

FEBRUARY 2022

# OREGON WHEAT

*An Official Publication of the Oregon Wheat Industry*

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# OREGON WHEAT



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## The Hats We Wear

**Ben Maney**

President

## MY TWO CENTS WORTH



Good morning, everyone, maybe good afternoon, or evening to you all. I have always wondered when you all find the time to read our magazine or newsletter. I am an early morning (before the chaos begins) reader of our magazine and newsletter. It seems our windows of taking time for ourselves is much smaller these days.

First and foremost, I would like to give a sincere thank you to all of our members that have continually supported Oregon Wheat through the years and continue to see the value that it brings to your farm and community. Your continued support allows our Board of Directors to consistently advocate to our local leaders, state representatives and annually fly back to D.C. spending a week talking with federal legislators, NRCS and FSA staff and industry leaders on issues that affect your farm. Oregon Wheat has made a strong name for itself in Salem and D.C. as a positive and forward-thinking organization for the Wheat industry.

If you do not know me already, my name is Ben Maney. I am a 5th generation farmer, living northwest of Helix with my wife Julie and my almost walking 10-month-old son, Rhett. Our farm name is Maney West Farms, and our main crops are soft white wheat and hard red winter wheat. We have incorporated spring canola these past few years to help with our crop rotation and weed pressure. With the help of a few friends, we started a small cow-calf operation back in 2018. We farm right at 4,000 dryland acres on a conventional tillage and no-till operation.

A little history on our farm; during the mid-1880s Dave Gordon homesteaded and began farming where Julie and I live now. My Great Grandfather Chester Gordon farmed the ground through the mid-1900s until my Grandfather Fred Westersund came back from World War II to start his farming career in the 1940s. Later in the 70s, my father came back from college with my mother to help Grandpa Fred farm operating under Fred Westersund Ranch name. My dad, Pat Maney, farmed for 35+ years under Fred Westersund Ranch.

In 2012, my wife and I had an opportunity to come back to the farm. We had been living in Texas at the time and been given the option to continue the family farm. We knew moving back to Oregon onto the family farm was the best decision for us and possibly any

future family farmers. Our farm has operated under Fred Westersund ranch close to 65 years from my grandpa to my dad. In 2013 I chose to change our farm name from Fred Westersund Ranch to Maney West Farms. "Maney" is easy to explain; however, the "West" is short for Westersund. I believe Julie and I would have never had this opportunity if it wasn't for my great relatives, my Grandpa Fred and my dad continuing our farming legacy. To keep a little tradition and history in our farm name was important to me in moving forward.

What is exciting in our industry is each of you have a similar story of how your own family farm was started and how family members have transitioned into the operation. We all cherish those memories and experiences; however, we can't be afraid to share those stories. Many times, our farming practices and way of life has been misrepresented within the press, social media, and even legislators. We are like no other industry, in the sense that our dependence and involvement of family is one of the reasons our farms have such generational strength. Each of your family and farming stories prove that now is never a better time to let our peers know how valuable our way of life, our farming practices and technologic investments into our farm ground is improving our number one asset for the future: our soil.

One of my prize positions- to the dismay of my wife- is my hat collection and I know each of you can relate in some sense. I won't say the number, but I have a hat for just about every situation you can think of, ranging from tractor driving hat to town hat, date night hat and feeding animals hat. Yes, I may have a problem and Julie has threaten many times to reduce my hat collection. However, as farmers, we want our family farms to prosper while positioning our farms to be setup for the next generation; but we also want our communities to



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thrive as well. Volunteering for the local co-op board, filling a needed spot on the local school board, coaching your kid's T-ball team, helping a neighbor in need; are just a few hats we farmers will wear on a weekly basis.

However, one hat that can be forgotten about at our busiest times or times of stress; is our family hat. As you know, there are times when our work schedule is unforgiving and never ending. Our family is the lifeline, next generation, our therapy, love, and compassion and without their continued support, the hours that we commit to become mute. Don't forget your family hat my fellow farmers, it is our story and it's being written everyday for us and your future generations.



In closing, I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and you all were able to catch up with family and friends and get some well-deserved R&R. We here at the Wheat League have a jammed packed start for 2022. This January we will be flying to Washington D.C. to meet with industry leaders during the National Association of Wheat Growers Winter Conference. Our first board meeting of the year will be held during the beginning of February, the Grower Workshop is scheduled the first few days into March, and then we are off to Commodity Classic during the middle of March. And don't forget to contact your county presidents for the date of your county meeting this year. Thank you again for your continued support. I am truly honored to represent you and the wheat industry in 2022.



## Cue the Applause: Oregon Wheat Recognizes Outstanding Service

Amanda Hoey, Oregon Wheat CEO

Congratulations to the 2021 Oregon Wheat Award recipients! The Oregon Wheat Growers League solicited nominations for this year's awards and was pleased to recognize another outstanding group of individuals at the Tri-State Convention Oregon Gala event.

### Dan Long – Distinguished Service Award

For dedication and service to the Oregon wheat industry, the 2021 Distinguished Service award was presented to Dan Long. Dan retired from federal service in January 2020 following a successful career leading the USDA-ARS Pendleton unit. He has since been appointed by ARS as a special government employee to continue performing scientific duties. Dan has always been accessible to growers, generously offering his knowledge and expertise throughout the region. In accepting the award, Dan stated "This award will be a highlight during my career of services to the Oregon wheat industry as a USDA-ARS scientist at Pendleton. This award generates even more eagerness to dedicate myself in furthering the agricultural research that has been planned under National Program 216 in Sustainable Agricultural Systems for the benefit of Oregon's wheat growers."

### Senator Bill Hansell – Friend of Oregon Wheat Award

The Friend of Oregon Wheat award was created to honor individuals in the state legislature. The 2021 award was presented to Senator Bill Hansell for his consistent support of Oregon Wheat growers over the course of many years. This year, Senator Hansell was instrumental in halting bad legislation, securing \$100,000 in funding for the cereal wheat quality lab, getting the final fire package across the finish line with the passage of SB590, and supporting Oregon wheat growers throughout the session. He is a true Friend of Oregon Wheat.



### Greg Goad – Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award

The Volunteer of the Year award was presented to Greg Goad for his service on the Oregon Wheat Foundation Board of Directors and the Columbia Basin Ag Research Center liaison




committee. He has been active in advocating for additional federal resources to benefit wheat producers and stabilize the Ag Research stations. His efforts helped secure an annual appropriation for the Resilient Dryland Farming Initiative and he has been further instrumental in supporting the efforts to secure additional

funds for work in soil health. In addition to the award from the League, Greg was recognized with a Certificate of Special Senate Recognition from U.S. Senator Ron Wyden.

### Alan von Borstel - Above and Beyond Award

Presented to an individual or individuals who have repeatedly stepped up for Oregon's Wheat producers and gone the "extra mile," this award was presented to Alan von Borstel for his steadfast efforts as an officer on the Executive Team. Alan was a strong voice at the national association, assuring that issues impacting Oregon wheat producers were addressed at a federal level. On the state level, it was through his leadership following the devastating fires in our cropland areas in 2018 that we were able to work with our legislative allies in passing a range of fire protection policies and supports. Alan leaves a lasting legacy.

The League thanks all of our awardees for their tireless service to our industry. We encourage all of our members to consider submitting a nomination for an individual for the 2022 Above and Beyond and/or Distinguished Service awards. Nominations are due by September 2, 2022 to [info@owgl.org](mailto:info@owgl.org). Details and nomination forms at <https://www.owgl.org/convention>. 









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# Tri-State Convention Brings Together PNW Wheat Growers

Capping out a busy year, the Oregon, Idaho and Washington grower organizations were pleased host the 2021 Tri-State Convention in Spokane, WA. Following a year hiatus due to pandemic restrictions, the event brought together wheat producers from across the three states to network, share information and learn from a wide range of speakers. The event engaged over 300 participants with networking, meetings and panels providing the latest updates on national and state issues, markets, research, new products, technology, agronomic practices, and practical tools to help everyday operations.

## Keynotes and Breakouts

The convention kicked off with a panel zeroing in on national ag issues with veteran farm policy reporter Sara Wyant, president of Agri-Pulse Communications. Other keynote presenters included Jack Bobo discussing disruptions happening in the global food supply chain, Mark Mayfield discussing the changing face of agriculture and Matt Roberts addressing the ag economy. Always a highlight, the final day of convention featured Eric Snodgrass, principal atmospheric scientist for Nutrien Ag Solutions, looking at how high-impact weather events influence global agriculture productivity.

In addition to keynotes, breakout sessions included a review of the Farm Bill Process with NAWG, an update on the navigational issues affecting grain shipping on our rivers with the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association and updates on varieties and yields with representatives from the three states' land grant institutions. Markets were front and center with a presentation from US Wheat Associates, a market outlook with Washington State University and marketing tools with KD Investors, LLC. Topical areas



included practical sessions on Financial planning and the role of trust, carbon market opportunities and the ecosystem services market landscape, an informative crop insurance panel and presentations reviewing the proposed Biden Administration tax changes. It also included programs on stress management, mental health and cultivating resilience, among others. These sessions were separated by opportunities to interact with a wide variety of vendors in the Exhibit Hall.

## Welcome New Officers

A bittersweet section of any convention is the passing of the gavel following election of League officers for 2022. Our congratulations to incoming officers: Ben Maney, President, Collin Crocker, Vice President, Wade Bingaman, Secretary/Treasurer and Clint Carlson, Immediate Past President.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 8**



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### Board and Annual Meetings Adopt Policy Resolutions

During the annual meeting, the membership adopted policy resolutions for 2022, which included new sections on taxes and labor. It reaffirmed existing resolutions, including priority areas in relation to farm bill implementation and preservation of crop insurance programs. Newly adopted resolutions included:

- Oppose cancellation of crop protection product labels or uses without a viable alternative.
- Support a higher statutory reference price for PLC.
- Oppose legislative or rulemaking efforts to restrict eligibility for federal crop insurance participation.
- Align and streamline grower information between FSA and RMA databases for federal program funding.
- Support recognition of protein as a quality factor and treatment within federal disaster programs.
- Support renewal of WHIP+ with the addition of Quality Loss Adjustment resources.
- Support the continued donation of US produced commodities to meet food aid distribution needs.



- Oppose trade distorting policies that interfere with the export of Oregon wheat.
- Support ensuring Paid Family Medical Leave mandates continue to be affordable for small business.
- Support the right of the farm employee to be fairly compensated for their productive work. Support fair compensation to include all benefits provided in return for that work. Oppose any government mandated agriculture overtime regulations. In the





event of state and/or federally mandated overtime pay for farm employees, oppose retroactive back pay or assessment of punitive damages to an employer for past hours already paid.

- Support a reduction in capital gains taxes for properties held long-term.
- Oppose attempts to reduce the estate tax exemption.
- Support retention of the stepped-up cost basis.
- Support representation at the state legislature in the event of tax reform strategy to ensure that agriculture interested are treated fairly.
- Support agricultural exemption to the state Corporate Activity Tax.
- Oppose regulations that would restrict the movement of ag equipment on public roads.
- Support the rights of farmers to maintain and repair their own equipment.

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See our complete 2022 Policies and Priorities list available online at <https://www.owgl.org/p/policy/owgl-priorities>. The adopted resolutions serve as guidance for the board, Executive committee and staff in fulfilling the objectives of the League.

In addition to passing resolutions, the League received legislative updates from Alexis Taylor- Oregon Department of Ag, Chandler Goule and Mariah Wollweber-National Association of Wheat Growers, Nicole Mann- Dalton Advocacy, and Katie Murray- Oregonians for Food and Shelter.

During the board meeting, the League confirmed a partnership with NRCS for a new position to be based out of the League office and received updates from the USDA Farm Services Agency and Risk Management Agency.

### Gala and Auction Celebrates a Year in Wheat

During the Gala celebration, attendees enjoyed a lively keynote speech from Senator Bill Hansell, the annual awards ceremony, the first showing of the Oregon Wheat Stewards video and the formal passing of the gavel to the new League President.

It was a record year fundraising for the Oregon Wheat Foundation, supporting scholarships, Bushels for Betsy and



educational programming. A fun live and silent auction at convention exceeded prior years' fundraising totals, once again demonstrating the generosity of our producers and contributing businesses.

**Mark your calendars for November 29-December 2, 2022 in Coeur d'Alene, ID!**

We want to thank the sponsors of the 2021 convention for making this year's Convention one of the best. Most of all, we want to extend our gratitude to the attendees who strive to learn more and help support wheat producers across Oregon and the Northwest. 


## US Wheat Industry Mourns Loss of Craig Morris

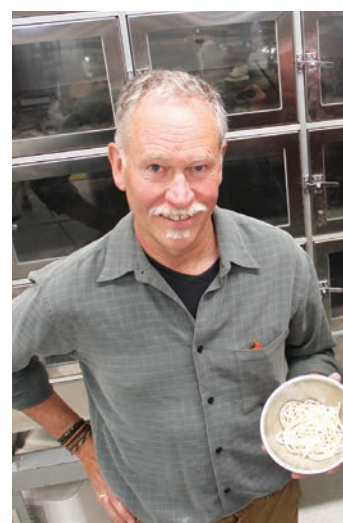
Alecia Kiszonas, USDA-ARS Western Wheat & Pulse Quality Lab

*A highly respected member of the wheat family, Dr. Craig Morris passed away on October 25, 2021. Dr. Morris was director of the Western Wheat Quality Laboratory for more than 30 years, influencing the quality of wheat in the PNW.*

Dr. Craig F. Morris (1957-2021) grew up on a farm in Iowa, obtained a Master's degree and PhD from Kansas State University, and moved to Pullman to work as a post-doc for Washington State University. In 1989 Craig became the Director of the Western Wheat Quality Lab for the USDA-ARS, a position he held until his passing. Craig had a successful and pioneering career, publishing over 260 peer-reviewed articles, 15 book chapters, and receiving five patents. Most notably, Craig led the team that discovered the genetic basis behind hard-textured, and soft-textured wheat. This discovery helped in his invention of soft durum, a revolutionary type of durum that can be milled on a traditional "bread wheat" mill, opening up limitless possibilities for the use of durum.

One part of Craig's career that he enjoyed most was being the connection between wheat growers and breeders, and wheat-buyers. Given Craig's farming background, he was

keenly aware that yield was a top priority for growers, and his objective was to help breeders improve quality in high-yielding varieties to keep growers profitable and bring unparalleled quality to customers. Craig's passion for wheat quality was rare and truly a gift to the wheat community. He was continually astounded that he got paid to do something so fun and engaging. Craig was a friend to all who met him, and this devastating loss will be felt deeply for years to come. We are all better people for having known Craig. 



Craig Morris. Photo courtesy of WSU College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences.

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# New Year Resolutions with Farm Bill Reauthorization on the Horizon

Amanda Hoey, Oregon Wheat CEO



Each year as January 1st rolls around, we are all faced with an accounting of our year past and the promise of the new year to come. While I am not one for making personal New Year's Resolutions, I do take stock of the past year and consider what lies ahead. Professionally, though, resolutions are my core guidance as they are the League Board and membership's direction on focus areas. Looking into 2022, we have some difficult issues on the legislative horizon that will undoubtedly have long term impacts to wheat producers' business operations. Areas of concern are reflected in our new policies on labor and pesticides, among others. Aside from these challenges, though, one of the most important items for Oregon Wheat in 2022 will be preparations on Farm Bill reauthorization.

Every five years we face expiration of the current Farm Bill and development of a new one. The current farm bill was enacted into law in December 2018 and therefore expires in 2023. Development of a new bill has wide ranging impacts: from trade program funds supporting US Wheat activities on market expansion to crop insurance support to conservation programs. It is a key safety net for producers, which becomes extremely apparent in years like 2021.

Since the first Farm Bill was passed in 1933 with commodities programs to allow producers to stay afloat through challenging years, it has been expanded to the current 2018 Farm Bill which has twelve separate titles. Most of the funding (80%) is provided to Title IV, Nutrition, which includes SNAP benefits and acts as a safety net for individuals facing food insecurity. As those who have been involved with the League are aware, ensuring that nutrition programs, which have a large benefit into urban areas, remain coupled with the other farm bill titles applicable to our operations is necessary to ensure a broader base of support.

As the process for Farm Bill reauthorization negotiations begins, the League has several engagements steps along the way to ensure the Bill continues to retain key tools for Oregon wheat producers and improve upon current programs for ag.

**Step 1: League Resolutions** (Policies and Priorities). Unlike individual New Year's resolutions, these are guaranteed to be steadfast. While we adopted a number of new resolutions to address areas of gaps in our guidance (such as taxes), the core resolutions related to the Farm Bill remain. Our top priority of protecting the federal crop insurance

**Title I: Commodities:** Dates back to the first farm bill. Includes ARC and PLC.

**Title II:** First included in the 1985 Farm Bill and includes programs such as CRP, EQIP and CSP.

**Title III: Trade:** Supports international food aid programs, promotes U.S. exports, and helps oversee adherence to World Trade Organization agreements.

**Title IV: Nutrition.** Includes nutrition assistance, with the main item being the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

**Title V: Credit:** FSA loans and guaranteed loans.

**Title VI:** Rural Development

**Title VII:** Research, Extension and Related Matters

**Title VIII:** Forestry

**Title IX:** Energy

**Title X:** Horticulture

**Title XI: Crop Insurance:** First authorized in 1938 to assist producers with financial loss that results from natural disasters.

**Title XII:** Miscellaneous

program is followed closely by preserving the safety net provided by the commodity title of the Farm Bill. Within that title we will be seeking to increase the statutory reference price for wheat, reflective of the increased cost of production. We are requesting continued investment in USDA Foreign Market Development programs and Market Access Programs to expand our trade relationships in emerging markets. This bill will surely have a strong focus on 'climate smart ag' in a variety of forms. As we look at the conservation title, we seek improvements that work for the Pacific NW, understanding the geographic and preferential differences in farming practices unique to our environments.

**Step 2: Presenting Oregon Wheat priorities to the legislative delegation.** While in Washington DC for the annual January Hill visits, the League met with Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senators. We articulated our membership priorities, with a succinct one-page outline describing the impact of Farm Bill programs, necessity for retaining tools and the requested asks for 2023.

**Step 3: Grassroots advocacy.** Understanding the process helps make you a better advocate as our entire membership will need to engage.

The process typically begins with public outreach including hearings/listening sessions where members of Congress take input from the public on what is important for the new bill. Following initial outreach, the Senate and House Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry develop and vote on separate bills which often have substantial differences. Each committee bill then goes to its respective full House of Representatives or Senate where it is debated, amended, and voted on. After both the full House and Senate have passed their own bills, the bills move over to a conference committee which combines them into one compromise package. This compromise bill is then sent back to the House and Senate floors to be debated and passed. Once the House and Senate approve a final farm bill, the bill goes to the President, who can veto, sending it back to Congress, or sign it into law.

#### CHECK IT OUT ONLINE:

### Who's Who on Committees?

*Members of Congress on the ag committees hold primary responsibility for drafting the Farm Bill.*


#### Senate Ag Committee Members:

<https://www.agriculture.senate.gov/about/membership>

#### House Ag Committee Members:

<https://agriculture.house.gov/about/members.htm>




As we move forward through the year, watch for opportunities in listening sessions. Reach out to your legislators to talk about your experiences and utilize the League resources/ one-pagers to amplify our collective asks for the next Farm Bill. 

## Special Session Passes Roughly \$400M In Spending; Includes Drought Assistance

In December, the Oregon Legislature convened for a one-day Special Session, passing a series of funding bills totaling approximately \$400 million in spending. While much of the efforts focused on rental assistance, included in the package were items specifically related to agriculture:

- Senate Bill 892 Natural Disaster Program created a forgivable loan program through the Oregon Department of Ag for farmers or ranchers who lost gross farm income in 2021 due to a natural disaster. The forgivable loan program intends to provide direct assistance payments to producers where there are gaps in federal funding or act as bridge loan for when the USDA FSA disaster program begins. The bill defines natural disaster as drought, flood, heat wave, winter storm, wildfire or pest infestation, or any other natural phenomenon specified by the Department by rule. The Department is currently working on rulemaking and implementation and producers can sign up to receive alerts at <https://oda.fyi/DAP>.

- Omnibus Budget Bill- SB 5561 included \$100 million for farmers and ranchers impacted by drought, \$5 million for grasshopper and cricket suppression, \$40 million for Department of Ag natural disaster program created in SB 892, \$10 million for ag workers who had to miss work due to heat or smoke, and other program funding.

Prior to the special session, staff and executive team members for the League participated in roundtables to discuss drought impacts. The League's 2021 President, Clint Carlson, was invited to testify before the House Ag and Land Use committee. During the committee hearings on the bill several legislators spoke in support of the bill, but noted it did not go far enough to provide relief, and more needs to be done in the upcoming 2022 Short Session. The Oregon Wheat Growers League will be engaging with the Department of Ag as it prepares for implementation of the forgivable disaster loan program and continuing to discuss the impacts of drought at the state and federal levels. 



## If Farming Were Easy

**Jerry Marguth**

OWC Chair

We find ourselves with two full years of COVID 19 experience under our belts. Make sure you get that into your resume. I remember fondly the original admonition to stay socially distant and mask up for “just two weeks” to bend the curve. As I may have stated earlier, I much prefer actual science to the political variant, and I trust the average citizen generally more than the average politician. Where we go in the current year is anybody’s guess and that guess will most likely be better than mine. It’s possible that I may have COVID fatigue. Like many of you. We wonder if we will ever again feel fully comfortable shaking anyone’s hand or giving a hug. Sorry folks, but the fist bump just doesn’t do anything for me.

Also as I have mentioned before, in agriculture we have been in the enviable position of being able to conduct our operations relatively undiminished in ability to produce. Yes we have had our very own supply issues, labor shortages, some nonsensical rules to navigate through, etc. But at the core as a community, I believe we have fared better than most small businesses. I believe that there are intrinsic reasons for this. Most of what we do is always geared toward closing the books at the end of our business year in the black. We are extremely agile in our ability to adaptively manage. We face off against forces that we can’t control on a daily basis and build in contingencies for the worst case at every step. Anybody remember that perfect year when everything went right? I didn’t think so. We start the day with an expectation that something will go wrong. It’s not so much pessimism as it is a healthy share of experience coupled with innate understanding that we play in a very complex arena with little control over the forces that we face. In other words it’s with an eyes wide open acceptance that we face reality. Wishing and hoping won’t pay any bills. Handle the problem and move on to the next one. I don’t believe that our skin is any thicker (maybe a little sun damaged), nor our sensitivities any less than the average, but we have the recognition that we pretty much have to lean into the adversity and move forward. So at this point in the annual cycle most folks have done their due diligence and attended to maintenance and repair issues with the important hardware and even buildings, worked through contingencies for plans A, B, and C, dependent on

## OREGON WHEAT COMMISSION

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It’s been said before and it’s always been true, if farming were easy then everyone would do it.

different weather potentials, prepaid for necessary soil amendments and crop chemistry hoping to hedge against inflation, attended winter meetings either real or virtual in the hopes that some new information might help with new and old challenges, along with a hundred other things that might bring us across the harvest finish line in a good position. The never ending optimism that keeps us in business no matter the current catastrophe.

It’s been said before and it’s always been true, if farming were easy then everyone would do it. A relative once invited my wife and I to a function that would be mostly attended by people with no connection to anything that we do. In other words, city folks. And when we struggled to find a way to politely decline, our relative tried to sweeten the deal by suggesting that ‘so and so would be there’ and that they were earthy people. By implication we assumed that we had been assigned into the category of earthy people. And of course we were not offended as some might have been. Actually we kind of liked the appellation and amongst ourselves (we are very easily entertained) we started reminding each other that we are earthy or ‘people of the dirt’. The point being that what really keeps us wanting to stay involved in farming is the simple yet overwhelming love of the land. Sure, it’s all interwoven with our dreams of succession and our love of challenges and a variety of other reasons, but at a certain point it’s about doing something that is real and tangible with the resource that we have been privileged to operate on. We produce food and fiber with sunlight, minerals, some basic biology and water. How cool is that. And it is a long and twisty road to get all of those inputs lined up in a way that provides a valued product, but we can do it.

*“I am not a member of any organized political party. I am a Democrat”*

Will Rogers 

# Weed control with alternative herbicides to glyphosate in wheat cropping systems

Judit Barroso, Assistant Professor Weed Science, Pendleton

Andrew G. Hulting, Professor and Extension Weed Management Specialist, Corvallis

Glyphosate, the herbicide introduced in 1974 by Monsanto (Roundup™) with a unique mode of action and the most widely used in the region, may have its days numbered for various reasons, but one of the most important is because of the continued evolution and spread of glyphosate-resistant weeds. In addition to glyphosate-resistant broadleaf weeds, such as kochia or Russian thistle, glyphosate resistance has also been reported in downy brome (also known as cheatgrass) in the region.

In an effort to help with the problem, we initiated studies this year looking for herbicides that can be used as an alternative to glyphosate or in tank-mix to help control or prevent glyphosate-resistant weeds. To encompass the occasions when glyphosate is the most preferable option in the wheat production systems because of its desirable characteristics (non-selective, relatively inexpensive, and effective), we established three trials: one in fallow, one at seeding time, and one post-harvest

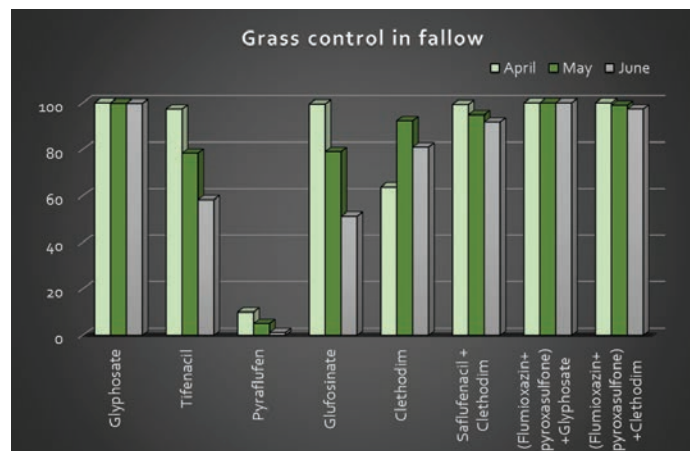


Figure 1. Percentage of grass control in fallow 2021 with several herbicides at different evaluation times (light green bars indicate control in April, dark green bars in May, and grey bars in June) at CBARC.

at the Columbia Basin Agricultural Research Station near Pendleton, OR.

**Fallow trial.** This trial compared seven different treatments to glyphosate (Gly Star Extra at 24 fl oz/A). The treatments were tifenacil (Reviton at 3 fl oz/A), pyraflufen (Vida at 2 fl oz/A), glufosinate (Forfeit 280 at 29 fl oz/A), clethodim (Clethodim 2E at 16 fl oz/A), saflufenacil (Sharpen at 2 fl oz/A) in tank-mix with clethodim, flumioxazin + pyroxasulfone (Fierce at 9 fl oz/A) in tank-mix with glyphosate, and flumioxazin + pyroxasulfone in tank-mix with clethodim (Figure 1). Adjuvants were applied with the treatments following herbicide label recommendations in all trials. The seven treatments plus the control (glyphosate) were sprayed on March 23, 2021. The predominant species in the trial area were volunteer wheat and downy brome (Photo 1). The first evaluation in April showed good control in most of the treatments, however, some treated plants recovered and control percentages in our May and June evaluations decreased in some treatments (Figure 1). Glyphosate, the tank-mix of flumioxazin + pyroxasulfone and glyphosate, and the tank-mix of flumioxazin + pyroxasulfone and clethodim showed the highest controls with 99.8%, 100%, and 97.3%, respectively. The tank-mix of saflufenacil + clethodim showed good control (91.8% on average) but was significantly lower than the others.



Photo 1. Image of grassy weed control in a fallow trial at CBARC in 2021 where we tried different alternative herbicides to glyphosate.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

**Trial at seeding time.** This trial compared five different treatments to glyphosate. The treatments were tiafenacil, pyraflufen, a tank-mix of tiafenacil + pyraflufen, a tank-mix of tiafenacil + glyphosate, and a tank-mix of pyraflufen + glyphosate. Commercial names of the herbicides and rates were mentioned in the fallow trial. This trial was seeded with spring wheat on March 17, 2021 and sprayed the following day. The trial was heavily infested with jointed goatgrass (Photo 2) and a little bit of downy brome. The results showed no difference between glyphosate and any of the tested tank-mixes (Figure 2) with control ranging from 72% up to 93%. Some of the products used in the fallow trial could not be used in this trial because of rotation restrictions. Interestingly, the combination of tiafenacil and pyraflufen worked better than each of those herbicides alone, showing a synergistic effect between both products.

**Post-harvest trial.** This trial compared seven different treatments to glyphosate. The treatments were tiafenacil, pyraflufen, glufosinate, saflufenacil and tank-mixes of glyphosate + tiafenacil, glyphosate + pyraflufen, and tiafenacil + pyraflufen. The commercial names and rates were the same as mentioned earlier except for glyphosate, which was increased to 48 fl oz/A and saflufenacil which was increased to 4 fl oz/A. This trial was sprayed on August 2, 2021 on an area infested with Russian thistle and some lambsquarters. It seems that the post-harvest control this year was really complicated due to the extreme drought. The glyphosate treatment was the only one with an average control above 90%. Although the glyphosate control was not significantly higher than the control obtained with the three tank-mixes (Figure 3). The synergistic effect between tiafenacil and pyraflufen was observed again in this trial with an average control of 75.8%.

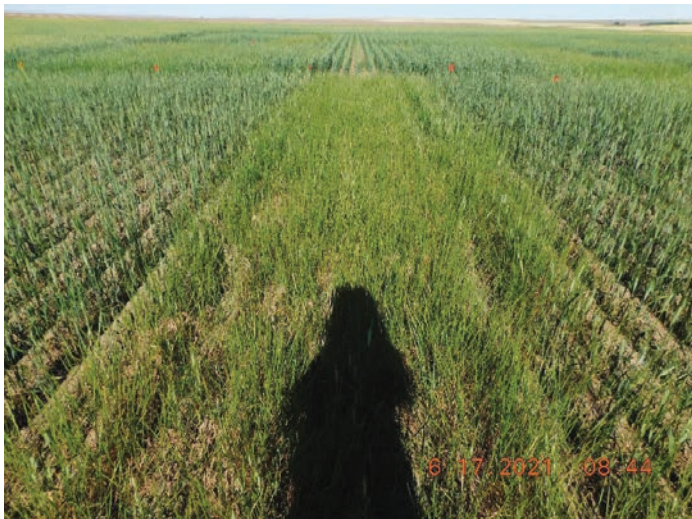


Photo 2. View of the trial at CBARC, Adams, OR, where different herbicide treatments were applied at crop seeding to control a heavy infestation of jointed goatgrass.

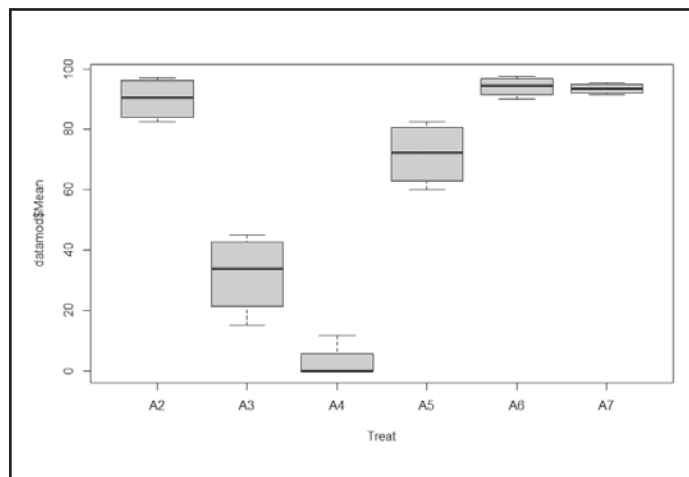


Figure 2. Percentage of jointed goatgrass control in spring 2021 before spring wheat emergence with different herbicides. The numbers above the boxes with whiskers (showing the variability in the data) indicate the mean value of the four replications per treatment. Treatments with same letters indicate no statistical differences in the weed control.

The results from this initial year seem far from finding the ‘one-in-a-century’ alternative herbicide. However, we found some options, particularly in tank-mixes, that could work to alleviate problems with glyphosate-resistant weeds (tank-mixes have been shown to work better at preventing herbicide resistance cases compared to herbicide rotations). We would like to continue this study on alternative herbicides to glyphosate this coming season to confirm some of the results and potentially test new products. If you, as a reader, have in mind a herbicide product or combination of products that you would like us to try, please do not hesitate to contact us. [@](#)

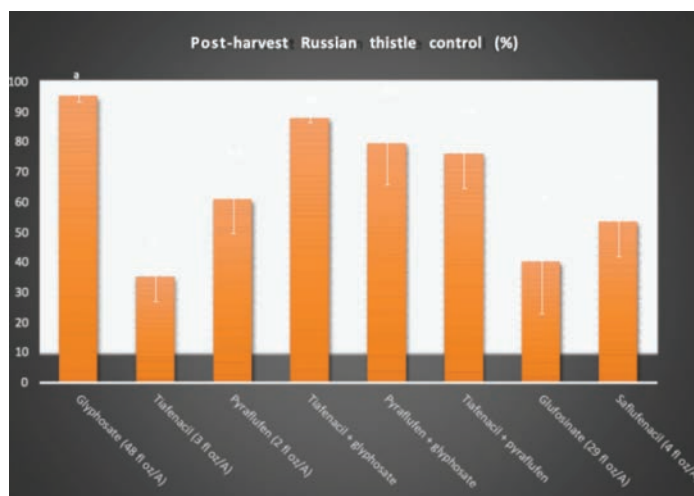


Figure 3. Russian thistle control post-harvest in 2021 at CBARC (Adams, OR) with glyphosate, alternative herbicides to glyphosate, and some tank-mixtures. Whiskers above the orange bars indicate standard deviation of the data. Same letters above the bars indicate no significant difference among treatments.


# Stewards Video Launch Highlights Long Term Management Investments of OR Wheat Producers

Oregon Wheat launched the Oregon Wheat Stewards series at Convention, and we are excited to distribute the videos. We contracted with McFarland Productions to produce the series, which is designed to help those less familiar with farming practices understand how farmers act as stewards of the land. Each video highlights how farmers are investing in practices to preserve the land for future generations. We appreciate the individuals who took time to share their farms and practices: Clint Carlson, Collin Crocker, David Brewer, Deacon Heideman, Erin Heideman, Jeff Newton, Kevin Corn, and Randi Svaty.

The videos emphasize the importance of research, the use of technology to minimize the use of inputs while raising better crops, the value of using past practices and the constant adjustments being made to improve soil health. A constant theme is the importance of caretaking the land for future generations. In the final shot, Erin Heideman states: “My grandfather, who was a long-time farmer, always said that we were caretakers and guardians of the land. Our job was to preserve it and pass it on to the next generation in a better state. We are working together to do the very best that we can, to do that for the next generations.”

It is clear the dedication and passion each of our producers has to stewarding the land for the long term. The short teaser videos are posted on Oregon Wheat’s social media pages @OregonWheat for Facebook, @oregonwheatgrowers for Instagram. We invite you to like, react, and share them! The short and the longer version video is posted to our website




at <https://www.owgl.org/p/events/orwheat-steward>. Thank you to our sponsors: Northwest Farm Credit Services, Proximo Spirits, Morrow County Grain Growers, Blown Away Ranch, Mid-Columbia Producers, Byrnes Oil, OSU Wheat, The McGregor Company, Bank of Eastern Oregon, and Barbara Kaseberg Riper, as well as the financial support provided through the Oregon Wheat Commission and all our members. 

## Governor Brown Appoints Eric Orem to Board of Ag

Oregon Governor Kate Brown appointed two new members to the State Board of Agriculture. The appointments for Miguel Lopez, owner of Red Dirt Vineyard Management Company from Carlton, and Eric Orem owner/operator of a diversified dryland wheat, hay, and cattle farming operation in Heppner, took effect on December 8, 2021. Each will serve a four-year term with an option to reapply for a second term. The Board of Agriculture advises



the Oregon Department of Agriculture on agricultural policies and issues.

The Oregon Wheat Growers League recommended Eric Orem for the producer position replacing Tyson Raymond on the Board of Ag. “As a first-generation farmer with long term industry ties, Eric will bring a realistic view of the impacts of the Oregon Board of Ag’s policies and programs to producers on the ground. He brings a needed Eastern Oregon producer voice to the conversation,” stated Clint Carlson, OWGL President. “The Oregon Wheat Growers League is pleased that he will be able to bring his leadership and perspectives to the Board of Ag.” 

# Decades of Ingenuity (and Towering Grain Elevators) Brings Broadband to Rural Places

Amanda Hoey, Oregon Wheat CEO

Grain elevators serve multiple purposes beyond storage. In Sherman County they have a unique additional role: providing the essential infrastructure needed to support public safety and address a portion of the broadband challenges impacting rural communities. These locations offer critical line-of-sight for a system that relies upon the ability to broadcast signal from one point to another across hilly terrain.

Look up at the Kent elevator and you will notice circular dishes, 6 to 8' in diameter. While they look small compared to the towering bins and the backdrop of miles of wheat fields, these dishes provide service to support 911 and the County's public safety radio network through Frontier TeleNet. Grain elevators became an integral part of the network when the system was originally built in the early 2000's through a partnership between Frontier TeleNet and Mid Columbia Producers, Inc. Both the Kent and Moro elevators were, and are still, used as tower sites for the network based on the numerous immediate advantages the sites offered the publicly owned safety network. The sheer height of the elevators provides the farthest possible reach for wireless signals, which is particularly important when dealing with hilly terrain. Additionally, given that they are an existing, stable structure with utility power in place, they are a cost-effective solution for infrastructure which would otherwise have to be constructed. The development of the system required a willing community partner to deliver on a complete system, which they found through the local coop. Working with its manager at the time, Raleigh Curtis, the community investment component was a focus on the partnership to deliver services throughout the county.

Of the assets used in the system, the Kent elevator is the most significant as it includes the main microwave length backhaul for Frontier TeleNet. It also has the Sherman County wifi segment, with sector antennas facing 360 degrees around the elevator to reach nearby houses/farms with wireless in a range about 10-15 miles from the elevator. In the summer of 2020, all the equipment was upgraded and expanded. The Kent elevator now also serves three solar trailers that expand broadband reach further into more difficult to access areas.

Recent expansion to the system came about through necessity during the past year as addressing the lack of connectivity took on new urgency due to pandemic restrictions. Sherman County Judge Joe Dabulskis was



Photo credit: Thad Eakin.

particularly concerned with the challenges students faced due to lack of internet capacity. He was working with Ryan LeBlanc at Sage Tech to upgrade the system and sought advice on potential solutions for those holes in the system. Ryan proposed an idea, having seen solar powered trailers in Wheeler County. The solar powered trailers which are enclosed trailers with a solar array to power an antenna, can be stationed in strategic locations to 'see' the towers and rebroadcast signal, maximizing the reach of wireless service. The County sought funds through covid emergency relief for broadband. With system re-engineering and assessing key performance improvements, they used funds to upgrade infrastructure on the tower sites (including the Kent elevator) and expand their reach to areas without line-of-sight with the addition of seven solar trailers. In reflecting on the importance of the system overall and the additional capacity and flexibility the solar trailers provide, Judge Joe Dabulskis stated that "The system is invaluable to all the residents of Sherman County. There would not be a 911 system, as we know it, without this system and nearly all the rural residents

rely on the broadband portion. The solar trailers just added one more tool.” He described the updated speed (going from 0.5MB to 25 MB download) as “life altering” as it allows basic streaming providing students access to educational materials and individuals access to virtual health care.

Technology changes quickly and the County is adapting in response: from solar trailers to changes in the system. For instance, while the infrastructure for wireless broadband was essential on the Moro elevator a decade past to serve households, it will phase out over time due to the installation of fiber to the home in the town of Moro. However, the other assets on the Kent elevator remain a key connector, especially for the role they play for the public safety network.

### Lessons Learned

Ryan LeBlanc, Sage Tech owner, has provided technical services for the project and offered insight on the many lessons that have been learned during the life of the project. He noted that the height of the elevators is ideal for reach, but it also means dealing directly with the inclement weather:

the wind blows hard, and ice builds up in the winter. As a result, the base equipment needed to be more robust to handle tough conditions and they have strengthened installation so the equipment will last through winter storms. Ryan also emphasized the importance of redundancy, noting that the wireless system has increased resilience in the face of natural disasters common in the area, such as fires. Finally, he referenced the cost factor: solar trailers can be an inexpensive solution as they do not require building new infrastructure to house the equipment. While a trailer is less robust than a stand along building, it can be easily (and cost effectively) replaced if damaged in a storm.

At the end of the day, the story is one of ingenuity of rural places and the adaptability of farm areas to use what is at hand to get a job done. Broadband continues to be a tricky challenge for rural spaces, but new technologies and investments are expanding the reach of services.


*Appreciation to contributors: Ryan LeBlanc, Joe Dabulskis* 

## Legislators Call for Action on India’s Trade-Distorting Domestic Wheat and Rice Support

House and Senate legislators sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai requesting the administration pursue a World Trade Organization (WTO) case against India’s domestic support for rice and wheat production. The United States has previously highlighted India’s non-compliance through counter-notifications at the WTO Committee on Agriculture. A Senate letter was sent December 18, 2021, and a corresponding House letter was sent January 13, 2022. In those letters, members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives noted that while India is limited to providing 10% support for crop inputs under its WTO agreement, the government subsidizes half the total cost of wheat and rice production and recently announced a massive new subsidy for fertilizer. The letter also reminds Ambassador Tai and Secretary Vilsack that the United States counter-notified India’s claim that it meets WTO limits on price support. However, India’s government continued raising the guaranteed prices it pays to purchase wheat and rice.

India’s subsidies lead directly to domestic supplies that far exceed India’s acknowledged need for stockkeeping – stocks the government cannot store effectively. As a result, the government unloads stocks into the export market, often

at prices below what it paid to purchase the wheat. USDA estimates Indian wheat exports for the marketing year ending June 30, 2022, will be 5 million metric tons. This leaves almost 28 million metric tons of wheat stocks remaining. The distortion of international wheat and rice trade from these policies is severe, costing U.S. wheat farmers more than \$500 million per year in lost income according to a 2020 Texas A&M University study commissioned by U.S. Wheat Associates and USA Rice.

U.S. Wheat Associates stated that “Subsidies encouraging over-use of agricultural production inputs are not appropriate when the world is concerned about agriculture’s environmental footprint. We ask the question why is India subsidizing fossil fuel and chemical fertilizer use? Why is India subsidizing over-production that encourages the cultivation of more marginal land? U.S. wheat and rice farmers rely on open markets and fair trade to sustain their ability to feed the world. USW joins members of Congress and the National Association of Wheat Growers in calling on India to adhere to its international commitments and willingness to work with USDA and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative to maintain the competitiveness of U.S. wheat in the world.” 

# New Wheat Flour Lab to Help Promote U.S. Wheat Exports to South America

## US Wheat Associates

U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) sees a robust growth opportunity for U.S. wheat exports to South America. To meet rising demand for bread, snacks and other wheat foods, regional flour millers are hungry for information they need to purchase a wider range of high-quality wheat classes.

U.S. wheat must compete in Colombia, Peru, Chile, Brazil and other South American countries with imported Canadian and Argentinian wheat. Technical training and comparative analysis to demonstrate the advantages of U.S. wheat classes are important parts of USW's work in the region. However, those efforts are somewhat constrained because a substantial portion of the funding for activities was needed for travel costs to conduct activities in sometimes limited facilities in each country or at U.S. educational institutions.

### ATP Funding Yields Innovative Idea

A potential answer to this challenge arrived in 2019 when the Agricultural Trade Promotion (ATP) program, administered by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), was created to help U.S. agriculture build new export markets. Under ATP, USW's regional South American office staff in Santiago, Chile, proposed an innovative promotional concept to establish a regional flour milling, cereal chemistry and baking laboratory in cooperation with a respected university.

Through pandemic-related delays and customs challenges, USW and its project partner, Universidad Mayor,



Dedication of the lab.

worked steadily to build a facility on the university's Santiago campus and equip the lab with a test flour mill, wheat and flour analysis instruments and bread ovens. On December 3, 2021, USW and the university dedicated *Laboratorio De Analisis De Granos Harinas Y Panificacion* at an event attended by Chile's Minister of Agriculture, U.S. State Department and FAS officials, the university rector and executives with several Chilean flour mills.

"We are very pleased to open the first lab of its kind in this region with Universidad Mayor," said Miguel Galdós, USW Regional Director, South America. "We know that technical managers at South American flour mills have more influence today on the types of wheat their mills need to purchase. USW will be able to help more of those managers understand the differential advantages of U.S. wheat classes by conducting programs at this regional lab. At the same time, having access to consistent and reliable testing and analysis will lead to improvements in production processes and help improve the quality of regional wheat-based end products."

### More Efficient, More Effective

"Before now, South American millers would have to send wheat samples to a commercial company in Guatemala for analysis, so this lab adds much more efficiency in its support for regional customers," said Mark Fowler, USW Vice President of Global Technical Services, who participated in the dedication event.

As a partner in the new lab, USW purchased and installed all the equipment using ATP funds, while Universidad Mayor built the lab and will cover fixed costs. USW Santiago in



USW donated the instruments needed to analyze and compare wheat, flour and baking performance at the new lab. Funding for the equipment came from the Agricultural Trade Promotion program administered by USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service. Photo courtesy of Universidad Mayor.



The USW/Santiago team who worked tirelessly to build the new laboratory to promote U.S. wheat exports to South America shared their enthusiasm for the project with USW guests. L to R: Mark Fowler, Vice President of Global Technical Services; Maria Martinez, Administrative Assistant; Andres Saturno, Claudia Gomez, Senior Marketing Specialist; Mike Spier, Vice President of Overseas Operations; Paola Valdivia, Finance & Administrative Manager; Miguel Galdos; Osvaldo Seco, Assistant Regional Director; and Darren Padget, USW Chairman.

return will share equal access with the university to the lab for technical support activities supporting U.S. wheat exports to South America and remain the lab's only private partner for 15 years.

### Golden Opportunity

After attending the dedication event, USW Vice President of Overseas Operations Mike Spier called the new lab “a golden opportunity” to demonstrate the competitive baking advantage of U.S. wheat classes compared to wheat from other origins.


“With the ever-changing travel restrictions and quarantines, USW hasn’t been able to organize in-person technical activities for several months,” Spier said. “The lab provides everything USW Technical Specialist Andrés Saturno needs to get back to demonstrating the superior end-use baking performance of U.S. wheat classes to partners in Chile and other customers in USW’s South America region.”

### Impressive Team and Project

For USW Chairman Darren Padget, the dedication event was his first overseas trip to meet with customers in more than two years and his first visit to South America.

“I was very impressed by the enthusiasm of the regional USW team and among the guests at the dedication for this new lab,” Padget said. “I understand why, partly because we visited a supermarket in Santiago and saw the types of bread consumers purchase and how they shop. In Chile, consumption is very high, and they buy most of their bread for the day by the piece. Consumers there and across South America are looking for excellent quality products with a ‘clean label’ – very few additives. I think this lab will help USW demonstrate how flour from our wheat helps millers and bakers meet that demand.”

The evidence of that was on display at the dedication event as artfully crafted bread products and pizza refreshments baked by Master Baker Didier Rosada and his wife Kathy Cruz using flour milled from U.S. wheat. USW frequently works with Rosada’s Red Brick Consulting company to conduct baking seminars in Spanish-speaking countries. The week of the dedication, Rosada and USW held a workshop using U.S. wheat flour for customers representing 75% of Chile’s milling industry.

Traditional preferences and the landed price of imported wheat will remain a competitive challenge for U.S. wheat in South America. But the complete value of U.S. wheat becomes more obvious to customers through demonstration and training. Now there is a dedicated facility for that work, giving USW the opportunity to interact with regional customers more frequently and invest more of its funding to show them the unique advantages of U.S. wheat. 



Learning more about the new lab are, (L to R): Lisa Swenarski; María Emilia Undurraga, Chilean Minister of Agriculture; Dr. Patricio Manque, Rector, Universidad Mayor. Photos courtesy of Universidad Mayor.



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# RECIPE

## Buttermilk Biscuits

*On a cold winter morning, there are few things better than a fresh-from-the-oven biscuit. The secret to our perfect biscuits? It is all in the flour, of course! Flour using soft white wheat provides a nice, light biscuit texture. This recipe makes eight biscuits and is easy to double.*

### INGREDIENTS

¾ cup all-purpose flour	¼ teaspoon baking soda
¾ cup cake or white pastry flour	5 Tablespoons cold butter, cut in pieces
3 teaspoons sugar	½ cup buttermilk
2 teaspoons baking powder	
½ teaspoon salt	



### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Combine flours, sugar, baking powder, salt and baking soda. Cut in the butter until the mixture resembles course crumbs.
3. Add the buttermilk all at once and stir until mixture is just moistened (avoid overmixing). Turn onto a floured board and fold the dough over itself a few times to 'knead' the dough. Form into a rectangle with three layers of dough overlapping. Pat until it is roughly 1 inch thick.
4. Cut the dough into desired biscuit shape, place on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper and bake for 15-18 minutes until golden brown.

### Tips

- No cake or pastry flour in the cupboard? You can use all-purpose flour for the full recipe.
- If you are lacking buttermilk, an easy alternative involves vinegar or lemon juice with milk. Measure one Tablespoon of white vinegar or lemon juice into a measuring cup then fill to the 1 cup mark with milk. Stir together and let sit at least five minutes before use. This substitute option provides a similar acidity to buttermilk, but your biscuits will not be as fluffy. We recommend using the real thing if you can get it!





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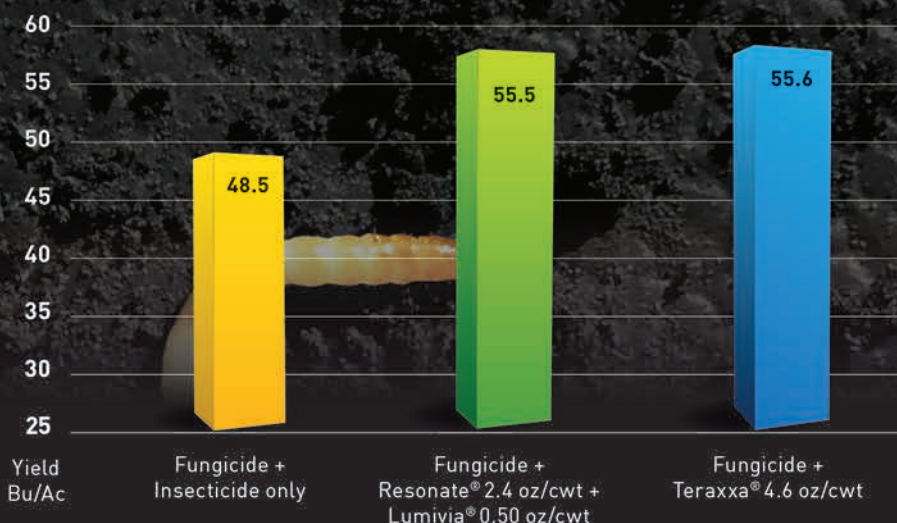
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