

# 2022 Annual Report



**WASHINGTON  
GRAIN  
COMMISSION**

The Washington Grain Commission was created in 1958 by the Washington State Department of Agriculture with the support of Eastern Washington farmers. Barley came under the auspices of the organization in 2009. Our mission is to enhance the long-term profitability and competitiveness of Washington small grains and small grain producers through research, marketing and education. The current commission board is made up of seven farmer members, two industry representatives and a representative from the state's Department of Agriculture.





Glen Squires



From left: Brian Cochran, Gary Bailey, Ben Barstow, Mike Carstensen, Brit Ausman (back), Brian Liedl, Mike Miller, Glen Squires, Ty Jessup, Kevin Klein, Scott Steinbacher

## A LETTER TO OUR CONSTITUENTS

As far as how the fields look, what a difference a year makes! Cooler temperatures and above average moisture this spring in most growing regions brought optimism for a harvest closer to average. This optimism is reflected in the FY2022/23 budget the Washington Grain Commission (WGC) board approved in May. Heat and drought last summer had a devastating impact on grain production, and estimated revenue for this fiscal year, which ended June 30, is down from FY2020/21. However, a considerable amount of budgeted expenses were not realized and approximately \$1 million was rolled forward into our next fiscal year. The WGC continues to have solid financial footing.

On the buyer front, despite reduced exports with the smaller crop, it is noteworthy that many of our customers have inelastic demand such that substantially higher prices have had less impact on purchases. PNW soft white wheat is often referenced as the “irreplaceable” wheat – a success of commitment to good quality wheat varieties and extensive technical servicing. Some buyers last year bought less due to lower feed wheat demand.

Beyond the gains in moisture and good demand from core buyers, COVID-19 continued to pose challenges to

operations throughout last year. In the wheat industry, there are continual challenges with production costs, transportation and market volatility amid changing world events. The policy landscape surrounding the four lower Snake River dams heated up with the Washington Gov. Jay Inslee and Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) study on replacing the benefits of the dams; language in the Water Resources Development Act regarding dams and ecosystems; and court challenge to the CRSO-EIS. Agricultural groups, utilities and others expressed serious concerns about the Murray/Inslee report, which left out or significantly undervalued costs and even acknowledged that many costs are not available.

The WGC and the Washington Association of Wheat Growers (WAWG) continue to work together in support of the entire transportation system and especially the essential services provided by the dams that all farmers depend on.

In closing, I want to wish everyone a safe and bountiful harvest, and I would like to extend a special thank you to our growers. You are the reason the WGC exists, and your continued efforts to produce sustainable, high-quality wheat and barley are what allows us to continue our work to advance the Washington small grains industry through research, marketing and education.

- Glen Squires, CEO

## COMMISSIONERS

### Districts

- 1 Mike Carstensen, *Chair*
- 2 Gary Bailey
- 3 Brit Ausman
- 4 Mike Miller
- 5 Brian Cochran
- 6 Ben Barstow, *Vice Chair*
- 7 Kevin Klein, *Treasurer*

### Industry Representatives

Ty Jessup and Brian Liedl

### WSDA

Scott Steinbacher

## STAFF

Glen Squires, *CEO*

Mary Palmer Sullivan, *Vice President*

Lori Maricle, *Director of Communications*

Sheila McCrea, *Finance & Administrative Specialist*

Parker Dawson, *Systems & Data Processing Specialist*

Shari McCarthy, *Receptionist/Accounts Specialist*

Program Director, *vacant*

# RESEARCH ACTIVITY

In 2021/22, the WGC contributed \$1,947,909 to directly fund research at Washington State University. In addition, the WGC contributed \$135,368 towards Grower Services research projects.

Research activity for the year included:

## 64% PLANT BREEDING AND GENETICS

**R. Brueggeman** / Improving barley varieties for feed, food and malt

**A. Carter** / Field breeding hard white and red winter wheat / Use of biotechnology for wheat improvement / Field breeding soft white winter wheat

**K. Garland Campbell** / Club wheat breeding / Evaluation and selection for cold tolerance in wheat

**M. Pumphrey** / Breeding improved spring wheat varieties for the Pacific Northwest / Greenhouse and laboratory efforts for spring wheat variety development

**K. Sanguinet** / Genetic arsenal for drought tolerance, getting to the root of the problem

**Z. Zhang** / Intelligent prediction and association tool to facilitate wheat breeding

## 9% PRODUCTION/ MANAGEMENT

**I. Burke** / Weed management in wheat / Herbicide resistance and susceptibility in wheat and weeds

**D. Lyon** / Extension education for wheat and barley growers

**A. Smertenko** / Breeding wheat varieties with efficient control of ROS production



## 19% QUALITY

**A. Kiszonas** / Breeder quality trials / Quality of varieties and pre-release lines: genotype & environment – “G & E” study / Supplemental support for assessing the quality of Washington wheat breeding samples

**C. Neely** / Evaluation of barley varieties / Evaluation of wheat varieties

**M. Pumphrey** / End-use quality assessment of Washington State University wheat breeding lines

## 8% DISEASE/INSECTS

**X. Chen** / Improving control of rusts of wheat and barley

**T. Paulitz** / Fusarium crown rot on wheat: prebreeding and development of tools for genetic disease management

**M. Pumphrey** / Evaluation of WSU wheat breeding lines for management of Hessian fly and development of DNA markers for resistance breeding



## PAYING IT FORWARD

The first two of six research endowments at Washington State University were created by the Washington Grain Commission in 1990 to establish a perpetual funding mechanism for the advancement of the commission's strategic research goals. Currently, these endowments fund seven research faculty positions aimed at improving varietal development, end use and processing attributes, agronomics, production systems, economics, and new uses for wheat and barley.

The endowments are managed by WSU with distributions made annually to the faculty researcher(s) holding the endowment. These endowments are perpetual and require no further contributions from the WGC to continue funding work on behalf of the wheat industry and the state's wheat farmers into the future.

Est. 1990: the **ORVILLE A. VOGEL ENDOWED CHAIR IN WHEAT BREEDING AND GENETICS** was established in a partnership between the state of Washington, WSU and what was then the Washington Wheat Commission. WSU winter and spring wheat breeders **Arron Carter** and **Mike Pumphrey** currently hold the Vogel endowment.

**Original principal:** \$1.5 million

**2021-22 research distributions:** \$92,861.88

**Utilization:** to fund graduate students and to buy and upgrade breeding technology.

**Current Value:** \$3,180,000





Club wheat breeder Kim Garland Campbell presents at the Lind Field Day, June 16, 2022.

Est. 1990: the **ORVILLE A. VOGEL WHEAT RESEARCH FUND**, part of the Vogel endowment, is partially funded by an annual revenue gift from the Bohrsen Farm.

**2021-22 research distributions:** \$227,681.01

**Utilization:** projects rotate on a three-year funding cycle. Details are available online at: <https://bit.ly/3zVikOz>.

**Current Value:** \$5,348,000

Est. 1990: originally established as a distinguished professorship, this endowment was updated in 2013 to the **ROBERT A. NILAN ENDOWED CHAIR IN BARLEY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION**. It is held by barley breeder **Robert Bruggeman**.

**Original principal:** \$250,000

**2021-22 research distributions:** \$68,096.74

**Utilization:** barley research efforts.

**Current Value:** \$1,572,000

Est. 1997: the **R. JAMES COOK ENDOWED CHAIR IN WHEAT RESEARCH** is held by weed scientist **Ian Burke**.

**Original principal:** \$1.5 million

**2021-22 research distributions:** \$92,861.88

**Utilization:** program support for weed management research.

**Current Value:** \$2,143,500

Est. 2009: originally established as an unnamed endowed chair, this fund was updated in 2012 to honor and acknowledge Thomas B. Mick's service and dedication to the grain industry of

Washington. The **THOMAS B. MICK ENDOWED CHAIR IN SMALL GRAIN ECONOMICS** is held by agricultural economist **Randy Fortenbery**.

**Original principal:** \$2 million

**2021-22 research distributions:** \$127,080.52

**Utilization:** program support

**Current Value:** \$2,933,500

Est. 2010: The **WASHINGTON WHEAT DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP** rotates among scientists depending upon pressing research needs that arise. It is currently held by **Zhiwu Zhang**, an expert in statistical genomics. This endowment will transition next year to support a new faculty hire in soil science.

**Original principal:** \$1.5 million

**2021-22 research distributions:** \$88,952.61

**Utilization:** to develop new analytical methods and computing tools to improve breeding efficiency for sustainable agricultural production using genomics and phenomics.

**Current Value:** \$2,053,000

Est. 2011: the **ENDOWED CHAIR IN SMALL GRAINS EXTENSION AND RESEARCH** is held by **Drew Lyon** with an emphasis in weed science.

**Original principal:** \$1.5 million

**2021-22 research distributions:** \$87,596.55

**Utilization:** Applied research and extension outreach on weed science issues.

**Current Value:** \$2,022,000



Wheat Marketing Center Laboratory Assistant Kin Wong runs TCK tests on wheat samples received during the 2021 harvest.



## LOOKING FORWARD

WGC Research Funding 2022/23  
Budget - **\$1,951,105**

**68% PLANT BREEDING AND GENETICS**

**17% QUALITY**

**9% DISEASE/INSECTS**

**6% PRODUCTION/ MANAGEMENT**

# MARKET DEVELOPMENT

## TOP 10 U.S. WHITE WHEAT MARKETS

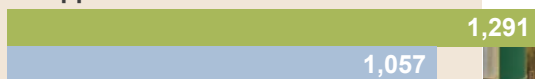
By Thousand Metric Tons

Large decreases in S. Korea and China are due to lower imports for feed wheat, and decrease in Indonesia is due to higher prices.

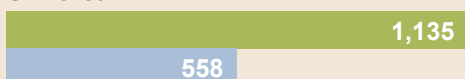
Source: U.S. Wheat Associates  
\*2021 Est.

2020/2021	2021/2022
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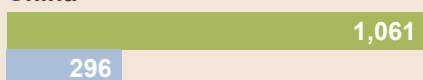
### Philippines



### S. Korea



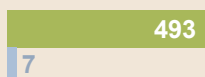
### China



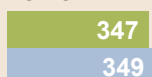
### Japan



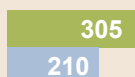
### Indonesia



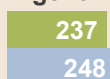
### Yemen\*



### Thailand



### Nigeria



### Vietnam



### Taiwan



## HIGHLIGHTS

- WGC participates in export market development activities with U.S. Wheat Associates (USW). In 2021, USW virtual programs reached more than 13,000 people. The integration of virtual programs will continue alongside traditional in-person programs through 2022. This represents a significant expansion in reach from prior to the pandemic in 2019, when USW reached more than 5,000 customers on the ground.
- In August 2021, just two trade teams were able to visit the Pacific Northwest, but it was great to see the interest return for in-person crop tours. WGC will host eight to 10 trade teams by the end of September 2022.
- Former WGC Program Director Joe Bippert started a new role as assistant regional director for South Asia with USW on November 1, 2021.
- In March 2022, the WGC, along with Idaho and Oregon, hosted a dinner in Portland for the USW world technical staff. The USW group was in town to attend core competency training provided by the Wheat Marketing Center, which the WGC is a member. The hosted event provided high-quality engagement between the commissions and the staff from around the world who are the front lines of USW's market development activities.



USDA-ARS Research Biologist Alecia Kiszonas (left) provides a tour of the Western Wheat Quality Lab in Pullman for the NISSHIN trade team from Japan in August 2021.



HighLine Grain Growers, Inc. CEO Paul Katovich (far right) welcomes the SPC trade team from S. Korea in August 2021.

## MARKETING EFFORTS

In 2021/22 the WGC budgeted \$1,501,981 toward market development. Total commission time and resources dedicated to market development and promotion includes the following categories:

**37% END-USE PROMOTION**

**29% CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT**

**27% GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

**5% IMAGING (INDUSTRY PROMOTION)**

**2% UNCATEGORIZED**



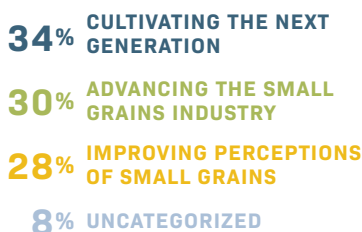
## EDUCATION

Part of the WGC mission is funding educational programming with the goal that Washington's wheat and barley producers are recognized as good stewards of the land producing healthy, high quality small grains.

In 2021/22 the WGC contributed \$554,500 to directly fund education programming. In addition, the WGC contributed \$291,200 towards Grower Services education programs.

### EDUCATION EFFORTS

Total commission time and resources dedicated to education strategic objectives:



### HIGHLIGHTS

Cultivating the next generation is an important part of the WGC's education efforts. The largest portion of the WGC education budget goes to fund the Wheat Week program through the Franklin Conservation District. Wheat Week is a hands-on science program aligned with required Washington State Sciences Standards taught in fourth- and fifth-grade classrooms across Washington. The program teaches students about wheat, dam and transportation systems, water, soil, conservation, DNA, and energy, as well as how they impact our daily lives.

The program reaches approximately 25,000 students and 1,000 teachers a year, and two-thirds of those students are in Western Washington.

Kara Kaelber, the education director for the Franklin Conservation District, is beginning a new curriculum for high school students and has been working with teachers to pilot and evaluate the program, which is designed for high school social studies, science or English teachers to use and is modeled after science programs for claims, evidence and reasoning.

## FINANCIALS

2021/22 Estimated assessment revenue:

**\$6.1**  
MILLION

2021/22 Budget: \$7.3 million  
vs. estimated spent \$6.1 million



**\$1** MILLION  
to roll forward to the 2022/23 budget

### LOOKING FORWARD FY 2022/23 Budget



**\$7,801,813**

## JUST FOR GROWERS:

The WGC-sponsored PNW Export Tour & Wheat Quality Workshop is returning this fall, Nov. 1-3, 2022.

Interested in learning about what happens to your grain after it is delivered to your local elevator? Join us for the tour. Space is limited.

RSVP by calling our office at 509-456-2481.

