

IN THIS ISSUE

- 7 One Million Tons of Wheat: Feeding the World
- 8 Wheat Industry Leaders Recognized at Convention
- **20** League Welcomes Program Director

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OREGON WHEAT GROWERS LEAGUE 115 SE 8th St., Pendleton, OR 97801







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IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 My Two Cents Worth
- 4 PNW Wheat Growers Gather for Annual Convention
- 7 Millionth Ton of Wheat Delivered for Food Aid: Oregon Wheat Takes Message to Capitol Hill
- Outstanding Industry Leaders Recognized at 8 Tri-State Convention
- 10 Find Your 2023 Representative
- 12 OWC Chair Column
- 13 Pacific Northwest Herbicide Resistance Initiative: A Regional Effort to Tackle a Growing Problem
- 16 Getting Technical: Commissioners Attend Flour Milling Course
- 17 Columbia Plateau Conservation Research **Center Receives Federal Funding for Facilities**
- **18** Extending Anti-Dumping Duties
- 19 Congress Passes Fiscal Year 2023 Omnibus Appropriations Bill
- 20 Wheat Industry Applauds Senate Confirmation of Taylor and McKalip
- 20 Oregon Wheat Growers Welcome New Program **Director Rooted in Farm Operations**
- 21 League Comments on Framework for Delivering Inflation Reduction Act Funding
- 22 Recipe: Red Devils Food Cake

ON THE COVER: Photo by EmmaLee Demianew

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Collin Crocker

President

Even with years to prepare, my term as your Oregon Wheat Growers League President came around very quickly. It is a position I am honored to serve, and I appreciate the trust that the membership has placed in me and the Executive Team for this year. With my first article for the Oregon Wheat magazine, I wanted to share a little background on myself, my farm and family, and what drew me to serve in the leadership of the League.

History On The Farm: A Generational Legacy

I'm a fifth-generation farmer, with both the sixth and seventh generation now living on the farm. Together with my wife Debbie, daughter Emily, son-in law Brian, and grandkids Wade, Zoey and Alice, I manage C&L Farms in the Monroe area. My mom Nancy and dad Lanny have both retired and my daughter Clara and son Nathan all work off farm, but remain important contributors to the continuity of the family farm operations. The family farm mentality extends throughout our operations, and I am lucky to have many long-term employees who have helped our operations grow and expand in the southern Willamette Valley.

The original farmstead dates back to the late 1920's when my great grandpa purchased about 100 acres for the ranch. While he started with grain and cows, like all of the generations subsequent, he had to continue to adapt and change to ensure farm continuity in operations. During World War II, for instance, he raised a lot of turkeys for the war effort. He also supported the next generation and in the early 1960's my dad and uncle ventured into row crops, finding success with that into the late 1980's when the profit became difficult for those crops in the valley. The operations split in 1988 and the farm further diversified into grass seed, fescue, and other crops. About 95 percent of our operations are irrigated, which offers a lot of flexibility in the crops we grow. Currently, we farm a very diversified operation. In addition to wheat, in most years I will raise grass seed, red clover, green beans, edible pumpkin seeds, purple top turnip seed, hazelnuts and mint.

League Engagement: Providing Opportunities

For those of you who know me well, I am a more at home in a tractor than I am in a board room. Farming is in my blood. I've worked on the farm since I was young, and I intend to ensure that the farm is here for years to come. What brings me the greatest joy are the days when



any of my three grandkids can join me in the tractor. The decisions I make on the farm, and will make during my term as President of the League, are driven by the intergenerational aspect of my farm operation.

I joined the League Board as South Willamette Valley President in 2018, following in the footsteps of Jerry Marguth. Jerry can be pretty persuasive, so while I am not sure he gave me any choice in the matter, he definitely convinced me of the value in serving on the Board and ensuring that I would provide representation for wheat farming issues across the state. It is critically important that we educate individuals residing off the farm, particularly those in policy making positions. The impact of the League in shaping federal and state policy through the advocacy work we do in Salem and DC impacts my farm directly. Sharing my story supports that work and helps develop trust with elected officials and further an understanding with them of our farming and stewardship practices.

Since I joined the board, I have learned a lot about the challenges and opportunities for us as wheat growers: not just the local and state issues, but also national issues. I joined the National Association of Wheat Growers Board three years ago and currently serve on the Environment and Research committee. I had the benefit of participating in the Bayer leadership training through NAWG last year, which helped to expand some of the leadership skills developed while serving on other boards as well. In addition to the League, I currently also serve on the Mint Commission, Monroe Rural Fire Board of Directors, and Junction City Water Control District.

With support of the League Executive Team (Wade, Erin and Ben), our CEO and staff, and the rest of the board, I am ready to tackle the challenges of 2023. Thank you to our members who support and value Oregon Wheat League and allow us to advocate to on behalf of the entire industry in the state and national capitols. I look forward to seeing you all at Wheat Day at the Capitol on February 14th!





PNW Wheat Growers Gather for Annual Convention

Bringing together growers and industry representatives for the 2022 Tri-State Convention in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho was a highlight to the end of a busy year for the Oregon, Idaho and Washington grower organizations. Despite a winter storm disrupting some travel plans, this year's event was well-attended. With nationally recognized speakers, such as Julie Borlaug, and informative breakout sessions ranging from carbon markets to supply chains, participants gained a lot of new information.

Annual Meetings: In the Rearview Mirror and a Look Ahead

During convention, the League hosts its annual meeting with a focus on the status of regulatory and policy changes. Members received legislative updates from Oregon State Senator Bill Hansell, Jake Westlin and Taylor Williamson with the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG), Nicole Mann with Dalton Advocacy, and Katie Murray



with Oregonians for Food and Shelter.

On the national level. a focus on Farm Bill and what to expect in the effort for renewal was the primary conversation: from budgetary constraints to external threats to the political dynamics of a divided Congress and 2024 presidential election. However, NAWG staff also covered rail and transportation needs.



Julie Borlaug. Photo courtesy Lori Maricle/Washington Grain Commission

Columbia-Snake River System advocacy, disaster aid and ongoing policy issues.

Nicole Mann, contract lobbyist for Oregon Wheat Growers League with Dalton Advocacy took a look in the rearview mirror at the 2022 State Legislature short session, general election, and agency rulemaking. The 2022 'short' session saw 271 bills introduced and the passage of ag overtime, which begins to phase-in beginning in 2023. During the general election, important races for Governor, BOLI Commissioner and the election of 16 Senators and all 60 Representatives were decided. Results included Republicans picked up two seats in the House and one in the Senate. In true form where 'objects in mirror may be closer than they



Photo courtesy Lori Maricle/Washington Grain Commission



appear,' the implications for 2023 settled immediately. The election removed the three-fifths supermajority and brought in a record number of new legislators. Nicole discussed efforts of the League to actively work on education and the anticipated 2023 long session policy issues.

With consideration on the issues to watch in the legislative session and discussion on the leadership changes, the meeting rolled right into adoption of policy resolutions, which were generally minor changes given the extensive revisions and additions made last year. The membership reaffirmed existing resolutions, including priority areas in relation to farm bill implementation and preservation of crop insurance programs. Newly adopted resolutions included supporting continued use of the farm endorsement. See our complete 2023 Policies

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6





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and Priorities list online at https://www.owgl.org/policy. The adopted resolutions serve as guidance for the Board, Executive committee and staff in fulfilling the objectives of the League.

The final segment of the annual meeting involves election of League officers for 2023. Our congratulations to incoming officers: Collin Crocker, President, Wade Bingaman, Vice President, Erin Hansell Heideman, Secretary/ Treasurer and Ben Maney, Immediate Past President.

Celebrating a Year in Wheat

While Convention is focused on education and resourceslike the popular return of Eric Snodgrass providing weather predictions and the national ag policy expertise of Ray



Starling- it also is an opportunity to celebrate. During the Oregon Gala celebration, attendees enjoyed a lively keynote speech from U.S. Wheat Associates Past Chair Darren Padget, the annual awards ceremony, 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. The combined live and silent auction exceeded prior years' fundraising totals, once again demonstrating the generosity of our producers and contributing businesses.

We want to thank the sponsors of the 2022 convention for making this year's Convention a success. 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. *Mark your calendars for November 14-16, 2023 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho!*

Thank you to our 2022 Convention Supporters!



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Millionth Ton of Wheat Delivered for Food Aid: Oregon Wheat Takes Message to Capitol Hill

Dylan Frederick, Wayfinder Communications

In November, Oregon Wheat CEO Amanda Hoev joined a collection of wheat industry leaders in Washington D.C. for meetings with elected officials and staff to discuss the importance of U.S. Wheat as a vital food aid tool. The DC fly-in was hosted through the Food Aid Working Group, a joint collective of the National Association of Wheat Growers and U.S. Wheat Associates, which Hoey currently chairs. The fly-in offered an opportunity to relay the message of wheat producer's commitments to global food assistance and discuss the importance of maintaining a focus on U.S. commodities in international food aid programs in preparation for upcoming Farm Bill discussions. Face-to-face meetings are essential when it comes to relaying messages. It is one thing for an elected official in Washington D.C. to read facts about the live-saving impact U.S. wheat has world-wide. It is something else entirely to hear first-hand from wheat growers who are committed to feeding the world.

Keeping "Food" in Food Aid

For decades United States food aid programs have played a crucial role in saving and improving the lives of people around the world. However, international crisis, drought and other environmental disasters, and economic hardships have led to a record need for U.S. food aid – including Oregon wheat. U.S. food aid programs are managed by the United States Agency for International Development and the United States Department of Agriculture and include either commodity, cash, or food voucher donations. Wheat is consistently the top U.S. food aid commodity, making up on average 40% of all in-kind food aid from the U.S. each year.

Recent Farm Bills have provided ample flexibility for U.S. food aid programs. Food for Peace cash and voucher programs, as well as local and regional purchasing, are important for emergencies, when delays in the arrival of in-kind food would result in humanitarian crises. But while they are an important food aid tool, a further shift in funding toward these programs moves resources away from in-kind commodities and diminishes returns. This removes U.S. agriculture from the equation, endangering its strong, cooperative relationship with aid programs. In-kind and cash assistance systems work best in a complimentary relationship. The message to DC for the Farm Bill: flexibility must not become a euphemism for a shift to cash-only food aid policies.

"U.S. in-kind food aid programs have enjoyed strong bipartisan support for decades for one simple reason – they



work," Hoey said. "We have the infrastructure to provide the most reliable and most effective food assistance to the world, with Oregon wheat as critical component of the aid."

A broad spectrum of the Oregon agricultural industry participates in the giving and handling of food aid, including the farming, processing, transportation, and distribution industries. By using U.S. grown wheat in food aid, partners can be assured of the quality of food that is delivered and can be assured it is being used for the intended purpose. "Our goal for these meetings was to convey the critical importance of a U.S food aid and global food security program that depends on Oregon and U.S wheat as a central component," Hoey said.

Marking a Million

During the DC visit, the team was able to celebrate an important milestone: one million tons of U.S. wheat shipped for food aid purposes in calendar year 2022. The 1 millionth ton of soft white wheat was sourced from Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

Oregon Wheat takes pride in joining farmers and industry leaders around the country in providing in-kind wheat food aid as a source of nutrition that supports those in need overseas and enhances our development programs.

Through ongoing advocacy efforts such as our Capitol Hill visits and ongoing discussions with our federal delegation, Oregon wheat will continue to be an integral part of the international efforts to combat hunger.

Outstanding Industry Leaders Recognized at Tri-State Convention

Tayleranne Gillespie, Wayfinder Communications

Each year the Oregon Wheat Growers League has the honor of recognizing outstanding individuals who have contributed to the industry. The 2022 Oregon Wheat awards were presented at the Oregon Gala event during the Tri-State Grain Convention. The group of award winners was filled with individuals who were truly deserving of gratitude and recognition for the role they are actively playing in making the wheat industry stronger and more vibrant.

The **Distinguished** Service Award, presented for dedication and service to the Oregon wheat industry, was awarded to Nicole Anderson and Ron Alvarado.

Nicole Anderson served the industry as the extension agent for growers in the Willamette Valley, and was recently promoted to a role within Oregon



State University that will allow her to serve in a statewide extension role as a seed production specialist. Nicole's responsiveness, knowledge and dedication to the industry has helped her identify practical solutions to the challenges facing our producers and we appreciate having her talents in our network.

Ron Alvarado is a tireless advocate for ag producers, both locally and in Washington, DC. With a government service record stretching over three decades, he has helped to shape the landscape of our communities and farms. His work to improve the Natural Resource Conservation Service to find ways to make programs work for wheat producers helped lead to the creation of a position at the League focused on working



for wheat producers.

The **Outstanding** Volunteer of the Year Award was awarded to Dale Case for his service on the Oregon Wheat Foundation Board of Directors. Dale raised wheat on his family farm for many years, and has spent decades giving back to the industry through roles on the Commission, League and Foundation. He is the immediate past-chair of the Oregon Wheat Foundation and is a tireless advocate for the next generation of Oregon wheat leaders.

The **Friend of Oregon Wheat Award** honors state legislators who partner with Oregon Wheat to better the agriculture industry in Oregon. The 2022 award was presented to Representative Daniel Bonham and Representative Shelly Boshart Davis. These two individuals were instrumental in trying to reach an agreement on the farmworker overtime measure, suggesting alternatives and seeking compromise to avoid the harm done to industry farmworkers through the bill. They worked closely with Oregon Wheat's lobby team and have both been champions for agriculture since joining the House of Representatives.

Representative Bonham was appointed to represent House District 59 in 2017 and was recently elected to the Oregon Senate. He will begin serving in the Oregon Senate in January, 2023. Representative Boshart Davis grew up on a family farm, and has spent more than a decade working with her family to grow the farm and family trucking business. She has provided a valuable voice for agriculture in Salem since she was elected to the Oregon House of Representatives in 2018.

The Voice of the Industry Award is presented to an individual who is, or has been, active in the industry and has contributed to the improvement of the industry. This year the award was presented to Bob Newston. Bob has been a strong advocate and supported the advancement of our industry though research and market



promotion. He served on the Oregon Wheat Commission, US Wheat Associates Board of Directors, and the Oregon Wheat Growers League. He and his family continue to remain active in supporting the industry, including hosting a South Korea trade team in 2022.

The **Above and Beyond Award**, was presented to Jerry Zahl. This award is given to someone who has repeatedly stepped up for Oregon's Wheat producers and is the most prestigious award presented by Oregon Wheat.

Jerry grew up farming with his family and developed a real passion for the industry, with a focus on establishing working relationships between farmers, scientists, crop consultants, extension agents and administrations. His pursuit of that goal has made him the bestknown advocate for uniting growers with scientists at institutions in all three Pacific Northwest states.



"If you know Jerry, his strong handshake, bold voice, and desire to connect young families in agriculture across our region, you already know he's a good man," says Nathan Rea, Vice President of HT Rea Farming, in his nomination of Jerry for this award. Through his advocacy work, he has helped connect scientists with growers to address problems and overcome challenges, all while promoting sustainable practices. Jerry's impact on the industry is unmatched, and the work he has done to better Oregon agriculture will be felt for years to come. We thank all of the awardees for their service to the industry. Their passion, dedication, knowledge and commitment to our industry is noticed, and very appreciated. We encourage our members to consider submitting a nomination for an individual for the 2023 Above and Beyond and/or Distinguished Service awards. Nominations are due by September 1, 2023 to info@owgl.org. Details and nomination forms at https://www.owgl.org/awards.





FIND YOUR 2023 REPRESENTATIVE

- OREGON STATE REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT	NAME	PARTY/LOCATION	DISTRICT	NAME	PARTY/LOCATION
1.	Unrepresented	Unrepresented	31.	Brian Stout*	R-Vernonia
2.	Virgle Osborne*	R-Roseburg	32.	Cyrus Javadi*	R-Tillamook
3.	Lily Morgan	R-Grants Pass	33.	Maxine Dexter	D-Portland
4.	Christine Goodwin	R-Roseburg	34.	Lisa Reynolds	D-Portland
5.	Pam Marsh	D-Ashland	35.	Farrah Chaichi*	D-Aloha
6.	Kim Wallan	R-Medford	36.	Hai Pham*	D-Hillsboro
7.	John Lively	D-Springfield	37.	Jules Walters*	D-Tualatin
8.	Paul Holvey	D-Eugene	38.	Daniel Nguyen*	D-Lake Oswego
9.	Boomer Wright	R-Coos Bay	39.	Janelle Bynum	D-Clackamas
10.	David Gomberg	D-Lincoln City, Newport	40.	Annessa Hartman*	D-Oregon City
11.	Jami Cate	R-Lebanon	41.	Mark Gamba*	D-Milwaukie
12.	Charlie Conrad*	R-Dexter, Junction City, Cottage Grove	42.	Rob Nosse	D-Portland
13.	Nancy Nathanson	D-Eugene	43.	Tawna Sanchez	D-Portland
14.	Julie Fahey	D-Eugene, Junction City	44.	Travis Nelson	D-Portland
15.	Shelly Boshart Davis	R-Albany, Millersburg, Tangent	45.	Thuy Tran*	D-Portland
16.	Dan Rayfield	D-Corvallis	46.	Khanh Pham	D-Portland
17.	Ed Diehl*	R-Stayton	47.	Andrea Valderrama	D-Portland
18.	Rick Lewis	R-Silverton	48.	Hoa Nguyen*	D-Damascus
19.	Tom Andersen*	D-Salem	49.	Zach Hudson	D-Troutdale
20.	Paul Evans	D-Monmouth, Salem	50.	Ricki Ruiz	D-Gresham
21.	Kevin Mannix*	R-Salem, Keizer	51.	James Hieb	R-Canby
22.	Tracy Cramer*	R-Woodburn, Salem	52.	Jeff Helfrich*	R-Hood River
23.	Anna Scharf	R-Newberg, Dayton, Dallas	53.	Emerson Levy*	D-Sisters
24.	Lucetta Elmer*	R-McMinnville, Sheridan, Grande Ronde	54.	Jason Kropf	D-Bend
25.	Ben Bowman*	D-Tigard	55.	E. Werner Reschke	R-La Pine
26.	Courtney Neron	D-Sherwood, Wilsonville	56.	Emily McIntire*	R-Eagle Point
27.	Ken Helm	D-Beaverton	57.	Greg Smith	R-Hermiston
28.	Dacia Grayber	D-Portland	58.	Bobby Levy	R-Echo
29.	Susan McLain	D-Hillsboro	59.	Vikki Breese-Iverson	R-Prineville
30.	Nathan Sosa	D-Hillsboro	60.	Mark Owens	R-Crane, Baker City, Hines

*Freshman Representative







FIND YOUR 2023 REPRESENTATIVE

- OREGON STATE SENATORS ·

ISTRICT	NAME	PARTY/LOCATION	DISTRICT	NAME	PARTY/LOCATION
1.	David Brock Smith	R-Port Orford	16.	Suzanne Weber*	R-Tillamook
2.	Art Robinson	R-Cave Junction	17.	Elizabeth Steiner	D-Portland/Beaverton
3.	Jeff Golden	D-Ashland	18.	Winsvey Campos	D-Aloha
4.	Floyd Prozanski	D-Eugene	19.	Rob Wagner	D-Lake Oswego
5.	Dick Anderson	R- Lincoln City	20.	Mark Meek*	D-Oregon City
6.	Cedric Hayden*	R- Roseburg	21.	Kathleen Taylor	D-Milwaukie
7.	James Manning Jr.	D- Eugene, Veneta	22.	Lew Frederick	D-Portland
8.	Sara Gelser Blouin	D- Corvallis, Albany,	23.	Michael Dembrow	D-Portland
9.	Fred Girod	R-Stayton	24.	Kayse Jama	D-Portland
10.	Deb Patterson	D-Salem	25.	Chris Gorsek	D-Troutdale
11.	Kim Thatcher	R-Keizer	26.	Daniel Bonham*	R-The Dalles
12.	Brian Boquist	I-McMinnville, Newberg, Dallas	27.	Tim Knopp	R-Bend
13.	Aaron Woods*	D-Tigard, Sherwood, Wilsonville	28.	Dennis Linthicum	R-Klamath Falls
14.	Kate Lieber	D-Beaverton	29.	Bill Hansell	R-Athena, Hermiston,
15.	Janeen Sollman	D-Hillsboro			Pendleton,
					La Grande
*Erechmo	n Senator		30.	Lynn Findley	R-Vale, Baker City



FEDERAL DELEGATION

US SENATORS	SEATS	NAME & PARTY	{ cp1 }	~
	1.	Ron Wyden - D	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	
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US REPRESENTATIVES	DISTRICT	NAME & PARTY		
	1.	Suzanne Bonamici - D	CD4	CD2
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	4.	Val Hoyle- D	25	
	5.	Lori Chavez-DeRemer - R	27	
	6.	Andrea Salinas - D	13	



Oh, Soft White!

Dana Tuckness

OWC Chair

According to a song by Tommy Alverson, if you are heading 'south of the border,' the only phrase you need to know is, "Uno mas cerveza, por favor." With that jingle running through my head, suitcase in hand, I left the house at 3:30 a.m., enroute to the Boise airport. First stop Houston for several hours, then on to Lima Peru for the ALIM (Latin American Industrial Millers) conference, arriving at my hotel at 2:00 a.m. the next morning. That afternoon at the conference registration desk, I met up with the rest of the US Wheat Associates (USW) crew from the States that were attending: Vince Peterson, CEO, Mike Spier Vice-President of Overseas Operations, Rhonda Larsen Chair (Minnesota farmer) and Michael Peters Vice-Chair (Oklahoma farmer). That evening we all attended a reception hosted by USW that included millers from most South American countries. I was greeted (rescued) at the door by Andres Saturno, USW Technical Specialist, Santiago. For much of the next three hours he introduced me to millers and served as an interpreter (apparently Mr. Alverson never attended an ALIM conference, as the phrase from his song didn't do me much good). I can't thank Andres enough for making himself available at all functions over the next three days.

This was the 40th assembly of the ALIM which was founded in 1980, and the first in-person gathering in two years due to (you guessed it) Covid 19. There were 430 people in attendance, including industrial millers from across Latin America and wheat suppliers from the U.S., Canada, Argentina, Europe, and the Black Sea. It also included a trade show with suppliers of equipment, machinery, packaging and technology.

The conference started with greetings and then moved into a lightning round, in which each country had a representative to speak for three minutes about milling/wheat issues in their country. I won't go into specific countries, but issues include recovery from Covid, the impact of Russia/Ukraine, inflation, new governments, government owned mills, governments buying poor quality wheat from Turkey, and drought issues in several countries. Mike Spier gave a presentation on the final day of the conference. As usual, he gave an outstanding talk on year-ending wheat supplies with charts showing how much and what classes of wheat are used by each Latin American

12

OREGON WHEAT COMMISSION



country. Soft white is not as popular in most of these countries as some other classes, but it appears that may be changing.

Your Oregon Wheat Commission, along with USW, have been working diligently to develop products using soft white for use in these countries. I met several millers during the four days I was there. Andres along with Osvaldo Seco, USW Assistant Regional Director, Santiago, would introduce me as a soft white wheat grower from Oregon. Several times upon these introductions, it was as if a light bulb came on, "oh, soft white!" and the conversation was on. At one point, Andres and Osvaldo came over to me very excited as there was significant interest from a large miller in purchasing soft white wheat. Attending this event and other recent gatherings with overseas customers has made it evident to me how important it is to have growers involved. Customers want to meet with the actual producer, and it also lets them know we are concerned with their issues, making sure they are getting the quality they desire.

I believe the four days I spent in Lima were productive and beneficial to Oregon growers. I am impressed by the quality of people in the USW family and the enthusiasm they have towards their work. Be assured your OWC assessment dollars are being put to good use. A special thank you to Andres Saturno and Osvaldo Seco for the introductions, interpreting, and information on South American issues. I would also like to recognize and thank Miguel Galdos, USW Regional Director, Santiago, for the work he put into making this conference successful. Google tells me Lima has a population of over 11 million. I wouldn't be surprised to learn Miguel knows every one of them on a first name basis. He covered an awful lot of ground on a dead run most of the time, but always had time to stop and say hello.

On another issue, as most of you know Bob Zemetra, OSU Wheat Breeder, has retired and we are searching for someone to fill his position. This process started back in June. Wally Powell and I, along with six OSU staff including Dr. Chris Mundt as Chair, are on the selection committee. We received close to 30 applications for this position. This has not been an easy process as there have been several very qualified applicants (a good problem to have). At the time of this writing, we have it narrowed down to a handful of candidates, with interviews to commence near the end of January. Thank you, Bob Zemetra, for your work at OSU for Oregon wheat growers. I hope you have an enjoyable retirement. And thank you to Chris Mundt for chairing this committee and all the time and hard work you put into it. It has been a very interesting opportunity for me to be a part of this process, and I believe we are headed in the right direction with this program.

It's true, hard work never killed anybody, but I figure, why take the chance? (Ronald Reagan)

Pacific Northwest Herbicide Resistance Initiative: A Regional Effort to Tackle a Growing Problem

Judit Barroso, Associate Professor

During the past years, university scientists and extension personnel in collaboration with some growers from the Pacific Northwest (PNW) and the support of the three PNW grain commissions and grain growers organizations (Idaho, Washington and Oregon) have been making efforts looking for funds to increase our capacity to conduct research

on herbicide resistance. Weeds resistant to herbicides are threatening the sustainability of cropping systems in the PNW and the problem does not have an easy solution. For many years, growers have had "the luxury" of switching to a new chemistry when resistance developed to the herbicide/s they were using. This strategy works when new chemistries are available. However, the pace of weeds developing resistance is much quicker than the pace of the industry releasing new products. Therefore, a more integrated weed management approach is needed to extend the lifespan of current products.

The problem of dealing with or preventing herbicide resistant weeds is not simple, not only because an Integrated Weed Management strategy might require a high cost, but CONTINUED ON PAGE 14





Introduction of the PNW Herbicide Resistance Initiative in an educational breakout at the Tri-State Growers Convention celebrated in Coeur d'Alene, ID. Photo taken by Doug Finkelnburg (Extension Educator, UI) on December 1, 2022.

Researchers' Names and Titles:

Judit Barroso, Associate Professor

2022 Grant Titles and Funding Levels:

Improving Weed Management in Oregon Wheat Production Systems, \$58,392

Grant summary:

Effective weed management is one of the critical components to have successful wheat production. The goal of this grant, as in previous statewide weed management research and extension projects, is to help growers improve weed management in Oregon wheat productions. There are several troublesome weeds in wheat systems, but annual grasses that mimic the crop life cycle are often the most problematic.

Particularly in this year's project we are working on four objectives. In the first one, we are learning how common is the resistance to group 2 herbicides (ALS-inhibitors) in downy brome (Bromus tectorum) in wheat cropping systems of northeastern Oregon. Preliminary results indicate that more than 50% of the growers have downy brome resistant to mesosulfuronmethyl, propoxycarbazone-sodium, pyroxulam, and/ or sulfosulfuron and a third of the growers have downy brome resistant to imazamox.

In the second objective, working with CoAXium Wheat and Aggressor (quizalofop), we are learning the best management practices with this new technology and are communicating it in grower meetings and field days. A correct stewardship of this new tool is key for extending its lifespan.

In the third objective, we are evaluating different herbicide products as potential alternatives to glyphosate to provide options for growers and reduce the risk of having resistance to glyphosate, the most herbicide used in the region. And in the last objective, we are working to find integrated fallow management strategies that maintain long-term sustainability of Oregon wheat production systems.

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

The article explains a new Herbicide Resistance Initiative (HRI) that the PNW region has obtained recently. The PNWHRI will provide on-going support for programs and projects focused on managing herbicide-resistant weeds across the PNW with a special focus on cereals producing regions. Particularly in my program this year, the PNWHRI will help study the impacts of occasional tillage in fallow on soil quality (last objective of the OWC grant) by providing funds to do a more complete and multidisciplinary approach.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

it may also require a community effort. If resistant weeds produce seeds, those seeds can be dispersed to nearby fields



Winter wheat field in Morrow County with a downy brome (also known as cheatgrass) infestation resistant to group 2 herbicides. Photo taken by Victor Ribeiro (PhD student, OSU) on June 2021.

or further distances if the wind is the main dispersal vector, for example in the case of prickly lettuce, horseweed, or Russian thistle. In those cases, a grower who is engaging in good practices to prevent or reduce the risk of developing herbicide resistant weeds, such as spending the time and effort in cleaning farm equipment from field to field, buying certified seeds, and diversifying their crop rotations will be frustrated, if their neighbors are not willing to do the same.

Whereas the herbicide resistance problem does not have an effortless or straightforward solution, the good news is that the US Congress has supported the PNW Herbicide Resistance Initiative (PNWHRI) to help in this complicated problem. The result is a \$2 million annual funding that will provide funds to the three PNW land grant universities. Funds are broken out to provide Oregon State University \$80,000, University of Idaho \$260,000, Washington State University \$300,000, two USDA-ARS units in Pullman, WA \$726,000, and the USDA-ARS unit in Pendleton, OR \$363,000 to support addressing the problem of herbicide resistance in small-grains production systems. The three USDA-ARS units mentioned will be adding new research personnel dedicated to supporting this initiative. The goal is to create a coordinated, interdisciplinary, systems-based approach to managing herbicide resistance in weeds that is regional in scope and long-term in impact. Interdisciplinary PNWHRI teams are forming for research and outreach goals which should speed new knowledge production and better management practice adoption in coming years.



Take the survey: hold your phone camera up to the QR code and select the pop-up link, which will allow you to access the regional problem weed survey.

At the recent Tri-state Grower Convention, the PNWHRI was introduced in a well-attended educational breakout session. Dr. Steve Young, the USDA-ARS National Program Leader for Weeds and Invasive Pests, explained the role and vision of the USDA-ARS in the initiative. Dr. Ian Burke, a weed scientist from Washington State University, explained the different steps until the initiative was approved, its organizational structure, some of the infrastructure and the core personnel we have to develop it, and the critical need for transdisciplinary research. Afterwards, it was my turn to explain the different research objectives that had been discussed in the kick-off meeting of this initiative celebrated in Pendleton, OR on October 27 and 28 2022, that was attended by many weed scientists and scientists from other disciplines of the three states. Some of the research topics identified in the Pendleton meeting as critical to move forward in addressing the herbicide resistance problem were research on occasional tillage, harvest weed seed control practices, multifunctional crops, breeding for weed competition, precision farming, efficacy of different management options, weed seed germination, viability and longevity, predictive modeling, decision support systems, and research on soil seedbank, among others. The educational breakout session concluded with the introduction of the extension objective presented by Doug Finkelnburg, an extension educator from the University of Idaho. Doug explained that as an initial step of this initiative, we are launching a brief small cereal producer survey to learn about the current situation (which weeds are currently causing problems and in what kind of production systems) to determine priority problem weeds and cropping systems.

I encourage all growers and readers of this article, to spend two minutes of your time to answer the short survey, so your herbicide resistance problems can be known and considered to tailor some potential solutions. No personal data is requested or collected, and the survey will be accepting responses over the winter of 2023. You will see the survey as a University of Idaho's survey, but results will be shared with the other two land-grant universities and the USDA-ARS units involved in the initiative. Also, our plan for the PNWHRI is to work in collaboration with growers, so very soon we will be asking for growers interested in being part of a stakeholder committee from the three states (Idaho, Oregon, and Washington) that help us prioritize and/or develop new research ideas critical to tackle the herbicide resistance problem. If you want to learn more about the PNWHRI, I recommend checking the article posted on the Weeders of the West blog (https://smallgrains. wsu.edu/weeders-of-the-west/) on November 30, 2022 where more details are provided. In that blog, you will find many



First in-person meeting of scientists and extension personnel of the three land grant universities (Oregon State University, University of Idaho, and Washington State University) and three USDA-ARS units (two in Pullman, WA and one in Pendleton, OR) celebrated in Pendleton, OR to discuss objectives for the PNW Herbicide Resistance Initiative. Photo taken by Doug Finkelnburg (Extension Educator, UI) on October 27, 2022.

other interesting articles about weed management written by weed scientists and extension personnel of the PNW that you may find useful as well.



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Getting Technical: Commissioners Attend Flour Milling Course

When questions about flour extraction, quality and functionality arise, there are two more individuals to call: Oregon Commissioners David Brewer and Dave Prybylowski. Both attended a three-day flour milling course in Manhattan, Kansas in December. The course is designed to provide training in the basic principles of flour milling and develop a greater understanding of the relationship between wheat quality and flour performance. Conducted at the IGP Institute on the Kansas State University campus, the course is considered a "deep dive" into flour milling and is specifically built for commissioners and staff of state wheat organizations.



Commissioner David Brewer in the baking lab.

Classroom trainings on wheat quality, global competition facing U.S. farmers, wheat cleaning and conditioning, and an overview of the mechanics of wheat milling are paired with a hands-on laboratory workshop. Participants mill the six classes of U.S. wheat during the workshop, testing their flour extraction capabilities while walking through the milling flow process. U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) Vice President of Global Technical Services Mark Fowler, an experienced



Commissioners review the outcomes from the flour extraction exercise in the lab.



Sean Thiele walks through the flow at a commercial flour mill. Photo courtesy USW.

16

flour milling instructor, noted that "USW finds a lot of value in these IGP-KSU courses because it provides producers and others we work with in the wheat industry insight into the relationship between wheat quality and flour performance," Fowler said. "It gives growers a new perspective on what international customers look for in quality flour." That sentiment is reflected by the participants. Each element of the training is designed to provide insight to the milling process and assist commissioners – who are tasked with resource allocation – to better analyze things from our customers' points of view.

IGP holds this course annually to educate members of the U.S. wheat industry in the basic principles of flour milling. With an emphasis on educational and technical programs supporting promotion and export market development efforts, the Commission is pleased to have two more individuals trained through the Institute.



Commissioner Dave Prybylowski in the baking lab.

Columbia Plateau Conservation Research Center Receives Federal Funding for Facilities

Tayleranne Gillespie, Wayfinder Communications

Through support and League advocacy, the Columbia Plateau Conservation Research Center will receive a much needed \$700,000 allocation to complete facility maintenance projects. The funds are an important step in expanding the capabilities of the Center and will bring the current facility up to code with new safety requirements, fortifying the buildings for long-term continued use. Oregon's Congressional delegation led the efforts to secure funds for the Center.

"The economic sustainability of Pacific Northwest wheat production requires healthy research facilities. This investment to maintaining infrastructure and facilities at the Pendleton Research station provides critical support for USDA agriculture researchers who are working to enhance wheat productivity in low and intermediate rainfall zones," said Amanda Hoey, Chief Executive Officer, Oregon Wheat Growers League.

The Oregon Wheat League has been advocating for more substantial funding that will allow for the expansion of the facility to create space for more scientists and more research capabilities. That funding will build on federal funds that have been secured for the station in recent years, including a \$2 million Resilient Dryland Farming annual appropriation, \$1.5 million in soil health carbon funding and new funding for the Pacific NW Herbicide Weeds Initiative.

Currently the Center houses USDA-ARS team of scientists with diverse scientific disciplines. The station is located on 160 acres of land (14 acres for USDA-ARS, and 144 acres for OSU) outside of Pendleton, with an additional 80 acres of rented land that is used for direct-seed research. The research at the Center is mainly focused on dryland crop production and soil and water conservation. The team conducts research on farming practices that halt erosion, protect air quality, conserve soil and water, reduce farm inputs and enhance soil quality and soil health. Additionally, the station has modern laboratories specializing in soil chemistry, soil microbiology, weed science, hydrology, and more.

The research performed at the Center is vital to the agriculture industry and has proven to be an invaluable service for the region's farmers. The League will continue partnering with members of Oregon's congressional delegation on future opportunities to secure funding for increasing capacity at the site. More space and upgraded equipment will enable the facility to house the additional scientists supported under the resilient dryland farming, soil health carbon funding and PNW herbicide weeds resistance project.

Extending Anti-Dumping Duties

Amanda Hoey, Oregon Wheat CEO



While Turkey may have nominal grain exports, it is the world's largest flour exporter. It is also a significant and ongoing concern for Oregon Wheat. A complex 'inward processing system' that drives flour exports priced below the market, combined with heavy subsidies incentivizing domestic wheat production which Turkey has not properly reported to the World Trade Organization, has resulted

in a continued challenge of Turkish flour dumping in global markets. It has drawn the attention of U.S. Wheat Associate's trade policy team and placed it among the top issues on the list of challenges as we come into 2023.

Turkish flour dumping has direct impact to Oregon wheat producers as the practice affects a primary export market for Pacific Northwest soft white wheat: the Philippines. Antidumping duties imposed against Turkish flour millers are up for consideration of renewal this year, so a determination on renewal will have direct impact to key Southeast Asia export markets.

The Issue

The issue of Turkey's dumping of flour into global markets is not a new topic, with decisions to address the practice being issued by the Tariff Commission of the Republic of the Philippines in 2014 and extended in 2020. However, it is one that is rising again with pending expiration of the agreement in 2023.

In the first decision in 2014, the Tariff Commission of the Republic of the Philippines placed an anti-dumping tariff ranging up to 16.19%, based on a percent of the export price. It was a determination made following close to a decade-long effort to deter and address Turkey's unfair trade practices. The Commission's decision in 2014 to impose the tariff was based on the surge in Turkish flour to the Philippines market, the disparity in FOB prices and the proof of material harm done to the domestic milling industry. The decision was important for Oregon wheat as well, given that the practice of flour dumping on the Philippines market had the impact of displacing more than 209,000 metric tons of soft white wheat.

The initial decision came up for renewal at the end of 2019. The results from the tariff in reducing the surge of Turkish flour demonstrated the effectiveness of the policy in providing opportunities for the domestic Philippine flour

milling industry to increase production of flour. During a time of market expansion, it also supported the establishment and growth of small Philippine flour millers. However, the continued distortion and disruption of flour dumping practices which were still being carried out by Turkey from 2014-2019, signaled the need for tariff extension to protect the domestic flour market from being targeted once again. The tariff was renewed in 2020 for a three-year period, imposing an anti-dumping duty scaling up to 29.57%.

Expiration of the current tariff is scheduled for September 2023, unless renewed. If allowed to expire, it is widely anticipated that Turkish millers will return to dumping flour at prices well below the market, causing a displacement of wheat exports, particularly from the PNW, and long-term detrimental harm to flour millers.

Impact: Importance to Oregon Wheat and Southeast Asian Countries

The consequences are substantial should the large-scale dumping of flour be permitted to return. To Oregon and the PNW, it would result in a substantial projected loss within one of our major markets. US Wheat Associates estimates that "the dumped flour is affecting domestic milling around the world and hurting U.S. wheat exports to the tune of \$100 to \$500 million per year."

To the Philippines it will create concerns with the longterm preservation of their local milling industry. The practices "undercuts flour mill profits, resulting in slower growth, tighter margins, or milling industries operating well below capacity or even closing mills." Particularly in a time of acute food insecurity and rising prices, countries cannot afford to lose the protection a local milling industry provides. It could decimate control for their future domestic food security, leaving little pathway to address food inflation concerns into the future. Having a very heavy impact in pushing out small millers, it would also deter new millers from entering the domestic market. The effects would extend down to bakers who are known for the high-quality wheat food products in the Philippines.

During the first renewal period the Philippine flour millers argued that "Once the duty is listed, Turkish flour will come in at even lower prices and cause damage to the local industry. Extension of the anti-dumping duty will help these emerging independent Philippine flour millers to establish themselves and even expand such that the needs of the Philippine flour market will be fully addressed." That concern has not abated as we come into this second renewal period.

<u>Moving Forward in 2023</u>

As USW reports, "healthy milling industries are vital to U.S. wheat exports and our relationships in foreign markets. Turkish flour exports undermine U.S. wheat exports more than other types of export subsidies on wheat, because flour export subsidies can put entire milling industries out of business, depriving U.S. farmers of potential customers." I look forward to favorable resolution and the potential for renewal of the tariff following documentation of the importance for continuation. As a point between East and West, Turkey is in an interesting position when it comes to global politics and wheat. Particularly in helping act as a broker Black Sea Grain Initiative, Turkey has a powerful role and has access to wheat from many origins. Ensuring that we maintain a fair and competitive market for wheat trade cannot be lost in the overall decisions made during times of global uncertainty.

Congress Passes Fiscal Year 2023 Omnibus Appropriations Bill

In December Congress passed the Fiscal Year 2023 Omnibus Appropriations Bill. The omnibus package includes several provisions supported by the National Association of Wheat Growers including disaster aid, the Growing Climate Solutions Act, pesticide reauthorization, and other items that support agriculture and rural America.

"We appreciate Congress coming together to pass the omnibus to fund the federal government for the rest of FY 2023. We are grateful to see \$3.7 billion in disaster aid for the calendar year 2023 and the registration review deadline extensions for PRIA and FIFRA be included in this legislative package," said NAWG CEO, Chandler Goule. He also noted that NAWG was "glad to see the Growing Climate Solutions Act be included in this year-end package, which NAWG has supported as it provides a credible source of information for growers looking to participate in voluntary carbon markets."

Programs and funding that specifically benefit wheat growers include:

- Disaster Aid: The Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act includes \$3.74 billion for crop and livestock losses in the calendar year 2022. In early December, NAWG and other commodity organizations requested disaster aid be included in a FY 2023 Omnibus package.
- Pesticides: The Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA) which allows pesticide registrants to pay registration fees to helps pesticides get through the registration process faster. The EPA's Office of Pesticide Policy also received \$140 million, the highest funding since 2010. Finally, the Federal Insecticide, Rodenticide, and Fungicide Act (FIFRA) was amended to extend the deadline for EPA to conduct registration reviews of existing products.

- Growing Climate Solutions Act: The Growing Climate Solutions Act will provide growers with a resource for information on voluntary carbon markets and technical assistance providers and verifiers related to those market programs. In addition, an advisory committee at USDA, comprised of a majority of farmers, ranchers and forest landowners, will provide recommendations to the Secretary on the carbon markets and related work.
- Sponsoring USDA Sustainability Targets in Agriculture to Incentivize Natural Solutions (SUSTAINS) Act: The SUSTAINS Act encourages private sector partnerships for agriculture sustainability by allowing businesses to invest in conservation practices in geographic regions of their choice—and allows for matching USDA funds.
- Research Programs: The bill provides \$3.45 billion, which is \$175 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level, for agriculture research programs, including the Agricultural Research Service and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.
- Marketing Programs: The bill provides \$237 million, which is \$11 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level and \$4.7 million above the request, to facilitate the movement of agriculture products and open market opportunities.
- International Food Assistance Programs: The bill includes \$2.2 billion for international food aid and to promote U.S. agricultural exports overseas. This includes \$1.75 billion for Food for Peace grants and \$243 million for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition program. (\$)

Wheat Industry Applauds Senate Confirmation of Taylor and McKalip

The Oregon Wheat Growers League, National Association of Wheat Growers and U.S. Wheat Associates welcomed the U.S. Senate's confirmation of Alexis Taylor to serve as the USDA Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agriculture Affairs and Doug McKalip as the Chief Ag Negotiator in the Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR). Both were confirmed the week of December 19, 2022.

These trade appointees are critical to Oregon Wheat with so much of our product exported. As such, the Oregon Wheat Growers League spearheaded a proposal to NAWG at the annual meeting at Commodity Classic in spring of 2022. The proposal- to add a resolution supporting trade appointee nominations and confirmations- was intended to increase the importance and urgency of appointments. The resolution, as adopted, stated that *NAWG supports the timely appointment of qualified nominees to federal positions of key importance to*

the grower community and, when appropriate, urge the timely consideration of such nominees by the United States Senate. The League also then actively supported the appointments for both Alexis Taylor and Doug McKalip.

Following almost two years without a Chief Agricultural Negotiator in the Office of the USTR, we are very glad that the U.S. Senate has confirmed Doug McKalip to fill the position. We also look forward to the opportunity to continue to work with Alexis Taylor in her new role. She was an advocate during her tenure with the Oregon Department of Agriculture and will further her impact at USDA. The Trade and Foreign Agriculture Affairs mission area plays a crucial role in developing and implementing USDA's trade policy, oversees and facilitates foreign market access, and promotion opportunities for U.S. agriculture.

Oregon Wheat Growers Welcome New Program Director Rooted in Farm Operations

In November, the Oregon Wheat Growers League welcomed Jason Flowers to the team as our new Program Director. Jason is a fourth generation farmer from the Klamath Basin, where his family raised hay, grain, and cattle. While on the farm, he prided himself in reducing passes and increasing efficiency by embracing technology. His life on the farm also allowed him to be a part of water and agriculture organizations.

20



Over the past two decades, Jason has been very active in volunteering with the Farm Bureau. During this time, he has served at the county, state, and national levels. He served on the state Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee for ten years and served two years on the national Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee. His involvement offered Jason the opportunity to engage in intensive speech, media, and advocacy training which he is excited to put to use helping growers through his position at the League. He also has extensive experience interacting with state and federal agencies and elected officials at all levels. While Jason is passionate about farming, this move away from the farm gives him a chance to spend more time pursuing his other passion, advocating for the needs of agriculture producers. He enjoys working with agencies, at both the state and national capitols, to build mutually beneficial relationships. He believes these relationships are essential to make changes that will benefit Oregon Wheat Growers League members.

As the Program Director, Jason will be working with Oregon Wheat producers to provide conservation enhancement technical support and increasing access to federal funding with natural resource enhancements relevant to wheat operations. Engaging through the League, he will be working to remove the barriers to implementation of programs for wheat. He will also be coordinating grower meetings and Wheat Talks and will assist with other policy issues affecting the Oregon Wheat industry. "I am looking forward to working with growers and using my skills to make meaningful changes to programs that matter to them," says Flowers. "This position with the League feels like a good fit!"

When not working, Jason enjoys going on adventures with his wife and son, traveling, and kayaking. He also likes hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, and participating in the occasional demolition derby.

League Comments on Framework for Delivering Inflation Reduction Act Funding

The Oregon Wheat Growers League provided comments to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on the proposed framework for implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding for conservation programs. The funding approved by Congress - which will total more than \$19 billion over the next four years - will target climate-smart practices, including the application of conservation and efficiency practices for farmers.

In the letter sent on December 21, 2022, the League highlighted the need to ensure practices which have applicability in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest are included in the list of eligible enhancements, such as pest management, irrigation efficiency, conservation crop rotation, and fuel breaks. In the initial USDA proposal, these practices are excluded from IRA funding possibilities. The League emphasized that these types of practices, which are actively used in the Pacific Northwest and have direct climate benefits, should qualify for funding. The League also encouraged NRCS to analyze the indirect impact of changes in practices, citing as an example the use of precision agriculture technology which minimizes use of inputs and can reduce fuel consumption.

"Our priority is to ensure this funding addresses the unique needs of our producers in the Pacific Northwest," said Ben Maney, past president for OWGL. "It is especially important that funding support practices already in place in order to continue and expand conservation efforts in Oregon as well as maximize the success of these programs overall."

As the Pacific Northwest is a unique environment, the League emphasized the need to maintain a locally-driven approach to program development and provide flexibility for consideration of new enhancements as technology changes. "Wheat farmers are resourceful, and often we see the



implementation of practices in the field that have significant climate and conservation benefits before they are assessed by agencies for inclusion as a practice," stated CEO Amanda Hoey. "The list of eligible enhancements should not be static, but dynamic, to allow for new practice considerations and innovation in the field, ensuring our farming techniques and cropping systems are adequately supported."

The League also advocated for programs to be farmerfriendly and not over-burdensome, encouraging USDA to use existing program frameworks for reporting rather than adding a new layer of reporting requirements.

The Inflation Reduction Act was signed into law in August 2022. The investment is intended to provide financial relief to producers and promote climate-friendly agricultural practices.



RECIPE Red Devils Food Cake

This 1981 Wheathearts Recipe is one we love and is ideal for Valentine's Day. We make it in heart shaped pans for special occasions. Cake flour with soft white wheat is, of course, the trick to the perfect cake! It is also a great one to celebrate Oregon's birthday: February 14, 1859.



INGREDIENTS

- 1 3/4 cups cake flour
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoon soda

- 3/4 teaspoon salt 1 1/4 cups buttermilk 1/2 cup butter or margarine 2 eggs
- 2 oz. unsweetened melted chocolate 1 teaspoon vanilla 1/2 teaspoon red food coloring

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- 2. Grease and flour or wax paper two 9-inch round cake pans.
- 3. Sift flour together with all dry ingredients into mixing bowl.
- 4. Add butter, buttermilk and vanilla, and beat for 2 minutes. Scrape bowl often.
- 5. Add eggs, chocolate and food coloring and beat for 2 more minutes.
- Pour into prepared pans and bake for 30 to 35 minutes.
- 7. Cool and frost with Chocolate Frosting.



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