For complete results, please visit the website: <http://www.wqj.wsu.edu>.

For agronomic information, please consult: 1) the *Washington State Crop Improvement Association Certified Seed Buying Guide*; 2) WSU Uniform Cereal Variety Testing Program (<http://variety.wsu.edu>); 3) North Idaho Extension Cereals Program (<https://www.uidaho.edu/extension/cereals/north-variety-trials>); 4) Oregon Elite Yield Trials (<https://agsci.oregonstate.edu/wheat/osu-wheat-variety-trials>).



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Preferred Wheat Varieties is provided courtesy of: The Washington Grain Commission, the Oregon Wheat Commission, and the Idaho Wheat Commission.

The *G&E Study* is financially supported by the WGC, OWC, and IWC.

2023 Preferred Wheat Varieties

Based on End-Use Quality

Washington • Oregon • North Idaho

Soft White Winter

VI Frost	LCS/UI	MD
YSC-215	YSC	MD
Sockeye CL+	WSU	MD
Bobtail	OSU	MD
Jasper	WSU	MD
LCS Shine	LCS	MD
YSC-201	YSC	MD
Nixon	OSU	MD
Nimbus	OSU	MD
Jameson	WSU	MD
AP Exceed	AP/SY	MD
Puma	WSU	MD
LCS Jefe	LCS	D
Piranha CL+	WSU	D
VI Bulldog	LCS/UI	D
OR2X2 CLP	OSU	D
LCS Shark	LCS	D
VI Presto CL+	LCS/UI	D
Devote	WSU	D
UI Magic CL+	UI	D
SY Ovation	AP/SY	D
LCS Drive	LCS	D
Appleby CL+	OSU	D
Norwest Duet	OSU/LCS	D
UI Sparrow	UI	D
Ethan	WSU	D
Stingray CL+	WSU	D
LCS Blackjack	LCS	D
VI Voodoo CL+	LCS/UI	D
SY Assure	AP/SY	D
TMC M-Press	TMC	D
Otto	WSU	D
Resilience CL+	WSU	D
Inspire	WSU	D
Stephens	OSU	D
LCS Hulk	LCS	A
SY Dayton	AP/SY	A
AP Dynamic	AP/SY	A
AP Iliad	AP/SY	A
LCS Art deco	LCS	A
WB1532	WB	A
WB1604	WB	A
Madsen	ARS	A
Curiosity CL+	WSU	A
Norwest Tandem	OSU/LCS	A
Purl	WSU	A

Hard Red Winter

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

Hard Red Spring

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
SY Gunsight	AP/SY	MD
Chet	WSU	MD
Alum	WSU	MD
AP Renegade	AP/SY	D
Kelse	WSU	D
WB9668	WB	D
Buck Pronto	LCS	A
WB9662	WB	LD

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

* 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.

Hard White Winter

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

Hard White Spring

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

Winter Club

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

Spring Club

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



Persistence Pays Off On the Road to New Hires

Dana Tuckness

OWC Chair

OREGON WHEAT COMMISSION

I'm guessing if you asked 100 Oregon wheat farmers what their priorities for a new variety of wheat are, you would most likely get 100 different answers. I also think many of their responses would be very similar on certain issues, depending on what area of the state they are in.

Oregon is a very diverse state when it comes to agriculture; wheat is grown in many different areas. Elevation, climate, soil, insects, weeds and disease are just a few of the variants from one end of the state to the other. Probably the biggest difference is the one between the irrigated and non-irrigated wheat crop. The latter is part of the reason, I am told, that then OWC chair Jerry Marguth asked me (irrigated) to be on the wheat breeder search committee, along with then commissioner Walter Powell (non-irrigated). We would be serving as the industry representatives on the full committee, searching for the best candidate to fill Bob Zemetra's position at OSU upon his retirement.


The process was to start in June 2022 and hopefully have someone hired within a year. "That long?" was my only question. In my 40+ years of farming, when I needed to hire help it was usually "I needed them yesterday", so usually the first able body that came along was hired. The best hire I got using that process was one that retired after over 20 years working on my farm. The worst: more than one that didn't even show up for work on the first day. Now, I didn't really expect there to be any professors in plant genetics on the list at the local employment office, but I wasn't aware the process would take a year to complete.

The search committee, headed by Chris Mundt, had several zoom meetings following the university guidelines. By September we had the job posting ready for the presses, with an application deadline in October. We ended up with a very impressive list of nearly 30 applicants from all over the world. More zoom meetings, with the difficult task of narrowing that list down to the two applicants we all agreed were the most qualified. Interviews came in February, with a chance for the prospects to tour facilities and meet with growers and OSU staff in Corvallis, at the Sherman Experiment Station and in Pendleton. During that time, I was in Washington D.C. for the U.S. Wheat (USW) winter meetings and was not able to meet

with the candidates. A special thanks to Wally Powell for going above and beyond in helping to coordinate the meetings with candidates and growers. He put in an extensive amount of time, and a thank you to the rest of the committee members for their time and effort in this search. The process was rigorous and I believe Oregon growers will be pleased with the results.

As I mentioned, I was in attendance at the USW/NAWG joint winter meeting in D.C. along with Commissioners Hansell and Padget, and CEO Hoey. There was a full slate of items for consideration. My committee assignments include transportation, which in the past has mostly been concerned with rail issues in the Midwest. A couple years ago we in the Pacific Northwest brought to attention our ongoing issue with the lower Snake River dams, and how critical it is to keep that infrastructure in place. This is now part of the discussion at every meeting. I am also part of the Wheat Quality Committee, which included a very good presentation by Mike Moran on the Rapid Visco Analyser, used in cake quality.

Full board action items included approval of paying off the USW building and the election of Jim Pellman of North Dakota to USW Secretary-Treasurer. Jim will take office in July, as Darren Padget will be stepping off the board as Past Chair. In between meetings I had a chance to touch base with our League Executive Team as they were on their way to Capitol Hill. This is a high-quality group, led by President Collin Crocker. I would like to comment on one issue they took before our legislators, because it is so important to our overseas trade. The funding of the Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market Development program (FMD). With a 24.5 dollar return on every 1 dollar spent on these programs it is important to see an increase in funding for their sustainability into the future. I have no doubt Collin and crew got this point across along with many others in their visit to the Capitol.

"Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not: nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not: the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent." (Calvin Coolidge) 

Using Our New Summary Reports & Why I Like Best Linear Unbiased Estimators (BLUEs)

Ryan Graebner, Assistant Professor, Oregon State University

In Fall 2022, the OSU Cereal Extension program released new summary reports for each of Oregon's main wheat production environments. These single-page reports summarize yield, protein, test weight, height, and heading date data. The reports rely heavily on Best Linear Unbiased Estimators (BLUEs), which effectively compare varieties when they were tested in a different set of environments. Uncertainties for our estimates are listed at the bottom of each report; varieties that have been in the trial for more years typically have more precise estimates. To keep reports clean and easy to read, they will not include varieties and experimental lines that have only been in the trial for one year.



Below is a situation that illustrates how BLUE statistics can help compare multiple varieties (varieties and data are made-up).

Variety	2022 Yield (bu/acre)	2021 Yield (bu/acre)	2020 Yield (bu/acre)
'First Class'	79	49	55
'Elite'	81	45	51
'Newbie'	71	Not Tested	Not Tested
<i>Average</i>	77	47	53

Simple Average

First Class: 61 bu/acre

Elite: 59 bu/acre

Newbie: 71 bu/acre

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16


Currently, we have low-rainfall, intermediate-rainfall, high-rainfall, and irrigated summary reports for our soft white winter wheat variety trials; low-rainfall, intermediate-rainfall, and irrigated reports for our hard winter wheat variety trials; and low-rainfall reports for our spring wheat and spring barley variety trials for 2022 posted on our website (<https://cropandsoil.oregonstate.edu/wheat/osu-wheat-variety-trials>). We are still building a base of irrigated spring cereal variety testing data, but we hope to have irrigated spring cereal summary reports posted after the 2023 growing season.




These reports are designed to give a concise summary of variety performance for each set of growing conditions. When selecting varieties for a specific farm, they can supplement site-specific reports by placing data from a specific site in the context of variety performance across a wider area.

Why I like BLUEs

Best Linear Unbiased Estimator (BLUE) statistics are an extremely powerful statistical tool to summarize variety testing data from a range of environments. They are a product of advanced mixed models that can compare variables with unbalanced data sets (in this case, varieties with differing numbers of years in the trial). Statistics of this nature allow us to make reasonable assumptions about the data, thus allowing us to make recommendations to you (the grower!) about what variety will perform the best on your operation.

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Researchers' Names and Titles:

Ryan Graebner, Assistant Professor

2022 Grant Titles and Funding Levels:

Wheat and Barley Variety Testing in Oregon,
\$166,450

Grant summary:

The Oregon statewide variety trials provide growers with performance data on commonly grown and newly released wheat and barley varieties. Our close collaborations with public and private breeding programs allow us to test promising experimental lines and often allows us to accumulate 2-3 years of data on varieties before they are released. In the 2022-2023 season, the cereal extension program will evaluate wheat and barley varieties in the following trials:

- Oregon Winter Extension Yield Trial: Soft White Winter Wheat, 54 Varieties, Seventeen Locations
- Hard Winter Extension Yield Trial: Hard Winter Wheat, 18 Varieties, Nine Locations
- Oregon Soft Spring Yield Trial: Soft Spring Wheat, 12 Varieties, Eight Locations
- Oregon Hard Spring Yield Trial: Hard Spring Wheat, 24 Varieties, Eight Locations
- Oregon Spring Barley Variety Trial: Spring Barley, 18 Varieties, Seven Locations

These trials are located throughout Oregon, Eastern Washington, and Northern California (trials in neighboring states are conducted in collaboration with variety testing programs in those states). Trial locations are chosen to capture a range of environmental conditions and cropping systems in the wheat production areas of Oregon. We evaluate each variety in the program for yield, test weight, grain protein, plant height, and heading date, and work with Professor Chris Mundt, Professor Andrew Ross, and the Western Wheat Quality Laboratory to evaluate each winter wheat entry for disease resistance and end-use quality.

Introduction to the article and how it relates to grant work:

This article begins by introducing our new low-rainfall, intermediate-rainfall, high-rainfall, and irrigated summary reports for wheat and barley variety testing. Following this, it takes an in-depth look at Best Linear Unbiased Estimator (BLUE) statistics, which we are becoming central to how we report data from the OSU Wheat and Barley Variety Trials.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

A simple average of these varieties indicates that the recently released variety 'Newbie' is the highest yielding of these three varieties. However, the only time 'Newbie' was tested, it underperformed 'First Class' and 'Elite' by nearly ten bushels! This is because 2022 was a particularly high-yielding year; if 'Newbie' had been tested in 2021 and 2020, we can reasonably expect that it would have had a much lower yield.

2022 Data Only

First Class: 79 bu/acre

Elite: 81 bu/acre

Newbie: 71 bu/acre

If we only use 2022 data, we get a better understanding of the performance of 'Newbie' compared to 'First Class' and 'Elite'. However, when comparing 'First Class' and 'Elite' with each other, we are not using all the data available to us. Using only 2022 data, it appears that 'Elite' will outperform 'First Class' by about two bushels. However, when we look at the earlier analysis that averaged data from all three years, 'First Class' appeared to be the stronger variety.

BLUES

First Class: 61 bu/acre

Elite: 59 bu/acre

Newbie: 51.2 bu/acre

When we use BLUE statistics, the mixed model statistical test considers both the variety performance and the years each variety was tested in. For 'First Class' and 'Elite', the calculated BLUES are the same as the three-year averages calculated earlier. The mixed model assigns 'Newbie' a predicted yield of 51.2, which seems to fit our understanding



Variety Trial Plots.

of this data. Of course, these are still only estimates. Variety rankings can always change as new years bring new weather patterns and growing conditions.

Now let's move on to a more complicated example with two new varieties: 'Drought King' and 'Sprint'.

Variety	2022 Yield (bu/acre)	2021 Yield (bu/acre)	2020 Yield (bu/acre)
'Drought King'	80	68	71
'Sprint'	84	Not Tested	Not Tested
'First Class'	79	49	55
'Elite'	81	45	51
Average	81	54	59

If we only look at 'Drought King' and 'Sprint', we might think that 'Sprint' is the stronger variety, because 'Sprint' out-yielded 'Drought King' when the two were compared in 2022. However, this neglects the outstanding performance of 'Drought King' in 2021 and 2020 compared to 'First Class' and 'Elite'. If we look at the BLUE values for these varieties:

BLUEs


Drought King: 73 bu/acre

Sprint: 69.1 bu/acre

First Class: 61 bu/acre

Elite: 59 bu/acre

The model estimates that 'Drought King' will out-yield 'Sprint' by about four bu/acre. Of course, this data shows a strong variety by environment interaction, where relative variety performance (e.g. 'Drought King' vs. 'Elite') is highly dependent on the year. Ultimately, we would need to test 'Sprint' in more years before we can be confident in how it compares to more established varieties.

We are thankful for the Oregon Wheat Commission's support of this work. As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions at (541) 359-7151, or ryan.graebner@oregonstate.edu. 

USDA-ARS Pendleton Gets New Research Leader

Introducing Dr. Sam Agyin-Birikorang


The USDA-ARS Pendleton Station has a new Research Leader: Dr. Sam Agyin-Birikorang (Sam), who doubles as the Agronomist for the station. Sam took over from the long-serving Research Leader, Dr. Dan Long, who retired a couple of years ago. Sam joined the Station from the International Fertilizer Development Center, a center for agricultural development headquartered in Alabama and operating globally, mainly in Africa and southern Asia. He has more than 25 years of research in Agronomy and Soil Science with vast experience in plant nutrition, nutrient management and soil fertility.



Over the past two decades, Sam has directly worked with producers in many countries. He has held research and teaching positions at the University of Florida, Montclair State University, University of Ghent, and University of Ghana. Since 2010, he has been conducting international training programs for agricultural practitioners, researchers, policy makers, innovative farmers, and others. To date Sam

has directly trained over 1200 people from 72 different countries. He has provided consultancy services for several projects under the USAID's Feed the Future initiatives, and among many other accomplishments, serves as a Steering Committee Member of the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management of the United Nations Environment Programme.

Sam has a vision of leading high-quality research at the Pendleton station that directly addresses the concerns of producers in Oregon and across the Pacific Northwest to increase productivity sustainably, at a reduced input use. He seeks to be much involved in producers' field activities, and programs, and bring research results to the doorsteps of producers. "I am very excited to work with such knowledgeable scientists, and collaboratively with institutions such as Oregon State University, and producers in finding solutions to problems associated with wheat production in Oregon and the entire PNW region."

Dr. Sam Agyin-Birikorang holds a doctorate in Agronomy, Soil and Water Sciences from the University of Florida and a master's degree in agronomy/soil science from the University of Ghent in Belgium. He earned a bachelor's degree in Agriculture from the University of Ghana. 

OREGON WHEAT

OREGON WHEAT GROWERS LEAGUE

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Oregon Representatives Secure Positions on House Committee on Agriculture

The House Committee on Agriculture for the 118th Congress includes two members from Oregon. In January, the House Republican Steering Committee appointed Representative Lori Chavez DeRemer and Democratic leadership appointed Representative Andrea Salinas to the House Ag Committee. Both are beginning their first terms in the House of Representatives. The Oregon Wheat Growers League had the opportunity to meet with them while in D.C. and talk about their positions. As Members of Congress who sit on the Senate and House Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry hold the primary responsibility of drafting Farm Bills, they serve in a critical position as it relates to policies and programs impacting Oregon Wheat producers. In total, 51 Members are assigned to the committee and its five subcommittees. In a press release, Chairman Glenn “GT” Thompson stated “I welcome this diverse group of legislators to the House Committee on Agriculture for the

118th Congress. It’s imperative we hit the ground running through a rigorous hearing schedule, listening sessions and aggressive oversight.” Those hearings are now underway. 



League meets with Representative Chavez DeRemer.



League meets with Representative Salinas in DC.



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Another Successful Wheat Day at the Capitol

Dylan Frederick, Wayfinder Communications

The tradition returned for Oregon Wheat growers in February as the League convened in Salem for the 2023 Wheat Day at the Capitol. Marking Oregon's birthday (164 years of statehood) and Valentine's Day, this year's wheat day event was special as it was the first in-person lobby day since 2020. The League celebrated Oregon Wheat Day at the Capitol for the 2023 Legislative Session with an expanded set of events. Members attended various meetings with Oregon House and Senate leaders, as well as a legislative reception to meet with legislators and discuss some of the bills and issues that are most pressing to the League.

Notably, the event kicked off with a meeting between the board and Senate President Rob Wagner, along with Senator Bill Hansell. Wheat Day then moved into full swing with a legislative reception hosted by the League, where the Board got the chance to talk face-to-face with sixteen legislators and dozens of legislators' staff members ahead of the lobby day meetings. To celebrate Oregon's birthday, the League conducted an honorary cake cutting with 2022 "Friends of Wheat" recipients, Representative Shelly Boshart Davis and Senator Daniel Bonham. "We had a lot of quality time with legislators at the reception to talk about our production systems and share what is important to our family farm operations. It was an honor to represent our wheat growers on a state level, we are looking forward to the working with our state representatives on issues supporting our industry," stated Erin Heideman, League Secretary/Treasurer.

The following day saw a packed schedule of meetings with those in leadership on Agricultural and Natural Resources committees, as well as many others. The League was thrilled






to begin the day with courtesies on both the House Floor from Representative Shelly Boshart Davis and the Senate Floor from Senator Bill Hansell. They both welcomed wheat growers to the Capitol, and shared facts about the League and the industry.

Conversations throughout the day centered around several common themes including Oregon State University extension and research funding, estate taxes, the impact of a proposed bill to tax ag inputs proposed and the impact of ag overtime legislation passed in 2022. In addition to legislative meetings, the League team met with Oregon State University's new President, Dr. Murthy to talk about the partnership in research



and extension that supports wheat producers.

Meeting with Oregon Senators and Representatives during the annual Wheat Day helps the League share information about what wheat operations are experiencing and the impact of decisions that are made in Salem. "We had constructive conversations with Oregon legislators that will help them keep us at the table as they make some of the bigger policy decisions this session," said Amanda Hoey, Oregon Wheat Growers League CEO.

Strong advocates and organized efforts like Wheat Days continue to make a difference in Salem as bills and issues emerge that affect our industry. 




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RECIPE

Pepperoni Blossoms

From Eat Wheat, as contributed by Michelle Rager.

Spring blossoms can take many forms, including some edible delicious ones. Try out these appetizers for a nice change of pace.



INGREDIENTS

1 sheet puff pastry dough (half of 17.3 oz box), thawed	32 slices pepperoni, cut in half	½ teaspoon dried parsley
¼ cup pizza sauce	1 medium egg	¼ teaspoon garlic powder
½ cup shredded mozzarella cheese	1 teaspoon water	

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 400°F. Spray 16 cups of the muffin pan with nonstick cooking spray.
2. Place thawed puff pastry sheet on a surface very lightly dusted with flour. Using a rolling pin, gently roll out dough into a 10×15-inch rectangle. Using a pizza cutter, cut puff pastry sheet lengthwise into 8 strips. Then cut strips in half crosswise, so you have 16 equal thin strips.
3. Spread pizza sauce evenly over the pastry sheet; then sprinkle with cheese. Lay 4 pepperoni halves on each strip, with the bottom of each along the bottom edge of the dough strip and the top sticking out slightly past the top edge. Starting at one end, roll up each strip firmly so the pepperoni looks like flower petals. Place each roll in one of the greased muffin cups.
4. In a small bowl, beat egg with water, parsley, and garlic powder. Using the pastry brush, brush egg wash over all exposed dough of each pepperoni blossom.
5. Bake in preheated oven for about 12-15 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from oven and let cool for 5 minutes.
6. Enjoy with extra pizza sauce for dipping, if desired.





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